

Baptist Union of Great Britain

TRAINING FOR LAY PASTORS AND PREACHERS

Course Descriptors

DOING THEOLOGY

(This is taught over two modules, at the same College)

Aims

The aims of this module are:

- To introduce different methods and models of doing theology.
- To provide a foundational understanding of the nature of practical theology.
- To enable participants to develop a theological approach to pastoral and mission practice.
- To introduce participants to some of the different ways of thinking about ethics and ethical issues within a Christian context
- To enable participants to respond appropriately to moral questions arising from ministry and mission in today's world

Description

In this module participants will be introduced to the main features of practical theology, so enabling them to engage in the task of relating the Christian theological tradition – biblical, systematic and historical – to the practice of ministry and mission. The main emphasis is placed upon learning to think theologically, and will include some emphasis on responding to ethical issues from within the Christian moral tradition. Use will be made of case studies and illustrations drawn from our modern context to help participants explore issues faced by Christians in our world today.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module, participants should be able to demonstrate:

- An understanding of the different ways of doing theology.
- The ability to read and interpret biblical and theological texts, and reflect upon their application to contemporary pastoral practice.
- The ability to engage in a process of critical reflection on, and response to, particular moral issues and dilemmas.
- The ability to work out the implications of core Christian doctrines for the mission and ethical life of the Church.

Assessment

There will be four assignments to be completed. It is expected that at least two of these will be a written piece of work (1200-1500 words) on a theme central to the area of learning covered in this module. The others may be the preparation of a 'journal', to include a variety of ways that illustrate the participant's engagement with the issues covered in this module (eg book review, poetry, case study).

Alternatively, two of the assignments and some of the teaching may be replaced by an extended piece of theological reflection (around 6000 words) or a portfolio of shorter pieces to this total.