

# SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS ORTHODOX INSTITUTE



HANDBOOK 2021

This Handbook should be read in conjunction with the advice and policies published on the Adelaide College of Divinity website: [www.acd.edu.au](http://www.acd.edu.au)  
The information in this Handbook may be updated, amended or corrected from time to time. The current version is available online at [www.scmoi.edu.au](http://www.scmoi.edu.au)

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ACD is registered by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) as a Higher Education Provider. Details of ACD's registration and course accreditation in this sector can be found on the TEQSA National Register (<https://www.teqsa.gov.au>).

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## ABOUT SCMOI

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Institute (SCMOI) serves to equip current and future clergy, leaders, teachers, and Christian men and women generally to know, apply, and communicate the Orthodox Faith.

SCMOI is the higher education institute of the Australian and New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. Founded in 2017, with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia, SCMOI is the only Russian Orthodox institute of higher learning established in the Southern hemisphere. SCMOI aims to be of service to the Orthodox Church across Australasia.

From 1 March 2021, SCMOI will be operating from its new campus in Dandenong, Victoria.

### MISSION

To equip clergy and the faithful that they may better:

**Know the Faith** – understand what the Church teaches and why it matters.

**Communicate the Faith** – as effective communicators who share their faith in word and deed both within and beyond the Church.

**Apply the Faith** – to everyday life and the challenges confronting the Church and our society.

**Live the Faith** – as faithful disciples of Christ, growing in grace through prayer and participation in the life of the Church.

### GOVERNANCE

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Institute Limited is an incorporated not-for-profit company limited by guarantee (ACN: 623 975 913) and a registered charity with the ACNC. The Constitution of SCMOI is online at [www.scmoi.edu.au](http://www.scmoi.edu.au)

#### Company Board

**His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion** (Chairman):

*First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia*

**His Grace Bishop George** (Vice-Chairman):

*Bishop of Canberra, Australian and New Zealand Diocese ROCOR*

**Very Rev. Dr Michael Protopopov**, OAM (Company Secretary):

*Chancellor, Australian and New Zealand Diocese ROCOR*

**Very Rev. Nicholas Karipoff**: *Rector, Holy Protection Cathedral, East Brunswick*

**Very Rev. Gabriel Makarov**: *Rector, St Nicholas Cathedral, Brisbane*

**Mrs Julia Harrop**: *Human Resource Manager, Ruscare, Dandenong*

#### Solicitors

**Tri-meridian Corporate & Commercial Law Pty Ltd**

GPO Box 11054, Adelaide, SA 5001 T: (08) 7120 9000

## SCMOI FACULTY

**Dr Nadia Crittenden**, BAHons(Psych), PhD(UOW), MAPS

*Lecturer in Psychology*

**Rev. Dr Eric Fein**, BS (USAFA), MFA (EWU), MA, PhD (OSU)

*Lecturer in Christian Leadership*

**Very Rev. Dr Peter A.L. Hill**, BA(Adel), DipTheol(PTCVic), MAprelim, MAHons, PhD(Melb), FRAS

*Institute Director; Lecturer in New Testament*

**Very Rev. Nicholas Karipoff**, BA(UNSW), BTh(SUNY)

*Lecturer in Theology*

**Dr Danijel Kevesevic**, BThHons, PhD(Flind), AdvDipLdshp&Mgt (DeptEd)

*Lecturer in Old Testament*

**Very Rev. Nemanja Mrdjenovic**, BA(UWS), MATheol(SCD), Cand. DMin(ACD)

*Lecturer in Christian Discipleship*

**Very Rev. Dr Michael Protopopov**, OAM, TPTC(Burwood), BEd, GradDipEdAdmin(VU),

BTheol(MCD), MPhil, PhD(ACU), MACE

*Lecturer in Church History*

**Subdeacon Irenaeus (Dr Ryan) Strickler**, BA(Spring Arbor), MA(CompRel)(WestMich), MA(Hist),

MA(Class)(Kentucky), PhD(MU)

*Lecturer in Greek & Patristics*

## Distinguished Visiting Faculty

**His Eminence Metropolitan Jonah (Paffhausen)**, BA(UCSC), MDiv, MTh(SVOTS)

**His Grace Bishop Irenei (Steenberg)**, BA, MSt, DPhil(Oxon)

**Very Rev. Dr Peter Alban Heers**, BTh, MTh, DTh (AUTH)

**Rev. (Deacon) Dr Andrei Psarev** BTh (SUNY), MTh(SVOTS), PhD(QUB)

## Support Personnel

**Very Rev. George Lapardin**, BTh(SUNY)

*Institute Chaplain*

**Rev. Andrew Smith**, BA(Griff), GDipEd, GDipBus(HRM)(QUT), GDipTheol(UD)

*Digital Media Editor*

*...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...*

2 Corinthians 10:5 (NKJV)

## HIGHER EDUCATION

SCMOI delivers higher education courses for students seeking to deepen their understanding and practice of the Orthodox faith, whether as current or prospective clergy, as informed and active laity, or as emerging scholars.

### APPROACH

- **Traditional**

Course content delivered by SCMOI is firmly grounded in the fulness of “the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). We teach the abiding truth of the Church revealed in the Holy Scriptures and Holy Tradition, framed by the Orthodox heritage of worship, prayer and transformed life.

- **Engaged**

We create opportunities for students to engage deeply in their own learning, to apply knowledge across contexts and to reflect effectively. On-line delivery and resources enable students to tailor study to the demands of their situation. Above all, studying at SCMOI is about belonging to an educational community engaged with the love of the Father, the grace of the Son and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

- **Practical**

Learning focuses on solid educational outcomes that will equip graduates to serve the Church, live faithfully, communicate effectively, and confidently address current and emerging challenges.

### ASSOCIATION WITH ADELAIDE COLLEGE OF DIVINITY

SCMOI has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Adelaide College of Divinity (ACD) and the Uniting College for Leadership and Theology (UCLT), enabling SCMOI to offer ACD courses. ACD courses are government accredited, meet strict quality standards, and are monitored for regulatory compliance. They are equivalent at their respective levels to Australian university courses and recognised nationally and internationally. Eligible Australian students enrolled in ACD courses can access the Commonwealth Government’s FEE-HELP scheme.

ACD was founded in 1979, when several denominations came together to offer an institution of high-quality theological and ministry formation. ACD is associated with Flinders University as its Department of Theology.

Through ACD we can offer a well-resourced, quality study experience, including access to the Adelaide Theological Library.

Our partnership with ACD and UCLT is academic, educational and administrative. It ensures that the units offered by SCMOI meet ACD requirements and that they are Orthodox in content and ethos, being taught by a well-qualified and experienced faculty of Orthodox academics and clergy.

## ADELAIDE THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY

Formed in 1997, the Adelaide Theological Library supports the teaching and research of the Adelaide College of Divinity and the Flinders University Department of Theology.

The Library holds over 60,000 titles and provides an extensive collection of online electronic publications. SCMOI students enrolled with ACD have access to the Library, including borrowing arrangements for distance students.

Library contact details: T: 08 8416 8416 W: <https://atl.org.au/>

## SCMOI LIBRARY

The new campus enables SCMOI to develop a modern research library that will serve the specific needs of our students and Orthodox scholarship generally. Already thousands of volumes of academic works have been acquired. From Semester 2, 2021, SCMOI students will have full access and borrowing rights with the library, geared especially to the needs of distance learners.

## AUDIT STUDENTS

Audit enrolment is also called "Non-Award Study". Audit students attend the online classes but are not assessed and audit enrolment does not achieve a qualification. It is a good option for those who want the benefit of attending classes but who do not want to commit to formal study. You might also audit a unit to check out whether an award course is the path for you. You will need first to enrol with SCMOI and then to enrol as an audit student with ACD for the selected units. If you are interested in auditing at SCMOI, please contact us at [info@scmoi.edu.au](mailto:info@scmoi.edu.au)

## AWARD COURSES

ACD award courses consist of ministry units, i.e. units that teach and apply a body of knowledge with an emphasis on service. Our courses enable students to integrate knowledge with experience and thereby develop their capacity for Christian service by applying knowledge to real world situations.

ACD courses comprise semester length units. For example, the Diploma of Ministry course requires completing eight units with a total value of 36 credit points.

### 1.1 Undergraduate courses:

- Diploma of Ministry (DipMin)
- Associate Degree of Ministry (AssocMin)
- Bachelor of Ministry (BMin).

DipMin	1 year full-time or part-time equivalent	36 Credit points
AssocMin	2 years full-time or part-time equivalent	72 Credit points
BMin	3 years full-time or part-time equivalent	108 Credit points

## **1.2 ACD undergraduate course outcomes**

### **Graduates of the Diploma of Ministry will have:**

- developed foundational skills in the core areas of ministry practice
- the ability to apply skills in ministry contexts, including employed and voluntary roles
- developed the ability to access, comprehend and evaluate information across the disciplines of ministry practice
- developed interpersonal and teamwork skills applicable to a range of ministry practice contexts
- begun to develop skills which foster self-directed lifelong learning.

### **Graduates of the Diploma of Ministry will:**

- have developed at least one area of specialization within the disciplines of ministry practice, and the ability to apply that knowledge to ministry contexts
- be responsible and accountable for their exercise of ministry practice
- have foundational skills in leadership in the context of ministry practice.

### **Graduates of the Associate Degree of Ministry will have:**

- acquired academic and practical skills to access, comprehend and evaluate information across the disciplines of ministry studies
- developed two areas of specialisation within the disciplines of ministry practice
- developed ministry skills at an introductory level relevant to a range of employment or voluntary work contexts
- developed a capacity for self-directed and lifelong learning
- developed interpersonal, communication, creative and teamwork skills appropriate to a range of employment or voluntary ministry contexts.

### **Graduates of the Associate Degree of Ministry will:**

- have the ability to apply ministry practice skills across a range of employment or voluntary ministry contexts
- have developed two areas of specialisation within the disciplines of ministry practice
- have developed the ability to integrate theory and practice within a range of ministry practice settings
- have developed foundational leadership skills for planning, problem solving and decision making applicable to a variety of ministry contexts.

### **Graduates of the Bachelor of Ministry will have:**

- the cognitive skills to undertake research, analyse information and apply knowledge and techniques learned in an academic or professional context
- developed skills for self-directed and life-long learning
- skills and capacities to be a reflective ministry practitioner, integrating aspects of theory and practice in an academic or professional context
- developed interpersonal, communication, creative and teamwork skills appropriate to employment and/or further study.

### **Graduates of the Bachelor of Ministry will:**

- be able to initiate, plan, problem solve and implement decisions in a leadership role in a range of ministry contexts
- have the appropriate knowledge and skills to make independent judgements in a range of leadership contexts
- be able to identify and apply innovative approaches and solutions to issues arising in ministry practice



- understand the dynamics of healthy interpersonal relationships, and be able to generate appropriate trust
- have skills and capacities to be a reflective practitioner.

### 1.3. ACD undergraduate course admission

Admission to ACD undergraduate awards is open to applicants who have:

- Satisfactorily completed the final year of secondary schooling in the Australian secondary system including the International Baccalaureate or other equivalent year 12 qualification; or
- Satisfactorily completed or part completed a higher education qualification from an Australian University or TEQSA registered Higher Education Provider; or
- Completed a recognised bridging, foundations or enabling course; or
- Completed vocational education and training (VET) study at Certificate IV level or above from a registered training provider.

Applicants who do not meet any of the above entry criteria, may still be able to qualify for entry into the ACD undergraduate awards by:

- Supplying a statement with information regarding your work, life experience. This statement will be reviewed by the ACD Undergraduate Co-ordinator for fitness of admission.
- Granted provisional admission by the Undergraduate Coordinator for a specified period, in accordance with the Provisional Entry policy.

Domestic applicants with overseas qualifications will be assessed by the Undergraduate Coordinator for admission into undergraduate awards. Overseas qualifications are expected to be translated into English where necessary.

### 2.1 Postgraduate courses:

- Graduate Certificate in Ministry Studies (GCertMin)
- Graduate Diploma in Ministry (GDipMin).

GCertMin	1 semester full-time or part-time equivalent	18 Credit points
GDipMin	1 year full-time or part-time equivalent	36 Credit points
Pathway to ACD Master of Ministry (MMin) and Doctor of Ministry (DMin)		

The **Graduate Certificate in Ministry Studies** (GCertMin) builds on the core unit, Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry. It prepares students for advanced thinking and skills used in the area of Ministry Practice. Building on the core unit, students can either choose three Guided Studies units or three Coursework units.

The path that you will take depends on whether you already hold a degree in ministry or theology (these students follow guided studies), or rather a degree in a different discipline (these students follow coursework units).

**For the GCertMin course structure see SCMOI Course Template 4** (p. 22 in this Handbook)

The **Graduate Diploma in Ministry** (GDipMin) is a postgraduate professional diploma aimed at developing advanced knowledge and skills for innovative Christian leadership in a range of ordained and lay ministry settings and preparing students for advanced research.

The Graduate Diploma in Ministry offers the opportunity for students with an undergraduate degree in ministry or theology to specialise in areas of professional interest. It is also suitable for those with a degree in another discipline to advance their ability to apply theological and scriptural knowledge and ministry practice skills to their field of expertise. Students enrolled in the ACD Master of Ministry who have completed the required components, may choose to exit with a Graduate Diploma in Ministry.

***For the GDipMin course structure see SCMOI Course Template 5 (p. 23 in this Handbook)***

## **2.2. ACD postgraduate course admission**

Entry to the Graduate Certificate in Ministry Studies and the Graduate Diploma in Ministry normally requires:

- A Bachelor's degree in any discipline; and
- At least two years' relevant experience; and
- Permission of the Course Coordinator.

However, the Postgraduate Committee may, under certain circumstances and subject to specific conditions, admit others who can show evidence of fitness for candidature.

## **CENSUS DATE**

The census date in each semester is the last date on which students are able to withdraw from a higher education unit without incurring either the tuition fee or FEE-HELP debt.

## **CHAPLAIN and COUNSELLING**

An Orthodox priest is appointed chaplain to the Institute. The chaplain is available to all SCMOI staff and students for confidential consultation and spiritual advice. Should the need arise, the chaplain can assist you in identifying an appropriate counselling service in your location.

**Chaplain:** Archpriest George Lapardin

Contact by calling the SCMOI Office, or email: [info@scmoi.edu.au](mailto:info@scmoi.edu.au)

## **COURSE DELIVERY**

SCMOI offers all course units at distance. Students access instruction and resources online, from the convenience of their own location, whether in Australia or overseas. We use interactive technology that is user-friendly and that provides an authentic classroom experience.

SCMOI also schedules an annual, residential Study Week, enabling students to gather on site with faculty and visiting lecturers for an enriched learning experience.

## **CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL STUDY**

Students currently studying at an Australian university may be eligible to take one or more units for cross-institutional credit.

Contact your university to find out how many elective units you can study, then contact SCMOI to discuss your study options and which ACD units can be taken for cross-credit. Arrangements for cross-institutional enrolment are made between your university and ACD.

Austudy and FEE-HELP assistance are available to university students undertaking studies for cross-institutional credit towards university programmes.

## FEES – TUITION (ACD)

Tuition fees for ACD courses of study are set annually. Students must pay ACD tuition fees at the time of enrolment or apply for a FEE-HELP loan. Library membership and Handbooks are included in the tuition fee.

For current student fees and charges see [Adelaide College of Divinity Fees \(acd.edu.au\)](http://acd.edu.au)

### Fee structure (2021)

Course	Undergraduate	Postgraduate (inc. MMin/DMin)
*1 EFTSL	36 credit points	36 credit points
Fee 1 EFTSL (p.a.)	\$15800.00	\$18280.00
#EFTSL	0.125 (4.5 credit points)	0.125 (4.5 credit points)
Fee per Unit	\$1975.00	\$2285.00
Audit	\$350	N/A

\*1 EFTSL: Equivalent Full Time Student Load. The unit load of a full-time course of study over one year is 36 credit points which is 1 EFTSL.

#EFTSL per Unit of Study: The proportion of a full-time student load for a year that is undertaken by a student enrolled in a unit of study.

## FEE-HELP and AUSTUDY

Students enrolled in higher education courses may apply for FEE-HELP loans. These loans are not means tested and are available to Australian citizens and people in Australia on Permanent Humanitarian Visas. For further information, contact ACD Student Services.

Austudy (for those over 25 years of age) or Youth Allowance (16-24 years, means tested) may be available.

Students normally are required to enrol in at least 75% of the normal full-time work load to be eligible for Austudy and Youth Allowance.

For further information on Austudy and Youth Allowance see your nearest Centrelink office. Students receiving Austudy or Youth Allowance should notify Centrelink if their enrolment falls below a full-time load in any semester. The national Centrelink telephone number for inquiries is 13 24 90. The Centrelink web site may be found at [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au).

## GRADING SYSTEM

HD High Distinction 85-100%

DN Distinction 75-84%

CR Credit 65-74%

P Pass 50-64%

F Fail 0-49%

NGP Non-graded Pass

SATIS Satisfactory

WN Withdraw, Not Fail

A student who fails the same unit twice may not re-enrol in that unit without special permission. Refer to the ACD Policies on Assessment and on Academic Review of Student Progress (refer ACD website or contact student services officer for policies).

## **LANGUAGE STUDIES**

Historic languages are an integral component of the Orthodox tradition. While recognising that languages can be a challenging area of study, we believe it is important that SCMOI students have an opportunity to gain a basic proficiency in biblical and traditional liturgical languages. For this reason, all SCMOI Associate Degree/Bachelor of Ministry candidates are required to undertake MINS2704 Biblical Greek, and Clergy Track candidates also undertake Church Slavonic (Faith and Life Track candidates have the option of taking Church Slavonic). Students with prior proficiency in Greek may undertake a Guided Reading unit in Greek (Bible or Patristics) in lieu of MINS2704. In the case of students from non-Slavic jurisdictions, where possible we will attempt to facilitate the study of their traditional liturgical language. Exemptions from language study may be granted in special circumstances.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE and WITHDRAWAL FROM A COURSE**

Students enrolled in an ACD course may apply for leave of absence from the course normally for one calendar year. The application should be made in writing and submitted for approval before the census date through ACD Student Services. An extension beyond one year may be granted in special circumstances.

Students who choose to withdraw from their ACD course once enrolled should complete an ACD Amendment Form. Students must apply for leave from their course before the census date, in order to retain their place in the course.

Students who do not have approved leave and are absent from a course for two consecutive semesters or more shall be deemed to have withdrawn from their ACD course.

## **PREREQUISITE**

A prerequisite is a unit or units which must be completed before a higher-level unit may be studied.

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

SCMOI policies and procedures related to student and staff behaviour, academic integrity, and the functioning of the Institute are made available online as developed at [www.scmoi.edu.au](http://www.scmoi.edu.au). As an agency of the Church, diocesan policy, ethical standards and the compliance required of clergy and congregations, where applicable applies equally to the

operation of SCMOI and the behaviour of staff and students. ACD policy and procedures are online at <https://www.acd.edu.au/policies-procedures>

## RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

Applicants for admission into ACD courses who bring with them knowledge and abilities gained as the result of work experience and/or life experience may be granted credit toward studies in the Diploma, Associate Degree or Bachelor of Ministry.

## RESIDENTIAL STUDY WEEK

The Residential Study Week provides a valuable opportunity for students and staff to come together in a structured environment for prayer, instruction and interaction. The Study Week supplements regular distance delivery by helping to build a sense of community, enrich the learning experience, and to strengthen relationships across the Institute. The Study Week is an integral component of our academic programme and students are expected to attend. Full details of the July Study Week are made available in March. The Study Week is heavily subsidised by the Institute to keep costs for students to a minimum.

## STUDENT SERVICES

ACD Student Services are available to assist you with matters relating to admission, enrolment in ACD courses, FEE-HELP applications and student cards.

Student Services is open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm.

Contact: E: [college.divinity@flinders.edu.au](mailto:college.divinity@flinders.edu.au) W: [www.acd.edu.au](http://www.acd.edu.au) T: 08 8416 8400

## SUPERVISED FIELD EDUCATION (SFE)

Supervised Field Education (SFE) is the component of the degree course where the knowledge, skills and attitudes developed in course units are put into practice. Further details of SFE are provided in the undergraduate unit descriptions.

## TIME COMMITMENT

What is time commitment is required?

Most SCMOI students enrol part-time in their ACD course. Any enrolment less than 13.5 credit points in a semester is considered part-time.

Undergraduate units are taught two to three hours per week. This 'class' time (**scheduled hours**) may consist of lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work or field education. Scheduled hours are considered 'contact' time.

Students should expect to spend at least twice the amount of contact time in non-contact time outside class, in activities such as reading, research, and writing up essays and assignments. For example, a student enrolled in one 4.5 credit point unit in a semester should allow a minimum of 6 to 9 hours per week: 2 to 3 contact hours and 4 to 6 non-contact hours.

The guideline for the total amount of student work expected for each unit is 1000 words per credit point. For each 4.5 credit point unit students should expect to submit 4500 words, or the equivalent in other forms of assessment.

# ENROLMENT

## BEFORE APPLYING

If you are considering applying to study with us, it is helpful to contact us first. We will be pleased to help you decide on the course that best suits you and to discuss your options.

## STEP 1

### *Apply for SCMOI enrolment*

The first step is to apply to us to become an enrolled student at SCMOI. The SCMOI enrolment form is online at [www.scmoi.edu.au](http://www.scmoi.edu.au)

Completion of this step enrolls you as a SCMOI student. You will still need to enrol in an ACD award course.

Please do not commence an ACD application until notified that your SCMOI enrolment is confirmed.

It is important to note that students intending to enrol for undergraduate ACD courses must satisfy ACD admission requirements. SCMOI policy is that students intending to undertake an undergraduate award who have not (1) satisfactorily completed or part completed a higher education qualification from an Australian University or TEQSA registered Higher Education Provider; or else (2) have not completed a recognised bridging, foundations or enabling course; are required to complete and pass the **ACD PEAT** (Preliminary Entry Admissions Test). Intending students who have satisfactorily completed the final year of secondary schooling in the Australian secondary system including the International Baccalaureate or other equivalent Year 12 qualification, may in some circumstances be required to complete and pass the **ACD PEAT** to qualify for admission to an ACD undergraduate award course.

## STEP 2

### *Apply to ACD*

Once advised that your enrolment with SCMOI is confirmed, and you have decided on your course, you must then apply to ACD.

ACD application is made online (<https://www.acd.edu.au/steps-forms> or go to the “Apply Now” tab on the ACD website). If your application is approved, you will be asked to complete an online enrolment form where you can also choose subjects.

You must provide documentary evidence of prior qualifications with your completed admission form, due by early February (Semester 1) or by early July (Semester 2).

Applications are normally processed within two weeks, applicants are notified of a decision via email or post from ACD.

Applicants who have successfully been granted admission into the ACD courses need to arrange an interview (online or telephone) with a SCMOI course coordinator prior to completing the Higher Education Enrolment Form (<https://www.acd.edu.au/steps-forms>).

For credit transfer and Recognised Prior Learning you need to complete the Application for Status form available from ACD Student Services and attach supporting documentary evidence. The amount of status to be granted will vary as each application for status is considered on an individual basis in relation to the rule of the award.

For FEE-HELP assistance please contact ACD Student Services.

### STEP 3

#### *Orientation*

On completion of Step 2, SCMOI will contact you to advise about online class-times and other arrangements for the units in which you have enrolled.

The Institute **timetable** and **class schedule** are available online at [www.scmoi.edu.au](http://www.scmoi.edu.au).

In the week prior to the commencement of each semester, an online **Orientation session** is held. This is for all students and faculty. The Orientation session allows you to become familiar with the online platform, meet fellow students and teachers, ask questions, and to learn about study strategies, academic integrity, and Institute requirements.

## SCMOI PROGRAMME TRACKS

The SCMOI undergraduate programme has two tracks:

1. Clergy (in-service/pre-service) Track
2. Faith and Life Track

### **1. Clergy (in-service/pre-service) Track**

The Clergy Track focuses on currently serving clergy (in-service) and men preparing for ordination (pre-service) in the Orthodox Church. The academic content of the track is at seminary level.

Enrolment in this track, whether as a cleric or pre-service candidate, is subject to the blessing of the applicant's Ruling Bishop. Pre-service candidates are expected to participate actively in the life of their local parish and will be partnered with a clerical mentor for the duration of their course.

#### **1) Diploma of Ministry (DipMin)**

The Clergy Track DipMin (one year full-time or part-time equivalent; 36 Credit points) provides some foundational theological study in the disciplines underpinning pastoral ministry.

It is a basic qualification tailored for:

- Serving clergy without a formal theological qualification who are unable to commit to an extended course of study;
- Clergy wanting a 'refresher' course;
- Clergy with a theological qualification from a non-Orthodox institution who seek a structured foundation specifically in Orthodox faith and practice; and
- Mature-age pre-service candidates or others who due to their circumstances are unable to commit to an extended course of study.

**For course structure see SCMOI Course Template 1 (p.17 in this Handbook).**

## **2) Associate Degree of Ministry (AssocMin)**

The Clergy Track AssocMin (two years full-time or part-time equivalent; 72 Credit points) provides an up-to-date understanding of major pastoral concepts and theories as well as the skills to apply them to life situations as effective practitioners. Providing the same unit foundation as the BMin, the SCMOI course also provides for beginning specialisation in Biblical Studies and Missiology. This course supports the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to pastoral service. Study at this level requires students to become critical and independent learners.

***For course structure see SCMOI Course Template 2A*** (p. 18 in this Handbook).

## **3) Bachelor of Ministry (BMin)**

The goal of the Clergy Track BMin (three years full-time or part-time equivalent; 108 Credit points) is to thoroughly form candidates in Orthodox faith and pastoral practice, and to equip them to be competent in establishing, developing, transforming and growing healthy communities and networks. The BMin provides a strong foundation across the full range of theological disciplines, together with Supervised Field Education and integrative studies, to equip candidates for contemporary pastoral service.

Candidates seeking to prepare for the priesthood, are strongly encouraged to enrol in the BMin course.

***For course structure see SCMOI Course Template 3A*** (p. 20 in this Handbook).

## **Developmental workshops**

Clergy Track candidates also attend four developmental workshops (bi-annual cycle):

**DW1:** The ROCOR Normal Parish By-Laws (1 session, 3 hours).

**DW2:** Parish compliance (legal and regulatory requirements for religious charities, privacy, risk management) (2 sessions, 4 hours in total).

**DW3:** Homiletics (4 sessions, 6 hours in total).

**DW4:** Working with children (legal, regulatory and ethical requirements when working with children, child safety) (1 session, 3 hours).

The workshops normally are scheduled out of semester. There is no fee for enrolled SCMOI students. These workshops are internal to SCMOI and do not earn academic credit.

## **2. Faith and Life Track**

The SCMOI Faith and Life Track courses offer foundational depth together with electives that allow students to explore areas of interest and to develop ministry skills.

The Faith and Life Track is for adult learners of all ages who want to:

- Develop a deeper understanding of Orthodox Christianity;
- Acquire a knowledge-base and skills generally, or especially as a:
  - Leader
  - Teacher
  - Communicator
  - Advocate
  - Parish, community or youth worker;
- Undertake tertiary studies in a personally enriching and supportive Orthodox educational environment.



### **1) Diploma of Ministry (DipMin)**

The Faith and Life Track DipMin (one year full-time or part-time equivalent; 36 Credit points) provides students with a core understanding of the foundations of Orthodox belief, an opportunity to reflect on what service/ministry means for them, together with a wide range of elective units.

***For course structure see SCMOI Course Template 1*** (p. 17 in this Handbook).

### **2) Associate Degree of Ministry (AssocMin)**

The Faith and Life Track AssocMin (two years full-time or part-time equivalent; 72 Credit points) provides an up-to-date understanding of major ministry concepts and theories as well as the skills to apply them to life situations as effective practitioners. Providing the same foundation as the BMin, the course also provides for beginning specialisation in Biblical Studies and Missiology. This course supports the acquisition of knowledge, skills and attitudes relevant to all aspects of Christian service. Study at this level requires students to become critical and independent learners.

***For course structure see SCMOI Course Template 2B*** (p. 19 in this Handbook).

### **3) Bachelor of Ministry (BMin)**

The Faith and Life Track BMin (three years full-time or part-time equivalent; 108 Credit points) thoroughly grounds candidates in Orthodox faith and practice, and equips them to be competent in establishing, developing, transforming and growing healthy communities and networks. The Faith and Life Track BMin approaches ministry broadly, whether this leads to a specific lay ministry role, or to personal enrichment and leadership development for other fields of endeavour. The course provides concentrations in selected areas and opportunities to explore the application of Orthodox faith and practice to service within the Church and the wider community.

The incremental structure of the ACD courses means that candidates who enrol for the BMin can, if they choose, exit with the DipMin or the AssocMin once they have completed the respective requirements for these awards. Alternatively, candidates who enrol for either the DipMin or AssocMin have the option of continuing with full credit to the BMin course.

***For course structure see SCMOI Course Template 3B*** (p. 21 in this Handbook).

#### **Exit or continue as best suits your circumstances**

The incremental structure of the ACD courses means that candidates who enrol for the BMin can, if they choose, exit with either the DipMin or the AssocMin once they have completed the respective requirements for those awards. This affords pre-service candidates an opportunity to undertake part of their undergraduate training at SCMOI and exit with a recognised award, preparatory to completing their studies at a residential seminary. Alternatively, candidates who satisfactorily complete either the DipMin or AssocMin have the option of continuing with full credit to the BMin.

# SCMOI COURSE TEMPLATES

## SCMOI Course Template 1—Diploma of Ministry

### Clergy Track & Faith and Life Track

Common Core Units	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MINS1101 Interpreting the OT</li> <li>• MINS1201 Interpreting the NT</li> <li>• MINS1304 Introduction to Christian Thought</li> <li>• MINS1601 Spirituality for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disciples</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>or</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">MINS1604 Beyond Sunday</p>	
Clergy (in-service or pre-service) Track	Faith and Life Track
<p><u>Plus:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MINS1510 Introduction to Formation for Ministry<sup>†</sup></li> <li>• MINS2324 Christian Story A</li> <li>• MINS2534 Liturgy and Worship</li> <li>• Church Slavonic<sup>†</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MINS1509 Introduction to Christian Leadership</li> </ul> <p><u>Plus (subject to availability and completion of required prerequisites) any 2 units from:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MINS2324 Christian Story A</li> <li>• MINS2325 Christian Story B</li> <li>• MINS2534 Liturgy and Worship</li> <li>• MINS2704 Biblical Greek</li> <li>• MINS2219 Synoptic Gospels</li> <li>• MINS2218 I &amp; 2 Corinthians</li> <li>• MINS2111 Pentateuch</li> <li>• MINS3002 Biblical Hermeneutics</li> <li>• MINS2314 Theology of Jesus Christ</li> <li>• MINS3335 God the Trinity</li> <li>• MINS3605 Public Faith in a Secular Age</li> <li>• MINS2611 Media and Communication**</li> <li>• MINS3515 Leadership and Organisational Culture</li> <li>• MINS2602 Youth and Young Adult Ministry**</li> <li>• MINS3602 Creative Arts</li> <li>• Church Slavonic</li> </ul>

<sup>†</sup> Clergy Track (DipMin only) students who completed MINS1509 before 2021 are not required to complete MINS1510.

\*\* In part or whole delivered through UCLT.

## SCMOI Course Template 2A—Associate Degree of Ministry Clergy Track

	Biblical Studies	Missiology	Christian Ed & Discipleship	Leadership & Pastoral Care
Level 1 (36 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1101 Interpreting the OT</li> <li>•MINS1201 Interpreting the NT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1304 Introduction to Christian Thought</li> <li>•MINS2324 Christian Story A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1601 Spirituality for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disciples</li> <li>•MINS1603 Beyond Sunday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1509 Intro to Christian Leadership</li> <li>•MINS1510 Intro to Formation for Ministry</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <p>The Orthodox Diaconate*</p>
Level 2 (27 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2704 Biblical Greek</li> <li>•MINS2219 Synoptic Gospels</li> </ul>	<p><i>Two units from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2325 Christian Story B</li> <li>•MINS2314 Theology of Jesus Christ</li> <li>•MINS3335 God the Trinity</li> <li>•MINS3336 Church, Ministry, Sacraments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Church Slavonic**</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2534 Liturgy and Worship</li> </ul>
Level 2 (Core units 9 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS3002 Biblical Hermeneutics</li> <li>•MINS2528 Supervised Field Education 1</li> </ul>			

\* Unit under development. Candidate must be serving, or intends to serve, as a permanent Deacon.

\*\* Unit under development. Candidates excused from Church Slavonic, are required to substitute MINS3602 Creative Arts or MINS3605 Public Faith in a Secular Age.



*Faith is not an issue of great knowledge and learning but of humble submission, not to the prevailing knowledge, but to the truth of the Church, timeless and eternal.*

Protopresbyter Theodore Zissis

## SCMOI Course Template 2B—Associate Degree of Ministry: Faith and Life Track

	Biblical Studies	Missiology	Christian Ed & Discipleship	Leadership & Pastoral Care
Level 1 (36 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1101 Interpreting the OT</li> <li>•MINS1201 Interpreting the NT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1304 Introduction to Christian Thought</li> <li>•MINS2324 Christian Story A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1601 Spirituality for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disciples</li> <li>•MINS1603 Beyond Sunday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1509 Intro to Christian Leadership</li> <li>•MINS1510 Intro to Formation for Ministry</li> </ul>
Level 2 (27 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2704 Biblical Greek</li> <li>•MINS2219 Synoptic Gospels</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2111 Pentateuch</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2218 I &amp; 2 Corinthians</li> </ul>	<p><i>Two units from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2325 Christian Story B</li> <li>•MINS2314 Theology of Jesus Christ</li> <li>•MINS3335 God the Trinity</li> <li>•MINS3336 Church, Ministry, Sacraments</li> </ul>	<p><i>One unit from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Church Slavonic*</li> <li>•MINS3602 Creative Arts</li> <li>•MINS3605 Public Faith in a Secular Age</li> </ul>	<p><i>One unit from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2534 Liturgy and Worship</li> <li>•MINS2611 Media and Communication**</li> <li>•MINS3515 Leadership and Organisational Culture</li> <li>•MINS2602 Youth and Young Adult Ministry**</li> </ul>
Level 2 (Core units 9 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS3002 Biblical Hermeneutics</li> <li>•MINS2528 Supervised Field Education 1</li> </ul>			

\*Unit under development.

\*\* Unit may be delivered in whole or part by UCLT.



*The person who loves God values knowledge of God more than anything created by God and pursues such knowledge ardently and ceaselessly.*

Saint Maximos the Confessor

## SCMOI Course Template 3A—Bachelor of Ministry Clergy Track

	Biblical Studies	Missiology	Christian Ed & Discipleship	Leadership & Pastoral Care
Level 1 (36 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1101 Interpreting the OT</li> <li>•MINS1201 Interpreting the NT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1304 Introduction to Christian Thought</li> <li>•MINS2324 Christian Story A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1601 Spirituality for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disciples</li> <li>•MINS1603 Beyond Sunday</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS1509 Intro to Christian Leadership</li> <li>•MINS1510 Intro to Formation for Ministry</li> </ul>
Levels 2 & 3 (49.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2704 Biblical Greek</li> <li>•MINS2219 Synoptic Gospels</li> <li>•MINS2111 Pentateuch</li> <li>•MINS2218 I &amp; 2 Corinthians</li> </ul> <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS3218 Gospel of John &amp; Johannine Letters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2325 Christian Story B</li> <li>•MINS2314 Theology of Jesus Christ</li> <li>•MINS3335 God the Trinity</li> <li>•MINS3336 Church, Ministry, Sacraments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church Slavonic**</li> <li>•MINS3602 Creative Arts</li> </ul> <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS3605 Public Faith in a Secular Age</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2534 Liturgy and Worship</li> </ul>
Level 2 (Core units 9 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS2801 Integrative Ministry Practice A</li> <li>•MINS2528 Supervised Field Education 1</li> </ul>			
Level 3 (Core units 13.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•MINS3801 Integrative Ministry Practice B</li> <li>•MINS2529 Supervised Field Education 2</li> <li>•MINS3002 Biblical Hermeneutics</li> </ul>			

\*\* Unit under development.

## SCMOI Course Template 3B—Bachelor of Ministry

### Faith and Life Track

	Biblical Studies	Missiology	Christian Ed & Discipleship	Leadership & Pastoral Care
Level 1 (36 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS1101 Interpreting the OT</li><li>•MINS1201 Interpreting the NT</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS1304 Introduction to Christian Thought</li><li>•MINS2324 Christian Story A</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS1601 Spirituality for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Disciples</li><li>•MINS1603 Beyond Sunday</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS1509 Intro to Christian Leadership</li><li>•MINS1510 Intro to Formation for Ministry</li></ul>
Levels 2 & 3 (49.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS2704 Biblical Greek</li><li>•MINS2219 Synoptic Gospels</li><li>•MINS2111 Pentateuch</li><li>•MINS2218 I &amp; 2 Corinthians</li></ul> <i>or</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS3218 Gospel of John &amp; Johannine Letters</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS2325 Christian Story B</li><li>•MINS2314 Theology of Jesus Christ</li><li>•MINS3335 God the Trinity</li><li>•MINS3336 Church, Ministry, Sacraments</li></ul>	<i>Two units from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Church Slavonic*</li><li>•MINS3602 Creative Arts</li><li>•MINS3605 Public Faith in a Secular Age</li></ul>	<i>One unit from:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS2534 Liturgy and Worship</li><li>•MINS2611 Media and Communication**</li><li>•MINS3515 Leadership and Organisational Culture</li><li>•MINS2602 Youth and Young Adult Ministry**</li></ul>
			<b>Alternatively:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• one unit from Levels 2/3 Christian Ed. &amp; Discipleship, and</li><li>• two units from Levels 2/3 Leadership &amp; Pastoral Care</li></ul>	
Level 2 (Core units 9 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS2801 Integrative Ministry Practice A</li><li>•MINS2528 Supervised Field Education 1</li></ul>			
Level 3 (Core units 13.5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•MINS3801 Integrative Ministry Practice B</li><li>•MINS2529 Supervised Field Education 2</li><li>•MINS3002 Biblical Hermeneutics</li></ul>			

\* Unit under development.

\*\* Unit may be delivered in whole or part by UCLT.

## SCMOI Course Template 4—Graduate Certificate in Ministry Studies

### A. Course Structure: for students who hold a ministry or theology degree

Full-time	Unit code and title	Credit points
Semester	MINS8557 Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry	4.5
	MINS8201 Guided Study A	4.5
	MINS8202 Guided Study B	4.5
	MINS8203 Guided Study C	4.5
Exit	<i>Graduate Certificate in Ministry Studies</i>	18

Part-time	Unit code and title	Credit points
Semester 1	MINS8557 Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry	4.5
	MINS8201 Guided Study A	4.5
Semester 2	MINS8202 Guided Study B	4.5
	MINS8203 Guided Study C	4.5
Exit	<i>Graduate Certificate in Ministry Studies</i>	18

### B. Course Structure: for students with a degree in disciplines other than ministry or theology

Part-time	Unit code and title	Credit points
Semester 1	MINS8557 Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry	4.5
	<i>Either</i> MINS8209 Interpreting the Old Testament	4.5
	<i>or</i> MINS8210 Interpreting the New Testament	
Semester 2	<i>Either</i> MINS8211 Introduction to Christian Thought	4.5
	<i>or</i> MINS8212 Jesus Christ: A Theological Introduction	
	MINS8207 Biblical Hermeneutics	4.5
Exit	<i>Graduate Certificate in Ministry Studies</i>	18

## SCMOI Course Template 5—Graduate Diploma in Ministry

### A. Course Structure: for students who hold a ministry or theology degree

Part-time*	Unit code and title Credit points	Credit points
Year 1	MINS8557 Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry	4.5
	MINS8201 Guided Study A	4.5
	MINS8202 Guided Study B	4.5
	MINS8203 Guided Study C	4.5
Year 2	MINS8558 Introduction to Community Research	4.5
	MINS8559 Theology for Ministry Practice	4.5
	MINS8204 Guided Study D	4.5
	MINS8205 Guided Study E	4.5
Exit	<i>Graduate Diploma in Ministry</i>	36

\*With the approval of the Institute Director, may be taken full-time over one year (2 semesters)

### B. Course Structure: for students with a degree in disciplines other than ministry or theology

Part-time	Unit code and title Credit points	Credit points
Year 1	MINS8557 Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry	4.5
	MINS8558 Introduction to Community Research	4.5
	<i>Either</i>	
	MINS8209 Interpreting the Old Testament	4.5
	<i>or</i>	
Year 2	MINS8210 Interpreting the New Testament	
	MINS8203 Guided Study A	4.5
	MINS8559 Theology for Ministry Practice	4.5
	MINS8207 Biblical Hermeneutics	4.5
	<i>Either</i>	
	MINS8211 Introduction to Christian Thought	4.5
	<i>or</i>	
	MINS8212 Jesus Christ: A Theological Introduction	
	MINS8205 Guided Study B	4.5
Exit	<i>Graduate Diploma in Ministry</i>	36



## UNDERGRADUATE UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

### **A note about texts and reading**

All units require students to read various materials. Reading is essential for building knowledge, engaging with ideas and for developing reflective and analytical skills.

THE REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READING FOR A UNIT IS LISTED AT THE END OF THE RESPECTIVE UNIT GUIDE POSTED ON THE COURSE PAGE. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENTS TO FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THIS INFORMATION.

*Required reading* in the Unit Guides means that you will need to have ready access to the titles listed and will be required to be familiar with at least some part of each of these texts.

*Recommended reading* in the Unit Guides refers to works that are significant references for the unit. You are not expected to read all the recommended texts listed but you will need to consult some of them in completing assignments.

Some of the required and recommended reading can be accessed online. Copies of many of the texts listed can be borrowed from the Adelaide Theological Library (and from Semester 2, the SCMOI Library).

Please note that the English text of the Holy Scriptures regularly used in class is:

*The Orthodox Study Bible*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2008.

### **SCMOI programme: Undergraduate units offered over a three-year cycle**

<b>Biblical Studies</b>	<b>Missiology</b>
MINS1101 Interpreting the Old Testament MINS1201 Interpreting the New Testament MINS2218 I & 2 Corinthians MINS2219 Synoptic Gospels MINS2111 Pentateuch MINS3002 Biblical Hermeneutics MINS3218 Gospel of John & Johannine Letters	MINS1304 Introduction to Christian Thought MINS2314 Theology of Jesus Christ, Word and Saviour MINS3335 God the Trinity MINS3336 Church, Ministry and Sacraments MINS2324 Christian Story A MINS2325 Christian Story B
<b>Christian Education and Discipleship</b>	<b>Leadership</b>
MINS1601 Spirituality for 21st Century Disciples MINS1603 Beyond Sunday MINS3602 Creative Arts in Worship MINS3605 Public Faith in a Secular World	MINS1509 Introduction to Christian Leadership MINS1510 Introduction to Formation for Ministry MINS2534 Liturgy and Worship MINS3515 Leadership and Organisational Culture
<b>Languages</b>	<b>Supervised Field Education and Practice Units</b>
MINS2704 Biblical Greek Church Slavonic (in 2022)	MINS2528 Supervised Field Education 1 MINS2529 Supervised Field Education 2 MINS2801 Integrative Ministry Practice A MINS3801 Integrative Ministry Practice B

## Scheduled Undergraduate Units 2021

(subject to staff availability and student enrollments)

Semester 1 units	Semester 2 units
MINS1101 Interpreting the Old Testament MINS1304 Introduction to Christian Thought MINS1601 Spirituality for 21st Century Disciples MINS2218 I & 2 Corinthians MINS2324 Christian Story A MINS3515 Leadership and Organisational Culture	MINS1201 Interpreting the New Testament MINS1510 Introduction to Formation for Ministry MINS2314 Theology of Jesus Christ, Word and Saviour MINS2325 Christian Story B MINS2528 Supervised Field Education 1 MINS2801 Integrative Ministry Practice A MINS3002 Biblical Hermeneutics

## Undergraduate Units offered 2021

The unit descriptions provided should be read with the ACD Unit Outlines, including the learning outcomes stipulated for each unit (<https://www.acd.edu.au/units>).

### MINS1101 Interpreting the OT (3 scheduled hours/week)

This unit introduces the interpretation of the Old Testament by reading it as a canonical collection of writings and by exploring the varied historical, cultural and social backgrounds. Focusing on patristic interpretation, it also introduces some modern critical methods used in the exegesis of biblical texts and explores some issues surrounding the application of the ancient writings to contemporary contexts. A series of selected topics provide an overview of the literature and specific study of representative sections of biblical material. Special attention will be given to the relationship between the Old and New Testaments, and the role of the Septuagint (LXX). Modules include the Pentateuch, the Kingdoms of David and Solomon, the Prophets, the Psalms, and a survey of the Readable ("Deuterocanonical") books.

### MINS1201 Interpreting the NT (3 scheduled hours/week)

The unit introduces the interpretation of the New Testament by reading it as the Church's text and by exploring the historical, cultural and social backgrounds of the New Testament writings. It orientates students to the patristic exegesis of biblical texts and explores some of the issues surrounding the application of the ancient writings to contemporary contexts. A series of incremental topics will be covered during the semester, presenting both an overview of the literature and specific study of representative sections of biblical material. Modules include Scripture and Tradition; canon and authority; the Gospels; Acts; the Pauline Writings; James and Revelation.

### MINS1304 Introduction to Christian Thought (3 scheduled hours/week)

This unit introduces students to the study of Christian faith and to key doctrines. It outlines the content and method of Christian theology and explores the roles of history, Scripture and Tradition in theological discourse. It emphasises the Orthodox approach to theology, building on the patristic explanation of the core doctrines presented in the Nicene Creed, with a module also on the Theotokos Mary, and with attention given to western perspectives past and present.

### **MINS1510 Introduction to Formation for Ministry**

This unit is designed to introduce and orientate students to the nature of Christian formation and Orthodox approaches to ministry, both in ecclesial and community contexts. It allows students to analyse their learning styles and articulate personal learning plans. The students will undertake a self-assessment of their own learning style; formulate personal learning goals and strategies in response; develop a baseline description of understanding their identity in relation to taking on a professional role in ministry, and in relation to their faith and life; create a statement of vocation, develop a commitment to ethical guidelines for ministry practice. This unit provides an overview of selected practices of Christian formation, both individual and communal, and allow students to identify ways in which this might apply to their own formation. It will provide students with the opportunity to articulate a vocational statement and design a starting point for understanding their role, identify, faith and life in ministry contexts.

### **MINS1601 Spirituality for 21st Century Disciples**

The unit aims to equip students with the ability to articulate the biblical, spiritual and ethical bases for Christian discipleship, to reflect on the appropriation of these in their own lives as developing leaders, and to gain a general understanding of such issues for Church members.

The unit is structured around four modules. First, an exploration of New Testament texts and theology regarding the nature of Christian discipleship. Second, an exploration of personal and communal practices of Christian discipleship as described in spiritual literature, the Lives of the Saints, and the biographies of contemporary disciples, with students engaging in reflection on their own beliefs, values and practices. Third, an introductory understanding of the nature of Christian ethics in Australian society against a global context, and the implications for Christian beliefs, values and living. Fourth, an examination of a range of approaches to spiritual development in the Orthodox tradition, including contemporary approaches and consideration of forms of spiritual development appropriate to the student's own experience.

### **MINS2218 I & 2 Corinthians (2 scheduled hours/week) Prerequisite: MINS1201**

This unit studies Apostle Paul's correspondence with the Christians in Corinth. In the course of dealing with the Corinthians, the Apostle develops important principles of biblical interpretation, as also the treatment of controversy and dissent in a local setting. The unit facilitates a structured exploration of these letters and allows students to reflect on their implications for ministry praxis. Emphasis is given to understanding the social and ecclesial setting of the letters, to key ideas in Pauline theology, and to patristic and contemporary interpretation.

### **MINS2314 Theology of Jesus Christ, Word and Saviour (2 scheduled hours/week)**

Prerequisite: MINS1304

This unit combines biblical, historical, doctrinal and contemporary approaches to Jesus Christ and to salvation in Christ. It will include critical discussion of the theology of salvation in Christ in biblical, patristic, medieval, reformation and modern theologies. It will provide opportunities for students to survey biblical, patristic and contemporary approaches to Jesus Christ. It will introduce students to the 'quest for the historical Jesus', the biblical foundation for Christology and developments up to and beyond the council of Chalcedon and allow reflection on Eastern and Western approaches to salvation. It will also address perceptions of Jesus Christ constructed through the heuristic lens of contemporary thought and movements such as justice and liberation, feminism, evolutionary biology, ecology and inter-faith dialogue; throughout requiring students to reflect on the Orthodox witness to Christ as Lord, God, and Saviour, and relating their understanding to the contemporary context.

**MINS2324 Christian Story A** (2 scheduled hours/week) Prerequisite: MINS1304

This unit traces the development of the Church from the period of the Apostles to the close of the fifteenth century. The first half of the unit is structured around the Seven Great Ecumenical Councils, which are foundational to defining and applying the Orthodox Faith. Students will be introduced to the turbulent history and socio-ecclesial context of the Councils as well their pivotal theological formulations. The second half of the unit deals with the development of Christianity in Europe, Russia, North Africa and Asia, and considers key movements within Christianity including monasticism; the Palamite controversy; the Great Schism; and the Council of Florence.

**MINS2325 Christian Story B** Prerequisite: MINS1304

This unit introduces the social, political and cultural milieu of pre-Reformation Europe as a backdrop to the 16th century Protestant Reformation. It considers some of the leading figures in that movement as well as those less dominant people and groups and will examine some of the important issues, theologies and practices that arose from the Reformation; and how they continue to inform Western understandings of the church today. The second part of the unit concentrates on the development of the Church of Russia and its interactions with the West from the time of Peter the Great to the Soviet period and the life of the Church since Perestroika. Students will reflect on the formative relationships of the Local Churches with each other and the non-Orthodox communions. Also, the history of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia and the experience of the Orthodox Church in Australia will be examined.

**MINS2528 Supervised Field Education (SFE) 1** (8 supervised hours/week; 4 hours personal study/week) Prerequisite: MINS1509 or MINS1510. Note: SFE units are linked to Integrative Ministry Practice units.

SFE units require the development of a learning contract with a goal and learning objectives related to practical ministry experiences. The framework of the placement and learning contract is set up at an initial meeting of the student and the SFE co-ordinator. The goals and objectives of the learning contract shall be related to the ministry development needs of the students and the pastoral needs of the placement.

The placement is supervised by an accredited supervisor who will enable the student to reflect pastorally, personally and theologically on developing experience in ministry in relation to the learning contract, with the development of self-awareness and character formation for ministry as an overarching goal. An initial meeting of the student and SFE coordinator will set up framework including learning contract for unit and setting up a placement. As well as a fortnightly or weekly face-to-face reflection with the supervisor, there will be a monthly group reflection.

**MINS2801 Integrative Ministry Practice** (2 scheduled hours/week)

Note: MINS2528 Supervised Field Education is a co-requisite to this unit.

Developing skilled and reflective ministry practitioners is a key component of the Bachelor of Ministry. This unit provides theoretical frameworks and tools, to facilitate considered reflection via key learning moments and peer reflection. It also serves to enhance a desirable integration across the four streams that create the structure of the Bachelor of Ministry.

The Integrative Ministry Practice units (A and B) each focus on one or more themes selected from: Forgiveness and the mystery of Confession; Marriage and the family; Healing of the soul; The aged and aging; Pastoral care of the young; Addiction; Counselling; Evangelism and mission.

The unit coordinator and guest lecturers will present a range of perspectives on the nature, practice and theology of the selected theme(s). This could include engagement with the liturgical texts or a contemporary topic or case study and creating common ground and a conversation partner. A set of

readings will be offered specific to each theme. Students will be expected to read widely and be prepared to converse in class around their integrations of thought and praxis.

### **MINS3002 Biblical Hermeneutics** (2 scheduled hours/week)

Prerequisites: MINS1101 & MINS1201

This unit surveys the various methods of biblical interpretation and hermeneutical perspectives. Current approaches to Holy Scripture will be evaluated critically, and students will explore their own exegetical strategies. The unit provides an overview of historical developments in biblical interpretation up to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century; surveys notable developments and changes in Western biblical hermeneutics since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century; provides an in-depth study of patristic hermeneutics and the principles of Orthodox biblical interpretation; and examines different approaches to the biblical text and the intersection between hermeneutics and a variety of contemporary contexts.

### **MINS3515 Leadership and Organisational Culture** (2 scheduled hours/week)

Leaders need to understand how culture functions within organisations and larger social systems. The development and management of culture is a critical component of leadership in the Church because culture exerts constant social influence on group members, either for good or for bad ends.

This unit provides an overview of culture, defining its essential elements, and also discusses the nature of culture in Non-Profit Organisations. Particular attention is paid to the following topics: Embedding and Transmitting Culture, Change Leadership and Culture, and Identity Construction and Culture.

In addition, we will look at elements of culture that function within religious healing contexts to promote health and wellbeing in individuals and organisations. We will also examine how several Church Fathers worked to embed and transmit culture. In examining culture in the patristic record, we pay attention to the Ante-Nicene Fathers Polycarp and Ignatius.

## **POSTGRADUATE UNIT DESCRIPTIONS**

### **SCMOI programme: Postgraduate units delivered over a two-year cycle**

<b>Biblical Studies</b>	<b>Missiology &amp; Ministry</b>
MINS8209 Interpreting the Old Testament MINS8210 Interpreting the New Testament MINS8207 Biblical Hermeneutics	MINS8559 Theology for Ministry Practice MINS8211 Introduction to Christian Thought MINS8212 Jesus Christ: A Theological Introduction MINS8557 Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry
<b>Guided Reading and Research Education</b>	
MINS8201 Guided Study A – MINS8205 Guided Study E MINS8558 Introduction to Community Research	

### **Guided Study, up to five units from MINS8201 Guided Study A to MINS8205 Guided Study E**

(All Guided Study units require 9 – 12 private study hours/week, plus supervision)

Guided Studies are an opportunity for students to pursue individualised study in areas of professional interest or, in the case of those coming from a discipline other than theology and ministry, to upskill in their knowledge and understanding of theological and biblical studies.

The focus is on being able to articulate, analyse, synthesise and critically evaluate key aspects or themes in theology, ministry theory and/or practice, assess the implications of these aspects or

themes for current ministry practice in Australia, and identify and evaluate the potential of these aspects or themes for innovation in leadership in ministry contexts today.

With the approval of the course coordinator, students study and are assessed in selected areas of interest for professional development, under the guidance of an appropriate supervisor. Students may read an agreed select bibliography as individual study or as part of a group, build their study around interviewing experts, attending a conference, or conducting a field trip, complete an approved postgraduate unit, or undertake an agreed project set within the student's ministry context.

### **MINS8209 Interpreting the Old Testament (3 scheduled hours/week)**

This unit introduces the fundamentals of Old Testament study, including an introduction to contemporary interpretation of the Old Testament, by reading it as a canonical collection of different kinds of literature and by exploring the historical, cultural and social backgrounds of the Hebrew Scriptures. Special attention will be paid to the Greek Old Testament (LXX) and the influence of this version on the New Testament writers and in shaping the patristic understanding of the Scriptures.

Students will develop skills in the exegesis of biblical texts and explore some of the issues surrounding the application of the ancient writings to contemporary ministry contexts. A series of incremental themes will be covered during the semester, presenting both an overview of the literature and specific study of representative sections of biblical material.

### **MINS8210 Interpreting the New Testament (3 scheduled hours/week)**

This unit introduces the fundamentals of New Testament study, including an introduction to patristic and contemporary interpretation of the New Testament by reading it as a collection of different kinds of literature and by exploring the historical, cultural and social backgrounds of the New Testament writings. Students will develop skills in the exegesis of biblical texts and explore some of the issues surrounding the application of the ancient writings to contemporary ministry contexts. A series of incremental themes are covered, including: the Gospels and Pauline corpus; Christian approaches to the Judaic heritage in Hebrews and James; and issues of canon and authority.

### **MINS8211 Introduction to Christian Thought (3 scheduled hours/week)**

This unit introduces students to the study of theology. It outlines the content and method of Christian theology and explores the roles of Scripture and tradition in theological discourse through historical developments and in the present day.

### **MINS8212 Jesus Christ: A Theological Introduction (2 scheduled hours/week)**

This unit combines biblical, historical, doctrinal and contemporary approaches to Jesus Christ and to salvation in Christ. It will include critical discussion of the theology of salvation in Christ in biblical, patristic, medieval, reformation and modern theologies. It provides opportunities for students to survey biblical, patristic and contemporary approaches to Jesus Christ. It will introduce students to the 'quest for the historical Jesus', the biblical foundation for Christology and developments up to and beyond the council of Chalcedon and examines Eastern and Western approaches to salvation. It addresses the meaning of Christ as viewed through the heuristic lens of contemporary thought and movements, asking students to reflect on the Orthodox witness to Christ in the contemporary context.

### **MINS8557 Reflecting on Best Practice in Ministry (2 scheduled hours/week)**

This unit introduces students to models of ministry practice. Examples will be studied from scripture, tradition, historical and contemporary local and global contexts in the interests of discovering

elements of best practice for integrative ministry and innovative leadership in the Australian context. Attention will also be paid to the impact of intentional reflection on ministry practice.

#### **MINS8558 Introduction to Community Research (2 scheduled hours/week)**

This unit will underscore the importance of the community in Ministry Practice research. Students will be introduced to current research across the field of Ministry Practice research – both research that is written and research that is orally presented by invited researchers. Students develop an ability to critically compare and contrast, analyse and evaluate the work of others, as well as to critically reflect on the impact of the work of those others on their own thinking in regard to research. Throughout, the implications for mission and ministry today of the wider socio-political, economic and cultural context of Australia will help inform the critique.

#### **MINS8559 Theology for Ministry Practice (2 scheduled hours/week)**

This unit enables students to demonstrate an advanced knowledge and awareness of personal ministry practice by drawing upon personal experience and recent developments in their ministry context, articulate a theology for ministry, and creatively apply recent developments in literature to personal practice in ministry.



*Many believe that I took up a cross too great for me. That I will either regret it later and throw it away, or fall under its weight... Of course I am unworthy of that immeasurable happiness, that the Lord has given me - to go this way. I will not even try, and He Who is love itself, shall forgive me all my misdoings, for He sees how I wish to serve Him...*

New Martyr Grand Duchess Elizabeth



*Following the Holy Fathers...*

*...is not a reference to abstract tradition, to formulas and propositions. It is primarily an appeal to persons, to holy witnesses. The witness of the Fathers belongs, integrally and intrinsically, to the very structure of the Orthodox faith.*

*The Church is equally committed to the kerygma of the Apostles and to the dogmata of the Fathers. Both belong together inseparably. The Church is indeed 'Apostolic.' But the Church is also 'Patristic.' And only by being 'Patristic' is the Church continuously 'Apostolic.'*

Protopresbyter Georges Florovsky,