

## SERMON FEEDBACK SURVEY

### INSTRUCTIONS TO THE STUDENT TAKING THE IB/LW COMPETENCY EXERCISE.

- Getting congregational feedback is an important part of competency exercises, given that the MDiv curriculum at LTS is skills-based. You will note in the questions asked in the survey that not all areas covered by the competency receive attention in the survey. This focus keeps the survey manageable for volunteers completing it. The faculty only seeks congregational input about some ministerial skills taught in courses. You should recognize the substance of the questions asked from course content even if the language used in the survey is different. This approach to the survey is not meant to signal in any way that other areas of the exercise or your technical knowledge are unimportant for either your grade or your work in the church.
- At least two weeks in advance of the worship service in which you will preach as part of your competency exercise, recruit someone in the church to administer the survey. Make sure the person is responsible and will follow through.
- You should provide this person with the following (*read carefully*):
  - 1) Enough copies of the surveys for 10-20 church participants to complete following the service
    - \* Copies of the survey proper (the final two pages of this document) should be made on one page, double-sided.
    - \* Copies of the instructions for the respondents (the third page of this document) should be stapled to the front of the survey proper. (So make sure you do not copy part of the survey on the back side of the instructions.)
  - 2) An envelope large enough to hold all of the completed surveys, with postage paid and addressed to one of the professors administering this competency exercise using the seminary address (230 Lexington Green Circle, Suite 300, Lexington, KY 40503)
  - 3) The instructions for the survey administrator on page 2 of this document.
- Once you have assembled these materials and given them to the volunteer administering the survey, you should have no further role in the survey. This helps guarantee that the survey remains anonymous and free of influence. Your faculty will use the results of the survey not to determine your grade but to shape the feedback they provide and to help you analyze how congregations receive and reflect on the ministry you offer in interpretation of the past and preaching.

## SERMON FEEDBACK SURVEY

### INSTRUCTIONS TO THE VOLUNTEER ADMINISTERING THE SERMON FEEDBACK SURVEY.

- At least two weeks in advance of the worship service in which the Lexington Theological Seminary student is preaching in worship, she or he has asked you to administer a survey seeking feedback to that sermon. You should have been provided with
  - 1) enough copies of the surveys for 10-20 church participants to complete following the service; and
  - 2) an envelope large enough to hold all of the completed surveys, addressed and with postage paid.
  
- Once the student has given you these materials, he or she should no longer be involved in the process of administering the surveys. This helps guarantee that the survey remains anonymous and free of influence. Seminary faculty will use the results of the survey in shaping the feedback they provide to the student. The data of the surveys (excluding all personal information provided) will be shared with the student to help him or her analyze how congregations receive and reflect on the ministry offered in biblical interpretation and preaching.
  
- In advance of the day of the worship service, recruit 10-20 people who will commit to completing the surveys immediately after worship in the church building (in other words, not leaving and returning them to you later).
  - The survey should only take them 15-20 minutes to complete.
  - Please recruit a diverse group of respondents as appropriate to your congregation—different ages (ranging from upper teens through the various stages of adulthood); different levels of engagement with the life of the church; different levels of relationship with the student, etc.
  - Make sure the volunteers know where to gather after the service to complete the survey. (If some fail to show up, do not feel the need to find new recruits at the last minute.)
  
- For the day of the worship service in which the student will preach:
  - Secure space(s) for respondents to come after the service to complete the survey that will provide some privacy and quiet.
  - Have pens/pencils available.
  - You do not have to wait until all have gathered to distribute the survey. People can fill them out individually. But do not pass out the survey prior to the worship service. To do so would lead respondents to listen to the sermon with our questions in mind instead of listening as they would do so normally.
  - Once everyone has completed the survey, place them in the envelope provided and drop them in the mail as soon as possible so that the student can get timely feedback from the faculty. Do not share them with the student; the faculty will discuss the results as part of their conversation with her or him.

## SERMON FEEDBACK SURVEY

*Thank you for taking time to complete the attached anonymous survey.*

*Getting honest, helpful feedback is the best way for pastors to improve their knowledge and skills in serving a congregation. Exaggerated praise or critique does not offer ministers a true picture of their strengths and growing edges.*

*The survey's sections ask about two different areas of pastoral leadership in worship:*

- 1. How an element drawn from the history of the church was used in the sermon*
- 2. The sermon itself*

*There are two types of questions in the survey:*

- 1. Rating Questions*

*Some questions ask you to rate an issue related to interpretation of the church's history or an element of the sermon on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest score). Two descriptions of what the lowest and highest numbers mean are offered for each question as guides.*

- 2. Comment Questions*

*Following each rating question is one or more open-ended questions related to the same category. There is no right or wrong answer to these. Please respond as your memory and experience of the sermon lead you.*

*Please provide the following personal information to help faculty analyze the results of the surveys. This information will be removed before students see any data from the surveys.*

Age (Mark one)

- 10-19
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70-above

Gender (Mark one)

- Female
- Male

Church Role (Mark all that apply)

- Lay person
- Clergy
- Church Staff
- Congregational leader/officer

*Lexington Theological Seminary is grateful to you and your congregation for all the ways you contribute to the preparation of this student for a successful ministry in service to God and the church.*

**SERMON FEEDBACK**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

**HEARING A CALL TO ACTION IN THE SERMON**

Name the central **ethical issue** on which the preacher focused.

Provided no new information for understanding the issue. 1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      7                      8	<b>New Insights into the Issue</b>	Provided significant new information for understanding the issue. 9                      10
--	------------------------------------	--

In one sentence, name the new information about the ethical issue that was most engaging to you.

Did not name the significance of the issue for today's church. 1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      7                      8	<b>Relevance of the Past</b>	Persuasively named the significance of the issue for today's church. 9                      10
--	------------------------------	---

In one sentence, name what you understand to be the significance of the ethical issue discussed in the sermon for the life of the church today.

Presented the issue in a way that did not affect my relationship with God. 1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      7                      8	<b>Relationship to God</b>	Presented the issue in a way that deepened my relationship with God. 9                      10
--	----------------------------	---

In one sentence, name how the sermon influenced the way you relate to God.

After the sermon, I do not understand the ethical issue presented or its relevance to my life or our church. 1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      7                      8	<b>Understanding of Ethical Issue</b>	After the sermon, I better understand the ethical issue presented in the sermon. 9                      10
--	---------------------------------------	---

In one sentence, name what new actions (if any) you intend to take after hearing the sermon.

The presentation of the issue did not move me to act in any new way. 1                      2                      3                      4                      5                      6                      7                      8	<b>Persuaded to Act</b>	The presentation of the issue moved me profoundly to act in new ways. 9                      10
--	-------------------------	--

In one sentence, name what new actions (if any) you intend to take after hearing the sermon.

**ELEMENTS OF THE SERMON**

Had no clear central message. **The Central Message** Intended central message was clear to all.  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

In one sentence, name what you heard to be the central message of the sermon.

Lacked unity and the flow was difficult to follow. **Coherence** Was strongly unified and easy to follow from beginning to end.  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

What image, example, metaphor, or illustration will you most remember from the sermon?

Poorly delivered. **Delivery** Delivered very well  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Comment on the strengths and areas needing improvement concerning the preacher's use of voice, eye contact, and body language.

Ethical issue raised in sermon was not evident in other parts of the service **Relation to the Entire Service** Ethical issue raised in sermon was highly evident in other parts of the service  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

In one sentence, name ways the other parts of the worship service were or were not connected to the sermon.

If you were to suggest changing any one thing about the sermon, what advice would you give the preacher?

**COMMENTS**

In the space provided below, add any comments you would like to make about the sermon and/or the ethical issue presented in the sermon.