



Report from Trinity College Queensland

Context

Trinity College Queensland (TCQ) is the theological and ministry training college for the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod. Trinity College Queensland began in July 2014 as an amalgamation of Trinity Theological College, Pilgrim Learning Community and Chaplaincy education.

In 2015 Trinity College Queensland entered into an affiliation agreement with Charles Sturt University (CSU) under the auspices of the United Theological College, Sydney (UTC). UTC is New South Wales Synod's theological college. Through Charles Sturt University, Trinity College Queensland delivers teaching and supervision for the Diploma of Theology, Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Theology (Honours), Graduate Diploma of Theology, Master of Theology, Master of Ministry, Doctor of Ministry and PhD. This provides the academic formation for ordination in the Uniting Church along with ministry formation at TCQ.

Our affiliation with CSU affords Trinity ministry candidates and anyone interested in learning more about their faith with the opportunity to benefit from a wide range of subject and course offerings within an ecumenical approach to theological and ministry education. Additionally, Trinity's affiliation allows candidates access to some of the best, most cutting-edge theological minds and creative, rigorous research facilities in Australia.

TCQ provides education and training for chaplains in the Queensland Synod and across Australia through the Certificate IV in Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy. Our chaplaincy educators teach students all over the country online as well as conducting seminars in face-to-face learning community settings.

Amongst a wealth of other courses, Trinity College's adult faith educators teach the Uniting Church's lay preachers course, with all modules now available online as well as face-to-face. This allows rural and remote students to participate in lifelong learning together with their city and regional counterparts. Adult faith education also delivers a wide range of other courses designed to enhance practical Christianity, spirituality and discipleship.

Trinity Theological Library provides the whole church with leading-edge resources for exploring faith, researching theology, and enjoying God. Our library is also the home of our online learning platform, Trinity OLE. Trinity OLE provides students with a vehicle to communicate with each other, and with teaching staff and librarians. Webinars are conducted via OLE along with online courses, guided reading options and other resources for ministry and Christian formation. Trinity OLE has been sought out as a potential tool for use by other synods and Assembly.

Our mission

Leading the way: learning to serve.

Our vision

Trinity College Queensland is leading the way:

TCQ is the college for the Uniting Church in Queensland, providing pathways for lifelong discipleship and leadership formation.

Trinity College Queensland is learning to serve:

Empowered by God, TCQ educates, trains and encourages confident, competent ministers, leaders and disciples formed for Christian mission.

Our identified priorities

Trinity College's strategic priorities reflect those of the Board for Christian Formation (BCF) as they, in turn, engage the Synod current priorities.

Queensland Synod Current Priorities (SCP)

1. Worship gatherings that can include people who have never attended worship or belonged with church
2. Making faith sharing a priority for the Uniting Church
3. Church planting
4. Developing church planters – pioneers and entrepreneurs
5. Holy Spirit as defibrillator
6. Formation for ministry
7. Resource sharing urban/rural
8. Children, youth, young adults and family ministry as a priority.

BCF strategic priorities' engagement with the Synod priorities:

1. Lifelong formation for Christian life

- a) Across the generations and cultures (SCP 8)
- b) Faith sharing (SCP 2)
- c) Engaging worship (SCP 1)
- d) Pastoral care (SCP 1–8)
- e) Spiritual disciplines (SCP 5).

2. Leadership formation and ongoing professional development for Christian mission

- a) Christian service (schools and community services) (SCP 1, 2, 7, 8)
- b) Ministerial education (congregations) (SCP 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8)
- c) Missional communities (church plants and Fresh Expressions) (SCP 3, 6, 7, 8).

TCQ alignment with Board for Christian Formation strategic priorities:

1. Lifelong formation for Christian life:

- a) **Across the generations and cultures (SCP 8):** TCQ provides articulated pathways for life-long learning (see infographic).
- b) **Faith sharing (SCP 2):** TCQ is partnering with the Synod in bringing to presbyteries the Fresh Expressions-based Mission Shaped Ministry project. TCQ's lecturer in apologetics and evangelism conducted intensives on apologetics and evangelism in North Queensland, faith-sharing in Brisbane with Ian Robinson, Michael Moynagh and Mark Berry, and Mission Shaped Ministry in Moreton Rivers, The Downs, and South Moreton presbyteries.
- c) **Engaging worship (SCP 1):** TCQ provides academically accredited courses, formation and lay education in this area.
- d) **Pastoral care (SCP 1–8):** TCQ provides academically accredited courses, formation and lay education in this area.
- e) **Spiritual disciplines (SCP 5):** TCQ provides academically accredited courses, formation and lay education in this area.

2. Leadership formation and ongoing professional development for Christian mission:

- a) **Christian service (schools and agencies):** In 2015–16, TCQ developed an online Uniting Church in Australia induction package for use in UCA schools and UnitingCare Queensland agencies.
- b) **Ministerial education:**
 - TCQ provides academically accredited courses and formation in line with Assembly requirements for ministerial education.
 - TCQ's Cert IV in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care sets an industry benchmark for the training of chaplains in the Synod.
- a) **Missional communities (church plants and Fresh Expressions):**
 - TCQ is in partnership with the Synod's participation with Mission Shaped Ministry (Fresh Expressions of church/church planting).
 - TCQ is a participant in the Synod church planting network.
 - TCQ provides the opportunity for candidates to innovate through developing a pioneering project during their field education.
 - TCQ provides resources and has staff fully experienced in church planting.

TCQ alignment with Synod priorities (*See Appendix 1 – TCQ infographic):

1. Worship gatherings that can include people who have never attended worship or belonged with church:
 - Academic subjects on liturgical theology, plus Exploring Worship, Engaging Worship, Leading Worship and preaching courses online available to all presbyteries.
 - Emerging worship is a key element in the above subjects.

2. Making faith-sharing a priority for the Uniting Church:

- Academic subjects on apologetics, mission and evangelism.
- Apologetics and evangelism intensives have been conducted and are available to be conducted in presbyteries.
- Seminars conducted during 2015 included the missional and evangelistic work of Ian Robinson, Mark Berry and Michael Moynagh.

3. Church planting:

- TCQ is bringing to presbyteries the Fresh Expressions-based Mission Shaped Ministry project. The Mission Shaped Ministry courses (church planting and mission) are currently being conducted as a partnership between TCQ and Synod project officer – mission engagement, Scott Guyatt.
- TCQ incorporates a lecturer in apologetics and evangelism who has conducted intensives on apologetics and evangelism in North Queensland, faith-sharing in Brisbane with Ian Robinson, Michael Moynagh and Mark Berry and Mission Shaped Ministry in Moreton Rivers, The Downs, and South Moreton presbyteries.
- Experience and resources, staff available for consultancy.
- Pioneering project for all candidates.

4. Developing church planters:

- Mission Shaped Ministry courses as above.
- Pioneering project devised by candidates during six semesters of field education.
- Academic subjects on mission and evangelism, with emerging church components.
- Staff experience, resources and consultancy.

5. Holy Spirit as defibrillator:

- Examples in numerous courses/subjects.
- Regular (usually daily) TCQ staff prayer meetings.

6. Formation for ministry:

- Ministry formation has been redeveloped in 2015 and 2016 and now includes such innovations as candidate panels allowing greater encouragement, support and assessment of candidates by the whole church. This occurs by the appointment of a panel for each candidate which undergirds their pastoral care and assessment throughout their time in Phase 2 formation.
- Concurrent (three-year) field education/supervised ministry is another major innovation introduced by TCQ in 2016. Due to our collaboration in formation with UTC (NSW), Vic/Tas, and WA, TCQ faculty has brought Queensland Synod's candidate field education and supervised ministry in general into line with field education in these other synods. This means blocks of supervised apprenticeship-style action/reflection learning in a congregation or agency of the Queensland Synod, taken over each of the three years (six semesters as required by Assembly) of Phase Two formation, instead of all in one year. This allows for a potential speeding up of the academic process, less need for monetary support as well as a broader experience base where a student could have between three and six separate and different field placements.
- After a two year trial with formation as intensives only, TCQ has in 2016 returned to Monday formation gatherings, utilising GoToMeeting (online visual and teleconferencing) to include regional candidates and audit students. This has met with positive feedback and better

long-term outcomes for students. Monday formation also incorporates weekly chapel worship which is open to Synod staff and visitors.

7. Resource sharing urban/rural:

- Trinity OLÉ available for distance educational offerings such as the lay preachers' course.
- Formation subject and exposure visits for candidates: "Rural ministry".

8. Children, youth, young adults and family ministry as a priority:

- Academic and formation subjects/intensives in this area. Subjects now taught in the Bachelor of Theology with Charles Sturt University and available to candidates and the wider church.
- Staff experience and resources for consultancy.

Key achievements/initiatives

Charles Sturt University affiliation

TCQ faculty, Rev Dr Malcolm Coombes, Dr Janice McRandal, Dr Aaron Ghiloni, Dr Jason Le Cureux and Rev Dr Wendi Sargeant along with our administrator Alice Foo are excited to be working out the new affiliation agreement between TCQ and Charles Sturt University through United Theological College (NSW Synod), in partnership with St Francis Theological College (SFC). The agreement was fully executed early in 2016 after six months of negotiations.

- This entailed numerous meetings with staff from CSU and SFC assigning course offerings, timetabling, teaching loads, enrolment procedures and management, financial expectations and legal agreements, insurance, use of OLÉ, Interact 2 and other online technologies, distance education, library sharing, advertising, higher research supervision and so on.
- Head of the CSU's School of Theology, Associate Professor Gerard Moore and course coordinator Associate Professor Peter Pocock have both flown up from Sydney to conduct in-service training with faculty, librarians and administration staff.
- Our 2016 timetable has been established and finalised with St Francis College. The timetable includes BTh offerings, as well as BTh Hons, MTh, and MMin subjects.
- PHD and DMin are also available with TCQ faculty supervising from mid- 2016.
- Students will now be able to take subjects such as Applied Principles of Church Leadership, Youth Culture and Mission, Ministry Across the Lifespan (youth and children's ministry subjects), Cross Cultural Ministries, Aboriginal Culture and Spirituality, Theology of the Arts and Film and many more via face-to-face in Brisbane, distance education and online.

New chaplaincy and pastoral care course

- This Certificate IV has been developed by our chaplaincy educators Rev Lynne Gibson and John Coles in consultation with their registered training organisation, the Wesley Vocational Training Institute.
- A marked increase in the enrolments to our Cert IV came in 2016 as a result of a successful marketing campaign in late 2015. Thanks to Uniting Communications.

Trinity OLÉ

- Interest in the potential for wider church use of Trinity OLÉ has exploded to include several other synods and the Assembly. Trinity Theological library manager Lyndelle Gunton replaced Alethea Hubley in 2015. Alethea had served as library manager for over ten years.

We wish to acknowledge the wonderful work done by Alethea, paving the way for TCQ's major entrée into e-learning. Learning and teaching librarian Anna Lagos has been able to increase her hours but as TCQ continues to expand in this area, further support needs grow exponentially.

Lay preacher course fully online

- Thanks to the devoted work of adult faith educators Neil Thorpe and Rev Mel Perkins, the UCA-accredited lay preacher course is now fully available online as well as face-to face.
- March 2016 saw the calling of Neil Thorpe to a new role as presbytery minister of The Downs. We will miss Neil but are grateful for his passion and experience.

New director of education for ministry

- TCQ's new director of education for ministry Dr Leigh Trevaskis has been appointed by BCF and starts within a week of the writing of this report. We welcome Leigh to this challenging and stimulating role.

Challenges/risks as we progress

Resourcing and budgetary challenges

TCQ continues to be challenged to compete in the wider tertiary education marketplace. This means staying abreast of contemporary Christian teaching and learning research, content, techniques, and particularly e-learning. TCQ maintains and values a high level of face-to face teaching and contact with students in all areas of the college. But Queensland is a large state and online and distance options need further resourcing. Trinity OLÉ places TCQ in a great position to collaborate with other synods and to share life-long learning across the whole church, but ongoing support means meeting the challenge of resourcing this.

Issues to be addressed

E-learning and the development of the potential OLÉ offers must be addressed if we are to continue to go forward in theological and ministry education. This will increase our capacity for collaboration and keep Queensland Synod at the cutting edge of Christian learning and teaching.

Appendix 1



developing confident & competent ministers and other leaders

through lifelong discipleship formation

for the Uniting Church in Australia

LEADING THE WAY: LEARNING TO SERVE

Who do we serve?

- FAMILIES & CHILDREN
- YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS
- MINISTERS, LEADERS & DISCIPLES

How?

- TRINITY COLLEGE QUEENSLAND
- TRINITY THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY
- TRINITY COLLEGE QUEENSLAND | Online Learning Experience

Pathways for Learning

- Children & Families**
TCQ can provide:
Faith formation at home
Baptism education
- Youth**
TCQ can provide:
Youth Ministry
Leadership
Confirmation
- Ordination & After**
TCQ can provide:
Formation
Field Education
Candidate Panels
Continuing Education
Postgraduate Studies
- Adult Faith**
TCQ can provide:
Lay Education
Worship & Preaching
Certificate IV Pastoral Care

Period of Discernment



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