

The Ministry Formation Project Plan



Presentation to the
General Synod of
The Church of
Ireland
Kilkenny, May 9th
2007
By
The Bishops of the
Church of Ireland





The Bishop of Clogher



Mission of the Church

The Church of Ireland, as an authentic part of the universal church of God, is called to develop growing communities of faith, in and through which the Kingdom of God is made known, and in which the whole people serve together as followers of Jesus Christ for the good of the world



GROWTH

UNITY

SERVICE

Central Aims

- 1. To equip fully all members of the church, ordained and lay, to fulfill effectively the church's mission in the 21st century**
- 2. That the Methods we use will effectively connect learning and practice**
- 3. Recognise complex clergy role today and equip fully**
- 4. Enthuse and inspire our passionate young people**
- 5. Ensure that learning is applied and relevant**

Central Aims

6. **Ensure that the training is enriching for all our church traditions**
7. **Initiate and sustain a process of lifelong learning**
8. **Develop a spirituality for ministry that is consonant with the role of the pastor articulated in the ordinal**
9. **Create Governance and Oversight that delivers the projects aims.**

Characteristics of Ordained

Please see Sheets Handed Out:

Characteristic	Selection	Initial Training	CME
Spirituality	A Disciplined Prayer Life	Spiritual Disciplines	Spirituality & Ministry Connection
Theological Reflection			
Pastoral Care			
Vision			

Community

- Recognises that building community is essential to church – a focussed and purposeful residency is a key element of training
- Family friendly that seeks to integrate adults and children
- Encourages space for differing traditions to be expressed and explored
- That finds ways of connecting with the wider church
- A quality facility that enables these goals to be achieved

Aspirations for Facility

- **High Quality and attractive Surroundings to meet needs and in which to learn**
- **A Residential and Dining Environment that helps build community**
- **Chapel facilities – encourage flexible worship and different worship styles to flourish**
- **Quality classroom study environments**
- **A Training Centre to enable a wide variety of uses and connections to the wider church**
- **The RCB library on site**

Other Key Goals

- Eliminate disparities between Stipendiary and Non-Stipendiary
- Ensure that what is learnt in distance learning = residential
- Ensure that training within the CofI is an enriching experience for all traditions
- Ensure that it upholds family values
 - Reflected in approach to accommodation
 - Advisory support in terms of family needs
- Maximise our existing Plant Investment

Key Actions

1. New Curriculum
2. New Facility
3. New Staffing Arrangements
4. New Interaction with Trinity



Staffing

- For a new institution
 - ★ Church of Ireland Theological Institute
 - ★ Director
- Advertisements for Director of New Institute placed in May
 - ★ Locally and Internationally
- Candidates
 - ★ Vision and ability to deliver the plan
 - ★ Theological competence
 - ★ Wide range of personal, relational and spiritual characteristics

Canon Alan Abernethy

NEW CURRICULUM



NEW CURRICULUM

- Professional Training for Ministry
 - Equivalent to other professional qualifications
- Moving from BTh to MMin
 - Apply theology to ministry practicalities
 - Reflect educational level of ordinands
- Integrated Course
 - Scripture, Theology and Ministry - Integrated
- Internship
 - Applying learning pastorally and do dissertation
- Residential and Non- Residential Equal
 - Ministry Deployment Later Choice

FOUNDATION ACCESS

- Introductory course prior to selection
- Aim to assist discernment of vocation
- Connecting Scripture, Theology and Ministry -
incl. 3 weekends residence
- Distance learning in 3 modules
- Show ability in public ministry
- Attend to personal spiritual growth

AIMS OF THE NEW CURRICULUM

- God
- The Gospel
- The World
- The Scriptures

- The Church
- Others
- Leadership
- Self

K N O W I N G

Course Description

- The course will be a modular and stress interplay
 - scripture, theology and ministry
- There will be a mixture of taught input and placement experience
 - Reflection on practice
- The internship will be interspersed with some residency
 - Specialist modules and major integrated project
- Academic equivalence whether residential or non-residential
- Formational and Professional Development course
 - NOT just a course of study
 - Aim for participants to mature faith and deepen vocation

Methodology & Assessment

Methodology

- Lectures, student led seminars and team teaching
- There will be small group learning and independent study
- Specialist modules - personal interests and concerns for ministry

Assessment

- Participation in seminars
- Short pieces of related course work
- An assignment to show the connection between the three core modules



Pathways

Residential

Non - Residential

Fellowship of Vocation	Year 0	Foundation Access Course	Foundation Access Course	Year 0
Begin Residency	Year 1 and 2	Residential and Placements	Distance Learning Resid. & Placements	Year 1 to 4
Qualify MMin	Year 3	Internship Ordination Dissertation	Internship Ordination Dissertation	Year 5
	Years 4 - 6	CME - 3yr Curacy Professional Qualification	CME - 3yr Curacy Professional Qualification	Years 6 - 8



Conclusion

We hope this will

- Prepare clergy thoroughly for ministry in 21st C Ireland
- Provide a solid foundation for lay ministry training
- Be an effective training ground for all church traditions - something that unites us
- Be an investment in learning that we will reap the benefits of for many years to come
- Be a vision for the future of ministry training that you will endorse and support
- Be an attractive training and qualification for other Anglican churches and other Christian traditions

POWER POINT SLIDES

AVAILABLE AFTER

GENERAL SYNOD :

at www.ministry.ie

- Web Design by: www.lifeforms.ie
- Presentations & Visuals by: www.castministries.com