POSTGRADUATE COURSE UNITS
(Christian Life and Ministry)

Worship and Liturgy

L8501 Introducing Christian Worship
This graduate course unit introduces students to concepts that provide a foundation for the study of Christian worship.
At the end of this unit students will be able to:
1. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the biblical, theological, cultural and historical foundations for the practice of Christian worship within a particular tradition
2. Contrast recent developments within Christian worship
3. Critically analyse a range of liturgical resources, as a basis for further research
4. Compare the framework of various liturgical services
5. Differentiate the riches of the Christian liturgical traditions

L8520 Foundations of Preaching
This graduate course unit seeks to establish a theology of preaching that provides an adequate theoretical foundation to preaching practice and introduces students to the foundational skills needed for the preparation and delivery of homilies/sermons.
At the end of this unit students will be able to:
1. apply theological and theoretical principles to distinguish quality preaching of homilies/sermons
2. appraise a service of worship and explain the place of the homily/sermon
3. differentiate between written discourse and oral discourse and explain their interrelationship
4. demonstrate a range of preaching styles
5. prepare and deliver sermons/homilies that are creative and exhibit a basic structure that fits the context.
L9620 Preaching and Context
This course unit examines preaching in its social and cultural context.
At the end of this unit students will be able to:
1. appraise contemporary social and cultural context, extrapolate future trends, and forecast future trends in preaching
2. generalise the principles underlying effective preaching in particular contexts
3. creatively design sermons or homilies incorporating variations in style and structure
4. critique sermons or homilies with reference to their theological, social, and cultural context
5. preach sermons or homilies that effectively communicate in different contexts.

Pastoral Theology

P8501 Introduction to Pastoral and Practical Theology
This course unit is an introduction to pastoral and practical theology for ministry. It is also an opportunity to overview the biblical and theological foundations of ministry. Common aspects of ministry will be considered.
At the end of the unit students will be able to:
1. demonstrate advanced knowledge of the contemporary complex issues relating to the practice of pastoral care
2. present a critical evaluation of the role of the human sciences in pastoral theology and ministry
3. apply advanced critical skills and insights of biblical and theological scholarship to the practice of ministry
4. demonstrate mastery of complex theological reflection in the practice of ministry
5. use technical and communication skills to independently analyse professional practice

P8561 Developing leaders through mentoring
This graduate course unit provides an understanding of the theory and practice of mentoring as applied to the development of Christian leaders.
At the end of this unit students will be able to:
1. work with leaders to discern together key issues for their development
2. assist leaders to set personal goals and formulate action plans
3. provide positive accountability, support and challenge to stimulate leadership development
4. articulate how mentoring complements other methods of leadership development
5. relate the practice of mentoring to Biblical models and values
P8572 Spiritual Leadership
This course unit is designed to challenge and inspire students to actively serve as spiritual leaders. It will examine the significant ways that secular leadership intersects with biblical principles and values, examine their current approach to leadership, and reflect on how they might lead at a higher level.

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the biblical, traditional, theological and personal foundations of Christian leadership
2. engage critically with a personal understanding of spiritual leadership
3. examine one’s own strengths and areas requiring growth and development
4. critique the various models of spiritual leadership and develop a working model for their own faith community
5. formulate the relationship between the spiritual leader and those served by leadership, within cultural and institutional contexts

P8583 Working in a Ministry Team Setting
This graduate course unit is designed to challenge students to build and develop teams in their ministry context. It will assist in the development of leadership skills and will provide practical skills for increasing organisational effectiveness.

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. assess the relative merits of alternative theories of team building and team development
2. explain how personality differences and communication preferences affect the operation of teams
3. formulate strategies for enlarging the capacity and character of ministry team members
4. critically appraise ministry teams to identify strengths and weaknesses
5. substantiate a case for the positive impact of harmonious ministry teams on the effectiveness of churches in mission

P9662 Mastering Change in Ministry
This graduate course unit acknowledges that students live their lives in times of change, and perform their ministries as agents of change for the sake of the gospel. It seeks to equip students to understand the dynamics of change in history, in institutions, and in their private lives. This unit seeks to equip students to understand change positively, and to master it as a tool for Christian ministry.

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. construct an advanced model of how change is given effect from biblical and theological foundations
2. critique recent developments of alternative theories about how change-movements are conceived, implemented and managed
3. organise change as a positive feature in their own professional practice of leadership
4. introduce transformational change within their own circles of influence and assist others to embrace and grow through change
5. explain their own critical appreciation of personal and organisational change as an opportunity for growth and service
P9664 Leading the larger church

This course unit introduces the student to the uniqueness of the larger church, its role in the processes of evangelism and mission in the Australian context and beyond, and the skills and perspectives necessary to effectively lead such an organization.

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. display perceptive understanding of the characteristics, advantages and disadvantages of the large church
2. categorise the skills necessary to lead a large church, i.e. as institution, as healing community, as political and economic cooperation, as social activist
3. review the necessary steps and stages in founding, developing, and sustaining the large church
4. distinguish the issues involved in leading a large church from their biblical, sociological, economic and political sources
5. show critical appreciation of the support role that large churches can play towards smaller churches

P9665 Transformational Leadership in Ministry

This graduate course unit examines the nature and practice of leadership which has personal and organisational transformation as its primary object. Participants will be challenged to develop a biblical model of leadership based on Jesus’ ministry, and to develop an intentional strategy for their own ongoing spiritual and personal nourishment.

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. categorise personal leadership styles in the light of biblical, historical and business models
2. critically evaluate alternative models of transformational leadership
3. explain in detail the link between personal renewal and corporate revitalisation
4. prescribe and justify the appropriate transformational intervention for an organisation according to its organisational lifecycle stage
5. create and implement a comprehensive intentional strategy, grounded in careful research, for personal spiritual growth and corporate renewal

P9667 Personal Growth for leadership

This graduate course unit provides the student with an awareness of their own spiritual and emotional health, assisting them to develop skills and techniques for achieving their own maturity, and working with others to enhance this most primary of resources for Christian ministry.

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. use communication skills to explain the impact that complex societal and relational stressors have on ministers’ psychological health and wellbeing
2. engage critically with the foundations of their own emotional health and spiritual well-being to achieve a high level of self-awareness
3. reflect critically on their own evolving spirituality and leadership development and determine the part each plays in ministry
4. critically evaluate practices and disciplines that build a sustainable and resilient ministry
5. establish a “rule of life”, demonstrating an advanced approach to integrating practices of spirituality and leadership in both life and ministry
P9671 Ministry in complex situations
This graduate unit develops the student’s knowledge and experience of pastoral ministry, providing opportunities for personal development and critical insight into appropriate interventions for specific ministry situations. It is intended that this unit will expand the student’s capacity to reflect theologically on their response to complex pastoral situations.

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. analyse and discuss pastoral issues that arise throughout the life cycle
2. demonstrate the ability to apply pastoral theology to pastoral issues
3. research and critique principles of ethical behaviour and self-care in pastoral ministry
4. develop appropriate interventions for issues that arise in pastoral ministry
5. critically reflect on personal responses to issues that arise in pastoral ministry

P9682 Theory and Practice of Ministry 2
This graduate course unit incorporates learning experiences at a practical level as well as giving opportunity to reflect on both the practice and theory of ministry. This reflection occurs with both an appointed supervisor mentor as well as the formal classroom situation. The mentoring would be with experienced ordained pastors or those in recognised specialist ministries.

At the end of the unit students should be able to:

1. appraise the key features of the support systems necessary to maintain a successful ministry in the context of a placement
2. develop a critical understanding of the issues involved in interacting within the mentoring and classroom situation
3. evaluate the supervisory process and personal journaling as a means of critical self-evaluation and personal growth
4. reflect on and develop an ongoing personal ministry profile
5. demonstrate an advanced level of practical involvement and initiative in the process of practical church ministry

Mission

M8509 Framework for Discipleship
This unit will introduce students to Biblically grounded and culturally adapted approaches to following Jesus in the contemporary context. It will investigate theories and practices of discipleship, spiritual transformation and disciple making for the 21st century.

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. critically appraise the Biblical material and theological issues relating to discipleship
2. explain why and how different approaches to making disciples are employed in differing cultural and contextual situations
3. explain the role and place of a disciple in the public arena
4. construct a contextually adapted discipleship pathway for a given setting
5. integrate theories of discipleship with personal critical reflection on the foundational importance and practical application of discipleship to Christian life and ministry
M9600 Perspectives on World Mission
This course unit introduces students to missiology as an academic discipline, providing an overview of key biblical, cultural, historical, and strategic aspects of mission. It furnishes students with data to understand and evaluate various expressions of Christian mission, and alerts them to the challenges of communicating the gospel message and enlisting the sending churches in this task.
At the end of this unit students will be able to:
1. construct a biblical and theological basis for Christian mission, and reflect critically on issues in contemporary theologies of mission, as espoused by major branches of the Christian Church
2. identify key historical, cultural and strategic perspectives related to the practice of world mission
3. develop strategies to strengthen local church commitment to and involvement in mission at home and abroad
4. evaluate diverse expressions of Christian mission from theological, cultural and strategic perspectives, taking account of recent developments in missiology
5. apply perspectives covered in this unit to the contemporary practice of mission and evangelism

M9685 Cross Cultural Mission
This course unit explores worldview and intercultural communication from theological and practical perspectives. It will help students understand their own worldviews and those of others, and assist them in effective cross-cultural ministry and mission at home or abroad.
At the end of this unit students will be able to:
1. examine the concept of culture, and explain principles of cross-cultural communication from an interdisciplinary perspective
2. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the theological and theoretical foundations of intercultural ministry and mission, with reference to recent developments in the field
3. analyse a range of cross-cultural situations, discerning assumptions and values underlying surface cultural forms and behaviour
4. develop culturally sensitive strategies for dealing with the complexities of cross-cultural ministry and mission
5. apply principles learned in this unit to strengthening Christian ministry and mission in cross-cultural setting.
Christian Spirituality

S8501 Formation in Christian Leadership

This graduate unit provides the student with the opportunity to critically reflect on personal spiritual formation and its centrality in advancing their leadership quality and professionalism.

At the end of this unit students will be able to:

1. understand a body of formational knowledge drawn from Theological, Spiritual and Psychological sources which serve to illuminate and transform a leader’s life journey
2. apply their knowledge of spiritual disciplines as well as rank their preferred pathways that stimulate increased transformation on a personal level.
3. discriminate and distinguish between authentic expressions of self and inauthentic expressions of self and resultant impacts on their leadership
4. formulate a rhythm of activity that ensures a balance between engagement and withdrawal from others in the life of a leader
5. appraise the level of priority and the practice of spiritual habits in forming their leadership effectiveness