



March 4, 2023

For: CBCC Board Review and Consideration
From: The Speaker Advisory Committee ("SAC")
Re: Updated Speaker Selection Policy #8.3
Now to be retitled, "*Speaker Selection & Ongoing Evaluation*"

Background

Since 1945, Cannon Beach Conference Center ("CBCC") has had an excellent record in selecting speakers who have been faithful to the Word of God and to the tenets of conservative¹ evangelical theology. In 2012, CBCC leadership recognized that sound theology and Biblical understanding were coming under attack by an increasingly post-modern culture. At that time, CBCC adopted **Speaker Selection Policy #8.3**.²

Since then, leadership has observed Biblical truth coming under a variety of other types of intense attack. We have seen many speakers both nationally and internationally preaching and teaching distortions of the Gospel, manufacturing an unbiblical Jesus, and routinely neglecting the whole counsel of God.³ This is not a surprise to CBCC's leadership team. The Apostle Paul addressed similar concerns in Galatians 1:6-8, among other passages:⁴

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.

¹**Conservative** = Uncompromising fidelity to the doctrines of God's Word.

²Date of Adoption: 05/19/2012

³Today, distortions of the Gospel include, but are not limited to, woke and liberation theology; the Bible and Jesus as a means of self-help, health, wealth and prosperity teaching; Christian mysticism, health-healing and word-faith ministries; and works-based salvation. The problem is particularly acute. Hence, the Board's desire to update Policy #8.3 to acknowledge and effectively deal with these and other current threats.

⁴II Timothy 4:3-4, Romans 16:17-20, Revelation 22:18-19, Isaiah 5:20, Acts 4:12, II Timothy 2:15, Psalm 119:105, for example.

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CBCC leadership believes it is important to update Policy #8.3 to provide relevant policy guidance to CBCC's current and future leaders with respect to speaker selection and continuing evaluation.

Ultimately . . .

"It is hoped that these conferences will meet a great need of spiritual invigoration ... and that the Word of God will be made living and vital." (Archie and Evangeline, First CBCC Brochure, 1945)

This hope remains ever in-focus just as it was 78-years ago for CBCC's founders. CBCC's leadership deeply desires that CBCC be a place where sound Biblical instruction is the hallmark of everything we do. This commitment to sound Biblical instruction is reflected in CBCC's Mission Statement as well.

"To provide and support Christ-centered Biblical instruction, which promotes spiritual growth in individuals and families..."

Together, CBCC's leadership acknowledges our responsibility to "*guard the pulpit*" by ensuring that the Bible is faithfully taught at all times. This updated Policy #8.3 is intended to establish speaker selection and ongoing evaluation criteria for use in approving speakers and assuring timely availability of the conference calendar.

Policy Overview

As before, CBCC speakers⁵ will hold conservative, evangelical doctrinal positions, believe in the power of teaching the inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, and have a proven track record of teaching the Bible. We understand there are legitimate differences of opinion on doctrinal issues of secondary importance, but in the core doctrines/tenets CBCC speakers must agree with the approved CBCC Statement of Faith.

*Speakers must sign the **Speaker Agreement** consistent with this policy guidance each year before speaking at CBCC.

CBCC preaching and teaching over the years has been faithfully exegetical and skillfully expository⁶ in nature. CBCC's commitment to expository teaching remains strong. However, CBCC's Board

⁵CBCC's leadership commit to unceasing prayer that CBCC speakers will represent a variety of backgrounds, ages and life circumstances.

⁶**Expository Preaching** presents the meaning and intent of a Biblical text by providing commentary, comprehensive explanation, and examples to make the passage clear, understandable, and applicable to daily life. The aim of expository preaching is to reveal and communicate the riches of what God is saying in a passage of Scripture rather than to impart a message of human wisdom.

As teacher Haddon Robinson once said, "Exposition is drawing from your exegesis to give your people what they need to understand the passage." So, **Expository Preaching** can also be described as faithful exegesis and skillful exposition of God's Word to rightly examine the Word of truth.

Faithful exegesis and expository preaching differ from topical preaching, wherein a speaker begins with a topic, then finds a passage of Scripture to explain the topic, and from textual preaching, wherein a speaker uses the Scripture as a "springboard" for discussing a particular point.

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acknowledges that it may be appropriate to dedicate a speaker's time to topical matters for those conferences specifically designed to address particular needs of those in attendance. Except for such occasions, expository preaching of God's Word is expected. This is consistent with the founder's belief, with which CBCC's Board concurs, that **the answers to all matters of life are provided in God's Word**. Biblical exposition provides for God to speak through His Word into the lives of those in attendance, to encourage and grow an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ. This affirms our Mission Statement.

Currently, there are subtle, not-so subtle, and significant distortions of the Gospel of which the Board, Executive Director ("ED"), and Program Manager ("PM") have become aware. As our nation continues to become more secular, a variety of distortions and threats to sound teaching are likely to continue. CBCC leadership must be vigilant and diligent to consider that some of CBCC's prospective speakers may be influenced by unbiblical "new" ways or means of interpreting God's eternal Word.⁷

In guarding against this falling away from the truth, CBCC will strive to fill its pulpit with theologically sound, gifted, and effective communicators of God's Word. Prospective and returning speakers will be expected to have a good reputation among peers as well as a regional or national recognition as effective teachers of Biblical truth. CBCC speakers will be spiritually mature, personally authentic, and available to guests. Speakers will also be expected to be well-prepared, treat our guests and staff with respect, attract listeners and fit well into CBCC's wonderful conference setting. In summary, CBCC speakers must be theologically orthodox, gifted communicators of Biblical truth, personally authentic and spiritually mature. Speakers must also agree with CBCC's **Statement of Faith** and abide by CBCC's **Purity Policy**.

Other Policy Update Details

In the past, CBCC believed that *"People who choose to spend their vacation at CBCC are generally those who are hungry for strong, sound teaching from the Bible. They often look to CBCC to provide a valued supplement to the teaching they are exposed to in their local churches."* While that remains true for many of our attendees, CBCC leadership now believes that many who come to CBCC may not ever have heard the Gospel clearly and effectively expounded. Many others may be young in their faith and may not yet have been challenged to, for example, adopt a daily habit of the study of God's Word.

Accordingly, as relevant to the passage and beneficial for those in attendance, CBCC asks that each speaker make a good faith effort in their presentations to highlight the following, among other, foundational truths about an abiding relationship with Jesus Christ:⁸

1. A personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ
2. A habit of daily Bible study
3. Jesus Christ in all His fullness
4. Applying the Bible to daily life

*Expositor's words are not designed to expound a separate message but to amplify, elaborate on, and illustrate the Biblical text, with a view towards clarity, understanding and application. (Discussions and references regarding **Expository Preaching** are included at Addendum 1 to this Policy 8.3 update for CBCC leadership review and consideration.)*

⁷For example, during 2020, 2021 and 2022, the Board observed unbiblical woke teaching and political views to have threatened the teaching of sound theology nationally. (Please see comments below. Board member research is also included for leadership reference and consideration at Addendum 2.)

⁸ This list is by no means comprehensive. However, recognizing that many guests may not be saved and many other guests may be young in their faith, the CBCC Board desires that these truths be presented to every guest.

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5. Contributing to their church, supporting others in prayer & leading men, women, and children in receiving and walking with the Lord
6. Making disciples and the carrying out the Great Commission
7. Love for God and the Bible as absolute truth
8. A transformed life

CBCC also expects each speaker to be mindful of the following needs as they pertain to the passage being taught:

1. Boldly and unashamedly address the consequences of rejecting Christ and eternal separation from God.
2. Not suggest ‘*praying the prayer*’ is a means of salvation instead of recognition of sin and the need for true repentance.
3. Discuss true evidence of saving faith in Jesus Christ and relationship with the Lord.
4. Avoid teaching on social justice issues which are unbiblical.
5. Seek to challenge, not entertain.
6. Avoid treating the Gospel as a means of improving one’s life (i.e., self-help) instead of the Way of salvation and glorifying God.
7. Acknowledge and adjust, as needed, social media links that are an integral part of one’s teaching.
8. Not emphasize topics, training, ministries, and other books over the Bible.

Speaker Roster Review and Evaluation – Speaker Tracking Report (“STR”)

Ten days prior to the March Board Meeting, the PM and ED will provide an up-to-date speaker roster and Speaker Tracking Report, **STR**, for review, comment and speaker approval by the Board. The roster will delineate between scheduled speakers and new speakers being considered. **All speakers will meet Policy 8.3 speaker criteria, detailed herein.** The ED will gather the Board’s comments in whatever manner he/she deems fit (i.e., during the meeting, through email, online document feedback, etc. being mindful of time limitations in the March Board meeting).

The PM will maintain the **STR** recording relevant evaluative information of all prospective and returning speakers. The Board, in its policy role, will focus on suggesting prospective speakers, providing the PM with “warm” introductions, where possible, and providing helpful guidance and comment regarding the PM’s scheduled and prospective speakers. The Board will also be available to assist the PM and ED, as requested, relative to problematic social media content and other observations relative to speaker adherence to 8.3 criteria.

NOTE: In the fall 2022, due to the need to revise Policy 8.3 speaker guidelines and vet current and future 2023/2024 speakers, the Board worked more closely with the ED and PM in speaker selection and approval than it has in the past. This Board, ED, PM collaboration took the Board outside of its usual policy role but was deemed necessary due to a unique confluence of circumstances to which CBCC was subject. Moving forward, all parties, the Board, ED, and PM acknowledge that each must have a heightened awareness of threats to sound teaching and vigilance is generating an approved/concurred speaker roster. For the Board’s part, this heightened awareness and vigilance should take on the form of sharing helpful speaker input, insight, and introduction relative to Policy 8.3 criteria and the speaker approval process. The Board will not be involved in the scheduling of speakers. The ultimate objective is for the PM to

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have a sufficient number of approved speakers with which he/she can schedule speakers in a timely manner for 2024 and beyond.

Ongoing Evaluation of Returning Speakers

Any CBCC speaker who violates CBCC's **Purity Policy**, no longer meets the criteria laid out in this policy, and/or is found to have acted in conflict with CBCC's **Statement of Faith**, will be promptly contacted by the PM and ED with the goal of restoring the brother or sister-in-Christ. Except for unusual circumstances, speakers willfully disregarding CBCC's speaker requirements will no longer be eligible to speak at CBCC.

Updated Policy #8.3 *is intended to apply to all forms of a speaker's public expression*, including but not limited to local church sermons, church and personal websites, blogs, interviews, podcasts, and social media. These forms of a speaker's public expression must also be consistent with CBCC's speaker policies. If a speaker violates CBCC policies in any one of these outside channels, the speaker will be contacted, and the issue will be addressed in the manner described in the paragraph above.

Speaker Monitoring – The PM, ED and Board members attending conferences and/or retreats will endeavor to ensure that all teaching is carefully heard and evaluated. Relevant observations will be summarized in the STR.

Wokeness and Other Speaker Distractions – CBCC leadership believes that all of Scripture points us to the Holy One, Jesus Christ, our hope. We believe the answers to all matters of life are provided in God's Word. Hence, as stated earlier, CBCC is committed to expositional teaching which keeps that Hope and a high view of God in focus, elevates knowing God, His attributes, and His commands, and emphasizes applying Scripture to our daily lives.

By contrast, messages that focus on self can put the listener in God's rightful place, and teaching that focuses on societal issues elevates the topic-of-the-day above the sufficiency of Christ and the inerrancy of Scripture. CBCC leadership finds it startling and deeply concerning to observe the increasing prevalence of woke⁹ teaching and preaching that is on or influenced by so-called "social justice"¹⁰ or topics of nationalism, critical race theory, and self-improvement. We believe all of these distract and detract from the clear, powerful, and transformational truth of the Gospel message and God's Holy Word. Accordingly, CBCC considers speakers engaging in such teaching to be ineligible for speaking engagements at CBCC. For a more detailed explanation of "woke theology" and similar issues, please refer to Addendum Two of this policy.

Secondary Biblical Issues - There are areas of Biblical understanding for which legitimate doctrinal differences exist within conservative evangelicalism. While these are not issues of central importance to CBCC's theological stance, they can be controversial. A few of them are addressed below. The general approach is that the teaching from the CBCC pulpit should not provoke unnecessary controversy or division.

⁹ Please refer to comments and findings below relative to the current problem and threat posed by woke teaching.

¹⁰ CBCC Board member, Jeremiah Hansen's 2022 research and conclusions relative to the impact on the Church of woke teaching is included at Addendum 1 to this Policy 8.3 update for CBCC leadership review and consideration.

Eschatology - The tradition of CBCC has been dispensational and pre-millennial, but well-grounded preachers have genuinely disagreed with this approach. Preachers with other approaches will not be disqualified, but any eschatological teaching must be consistent with CBCC's doctrinal belief in the (physical) return of Christ to reign for eternity.

Charismatic Gifts -The central division among charismatic and non-charismatic positions has centered on the belief that speaking in tongues is the essential expression of the baptism (and filling) of the Holy Spirit. CBCC does not accept speaking in tongues as the essential expression of the baptism and filling of the Holy Spirit. CBCC recognizes the need to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, and believes that all believers have been baptized into the body of Christ and that all spiritual gifts are given by God for the edification of the Church. Whatever the personal belief of speakers regarding speaking in tongues may be, it should not be taught or promoted from the pulpit as an essential indicator of the baptism (filling) of the Holy Spirit. It should also be recognized that many charismatic guests come to CBCC, and their views should be respected.

Women in Ministry - While women have been active in leadership at CBCC, men have usually filled the pulpit for mixed-gender conferences, with some notable exceptions. CBCC is not a church; however, this tradition of men in the pulpit has been generally upheld out of respect for the conservative views of many who attend CBCC. Women are not prohibited from teaching mixed audiences, but CBCC does not seek controversy. Therefore, a woman chosen to address a mixed-gender audience at CBCC should be someone of significant stature in the Christian community.

Addendum One

(Expository Preaching references and discussion)

"Exegesis and exposition are like making a cake. Exegesis is the eggs, the flour, and milk -- plus all the tools that you use. Exposition is the final product. You leave your exegesis in the kitchen (study) and bring the finished cake (exposition) to the table (pulpit)."

<https://www.puritanboard.com/threads/difference-between-exegesis-and-exposition.66795/>

"A pastor must start with exegesis of the text, before seeking to communicate and illustrate it. One cannot communicate Bible exposition clearly and accurately without first discovering what the text means. A pastor must know the passage's exegetical truth, but that truth should be communicated in expository language...Further preparation is required to produce expository teaching that the whole congregation can understand."

<https://www2.gracenotes.info/topics/bible-exegesis-and-exposition.html>

Addendum Two

Wokeness - Wokeness is an anti-Christ worldview that goes by many different names, including Cultural Marxism, Critical Theory, and Social Justice. At its core Wokeness teaches a different or

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false Gospel (2 Cor 11:4, Gal 1:6). It is a man-made attempt to establish justice and peace on earth without God or His laws, so it results in neither. Wokeness is a worldview that results in the tangible destruction of human freedom and life.

Wokeness is borne out of a radically subjective post-modern worldview, which rejects God and elevates unbiblical human belief systems to the place of God. In every aspect of human life and relationship it seeks to usurp God's plan and desires: from our worship of the one and only God, to God's plan for the church, to God's plan for marriage, to God's plan for sexuality, to God's plan for relationships, to God's plan for human government. This anti-Christ worldview is primarily infiltrating the church through issues of race relations, also known as Critical Race Theory or social justice, is one of the most, if not the most, dangerous heresies being faced in today's culture.

It is not our belief that all pastors who have elements of Wokeness in their teaching adhere to all the principles of this woke worldview. However, there is an unquestionable danger of including any of the clear aspects of Wokeness into a person's life or ministry. As the Apostle Paul warned Christians in the early Church of syncretism (i.e., the blending of other beliefs or religious elements into Christianity), we too need to be vigilant in defending the truth of the Gospel from anything that anyone would add to it, no matter how "relevant" or "timely" or "needed" our culture considers it.