

PILGRIM THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

COURSE GUIDE 2027

EDUCATION FOR THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD



PILGRIM
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY

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Acknowledgement of Country: We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people, Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which we meet and pay our respects to their elders past and present. We acknowledge that the Church throughout this Synod meets on land for which First Peoples have ongoing spiritual sovereignty and custodianship, and we commit ourselves to respecting Country and to working for a more just future together.

Artwork: *A call for action, 2021 by Grace Williams.* This background artwork symbolises our shared responsibility to action justice, to listen deeply, and to speak truth. The centred cross reflects the life of the church through a cultural lens, placing culture at the heart as our compass. The two vibrant circles radiate justice and truth, while the twine illustrates what unfolds when we truly live out the covenant—First and Second Peoples becoming genuinely interwoven.

Special thanks to the members of the Pilgrim learning community featured in this year's course guide: Alan Marr, Bethany Broadstock, Catriona McKay, Deborah Lancaster, Erika Schaumkel, Ennis Macleod, James Thom, Jemimah Hamilton, Jenny Soakai, Katherine Hore, Limisesi Taunga, Michael Butler, Pui Kwan Chan, Reyner Boshoff, Sione Hehepoto, Stacey Wilson, Steven Crump, Taumafai Komiti, Yoojin Song.

WELCOME

to the Pilgrim Theological College Course Guide 2027

Welcome to a new season of educational offerings across Pilgrim Theological College for 2027! We deeply enjoy the privilege of curating units for University of Divinity and Uniting Learning programs, short courses, public lectures, mentoring groups, research seminars, and much more to build diverse, inclusive communities of learning across the College.

We are passionate about liberative and contextual theology—that is, methods of thinking about God that grapple authentically with diverse global and historical contexts and that attend to how our theology might lead to liberation for human communities and all creation.

In 2027, you might consider a deep dive into *Changemakers: A History of Women's Leadership*, or expanding the scope of familiar sources through *Asian Theologies* or *Jesus, Discipleship and Justice*, or navigating *Galatians and James: Traditions in Conflict*? If you are a preacher, or interested in becoming one, you can join in shorter courses through the Uniting Learning Lay Preacher units or you might consider joining the university unit *Sounding the Gospel*, an intensive on the *Season of Creation*, or perhaps sign up for the *Luke-Acts* intensive in late semester 2, as you prepare for the following year of preaching in the year of Luke!



This year we have a number of new initiatives to consider, as well as the crucial foundational units for lay ministry education and in the university programs. See page 19 to learn about new micro-units like *Ethical Leadership* and *Leading Change*, which can be taken individually or be the first steps towards a Graduate Certificate in Leadership. For those in chaplaincy or another spiritual care setting, check out our deepening practitioner offerings in Spiritual Care (page 22).

We have a range of scholarship opportunities to support your learning, and this year we have introduced a number of travel bursaries for those outside Melbourne to join us for an in-person intensive (see page 35).

We trust that as you read through this Course Guide you will find a range of connection points for you and that you will feel our warmest invitation to join us to dip into the next stage of your learning—whether it's an initial Uniting Learning short course, the first or next step towards a University degree, a niche class that addresses an area of professional development need, or embarking on a new, extended research project like a Masters or PhD!

Reverend Professor Kylie Crabbe
Head of College
Pilgrim Theological College

ABOUT OUR COURSES

What would you like to study?

As a College of the University of Divinity, Pilgrim offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate awards, which can be undertaken on a full-time or part-time study load, to suit one's availability.

For undergraduate enrolment, committing to a full-time study load is equivalent to enrolling on four undergraduate units of study or 72 undergraduate points in one semester.

A part-time load can be an enrolment in one unit of study a semester.

For those pursuing postgraduate studies, study programs from the Graduate Certificates to the Masters level, a full-time study load requires enrolment in three postgraduate units or up to a maximum of 72 points in a semester, and if a part-time study load is preferred, at least a unit enrolment per semester is required.

Go to the University of Divinity website at www.divinity.edu.au for more information about course outcomes, structure, duration, admission criteria and pathways to future study.

Explore the options below to discover which program of study could be the perfect fit for you. The Registrar's Office is available for a discussion to assist you in exploring the most suitable options for your academic journey:

Email: study@pilgrim.edu.au

Phone: 03 9340 8892

Undergraduate Awards

These awards are suitable for those who do not already have a degree, are keen to study theology at an undergraduate level, or have not studied at university level for some time.

Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity

The Undergraduate Certificate in Divinity empowers students to delve into theological, philosophical, and ministry-related studies. This is an undergraduate qualification suitable for those exploring new knowledge or developing an existing one for vocational and professional pursuits.

Diploma in Theology

The Diploma in Theology is an excellent course for those seeking to study the Bible, Christian History, and Theology. It provides a solid foundation for continuing with further undergraduate studies.

Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry

The Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry builds on the Diploma of Theology by developing your knowledge and skills in Biblical Studies, Christian History, and Theology. The award's course structure allows room to explore other disciplines such as Missiology, Liturgy, and Ministry.

Bachelor of Ministry

The Bachelor of Ministry is better suited for those preparing to practice ministry. The course is structured to build a foundation across various fields of Scripture and includes practical components to develop ministerial skills through Supervised Theological Field Education or Clinical Pastoral Education.



Bachelor of Theology

This undergraduate degree provides an excellent introduction to theology across a range of areas of study.

This program offers opportunities for those committed to serving in the church or deepening their understanding of the Christian faith, discipleship, and mission.

Postgraduate Awards

These awards are suitable for those who already have a degree in theology or in another discipline.

Graduate Certificate in Leadership

The Graduate Certificate in Leadership is designed for both new and experienced leaders wishing to consolidate their learning, challenge their assumptions and underpinning knowledge and skills, and explore ways to develop their leadership influence skills in their teams and workplaces.

Please visit the UCLT website at <https://unitingcollege.edu.au/> to learn more about the delivery information for the two core units of this award: Self Leadership and Leading Others.

ABOUT OUR COURSES CONTINUED

Study electives:

Why not enrol in one or more elective units at Pilgrim to start the Graduate Certificate in Leadership in 2027? Please select from the range of recommended electives designated for this program:

Uniting Church Theology and History

Unit Points	24
Delivery	In person/online synchronous
Schedule	Semester 1, Intensive 8–12 February (9.30 am to 5 pm)

Leading Change

Unit Points	12
Delivery	In person
Schedule	Semester 1, Intensive 9.30 am to 5 pm Friday 12 March and Saturday 13 March in person at Pilgrim Theological College, Parkville. Then, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm online sessions, Friday 16 April and Friday 7 May.

Spiritual Care: Grief and Conflict

Unit Points	12
Delivery	In person/online synchronous
Schedule	Semester 2, Intensive Monday, 4 and 18 October, 8 November, 9 am to 4 pm

Ethical Leadership

Unit Points	12
Delivery	In person
Schedule	Semester 2, Intensive 19-21 August from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm (plus one evening online seminar for those doing assessment)

Graduate Certificate in Spiritual Care

This is a 72-point postgraduate program of study specifically crafted for Spiritual and Pastoral Carers, Chaplains and for those holding spiritual care responsibilities in congregational settings.

Facilitated and taught by seasoned spiritual care practitioners, the course provides a strong foundation for advanced studies in spiritual care, spirituality and clinical pastoral education.

“An open space. Different cultures and ideas meet in a safe environment where each student’s voice is respected. I learn from people in class and around the college, while reflecting on my own thinking and faith through different perspectives. Beyond classes and rich resources, I have found that different gifts, experiences and cultures are valued and encouraged. This creates space to discover theological insight together and to grow in interpreting a rapidly changing world biblically and theologically. It also opens new questions and possibilities for faith and ministry.” – Yoojin Song, current student, Master of Theological Studies and Graduate Diploma in Divinity

Study the core units in 2027

Spiritual Care: Independent Practitioner

Unit Points	12
Delivery	In person/online synchronous
Schedule	Three Monday sessions: 19 April, 3 and 17 May, 9 am to 4 pm.

Study electives:

Choose from a range of electives in the disciplines of Spirituality, Spiritual Care, and Spiritual Direction:

Recommended:

Spiritual Care: Grief and Conflict

Unit Points	12
Delivery	In person/online synchronous
Schedule	Three Monday sessions: 4 and 18 October, 8 November, 9 am to 4 pm

Graduate Certificate in Divinity

This award is ideal for individuals with no background in theology who wish to build a strong foundation for further theological studies, as well as for those who have previously studied theology and want to update their knowledge, deepen their understanding, or develop expertise in specific areas of the field. It offers significant flexibility in the selection of units.

Graduate Certificate in Research Methodology

This award is for those exploring the possibility of enrolling on a Higher Degree by Research at the University. It equips students with cutting-edge research skills applicable to identifying a research topic, and developing and writing a research proposal, collecting and evaluating research material and writing a dissertation.

Graduate Certificate in Theology

The Graduate Certificate in Theology is an ideal option for those who already hold a degree and wish to study the Bible, Christian History, and Theology. This program serves as an excellent introduction to theological studies. Additionally, the credits acquired can be applied toward higher postgraduate qualifications such as a Graduate Diploma or a Masters degree.

Graduate Diploma in Divinity

This award is best suited for those who have studied theology before but want to update their knowledge, deepen their understanding, or develop expertise in areas of theology. It offers significant flexibility in unit selection, allowing exploration of specific or multiple areas of interest.

Graduate Diploma in Theology

The Graduate Diploma in Theology will suit those who already have a degree but want to study the Bible, Christian History, and Theology. It is an excellent entry point and a substantial foundation for further postgraduate studies.

Master of Divinity

This postgraduate degree provides an excellent introduction to theology across a range of areas of study. The program is ideal for those who already have an undergraduate degree in a different field and are committed to serving in the church or enhancing their understanding of the Christian faith, discipleship, and mission.

ABOUT OUR COURSES CONTINUED

Master of Theological Studies

This postgraduate award provides an opportunity to develop a range of skills and deepen understanding in theological studies. It is ideal for those who have completed an undergraduate degree in another field but prefer a longer program of theological study other than a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma.

Master of Theology

This postgraduate degree is for those who have completed an undergraduate degree in theology or ministry, or a Master of Divinity. It is aimed at those seeking to expand and advance their knowledge in theological studies.

Higher Degree by Research Awards

These awards are for anyone who has completed theological studies and who meets the admissions criteria for a research degree. They are ideal for anyone who wants to undertake a substantial research project, under the supervision of Pilgrim's excellent faculty.

Master of Philosophy

This research degree is suitable for those working in any theological field that can be completed in no more than 40,000 words.

Doctor of Philosophy

This research degree is suitable for those working on major research projects in any theological field that can be completed in no more than 100,000 words.



UNITS OF STUDY

2027 Pilgrim Theological College

SEMESTER 1

22 February – 28 May 2027

BN1010P/8010P	Introduction to the New Testament: Stories, Texts, Beliefs	pg 10
BN3200P/9200P	Galatians and James: Traditions in Conflict?	pg 10
CH1020P/8020P	Christianity's Dangerous Memory: Early Church to Middle Ages	pg 12
CT2025P/3025P/9025P	Jesus, Discipleship and Justice	pg 14
DL1200Z/8200Z	Liturgical Theology and Practice	pg 16
DP1500P/8500P	Theology of Pastoral Care	pg 17

Intensives

BA3040P/9040P	Gender, Justice and Empire: Contextual Readings of the Old Testament	pg 9
CT2222P/8222P	Uniting Church Theology and History	pg 13
DP1011P/8011P	Spiritual Care: Independent Practitioner	pg 18
LE8804Z	Leading Change	pg 19

SEMESTER 2

26 July – 29 October 2027

BA1010P/8010P	Introducing the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament	pg 9
CH2070P/9070P	Changemakers: A History of Women's Leadership	pg 12
CH/CT2100Z/3100Z/9100Z	The Cracking of Christendom: Histories and Theologies of the Reformation	pg 13
CT1000P/8000P	Christianity's Big Ideas	pg 14
CT2900P/9900P	Asian Theologies	pg 15
DP2222P/9222P	Sounding the Gospel: The Theology and Practice of Preaching	pg 17
	Capstone	pg 20

Intensives

BN2050P/9050P	Luke-Acts	pg 11
DL1010P/8030P	Worship in Context: Feast of Creation	pg 16
DP9051P	Spiritual Care: Grief and Conflict	pg 18
LE8807Z	Ethical Leadership	pg 19

Field A:

BIBLICAL LANGUAGES

Biblical Languages (AL)

The 2027 Timetable includes units in the discipline of Biblical Languages, such as Greek and Hebrew. Through Pilgrim's collaborative partnerships with other colleges within the University of Divinity, students seeking to fulfil course requirements in Biblical Languages or those wishing to explore this field out of personal interest and enrichment will find significant benefits in these opportunities.

If you're looking for personalised course guidance and recommendations in this field of study, we warmly invite you to connect with the Registrar's Office: study@pilgrim.edu.au, 03 9340 8892.



Field B:

BIBLICAL STUDIES

Old Testament (BA) | New Testament (BN) | Biblical Studies (BS)

BA3040P/9040P

Gender, Justice and Empire: Contextual Readings of the Old Testament

Old Testament (BA)

Lecturer	Monica Melanchthon
Semester	Semester 1, Intensive
Schedule	14–18 June, 9.30 am to 5 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

This five-day intensive unit explores the relationship between issues of gender, justice and empire in Old Testament interpretation. You will study several Old Testament texts, particularly those which narrate the experience of women within the wider social and imperial contexts of ancient Israel. You will engage in a close reading of a range of primary Old Testament texts and contemporary feminist/womanist and other (culturally diverse) scholarship. The approach is interdisciplinary and will provide students opportunity to study these texts alongside contemporary women's experiences and portrayals of women in other media such as art, film, and poetry.

Unit Delivery Notes

There is no textbook for this class, however students are expected to have access to reading material posted on the ARK page and to other books named during the course, in the library. Students are expected to bring a physical hard copy of the Bible to class each day.

Students should usually have completed at least one prior unit in Biblical Studies.

BA1010P/8010P

Introducing the Hebrew Bible/ Old Testament

Old Testament (BA)

Lecturer	Monica Melanchthon
Semester	Semester 2, Weekly
Schedule	Tuesday, 2 pm to 5 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

Come and interrogate your knowledge and understanding of the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible), and consider new and alternative insights into the life, history, and faith of God's people in ancient Israel, and among their neighbours. In this introductory unit, we will survey the Old Testament through the study of its historical contexts, literary structures, and theological agendas. As well as understanding the texts in their socio-historical and literary contexts, we will explore their relation to life, and ideological situations of the contemporary times.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person/online in real time from 2 pm to 5 pm Tuesdays (AEST).

When we meet for class sessions, you are requested to bring a copy of the Bible preferably the NRSV or NRSVue. If you read the Bible in another language, please bring that along too.

Resources and weekly readings will be provided on an online portal which you are expected to read to supplement class lectures.

BN1010P/8010P

Introduction to the New Testament: Stories, Texts, Beliefs

New Testament (BN)

Lecturer	Sally Douglas
Semester	Semester 1, Weekly
Schedule	In person tutorial - Tuesday morning from 11 am to 12.30 pm Online synchronous tutorial – Wednesday evening from 7.30 pm to 9 pm.
Mode of Delivery	Online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

Are you curious about why we have four Gospels? Would you like to explore some of the contradictions within the New Testament, and learn more about Paul's letters? In this course we study a range of New Testament texts, attending to the political and historical settings from which they emerge. We will investigate questions of context, power, literary style, gender, and audience, and along the way we will engage with ancient and contemporary questions of interpretation. Whether you are a person of faith, an agnostic person, an atheist, or somewhere in the middle, you are welcome to join us as we examine this astonishing collection of texts.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will work through the video lecture material for each week at their own pace, and then gather for a real time tutorial, either in-person on Tuesdays at 11 am, or online on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm (AEST). Resources will be provided online.

BN3200P/9200P

Galatians and James: Traditions in Conflict?

New Testament (BN)

Lecturer	Robyn Whitaker
Semester	Semester 1, Weekly
Schedule	Tuesday, 2 pm to 5 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

This unit places two of early Christianity's most significant voices in direct conversation: Paul, writing to the Galatians with passionate urgency about freedom in Christ, and James, insisting that genuine faith must show itself in works. Are these two writers locked in real theological conflict, or do they represent complementary strands within a diverse and developing movement? At stake is one of the most contested questions of the early church — how far Christ-followers remained bound by Torah and covenant, and, how faith and Law relate to one another. These letters offer a window into how the earliest believers negotiated competing loyalties: to tradition, to Torah, and to a new community taking shape around the risen Christ. We'll explore not only what these ancient debates meant in their own context, but why they continue to matter for how Christian identity is understood and constructed today.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend class either online or in person in real time from 2 pm to 5 pm Tuesdays (AEST). Readings and supplementary resources will be provided online.

Students should usually have completed, at minimum, Introduction to the New Testament (or an equivalent unit).

BN2050P/9050P

Luke-Acts

New Testament (BN)

Lecturer	Robyn Whitaker and Kylie Crabbe
Semester	Semester 2, Intensive
Schedule	29–30 September, 1 October, 15–17 November, 9.30 am to 4.30 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person
Points	18/24

Unit Description

Luke-Acts comprises the largest body of writing from a single author in the New Testament and is significant for understanding the emerging Christian movement, its theology, and its challenges.

In this unit, we will trace themes central to Luke's vision: inclusion and exclusion, hospitality, wealth, identity, ethnicity, disability, and gender, taking into account both ancient and modern norms. We will locate the texts within the context of Second Temple Judaism, examining Luke's use of prophecy, his distinctive account of justice, salvation and end-time hope, as well as considering how these themes continue to speak to the contemporary church and world.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm on the allotted days. Bursaries are available to offset travel and accommodation costs for those based outside of Melbourne.

Students should have completed at least one prior unit in Biblical Studies.



Field C:

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND HISTORY

Church History (CH) | Systematic Theology (CT)

CH1020P/8020P

Christianity's Dangerous Memory: Early Church to Middle Ages

Church History (CH)

Lecturer	Glen O'Brien
Semester	Semester 1, Weekly
Schedule	Tuesday, 6 pm to 8 pm
Mode of Delivery	Online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

Begin a journey that explores dangerous and life changing memories within the Christian community from the second century until the 1400s. See how and why some assumptions about the church and people of faith proved popular, while other Christian histories have been forgotten, neglected or distorted. You will ask new historical questions that enrich, enliven and challenge understandings of the past. Within a timeline that covers the Early Church and Middle Ages, you will meet the people and explore events and ideas that shape and re-shape the church's memory and identity.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend online in real time at 6 pm to 8 pm Tuesdays (AEST). Resources will be provided online.

CH2070P/9070P

Changemakers: A History of Women's Leadership

Church History (CH)

Lecturer	Kerrie Handasyde
Semester	Semester 2, Weekly
Schedule	Tuesday, 4 pm to 6 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

How have women changed the church? This unit traces women's leadership in theology, ecclesiology, biblical interpretation, and social activism. With a focus on changemakers in the 1800s and 1900s, we bring Protestant women's experience into conversation with theological and historical contexts. We research the life and work of women who have been marginalised by history, and we examine the reasons for historical erasure while rediscovering the ways in which they led change in the church. We seek to understand local lived experience in transnational context and examine the foundations of contemporary feminist theologies. We undertake original research to tell a story of women changemakers.

Unit Delivery Notes

Content will be delivered online for students to work through at their own pace, then students will attend a tutorial online or in-person in real time at 4 pm to 6 pm Tuesdays (AEST). Resources will be provided online, and students will undertake library-based research. Students should usually have completed at least one prior unit in History or Feminist Theology or Leadership Studies.

CH2100Z/3100Z/9100Z

The Cracking of Christendom: Histories and Theologies of the Reformation

(This unit is cross listed in Systematic Theology under the unit codes CT2100Z, CT3100Z and CT9100Z.)

Church History (CH)

Lecturer	Kerrie Handasyde and colleagues
Semester	Semester 2, Weekly
Schedule	Wednesday, 6 pm to 9 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

Travel to sixteenth-century Europe to explore the seismic shifts in matters of faith. Explore grace, salvation, sacrament, and scripture and discover the ongoing impact of Reformation debates. We will journey through theological, historical and geographical contexts that shaped new forms of Christian identity and practice. This exciting unit is taught collaboratively across several colleges of the University, with specialists who highlight the diversity, complexity and commonality of perspectives across the Christian tradition.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person or online in real time at 6 pm to 9 pm Wednesdays (AEST), including a shared meal at Pilgrim Theological College. This is not an asynchronous unit. Resources will be provided online. Students should have completed at least one prior unit in both Church History and Systematic Theology.

CT2222P/8222P

Uniting Church Theology and History

Systematic Theology (CT)

Lecturer	Daniel Sihombing and colleagues
Semester	Semester 1, Intensive
Schedule	8–12 February, 9.30 am to 5 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

In this unit you will deepen your understanding of the Uniting Church and its theological and historical roots. Engage with the Basis of Union and the church's post union life. Explore emerging theological trajectories. Reflect on women's ordination, cultural diversity, commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, and the UCA's profile in matters of social justice. A great unit for anyone who wants to know more about the UCA or who has been called to leadership in the church, you will hear from a range of lecturers with expertise in the life and work of the Uniting Church.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in class or online in real time during the intensive week, 8–12 February, at 9.30 am to 5 pm (AEST). Resources will be provided online.

Enrolment in this unit requires completion of at least one prior unit in Systematic Theology. If you have no prior studies in Systematic Theology (CT), please contact the lecturer before enrolling.

CT2025P/3025P/9025P

Jesus, Discipleship and Justice

Systematic Theology (CT)

Lecturer	Daniel Sihombing
Semester	Semester 1, Weekly
Schedule	Thursday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

Who is Jesus, and what does it mean to be a disciple? How important is justice in Christ-centred belief? In this unit, you will explore questions about Jesus, beginning with the biblical witnesses to his life, death and resurrection. You will gain insight into the creeds and theological controversies and explore connections between the Church's proclamation of Christ, patterns of discipleship, resistance to oppression, and practices of reconciliation and justice in the world today.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in class or online in real time at 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Thursdays (AEST). Resources will be provided online.

CT1000P/8000P

Christianity's Big Ideas

Systematic Theology (CT)

Lecturer	Daniel Sihombing
Semester	Semester 2, Weekly
Schedule	Tuesday, 6 pm to 9 pm
Mode of Delivery	Online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

In this unit you will discover that Christian belief and doctrine is a lively and imaginative aspect of Christian faith. A great introduction to theology, you will encounter theologians from across many eras and contexts exploring how the different ideas generated by the gospel are articulated, developed and lived. Christianity's Big Ideas will help you to develop your understanding of pivotal doctrines of God, Christology, Pneumatology, Creation, humanity, sin and salvation, church and hope.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend online in real time from 6 pm to 9 pm on Tuesdays (AEST). Resources will be provided online.



CT2900P/9900P

Asian Theologies

Systematic Theology (CT)

Lecturer	Daniel Sihombing and Monica Melanchthon
Semester	Semester 2, Weekly
Schedule	Thursday, 2 pm to 5 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

Asians do theology and draw nourishment from their Asian cultures and the lived experience of Asian peoples. This unit focuses on the questions and theologies that have developed in this vast region and introduces select Asian theologians and theological themes that have emerged to address issues such as religious pluralism, cultural diversities, poverty, and the marginalisation of women, Dalits, and many other communities and issues. Students will also explore the contribution of Asian theologies to global Christianity and their relevance to the Australian context.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person or online in real time at 2 pm to 5 pm Thursdays (AEST). Weekly readings and resources will be provided online or will be available in the library.

Students should usually have completed 18 points in Systematic Theology or Missiology prior.



Field D:

THEOLOGY MISSION AND MINISTRY

Liturgy (DL) | Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies (DP) | Spirituality (DS) | Leadership (LE)

DL1200Z/8200Z

Liturgical Theology and Practice

Liturgy (DL)

Lecturer	Stephen Burns
Semester	Semester 1, Weekly
Schedule	Wednesday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

What is the Emmaus pattern of Christian worship, and why do UCA worship resources promote it? How do word and sacrament relate in the Basis of Union? ...and in Christian worship? What is 'ordered liberty'? Why is the guiding principle of UCA worship supposed to be that 'the congregation is not an audience'? How can worship be communalised? What does a presider do? What is extempore prayer? What still marks worship in churches of the Reformation? What is 'charismatic' worship? 'intercultural' worship? How is liturgy public service? Where is Christ present?

These are some of the questions addressed in this unit which explores the lively juxtapositions of Christian worship: scripture and sacrament, space and symbol, worship by and for the people, among others.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person or online in real time on Wednesday from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Resources will be provided online.

The unit is open to candidates for ministry, lay preachers, presiders and others involved in worship ministries.

DL1010P/8030P

Worship in Context: Feast of Creation

Liturgy (DL)

Lecturer	Stephen Burns
Semester	Semester 2, Intensive
Schedule	15–16, 19–21 July, 9.30 am to 5 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

What is a feast anyway? What's left of the ecumenical movement? How can we celebrate creation when Pacific islands are sinking and wildfires rage through forests around the world? Where are voices from the south and Indigenous wisdom present in the liturgies of the feast? How does the feast stay alert to climate catastrophe?

These are just some of the questions this unit explores as it focuses on the new ecumenical Feast of Creation which is entering the calendars of churches worldwide, including the UCA.

The unit relates the new feast to earlier UCA initiative with a Season of Creation, to Earth-centred readings of scripture and ecologically-attuned sense of the sacramental, and to Indigenous understanding of people and land which have not been as prominent in plans for the new ecumenical celebration as they could or should have been. This is to say that the unit makes a critically appreciative engagement with the feast as it explores the challenges of emplacing this feast in Australia.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person or online in real time (AEST) on the days allocated for the intensive unit. Resources will be provided online.

DP1500P/8500P

Theology of Pastoral Care

Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies (DP)

Lecturer	Stephen Burns
Semester	Semester 1, Weekly
Schedule	Thursday, 2 pm to 5 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

The pastoral care unit explores the theological nature of pastoral care and the relationship between theology and pastoral skills. We aim to help students develop a reflective basis for pastoral practice that is grounded in Christian theology and Biblical studies. Consideration will be given to the uniqueness of 'pastoral' care, to some of the challenging questions raised in situations of crisis, and to the appropriate use of prayer and Scripture in pastoral situations. Scope will be given for students to explore a range of contextual issues and questions in pastoral ministry.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person or online in real time (AEST) on Thursdays, from 2 pm to 5 pm. Resources will be provided online.



DP2222P/9222P

Sounding the Gospel: The Theology and Practice of Preaching

Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies (DP)

Lecturer	Stephen Burns
Semester	Semester 2, Weekly
Schedule	Wednesday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

Is anybody listening? Who cares what the minister thinks? How do sermons fit with the idea that 'the congregation is not an audience'? How can preaching be more dialogical? How might a local church construct its own lectionary? What is the difference between preaching and teaching? What is the sound of the gospel?

Within a strong affirmation of 'the serious duty of reading the scriptures' (UCA Basis of Union) the unit lifts a critical lens on preaching, situating the contribution of the sermon within the wider worshipping and witnessing life of the church. It evaluates common lectionaries, connects the liturgical acts of preaching and hearing sermons to the public service of mission, critiques the ministerial take-over of the sanctuary and advocates the communalisation of preaching and the liturgy of which it is just one part.

Elements of practicum will shape the unit.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person or online in real time (AEST) on Wednesday, from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm. Resources will be provided online. This unit is for UCA ministry candidates, lay leaders and chaplains.

DP1011P/8011P

Spiritual Care: Independent Practitioner

Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies (DP)

Lecturer	Lauren Mosso and colleagues
Semester	Semester 1, Intensive
Schedule	Monday, 19 April, 3 and 17 May, 9 am to 4 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	9/12

Unit Description

Especially for chaplains and spiritual care workers, this unit contributes to equipping you as an Independent Practitioner in the provision of spiritual care. You will explore recent trends in the theology of spiritual care and be encouraged to reflect on practice in a range of settings. With an awareness of professional and ethical requirements, this unit will help equip you to serve in diverse organisational workplaces. Taking a practical approach with expert input from a range of practitioners in the field, this unit will help you develop practical and reflective skills in a complex ministry.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students may attend in person or online in real time from 9 am to 4 pm. Resources will be provided online.

DP9051P

Spiritual Care: Grief and Conflict

Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies (DP)

Lecturer	Lauren Mosso and colleagues
Semester	Semester 2, Intensive
Schedule	Monday, 4 and 18 October, 8 November, 9 am to 4 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	12

Unit Description

This unit focuses on advanced spiritual care techniques to care for people who have experienced grief and interpersonal conflict. Students will further develop their ability to offer a non-anxious presence through informed reflective practice. You will learn to manage conflict in spiritual care settings by respecting and responding openly to alternative perspectives and find mutually beneficial solutions.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students may attend in person or online in real time from 9 am to 4 pm. Resources will be provided online. This unit assumes advanced practical experience in Spiritual Care and/or prior completion of DP8011P Spiritual Care: Independent Practitioner or DP9031P Spiritual Care: Senior Practitioner.



LE8804Z

Leading Change

Leadership (LE)

Lecturer	Heather Cetrangolo
Semester	Semester 1, Intensive
Schedule	9.30 am to 5 pm Friday 12 March and Saturday 13 March in person at Pilgrim Theological College, Parkville. Then, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm online sessions, Friday 16 April and Friday 7 May.
Mode of Delivery	In person
Points	12

Unit Description

Leading Change is designed for executive leaders and church leaders in environments facing transition. The program introduces students to proven and current research into effective change-leadership strategies, with a focus on practical case studies at local, sector-wide and global levels. Participants are supported in developing a context-specific portfolio of strategies for navigating transition, canvassing organisational identity, branding, reputation and financing.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person for a 2-day intensive, 9.30 am to 5 pm on Friday 12 March (AEST) to Saturday 13 March. Then students attend two online sessions to support integration of learning: 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on Friday 16 April and 7 May. Resources will be provided online.

LE8807Z

Ethical Leadership

Leadership (LE)

Lecturer	Robyn Whitaker and colleagues
Semester	Semester 2, Intensive
Schedule	19–21 August from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm (plus one evening online seminar for those doing assessment)
Mode of Delivery	In person
Points	12

Unit Description

What makes a great leader? How does our leadership reflect our values? How do we cultivate ethical practices in our organisations and communities? This unit invites participants into a process of self-reflection and critical thinking about the decisions and behaviours that shape ethical, just leadership today. Drawing on biblical and theological traditions alongside philosophy, psychology, and contemporary leadership studies, it builds an interdisciplinary foundation for ethical leadership. Through an integrative, peer-learning approach — combining input from industry experts, workshops, and reflective practice — participants will develop frameworks for ethical decision-making and build leadership capacity grounded in ancient wisdom and a deeper self-understanding.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person for a three-day intensive running from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm each day at our Parkville campus. Resources will be provided online prior to the unit beginning.

No pre-requisites and open to auditors. Those taking the unit for Professional Development will receive a certificate of participation.

CAPSTONE

Capstone

Lecturer	Faculty team
Semester	Semester 2
Schedule	Thursday, 9.30 am to 12.30 pm Four workshops: Thursday: 29 July, 19 August, 16 September and 21 October and one meeting mutually agreed with the lecturer
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

Unit Description

This unit enables you to take a deep dive into a project close to your heart in the final year of study. You will research and present on a topic of your choice that integrates learning across theological disciplines. You will be encouraged to improve your writing through constructive collegial feedback and supportive seminars. The Capstone Integrative Project helps you to hone your skills in communicating theological ideas creatively and effectively as you conclude your degree.

Unit Delivery Notes

Students will attend in person or online in real time from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm on four scheduled Thursdays: 29 July, 19 August, 16 September, and 21 October, and one individual session with a lecturer at a mutually convenient time. This unit is undertaken in a student's final year.



SPECIALISATIONS

Indigenous Theologies and Feminist Theologies

Indigenous Theologies and Feminist Theologies

Focus your study on Indigenous Theologies or Feminist Theologies. Pilgrim is committed to providing leadership and learning in liberative and contextual theologies, and we create space for generous dialogue. Many of our units take seriously our location on stolen land and amplify voice of Indigenous scholars. Pilgrim is also a leading advocate for feminist theological scholarship within the University of Divinity and many of our units have a feminist component or core.

Develop a Diploma or Certificate centred on units in your chosen area. In 2027, you can choose feminist theological units in biblical studies or history.

In 2028, please anticipate the return of Respecting Country: Deep History, the Colonies and the Church. This will be in addition to other contemporary feminist theologies units that will surely stimulate profound reflection and discourse.



BA3040P/9040P

Gender, Justice and Empire: Contextual Readings of the Old Testament

Field B: Old Testament (BA)

Lecturer	Monica Melanchthon
Semester	Semester 1, Intensive
Schedule	14–18 June, 9.30 am to 5 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

CH2070P/9070P

Changemakers: A History of Women's Leadership

Field C: Church History (CH)

Lecturer	Kerrie Handasyde
Semester	Semester 2, Weekly
Schedule	Tuesday, 4 pm to 6 pm
Mode of Delivery	In person and online synchronous
Points	18/24

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SPIRITUAL CARE

Professional learning for Spiritual Carers in the church and beyond

Study with professional, skilled and experienced practitioners to develop your expertise in Spiritual Care, Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy. Our units encompass many aspects of Spiritual Care, helping you work toward professional accreditation or deepen your understanding of Uniting Church perspectives on spirituality.

This is a 72-point postgraduate program of study specifically crafted for Spiritual and Pastoral Carers, Chaplains and for those holding spiritual care responsibilities in congregational settings.

Facilitated and taught by seasoned spiritual care practitioners, the course provides a strong foundation for advanced studies in spiritual care, spirituality and clinical pastoral education. This course is designed by and for Spiritual Carers and Chaplains.

- Develop your practice wisdom by reflecting on your work, exchanging ideas with peers and speakers, and exploring the latest research.
- Complete practical assessment tasks to deepen your understanding and equip you with new resources.
- Practitioners of all spiritualities are welcome.

- Speak from your own perspective and experience in class discussions and assessment tasks.
- Learning outcomes align with Spiritual Care Australia's credentialing framework.

Whether you are a professional seeking to upgrade your qualifications for continuing practice or you have experience and are looking to develop capacity and expertise, we encourage you to explore the Spiritual and Pastoral Care units offered at Pilgrim for 2027. The full details of these units can be found on pages 17 and 18 of this course guide.

You are invited to explore the core and elective unit offered in 2027 for this program.

- **DP8011P**
Spiritual Care: Independent Practitioner
- **DP9051P**
Spiritual Care: Grief and Conflict
- **DP8500P**
Theology of Pastoral Care
- **CP9100Z**
Clinical Pastoral Education Level 1



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LEADERSHIP

Developing leadership skills for church, community and workplace

The Graduate Certificate in Leadership is designed for both new and experienced leaders wishing to consolidate their learning, challenge their assumptions and underpinning knowledge and skills, and explore ways to develop their leadership influence skills in their teams and workplaces.

Students undertake a series of coursework units which may include a project unit, integrating critical thinking and engagement with theoretical, religious, and spiritual beliefs with a body of knowledge and lived experience. This is done through enquiry-based studies, case studies from leading professionals to address workplace problems and issues, that may lead to practical applications for change in their professional context.

The two core units for this program, Self Leadership and Leading Others, are delivered as an evening online synchronous intensive through Uniting College for Leadership and Theology, Adelaide.

For 2027, Pilgrim invites you to explore the four elective units we offer. The points earned from completing any of these units

will count toward the 72 points required for the Graduate Certificate in Leadership. You are welcome to enrol in one or more of the following units of study:

- **CT8222P**
Uniting Church Theology and History
(24 points), page 13
- **DP9051P**
Spiritual Care: Grief and Conflict
(12 points), page 18
- **LE8804Z**
Leading Change
(12 points), page 19
- **LE8807Z**
Ethical Leadership
(12 points), page 19

The Synod of Victoria and Tasmania will be offering significant scholarships for Uniting Church leaders enrolled in the Graduate Certificate in Leadership in 2027. Further details are available upon enquiry with the Pilgrim Theological College Registrar, study@pilgrim.edu.au or **03 9340 8892**.



GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN PROFESSIONAL SUPERVISION

Empowering supervisors in ministry, health, education, and leadership

Graduate studies in Professional Supervision equip you to practice as a professional supervisor of individuals and groups who work in caring professions such as ministry, health, education and leadership.

Through experiential learning, you develop skills in professional supervision to create a relationship of trust and transparency in which those being supervised can review their work practices. Using a range of knowledge and techniques, professional supervision can enable the supervisee to develop self-awareness, resilience, ethical understanding, accountability, and effectiveness.

Students may enrol in one of two available programs: the Graduate Certificate in Professional Supervision or the Graduate Certificate in Professional Supervision (Spiritual Direction Stream). The Professional Supervision programs offered by the University of Divinity are officially recognised as a Registered Supervisor Training Program by the Australasian Association of Supervision (AAOS).

At Pilgrim, we are pleased to offer these two Professional Supervision programs as part of an innovative collaboration between colleges of the University of Divinity through the Partnership for Professional Practice. Studying in any of these programs offers flexible participation options, with units of study available in both in-person and online formats via Zoom. Both programs can be completed within 2 years on a part-time study load.

Pathways have been developed for those who wish to further their expertise in this area of study. Graduates from any of the above Professional Supervision streams can continue their studies toward the Graduate Diploma in Professional Supervision.

For more information, contact our Registrar, Ms Erlinda Loverseed, study@pilgrim.edu.au, **03 9340 8892**.





PERIOD OF DISCERNMENT

A time to explore vocation and theological study

In the Uniting Church in Australia, people exploring God's call in their lives are referred by their congregations and presbyteries into a Period of Discernment (PoD). During this time, that sense of call is explored and clarified. A PoD can lead in a variety of directions, and typically includes some form of theological study.

For those who are exploring a call to ordained ministry, the PoD is an opportunity to explore this very particular, intentional and lifelong relationship with the church; to take time to explore its potential impacts on their life and the lives of family and friends.

For those exploring what it means to serve God as a lay person in the church and in the world, the PoD can offer space, growth, learning, and access to church support as they embark on a journey of discovery.

For those who are already in ministry, the Church has a range of discernment resources to help pause and intentionally reflect on new opportunities.

To learn more about the Period of Discernment visit the Pilgrim website: pilgrim.edu.au/pod

Talk to your PoD Mentor or your Minister about choosing one of these Pilgrim units in 2027:

Introductory University units

- Introduction to the New Testament (Semester 1)
- Introducing the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (Semester 2)
- Christianity's Big Ideas (Semester 2)
- Christianity's Dangerous Memory: Early Church to Middle Ages (Semester 1)
- Worship in Context: Feast of Creation (Intensive Semester 2)

Uniting Learning units

- Understanding the UCA
- Exploring Theology in the UCA
- Exploring Preaching in the UCA

UNITING LEARNING UNITS

Courses designed for discipleship and leadership development

Uniting Learning units are Synod-accredited learning opportunities that nurture growth in faith, understanding, and ministry practice. Open to anyone in the Uniting Church, they provide an accessible way to explore the Bible, theology, preaching, worship, pastoral care, leadership, and many other areas of ministry practice.

Whether you are seeking personal enrichment, exploring a call to ministry, or developing skills for service in your community, these units offer a supportive and flexible pathway into theological education and ministry formation.

They are designed for learners from all backgrounds, including those who are working towards meeting the UCA Assembly standards and competencies for the Formation and Education for the Specified Ministry of Lay Preacher, and Ministry of Pastor Competencies.

In 2027, Pilgrim will expand these offerings with new units focused on academic skills in biblical studies, decision making in the UCA, organisation and administration, and others, providing even more opportunities for people to grow in confidence, capability, and faithful service.

Learning is designed to fit around the realities of everyday life and ministry. Units are delivered online through Zoom, supported by a rich range of resources on the Uniting Learning platform, including readings, videos, and interactive activities. Regular online tutorials provide opportunities to connect with others, deepen understanding, and put learning into practice in a supportive and engaging environment.

Pilgrim provides certificates of participation (for audit) and certificates of completion (for assessment). We work collaboratively and consultatively with Presbyteries and congregations across the Synod, as well as working closely with the Synod's Lay Preacher Association.

If you are interested in the Uniting Learning Units offered for the 2027 academic year listed below, we invite you to connect with us via email at study@pilgrim.edu.au



**uniting
learning**
a pathway into
ministry education



SEMESTER 1

ULVT1	Introduction to Uniting Learning
ULVT1.1	What is the Bible? Origins, Interpretation and Relevance
ULVT2	Understanding the UCA
ULVT5	Exploring Theology in the UCA
ULVT8	Exploring Preaching in the UCA
ULVT9	Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice Foundations
ULVT10	Foundations of Understanding Sacraments

SEMESTER 2

ULVT1	Introduction to Uniting Learning
ULVT1.2	Reading for Understanding
ULVT2	Understanding the UCA
ULVT6	Exploring Christology in the UCA
ULVT9	Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice Foundations
ULVT10	Foundations of Understanding Sacraments
ULVT12	Making Decisions in the UCA



UNITING LEARNING UNITS CONTINUED

ULVT1

Introduction to Uniting Learning

Essential for first time Uniting
Learning participants

Dates	Semester 1: Monday 15 February, Wednesday 17 February Semester 2: Monday 19 July, Wednesday 21 July
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	Free

Available in multiple time slots, this session need only be attended once.

This orientation offers guidance to the Uniting Learning environment including the learning management system used to support learning; available student services; expectations for study; introduction and access to the Dalton McCaughey Library; unit and tutorial structures; and how to write and reference your work appropriately.

ULVT1.1

What is the Bible? Origins, Interpretation and Relevance

Deepening your faith • General Interest •
Lay Preacher • Ministry of Pastor • Continuing
Education • Period of Discernment • Synod Staff

Dates	Semester 1: Mondays 22 February, 1 March, 15 March
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	\$35

This unit introduces the Bible as a collection of writings that emerged from the faith and life of ancient communities and became the foundational scripture of the Christian tradition. Participants will explore how the Bible was formed, preserved, translated, and interpreted across the centuries, and how its diverse books are structured and read today. Through this unit, learners will also develop new academic skills to support further study in theology.



ULVT1.2

Reading for Understanding

Deepening your faith • General Interest • Lay Preacher • Ministry of Pastor • Continuing Education • Period of Discernment • Synod Staff

Dates	Semester 2: Mondays 26 July, 2 August, 9 August
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	\$35

How do our own stories shape the way we read Scripture, and how does Scripture in turn shape us? In this three-session introduction to the dynamics of biblical interpretation, participants will explore the encounter between reader and text, learn to read with greater attention to context, genre, and audience, and engage the distinctive voices of the four Gospels. Combining teaching, discussion, and reflective practice, the course equips learners with practical tools for deeper biblical understanding and faithful contemporary interpretation, as well as tools for reading across other fields within theology. This is an excellent foundation for further study in theology.

ULVT2

Understanding the UCA

Anyone wanting to get to know the UCA better • Lay Preacher • Ministry of Pastor • Continuing Education • Worship Leaders • Period of Discernment • Ministers and staff new to the UCA

Dates	Semester 1: Tuesdays 23 February to 16 March inclusive. Semester 2: Wednesdays 28 July to 18 August inclusive
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	\$50

Explore the story, identity, and life of the Uniting Church in Australia through an introduction to the history of the Church's formation, the theological foundations of the Basis of Union, and the role of the Church in worship, witness, and service. Participants will gain an understanding of the councils and ministries of the UCA, as well as its commitment to First Nations peoples and intercultural ministry.

This unit provides a valuable foundation for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of the Uniting Church and its mission. It is particularly helpful for those new to the Uniting Church and for people preparing for ministry as a Lay Preacher or Pastor, supporting the core competency of working within the doctrine, ethos, and polity of the Uniting Church.



UNITING LEARNING UNITS CONTINUED

ULVT5

Exploring Theology in the UCA

**Deepening Your Faith • General Interest •
Lay Preacher • Ministry of Pastor • Continuing
Education • Period of Discernment**

Dates	Semester 1: Thursdays 8 April to 27 May inclusive
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	\$50

This unit invites learners into a thoughtful engagement with the Christian theological tradition, examining how theological ideas have been shaped across time and continue to inform faith, ministry, and contemporary life. In this unit participants will develop the skills to interpret, evaluate, and apply theological perspectives in diverse contexts, encouraging curiosity, theological imagination, and a deeper understanding of the ways Christians seek to make sense of God, the world, and human experience.

ULVT6

Exploring Christology in the UCA

**Deepening Your Faith • General Interest •
Lay Preacher • Ministry of Pastor • Continuing
Education • Period of Discernment**

Dates	Semester 2: Wednesdays 25 August to 13 October inclusive
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	\$50

This unit invites participants to explore who Jesus Christ is and why Christology matters for the life, worship, and mission of the Uniting Church. Through engagement with Scripture, theology, and the lived experience of the church, learners will examine key understandings of Christ and consider how these shape discipleship, preaching, and faithful witness in contemporary Australia. Grounded in a Uniting Church perspective, the unit encourages thoughtful reflection, respectful dialogue, and a deeper appreciation of Jesus Christ as central to the church's faith and practice.

“Beware! Studying at Pilgrim can become a lifelong obsession! I have been studying with Pilgrim on and off since its inception. I would offer a 100% recommendation to study at Pilgrim and encourage anyone to do so. They are very open to new students, and especially those for whom this is a new endeavour, or perhaps a return to study.” – Rev Wendy Elson, current student, Doctor of Philosophy

ULVT8

Exploring Preaching in the UCA

Deepening Your Faith • General Interest • Lay Preacher • Ministry of Pastor • Continuing Education • Period of Discernment

Dates	Semester 1: Tuesdays 6 April to 25 May inclusive
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	\$50

Exploring Preaching invites participants into the art, calling, and practice of preaching within the Uniting Church in Australia. Through biblical and theological reflection, engagement with Scripture, and exploration of diverse sermon approaches, learners will develop the skills and confidence to preach faithfully and imaginatively in contemporary contexts. Designed to be interactive and supportive, the course encourages participants to connect preaching with worship, justice, and community life while discovering how their own voice can help bring God's Word to life.

ULVT9

Code of Ethics and Ministry Practice Foundations

Lay Preacher • Worship Leader • Period of Discernment • Pastor • Council and Committee Members • Admission of Ministers

Dates	Semester 1: Mondays 5 April to 19 April inclusive. Semester 2: Mondays 27 September to 11 October inclusive.
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	\$35

This is a foundational unit designed for those who have yet to undertake any Code of Ethics training. This Uniting Learning unit covers the scope of the UCA understanding of gifts, ministry and service, the behavioural and boundary issues involved in ministry conduct and accountability in both personal discipleship and professional ministry and looks at the distinctions between the Code of Ethics for Lay Preachers and the Code of Ethics for Ministry agents.



ULVT10

Foundations of Understanding Sacraments

Deepening your faith • General Interest • Lay Preacher • Ministry of Pastor • Worship Leader • Lay Presider • Continuing Education • Period of Discernment

Dates	Semester 1: Mondays 3 May to 24 May inclusive Semester 2: Thursdays 26 August to 16 September inclusive
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	\$50

This foundational unit explores the theology, purpose and practice of the sacraments within the Uniting Church tradition, with particular attention to Baptism and the Lord's Supper as gifts of God's grace that shape Christian identity, discipleship and worship. Drawing on church doctrine, worship resources and lay presidency guidelines, participants will deepen their understanding of the relationship between sacrament, Word, community and mission, and reflect on the responsibilities involved in faithful sacramental leadership. Through guided reflection and practical application, learners will develop the theological foundations needed to participate in and support sacramental ministry with confidence, reverence and pastoral sensitivity.

ULVT12

Making Decisions in the UCA

Deepening your faith • General Interest • Lay Preacher • Ministry of Pastor • Council and Committee Members • Continuing Education • Period of Discernment

Dates	Semester 2: Thursdays 30 September to 14 October inclusive
Time	7 to 9 pm via Zoom, with access to learning materials on Uniting Learning.
Cost	\$35

This short course explores the policies and practices of decision making within the Uniting Church. In this course we will draw upon the Manual for Meetings and explore Consensus Decision Making.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

Seeking a heart of wisdom at Pilgrim

The Uniting Church is committed to lifelong continuing education for all members and, in particular, for all those called into leadership ministries. UCA leaders are encouraged to develop the ability to engage the tasks of ministry with critical imagination, courage, emotional maturity, theological judgement and self-reflection. Continuing education helps people grow in articulating Christian faith in contextually appropriate ways. Pilgrim Theological College is committed to equipping people as they help the Church be faithful to its identity and mission in a rapidly changing and diverse cultural and social context.

Pilgrim offers a wide array of courses suitable for ongoing professional development and continuing education, including postgraduate programs. It is also possible to audit a unit, at a reduced cost, which means you attend the lectures/seminars and participate fully, except for completing assessment tasks. Invite a colleague or two to join you and commit to meeting in a peer learning group afterwards for 3–6 months to reflect on your learning in the context of your ministry practice.

We offer a range of programs, many online, most in-person, and some in your region. We can help you tailor a course or program for your Presbytery or region. We can also help you learn more about your learning styles or help you plan your own continuing education.

We encourage people in ministry, ordained and lay, to join peer learning groups where they can encourage one another in their learning and ministry.

We offer a wide range of grants and scholarships. Some are focused on people enrolling in University of Divinity courses at Pilgrim Theological College, both undergraduate and postgraduate. The Uniting Church also has a range of grants and scholarships for members, ministers and pastors undertaking continuing education, whether that be informal or formal study.

See more scholarships on the Pilgrim Theological College website (<https://pilgrim.edu.au/cw-scholarships/>) and the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania website <https://victas.uca.org.au/mission-resources/grants/educational-grants-scholarships/>.



CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

Clinical pastoral education at Uniting CPE: The John Paver Centre

Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) programs offer pastoral/spiritual care formation through an action reflection-action model of peer group experiential learning. We offer CPE courses at Pilgrim through Uniting CPE: The John Paver Centre. Current program information can be found on the Synod website.

Contact: Rev Lauren Mosso, CPE Centre
Director email Lauren.Mosso@victas.uca.org.au
phone **0400 569 330**.

Students may choose from a variety of CPE programs to meet their educational and logistical needs. Each CPE program has its own application process and deadlines and students need to apply to each program directly. Once accepted into a program, students who wish to complete CPE as part of an academic degree need to contact the Academic Registrar to enrol and let the CPE Centre Director know of their plans for billing purposes.

Please see the ASACPEV Inc. website for a list of current CPE programs in Victoria. For CPE programs in Tasmania please see TASPE website.



Testimonials

“As a quiet person and a non-native English speaker, I began the course with self-doubt about my ability to contribute and connect. However, the face-to-face CPE sessions and my field placement provided a safe, inclusive, and encouraging environment for growth. With the support of the CPE group and the Pilgrim community, I found my voice and gained greater confidence in caring for others with compassion and authenticity.” – Sesi Taunga

“I am impressed with my first experience at The John Paver Centre as I progress with my second unit of CPE / special focus in palliative care. Lauren (course coordinator/centre director) and Dora (supervisor) offer a calm and safe space in which to further develop my skills in spiritual care.

The course outline and one-on-one supervision provides the students with gentle challenges and cultivates our learning areas and goals. This CPE unit has helped grow my skills and my work with peers in class, those on my placement, and most importantly with those I offer spiritual care. I am grateful to all involved for this motivating CPE unit at The John Paver Centre.” – Cath Nitschk

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Funding opportunities for study, formation and ministry

UCA Grants and Scholarships

There are many grants and scholarships available for individuals (ordained and lay) and groups in relation to lay education, continuing education, theological education, youth and children's ministry, tertiary education, the education of children of soldiers, and bursaries for ministers' children (primary and secondary).

Grants for Ministry Education and Practice

- **Grants for Lay Education** – through the Centre for Theology and Ministry and other sources.
- **Grants for Youth Ministry** – development of Youth Ministry - education, events and programs.
- **Continuing Education Fund** – ordained and lay people in placement – for informal qualifications.
- **Thanksgiving Scholarship for Women Workers** – tertiary education of women who do/will serve the church.

Grants Application deadlines vary. Please refer to the Synod website.

NEW: If you are interested in participating in one of our intensive units in person, but don't live in Melbourne, you may also apply for a travel bursary to offset travel and accommodation costs associated with attending an intensive unit. Pilgrim also offers low-cost accommodation at Maclean House for enrolled students.

Pilgrim Theological College Scholarships

Scholarships for Undergraduate or Postgraduate Studies in Theology:

2027 Application Closing Dates:

- **Semester 1 study:** EARLY round: due by 30 November 2026, for semester 1, 2027
8 February 2027 for semester 1, 2027 (2nd round)
- **Semester 2 study:** 19 July 2027
- **UCA Under-35 Theological Scholarships** – Pilgrim Theological College - Diploma in Theology or Graduate Diploma in Theology (full-time, part-time or online).
- **Beverley Bellinger Fund** – to support women to study at Pilgrim Theological College.
- **Frederick George Knight Scholarship Fund (NEW)** – for students residing in Tasmania to undertake postgraduate study at Pilgrim.
- **Isabella Pond Scholarship** – to assist students to undertake post graduate studies at Pilgrim.
- **Beth Smith Bequest** – supports overseas students from Fiji, Samoa, or Tonga to undertake postgraduate study in Australia (Masters or PhD level). Applicants should be in good standing with their home church and be able to meet the academic requirements of the University of Divinity.

For more information visit the Pilgrim scholarship webpage at:

<https://pilgrim.edu.au/cw-scholarships/>

Enquiries and applications email:

scholarships@pilgrim.edu.au.

For research related scholarships see the PhD Scholarships page (<https://pilgrim.edu.au/research-scholarships/>) or Yule Scholarship (<https://pilgrim.edu.au/research/yule-scholarship/>) for overseas study.

LIBRARY AND PUBLIC LECTURES

Discover the depths of theological knowledge at the Dalton McCaughey Library

The Dalton McCaughey Library

Pilgrim Theological College students are granted membership to the Dalton McCaughey Library (DML) as part of their studies with the College.

The DML is co-owned by the Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and the Australian Jesuits. The DML provides access to a large theological library collection, both print and electronic, to support the delivery of learning taught at Pilgrim Theological College and other affiliated colleges, institutions and organisations it serves.

The collection has strengths in Old and New Testament exegesis and theology, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Patristics, historical theology, early and medieval church history, the Jesuits and their writings, the history of the church in Britain and Australia, and numerous areas in systematic theology.

Our professional librarians are available to assist you with your information needs, in-person and at-a-distance. For the catalogue, opening hours, and further information, please visit <https://dml.vic.edu.au>.

The Dalton McCaughey Library is located at the Centre for Theology and Ministry.

P. 03 9340 8888

E. library@dml.vic.edu.au

Facebook: /DaltonMcCaugheyLibrary

Discover the Northey Lectures

A Pilgrim Tradition of Engaging Theological Conversations

Join us for the Northey Lectures and participate in enriching theological discussions. Experience free access to thought-provoking insights from top theologians visiting Pilgrim from across Australia and around the globe.

For details about the upcoming 2027 Northey Lectures, see Pilgrim's website events page, or you can visit the Northey Lecture page (<https://pilgrim.edu.au/northey-lectures/>) of the Pilgrim website to view selected past recordings of the previous lectures.

Past speakers

Michael Mawson
Laura Rademaker
Joerg Rieger
Nasili Vaka'uta
Kristel Clayville
Miguel de la Torre
Anne Pattel-Gray



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Common questions about programs, support, and enrolment at Pilgrim

What can I study at Pilgrim?

At Pilgrim Theological College you can study for either a University of Divinity award or a Pilgrim Certificate.

Uniting Learning subjects will lead to Pilgrim Certificates. Studies in Pilgrim's University of Divinity units will enable you to complete a University of Divinity certificate, diploma, or degree including a Masters or PhD. The subjects include Biblical Studies, Ministry, History, Theology, Philosophy, Liturgy, Missiology, Spirituality, Pastoral Care and more.

There are three ways to engage with these offerings. You can enrol in a full award (a certificate, diploma or degree), choose a single subject for academic credit, or "audit" for full participation without formal assessment requirements.

Please visit <https://pilgrim.edu.au/courses/> to explore the full range of accredited undergraduate and postgraduate programs offered by Pilgrim.

Who will teach me?

Pilgrim's academic faculty is a dynamic, multidisciplinary, ecumenical team. Their expertise is well-respected both locally and internationally.

Passionate about teaching, they stay up to date in their field and participate in professional development around innovation in teaching adult learners.

They have an ongoing commitment to serving the church and are esteemed members of their respective fields with numerous publications and a strong presence at national and international conferences, professional workshops, and church events.

Please refer to the Pilgrim team webpage (<https://pilgrim.edu.au/our-team/>) for a detailed list of their areas of expertise and interests.

What are classes at Pilgrim like?

We educate, form and equip people through challenging and inspiring classroom experiences.

We aim to ignite your critical thinking skills, stir your imagination, and foster deeper understanding. We help you connect your learning to contemporary issues to make a just and compassionate world.

You will learn alongside colleagues with a wide range of religious and ideological viewpoints and diverse cultural heritages. Some may be delving into a subject to expand their faith or professional interest, while others are driven by intellectual curiosity. You will find yourself in a secure and friendly environment that values independent thought and encourages the exploration of different perspectives. Whether you're participating in classes online or on campus, the focus is on fostering meaningful interactions that lead to successful learning experiences for every student.

You can look forward to weekly classes scheduled in the morning, afternoon, or evening throughout the semesters or as intensives that are scheduled over a shorter period.

Units of study are available in person or online:

- **In person:** Students attend the campus at the scheduled time.
- **Online:** Students attend the class remotely via Zoom at the scheduled time.

Most classes are offered as both online and in person, so students will engage with one another using the large screens in our well-equipped classrooms.

The timetable shows the method of delivery for each unit and sometimes offers multiple options, allowing you to choose the mode that is most convenient for you. If you need more information or guidance, the Registrar's Office is more than happy to provide assistance.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONTINUED

What is a Pilgrim Learning Hub?

The Pilgrim Learning Hubs are vibrant, collaborative learning communities that provide invaluable face-to-face support for online students residing in the same geographical area. These hubs were initiated by UCA congregations in suburban Heidelberg. With a broader reach in mind, Pilgrim hopes to establish similar hubs across the Synod or in Victoria.

Pilgrim offers a learning hub fee of A\$1,000, accommodating up to six participants. This is a cost-effective, collaborative option for those members in a community who want to learn together. Organising a learning hub with at least four participants can result in a lower audit fee compared to the standard individual audit fee of A\$450 per person.

If you are eager to connect with a local hub or are interested in establishing a hub in your vicinity, please reach out to the Registrar for more information and assistance.

What support will I receive if I enrol in University of Divinity units?

As a student, your learning will be supported by the Dalton McCaughey Library (DML) and the University of Divinity Library hub. Additionally, through a partnership with the University of Melbourne, you can access printed resources at the University of Melbourne libraries.

Pilgrim offers a wide range of online resources and in-person support to help with specific study skills and provide guidance on assessments. In addition, individual assistance is available via the DML and, for longer-term assistance, via a Student Support Plan.

To enhance the learning experience, Pilgrim, through the University of Divinity, utilises a web-based Learning Management System called ARK. This platform is tailored to efficiently organise and oversee unit resources, promote student interactions, foster active participation, and simplify the process of submitting assessments.

You can find an overview of the Student Support Services on the Pilgrim website at <https://pilgrim.edu.au/student-support/>. For additional assistance or clarification, please contact the Registrar's office, email: study@pilgrim.edu.au, direct line: **03 9340 8892**.

For financial assistance, see below.

How much will it cost?

Uniting Learning Units

Excluding the free introductory session, enrolling in a Uniting Learning unit costs A\$35 to A\$50. Please check page 26 of this course guide or the Uniting Learning Units webpage for complete information.

Pilgrim Theological College and the University of Divinity

As a college affiliated with the University of Divinity, Pilgrim's tuition fees for courses follow the university's established fee schedule and all associated fee provisions, as outlined in the university's Fee Policy.

In 2027, the cost of an 18-point undergraduate unit is A\$2,316, and a 24-point postgraduate unit is A\$3,588. Both international and domestic fees are the same; however, international students pay an additional application fee of A\$300. For detailed information about the 2027 course fees, please visit the University of Divinity Fees page at <https://divinity.edu.au/study/fees/>.

FEE-HELP and Austudy

Eligible Australian citizens can access the Higher Education Loan Program, or FEE-HELP, to cover their tuition fees. To check the FEE-HELP eligibility criteria, please visit the website via <https://www.studyassist.gov.au/financial-and-study-support/fee-help>.

Domestic students who are enrolled in full-time studies may qualify for Austudy through Centrelink. For more details about the eligibility requirements and the associated conditions of Austudy, please visit the Services Australia website via <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/austudy>.

Audit Fee, Learning Hub Fee and Micro credentials

Some Pilgrim units of study are open for professional development or personal enrichment through audit enrolment. Auditing a unit means undertaking the study program without completing formal assessment, or gaining accreditation.

In 2027, the audit fee to enrol in a single unit with an 18 or 24-point weight is A\$450 for individuals. For a micro unit, the fee is A\$300. The cost for Learning Hub is A\$1,000, which covers up to six audit enrolments.

Are there bursaries or scholarships?

Several bursaries and scholarships are offered by the University of Divinity and the Uniting Church in Australia, designed to support a student's educational journey, formation and ministry. Page 35 of this course guide provides an overview of these opportunities.

For comprehensive details, including application deadlines, please visit the links below. Additionally, you are welcome to contact the Registrar's Office at Pilgrim, study@pilgrim.edu.au, for more information.

- University of Divinity at <https://vox.divinity.edu.au/grants-scholarships/>
- Pilgrim Theological College at <https://pilgrim.edu.au/cw-scholarships/>
- Uniting Church in Australia Synod of Victoria and Tasmania website at <https://victas.uca.org.au/mission-resources/grants/educational-grants-scholarships/>

Where can I find more information?

We would be delighted to meet you either in-person or via video call to help you get acquainted with us and find the right starting point for your theological studies at Pilgrim.

Come and visit us at the Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent, Parkville. If an in person visit is not possible, please feel free to contact the Registrar's Office by phone or email to discuss your study options. The Registrar can also connect you with the appropriate Course Coordinators or the Academic Dean for personalised guidance.

The Registrar's Office is open every weekday from 9 am to 5 pm. You can contact us by phone at **03 9340 8892** or via email at study@pilgrim.edu.au.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CONTINUED

How do I enrol?

Uniting Learning Units

If you are interested in Uniting Learning subjects, continuing education and professional development options, please get in touch with us via email: study@pilgrim.edu.au

Clinical Pastoral Education

For further information about Uniting CPE programs and application closing dates please contact Rev Lauren Mosso, CPE Centre Director via email Lauren.Mosso@victas.uca.org.au or phone **0400 569 330**.

Pilgrim Theological College and the University of Divinity

Each applicant's academic program is specifically designed to address their individual needs. To enrol in one of the programs of study at the University of Divinity offered at Pilgrim, prospective students are advised to follow the recommended steps:

Explore - Pilgrim invites you to explore the diverse range of courses offered at the college through the Courses page of our website. The information on this page and the website, along with the timetable and course guide, will serve as valuable resources as you reflect on your decision to study. These resources are designed thoughtfully to provide you with an overview of the learning community that you will be a part of, the learning opportunities the college offers you, and the potential benefits you may derive when you undertake a theological journey with us.

Alternatively, you can contact the Registrar's office directly by email at study@pilgrim.edu.au or by phone on **03 9340 8892** to request this information.

Enquire - The Registrar's office warmly invites you to a discussion to get to know you and provide customised guidance regarding the options that may best support your studies, including information on what to prepare for the admission process. Additionally, the office can connect you with the Academic Dean, Research Coordinator, or other relevant offices to help you better understand your academic objectives.

Interview - The interview process helps you explore options and assess compatibility with available programs. Typically conducted by the Registrar or Academic Dean, it aims to clarify your educational and career objectives. While it is generally part of the enquiry process, a separate appointment can be scheduled if needed. The interview can take place over the phone, via video call, or in person.

Application - The final step in the admission process is submitting the necessary forms and documentary requirements for entry into the program of study. After your application has been thoroughly reviewed and approved, you will receive an Admission Letter from the University of Divinity along with supplementary information to facilitate your transition into the learning community at Pilgrim. Throughout this stage, the Registrar will offer guidance and support.

Enrolment for 2027 opens on 1 November 2026 with most classes running between February and November 2027. You can view the 2027 timetable by visiting the Pilgrim website: <https://pilgrim.edu.au>.

Please feel free to contact us to explore the ways in which we can assist you in your journey: **03 9340 8892** | study@pilgrim.edu.au.

KEY DATES

Enrolments open

1 November 2026

Semester 1

22 February – 28 May 2027

Winter intensive

14 June – 21 July 2027

Semester 2

26 July – 29 October 2027

GET IN TOUCH

03 9340 8892

study@pilgrim.edu.au

Facebook: /PilgrimTheologicalCollege/

Instagram: /pilgrimtheolcol/

#PilgrimTheological

Information in this course guide was correct at the time of printing. Pilgrim Theological College reserves the right to change course offerings, arrangements, and all other aspects without notice. Up to date information is available at www.pilgrim.edu.au



Uniting Church
Centre for Theology and Ministry

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Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

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