**Theological Reflection**

**Course Co-ordinator:**

**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 an imitable model of theological reflection

- Aware of alternative models and 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**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Doing theological reflection A**   | Summer 2022 Intern introduction |
| **Doing theological reflection (B)**Exemplar: Human Suffering | Summer 2022 (Year B1) |
| **Teaching and Nurturing People in Christian Faith:** Topic: Non-Reformed Christian traditions. 2nd Years’ Presentations  | Winter 2022 (Year B2) |
| **Caring for Creation**Topic: Faith and the Environment | Spring 2022 (Year B3) |
| **Loving Service and responding to human need**Good works and the GospelExemplar: Presbyterian Support  | Summer 2023 (Year A1) |
| **Transforming Society**Jesus and Politics2nd Years’ Presentations  | Winter 2023 (Year A2) |
| **Proclaiming the Gospel**Topic: Proclamation through a Pasifika lens | Spring 2023 (Year A3) |

**Assessments**

**Assignment Summary**

Assignment 1 – Theological attentiveness – 1500 words - Due 24th Feb 2023

Assignment 2 – Faithfully innovative witness – 2000 words – Winter Block Course 2023

Assignment 3 - Enabling mission practice – 2000 words - Due 27th Oct 2023

**Assessment Summary in more detail**

**Assignment 1 – Theological attentiveness – 1500 words**

Due 24th Feb 2023

***This is designed to develop your ability to***

* **Practice key ministry competencies, attentive to the best of Reformed theological tradition.**
* **Demonstrate biblical/theological aptitude in ministry**
* **Discern practical applications of theological reflection.**

Reflect on an experience or observation that arose during your first year of internship in the church or ministry setting in which you were placed. The experience or observation could relate to a leadership issue, pastoral situation, mission engagement etc. In doing so adhere to the following guidelines, giving roughly equal weighting (word count) to each of the four sections.

First, describe the experience or observation, noting any relevant matters of context, including your own initial assumptions and responses.

Second, identify at least three theological-biblical themes that speak into this experience/observation

Third, dialogue with at least two theologians, one of whom should be from a Reformed tradition

Finally, suggest some practical outcomes that might more fully and faithfully help the church/setting participate in God’s mission.

[Assessment: RFM]

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

(Due Winter Block Course 2023 – 2000 words; 10 minutes = 1000 words + 1000 words evidence)

***This is designed to develop your ability to***

* **Practice key ministry competencies, attentive to the best of Reformed theological tradition.**
* **offer faithful theological witness**
* **Demonstrate biblical/theological aptitude in ministry**
* **Creatively present theological thinking**

Make a year 2 summative presentation to the class. Be as creative as you like. It should take 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 written handouts to the class, which are part of your assessment [1000 words]. The handout supports (but not repeats) your oral presentation.

Your presentation must outline

- the theological resources you use

- ways this is consistent with reformed tradition

[Assessment: RFM]

**Assignment 3 - Enabling mission practice – 2000 words (500 + 1500)**

**Due 27th Oct 2023**

***This is designed to develop your ability to***

* **Discern different theologies operating in a faith community**
* **offer faithful theological witness**
* **help a faith community do theological work**
* **resource a theologically diverse church around contentious issues.**

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

First, prepare a summary (500 words) of what faithful theological witness means in relation to this issue.

Second, create resources to use in your community that will help them think theologically about the issue (1500 words). It could be a series of pastoral prayers, some social media resources, study notes for small group, an opinion piece for a local newspaper, a film church resource.

If you have time to use any of these resources with a group, include any feedback and your own observations in the 1500 words.

[Assessment RFM]

**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**

**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)

Kinast, Robert L. *What are they saying about Theological Reflection?* (New York: Paulist Press, 2000)

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)