

The Future of Ministry Training

Thursday, February 7, 2008



Key Aims of the Project

- **To equip everyone fully to fulfill role in 21st C Ireland**
 - Recognise complex role
 - An increasingly missionary role
 - Equipped not just academically, but theolog., personally & practically
- **To connect learning and practice**
- **Ensure that it is enriching for all church traditions**
- **Eliminate disparities between Stip. Min and NSM**
- **Training that reflects family values we espouse**
- **Enthuse and inspire our passionate young people**
- **Develop a pattern of lifelong learning**
- **Develop a spirituality consonant with role of pastor in ordinal**



New Curriculum - Overview

Professional Training for Ministry

- Equivalent to other professional qualifications

Moving from BTh to MMin

- Reflect educational level of ordinands
- Provide onwards academic paths

Integrated Course

- Bible & Its Interpretation, Theological Reflection, Christian Practice - Integrated

Internship

- Connecting Learning and Practice - in structured way

Residential and Non- Residential Equal

- Choice of Learning Mode - not connected to deployment

Foundation Course

- During FOV, Introductory, Make Connections, Assist Discernment, Get to MMin



Curriculum - Timelines

Full Time Residential Timeline

	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Current BTh	Fellowship of Vocation		3 year BTh	Curacy
New MMin	FOV/Foundation Course	2 years Coll. Based	MMin Internship	Curacy

No Change to Time Length - Maximise Use of FOV Time
Part Time Non-Residential Timeline

	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 1
Current NSM	FOV	NSM St. Johns Course			Practical Ministry Begins			
New MMin	FOV/Foundation	MMin - Part Time Non Res			Practical Ministry Internship			Begins

- Extra Year Prior to Practical Phase of Ministry Begins
- Immediate transfer possibility on completion Internship + Permission



Foundation Course

- **Introductory Course Prior to Selection - during FOV**
- **Aim to Assist in Discernment of Vocation**
- **Make the Connections between the Strands**
 - Bible & Its Interpretation, Theological Reflection, Christian Practice
 - Make the connections between practice and learning
- **Preparing for the MMin**
- **Distance Learning Methodology**
 - Requires co-ordination between centre and local support
- **Maximising the education opportunity**



Foundation Course

The Details

- **April 2008 - Vocations Weekend**
 - Work through Nature of Vocation - Christian, Ministry, Ordination
 - Introduction to the course and how it works
- **3 Modules in the Year - academic progression**
 - Ministry and Mission - Level C
 - Biblical Studies - Level i
 - Theology and Doctrine - Level H
- **Operational Methodology**
 - Tried and Tested as distance learning system
 - Focussing options and sections to prepare for Masters
 - Regular feedback systems to ensure maximum student effectiveness



Masters in Ministry

- **The Course will be modular and stress the interplay**
 - Bible & Its Interpretation, Theological Reflection, Christian Practice
- **There will be a mixture of taught input and placement**
 - Reflection on Practice
- **There will be a core module focussing on practicalities and practice of Church Leadership**
- **Formational and Professional Development Course**
 - Not just study - mature and deepen vocation
- **Variety of teaching methods**
 - Not just lectures - seminars, student led groups
 - Professional feedback approach
- **Assessment - coursework - exegesis, essays, projects**



Internship

- **Key Element to connecting learning and practice**
- **Based in a parish - serving in a parish**
 - Returning to college for 2 blocks of time
 - Theological Reflection on Practice
- **Structured environment**
 - Parishes selected for suitability
 - Training Courses to prepare rectors/parishes
 - Planned Study and feedback approach
- **Current Financial Proposal**
 - Central Grant between current grant and curates stipend
 - Diocese/Parish to provide housing
 - Central Payment of travelling expenses
- **In line with other professional practice**

Key Element of the Plan



Implications for the Diocese/Parish

A Clergy Who.....

- Are confident of their message
- Have been trained how to lead others
- Have put their training into practice
- Have learnt together, built relationship together, embraced unity in diversity
- Have learnt skills to continue their own development

Are confident they are equipped for their role in 21st C Ireland

Diocesan/ Parish Practicalities

- Work through with centre local implications of supporting Foundation
- Work with centre in identifying training parishes for internship
- Plan contributions to Foundation and Internship Costs



Where have we got to?

Next Steps

- **New Director of the Institute - Dr. Maurice Elliott**
- **Trinity College Dublin**
 - Curriculum now has the formal support of the Executive of School of Religions
 - Access to the course and Governance of the course agreed
 - Finance the final component to be resolved
- **Foundation Course**
 - Key Steps taken to agree structure that will prepare effectively for Masters
 - Vocations Weekend and Structured Focussed Modules

Next Steps

- **Consultation Day Feb 9th 2008 - finalise practicalities**
- **New Plant - RB Team headed by Robert Neill**



Vision of the Future

- **European Excellence**
 - Establishing a model for Clergy training that achieves recognisable excellence
 - That blend of University and Faith Institute enriches both communities
 - To achieve excellence in Non-Residential and Distance Learning Technologies
- **A Model that attracts others locally**
 - That other denominations would value training with us
 - Integration of our training with the Methodists as a first step
- **A Model that attracts others globally**
 - A model for further afield?
 - The oil in the jar principle - giving away to others what we have so richly received?



The Ministry Formation project plan

- HOME
- AIMS & INFORMATION
- PROJECT TEAM
- PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION
- INFORMATION MEETING
- LATEST NEWS
- CONTACT US
- Life for Life Family Centre

Welcome to the Ministry Formation Project Web Site. We hope you will find this a useful resource. At the last General Synod the Bishops reported their intention to make some far reaching changes to the way in which formation and training is provided for all – although the initial focus is on the ordained ministry. Details of all previous public information including the Bishop's statement can be found [here](#).

The Bishops have formed a House of Bishops Planning Group to be the central focus of developing this project. The members have been met with a large number of people and bodies who provided a range of expertise in helping to shape the plan effectively. This has helped to form the goals and objectives for the project which are listed here on the website.

The Archbishop and Bishops invited all clergy and laity of the Church of Ireland to take information events – one in Dublin on April 18th and one in Belfast on April 25th 2016 at which the Bishops presented the full details of the plans. Read more about these events [here](#).

It is clear to us that we need to make the right investment in people both clergy and laity effectively for the challenges of mission in this century Ireland. We need to make sure our learning and practice connect and we need to ensure it is an exciting experience for all of our church members.

We hope you will share our view that such initiatives are worthy of our engagement, investment and support.

The House of Bishops Planning Group



Interview with the Bishop of Elgher
by Mrs. Lally Williams

Latest News

- New Foundation House Course Brothers
- New Director of Theological Institute appointed
- Pastoral Provision
- Report from Information Group