

**International Sermon Studies Association Conference**  
**Sermons of Renewal and Revival**

September 11-13, 2025

Regent University  
1000 Regent University Dr.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

**Thursday, September 11**

**Conference Opening Dinner**

5:00 pm

Library Atrium

Opening Remarks: William Skiles

Dean's Welcome: Josh McMullen

Opening Prayer: Fr. Dominick Hankle

**Keynote Address**

7:00 pm

Library Auditorium

Welcome and Introduction: Tyler Sherron

Keynote Address: Corné Bekker, "Performing the Gospel: The Performative Sermons of Francis of Assisi."

**Friday, September 12**

**Panel I**

Library Auditorium

9:15 am – 10:45 am

Moderator: William Skiles

Dominick Hankle, "Sermon as a Liturgical/Sacramental Act"

Trevor Hodges, “Preaching, Prayer, and the Power of the Spirit: A Pneumatological Homiletic for Revival Based on 1 Corinthians 2:1-5”

Stephen Taeger, “Vicarious Liturgy: A James K. A. Smith Homiletic”

## **Panel II**

Library Auditorium

11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Moderator: Tyler Sherron

Robert Ellison, “Sermons and/in/as Literature”

Heather Plym, “Making Sermons More Engaging: Screenwriting & AI Brainstorming Strategies for Faith Leaders”

Markeith Briscoe, “Sound the Alarm”: The Renewal of the African American Preaching Tradition

## **Lunch**

Library Atrium

12:15 pm – 2:00 pm

## **Panel III**

Library Auditorium

2:15 pm – 3:45 pm

Moderator: Josh McMullen

Jon Beutel, “A Turn Toward the Indirect: A Communication Approach to Penetrate Hearts”

Hanisha Besant, “The Phantom Field and the Revival of the Listener: A New Model of Indirect Communication in Preaching”

John Dunkle, “Rehearing The Gospel: Proposing a Model for Utilizing Indirect Communication Principles Based on the Preaching of H. A. Ironside”

## **Keynote Address**

Library Auditorium

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Welcome and Introduction: William Skiles

Keynote Address: Leroy Gilbert, “A Framework for Preaching and Teaching from a Renewal Perspective in Our Contemporary Society—Through the Lens of Job”

**Dinner**

(Library Atrium)

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**Saturday, September 13****Panel IV**

Library Auditorium

9:00 am – 10:00

Panel: The Future of Sermon Studies

**Panel V**

Library Auditorium

10:15 am – 11:45

Moderator: Keith Francis

Joel Iliff, “The Malthusian Revolution in Theology: Utilitarianism in the Sermons of Thomas Malthus”

Jeffrey Anderson, “Whitefield and Edwards: Instructors on Preaching and Revival”

Josh McMullen, “Doing the Stuff”: John Wimber as Preacher/Practitioner

**Lunch**

Library Atrium

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Panel VI**

Library Auditorium

1:15 pm – 2:45

Moderator: Joel Iliff

Bradley Havenar, “Beyond the Pulpit: The Sermon’s Journey from Imperial Tool to Cosmic Awakening”

Kirsten Forthman, “Sermons and Outlaws: The Complex Interplay of Authority and Autonomy in 19th Century America”

**Concluding Remarks**

Library Auditorium

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

William Skiles

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Veritas Lecture Series