

BISHOPDALE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE - Report to NZATS

Introduction

The past year has largely centred on establishing the College in a fully-functioning operating mode, with developments on a variety of fronts. The challenge in the immediate to mid-term future is to move beyond an establishment stage into something that is sustainable, and also develops the more specific and distinctive aspects to what BTC has to offer the Diocese and the wider church.

Teaching Program

BTC offers courses towards the Diploma of Biblical Studies, Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Ministries qualifications, all in conjunction with Laidlaw College. The NZQA status for all courses is established through Laidlaw College, and offered by BTC through a Memorandum of Understanding (due for re-negotiation at the conclusion of this year). Our teaching mode is essentially 'blended-learning', with a combination of distance learning material with face-to-face tutorials.

Student enrolments have been as follows:

2008, Semester 2:	6 full-time	9 part-time	7.72FTE
2009, Semester 1:	12 full-time	11 part-time	16.4FTE

We have some indications that the number of PT enrolments (and one extra FT) will increase for Semester 2, 2009.

Bishop Eaton House

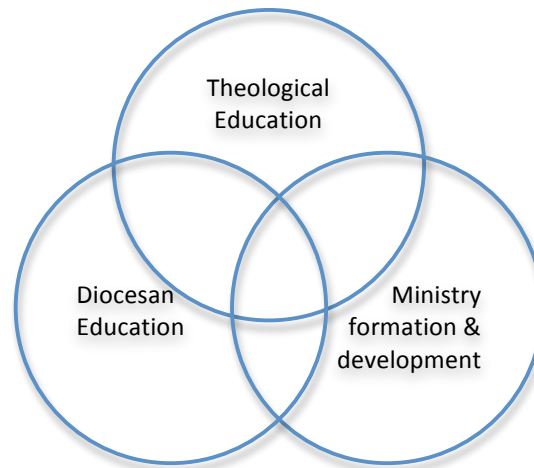
The establishment of our 'home' for the College has been the most significant development over the past six months. Bishop Eaton House was officially opened on April 4.. BEH now provides two ample sized classrooms, a working library, study room, two offices, common room and kitchen facilities, together with an outdoor courtyard area (still to be developed).

Progress and Future Directions

Progress to date has seen the establishment of one (foundational) sphere of the Colleges activities. This has still quite some way to go to settle into a sustainable mode, but the model has proven to be viable and effective.



The provision of theological education however, is only one sphere of the College's vision. Leadership formation needs to go beyond delivery of education, to incorporate and integrate on-the-ground experience and ministry development. To facilitate this, two further spheres are anticipated: broader diocesan education catering for lay education as well as ordination formation; and also the development of ministry formation and professional development.



While the foundation is now in place for the core elements of the activities offered in and through Bishopdale Theological College, many of the most distinctive and significant aspects still lie before us. It is the hope of the College to first and foremost serve the needs of the Diocese of Nelson, with wider availability and partnerships being developed with churches of the top of the South Island in particular. Beyond this, there is scope for the offering distinctive and good quality theological education and ministry formation and development more extensively throughout the Anglican Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and Polynesia.

It is in the interrelationship of these three spheres, and in more specialised offerings that a more significant and sustainable model will emerge. It will require adding a five day 'intensive block course' mode of operation alongside the present two semester pattern. This has the potential to open up a whole new market for our services, as well as interchange with other offerings on a cooperative basis.

Library

Our vision is for a well-resourced, up-to-date and diverse Christian library serving the needs of the top of the South Island. The foundation has been laid through purchase of the former Nelson branch library of BCNZ, and the incorporation of the Nelson Diocesan library college. We will continue to invest in up-to-date holdings, as well as developing e-text holdings at a more advanced research level. The catalogue is a sub-entity within the Anglican national catalogue.

Faculty:

Senior Tutors:

Dr Andrew Burgess (D Phil, Oxford) – Systematic theology, special interest in Barth
Rebecca Burgess (BA Classical Grk, Canterbury, B.Div Laidlaw, TESOL) – NT Greek

Dr Peter Carrell (Ph.D, Durham) – Old and New Testament, Church History
Mark Chamberlain (B. Theol, St John's; M.Min Otago) – NZ church history
Richard Drury (MA (Theol), Bristol) - Theology
Dr Tim Harris (Ph.D, Flinders) – New Testament & Biblical Theology (also NT moderator for ACTh)
Dr John Kingsbury (ThD, ACTh) – Missiology, Islamic studies
Liz Riley (BSc Victoria; BTh ACTh) – Spirituality and formation

Assisting Tutors:

Féy Cotter (B.Min Laidlaw; MTh student, Laidlaw) – New Testament
Murray Cotter (B.Min Laidlaw) – Mission (6 years in Albania)
Carol Drury (BA Hons (Theol), Bristol) - evangelism
Dr Graham O'Brien (Ph.D Molecular Biology Canterbury, MTh Laidlaw) Theology and science, ethics