

# *Spirit Speaking*

A Workshop in Extemporaneous Preaching for SWUUMA 1/26-27/16  
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**Tuesday, January 26**

9:30 a.m. Naming Our Own Knowing About Worship & Sermons & Their Preparation

10:00 a.m. Why Let Spirit Speak?

- The Technical Reasons
- The Convenience Reasons
- The Psycho-Social Reasons
- The Theological Reasons

11:00 a.m. "Workshop/Worthshop": The Most Important Thing

Select a timekeeper for your group who will use cards provided to indicate use of allotted time. Each participant will stand (if not possible to stand use some other position or posture to show difference from the listeners) and tell a story of no longer than 5 minutes beginning with the words "The most important thing..." Please be good listeners for one another – respectful, attentive and responsive. After all have spoken (or passed), use remaining time to share your responses to the experience itself and consider these questions at your leisure: *Was this easy or difficult for you? How did you feel while speaking? What was your anxiety level? Did other participants seem to you to be as anxious as they expressed being? Did it help or hinder to have a structure for how to begin? Is storytelling different from preaching? If so, what are the differences? What difference does standing make?*

Noon Lunch Break

1:30 p.m. A Primer for Public Speakers

2:30 p.m. "Workshop/Worthshops": Beginnings, Endings, Vibrancy

Pay attention to time so that you allow about 15 minutes to do each exercise and 5 minutes afterwards to share your reflections. The first two of these exercises are done popcorn style. The speaker should stand (if not possible, see prior instructions). While it is good for offerings to be numerous, pauses for creative juices to flow are to be expected. Do not give up too soon. Do not forget to include the obvious.

Beginnings – Speak an appropriate opening line for a sermon on the topic that your group is given. Use some of the different ways to start a speech mentioned in the primer. *What surprised you in the offerings?*

Endings – Speak an appropriate closing for a sermon on the same topic. *What roles do tone, facial expression and gesture play in an ending that feels effective?*

Vibrancy – Each person draws a slip and then delivers the line while standing (if possible) with special attention to use of voice, gesture, posture, etc. First, deliver the line with exaggerated

vibrancy. Then, repeat the same line in a manner authentic to your own personality but retaining intensity and use of your physical tools. Do-overs are perfectly okay. *How comfortable were you?*

### **Wednesday, January 27**

9:30 a.m. Repeating Yourself as Spiritual Discipline

- From the work of James Fowler
- From the work of Thomas Groome
- From the work of Susan M. Smith (UU Liturgical Year Project)

10:30 a.m. Questions and Answers

11:00 a.m. "Workshop/Worthshop": Spirit Speaking In Many Voices

Each participant will have the opportunity to preach a 5-7 minute extemporaneous sermon in the context of a simple worship service. The theme of the service and sermons is Ministry: Mine, Yours and Ours. Half of your group will speak in the morning and half in the afternoon.

Noon Lunch Break

1:15 a.m. "Workshop/Worthshop": Spirit Speaking in Many Voices (continued)

2:15 a.m. Reconvene for closing