**PRESBYTERIAN & REFORMED CHRISTIANITY**

**2022–2023**

**KCML Lecturer:**

**Content**

This course aims to help those entering minister to make sense of their experience of Presbyterian identity in the context of its location in Reformed history, theology and practice globally within the universal (catholic) church. It endeavours to help them lead a community in ways that are both faithful to the best of our rich tradition while enabling it to adapt to the many different and changing contexts we find ourselves in.

**Outcomes**

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Recognise and discuss key elements of Presbyterian identity.
2. Outline major events in the history of the Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand.
3. Evaluate the legacy of John Calvin, John Knox and some other key figures to Presbyterianism and the global church.
4. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the theology of the Westminster Confession and some other key documents of the Presbyterian and Reformed traditions.
5. Discuss the contribution of a key personality in the Presbyterian church in New Zealand
6. Relate a significant contemporary issue impacting on the life of New Zealand Presbyterian parish to its historical, cultural and theological background and identify and appropriate response.

**Block Course Modules**

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| **Introduction. Identity and beginnings**   * What does it mean to be Presbyterian and Reformed? * Reformation beginnings | Summer 2022 Intern introduction |
| **Summer:** Calvin, Knox and Reformation in Scotland   * John Calvin and Geneva * John Knox and Scotland | Summer 2022 (Year B1) |
| **Winter:** Shaping Presbyterian Scotland   * Confessions and covenanting: late 16th & 17th c. * Establishment and enlightenment: the 18th c. * Evangelical revival: the 19th century | Winter 2022 (Year B2) |
| **Spring:** Ecumenical Presbyterianism   * Colonisation and global mission * Ecumenical movement * Multicultural PCANZ and global partnerships | Spring 2022 (Year B3) |
| **Summer:** Presbyterianism in Aotearoa New Zealand   * Beginnings: 1840-1860 * Expansion and consolidation: 1860-1900 * War and peace, unity and growth: 1900-1965 * Fragmentation and decline since 1965 | Summer 2023 (Year A1) |
| **Winter:** Presbyterian polity and decision-making   * Biblical roots of Presbyterianism * Reforming Presbyterian polity in 21st century Aotearoa * Working the Presbyterian system | Winter 2023 (Year A2) |
| **Spring:** Presbyterianism in our context   * New Zealand: decline, change and growth * Contemporary challenges and opportunities for Reformed and Presbyterian Christianity | Spring 2023 (Year A3) |

**Assessments**

**(1) Essay**

Discuss the context, content and significance of a theological conviction, document, issue, person or movement important for Reformed/Presbyterian identity. What aspects of this can you identify which are of particular significance for giving faithful witness to that identity? You should discuss your proposed topic with the course coordinator and/or lecturer

You should give evidence of using the readings in the course to inform your answer, and provide a bibliography

**Length:** 2000 – 2500 words

**Worth:** 50% of final grade

Due date: 7th October 2022

**(2) Research project**

Choose one of the following.

1. Identify and explore the historical background to an issue of current concern which impacts on the life and witness of your parish. Discuss the historical and theological background to the issue, identify the pastoral and theological questions that need to be considered as part of the way forward.  Propose what you think is the best approach for the church to take in doing this.
2. Introduce and critically evaluate the life, contribution and ongoing relevance of a New Zealand Presbyterian figure. Pay attention to their contribution to the ways they gave faithful witness to Presbyterian Christianity. [NB. If you have chosen a person for assignment 1 you must not choose this option]
3. Study the story of a Presbyterian parish in New Zealand. How has a Presbyterian ethos and commitments shaped the life of this community?
4. Draw up a proposal for the development of a new missional faith community within the PCANZ. In what ways will a Presbyterian ethos and commitments shape the journey and nature of this community.

If you choose a, b or c you need to have accessed at least two pieces of information using the Presbyterian Research Centre Archives.

If you choose c) and want some help in how to go about this see *Studying Congregations*, Nancy Ammermann (ed), Nashville: Abingdon, 1998. Chapt 7 “Methods for Congregational Study”.

**Length:** 2000 – 2500 words

**Worth:** 50% of final grade

**Due date:** 28th July 2023

**Plagiarism statement**

It is the responsibility of the intern to make sure that all work submitted to KCML is their own. 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 the 2022 Internship Programme Handbook).

**Indicative Bibliography**

There is no one text that covers this course.

The following is a list of easily accessible books which cover aspects of it.

Glenn Sunshine, *The Reformation for Armchair Critics* (Louisville: WJKP, 2005)

Diarmaid MacCulloch, *The Reformation: A History* (New York: Penguin, 2003)

James KA Smith, *Letter to a Young Calvinist* (Grand Rapids: Michigan, 2010)

John H Leith, *Introduction to the Reformed Tradition* (Louisville: WJKP, 1981)

Donald McKim, McKim, *Introducing the Reformed Faith: Biblical Revelation, Christian Tradition, Contemporary Signifcance* (Lousiville: WJKP, 2001)

Donald McKim. *Presbyterian Beliefs* (Louisville: Geneva, 2003)

Michael Jinkins, *The Church Transforming: What's Next for the Reformed Project?* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012)

Dennis McEldowney (ed.) *Presbyterians in Aotearoa New Zealand*, Wellington: Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, 1990.

Murray Rae, Peter Matheson & Brett Knowles, *Calvin: The Man and His Legacy*, Adelaide: ATF Theology, 2014.