

Assignments for April Licensed Ministers' Training, Tres Rios Area
April 8-9 in Santa Fe, at First Christian Church

NOTE: **even if a licensed minister does not attend the April session**, some materials below will also be used in later sessions this year, so keep them.

1. Students should read **pages 1-182** of the Chalice Introduction to the Old Testament. This is long but remember you are not tested over it so no need to read for detail. Try to get the general direction of their treatment of each Old Testament book covered in those pages. (The remainder of this book will be covered in the August training event.)
2. Students should read one of the following two books (again not for detail, but to learn the process): Biblical Interpretation: a Roadmap (by Frederick Tiffany and Sharon Ringe) or Biblical Exegesis (by John Hayes and Carl Halladay). The book you choose from these two will be used in all three training workshops in 2010 in the Area, so keep it and refer to it as you write papers for any of the three training events.
3. Read the summary paper by myself (Wayne Hammar) called "Introduction to Hermeneutics, with a Proposal" (it should have been sent to you as an email attachment, along with this assignment sheet). This also will be used at all three training workshops in 2010, so keep it and refer to it in your papers and other assignments, as indicated.
4. Send to me by email (sffol@msn.com) or mail (641 Webber St., Santa Fe, NM 87505) prior to the session a sermon done by you, based upon a biblical text from one of the following books of the Bible: any book from Genesis through Second Kings except Ruth OR any book from Isaiah through Malachi except Lamentations or Daniel. It can be an old sermon of yours which you kept filed or one done over the next month or so. I **prefer a manuscript** copy of the sermon, but if you do not do manuscripts you may submit notes which are fleshed out by you somewhat (so I can see how you interpret the text) or a video or audio of the sermon, keeping in mind I have old computer and am not very hi-tech. I could do a cassette or VHS, or something I can just pop in a DVD or CD player, but some stuff is not compatible with my computer. IF YOU DO NOT PREACH AS PART OF YOUR MINISTRY, submit instead a Bible study in which you teach or some form of your work using the Bible, on a passage from one of these books of the Bible. If all else fails, send in a paper on how you would teach and interpret that passage if you led a group reflecting on it. REMEMBER I AM NOT GRADING YOUR SERMON OR TEACHING, I AM SEEKING TO REFLECT UPON METHODS AND INTERPRETATIONS THAT SHOW UP IN YOUR WORK, WITH A LOOK AT WHAT IS HELPFUL AND WHAT IS PROBLEMATIC IN ALL THAT IS GOOD IN YOUR WORK. I have no interest in negative criticism or evaluating how "good" you are or are not. In fact, overall, I am very excited about licensed ministers and all the blessings God gives to our church through each one of you.
5. Do an **Exegesis Paper** on another passage, different than #4 above but from one of the biblical books mentioned above. You can get advice from your book and be creative, but each paper should include: a section on what scholars have pointed out about your bible passage and its context and authorship, a section on what you see as vital questions which arise in reading the passage along with your own way of answering those questions, and **for this paper add a section of what hermeneutical method (based on the Hammar paper) you would use** to share this passage with a particular church group (describe the group briefly since who they are may make a difference in what method you would use). Mail or email this

by 3/26, if you can, so I can see and respond to it more thoroughly, or bring it completed Friday night, so I can look it over late Friday night (then I would have to respond to it after the event more thoroughly in writing).

At the event, I will give you another article by Dr. Danna Fewell to look over quickly Friday night (while I interact with your papers brought in at the event instead of sent ahead of time). It will be used in the session on Saturday morning.

Remember that all assignments are for your learning, not for the instructor. I will try hard to use every assignment in the session and communicate with you individually about each. This gives you added interaction with the instructor, but the overall reason to do them is to learn from them yourself. When we have an assignment and deadline, we usually push ourselves to do more and learn more than if we just sigh and wish we had the self-discipline to learn on our own. Such is human nature!