

Theological Reflection

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Content

Theological reflection is essential for leaders in mission.

You come to this class with a foundation degree. You have done theology. Theological reflection at KCML does not seek to “deepen” what you know, by exposing you to more complicated ie “postgraduate” level theology.

Instead it comes with an integrative, contextual frame, shape by vocation. As a Minister of Word and Sacrament, how to help a community respond to theological challenges and opportunities not previously experienced? How to develop individuals who can bring different approaches to theological reflection? How to work with the diverse cultures that gift and grace the PCANZ? Given that church is the body of Christ, what does it mean for theological reflection to be a body practice, shown, experienced and known as a communal skill?

The competency for being a Minister of Word and Sacrament in PCANZ include two that directly impact on Theological Reflection: **Leading worship and theological attentiveness** and **Enabling mission practice**.

Regarding the first, **leading worship and theological attentiveness**

- Practices key ministry competencies, attentive to the best of Reformed theological tradition.
- Demonstrates biblical/theological aptitude in ministry
- Agile and able to improvise

Regarding the second, **enabling mission practice**

- Discernment of theologies in a faith community
- Able to offer faithful theological witness
- Able to help a faith community do theological work
- Able to resource the diverse theologies of PCANZ (cross-cultural)

These will shape Theological reflection. Assessment is designed for you to demonstrate each of these. Block courses are designed to expose you to skills and to give you chances to practice in safe and supportive communities.

Outcomes

- Able to use multiple modes of theological reflection
- Able to participate in communal theological reflection
- Aware of recent material on theological reflection and ministry practice
- Demonstrate capacity to critical analyse theological reflection
- Develop individual theology of ministry integrated into current ministry

Block Course Modules

	Summer 2017 Intern induction
Doing theological reflection (A) Creation and holistic Christian living Or Faithful witness in secular times	Summer 2017
Charism of traditions: Presbyterian of Pentecostal, Orthodox (A) Presentations – Year 2	Winter 2017
Faithful witness in suffering Charisms of cultures (Asian or Oceania)	Spring 2017
Doing theological reflection (B) Faithful witness and culture	Summer 2018
Charism of traditions: Presbyterian of Anabaptist and Catholic (A) Presentations – Year 2	Winter 2018
Faithful witness in sexuality Charisms of cultures (Maori)	Spring 2018

Assessments

Assignment Summary

Assignment 0 – Online theological competencies test – anytime during Year 1

Assignment 1 – Theological attentiveness – 1500 words - Due 2nd March 2018

Assignment 2 – Faithfully innovative witness – 2000 words – Due 15th June 2018

Assignment 3 - Enabling mission practice – 1500 words - Due 9th November 2018

Assessment Summary in more detail

Assignment 0 – Theological competencies test

Assumptions is that students have a completed Theology degree. This tests this knowledge using online tool. It also helps you prepare for Assignment 1 - Find, summarise and apply two theological themes and four theologians. This will be done in your own time and can be taken at any time during year 1. You are keep repeating until you pass.

Assignment 1 – Theological attentiveness – 1500 words

Due 2nd March 2018

This is designed to develop your ability to

- **Practices key ministry competencies, attentive to the best of Reformed theological tradition.**
- **Demonstrates biblical/theological aptitude in ministry**
- **Agile and able to improvise**

Take a pastoral or leadership issue that another intern has presented in a colloquim. Undertake a more considered, in-depth theological reflection by

- First, identifying one theological themes evident (choose from sources (Scripture, Reason, Tradition, experience, culture; God, Trinity, Christ, Salvation, Being human, Church, Eschatology). Dialogue with two key theologians (one from your culture, one from another)
- Second, identifying one theological theme absent. Dialogue with two key theologians (one from your culture, one from another). Discuss how that addition might change the understandings.

Write a response titled “Two theological issues important to this ministry issue.” This must include

- a summary of two themes and four theologians
- application to the ministry issue response

Assessment: Two copies are to be submitted. One will be given to the initiating intern, the other to the lecturer. Both will grade the assignment according to Ready for ministry scales. If it is deemed not Ready for ministry, de-identified feedback will be provided by the lecturer and the assignment will be repeated until the lecturer is satisfied it is Ready for ministry.

Assignment 2 – Faithfully innovative theological witnesses: your theological understanding of the Good news

(Due 15th June 2018 – 2000 words; 10 minutes = 1000 words + 1000 words evidence)

This is designed to develop your ability to

- **Practices key ministry competencies, attentive to the best of Reformed theological tradition.**

- **Able to offer faithful theological witness**
- **Demonstrates biblical/theological aptitude in ministry**
- **Agile and able to improvise**

Make a year 2 summative presentation to the class. Use a mode you have not used before (writing, speaking, creative piece). In no more than ten minutes.

Either present theology as good news **or** discuss how theological reflection will shape your identity in ministry.

The presentation must be accompanied by evidence - written talking points (which are part of assessment).

Your presentation must outline

- the theological resources you use
- ways this is consistent with reformed tradition

Assignment 3 - Enabling mission practice – 1500 words

Due 9th November 2018

This is designed to develop your ability to

- **Discernment of theologies in a faith community**
- **Able to offer faithful theological witness**
- **Able to help a faith community do theological work**
- **Able to resource the diverse theologies of PCANZ (cross-cultural)**

Take a contemporary concern that is “live” in your community/in PCANZ literature. It could be an issue explored in class, or another that you consider concerns your community. Feel free to discuss the issue with Steve.

Prepare an summary (500 word) of what faithful theological witness means in relation to this issue.

Design a process by which to help your theological community engage the issue. Use a theological methodology taught in the course that you are unfamiliar with. Prepare resources to use in your community that will help them think theologically about the issue (1000 words). It could be a series of pastoral prayers, some social media resources, study notes for small group, an opinion piece for a local newspapers, a film church resource.

Extra grades will be awarded if you actually do it with a group and reflect (500 words more)

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

Key texts

Graham, Elaine, Heather Walton and Frances Ward. *Theological Reflection. Methods*, (London: SCM, 2005).

Graham, Elaine, Heather Walton and Frances Ward. *Theological Reflection. Sources*, (London: SCM, 2007).

Killen, Patricia O'Connell & de Beer, John, *The Art of Theological Reflection*, (New York, Crossroads, 1994).

McGrath, Alister, *Theology: The Basics*. (2nd edition. Oxford, Blackwell, 2008).

McGrath, Alister, *Christian Theology. An Introduction*. (4th edition. Oxford, Blackwell, 2007).

McGrath, Alister, *Christian Theology Reader*. (4th edition. Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).

Further reading

Cahalan, Kathleen A. *Introducing the Practice of Ministry*, (Collegeville, Liturgical Press, 2010).

Connor, Benjamin T., *Practicing Witnesses: A Missional Vision of Christian Practices*, (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2011).

Charry, Ellen T., *By the Renewing of Your Minds – the pastoral function of Christian doctrine*, (Oxford University Press, NY / Oxford, 2000).

Jones, L. Gregory & Armstrong, Kevin R., *Resurrecting Excellence: Shaping Faithful Christian Ministry*, (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2006).

Kinast, Robert L. *Let Ministry Teach: A Guide to Theological Reflection*, (Minnesota: The Liturgical Press, 1996)

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Thompson, Judith, *Theological Reflection; SCM Study Guide*, (London: SCM, 2008).

Volf, Miroslav, *Captive to the Word of God: Engaging the Scriptures for Contemporary Theological Reflection*, (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 2010).

Whitehead, James D. & Whitehead, Evelyn Eaton. *Method In Ministry: Theological Reflection and Christian Ministry*, (New York: Sheed and Ward, 1995, revised and updated edition)