

Unit Outline



TH404/604 Church, Sacraments and Ministry

QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

About this Unit Outline

This unit outline contains information essential to finding your way around the unit **Church, Sacraments and Ministry**. It provides a structure for your learning, giving details of lecture topics, assessment requirements, and key resources.

UNIT OUTLINE **SEMESTER 2 2016**

Important notice

While every care has been taken to ensure accuracy in the information given below, **it is the personal responsibility of each student to check the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook**, copies of which may be found in the Library or online at www.actheology.edu.au

It is very important that students plan their time carefully to ensure that reading and especially assignments receive adequate attention and so as to prevent a bottleneck of work at the end of the semester.

It is very important that all quoted material in assignments be properly footnoted and acknowledged. The attention of students is drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Academic Misconduct**". Failure to comply with the standards required will incur penalties as outlined in the ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook.

The attention of students is also drawn to the section in the current ACT Undergraduate or Postgraduate Handbook, headed "**Guidelines for Essays.**" (see also the QTC Student Handbook) All essays should comply with these standards.

Information about this unit

Unit description

The unit *Church, Sacraments and Ministry* is designed to introduce students to those doctrines which deal with how the Christian God acts to establish a people for himself. This involves examination of the issues involving the corporate dimension of Christian existence: the nature and purpose of the church, ministry, and leadership, as well aspects of the church's life such as mission, worship and sacraments such that you will hopefully begin to see some of the implications for how Christians conduct themselves in the household of God. This unit will consider these fundamental Christian teachings as they are presented in the Scriptures of the Old & New Testaments, and in light of debates and insights past and present.

Learning Outcomes

TH404 Learning Outcomes

On completion of the unit, students will:

Know and understand:

In relation to the people of God:

- The relation between kingdom and church
- The church: its nature, marks, authority and mission
- The nature and forms of ministry
- The denominations

In relation to prayer, worship and the sacraments

- Word and sacrament
- Christian initiation
- The Lord's Supper
- Prayer

Be able to:

- Interpret the Bible theologically
- Understand the major creeds and confessions and other classical theological statements
- Trace the interrelationships with the major themes of Christian theology
- Identify the role of cultural and ecclesial contexts in the task of Christian theology
- Analyse the relationship between Christian doctrine and individual and corporate Christian life And
- Present an analytical, evidence based argument or reflection'

Be in a position to:

- Inform their Christian thinking in both formal and informal study with perspectives about the church, sacraments and ministry
- Show how understanding of the church, sacraments and ministry is appropriated in personal life and the life of the Christian community
- Apply the doctrines of the church, sacraments and ministry to situations and issues in contemporary church and society

TH604 Learning Outcomes

On completion of the unit, students will:

Know and Understand:

In relation to the people of God:

- The relation between kingdom and church
- The church: its nature, marks, authority and mission
- The nature and forms of ministry
- The denominations

In relation to prayer, worship and the sacraments

- Word and sacrament
- Christian initiation
- The Lord's Supper
- Prayer
- Leading theologians and their interpretations of church, sacraments and ministry

Be able to:

- Interpret the Bible theologically
- Understand the major creeds and confessions and other classical theological statements
- Trace the interrelationships with the major themes of Christian theology
- Identify the role of cultural and ecclesial contexts in the task of Christian theology
- Analyse the relationship between Christian doctrine and individual and corporate Christian life
- Present an analytical, evidence based argument or reflection
- Discuss interpretations and applications of the church, sacraments and ministry

Be in a position to:

- Inform their Christian thinking in both formal and informal study with perspectives about the church, sacraments and ministry
- Show how understanding of the church, sacraments and ministry is appropriated in personal life and the life of the Christian community
- Apply the doctrines of the church, sacraments and ministry to situations and issues in contemporary church and society
- Evaluate uses of the doctrines of the church, sacraments and ministry

How this Unit Contributes to the Course

The Theology units in the courses of the Australian College of Theology are designed to sum up biblical teaching in key areas and integrate your understanding of the content of the biblical texts taken as a whole with the insights of historical and contemporary theology on the matters in question.

The purpose of this unit is to help students to understand the place and nature of the church in God's plan, and to appreciate how as Christians we necessarily live as part of a greater whole, the people of God, whose destiny is to be united to Christ forever, together. As many students will graduate into positions of leadership in local churches, this unit will also consider the important and related topic of leadership and ministry within the church, as well as of two vital visible signs of God's grace given to the church by Christ, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites

TH404 is an advanced-level (400-level) core unit in the Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Ministry and Associate Degree of Theology (includes WordWorks). TH604 is an advanced-level core unit in the Master of Divinity & Graduate Diploma of Divinity. As such TH404/604 has the following ACT pre-requisites:

- Successful completion of at least two of OT301/501, OT302/502, NT301/501, NT302/502;

AND

- Successful completion of at least one foundation-level Christian Thought unit. (CH324/524 *The Reformation in Europe and Britain* is the unit you would usually take at QTC to meet this requirement.)

Normally at QTC, you will only be permitted to take TH404/604 once you have entered the second full-time year of your course (or part-time equivalent). GradDipDiv students are exempt from normal ACT prerequisite requirements, but at QTC will only be permitted to enrol in this unit provided they have already completed at least 16 cps with a Credit average or better, and with the permission of the unit lecturer.

How this unit is organized & what we expect of you

The unit will be taught in 2016 during four intensive blocks of teaching adding up to thirty-nine classes, each of 50 minutes duration. Some of these classes will be in traditional lecture format, others will be variously seminar-type discussions involving the whole group, small group discussions, or in-class student exercises.

This unit is worth 4 credit points towards your degree. At Bachelor level, a 4 cp unit is considered to require a total time commitment of 6-8 hrs per week, and 7-9 hours at MDiv level. Please speak with the Unit Coordinator as a matter of urgency if you are finding that you need to consistently spend more time than this on TH404/604.

Students are expected to attend all lectures, complete any set pre reading and complete any assessment tasks by the relevant due date. Please do be in touch as soon as you can if you anticipate having any difficulties with your assessments or with meeting the due date.

Note: Assignments submitted late and without an extension granted will incur late penalties (please refer to the QTC Student Handbook). Full attendance at lectures is required for all units in the ACT; repeated absences without reason and permission may result in application of the ACT's policy that your final assessment for this unit will not be marked, resulting in failure of this unit.

For questions about this unit, especially prior to the commencement of the lecture blocks, please contact QTC Registrar, Ted Brennan, who will arrange for your questions to be answered. registrar@qtc.edu.au

QTC Academic Dean, Dr Andrew Bain, will be the on-site Coordinator for academic matters concerning this unit.

Teaching staff

UNIT COORDINATOR

Andrew Bain

abain@qtc.edu.au

07 3149 3648

LECTURERS:

The People of God:

Dr Peter Adam OAM

Principal of Ridley College, Melbourne (2002-2012),

Vicar (Senior Minister) of St Jude's Anglican Church, Carlton, Melbourne (1982-2002), and previously a Lecturer at St John's College, Durham, UK.

padam@qtc.edu.au

Prayer, Worship and Sacraments:

Dr Peter Moore

Lecturer in Theology, The Timothy Partnership, Sydney.

Lecturer at the Presbyterian Theological Centre (now Christ College), Sydney (2005-2010),

Minister of NSW Presbyterian Churches at Coffs Harbour (1997-2004) and Grenfell (1991-1997).

pmoore@qtc.edu.au

If you have any questions throughout the unit, please use the forums on Moodle for this unit to ask your questions, or contact the relevant lecturer or the Unit Coordinator.

Other Key Contacts

Registrar's office

Contact the Registrar's office for any queries about which unit to enrol in next, if you wish to change your enrolment, defer due to illness, family circumstances etc., or request an extension for your assessment (criteria apply).

P 07 3871 9348

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Moodle functions and queries

Contact the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar for help if something on Moodle is not working, if you need help using Moodle etc.

P 07 3871 9348

E registrar@qtc.edu.au

Library/Resources

Contact the Librarian for help with finding full-text articles, to request a chapter of a book or article emailed to you, to request a book posted to you, for help with logging into the library databases and catalogue, for help with how to renew a book for longer

P 07 3871 9346

E library@qtc.edu.au

Unit timetable: topics & teaching and learning activities

In the case of this unit, we will cover the following topics over the course of the Semester, typically looking at them biblically, then in terms of how they have been understood historically, contemporary issues / challenges within the Christian and theological world, and in some cases also from the standpoint of Apologetics. Attention will also be given to how these teachings can be related and communicated in the context of ministry.

- Church – Biblical Material
- Church – Calvin and early Reformed thinking
- Church – Modern Developments: Church as Trinitarian
- Church – Modern Developments: Church as Eschatological
- Ministry
- Office
- Women and office
- Worship
- Baptism
- Lord's Supper
- Civil Government and Prayer

LECTURE BLOCK	TOPIC
Thurs 28 & Fri 29 July 2016	<i>The People of God</i> – Peter Adam
Thurs 18 & Fri 19 Aug 2016	<i>The People of God</i> – Peter Adam
Thurs 25 & Fri 26 Aug 2016	<i>Prayer Worship and Sacraments</i> – Peter Moore
Thurs 08 & Fri 09 Sept 2016	<i>Prayer, Worship and Sacraments</i> – Peter Moore

Lecture Times:

THURSDAYS: 11.45am – 12.35pm; 1.25pm – 4.15pm.

FRIDAYS: 9.30am – 10.20am; 10.45am – 12.35pm; 1.25pm – 4.15pm.

As usual, students are expected to attend all lectures. The normal ACT Attendance Rule of 80% minimum attendance applies, in order to gain credit for this unit.

These lecture arrangements for *Church, Sacraments and Ministry* were published and distributed to QTC students in March 2016. Students who enrol for this unit are expected to have made appropriate arrangements to ensure that they are able to attend all lectures on the above four Thursdays and Fridays.

TH404 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENTS	DESCRIPTION
<p>2500 word Essay</p> <p>50% of the final grade</p>	<p>Write a 2500 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why and how is the church 'one', and what does this mean for a local congregation? 2. What is the mission of the church? 3. What does it mean for the church to be 'apostolic'? 4. Outline the theology of the church of Martin Luther or of John Calvin or of the Westminster Confession of Faith. 5. What aspects of the church's life should be contextual? 6. What is the relationship between the church and Christ? 7. Give a theological critique of the idea of sociologically homogenous congregations. 8. Give a theological interpretation of the changing role of the church in the West in the early twenty-first century.
<p>Take-Home Exam Words</p> <p>3200 words total</p> <p>50% of the final grade</p>	<p>The Take-Home Exam on <i>Prayer, Worship and Sacraments</i> will be divided into three sections.</p> <p>Students will:</p> <p>Choose TWO out of the three questions in Section 1 and write a 500 word answer on each of their two chosen questions.</p> <p>Choose TWO out of the three questions in Section 2 and write a 500 word answer on each of their two chosen questions.</p> <p>Choose ONE out of the two questions in Section 3 and write a 1200 word answer on the chosen question.</p> <p>Students will be supplied with the Take-Home Exam via Moodle one week before the due date.</p>

TH604 Assessments

Assessments are submitted online via Moodle.

In order to pass the unit, you must submit all assessment pieces and attain a mark of at least 50% for the unit as a whole.

Late submission of assessment, without prior permission, will be taken into account in determining your mark.

Your essays must also be within 10% of the required word limit and your ability to meet this requirement will also be taken into account in determining your mark. QTC seeks to prepare you for ministry, and in ministry delivering presentations on time & within an acceptable length are essential skills.

ASSESSMENTS	DESCRIPTION
<p>3000 word Essay</p> <p>50% of the final grade</p>	<p>Write a 3000 word essay on ONE of the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why and how is the church 'one', why is this affirmation included in the Nicene Creed, and what does this mean for a local congregation? 2. What is the mission of the church? Answer this question in the context of current debates on this topic. 3. What does it mean for the church to be 'apostolic'? How should this apostolicity be expressed in a local church? 4. Outline and critique and evaluate the theology of the church of Martin Luther or of John Calvin or of the Westminster Confession of Faith. 5. What theological principles should be used in deciding what aspects of the church's life should be contextual? 6. Give a theologically comprehensive statement of the relationship between the church and Christ. 7. Give a theological critique of the idea of sociologically homogenous congregations in the light of the Bible, current missiological theory, and contemporary practice. 8. Give a theological interpretation of the changing role of the church in the West in the early twenty-first century.
<p>Take-Home Exam Words</p> <p>3200 words total</p> <p>50% of the final grade</p>	<p>The Take-Home Exam on <i>Prayer, Worship and Sacraments</i> will be divided into three sections.</p> <p>Students will:</p> <p>Choose TWO out of the three questions in Section 1 and write a 500 word answer on each of their two chosen questions.</p> <p>Choose TWO out of the three questions in Section 2 and write a 500 word answer on each of their two chosen questions.</p> <p>Choose ONE out of the two questions in Section 3 and write a 1200 word answer on the chosen question.</p> <p>Students will be supplied with the Take-Home Exam via Moodle one week before the due date.</p>

Guide to Assessments

In this unit we are looking for both the research essay and the take home exam essays to offer a *sustained persuasive argument*. This involves several factors.

First, it requires you to have *articulated a clear answer to the question*—preferably one that you have written out in a sentence or two before you begin writing the essay. This answer should be clearly stated in the essay—often in the introduction, but certainly in the conclusion. Stronger essays are ones whose answers demonstrate one or more of: grasping the essence of the issues, offering something comprehensive, demonstrating a deeper understanding of the issues rather than one that, while accurate, is at a more introductory level, and showing an understanding of the implications of the answer.

Second, it requires you to *offer evidence* for your answer. There should be information in the essay that is relevant to the question and which supports your answer. Some essays may also want to discuss evidence that could be used to reject your answer and show why it doesn't actually do that when understood correctly.

Third, it requires you to *show how* the evidence you include actually does support your answer. A common mistake students make is to include information—quotes, Scriptural passages or the like—and do nothing with them but to have them in the essay as though their significance for their answer is self-evident. It almost never is to the reader (however much it might be to the writer) without explicit commentary that takes the reader by the hand and explains how that information helps supports the case they are making.

Fourth, it requires you to try and *persuade your reader that your answer is the correct one*. Good doctrine essays don't treat the exercise as a case of 'show and tell'—where the idea is simply to get all the ideas and information out and the order in which they come doesn't matter. Instead, the writer thinks about how to organize their material so as to build a case for their answer in the most persuasive fashion they can.

Finally, it requires you to engage with both Scripture and scholars and theologians. Ideally there should be signs that your answer is the way it is because you are convinced that that is what Scripture teaches. It should also be evident that you standing on the shoulders of others—modern scholars, and theologians modern and ancient, to help you read Scripture and think through the issues better than you could do on your own.

Learning Resources

Textbooks

There is no one (or two) particular works that we think cover the material of the unit so well and so comprehensively that it would justify us requiring you to buy it/them. There are a number of very good works available that are worth having on your shelf and using alongside others, and some of these are listed below.

In terms of where to spend your money, we think that, while the ecclesiology articulated by Calvin is not quite where contemporary evangelical Reformed doctrines of the church are, it is nonetheless a very useful block of material to work through, even though most students will likely differ somewhat from Calvin's positions on these topics. Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1559 edition (2 vols, ed. McNeill; trans. Battles), WJK, 1960. The most significant Protestant systematic theology ever written, it is still very helpful to consult, and you should all own a copy for the long term as well as for your studies at college.

Students should also own and refer to at least a couple of well-established quality Protestant expositions of Christian doctrine during the course which have been written in the past thirty years. Several such systematic theologies are listed below; some of these we personally agree with more than others, however they all have contributed substantially from a Protestant perspective.

Other Key Reference Texts

There exists a very large number of recent works on the doctrines covered in this unit. One of the aims of this advanced unit is to help you to discover and evaluate these for yourself, as more material continues to be published over the coming decades. We have therefore listed below reference works and general systematic theologies as well as some entry-points to historical theology, that will help to introduce you to the issues and to identify and navigate your way through other materials, rather than listing specialist works that multiply and date rapidly – we've just listed a few key books in the area. See also the unit bibliography in the ACT Handbook. We will mention and discuss various particular authors and works as we move through the unit, and will also comment on "buying strategies" that different kinds of students might like to think about in relation to some of the works listed below.

Useful Expositions

Calvin, J. *Institutes of the Christian religion*, 2 vols. Edited by J. McNeill. Translated by F. Battles. Louisville, KY.: Westminster John Knox, 1960.

And either:

Bloesch, D.G. *The Church*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP, 2002. (More stimulating, but tends to be more on the evangelical left-wing)

Or:

Clowney, E. P. *The Church*. Leicester: IVP, 1995 (Less stimulating, but a 'safe pair of hands' that expounds a doctrine of the church that is a good expression of what Scripture teaches, and in a form that could be handed to a knowledgeable layperson.)

Other Key Reference Texts

You don't need to buy any of these. Some are listed here as useful starting points for the essays or for exam study, while others contain readings that will be used in class.

ARCIC, *The Church as Communion*. London: SPCK, 1991.

Avis, P. ed. *The Christian Church: An Introduction to the Major Traditions*. London: SPCK, 2002.

Banks, R., *Paul's Idea of Community*. Peabody, MA.: Hendrickson, 1994.

Collins, J., *Are All Christians Ministers?* Collegeville, Minn.: Liturgical, 1992.

Dulles, A., *Models of the Church*. New York: Image, 1987.

Erickson, M.A., *Christian Theology*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1998.

Giles, K., *What on Earth is the Church?* London: SPCK, 1995.

Goosen, G., *Bringing Churches Together*. Geneva: WCC, 2001.

Grudem, W., *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Nottingham: IVP, 1994.

Fournier, K., *A House United? Evangelicals and Catholics Together*. Colorado Springs, Colo.: NavPress, 1994.

Kärkkäinen, V.-M., *An Introduction to Ecclesiology: Ecumenical, Historical & Global Perspectives*. Downers Grove, Ill.: IVP, 2003.

Kinnamon, M., *Truth in Community*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1990.

Kruse, C., *New Testament Models for Ministry*. Nashville, TN.: Thomas Nelson, 1985.

Maloney, F., *A Body Broken for a Broken People: Eucharist in the New Testament*. Peabody, MA.: Hendrickson, 1997.

McLaren, B., *The Church on the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2000.

Preston, G., *Faces of the Church: Meditations on a Mystery and Its Images*. Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1997.

R.L. Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*. 2nd ed. Nashville, TN.: Nelson, 1998.

Schrotenboer, P., *An Evangelical Response to Baptism, Eucharist & Ministry*. Carlisle: Paternoster, 1992.

Stackhouse, J. G. ed. *Evangelical Ecclesiology: Reality or Illusion?* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2003.

Volf, M., *After our Likeness: The Church as Image of the Trinity.* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1998.

Welker, M., *What Happens in Holy Communion?* Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 2000.

Wright, N.T., *The New Testament and the people of God.* London: SPCK, 1992.

ACT Standards: Grades

Grades in assessment instruments are awarded in the following categories-

Grade	Score	GPA
Fail (F)	0-49%	0
Pass (P)	50-57%	1
Pass+ (P+)	58-64%	1.5
Credit (C)	65-74%	2
Distinction (D)	75-84%	3
High Distinction (HD)	85+%	4