

The Law of Ministry (TMM48220)

Module Level: 7

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

To equip students with an informed understanding of church law relating to lay and ordained ministry.

To equip students with an informed understanding of the legal position of ordained ministers in civil law.

To enable student to reflect on and develop their critical understanding of the law of ministry and its relationship to history, doctrine, and ecclesiology.

To enable students to undertake in-depth critical study of the law relating to ministry and its underlying theology.

Content:

This module will explore the law of ministry.

The module may be delivered in an entirely ecumenical and comparative context; or instead, it may focus on the law of a particular tradition (e.g. the Methodist Church; or the Church of England and other Anglican churches,) alongside a comparative ecumenical element.

Topics may include:

The historical, doctrinal, ecclesiological and juridical basis for the law relating to ministry.

Church law relating both to the laity and to ordained ministers, including in relation to eligibility for public ministry, admission to office, the rights and duties of office, and discipline.

Civil law which relates to ministry, including such topics as employment status and freedom of religion.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this module students will be able to:

Subject Specific Knowledge [SSK 1, 2, 3, 4]

Demonstrate a systematic understanding and depth of knowledge of the law of ministry.

Understand, assimilate and evaluate critically methodologies and findings relating to the law of ministry and the theology underlying the law.

Demonstrate an understanding of methods of analysis and inquiry relating to the law of ministry.

Give a critical and comprehensive account of a range of methods for relating the law of ministry to faith, church and society.

Subject Specific Skills [SSS 1, 2, 3]

Apply their knowledge to undertake independent investigation of an area of the law of ministry, reaching valid conclusions, some of which may be original, and report these findings effectively within the conventions of the relevant academic or professional community.

Evaluate and apply methodologies relating to the law of ministry, develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.

Reflect theologically in a sophisticated and rigorous manner, exercising sound judgement when engaging systematically and creatively with complex, unpredictable and ambiguous realities relating to ministry in the church and the world today.

Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]

Carry out systematic and creative research into complex issues and communicate their findings with clarity, sensitivity, fairness and imagination.

Demonstrate initiative, self-direction and independence in tackling and solving problems, and in planning and implementing tasks.

Exercise their independent learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

Modes of Teaching and Learning

Teaching methods to be specified by each TEI, using the 'Guidelines for Modes of Teaching and Learning'

Learning Hours

Learning hours to be specified by each TEI using the 'Guidelines for Learning Hours'

Formative Assessment

To develop a plan for the independent learning project including topic, stages and deadlines

Summative Assessment

Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for postgraduate modules.

Indicative Reading

Indicative reading to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on creating bibliographies for postgraduate modules.