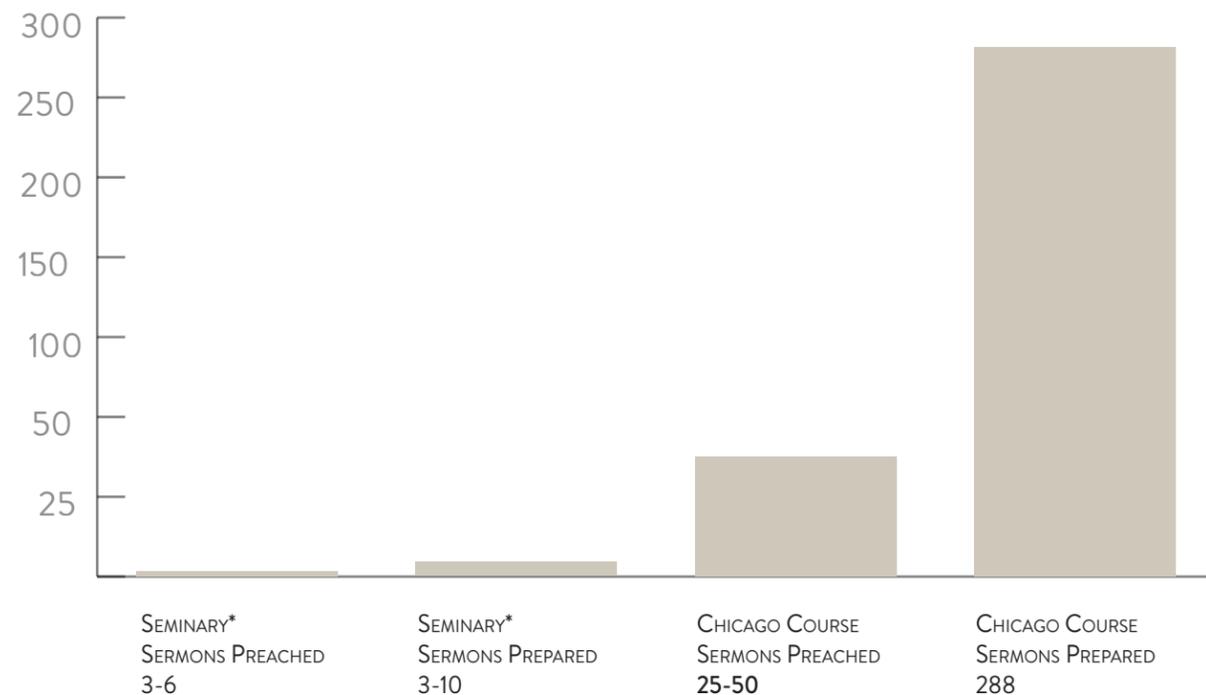## WHAT IS THE CHICAGO COURSE?

The *Chicago Course on Preaching* is a hands-on and skill-based residential preaching course. It is designed to serve three kinds of people: 1. Those in ministry looking to deepen their skills and convictions in expositional preaching. 2. Those who have finished theological training and are looking for practice in preaching before entering vocational ministry. 3. Those who are considering whether expositional ministry is for them.

The *Chicago Course* is available in three ways:

- *Full-Time*: One year consisting of three eleven-week terms over one year with classes on four days per week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday). Benefits: Student will complete the course at an accelerated pace with a concentrated time of study.

- *Part-Time*: Two years consisting of three eleven-week terms per year with classes on two days per week (Monday and Tuesday or Thursday and Friday). Benefits: More time is dedicated to practical application in a local church setting, and students will have a better ability to focus on character and conviction development. It also allows for part-time employment (ideally in the local church).

- *Modular*: Three years consisting of one eleven-week term per year with classes on four days per week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday). Benefits: The student will have limited time away from the local church at a distance from Chicago. It is an excellent option for international students or those already involved in long-term church internships.

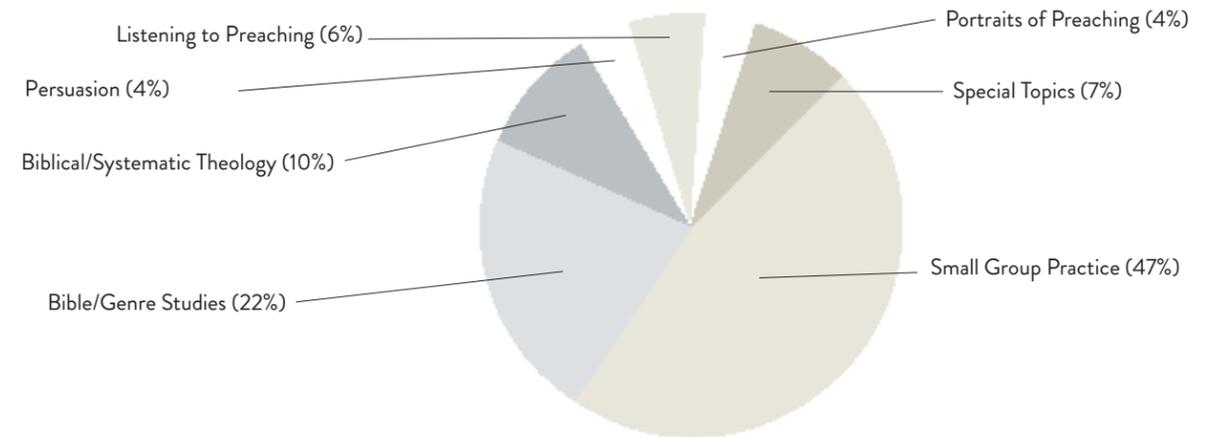## HOW MUCH PRACTICE IS INVOLVED?

For many students, the *Chicago Course* will be an important step that either builds upon a seminary experience or eventually leads to it. Our focused and intensive training in preaching and teaching will offer opportunities for practice that are simply not available in school and institutions of higher learning. We are not out to replace the seminary, but rather we are out to offer something that seminaries are not suited to deliver. This is most clearly seen by comparing the amount of sermon preparation with a typical seminary.

300	
250	
200	
150	
100	
50	
25	

| SEMINARY* SERMONS PREACHED 3-6 | SEMINARY* SERMONS PREPARED 3-10 | CHICAGO COURSE SERMONS PREACHED **25-50** | CHICAGO COURSE SERMONS PREPARED 288 |

*Data based on a survey of students and published guidelines from *Trinity Evangelical Divinity School* and the *Southern Baptist Theological Seminary*.

WHAT IS COVERED IN THE CLASSES?

A student will spend 240 hours in the classroom, 240 hours in small group practice, another 30 hours just listening to live preaching, and countless other hours in mentorship during the *Chicago Course*. In the classroom, a student will be prepared in a few disciplines related to preaching and teaching: 1) Bible and genre studies, 2) biblical and systematic theology as related to preaching and teaching, 3) getting it across (communication and persuasion), 4) portraits of preaching (the history of preaching), and 5) ministry convictions and special topics in preaching. More information about the particular classes can be found in the attached schedule and descriptions.

Listening to Preaching (6%)
Portraits of Preaching (4%)
Persuasion (4%)
Special Topics (7%)
Biblical/Systematic Theology (10%)
Small Group Practice (47%)
Bible/Genre Studies (22%)

WHO TEACHES THE CHICAGO COURSE?

The *Chicago Course* is directed by Rev. Jeremy Meeks and Rev. Dr. K. Edward Copeland and is served by several guest instructors.
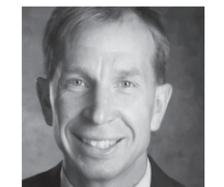

Jeremy Meeks | K. Edward Copeland | David R. Helm | R. Kent Hughes | Michael Lawrence | Mike Bullmore

Romell Williams, Jr. | Douglas O'Donnell | Robert S. Kinney | Colleen McFadden | H.B. Charles, Jr. | Scott Hafemann

Paul House | Josh Moody | Kevin C. Walker | Juan Sanchez | Willie Philip | Adron Robinson

CURRICULUM DESCRIPTIONS

■ **Genre Studies**

Studying the structure, context, melodic line, and gospel connections of each Bible genre (~48 sessions total—8 sessions for each genre: Epistles, Old Testament History, Gospels and Acts, Prophetic Literature, Wisdom Literature, and Apocalyptic Literature).

■ **Bible Books**

Guided tour through books with an emphasis on how to preach them (~60 sessions total—10 sessions for each book: Romans, Deuteronomy, Acts, Isaiah, Ecclesiastes, and Daniel).

■ **Practice Group Sessions**

Studying books of the Bible in a small group format through students presenting sermon synopses and preaching sermons. Over the full Course, each student completes 288 sermon outlines and preaches ~50 sermons.

■ **Biblical Theology**

Tracing biblical theological themes from Genesis to Revelation, helping to reveal the story of the Bible for preaching (~32 sessions).

■ **Systematic Theology**

Tracing systematic theological doctrines with particular attention given to how to use them in applying the Bible in preaching (~20 sessions).

■ **Ministry Convictions**

Considering the convictions necessary to engage in expositional ministry—from what we believe about the Bible to what we believe about the Church. (9 sessions)

☐ **Portraits of Preaching**

Studying a diversity of preachers throughout church history by analyzing and discussing their sermons (~20 sessions).

■ **Morning Expositions**

Hearing God's word preached by an instructor, invited guest, or student (~60 sermons total).

☐ **Persuasion**

Working on the homiletical skills of preaching and how preachers connect with the audience in preaching, including making arguments, application, and voice training (~12 sessions).

☐ **Mentoring Appointments**

Students regularly meet with a Course mentor to discuss how they are progressing in the Course and in their local church placements.

■ **Special Topics**

For male students: Learning how to handle unique or challenging services expositionally (~8 sessions), including weddings, funerals, anniversaries, and other holidays. For female students: Studying Bible teaching in the context of women's ministries (~8 sessions).

■ **Capstone Project**

Researching a challenging Bible text or aspect of preaching with the guidance of an individual supervisor to produce a research paper or project (~8 sessions of research time).

WHERE IS THE CHICAGO COURSE?

The *Chicago Course* is located in the historic Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago (home to the University of Chicago and several other academic seminaries).

WHEN ARE THE CLASSES?

The 2020/2021 terms are as follows:

AUTUMN TERM (2021)	WINTER TERM (2022)	SPRING TERM (2022)
September 27: term begins	January 3: term begins	March 28: term begins
November 22-26: autumn break	February 21-25: winter break	April 18-22: spring break
December 10: term ends	March 18: term ends	June 10: term ends

WHAT DOES IT COST?

We try to keep tuition simple and affordable.

- For full-time students, tuition is $5,000/year.
- For part-time students, tuition is $2,500/year.
- For modular students, tuition is $1,750/term.

HOW DO I APPLY?

There are four steps to our application process.

1. Complete the online application at www.chicagocourse.org.
2. Submit two references. Guidelines for Letters of Reference are available online as well.
3. Submit a sample sermon (audio or video) to the Director, Jeremy Meeks (jmeeks@simeontrust.org).
4. Schedule an interview with members of our admission committee by contacting Jeremy.