



Pastor as Teacher, Congregation as Learning Community

by Anthony B. Robinson

Part of what drew me to the ordained ministry was a particular image of that calling: the minister as a field-based teacher and scholar. It is in many ways a rabbinic model. Rabbi means "teacher." Rabbis were teachers who were based not primarily in the school, university, or academy but in the community--in congregations and in the public square. Their task was to teach and to interpret a way of life for the people and community in which they lived. How does the faith of our people and tradition relate to this concern or that question of the day? How do the stories of our faith speak to a challenge in someone's life?

How are the pastors and teachers of the church like the scribes of the kingdom of which Jesus spoke when he said, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old" (Matt. 13:52)? Such scribes brought the old wisdom and ancient stories to new times and places. As a young man, I found such an understanding of ministry both compelling and challenging.

Read "[Pastor as Teacher, Congregation as Learning Community](#)"

Anthony B. Robinson is leading a seminar entitled "Going Deeper/Reaching Wider: Theological Convictions Empowering Congregational Vitality" at Andover Newton Theological School.

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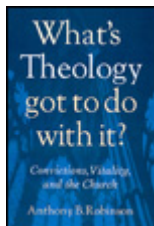
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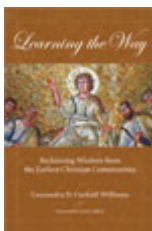
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