

Under the leadership of the Lead Pastor, the First West Preaching Team is responsible for the preaching and teaching of Scripture in all First West campuses and venues. The team includes the Lead Pastor and all campus pastors at First West.

**Introductory Thoughts from Lead Pastor Michael Wood:**

At First West, we take preaching very seriously. We also love it more than anything else we do. We're blessed to have the opportunity to serve with a team of campus pastors. This structure creates a comfortable place for mutual support, accountability and maximum creativity. With this in mind, I would ask that you do the following in order to be prepared for our weekly time together:

- Read the text. If reasonable, read the entire book. Do your best to understand the passage in context.
- Think about how your people will hear this text and what issues they'll want you to address.
- Identify the "big rocks" for your campus or congregation.
- Read through the research. You probably won't have time to complete your sermon research, but familiarize yourself with the work done by our research assistant.
- Identify any problem areas of the text that might need special attention from you.
- Identify themes your people will readily identify.
- Pray for yourself, each other and our church.

**Must Do:**

- Each teaching pastor must align with the **Annual Sermon Plan** that is developed by the Lead Pastor in collaboration with the Preaching Team. Each major series should be preached in all venues. Each Sunday the same Scripture text and main point should be preached with the exception of "open Sundays," when the text and focus is at the discretion of the teaching pastor.
- Each teaching pastor should preach using the **English Standard Bible (ESV)** unless another translation is approved for a particular Sunday by the Preaching Team. This is to ensure consistency across campuses, venues and for our next generation ministries.
- **The Baptist Faith and Message (1963)** is our doctrinal standard as a church and serves as our statement of faith. All preaching and teaching should align with these doctrines.
- The Preaching Team meets from **3:30-4:30 on Monday afternoon**. All campus pastors are expected to attend this meeting.
- The Docent Group provides a **research document** 1-2 weeks before each sermon. While no teaching pastor is required to use the material provided, it is expected that the document is reviewed prior to the preaching team meeting.
- Campus pastors should be available to **rotate** to other campuses/venues as requested and/or needed.

- **Substitute** teaching pastors must come from the approved list (see below) or be approved by the Lead Pastor's office.

**Should Do:**

- Campus pastors should attend the weekly **worship planning meeting** from 2:30-3:30 every other Monday. Other teaching pastors should attend as requested by the Worship Pastor.
- Each campus pastor should enlist **prayer support** of key leaders and/or staff. How prayer needs and updates are distributed is at the discretion of the teaching pastor.
- The Lead Pastor will occasionally **call meetings** as needed for long-range sermon planning or addressing key issues. It is expected that these called meeting are a priority.
- The Lead Pastor will, on occasion, give **assignments** or **readings** to the Preaching Team. These are expected to be a priority.
- Campus pastors should give feedback to the **Communications Team** as needed and within the timeframe requested for items like sermon series artwork, supporting projects and videos.
- Feedback should be given to the **Discipleship Team** as requested for the creation and evaluation of **sermon-guided resources**.

**Nice to Do:**

- The Lead Pastor reserves the right to request that the Preaching Team attend **conferences, seminars or make visits** to area churches for professional development.
- Under the coaching of the lead pastor, **extemporaneous preaching** is preferred (preaching without notes).

**Discouraged – Don't Do:**

- Don't preach without offering an invitation to respond and/or clear instruction on next steps.
- Don't allow the preaching moment to become a time for programming announcements; work with the Worship Team to ensure those happen at other times during the service.
- Don't give undue focus to civil and "Hallmark" holidays.
- Don't do anything without asking the "why" question.

**Preaching Team:**

- Lead Pastor – Michael Wood
- Fairbanks Campus Pastor – Chad Merrell
- Calhoun Campus Pastor – Josh Elliff
- Global Ministries Pastor – Mark Fenn
- Young Married Adults Pastor – Nathan Neufang

**Approved Teaching Pastor Substitutes:**

- Jericho Jones
- Cody Keys