

Baptist Union of Great Britain
TRAINING FOR LAY PASTORS AND PREACHERS

Course Descriptors

ENGAGING WITH CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

Aims

The aims of this module are:

- To explore the main features of contemporary culture, and the complex relationship between faith and culture.
- To explore possible attitudes towards, and understandings of, other faith communities.
- To explore ways in which the Christian church can/is engaging with modern culture, and to identify both strengths and potential problems with this engagement.

Description

Drawing on the experience of the participants, this module will examine the main features of contemporary culture. It will look at new ways of being church that respond to the cultural changes in our society, and will consider the basis for Church engagement with contemporary culture.

The significance of issues such as the nature of truth, the importance of story, and attitudes towards the environment/creation will be examined. Particular attention will also be given to the implications of living in a pluralist society.

Learning Outcomes

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

- An understanding of the significant features of contemporary culture and of the different responses of the Church to culture (including such concepts as modernism and post-modernism, Christendom and post-Christendom).
- An understanding of why and how new ways of being church are emerging.
- The ability to assess the theological implications of cultural changes in society for the life of the church.
- A basic understanding of the beliefs and values present in other faith communities, and the implications of pluralism for Christian engagement.

Assessment

There will be two assignments to be completed. It is expected that one 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 other will be the preparation of a 'journal' or some other suitable piece of reflective writing that illustrates the participant's engagement with the issues covered in this module (eg book review, poetry, case study).