

Mission in Community



**KNOX CENTRE
FOR MINISTRY
& LEADERSHIP**

KCML Lecturer

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Content

A repeated theme heard in the PCANZ is the need to develop leaders in mission. In a post-Christian climate in New Zealand, mission, and theologically speaking, God's Mission is the primary focal lens helping churches and ministries interpret their identity and purpose. In one sense then, mission colours and shapes all courses and leadership formation of KCML.

However this course singles out the conduct of mission to focus specifically on the practices, frameworks and skills in leading of faith communities and ministry in mission.

Mission is a broad concept and means many things for people. The PCANZ lists five faces of mission

The Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand believes it is called by God to work with others in making Jesus Christ known through –

- Loving service responding to human need
- Proclaiming the gospel
- Seeking to transform society
- Teaching and nurturing people in Christian faith
- Caring for God's creation

This course has chosen to focus leading mission practice and skills around a different but related set of themes, with the emphasis on practical implementation for different contexts

1. *Listen in Place*: Prayerful attention and discernment. Call, gift and promise.

2. *Serve*: Mercy and Incarnational Love

3. *Act Justly*: in Ethics & Prophetic action

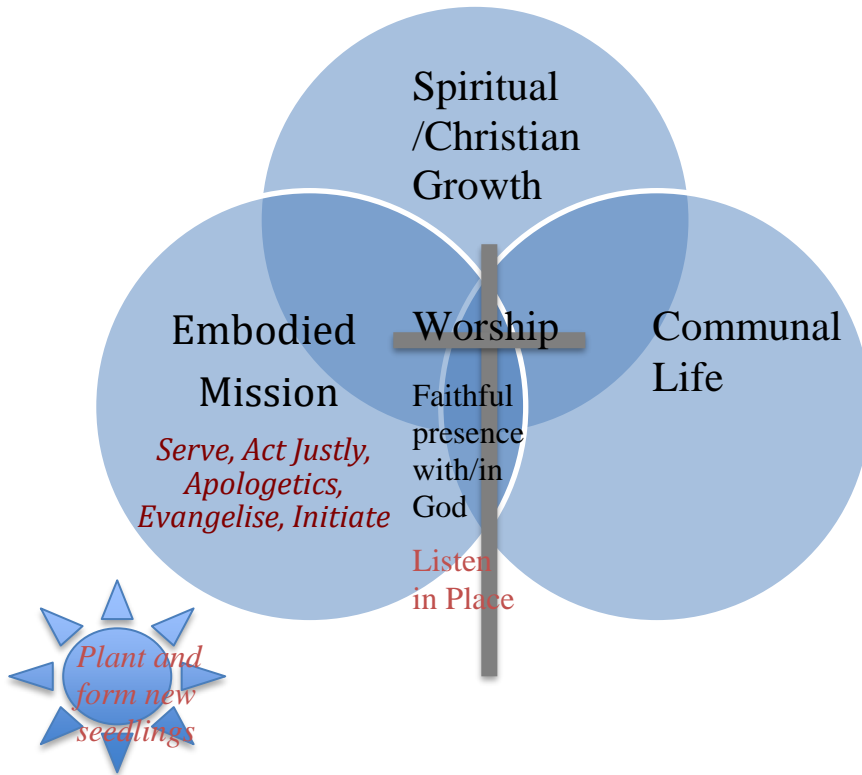
4. *Apologetics*: Engaging with cultural ideas, religions, social narratives.

5. *Evangelise*: Gospel sharing and the Evangelising Community

6. *Initiate*: Educating for Entering the Faith Community

7. *Plant & Form New Seedlings*: Embodying the Gospel in new social expressions

These practices may be framed and related to the functions and conduct of local churches and faith communities in terms of the following overlapping spheres; worship, embodied mission, communal life and spiritual/Christian growth



Worship: In Christ, by the Holy Spirit, bringing praise and prayer to God, hearing and receiving from God, being sent to enjoy and proclaim God, through gathered acts of communal contextually rooted worship.

Embodied Mission: Participating in God's love for the world (John 3:16), the reconciling and renewal of all things (Eph 1:10...Rev 21:5) through the Gospel

Spiritual and Christian Growth: Attending to God, learning about God's activity and character, and participating in God's life. We are formed as we engage the Bible, study church history and traditions, reflect theologically, welcome God's grace and forgiveness, describe our lives and longings in prayer, and act in congruence with God's grace.

Communal Life: Attending to one another, and discovering God's grace through those around us. How we treat one another, manage time, money justice, care and mercy with each other. How we organize the relational life of the whole community and extend that outward.

Course Format

1. Frameworks for the seven practices will be explored within block course modules of 3 hours each and supplemented by background reading.
2. Missional leadership skills will be taught "in context" through 4 x 2 online tutorials each year.
3. Implementation exercises, which are designed to encourage you to learn by doing. These become three assignments.

Outcomes

Leaders who enable mission practice and mobilise the "go" in mission

- ◆ To think missiologically and draw others into this process
- ◆ To grow in prioritising and steering a church/ministry setting in contextual and faithful witness to Jesus Christ

- ◆ To develop skills of mobilising discernment, innovation and action in diverse and boundary crossing settings

Block Course Modules

Intro to Mission in Community Practices & Listening	Summer 2017 Intern induction
Evangelise A (Personal dynamics of Gospel sharing) & Apologetics	Summer 2017
Evangelise B (The evangelising community)	Winter 2017
Initiate (Educating for entering the faith community)	Spring 2017
Serve (Mercy and incarnational love)	Summer 2018
Act Justly (in ethics and prophetic action)	Winter 2018
Planting New Seedlings (embodying Gospel in new social expressions)	Spring 2018

Missional leadership skills: online tutorials

Skills and Practices for Engaging People's Learning in God's Mission:

Year One

1. **6th April, 11am - 1:00 pm** Mission as gift, calling and promise.
2. **8th June, 11am - 1.00 pm** Cultivating congregational spaces for conversation and shared practices of missional attentiveness.
3. **31st August, 11am - 1.00 pm** Being present and listening in neighbourhood/context.
4. **26th October, 11am – 1.00 pm** Understanding local social narratives.

Year two (Dates TBC)

1. Discerning local social and spiritual narratives.
2. Focusing and Connecting to God and the Gospel.
3. Deciding and Planning Experiment
4. Reflecting and Reviewing Experiment

You will be notified about which online platform we will be using for the tutorials.

Assessments

Implementation exercises (Assignments)

Three Assignments. Each of 1500 words but Assignment 1 & 3 requires considerable practical work before submitting final written piece.

Assignment 1 – Reading the Neighbourhood exercise

In Year 1, interns will engage a group of people in their placement in a listening/seeing exercise of reading their neighbourhoods/community and cultivating discernment of place and what God might be inviting the church to consider in relationship to neighbours. This will test skills of group leadership and initiating action-learning experiments in a congregation. The four missional leadership skills online tutorials will provide group coaching and support in this assignment.

1500 words. Due 10 November, 2017.

Assignment 2 – Study Course Design

By May of second year interns will have designed their own study course for use in a local congregation/ministry context. This will introduce the nature of mission to a congregation in workshop or small group mode and express the PCANZ five faces of mission in such a way that is rooted in a New

Zealand context, and relevant to a likely future constituency. The outline of the studies may be supplemented by extra appendices/ reading or visual materials – not included in the word count.

You will be expected to display familiarity with key theological themes in mission and contextualisation, as you interpret and design this for your target group. (see texts worth consulting or referencing below)

1500 words. Due 15th May, 2018.

Assignment 3 – Mission Action Experimenting

In year 2, interns will develop upon the learning and experience they have gained from Assignment One. They will initiate and lead a new group in their placement to design and implement a small one-off mission action experiment. It follows the process of neighbourhood listening and deepens this into an experiment in mission action that allows for greater discernment of gospel and culture interactions and people experiencing how to participate with God in local mission. Four missional leadership skills online tutorials will again provide group coaching and support in this assignment.

1500 words. Due 28 Sept, 2018

Plagiarism statement

It is the responsibility of the intern to make sure that all work submitted to KCML is their own. Generally, we follow the University of Otago's definition and policy regarding plagiarism (refer to <http://www.otago.ac.nz/study/plagiarism>) where plagiarism is defined generally as:

1. copying or paraphrasing another person's work and presenting it as your own;
2. being party to someone else's plagiarism by letting them copy your work or helping them to copy the work of someone else without acknowledgement;
3. using your own work in another situation, such as for the assessment of a different paper or program, without indicating the source.

Plagiarism can be unintentional or intentional. Even if it is unintentional, it is still considered to be plagiarism. Where it is found that plagiarism has taken place, penalties will be applied (see process and penalties <http://knoxcentre.ac.nz/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/KCML-Internship-Programme-Handbook-2016.pdf>)

Indicative Bibliography

While these are not being “assessed,” they provide an important means of deepening and continuing block course engagement.

At times, these will be offered before attending block course or participating in online tutorial. Where possible they will be made available online or provided at a block course for reference later.

Texts worth consulting or referencing

http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/small_file_Strategic_Directions-PCANZ.pdf

http://presbyterian.org.nz/sites/default/files/publications/bt/2014/COA-Mission_Clarity2014.Print.booklet.pdf

Bevans, S. B. & Schroeder, R. P. *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004.

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- Dewerse, R. *Nga Kai-Rui i Te Rongopai: Seven Early Maori Christians*. Rotorua: Te Hui Amorangi ki te Manawa o Te Wheke, 2013.
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- Ramachandra, Vinoth. *Faiths in Conflict: Christian Integrity in a MultiCultural World*. Leicester: IVP, 1999.
- Skreslet, Stanley H. *Picturing Christian Witness: New Testament Images of Disciples in Mission*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Sparks, Paul. & Soerens, Tim. & Friesen, Dwight J. *The New Parish: How Neighbourhood Churches are Transforming Mission, Discipleship and Community*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2014.
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- Ward, Kevin R. *Losing our Religion? Changing Patterns of Believing and Belonging in Secular Western Societies*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2013.

2017 KCML Course Outline/ Edition 1/ Feb