

# Theological Study Requirements for Local Ordained Ministry (LOM) Candidates

*This document to be read alongside the LOM Handbook*

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa NZ (PCANZ) determines the policies, procedures, profiles of ministry, training needs and standards which govern the training programmes for ordained ministry.<sup>1</sup>

Local Ordained Ministers (LOMs) are Presbyterian ministers of Word and Sacrament ordained by a presbytery for ministry in a particular ministry context.

LOM was introduced in 2002 as one of four strands of ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The distinctive characteristics of the LOM strand of ministry are:

- a) a focus on addressing the ministry needs of a local community
- b) robust and comprehensive training in a flexible partnership training process
- c) 'on the job' training, while being active and employed in a ministry role
- d) recognition of a ministry within a particular context (which could be geographic, cultural or theological).

Part of the “robust and comprehensive training” will involve theological study at an approved theological training provider.

## The Character and Competence of a PCANZ LOM Minister

Your training and formation as a LOM Probationer is intended to develop you in areas which are essential for any minister of the PCANZ. The areas in focus are:

◆ *Personal Maturity*

Demonstrates robust and rounded sense of Christian presence marked by Christ-centred spirituality and character, emotional maturity, well-being, attentiveness and ability to apply themselves to diverse contexts. Attentive to self-care and self-management. Commitment to ethically responsible ministry highlighting interpersonal and professional competence and safety.

◆ *Leading Worship and Theological Attentiveness*

Practices key ministry competencies with skill, sensitivity to context, authenticity and shaped by attentiveness to God and the best of the Reformed tradition. Demonstrates biblical/theological aptitude in ministry settings. Agile leader with capacity to improvise. Ethically responsible ministry ensuring all people are served without discrimination, manipulation or exploitation.

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<sup>1</sup> PCANZ Book of Order – section 9.5, page 62.

- ◆ *Cultivating Communal and Pastoral Formation*  
Listens well. Takes initiative and implements key processes of communal and pastoral formation. Instils confidence and trust when leading in public forums and personal settings. Reads the big picture and shows skills of interpreting the social situation. Operates within a Presbyterian ecclesial identity. Respects and works constructively with difference. Ethically responsible ministry with particular reference to truthfulness and confidentiality.
  
- ◆ *Enabling Mission Practice*  
Practices leadership which draws the faith community and individuals to discern and engage in God's mission in multiple and diverse contexts, grow in gospel practice, innovation, cross cultural intelligence and faithful witness to Christ. Ethically responsible ministry ensuring all people the church interacts with are treated with compassion, natural justice, dignity and safety.

## LOM Ministry Formation

In preparing to be a LOM you will be responsible to ensure the right people are in conversation with you and study is progressing as agreed. You need to be talking with key people as soon as you can and to remain in close contact with them. They will help guide you through the process and ensure you are making wise choices with your study programme.

1. **Your [Presbytery Candidate Convener](#)**. They will advise and guide you through the comprehensive application process, which will include a training needs analysis with a suitable person within your Presbytery to establish what formal and informal training is required overall. A training agreement will be written to capture this as and once conversations have also been completed with first the Dean of Studies of Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership and then the chosen training provider.
2. **[Dean of Studies](#) at the **Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership****. The Dean will consider your overall experience and previous study and determine which theological studies you will need to complete. In deciding that, we need to respect the training provider may have subjects they require to be included a particular course of study.
3. **A training provider recognised by the PCANZ**. While the required formal study programme may not be a fully-fledged degree programme, you are expected to study subjects in significant depth.

*Please note: all training providers provide distance options for study*

- ◆ [Carey Baptist College](#) (Auckland)
- ◆ [Laidlaw College](#) (Henderson, Manukau, Christchurch)
- ◆ [Otago University](#) (Dunedin)
- ◆ [Pacific Theological College](#) (Suva)

**The coverage of subjects expected to be engaged with include:**

***Biblical Studies***

You will need to learn how to read the Bible so that you can speak into and engage with the life of the world.

Your study will show evidence of:

- Deep and focused engagement with the Scriptures as ancient texts
- Interpretation of the Scriptures as a contemporary voice
- Working knowledge of the diversity and unity of the Old and New Testaments
- Appreciation of the place of the Gospels

***Christian Thought and Church History***

You will need to have a working and active knowledge of how the Christian Church has formed her identity, thinking and action through the ages.

Your study will show evidence of:

- Exposure to and practice of introductory theological methods
- Study of the historical story of the church; including as it pertains to New Zealand
- Engagement with the person and work of Christ (Christology)
- Engagement with the nature and mission of the church (Ecclesiology)
- Engagement with theological ethics

***Ministry in Church and Society***

You will be studying in response to the call of God on your life; which means you are studying for the benefit of others that you will minister to. A crucial element of that is the practice of being able to study, reflect and practice what you are learning. There are a range of subjects that will develop your skills and gifts in this way.

Your study will show evidence of:

- Study and engagement in ministry subjects

Each training provider offer a suite of subjects whose range includes Mission, Pastoral and Contextual Studies, Spiritual Formation, Christian Education, Leadership and Youth Ministry.

***Te Ao Māori***

The PCANZ takes seriously her commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and our ministry partner, Te Aka Puaho, and seeks to deepen our responsibility to living and ministering accordingly.

Your study will ideally include

- One course on Māori language and/or culture at the beginning of your formal study