

***Uniting Aboriginal & Islander
Christian Congress***

**Yalga-binbi Institute
for Community Development**
National Provider No. 31116

**National
Leadership
Training
Program**

**Diploma of
Christian Ministry**

30269QLD

Course Handbook

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CONTINUING TO STUDY AND LEARN: FROM THE COURSE COORDINATOR

Because you are beginning the Diploma you have already completed the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry. Congratulations on the achievement!

What have you learnt about your way of studying and completing assignments? When is the best time for you? What is the best place for you to work? It's good to think about these things and plan accordingly.

Part-time study requires a lot of discipline. You need to set aside time for your work, and then make sure you keep to it. You have probably realised this well before now. Some leadership interns have said to me, "I can do this, it's just a matter of getting around to it." Reading, thinking and writing can be challenging work, and it's very easy to put it off to "later." It may mean that you have to sacrifice your free-time or even family time to keep up with your study. There is no easy way to keep up with assignment work. Go with the Nike sports shoe slogan, "Just do it!"

Meeting regularly with your mentor is one way of structuring your learning time. Make sure you learn all you can from your mentor.

You are going to have a life-time of ministry and this course will be the foundation of your ministry. We hope that many of you will go on to further study after finishing the Diploma. All of you will participate in continuing education experiences – seminars, refresher courses and so on. However this is a grounding in knowledge and skills for ministry within the UAICC. I hope you will develop a love for learning, discovery and deep thinking about your learning and ministry.

Enjoy your learning!

Richard Wallace : Course Coordinator



ABOUT THE DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

What can I do with this course?

You are participating in this course because you have been supported by your local congregation or ministry area and your region of the UAICC. You have been identified as a person to fill a need within, first of all, your local fellowship or congregation, and to provide effective leadership there. This course, along with your being mentored in ministry skills locally, is designed to equip you to support your local ministry to achieve its missional goals. You may provide that leadership as a pastor, pastoral carer, youth worker, Sunday School organiser or other role as agreed in your church council.

Beyond this, the completion of the Diploma in Christian Ministry meets the requirements for ordination for candidates for Ministry of the Word, or Deacon with the Uniting Church in Australia.

Like the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry the Diploma is made up of Units of Competency. There are two parts to these units- compulsory units and elective units. Everyone one around Australia who does this Diploma must complete the compulsory units. Electives are units that are chosen for study. Everyone must do a certain number of these electives. Congress has chosen units from the Community Development area for the electives that UAICC Leadership Interns will complete.



FEES AND CHARGES

The UAICC will work with Interns to ensure that they are free to pursue their studies without undue concern for the support of their family. The costs of tuition will be largely met by partnership between National Congress, Congress Regions, Synods and local congregations. Interns will be asked to contribute a portion of their Incidental Allowance to cover Study Guides and Workbooks and other minor costs.

UNITS OF COMPETENCY

All the units of competency are listed here.

Compulsory	
CM13A	Analyses and interprets Christian traditions in the light of current thinking
CM14A	Analyses and interprets theological data
CM15A	Researches and analyses data within a theological theme or issue
CM16A	Analyses and evaluates new theological insights
CM17A	Relates theological theory to the Christian way of life
CM18A	Articulates theology in basic theological language
Electives	
CHCADMIN3B	Undertake Administrative Work
CHCCD14B	Implement a Community Development Strategy
CHCNET3B	Develop New Networks
CHCNET4A	Work with Other Services
CHCCS405A	Work with Culturally Diverse Clients and Co-workers
CHCCD2B	Provide Community Education Projects

The compulsory units of competency and their elements are distributed among the designated topics for study. This is the same pattern as in the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry. The subjects include Biblical, theological, ministry and history studies.

Biblical Studies

Hebrew Bible~Old Testament: Genesis, Isaiah 40-55.

New Testament: Gospel of Matthew, Acts of the Apostles, Romans

Theological Studies

Theology of Ministry and the Sacraments

Liberation/Contextual theologies

Trinity

Ministry and Historical Studies

Worship Leadership and Preaching

History of Mission and Indigenous church



DESCRIPTION OF UNITS & SUBJECTS

Subject Summaries

Genesis

The participant will read and reflect on the stories of creation in Genesis and consider some Indigenous creation stories. They will also study and exegete stories of sin, covenants the patriarchs in Genesis in the light of contemporary Indigenous experience.

Isaiah 40-55

This study will cover the historical context and literary genre and consider the Jewish experience of exile and the rethinking of ideas of God and God's purposes. The participant will also consider the themes of cultural survival and resources for survival alongside the experience of Indigenous Australians.

Gospel According to Matthew

The participant will study the cultural and historical contexts of Matthew and pay particular attention to the picture of Jesus in the gospel. This study will present major themes, including Proclaiming the Kingdom, Jesus: A different interpreter of the Law, and Jesus and the church. The participant will exegete selected texts, and present interpretations in the light of personal experience.

Acts of the Apostles

This topic will cover major background issues for Acts as well as the significant and speeches in Acts. Participants will explore the beginnings and development of the church as described in Acts as well as cross-cultural matters and issues for the Indigenous church today.

Romans

This study of Paul's letter to the Romans will consider background issues as well as major themes such as Law and Grace. Participants will also reflect on ethical implications of passages in Romans and exegete selected texts from an Indigenous perspective.

Theology of Ministry and the Sacraments

This topic will consider the emerging patterns of ministry in the New Testament church as well as questions like, "Who is called to Christian ministry?" and "What does ordination mean?" Participants will explore contemporary perspectives on ministry within the contexts of the UAICC and the Uniting Church as well as theological approaches to the Holy Communion, or Eucharist, and baptism.

Liberation and Contextual Theologies

Participants will explore the pursuit of social justice and the empowerment of marginalised peoples in these theological approaches. The topic will also provide introductions to “Liberation Theology”, “Dalit Theology”, “Minjun Theology”, Native American and African theologies and explore Australian Indigenous theology as a vehicle for transformation.

Trinity

Participants will explore the Biblical background and the broad development of the doctrine of the Trinity from an historical perspective. They will compare these with the conceptions of God in other traditions, and communicate the contemporary relevance of the doctrine of the Trinity for Indigenous audiences.

Worship Leadership and Preaching

Participants will explore theological and practical approaches to worship and leadership and preaching. They will consider the nature of liturgy and construct liturgies that are relevant to Indigenous Christians. A significant part of the topic will be practical in nature with participants demonstrating their skills in these areas.

History of Mission and Indigenous Church

Participants will explore the Indigenous experience of missions in colonial Australia and their documented effects on Australian Indigenous people. They will consider development of an Australian Indigenous church (UAICC), its vision and structure and investigate the role of the Australian Indigenous church in the context of globalised economies and contemporary government policy. There will be a project where participants record an oral history of a local fellowship.

Elective Unit Summaries

CHCADMIN3B Undertake Administrative Work

The participants will undertake a range of administrative skills in the workplace, including maintaining financial accounts and participating in the budget process. They will also demonstrate skills in the operation and maintenance of workplace equipment.

CHCCD14B Implement a Community Development Strategy

This unit covers working with individuals and in the community to identify

issues and facilitate public awareness for their resolution. It will require participants to work with individuals and groups to establish and support cooperative processes.

CHCNET3B Develop New Networks

Participants will discover strategies for setting up formal networks which will benefit the local, and wider, church and their members. They will develop and maintain appropriate networks and reflect social and cultural awareness in developing and maintaining those networks

CHCNET4A Work with Other Services

This unit describes the ability to liaise and facilitate linkages between all community services including specialist and generalist services in the community to ensure support of people in need. Identify and maintain links with relevant services

Work with and support community services organisations to deliver appropriate services to people in need.

CHCCS405A Work with Culturally Diverse Clients and Co-workers

This unit deals with the cultural awareness required for effective communication and cooperation with persons of diverse cultures. Participants will apply an awareness of culture as a factor in all human behaviour and discover strategies to resolve cross-cultural misunderstandings.

CHCCD2B Provide Community Education Projects

This unit covers how to work with a group or community in the planning, implementation and review of community education projects relevant to the people's issues.



COURSE DETAILS

The entry requirement for the Diploma of Christian Ministry is the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry. That means before anyone can start studying the Diploma of Christian Ministry they have to complete the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry.

DELIVERY OF THE COURSE

Yalga-binbi will deliver the course in the same way as the Certificate IV in Christian Ministry. That is, you will attend four ten-day study blocks each year. Students who maintain a steady learning schedule will complete it in two years.

Year 1	Subject	Year 2	Subject
Term 1	Gospel of Matthew	Term 1	Genesis
	Implement a Community Development Strategy (CHCCD14B)		Undertake Administrative Work (CHCADMIN3B)
Term 2	Isaiah 40 – 55	Term 2	History of Mission/ Indigenous Church
	Acts of the Apostles		Trinity
Term 3	Worship Leadership and Preaching	Term 3	Develop New Networks (CHCNET3B)
	Theology of Ministry and Sacraments		Work with Other Services (CHCNET4A)
Term 4	Provide Community Education Projects (CHCCD2B)	Term 4	Romans
	Work with culturally diverse clients and co-workers (CHCCS405A)		Liberation/Contextual Theologies

ACCESS AND EQUITY

The Institute is committed to the principles of access and equity in its provision of education and training opportunities and in its employment policies and practices.

Yalga-binbi Institute will not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, disability, age, ethnic origin, gender, marital status, pregnancy, or family responsibilities, in accordance with the provisions of Commonwealth and Queensland legislation.

However, it recognises the need for special priority to be given to Indigenous Australians in order to overcome the effects of discriminatory practices of the past. The Institute actively encourages Indigenous people to participate in all of its courses and training programs, and will adapt these to suit the identified needs of Indigenous people.

All courses provided by Yalga-binbi Institute are professionally developed with the co-operation of the relevant industry and conform with the standards required by the Australian Quality Training Framework.

All courses are provided by qualified and professional staff competent in the relevant vocational areas.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The rights and responsibilities of students are written in the 'Student Code of Conduct.' This is printed in the Student Handbook. It sets down what students and the Institute and its staff can expect from each other.

This code of conduct has been designed to ensure a productive learning environment and pleasant atmosphere for all students and staff, both in and out of the formal class situation.

Institute staff are responsible for ensuring that there is a productive, safe, and secure learning environment for the delivery of its courses. This may mean the formulation of classroom and campus rules and regulations to ensure that this Code of Conduct is enforced. Staff have the authority to ensure that students' rights are protected and that students carry out their responsibilities.

One important responsibility of all students is to refrain from bringing any alcohol or prohibited drugs on to Institute premises. Intoxicated students are not allowed on the campus.

TEACHING STAFF

The main lecturers in the Christian Ministry Course are Richard Wallace and John Adams. Both Richard and John are ministers of the Uniting Church. Richard has had long pastoral ministry experience in South Australia, Fiji and California. He was a Theology teacher at Nungalinga College, Darwin for three years, and worked for the Northern Region Council of Congress as a ministry support worker.

John has had extensive experience as a community development worker in Indigenous communities, particularly in northern Queensland. He helped establish an office for Yalga-binbi Institute in Cairns from 1990 to 1998. He has undertaken pioneering work in the establishment of community justice groups and adult education programs.

Visiting lecturers and guest speakers will assist in the delivery of content throughout the course.



RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) & MUTUAL RECOGNITION

The Institute recognises the qualifications and Statements of Attainment gained in other Registered Training Organisations and TAFE colleges, and as far as possible, will cross-credit qualifications or units of training when enrolling students in its courses.

The Institute will also make provision for recognition of prior learning (RPL) from other institutions and experiences, and arrange assessment strategies by which students may gain formal recognition for this learning towards their qualifications in Yalga-binbi Institute.

An information brochure on RPL and application forms are available.

ACCESS TO RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

The Certificate IV in Christian Ministry incorporates a strong emphasis on learning through practical involvement in the local church congregation or ministry area or life of the community.

Therefore, admission to the course is subject to a clear understanding between the congregation, the Intern and Yalga-binbi of the role the Intern will exercise in the life of the local congregation. This agreement will include all the practical ministry and other field work to meet the course requirements.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Special support will be organised wherever possible to assist students in their academic achievement and in their general welfare as students of Yalga-binbi Institute.

Professional counselling and student support are available.

Where students have needs in numeracy and literacy, the Institute will organise to provide appropriate support by way of tutoring or organising access to special courses.



COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Yalga-binbi Institute has policies and procedures for lodging complaints and grievances. Complaints and grievances may range from academic matters to issues concerning teaching and assessment, harassment and discrimination, and other matters concerning student welfare.

On acceptance into a course, students will be informed of the policies and procedures for dealing with such matters.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ADMISSION AND ENROLMENT

Congress members interested in the program should contact their local minister or Region Resource officer to explore their sense of call. When the local congregation, the Congress Region and the Congress MEB (in the case of application for a specified ministry) affirm a personal sense of call through their respective processes, the person may make an application for admission.

Admission and enrolment application forms can be obtained from the Course Co-ordinator.

The Institute is located in the Townsville suburb of Condon, at 190 Hervey Range Road. It is situated on the campus of the Shalom Christian College.

Contact:

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UAICC Leadership Training

- holistic ministry
worker formation
using mentors

**Yalga-binbi Institute
for Community Development**



**NATIONALLY RECOGNISED
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