



**LAIDLAW**  
centre for  
**CHURCH  
LEADERSHIP**

# FORMATION

A Laidlaw at Large Course at Your Local Church



Last updated: May 16, 2022

# Formation

## A Laidlaw at Large Course at Your Local Church



In John 15, Jesus calls us to “abide” in him like branches joined to a vine, so that his life will course through us and “bear much fruit.” Growing in this relationship is a life-long journey. There are foundational truths to keep exploring. There are practices to discover that can open us to the good work of the Spirit, transforming us into the image of Jesus for the glory of God and for the sake of the world. Come and join us as we learn to abide and to live from this life in us together.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

*Formation* is an invitation to explore some foundational truths about this life with God and open ourselves to his continuing work in us. We’ll explore who God is and who we are as His children – and then, how do we live out of His life in us? How do we grow more deeply in love for God and for our neighbour? We’ll learn about a range of spiritual practices from deep in the Christian tradition, as well as some of their more recent expressions, and we’ll try them out together. Our hope is that you’ll find some new, creative ways of encountering God, which will be like a trellis supporting and developing your connection to the vine. Our prayer is that His life in you will bear much fruit, for the Father’s glory, for your joy, and for the blessing of others.

### LECTURERS

**Dr Maja Whitaker** is a lecturer in Practical Theology at Laidlaw College, based at the Christchurch campus, and a pastor in the Equippers network of churches. She is passionate about spiritual formation and helping others understand how to follow the way of Jesus in contemporary cultural contexts. Maja is married to Dave, and they have four daughters aged from high school to preschool. She loves to spend her downtime in the garden, out for a run, with a good book, in the kitchen baking, or napping – all of which she would argue are spiritual practices of one kind or another! Maja loves to go on the journey with her students. You’ll find the classroom is a space to both learn and contribute, and one in which we can be open about the wrestle that’s involved in working out these deep truths in our lives.



**Ryan Lang** teaches in theology at Laidlaw College and is based at our campuses in Auckland. He was born in Pakistan, where his parents served as relief workers, and he grew up between there and Aotearoa. After a season working with humanitarian communities here and overseas, he came home in 2015 and set out on the beautiful journey that is theological education. Ryan loves conversations about faith and life, grief and hope, Christian imagination and the beauty of God. He is passionate about the Church growing in love for God and for the world. He is married to the lovely Ashleigh. They are part of Valley Road Church, and their side hustle is mastering the sourdough loaf: baking (Ashleigh) and eating (Ryan).



# Laidlaw at Large

Laidlaw Courses in Local Churches – A Videoconferencing Option



## HOW IT WORKS

It is an interactive videoconference, including your church site, the Henderson and Manukau campuses of Laidlaw, and 5-6 other church sites. You come to your local church each Tuesday, sit around discussion tables with 6-15 others, and watch a screen or large TV that will show the lecturer and their display. You'll also be able to see the other classes at their various locations. You control what you see and what the lecturer hears. Sometimes the lecturer will be talking, sometimes they will get you to discuss things in your local small groups, sometimes they will have a big discussion with all the sites simultaneously. The experience is very close to having the lecturer in the room with you.

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Details

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Lectures will happen every Tuesday, 6:30-9:30pm, from 19 July to 15 November 2022. The first lecture will be shorter and introductory, and there will not be lectures during school holidays. If you are doing the course for credit, you should expect to spend another 7 hours each week reading and doing assignments. If you are doing the course just for interest, then we recommend spending another hour a week doing assigned reading.

### Costs

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There are two options.

- For credit (includes assignments): \$856.50
- Just for interest: \$266.75

While we recommend the credit option (as you learn best by applying your knowledge), we recognise that not everyone has time to be able to do this. Note that the credit option can also count towards a diploma or bachelor's degree.

## NEXT STEPS

### Questions

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If you have questions, first talk to the relevant people at your church. For anything they cannot answer, feel free to contact Graeme Flett at Laidlaw (freephone 0800 999 777).

### Interested

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If you are interested, first give your details to the relevant people at your church. They will then give you instructions about how to sign up at <https://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/apply/>.

The final date for applications is 24 June 2022 for credit, but if possible, we need to know well before then to properly set up your church as a remote lecture site. The sooner you can enrol the better. You don't need to pay until a few weeks before the course starts.

# LIDLAW AT LARGE ENROLMENT PROCESS

1. The participating church promotes course and enrolls members.
2. Church directs those wanting to enrol for credit or non-credit as follows:

## For Credit



### ONLINE:

<https://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/apply/>

## Non-Credit



### CHURCH OFFICE ENROLS PARTICIPANT

Participant pays Church office - \$266.75 (this includes GST)

Church sends a summary of participants to Laidlaw School of Theology Office, Theology@laidlaw.ac.nz via the registration form.

Enrolments for LL@L close Monday night 10 July



### CHURCH RECEIVES ACCOUNT FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE NON-CREDIT STUDENTS

Payment of account as per invoice to Laidlaw College