

# Thoughts on Who Should Preach

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Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 10:41 AM CST

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Hej Brad (et al),

I appreciate your thoughts on allowing more people to preach at our church. It's an important conversation, and I've been reflecting on it as well. I think it's helpful to separate the question into two parts: **“Can anyone preach?”** and, if so, **“Should anyone be allowed to preach?”**

## **Can Anyone Preach?**

Scripture seems to indicate that anyone can share the gospel. For example, **Philippians 1:18** suggests that Christ being preached is worth celebrating, regardless of who does it.

## **Should Anyone Be Allowed to Preach?**

This question is more nuanced, as it involves ensuring the spiritual health and growth of the congregation. Here are some considerations:

### **1. Biblical Qualifications**

Passages like **1 Timothy 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:5-9** outline qualifications for church leaders, including being above reproach, able to teach, and leading a life consistent with Christian values.

### **2. Doctrinal Soundness**

**2 Timothy 4:2-4** emphasizes preaching sound doctrine and warns against false teachings. This suggests the need for a solid theological foundation.

### **3. Spiritual Maturity and Calling**

Many believe that preaching requires a clear sense of calling and spiritual maturity, often discerned through mentoring or ordination.

#### 4. **Clarity and Communication Skills**

Preachers must be able to clearly and insightfully communicate Scripture, bridging historical context with modern-day application. 1 **Corinthians 14:9** highlights the importance of clarity for the edification of the church.

#### 5. **Insight and Relevance**

Insightful preaching helps the congregation see how biblical principles apply to their daily lives, requiring discernment and spiritual wisdom.

#### 6. **Emotional and Spiritual Impact**

Preaching should not only inform but also **transform**. It should inspire faith, encourage growth, and challenge listeners to live out their beliefs, as reflected in **Hebrews 4:12**.

#### 7. **Spiritual Sensitivity and Authenticity**

Authenticity and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit are crucial. Congregations respond best when they sense genuine conviction and sincerity.

I believe these considerations can help us approach this conversation thoughtfully and faithfully. Personally, **I prefer being very selective on who can preach and don't mind a stipend for anyone out of town**, but I'd like to hear more thoughts from you and the rest of the Elders and continue the dialogue.

Thanks for sharing your thoughts on this important discussion!

--- Bret

On Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 10:31:11 PM CST, Brad Stevens <brad1125@swbell.net> wrote:

I concur with Dave's analysis regarding tuition assistance.

**I also wanted to restate my objection to paying those who preach remuneration. We have many *qualified members* who are willing to fill-in and there's no need to expand our diminishing church revenue for that purpose.**

> On Feb 11, 2025, at 7:35 PM, [dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com](mailto:dave-n-amy-weiler@juno.com) wrote:

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> Hello Steve and All:

> Thanks for looking forward on this issue to avoid unintended consequences. I still want to advocate that we don't have a tuition assistance program. I believe what Nathan is doing is actually a "certificate" program and does not count toward a degree. Let's put this under the category of additional training.

> Our training policy could be something like: Additional training opportunities will be considered on a case by case basis when requested by a full-time minister or their supervisor/elders. Financial assistance for training will be subject to timing, workload, and church budget constraints. (This language needs work, but you get the idea.)

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> There is currently an annual educational materials budget for the lead minister that is unique to that position. Kryder used it to buy books or take the occasional online seminar at his own discretion. I don't think that has lead to ministry staff expecting that same benefit. I do see that if we had more than one lead minister, they should both have that same arrangement.

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> I appreciate the structure you are requesting to keep future decisions from being or feeling arbitrary or unfair. However, I worry about creating even a modest additional benefit expectation with a policy where we can't say no. I'd prefer to somehow increase our strained health insurance benefit with those dollars than to pay for tuition regularly.

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> My thoughts. Let's keep discussing.

> Dave

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