

# Great Lakes Theology & Preaching Conference

## Paper and Abstract Submission Guidelines

Western Theological Seminary invites current undergraduate students as well as others considering seminary to submit presentation proposals for the second Great Lakes Theology & Preaching Conference on **November 6–7, 2025**.

The general theme for the conference is “**God the Creator.**” Other possible topics related to the theme include but are not limited to:

- Creation care
- Imago Dei
- Reading Genesis
- Creation stories in the Psalms
- Creation and new creation

In addition to our theme, we will entertain proposals that touch upon any aspect of Christian theology, biblical studies, preaching, or ministry.

**Submissions may take one of two forms:**

1. **Academic Papers**
2. **Sermons (based on biblical texts, ideally engaging the conference theme)**

**For both types of submissions:**

Proposals should state a title, demonstrate a clear focus, outline the questions or themes addressed, and preview the sources or texts engaged. Proposals should be between **200 and 350 words** and must be submitted via the linked form by **October 10, 2025**.

**Presentations at the conference will follow these formats:**

- **Paper presentations:** 10-minute delivery with 10 minutes for discussion
- **Sermon presentations:** 12–15-minute sermon with 5–8 minutes for feedback/discussion

All who present are encouraged to submit their work for further consideration for one of two **Great Lakes Theology & Preaching Prizes** (see below), each of which includes an award of **\$500**.

Those proposing papers or sermons must be registered by **October 18** for consideration.



Submit here.

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## Great Lakes Theology & Preaching Conference Prizes

### Paper Prize

The Paper Prize seeks to inspire and support the next generation of theological thinkers. This award is given to an individual beginning theological study—someone without graduate-level training—who exhibits promise in the form of creativity, clarity, and depth of engagement.

#### Guidelines for Submission:

- Final papers must be submitted to [gltpc@westernsem.edu](mailto:gltpc@westernsem.edu) by **October 10**.
- Submitted papers must be delivered at the conference for consideration.
- Papers should be written in a formal academic tone, with references to Scripture and secondary literature. Adaptations for oral delivery are welcome.
- Papers should not exceed **2,000 words** (including footnotes but excluding bibliography).
- Any standard citation format is acceptable; **Chicago Manual of Style** is recommended.
- The winning paper will be selected by a panel of WTS faculty and announced on the final day of the conference.

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### Sermon Prize

The Sermon Prize honors excellence in undergraduate preaching. This award recognizes a student who demonstrates theological depth, scriptural insight, and skill in the art of proclamation.

#### Guidelines for Submission:

- Students must preach their sermon live at the conference.
- A written **manuscript** must be submitted to [gltpc@westernsem.edu](mailto:gltpc@westernsem.edu) by **October 10**.
- Sermons should be rooted in one or more biblical texts and ideally reflect the conference theme.
- Sermons must fall within the **12-15 minute** range when delivered.

The winning sermon will be selected by a panel of faculty and local pastors with expertise in preaching and worship and announced on the final day of the conference.