



**LIDLAW  
THEOLOGY**

# Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (Pastoral Leadership) (PGDipTh(PL))

Level 8, 120 credits

This programme is designed for experienced ministry leaders who have completed the Graduate Certificate in Theology (Pastoral Leadership) with a GPA of at least 7.0 (B) or who hold prior academic degrees in undergraduate theology/ministry and significant leadership within a recognised ministry context.

Students in this programme will also engage in the Pastoral Leadership Pathway.

## Flexible Study Options

Postgraduate courses are taught in block courses of one or two weeks (depending on the particular course). This allows people living outside of Auckland to travel for just the block course teaching, and helps those working full time to fit postgraduate studies into their busy lives.

*\*Note that, apart from R351, Postgraduate courses do not have a Distance Learning option - live engagement in the lectures is a necessary part of postgraduate study at Laidlaw. In some cases, students may be able to join block courses by videoconference.*

## The PGDipTh(PL) caters for

- Those who have completed the GradCertTh(PL) with a GPA of at least 7.0 (B);
- Those who have successfully completed a recognised undergraduate degree in theology or Christian Ministries who wish to study towards a Postgraduate qualification with special emphasis on areas of pastoral leadership.

In addition to the above:

- Admission in the programme requires evidence of a minimum of five years' recognized ministry leadership experience (or similar approved experience);
- Applicants must complete a police check;
- Applicants must complete a questionnaire and may be required to have an interview;
- Applicants must provide a written reference from a senior ministry leader.

# Programme Requirements

The PGDipTh(PL) is a one-year full-time (or part-time equivalent) programme. It is made up of four level 8 courses of 30 credits each. Within each semester there will be required and/or recommended courses that are specific to the PGDipTh(PL) programme.

**On completion of the Postgraduate Diploma in Theology (Pastoral Leadership) Laidlaw College graduates will:**

- 1. Evaluate critically a wide spectrum of literature in each of the coursework areas and in the areas of the research undertaken.**
- 2. Demonstrate mastery of the issues of debate in each of these areas.**
- 3. Give a fair and informed account of representative points of view in each subject area.**
- 4. Utilise sound hermeneutical principles in contextualising biblical theology within the subject area studies.**
- 5. Demonstrate advanced skills of research, critical analysis and constructive synthesis and application so as to make a significant contribution to knowledge in their area of specialisation.**
- 6. Reflect on the professional, ethical, and relational implications of their study for ministry in the modern world.**

## 2026 Fees

**Domestic: \$2,193** per 30-credit course. **\$8,772** for programme (4 courses, 120 credits).

**International: \$6,390** per 30-credit course. **\$25,560** for programme (4 courses, 120 credits).

**Pastoral Leadership Pathway: \$800** per year. This includes a 3 day annual retreat, monthly two-hour interactive cohort learning sessions, access to international guest speakers/lecturers, and 4 coaching sessions. This fee does not cover transport costs to or from gatherings and would not be covered by a student loan.

*NOTE: Annual fee may vary. A Student Services fee of \$4.20 per credit is charged for on-campus courses or \$63 per semester for distance learning. Please refer to Fee Schedule for more details [www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees)*

UPDATED 1 DECEMBER 2025

**READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?**

**0800 999 777**

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# Laidlaw Postgraduate Courses 2026

These courses may be taken in any order, though it is recommended that you discuss course selection with Laidlaw staff. There is one course in each semester that has been marked as recommended/required for Pastoral Leadership pathway students.

## Semester One 2026

### R155.830 ROMANS

**Dr Phillip Porter**  
25-27 Mar | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm  
27-29 May | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm

It has been said that Romans is “arguably the most influential letter ever written” (Gorman). In this course students will have the opportunity to explore this letter together in lectures, in group discussion, and in engagement with the remarkable body of (recent) evangelical scholarship this letter has prompted. The course includes exegesis of most chapters in Romans, an assessment of the major approaches to reading Romans, and an exploration of a range of associated theological issues. Along the way, students will be guided to unpack the implications of this letter for their own lives and communities. Students should expect to come out of this course excited about the gospel of Christ and further equipped for Christian life and ministry leadership.

### R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING

**Dr Samuel Carpenter and Rev. Dr Sarah Penwarden**  
17-20 Feb | Tue-Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-1:30pm  
31 Mar-2 April | Tue-Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-1:30pm

Postgraduate Research and Writing introduces you to the wonder and joy of research. It is a course designed to inspire students with the vast breadth of cutting-edge investigations that are being done by the lecturers at Laidlaw, and then to teach them how to research themselves by partnering with one of these lecturers. Students will develop and hone the skills of research and writing by designing and implementing a short research project in their own area of interest.

### R361.830 RESEARCH PAPER

Supervised research on an approved topic in an aspect of Theology and/or related disciplines.

### R512.830 FOUNDATIONS OF MINISTRY SUPERVISION

**Rev. Dr Karen Kemp and Dr David Crawley**  
4-6 Mar | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm  
6-8 May | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm

This is the first of two courses which together comprise a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, designed to equip graduates to offer professional supervision in a range of ministry contexts (understanding ministry in the broad sense of Christian vocation). It examines the nature and purpose of professional supervision, including its importance in people-related ministries. Several theoretical approaches to supervision will be evaluated and participants will reflect critically on theological, ethical, and cultural dimensions of offering supervision in their own contexts.

*Note: Entry to this course is normally through enrolment in the PGCertTh(MinSup). If you are enrolled in a different programme, please contact the Postgraduate Administrator to see if you are eligible to select this course.*

### R609.830 MISSION OF THE CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY (RECOMMENDED FOR PL STUDENTS)

**Dr Allen Yeh**  
9 - 13 March | Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

The Mission of the Church in the 21st Century is a theological exploration of best mission practice analysed through studying scripture, church history, and contemporary cultural contexts in Aotearoa and beyond. This course is designed to contribute to a renewed missional understanding given modern-day shifts in culture, politics, worldviews, and missional realities.

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# Semester Two 2026

## R236.830 BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

**Rev. Dr Myk Habets**  
20-22 July | Mon-Wed, 9am-5pm  
12-14 Oct | Mon-Wed, 9am-5pm

This course provides an opportunity for students to engage in theological or historical disciplines in an advanced way. The course involves a concentrated study of a theological theme or doctrine, or of a selected historical period, development or issue. Critical issues of background and context are explored, and contemporary applications to the complex cultural landscapes that exist within Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond are explored.

## R351.830 POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH AND WRITING

**Dr Samuel Carpenter and Rev. Dr Sarah Penwarden**  
By distance throughout the Semester.

Postgraduate Research and Writing introduces you to the wonder and joy of research. It is a course designed to inspire students with the vast breadth of cutting-edge investigations that are being done by the lecturers at Laidlaw, and then to teach them how to research themselves by partnering with one of these lecturers. Students will develop and hone the skills of research and writing by designing and implementing a short research project in their own area of interest.

## XXX.830 THE INNER LIFE OF THE LEADER (REQUIRED FOR PL STUDENTS)

**Rev. Dr Karen Kemp**  
TBC

This course explores the critical role of the inner life in the formation of the leader and sustainability of Christian ministry. It addresses four foundational areas - spiritual integrity, intimacy with God, emotional and moral resilience, and the formation of authentic discipleship. Through engagement with Scripture, classic and contemporary texts, personal reflection, and embodied practice, students will develop a robust theology of the inner life that integrates both Pākehā and Māori understandings of spirituality, and cultivate a life deeply rooted in Christ, to sustain and enable Christlike stewardship of power in the service of ministry that is both faithful and fruitful.

## R361.830 RESEARCH PAPER

Supervised research on an approved topic in an aspect of Theology and/or related disciplines.

## R405.830 MENTAL HEALTH & HUMAN FLOURISHING

**Rev. Dr Maja Whitaker and Rev. Dr Sarah Penwarden**  
16 Jul | Thurs, 7:30pm-9:00pm (online tutorial)  
17-20 Aug | Mon-Thurs, 9am-5pm  
21 Aug | Fri, 9am-1:30pm

Mental distress can be a common but challenging aspect of human experience. In this course, students will explore how to understand mental distress from within the framework of practical theology. Students will learn how to articulate a theology of mental distress as well as human flourishing and shalom, through a focus on mental health in general and particular experiences such as anxiety, depression and bipolar disorder. Students will gain an understanding of issues of stigma surrounding mental distress in society. Students will evaluate pastoral responses to mental distress, and will articulate an understanding of what a wise, compassionate, and informed pastoral response might involve within the varied cultural contexts of Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.

## R513.830 DEVELOPING A MINISTRY SUPERVISION PRACTICE

**Rev. Dr Karen Kemp and Dr David Crawley**  
29-31 Jul | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm  
9-11 Sep | Wed-Fri, 9am-5pm

**Pre-requisite: R512.830**

This is the second of two courses which comprise a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, designed to equip graduates to offer professional supervision in a range of ministry contexts (understanding ministry in the broad sense of Christian vocation). Through the integration of theory, practice, and theology, it enables practitioners to develop a framework for supervision appropriate to their own cultural and professional contexts, and to engage in critically reflective practice.

*Note: Entry to this course is normally through enrolment in the PGCertTh(MinSup). If you are enrolled in a different programme, please contact the Postgraduate Administrator to see if you are eligible to select this course.*

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# Pastoral Leadership (PL) Pathway

Participants with at least 80% attendance will receive a certificate of completion.

To apply for the PL Pathway please contact the Pastoral Leadership Coordinator Louise Wernich - [Lwernich@laidlaw.ac.nz](mailto:Lwernich@laidlaw.ac.nz)

## ANNUAL RETREAT

**Facilitators: Matt Lilly and Louise Wernich**  
**21-23 April**  
**Flaxmill Retreat Centre**

The three-day retreat is a focused, immersive learning experience within the Pastoral Leadership Pathway, designed to integrate theological reflection with practical ministry formation. Across learning sessions, group discussion, and prayer, participants engage deeply with key themes such as the formation of healthy, disciple-making communities; the inner life of the leader; engagement with God's mission; communication and preaching; spiritual vitality; organisational leadership; ethics; pastoral care; and other contextual issues.

The intensive provides space to wrestle with real-world pastoral challenges, learn from experienced practitioners, and apply insights directly to ministry. Strengthened by the cohort learning environment, this gathering accelerates leadership growth.

## MONTHLY ONLINE GATHERINGS

**Facilitators: Matt Lilly and Louise Wernich**  
**10 monthly sessions on a Wednesday evening 7pm-9pm**  
**or Thursday morning 9am-11am**

Each month, you join online sessions featuring expert input and training from a variety of experienced ministry practitioners. These gatherings combine input with interactive discussion, giving participants space to reflect, ask questions, and engage with peers. The sessions foster ongoing learning, community connection, and practical application.

## COACHING SESSIONS

**Centre for Church Leaders Senior Coaches**  
**4 1-hour sessions**

You receive personalised coaching that supports your growth in pastoral identity, skill, and formation. Through reflective conversation and practical guidance, the Senior Coach helps you integrate learning with real ministry, set meaningful goals, and navigate leadership challenges. These sessions provide a trusted space for encouragement, clarity, and next steps, ensuring you are accompanied and well-supported throughout the pathway.

## ACCESS TO GUEST SPEAKERS/LECTURES

**Invites to be sent out when applicable**

You benefit from input and proximity to international and local guests who bring fresh insight, diverse experience, and practical wisdom. These sessions broaden perspectives, deepen theological reflection, and expose you to a range of ministry contexts and leadership approaches - contributing to your overall formation journey.

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