

Get involved

Want to learn more about how you can benefit from the work of the institute or get more involved? Visit our website at beesondivinity.com/preaching-institute or contact Dr. Mike Pasquarello at mpasquar@samford.edu or 205-726-2786.

About Beeson

Beeson Divinity School is an evangelical, interdenominational, theological school on the campus of Samford University, whose mission is to train men and women for a lifetime of faithful gospel ministry. We are a living community of faith and learning, committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ, the authority of Scripture and the mission of the church in the world. In light of these commitments, we teach a classical theological curriculum rooted in exegesis, church history and doctrine, and pastoral ministry. We practice incarnational theological education as we study, worship and pray for one another in person, face-to-face.

Beeson offers three degrees: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Theological Studies and Doctor of Ministry. For information about becoming a student at Beeson, contact the Office of Admission at 205-726-2066 or visit the website at beesondivinity.com/admission.



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B E E S O N D I V I N I T Y S C H O O L

THE ROBERT SMITH JR. PREACHING INSTITUTE

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY | BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



The Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute at Beeson Divinity School exists to serve and strengthen the whole person in relation to God, the church, other preachers and the world for faithful proclamation of God's Word. It seeks to do this by increasing knowledge and understanding as a preacher, deepening formation as a Christian and preacher, and strengthening competence and skill in the practice of preaching.

The Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute began in fall 2018 and is named in honor of longtime Beeson faculty member and renowned preacher Dr. Robert Smith Jr., the Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity and professor of Christian preaching. Dr. Mike Pasquarello, Methodist Chair of Divinity at Beeson, is its first director.

The Robert Smith Jr. Preaching Institute is funded by a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. Learn more about the institute at beesondivinity.com/preaching-institute.



Dr. Robert Smith Jr.

“Preaching is ushering the hearer by the Word of God into the presence of Christ, the Son of God, through the power of the Spirit of God for the purpose of transformation.”

Dr. Robert Smith, Jr.

The institute fulfills its mission by focusing its work on five key areas:

Peer groups—Peer groups are locally led and meet regularly to share in learning, formation and practice of preaching. These groups are supported with resources and training by the institute. The goal is to establish peer groups nationwide.

Conferences—Beginning in 2020, the institute will offer conferences with nationally recognized speakers and preachers, and which will provide time for worship, fellowship and learning.

Events—The institute will frequently host one-day events on Beeson's campus in order to provide ongoing education for preachers. Events will include conversations with Beeson professors and From Text to Sermon workshops.

Sabbatical and retreats—Beginning in 2019, the institute will offer two opportunities that focus on one's spiritual well-being and formation: spiritual retreats for groups and one- to two-week sabbaticals for individuals on the campus of Samford University.

Resources—The institute provides online resources, such as videos, podcasts and articles, to help strengthen the quality of preaching.



Contact Dr. Mike Pasquarello, mpasquar@samford.edu, for more information on any of these key areas.

Dr. Mike Pasquarello

Learning | Formation | Practice



The institute is part of a Christian, Protestant, evangelical and interdenominational divinity school that is founded upon the gospel of Jesus Christ and the historic Christian faith. Beeson is committed to orthodoxy, the full inspiration and total truthfulness of Holy Scripture, and the theological principles characterized in the Protestant Reformation. The school is likewise interdenominational, welcoming and celebrating denominational diversity within our faculty and student body.

The institute is deeply committed to personal, face-to-face ministry and education. Therefore, it is intentional about serving pastors in person.

The institute takes a holistic approach, focusing simultaneously on both the person (preacher) and the work (preaching).

Focusing on the “way of the preacher” offers strength and encouragement to the whole person in relation to God, the church, peers and the world.