



The  
Foundation  
Access  
Course  
Spring 2017

Church of Ireland Theological Institute 

## Purpose of the Course

To be a member of Christ's Church is to know that you are called by God. To be a Christian disciple is best described as desiring to follow the unique shape and purpose of that calling for the duration of your life here on earth. For some, that may mean continuing to live out a Christ-centred witness in the secular world; for others, it can involve pursuing a path towards full-time Christian ministry or perhaps ordination.

As an integral part of the selection process for training in the Church of Ireland, the Foundation Course is designed to enable you to explore your particular calling in Christ. It runs as a modular correspondence course over 13 months and covers the key areas of Biblical Studies, Theology & Doctrine and Ministry & Mission. The course is facilitated by the Church of Ireland Theological Institute through a series of training days. It is administered by St John's College, Nottingham and leads to either the award of a Graduate Certificate in Ministry through Durham or a fully equivalent, self-accredited version of the same course as a 'Foundation Programme in Theology for Ministry'.\* The course commences with an introductory weekend which both introduces the course and helps students to discern their Christian vocation. This weekend this year takes place at CITI in Dublin from 24th - 26th February 2017.

The Foundation Course has proved itself to be relevant, engaging, focused and stimulating. If you are open to God, it will enable you to discover a deeper level of insight for your Christian discipleship as well as a clearer sense of God's purpose for your life in him.

\*The entry requirements for the Durham course are as follows: "Normally an upper second class Honours degree. Graduates in other subjects may enter the Graduate Certificate programme. In addition, students who do not have a degree but are able to demonstrate their ability to undertake theological study at degree level will be considered for admission. Students may be required to undertake some prior personal study before embarking on the programme to demonstrate this." Those who are unable to fulfil these requirements may take the self-accredited version of the same course.

## Who can do the course?

The Foundation Course is open to anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of the Christian faith and who is keen in particular to test the issue of Christian calling.

Permission to offer oneself as a candidate for selection into ordained ministry, by sponsorship of your Diocesan Bishop, is conditional upon successful completion of this foundation year. The programme itself is therefore designed as a preparatory step towards beginning the professional M Th degree.

## Cost

The cost of the Course will be €700. This represents about 33% of the cost, the rest being shared between Diocese and Central Church. We are keen for all to be freely able to test their vocation – and if this is an issue please discuss this with your Diocesan Director of Ordinands.

# Course Outline

## **Introductory Weekend - 'Fit for the Purpose'** 24 - 26 February 2017

Jointly led by Christina Baxter, former Principal of St. John's College, Nottingham and Rev. Canon Dr Maurice Elliott, Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute. A weekend to assist in Vocation Discernment and to introduce the course.

*Takes place at CITI, Braemor Park, Dublin.*

## **Module 1 - 'Biblical Studies'**

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the background and content of the Old and New Testament documents, to the critical questions raised by them, and to their significance today.

*Module at level 5*

## **Module 2 - 'Christian Doctrine in Focus'** 10 June 2017

The aim of this module is to enable students, in the light of their cultural context, to critically evaluate the Christian theological tradition and to creatively respond to contemporary challenges.

*Module at level 6*

## **Module 3 - 'Theological Perspectives: Christian Ministry'** 4 November 2017

The aim of this module is to introduce students to a theology of Christian ministry, and within this framework of theology to help them consider both the mission strategy of the Church today and their own place within it.

*Module at level 6*

## **Day Conferences**

There will be two day conferences during the course. These will allow for theological reflection on practical elements which are intrinsic to the new course, for the building up of friendships and for assisting students in their studies. Students are also expected to participate in a series of telephone conference calls between the day conferences.

## **Selection Conference**

This will take place in the *Spring of 2018* for possible admission to the M Th in *September 2018*. Candidates who have successfully completed the Foundation Course and who have been put forward by their Bishop will participate in a variety of interviews. Candidates who are selected may then begin their studies the following autumn, subject to availability of places.

*More details about the course and latest information can be found on*  
**[www.theologicalinstitute.ie](http://www.theologicalinstitute.ie)**

## Commendations

*“Christian leadership requires both commitment and character. Without commitment it will lack energy and direction; without character it will be shallow and ineffectual.*

*In the Theological Institute we are aiming to enable individuals to discover their God-given purpose and to unlock their God-given potential.*



*I hope that you will allow us to facilitate you in taking your next step in the exciting journey which is Christian faith and discipleship.”*

**- The Reverend Canon Dr Maurice Elliott**  
Director of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute



*“The discernment of God’s call to ministry asks of us that we open ourselves to the identification of a particular combination of leadership and service in our discipleship. The response to this is a voyage of discovery for those who learn and those who teach.*

*The combination of biblical, theological and practical education and reflection offers new pathways of training for lay and ordained ministry in the Church of Ireland.*

*The intention is to equip those who minister for contemporary mission, confident leadership and compassionate service.”*

**- The Most Reverend Dr Michael Jackson**  
Archbishop of Dublin and Chair of the Governing Council, CITI

## For More Information

For more information, please visit the Theological Institute website or contact **Lynda Levis**.

Address: Church of Ireland Theological Institute,  
Braemor Park,  
Dublin 14 KX24

Telephone: +353 1 492 3506

Email: [lyndalevis@theologicalinstitute.ie](mailto:lyndalevis@theologicalinstitute.ie)

Website: [www.theologicalinstitute.ie](http://www.theologicalinstitute.ie)

# Application Form

**Name**

**Address**

**Telephone (Landline)**

**Telephone (Mobile)**

**Email Address**

**Education Experience**

*List all schools and colleges attended.*

**Education Qualifications**

*List all qualifications obtained*

# Application Form

## Theological Studies

*Please give details of any theological studies completed (especially any St. John's Modules completed).*

Indicate whether you intend to do the M Theology course:

Full Time  or Part Time

**Your Church**

**Your Diocese**

**Diocesan Director of Ordinand's Signature**

I hereby acknowledge that acceptance onto the Foundation Access Course or any further training courses provided by, or in conjunction with, the Church of Ireland Theological Institute does not create any obligation on the part of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute in particular, or the Church of Ireland or any other associated organisations in general, to offer me a stipendiary or non-stipendiary office in the Church of Ireland on completion of my training or otherwise.

I would like to undertake the Foundation Access Course. My Diocesan Director of Ordinands is aware of and supports me in making this application.

**Signature**

**Name (PLEASE PRINT)**

*All applications to participate in this course need to be received by the 16th December 2016 addressed to Lynda Levis at CITI, Braemor Park, Dublin 14.*

NOTE: If you need more space than the form allows, please feel free to use a separate sheet of paper and send this together with your application.