

# Units for 2024

## Semester 2

### Practice of Christian Ministry

This unit introduces the key elements and considerations of engaging in the practice of formal and informal Christian Ministry. It will assist students to understand the nature and breadth of Christian ministries to which they may be called. Students will reflect on themselves as participants and leaders within the context of their ministry avenues. The unit also explores the biblical and theological basis for Christian ministry and selected cultural, legal, ethical and other factors relating to contemporary ministry practices.

### Introduction to Christian Mission

This unit explores the biblical and theological basis for understanding the mission of God. It examines approaches to, and models of, Christian mission. It considers the need for an understanding of culture and context when engaging in mission. It investigates the elements of responsible and ethical missional practices.

### Church Revitalisation and Renewal

This intensive (Sept 30 – Oct 4) focuses on renewal and revitalisation to enable congregations to enter into the mission of God more fully in local contexts. Attention will be given to how elements in the fabric of ordinary church life such as preaching, prayer, pastoral care, worship, day-to-day operations, governance, and strategic planning and visioning can help effect this. Renewal and revitalisation, it is recognised, is located in personal as well as corporate faith and life. Examples from contemporary initiatives in Australia and beyond, as well as theological and biblical principles, will be explored to resource student engagement with real contexts, including their own.

### Synoptic Studies

This is a field of study that looks at three of the four canonical Gospels: the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke, with a particular focus on one of the three. Comparable material from the Synoptic tradition in other sources will also be considered.

### Reflective Ministry Practice Capstone

Developing skilled and reflective practitioners is the goal of ministry studies. As a capstone unit, Reflective Ministry Practice will rely on students' accumulated knowledge and experience base while integrating the comparatively new fields of research of pastoral imagination and pastoral wisdom. Each foci represents a further responsive equipping for ministry practice in light of a general decline in religious affiliation coupled with institutional and social instability. The unit will also highlight the potential use of a theopoetic approach to, and application within, contemporary ministry practice.

## **Biblical Hermeneutics for Mission and Ministry**

This unit surveys the variety of methodologies of biblical interpretation and hermeneutical perspectives by which contemporary meaning is made from ancient scripture. Current approaches to scripture will be critically evaluated, and students will explore their own hermeneutic strategies. The unit will include:

1. An overview of historical developments in biblical interpretation up to the mid 20th century
2. A detailed examination of the developments and changes in biblical hermeneutics since the mid 20th century
3. A series of workshops and discussions on a range of contemporary biblical interpretation
4. Opportunities to apply different approaches to the biblical text and to explore the intersection between hermeneutics and a variety of contemporary contexts.

## **Hebrew 2**

Unit content includes: learning the particularities of Hebrew grammar and syntax and biblical vocabulary with a view to being able to read Hebrew and translate into English; developing the skills to employ standard resources (lexicon, Hebrew grammar) in the translation of texts from the Hebrew Bible.

## **Supervised Theological Field Education**

This Supervised Theological Field Education unit provides students with the challenge to establish learning goals appropriate to their learning stage and to the actual ministry context in which they are placed, and to demonstrate the capacity for self-directed learning within the supervisory process. The unit will focus on formation for ministry practice, self-awareness, pastoral identity and appropriate use of ministry skills, including theological reflection on ministry experience and the integration of theological study and ministry practice. LCA professional ministry standards including safeguarding underpin this unit.

## **Emerging Leaders: Leading Self**

This unit explores means for cultivating self-awareness, character, and spiritual depth essential for effective leadership that is resilient, wise in self-management, and values life-long learning. Students will analyse Biblical and Christ-centred leadership principles and character traits, reflect on key leadership texts, and be introduced to spiritual disciplines and prayer practices, in order to foster scripturally-grounded, thoughtfully reflective, Spirit-empowered leadership. Through a holistic approach, participants will also engage in self-assessment, peer mentoring, and one-on-one dialogues to identify personal work preferences and leadership strengths. This unit is delivered in partnership with Arrow Leadership.

## **Emerging Leaders: Leadership Development**

In this unit students will explore not only self-development but also methodologies for developing teams and empowering and multiplying leaders within those teams. Christian and secular wisdom will inform learning in regard to the influence and impact that context, cultural diversity, strengths, style and skill-set can have on individual and collective leadership development. Students will craft a Development Plan for not only themselves but also others around them, supported by peer mentoring and one-on-one dialogue with experienced leaders. This unit is delivered in partnership with Arrow Leadership.

### **Justice and Community Development**

This unit introduces students to the social, political and cultural contexts of injustice in contemporary Australia, reflecting on missional and ethical responses. Community Development principles will be brought into dialogue with biblical and theological sources expressing God's desire for justice and shalom. Themes of prophetic imagination, peacemaking, community building, resistance and advocacy, partnership building, and political activism will be explored for addressing structural and social injustice. Critical reflection on practices evidenced in case studies drawn from key historical figures and movements, as well as current Community Ministry practitioners will also be engaged with.

### **Ministry in Liminal spaces**

This topic focusses on the attitudes, worldview, and dispositions needed for ministry practitioners to effectively offer ministry in liminal spaces within their community. Starting with deep listening and the capacity to 'read' the dominant value and cultural systems at hand, this topic looks at radical discipleship, intercultural relational skills, and humility and friendship to offer ministry 'with' others. Themes of liberation, struggle, solidarity, and dialogue will be explored to deepen the students understanding of missional engagement. Theological reflection skills will be developed through practises evidenced in case studies and field visits with current community ministers. Students will learn to develop local or 'little' theologies and liturgies for liminal spaces outside the gathered Christian community.