

IWS FACULTY POSITION DESCRIPTION: THE SACRED ACTIONS OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

The Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies (www.iws.edu) is seeking a part-time professor to teach an intensive doctoral level course in Sacred Actions of Christian Worship (applied sacramental theology). This course seeks to explore the sacred acts of worship in the ministry of the church, particularly Baptism and Holy Communion, from biblical and historical perspectives. This course also addresses the relationship of these two actions to Christian formation and pastoral care.

This course is taught on campus in Jacksonville, FL twice a year, the first to second Wednesday after January 1, and the last week in June (also Wednesday to Wednesday). This is a hybrid course which includes an online component in conjunction with the one-week intensive class time. All doctoral courses at IWS are team-taught.

In keeping with its holistic theology of education, IWS considers a wide range of criteria in the selection of its teaching faculty. Among these are: academic degrees; teaching experience and performance; commitment to academic, professional, and spiritual formation; experience in ministry; commitment to assist students in reflection; ongoing learning and scholarly productivity; collegiality; and theological congruence with IWS. The relative weight placed on these criteria may vary with the subjects to be taught. For teaching in the Doctor of Worship Studies program, IWS seeks candidates with a completed terminal degree (as defined in the field of the degree) in a field related to the course matter, though candidates who have nearly completed a terminal degree may be considered.

For this specific course IWS is seeking someone with:

- Educational background in an appropriate field, including but not limited to: PhD in biblical studies, historical theology, liturgical theology, systematic theology, or a DMin in the appropriate area of study. Ordination is a plus but not required.
- Experience in worship leadership including, but is not limited to, leading or planning corporate worship.
- Experience in teaching at the graduate level.
- Experience with, and appreciation for, a wide variety of corporate worship settings.
- The ability to understand and communicate ideas for practical application of course content in diverse student contexts.
- Knowledge of biblical and historical foundations of sacramental theology from the perspective of more than one Christian tradition.
- Experience in teaching the course matter.
- Commitment to hands-on, practical, pedagogical methods.
- The ability to team-teach and the willingness to coordinate course development and implementation, as well as grading standards and rubrics, with the other course professor.
- Additionally, classroom presentations and readings selected by the instructor should give special attention to those perspectives that contribute to worship renewal today in line with the general outlook of the Institute for Worship Studies and its founder, Robert E. Webber.

This particular course (DWS 704) is designed to cover material in Volumes VI & VII of Robert E. Webber (ed.), *Complete Library of Christian Worship*.

- Volume VI, *The Sacred Actions of Christian Worship*, covers a wide range of subjects that fall under the heading of “Sacred Actions.” Given the constraints of time, we have historically narrowed class time consideration to two sacred actions: Baptism & Eucharist. Reggie Kidd has historically taught this portion of the course.
- Volume VII, *The Ministries of Christian Worship*, has historically been taught by the second faculty member. Since Vol VI covers Baptism and Eucharist, Vol II covers these as mission, including spiritual formation (Baptism) and pastoral care (Eucharist). Typically, this portion of the course covers how spiritual formation and pastoral care contribute to worship renewal of the Church and carries out God’s mission to make all things new.
- IWS is seeking to enhance the discussion of sacramental actions as mission by also exploring this topic as it relates to inculturation and diversity.

The instructor is responsible for:

- **Teaching on-campus:** teach half of each of the one-week intensives; develop and lead a baptismal renewal service and healing eucharist service during the intensives; attend institutional events (evening practicums during the intensive session, chapel sessions, opening convocation, graduation, etc.);
- **Engagement before/after intensive on-campus session:** work with the other course professor to develop the course syllabus and related materials for the class, develop grading rubrics, grade student assignments, mentor student projects from initial idea through implementation of project, including writing phases; coordinate and supervise teaching assistants;
- **Contribution as a faculty member:** participate in general faculty responsibilities (including occasional committee work, faculty meetings, and occasional professional development, etc.);
- **Development of spiritual life:** be an active participant in a community of faith in their home context; commit to pray for the institution, their students, and their work.

To apply, candidates should send 1) a cover letter that includes a general philosophy of education and teaching, as well as an explanation of their desire to teach at IWS, and 2) a curriculum vita that includes important background information.

Letters of recommendation are not required but are highly encouraged. Those nominating someone for this position should secure approval from a candidate before sending a letter of nomination that includes the candidate’s contact information.

The Faculty Search Committee will begin rank ordering the candidates by July 15, 2021. All applicants will be notified by September of 2021. The faculty member selected will begin Nov 2021 in advance of the Jan 2022 session.

Please send nominations or a cover letter and vita to Jack Van Marion, Chair, at jvanmarion@iws.edu.