

# **B50BF03 Ecclesiology & Sacraments**

Bachelor of Divinity Degree

Pacific Theological College

Semester 2B, 2014

Course Lecturer: Dr Richard Davis, Richard.Davis@ptc.ac.fj

## **Course Description**

The understanding of the church and the sacraments are shaped by major theological themes and insights. To think ecclesologically means to summarize and bring together all the foregoing theological insights and positions. Each denomination has its own perspective on how the church and the reign of God, Christ and the visible institution, the people of God and the Holy Spirit are coming together and are yet distinct from one another. What is the meaning of the sacraments and how can we bridge opposing interpretations? This course will investigate the traditional creedal affirmations about the church, and the contemporary models of the church, with a view to helping students to formulate an ecclesiology relevant for Pacific churches. Different perception of church unity in diversity and what the ecumenical dimension of the church has come to mean in the Pacific will be investigated and questions will be raised about the role of local cultures in the process. The BEM document will be analysed and compared with the different churches' understanding and practice.

## **Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- understand images of the church and their scriptural and cultural foundation
- describe what a sacrament is
- understand the history and practices of baptism and Eucharist
- understand the importance of church and sacraments in ecumenical discussions
- relate sacraments to theological ethics and political theology

## **Method of Teaching**

A combination of lectures, readings, writing and discussion.

## **Assessment**

There are two pieces of assessment:

### 1) Biblical reflection (40%)

1000-1500 words due Monday 20 October 2014.

Select a text from the Bible that relates to church, baptism, or Eucharist and write a reflection on this text, exploring its importance to the tradition of the church in relation to your chosen topic. You should also engage with a major theologian on this topic, such as Augustine,

Luther, Calvin, Barth.

## 2) Essay (60%)

2000-2500 words due Friday 31 October 2014.

The essay topic is adapted from the BEM document (p. viii):

*Please write an essay on the guidance your church can take from the BEM text for its worship, educational, ethical, or spiritual life and witness.*

You may narrow the focus to either baptism or Eucharist, or consider both. In the library there are several books of replies from churches to this question. They may provide a guide, but you should reflect on this document for your own church. The BEM text is online at:

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/commissions/faith-and-order/i-unity-the-church-and-its-mission/baptism-eucharist-and-ministry-faith-and-order-paper-no-111-the-lima-text>

## Course Outline

### **Week 1 - Introducing Church and Sacraments (week beginning 15 September 2014)**

During the first week students will be introduced to the concepts of church and sacraments.

#### **Session 1: Church**

##### Required Reading

- Daniel L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*, Chapter 'The new community'

#### **Session 2: Sacraments**

##### Required Reading

- Daniel L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*, Chapter 'Proclamation, sacraments, and ministry'

### **Week 2 - Models and Images of the Church (week beginning 22 September 2014)**

During the second week students will be introduced to the concepts of images of the church.

#### **Session 1: Models of the Church**

##### Required Reading

- Avery Dulles, *Models of the Church*, Chapter "The Use of Models in Ecclesiology"

#### **Session 2: Images of the Church**

##### Required Reading

- Paul S. Minear, *Images of the Church in the New Testament*, Chapter "Minor Images of the Church" (NOTE – this is a long reading, but the important point not to miss is to familiarise yourself with the images and their source in scripture)

### **Week 3 - Church and Sacraments (week beginning 29 September 2014)**

This week we examine church and sacraments in general terms.

#### **Session 1: Issues in Ecclesiology**

No reading.

#### **Session 2: Introduction to Sacraments**

Required Reading

- D. M. Baillie, *The Theology of the Sacraments & other papers*, Lecture I 'Sacrament, Nature and Grace' and lecture II 'The Sacraments and Sacred History' (in library on reserve shelf)

### **Week 4 - Baptism (week beginning 6 October 2014)**

This week we look at the sacrament of baptism.

#### **Session 1: The History of Baptism**

Required Reading

- John Macquarrie, *A Guide to the Sacraments* (1997), Chapters 6 and 7

#### **Session 2: Baptism - Contemporary Theology and Practice**

Required Reading

- James F. White, *Introduction to Christian Worship* (revised edition, 1990), Chapter 7 'Christian Initiation'

### **Week 5 - Eucharist (week beginning 13 October 2014)**

This week we look at the sacrament of Eucharist.

#### **Session 1: The History of the Eucharist**

Required Reading

- John Macquarrie, *A Guide to the Sacraments* (1997), Chapters 10 and 11.

#### **Session 2: The Eucharist - Contemporary Theology and Practice**

Required Reading

- James F. White, *Introduction to Christian Worship* (revised edition, 1990), Chapter 8 'Eucharist'

## **Week 6 - Church and Sacraments: Ecumenical and Ethical Dimensions (week beginning 20 October 2014)**

This week we look at ecumenical dimensions of the church and sacraments and their ethical impact.

### **Session 1: Ecumenical Discussion on Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry**

#### Required Reading

- *Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry* ("The Lima Text" of Faith and Order), 1982. Online at <http://bit.ly/1pyrnKK>

### **Session 2: Church and Sacraments in Theological Ethics**

#### Required Reading

- 'The Body of Christ: The Eucharist and Politics' by William T. Cavanaugh. Online at <http://bit.ly/1uviSYG>

## **Texts and Readings**

There is no prescribed published core text for this course. In its place, readings will be advised and books placed on the Reserve Shelf in the library. Please advise Dr Davis if you have trouble getting the readings.

There are many other books in the library on these topics to help with assignments.

Students should bring a copy of a modern Bible translation to each class, preferably the New Revised Standard Version.