



Episcopal Diocese of Ohio Lay Preacher Continuing Education Opportunities Summer/Fall 2026

(Updated 6.23.26)

As the Diocese of Ohio transitions from an annual renewal model to a three-year licensing cycle, we are excited to offer a broader and more flexible range of continuing education opportunities for currently licensed and previously Lay Preachers.

These offerings are designed to support a variety of learning styles, ministry contexts, and vocational goals. Some opportunities are ideal for preachers seeking deeper theological engagement or broader preaching ministry, while others are designed for those looking for practical tools, peer support, spiritual renewal, or flexible self-paced learning.

To maintain a Lay Preacher license, participants are expected to complete at least one approved continuing education opportunity every three years. Lay Preachers are welcome and encouraged to participate in as many offerings as they wish, though only one is required for renewal. Upon completion of a program, proof of successful participation must be submitted through the renewal application available on the [diocesan website](#). Additionally, all lay license holders must remain current in both *Safe Church* and *Every One Beloved* (anti-racism) training in order to continue serving.

Our hope is that these offerings will not only strengthen preaching skills, but also deepen confidence, sustainability, collaboration, and spiritual formation in those called to proclaim the Gospel.

For questions related to these options or lay licensure and renewal, please contact Russ Tripi, Canon for Leadership Development.

Sermon Roundtable (Episcopal Preaching Foundation)

Best suited for:

- Lay Preachers seeking community and collaboration
- Those discerning broader preaching & formation ministry
- Those interested in deeper engagement with scripture

Through the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, *Sermon Roundtable* supports parish clergy and lay preachers in their preaching while simultaneously creating opportunities for adult formation and pastoral connection within the parish. Participants are supported through peer connections and Preaching Mentors.

This **flexible 12-week program** takes place within one's own faith community. Each of the eight training modules includes independent preparation and a 90-minute group session. The final four weeks focus on sermon feedback, reflection, and discussion of upcoming lectionary readings.

This is the Diocese of Ohio's most recommended option because of its strong emphasis on formation within community. **Faith communities with multiple lay preachers or those without a clergy-in-charge will find this particularly valuable.**

When: Flexible scheduling within your faith community

Cost: Free

Registration: For more information, including registration, click [HERE](#).

3-Day Virtual Preaching Conference (Episcopal Preaching Foundation)

Best suited for:

- Lay Preachers looking for a short-term virtual experience
- Those who enjoy conference-style learning
- Preachers seeking inspiration and practical feedback

Through the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, this virtual conference includes worship, speakers, small groups, and opportunities for preaching and feedback.

When: October 16–18, 2026 (6-9 pm ET Friday, 11 am-6 pm ET Saturday, 3-6 pm ET Sunday)

Cost: \$50 for ELPN members, \$75 for non-members

Registration: On the [EPF website](#) coming soon.

Preaching & Theology: Reading & Preaching Acts as the Mission of God (Iona Collaborative)

Best suited for:

- Lay Preachers seeking deeper theological engagement
- Those interested in scripture-focused study
- Those discerning broader preaching ministry
- Adult learners who value discussion-based virtual learning and weekly engagement

Offered through the Iona Collaborative, this course offering explores the Book of Acts as a witness to the ongoing mission of God in the world. Participants will reflect on how the Church participates in God's work and how the texts of Acts may be preached through the lens of Good News. **The course is available only in Fall 2026.**

When: Course meets virtually on Thursdays from 5:00–6:15 p.m. EST from September 10 – November 19, 2026.

Cost: \$25

Registration: Registration opens August 4. Space is limited. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Craft an Effective Sermon by Friday (Backstory Preaching)

Best suited for:

- Lay Preachers seeking a flexible renewal option
- Independent learners
- Those seeking practical sermon preparation tools within their current ministry setting

This downloadable self-paced eCourse through Backstory Preaching focuses on practical sermon preparation and weekly preaching tools.

Participants may complete the course on their own schedule.

When: Self-paced

Cost: \$49

Registration: For more information, including registration, click [HERE](#).

Sermon Camp 2026 (Backstory Preaching)

Best suited for:

- Lay Preachers seeking an immersive preaching experience
- Those discerning broader preaching ministry
- Preachers wanting additional coaching and development

This six-week virtual preaching camp focuses on sermon development and proclamation.

When: August 16 – September 22, 2026

- Daily meetings during kickoff week
- Weekly meetings thereafter
- Sessions are recorded

Cost: \$399

Registration: For more information, including registration, click [HERE](#).

In Development

Self-Paced Homiletics II Course (the Diocese of Ohio School for Diaconal and Lay Ministries)

Best suited for: To be determined

Tentative release: October 2026

Cost: To be determined

The Diocese of Ohio hopes to offer this self-paced homiletics course in late 2026 for lay preachers seeking a flexible learning option that can be completed on their own schedule. More information will be shared through the diocesan eNews and on the diocesan website as the release date approaches.

Additional Opportunity (does not count towards license renewal)

Spiritual Formation: Tending the Inner Life of the Leader (Iona Collaborative)

Best suited for:

- Experienced Lay Preachers
- Those seeking spiritual renewal and sustainability
- Leaders interested in healthy long-term ministry practices
- Adult learners who value discussion-based virtual learning and weekly engagement

Through the Iona Collaborative, this eight-week virtual course creates space for rest, reflection, renewal, and contemplative spiritual practice. Rather than focusing on productivity, participants are invited to reconnect with God, listen honestly to their own lives, and cultivate practices for sustainable ministry. (Note that this program does not count towards license renewal).

When: The Course meets virtually on Wednesdays from 3:45–4:45 p.m. EST from September 16 – November 18, 2026 (no class October 7 or October 28).

Cost: \$25

Registration: Registration opens August 4. Space is limited. For more information, click [HERE](#).