

mission

REALLY MATTERS

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Uniting College
for Leadership & Theology

Who is the missiology stream?

Currently Steve Taylor, Andrew Dutney, and Nichola Shaw providing administrative expertise. A network of part-time lecturers, researchers and practitioners is envisaged.

What is missiology?

Missiology is the study of the nature, purposes and acts of God the Trinity and their implications for the being, character and calling of the Church in the world. Missiology includes the study of theological method, social and cultural analysis, systematic theology, church history, apologetics, public theology, theology of mission and evangelism.

Stepping out in 2011



Seven partners from three denominations and four States have developed a Memorandum of Understanding to partner in mission training. This involves contextualising the UK mission-shaped ministry course for Australia as a one year part-time course, equipping in mission shaped ministry and the planting of fresh expressions of church. Two pilots are being run in 2011, one in Adelaide, another in Canberra, with other states/cities working on offering the courses into 2012. The missiology stream has been a catalyst and host in these developments in ecumenical mission.

One of the core values of the Synod of South Australia is innovation. At Uniting College we are seeking to train leaders in innovation through the mission shaped ministry course, the B.Min (practice) and, for ministers in context, the Masters (Missional).

Uniting College has partnered with National Church Life Survey on a joint research project "Pioneering Leadership and Innovation Questions NCLS 2011." This involved 60 hours of research work. The outcome was both an extensive bibliography of contemporary research in innovation and the development of questions for three parts of the 2011 NCLS nationwide survey (researching attenders, church and leaders).



The questions developed will help analyse the development of our own pioneer leader programmes, enable us to compare and contrast this with national data plus provide a potential rich source of data on innovation projects in Australia.



B. Min practice stream is a 3 year training track for pioneers. It engages those who learn by doing by offering learning opportunities in ministry throughout the degree, supported by core topics "just in time" and the flexibility of Guided Study options. There are three folk enrolled for Semester 1, 2011 and they are already exploring new forms of mission.

This postgraduate course provides the space within the existing MMin for a specific focus on missional leadership. A separate cohort of learners uses an action-reflection model to work on missional change within their specific ministry context. This focus on leadership in mission is supported by coaching, guided reading and research support. This new programme began in 2011 and six leaders have enrolled, including four by distance.



Mission Really Matters is produced by the missiology stream of Uniting College for Leadership & Theology to spark conversation, share resources and promote training.

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A book to savour...

Soul Banquets: How Meals Become Mission in the Local Congregation (Morehouse). It's 2007, but students keep telling me how practically helpful this book is. The author has an interest in hospitality and lectures on the New Testament. This book sparkles because meals and hospitality in Christian history are placed alongside interviews with congregational leaders about the effective role of food in mission.



A film worth seeing...

Mad Bastards is a really interesting exploration of being indigenous in Australia today. Those with a liturgical eye might want to ponder the "baptism" in which the outsider (TJ) is told that while he does not belong, he is still welcome to become part of the lives of this indigenous community. The next scene occurs by a river, where an elder stands, tipping water over TJ's bowed head. And so begins TJ's transformation, as hospitality is offered, brokenness is faced and grace received.

God help us to change.

To change ourselves and to change the world.

To know the need of it. To deal with the pain of it. To feel the joy of it. To undertake the journey without understanding the destination. The art of gentle revolution. Amen.

Michael Leunig, When I talk to you, Harper Collins.

Travels...

In February Steve Taylor was in Auckland, doing research into sustainability in the emerging church. He has returned to the congregation he researched 10 years ago for his PhD, to repeat the research and reflect with them on their journey in mission over the last decade.

In March Andrew Dutney delivered the SA Council of Churches Annual Lecture on an Ecumenical Theme. He spoke on 'Christian unity today: post-denominational, post-colonial, and missional' (available from <http://www.unitingcollege.org.au/resources/sermons-and-talks.html>). He also spoke on Ethics and Reproductive Technology at the Flinders Medical Centre

In April, Andrew Dutney spoke to the National Ministry & Mission Network Conference on 'Shaping the culture of the church's community services in response to the Gospel.'

In April, Andrew Jones, church planting and social media expert visited. His input included a discussion with Uniting College staff about pioneer training, inspiring local pioneers at a local cafe, and two lectures on the topics of social media, mission and justice making.

In May, Steve Taylor spoke at Grow and Go on "The Feelings of Jesus and the Mission of God." (available on <http://www.unitingcollege.org.au/resources/sermons-and-talks.html>). He also spoke in May on themes around mission, leadership and fresh expressions to both the South Australia Anglican Clergy Conference and the Lutheran Church of South Australian Synod.

In May, the Missiology stream hosted 16 leaders from 3 denominations and 4 states for a two day workshop, contextualising the mission-shaped ministry course for Australia.

Upcoming Mission resourcing includes

Living the Bible in Postmodern Context

This course will explore communication of the Christian gospel in a contemporary world, with particular attention to the use of the Bible in contemporary cultures. Taught by Steve Taylor as an intensive, 11-15 July 2011

Mission-shaped ministry course

This course offers essential insights for anyone wanting to grow a mission-shaped ministry. Taught by local and national leaders and practitioners from Uniting, Anglican and Lutheran churches, it covers mission, vision, leadership, spirituality, faith-sharing, engaging with your community, starting something new, growing a fresh expression to maturity. This course can be taken for credit in the B.Min as a Guided Study topic. Starts 27 July, runs for 14 Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:15 pm, hosted at the brand new Burnside Uniting Church facility.

Introduction to Christian Thought

This introduces students to the study of the Christian faith and to key doctrines. Explores how history, Scripture and other resources work in theological practice. This is a new core course in the B.Min. It is being taught by Andrew Dutney both during Semester 2, 2011 and as an intensive in February, 2012.

John and Olive Drane

will be with us in November, 2011. Events include

Ritual making in everyday life (17 November, tbc)

Scripture and its place in practical theology (17 November, tbc)

Faith in stories: mission and discipleship in a liquid culture (intensive 21-15 November)