

# Summary of ACC Pathways for Theological Education and Ministry Training

Among the decisions made at the ACC AGM in September 2018 was the following:

encourage the ACC School of Faith to negotiate with like-minded evangelical theological and bible colleges in order to develop an alternative pathway for the teaching and training of candidates for ministry, ministry leaders and ministers.

The School of Faith has explored possible pathways for theological education and ministry training of ACC people and recommends the following colleges with whom we have had preliminary discussions. The faith-statements of these colleges are consistent with the faith of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church, as that faith is expressed in the Basis of Union.

## **Bible College of South Australia (Adelaide)**

BCSA offers the academic awards of the Australian College of Theology, Australia's oldest and largest provider of theological education.

Undergraduate and graduate courses are built around a core of classes in Bible, theology and ministry. Students can choose from a range of subjects including biblical Hebrew and Greek, Old Testament and New Testament overview and exegesis, Systematic Theology, Church History, Preaching, Evangelism, and more.

Primary offerings at the undergraduate and graduate levels are:

	Undergraduate	Graduate
One Year (or equivalent part-time)	Diploma of Theology Diploma of Ministry	Graduate Diploma of Divinity Master of Divinity
Three-Four Years (or equivalent part-time)	Bachelor of Theology Bachelor of Ministry	Master of Ministry

In addition to the formal academic program, BCSA also offers Ministry Formation Certificate which is free for all students. This runs over a three-year cycle and focuses on personal character formation and practical equipping for ministry.

For graduates who have already completed a first theological training—including those now working in vocational Christian ministry—several postgraduate options are offered for continuing study including a Master of Arts in Theology or Ministry

## **Tabor (Adelaide, Perth, Online).**

Tabor is a multidenominational College which upholds Christian orthodoxy as expressed in the Nicene Creed. They value and respect the vitality of Pentecostal and Charismatic expressions of faith, the biblical focus of Evangelical Christians and the distilled learning of the wider Church.

Tabor offers the following courses relating to ministry both face to face and online

Bachelor of Theology	available fully online, fully on campus in Adelaide, and a blend of online and on campus in Perth.
Bachelor of Ministry	available fully online, fully on campus in Adelaide, and a blend of online and on campus in Perth.
Diploma in Theology	which can be studies on-campus, online or a mix of both.

Certificate IV in Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy which can be studied via Blended Learning or Online. This qualification is nationally recognised.

Master of Divinity Preferred option at Tabor for those who already have degree.

Other Ministry and Theology Courses are Graduate Certificate in Divinity, Graduate Diploma in Divinity, Master of Divinity, Graduate Diploma in Ministry and Master of Ministry.

There may be the possibility in the future of an integrated subject with Tabor and the ACC, focussing on the Basis of Union and the key elements of the movement. This could be studied for credit towards one of Tabor's degrees and may be recognised by other Australian Higher Education providers.

## Kingsley Australia

Kingsley Australia is the ministry training institution of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia. It delivers training under the auspices of Unity College, and offers the following nationally accredited courses:

Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology

Diploma in Christian Ministry and Theology

Advanced Diploma IV in Christian Ministry and Theology

Graduate Certificate in Christian Ministry and Theology

Classes are delivered in local churches and regional centres throughout Australia. The courses are structured to be offered for Distant Education as well. Students can pursue distant studies through the Kingsley Australia Head Office. Website: [kingsley.edu.au](http://kingsley.edu.au)

### **Confessing Lay Preachers for ACC**

Those wishing to become accredited as Confessing Lay Preachers for ACC congregations can do their primary training through Kingsley Australia. They need to complete the following units:

- Introduction to the Old Testament
- Introduction to the New Testament
- Basic Christian Beliefs
- Introduction to Preaching
- Plus, an extra subject on the Basis of Union

Those finishing the above units may like to continue on to complete the Certificate IV and then the Diploma and Advanced Diploma.

## Moore Theological College (Sydney)

MTC offers the following courses:

1. Preliminary Theological Certificate (Unaccredited) Online, correspondence, or face-to-face
2. Diploma of Biblical Theology (Accredited) 1 Year full time; part time study available on-line face-to-face
3. Advanced Diploma of Bible, Mission and Ministry

4. Bachelor of Theology

3 years full time on site only (First year only available part-time)

5. Bachelor of Divinity 4 years full time on site only

## Sydney Missionary and Bible College

SMBC offers a wide range of courses – from undergraduate to postgraduate and doctorates. There is flexibility to study full-time or part-time via weekly lectures (day or evening) or intensive mode (a blend of classroom and online).

Strengths of the college are reflected in the SMBC Centre for Cross-Cultural Mission and the SMBC Centre for Preaching & Pastoral Ministry.

Study at SMBC will take you:

**DEEPER:** SMBC's academic curriculum is founded on, and saturated in, the Bible - the inspired word of God. Study at SMBC will give you a deep and systematic understanding of the Bible, its theology and its application to all aspects of life.

**WIDER:** SMBC is interdenominational – lecturers, staff and students represent various denominational allegiances. There is mutual respect and understanding for differing viewpoints, however the College is strongly Evangelical, with the teaching faculty united in their commitment to those matters which are of 'first importance' and form the heart of the gospel message. This, along with our international 'flavour', provides a diverse and healthy environment to study in.

**FURTHER:** Cross-cultural mission is the very DNA of SMBC. With three missiologists on staff, weekly visiting missionaries, a missionary mentoring programme, the SMBC Biennial Missions Conference, plus a broad range of missions units, SMBC excels in preparing its students for ministry across all kinds of cultural boundaries.

**CLOSER:** It is a priority of SMBC that in addition to gaining a deep knowledge of the Bible, our students continue to grow in holiness, with lives marked by prayer, love, humility and obedience to God. Time spent in the College community and being mentored by lecturers will help strengthen your Christian character and draw you closer into relationship with Jesus and his people.

SMBC is accredited by the Australian College of Theology. Learn more at [smbc.edu.au](http://smbc.edu.au)

*"For the sake of his holy name"*

## Rhema Bible Training College

School of Faith is also having conversations with Rhema Bible Training College, Brisbane, to look at ways at encouraging, training and equipping all the members in a local congregation so that the whole church is built up and better able to fulfil its mission into the world.