Great Plains
UNITED METHODISTS

Sermon Video Best Practices

In order to provide the District Committee and/or Board of Ordained Ministry with the best representation of your preaching, you are encouraged to keep in mind the following suggestions and tips.

Timing Tips
- Don't wait until the last minute (i.e., the last worship service before the video is due)!
- Review the instructions in the UMCARES Sermon video step to verify what is expected by the DCOOM/BOOM
- Review (as needed) the "How to Create a YouTube Channel and Upload Videos" document available at https://www.greatplainsumc.org/files/boom_forms/2017-2020+how+to+create+a+youtube+channel+and+upload+videos.pdf
- Contact your DCOOM and/or BOOM registrar if you have questions or are in an alternative ministry setting (i.e. serving in extension ministry or appointed as a non-preaching associate pastor) in order to negotiate your sermon submission. You may need to make arrangements to preach in a different setting.

Recording-Uploading Tips
- Plan to record several sermons (over several different worship days) so you can choose your best effort
- Recruit someone else to serve as the videographer
- Try a test run before recording "the real thing". During the test run check that you are easily visible in the video, that you can be heard, that the camera is steady (no shaking), etc.
- Make certain the camera is far enough away that any gestures/movement is included. At the same time, make certain the camera is close enough to capture your facial expressions.
  - In other words, don't place the camera on the pulpit or in the balcony/back of the sanctuary
- Before submitting the link for the video in UMCARES, double check that you are able to both see and hear yourself in the video (without adjusting your normal sound settings)
- Use the "Add URL" option when adding the YouTube link; do not attempt to upload the video itself
- Verify that the link works by clicking "open" (will open in a new tab) or the Play arrow (will play from UMCARES)

Video-Manuscript-Bulletin Tips
- Make certain that the sermon manuscript/transcript that is submitted matches the submitted sermon video.
  - NOTE: The sermon document should be a close match to what is shared in the video. Submitting an outline of the sermon is not sufficient, but the written submission does not need to be exactly word for word as preached in the video
- Make certain the video, manuscript/transcript and bulletin/order of worship are all from the same worship service