

DIPLOMA PROGRAM

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Diploma program is:

1. to train men and women to become pastors/priests and other church leaders for the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, COM and other churches in Vanuatu and the Pacific region.
2. to prepare men and women to provide Christian leadership in the church and the community through sound and relevant teaching of God's word; through compassionate pastoral care; through their example in godly living, evangelism and care for the needy; through their ability to work within the structures of the church; through the efficient administration of their responsibilities; and through their involvement in the mission of the church.
3. to equip men and women to be able to encourage and develop gifts of ministry in others and train them to be faithful disciples of Christ who will undertake the various ministries necessary for the good health and up-building of Christ's church.
4. to stimulate reflection on and application of Biblical principles for issues of life and faith in a Pacific context.

The Diploma program, while aiming to achieve a suitable level of academic excellence, also aims to develop within the students spiritual maturity; willingness to learn; ability to relate God's word to people at all levels of the community; ability to make use of local resources; self motivation; ability to work with others and compassion for those who are lost without Christ.

OUTLINE

	Year*
Biblical Studies	
Unit 101 Introduction to the Bible	D1
Unit 102 Biblical Interpretation	D2/3 - A
OT	
Unit 116 Pentateuch	D1
Unit 117 Joshua to 1 Kings 11	D1
Unit 118 Divided Kingdom to Exile and Prophets	D2/3 - A
Unit 119 Life in Exile to Restoration and Prophets	D2/3 - A
Unit 120 Worship and Wisdom Writings	D2/3 - B
NT	
Unit 121 Synoptic Gospels	D1
Unit 122 The Writings of Luke	D1
Unit 123 Pauline Epistles 1	D2/3 - A
Unit 124 Pauline Epistles 2	D2/3 - B
Unit 125 The Gospel of John	D2/3 - A
Unit 126 Hebrews to Revelation	D2/3 - B
Doctrinal Studies	
Unit 131 The Knowledge of God	D1
Unit 132 Humanity and Sin	D1
Unit 133 God's Solution to Sin	D2/3 - A
Unit 134 The People of God	D2/3 - B
Unit 135 The Doctrine of the Last Things	D2/3 - B
Unit 136 New Religious Groups	D2/3 - A
Unit 137 Ethics	D2/3 - B
Church History	
Unit 141 Early Church History	D1
Unit 142 Reformation Church History	D2/3 - A
Unit 143 Vanuatu Church History	D2/3 - A
Unit 144 Pacific Church History	D2/3 - B
Unit 145 Christianity World-Wide (AD 1800 onward)	D2/3 - B
Christian Education	
Unit 151 Introduction to Christian Education	D1
Unit 152 Youth Ministry	D2/3 - A
Unit 153 Leadership Development	D2/3 - B
Gospel and Culture	
Unit 161 Biblical & Theological Perspectives on Culture	D2/3 - A
Unit 162 Pacific Culture	D2/3 - B
Practical Ministry	
Unit 171 Worship and Preaching	D1
Unit 172 Pastoral Care and Counseling	D2/3 - B
Unit 173 Parish Strategy	D3
Unit 174 Discipleship	D1
Unit 175 Evangelism and Mission	D2
Unit 176 Field Education Project	D1-D3
Unit 177 Principles of Translation	D3
English	
Unit 181 English	D1

*Key: D1 taught every year; D2/3-A is taught in 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012;
D2/3-B is taught in 2006 & 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLICAL STUDIES UNITS

UNIT 101: INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE (Diploma 1)

This presents an overview of all the books of the Bible with particular attention given to seeing how they all fit together. Students gain a basic understanding of the developing story of God's work in the world as it is revealed through the Old and New Testaments. They look at the background to the Bible and at the various tools available to them to assist in research in biblical studies. The unit helps students to understand the Scriptures from a Biblical Theology perspective.

UNIT 102: BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION (Diploma 2/3, A)

This unit helps students to develop their skills in exegesis of the biblical text. They learn how to understand the meaning of the text for the original readers by learning about the different types of biblical literature and their literary conventions. They consider principles for interpreting the theology, wisdom and ethics of the bible for life today. Finally, they consider how to use the results of their interpretation for preaching and teaching.

OLD TESTAMENT UNITS

UNIT 116: THE PENTATEUCH (Diploma 1)

The theme of the Pentateuch is explored as one story. Thus, the Pentateuch is about how God began to renew the good world he made after it had been spoiled by sin. In particular he sets about a plan to work to bless all nations through his covenant promises to Abraham. They begin to find some fulfillment in Israel, but are not yet fulfilled by the time the end of Deuteronomy is reached. The development of Israel and the stories and emphases of each book are also explored as they make their contribution to the overall theme. Implications for the future and Christ are also explored.

UNIT 117: JOSHUA TO 1 KINGS 11 (Diploma 1)

The themes of Deuteronomy are worked out in Israel's history first in a positive way through Joshua, then in a harsher way through the less faithful years of the Judges. In Samuel there is the development of covenant kingship. Covenant kingship reaches typological significance in the kingdom of David and Solomon. Attention is paid to how God's covenant with Abraham and Israel is developed further through God's covenant with David and its implications for the future and for Christ.

UNIT 118 DIVIDED KINGDOM TO EXILE AND PROPHETS (Diploma 2/3, A)

The divided kingdom and exile are explored especially from the prophetic standpoint of both the book of Kings and the various prophets who spoke in this period of time. The role of the covenant in God's judgment and promises of restoration is considered. Some selection of the following prophets are studied: Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, and Obadiah.

UNIT 119 LIFE IN EXILE, RESTORATION AND PROPHETS (Diploma 2/3, A)

Life in the exilic community is examined along with the restoration of a remnant of Israel to the land. We read the historical books of Ezra and Nehemiah along with a selection from the prophets Ezekiel, Daniel, Jeremiah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi and the writing of Esther.

UNIT 120 WORSHIP AND WISDOM WRITINGS OF ISRAEL (Diploma 2/3, B)

This unit looks at the expressions of Israel's Worship and Wisdom as found in the books of Psalms, Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. We consider both the original meaning of a selection of Psalms as well as their Christian interpretation in worship. The wisdom of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes and Solomon's Song of Songs is individually explored and compared.

NEW TESTAMENT

UNIT 121: SYNOPTIC GOSPELS (Diploma 1)

This unit examines the first three gospels with particular emphasis on Matthew's gospel. After an introduction to the synoptic gospels in general, the course focuses on the content and significance of Gospel of Matthew. Selected passages are exegeted. Special attention is given to the Sermon on the Mount.

UNIT 122: THE WRITINGS OF LUKE (Diploma 1)

In this unit we study the writings of Luke, the man who wrote more of the New Testament than anyone else. We look at the structure of Luke and Acts, and at how Luke and Acts are two parts of a single work. A special study is made of the parts of Luke not common to Matthew and Mark: in particular the birth narratives, the parables found only in Luke, and Luke's account of the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. In Acts we examine the way in which the gospel spread out from Jerusalem, to the Samaritans and to the Gentiles under the leading and in the power of the Holy Spirit. We also seek to understand more about the world in which the early church was planted and grew.

UNIT 123: PAULINE EPISTLES 1 (Diploma 2/3, A)

In this unit we study the early Pauline Epistles: Galatians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, and 1 & 2 Thessalonians. We look at the major themes of each letter and do a more detailed study of some selected passages.

UNIT 124: PAULINE EPISTLES 2 (Diploma 2/3, B)

In this unit we study the later Pauline Epistles: Romans, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. We look at the major themes of each letter and do a more detailed study of some selected passages.

UNIT 125: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN (Diploma 2/3, A)

In this unit we will look at the Gospel written by John. After an introduction to John's writings, the course looks at themes and particular emphases of John's Gospel. It exegetes selected passages.

UNIT 126: HEBREWS TO REVELATION (Diploma 2/3, B)

This unit begins with a brief overview of Hebrews and the non-Pauline Epistles. The structure and major themes of Hebrews, and some of the other epistles, are examined. A large part of the unit is devoted to coming to a good understanding of the book of Revelation. We begin by looking at what sort of writing Revelation is and ask why John wrote this book. We look at the structure of Revelation and at the meaning of the picture language used by John. We look at the Old Testament background to Revelation, how original readers would have understood the book of Revelation, and the meaning of Revelation for today.

DOCTRINAL STUDIES UNITS

UNIT 131: THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (Diploma 1)

In this unit we ask two main questions: (1) How can we know anything about God? and (2) What can we know about God?

In answering the first question, we look at how God has revealed himself to us - in the world, in Jesus Christ and through the Bible. We also look at what we mean when we say that the Bible is "The Word of God", and how the church came to recognise which books belong to the canon.

In answering the second question, we look at the attributes of God (what the Bible tells us about God), and we look at the doctrine of the Trinity (that there is only one God who has always existed as three persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit).

UNIT 132: HUMANITY AND SIN (Diploma 1)

This unit considers the nature of human beings as created by God and the effect of sin on that nature and the world. It will also look at other issues such as the work of God as Creator, the extent of God's control over the world, the nature of evil, and spiritual beings - angels, demons & Satan. Students will be encouraged to develop a biblical understanding of the world around them as it was originally created and as it is today.

UNIT 133: GOD'S SOLUTION TO SIN (Diploma 2/3, A)

God's solution to sin is Jesus Christ. In this unit we study the person and work of Jesus Christ. In the first part of the unit we look at who Jesus Christ was and is. In the second part of the unit we look at how the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ saves us from the power of sin. We also discuss the meaning of topics such as election, justification, regeneration and sanctification, and the relationship between faith and good works.

UNIT 134: THE PEOPLE OF GOD (Diploma 2/3, B)

This unit helps students to understand the Christian teaching on the people of God. The biblical understanding of the following areas will be studied: (a) The person and work of the Holy Spirit, (b) The Church, (c) Government and Ministry within the church, (d) The means of Grace - the Word of God and the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper).

UNIT 135: THE LAST THINGS (Diploma 2/3, B)

The aim of this unit is for the students to arrive at an understanding of the Bible's teaching about the future and especially about the end of history. Topics covered include the Second Coming of Jesus, Signs of the End, the General Resurrection, Judgment, the state of the dead before the Second Coming, Heaven and Hell, and the Millennium. A particular emphasis is placed upon the application of the doctrine in the life of the Christian today.

UNIT 136: NEW RELIGIOUS GROUPS (Diploma 2/3, A)

The aim of this unit is to gain an understanding of the nature and teaching of some of the new religious groups found in Vanuatu today. The unit begins by looking at the characteristics of these groups. Then some specific religious groups are studied looking at their founders, their development and their special teachings. The beliefs and practices of these groups are compared with those of the Presbyterian Church, the Church of Melanesia and other mainstream Christian denominations. We then look at an appropriate response to these groups.

UNIT 137: ETHICS (Diploma 2/3, B)

This unit provides a basic introduction to the study of ethics. The first half of the unit looks at biblical ethics, including the Ten Commandments, other Old Testament ethical teaching, the example of Jesus, and other New Testament ethical teaching. The second half of the unit applies biblical ethics to various issues that confronts Vanuatu today. Each student researches one particular issue and makes a presentation to the class.

CHURCH HISTORY UNITS**UNIT 141: EARLY CHURCH HISTORY** (Diploma 1)

This unit covers the period of the first 500 years of the activity of Church. It looks at some of the major world influences at the time of the birth of Christianity in Palestine. It follows the rapid spread of Christianity from the east to the western world. It looks at the hardships Christians faced when the Roman Government persecuted the Church until AD 312 due to their refusal to worship the Emperor as the state religion. It also observes the structure of the early church and the role of some of the key leaders in the church.

UNIT 142: REFORMATION CHURCH HISTORY (Dip. 2/4, A)

This unit covers the period which led to the beginning of the reformation when Martin Luther questioned what the church was teaching on salvation and the authority of the church. It will also look at other reformers in European countries who followed Luther's example and began to reform the doctrine of their respective churches which resulted in the formation of the Protestant churches separate from the Roman Catholic Church.

UNIT 143: VANUATU CHURCH HISTORY (Diploma 2/3, A)

This unit surveys the spread of Christianity in Vanuatu. We begin with the origin of the people of Vanuatu and their culture, the coming of the outside influences of the explorers, traders and the first Christian missionaries. Particular emphasis is placed on the activities of the Presbyterian Mission which resulted in a large portion of Vanuatu's population today being members of the Presbyterian Church, and on the activities of the Melanesian Mission which led to the formation of the Church of Melanesia (Anglican). Also other important work carried out by other Christian organisations such as the LMS will be examined. The Roman Catholic Church, the Churches of Christ and the SDA will be looked at very briefly.

UNIT 144: PACIFIC CHURCH HISTORY (Diploma 2/3, B)

This unit traces the spread of Christianity through the Pacific, beginning in Tahiti and moving westward. It looks at the geographical setting of the Islands, the people's ethnic groupings and their culture. It considers the influences of the early explorers and traders which led to the coming of the LMS Missionaries. We examine the approach undertaken in evangelizing the Tahitians and the difficulties encountered. Other missions apart from LMS will be considered briefly and the Islands they evangelized. Special note will be taken of the Islanders who were involved in assisting the European missionaries in evangelizing their own people, especially the work of the Polynesian teachers.

UNIT 145: CHRISTIANITY WORLD-WIDE(AD 1800 ONWARD) (Diploma 2/3, B)

This unit is about major movements and developments in Christian history over the past two centuries. The following are explored: the modern missionary movement, the ecumenical movement, the enlightenment thinking as it bore fruit in higher criticism and liberalism, the evangelical and fundamentalist movements, Pentecostal and charismatic movements, Roman Catholic developments, the Confessional Churches and Presbyterian history, and the impact of present post-modernism on the church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UNITS

UNIT 151: INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

(Diploma 1)

This unit introduces the basic theory and practice of Christian Education. The four main areas of study include:

- (1) Understanding Christian Education as being a theologically and biblically based teaching ministry of the church which has the important goal of nurturing Christ-likeness in every individual.
- (2) Understanding the needs and development of the people we teach.
- (3) Understanding the learning process.
- (4) Developing skills in planning suitable programs, using appropriate methods, activities, and visual aids for ministry with children in Vanuatu.

UNIT 152: YOUTH MINISTRY (Diploma 2/3, A)

This unit has three main aims:

- (1) To impress on the students the urgent need for the development of a relevant youth ministry as a vital work of the contemporary church in Vanuatu.
- (2) To develop skills in planning balanced programs, using appropriate methods and activities for Ni-Vanuatu youth, and
- (3) To develop skills in leadership and counseling with young people.

UNIT 153: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (Diploma 2/3, B)

This unit develops aspects of leadership as related to the ministry of Christian Education. Areas of study include:

- (1) The place of “small groups” in the life of the church, including a study of small group dynamics and important leadership skills.
- (2) Different methods of Bible study preparation and leadership.
- (3) General principles of effective Christian leadership for the church and community today.

GOSPEL AND CULTURE UNITS

UNIT 161: BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON CULTURE (Diploma 2/3, A)

This unit examines biblical, theological and sociological perspectives on culture, with a view to developing an understanding of God’s salvation as expressed through human beings and their culture. Special emphasis will be given to the work of Jesus and his relationship to culture, and peace building.

UNIT 162: PACIFIC CULTURE (Diploma 2/3, B)

This unit introduces students to the political, economic and social structures of Pacific societies. We consider the strengths and weaknesses of culture as well as the transformations that have taken place. Special emphasis will be given to the transformation brought about by the gospel.

PRACTICAL MINISTRY UNITS

UNIT 171: WORSHIP AND PREACHING (Diploma 1)

This unit examines the biblical perspective of worship and the practice of worship in the biblical tradition. A common tradition of Christian worship will be explored with a view to developing indigenised worship. The unit will also look at the art of sermon preparation and presentation, as well as communication skills.

UNIT 172: PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELLING (Diploma 2/3, B)

This unit explores the biblical foundations of pastoral care and counselling. Areas such as understanding people, marriage and family relationships are covered. Approaches to various counselling situations such as death, bereavement, sickness and healing are also explored.

UNIT 173: PARISH STRATEGY (Diploma 3 – 2 hours per week)

Students are introduced to the structure of the PCV, its constitution and policies, and the structure of the Church of Melanesia, its constitution and policies. They also look at the function and relationships of the local parish including existing practices of worship and the sacraments. They begin to develop a vision for parish ministry. Various parish problems are considered, where students have to identify the problem, suggest solutions and make a plan of action for 3 to 10 years. The unit studies administration and develops management skills, especially for the supervision of people who hold special responsibilities in parishes, and develops personal skills and self reliance.

UNIT 174: DISCIPLESHIP (Diploma 1)

Personal and corporate discipleship is foundational to living the Christian life. Students are introduced to the biblical understanding of Christian discipleship, so as to be personally challenged in commitment to Jesus Christ and to the ongoing process of discipleship. The goal is to equip students to live a life of discipleship, as well as being able to disciple other Christians. The unit includes discussion of spiritual life, prayer and bible reading.

UNIT 175: EVANGELISM AND MISSION (Diploma 2)

This unit introduces the study of mission. It is largely practical, helping students to understand more clearly the nature of the gospel and to communicate it more effectively. It also seeks to raise their awareness of the work of mission around the world. Students should gain a vision for the work of spreading the gospel both in Vanuatu and around the world, and develop skills to help them be involved.

UNIT 176: FIELD EDUCATION PROJECT (Diploma 3)

Third year Diploma students on the field are overseen locally by a Field Advisor, and from Talua by the Field Supervisor. They write monthly reports on their pastoral work as well as a final overall report. They write two short papers and one longer research paper. The research paper is related to Field Education and is partly to involve practical work/field research, which practical work/field research is to be completed during the D3 year. The project is completed during the D4 year with a staff member supervising.

UNIT 177: PRINCIPLES OF TRANSLATION (Diploma 3) Two weeks of intensive study is devoted to understanding the work of translating the Bible, hymns, prayers and stories into local language. The student will learn the history of Bible translation. They will each do a literal and a meaning-based translation of a Scripture portion or hymn into their own language.

ENGLISH UNIT

UNIT 181: ENGLISH (Diploma 1)

The English unit aims to provide basic English and study skills needed for participating in the classroom, using resources in the Library, and completing assignments and exams. The four skill areas are:

- Listening and note-taking in class,
- Using library resources to find and use information,
- Writing skills for assignments,
- Exam preparation skills.

NON-UNIT SUBJECTS IN DIPLOMA PROGRAM

There are other units included in the diploma program, but a pass in these units is not required to receive the Diploma in Theology. These subjects are as follows:

Name of Unit	Year
Unit 178 Marriage and Family Life	D1
Unit 179 Field Experience Preparation	D2
Unit 180 Finances	D3
Unit 182 Learning Skills	D1
Unit 183 English: Comprehension and grammar (I)	D1
Unit 184 English: Building sentences	D1
Unit 185 English: Building paragraphs	D2
Unit 186 English: Building essays	D2
Unit 187 English: Comprehension and grammar (II)	D2
Unit 188 English: Critical thinking/analytical writing	D3
Unit 191 Introduction to Biblical Greek	D3
Unit 192 Introduction to Biblical Hebrew	D3

UNIT 178: MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE (D1— 2 hours per week)

This course has five objectives: First, it will outline the Biblical foundation of marriage and family life. Second, it will assist students to understand the area of family education and social change. Third, the course will encourage the students to explore and understand Christian Marriage and the Christian family. Fourth, the course will encourage the students to explore and grasp some of the existing forms and functions of premarital and marital counseling. Fifth, the course will explore and identify some of the helpful areas of Christian family living. Sixth, the course aims to help students to understand that if we have stable families, we will have a stable society.

UNIT 179: FIELD EXPERIENCE PREPARATION (D2—1 hour per week—3rd Term)

This is to help students prepare for what will be expected of them while on Field Experience. It also gives them an opportunity to prepare programs and material to use on Field Experience.

UNIT 180: FINANCES (D3—1 hour per week in Third Term)

The Bursar teaches Diploma students the basics of budgeting and accounting for a church organisation.

UNIT 182: LEARNING SKILLS

At the beginning of the Diploma Program students are instructed in adult learning skills such as note-taking in the classroom, using the library, using reference books, finding information, writing assignments and preparing for exams.

UNITS 183, 183, 184, 185, 186, 188: NON-UNIT ENGLISH

When students are not taking Unit 181 English they will be given 2 hours per week instruction in English. This is designed to maintain and further develop their skills in using English. The results from non-unit English do not affect the attainment of the Diploma in Theology but students are expected to try to pass as this work in English will greatly assist their work in other subjects.

UNIT 191: INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL GREEK (D3 – 1 hour per week)

Diploma students have the option in their final year of attending a Greek class for one hour per week during one term. It is designed to give a basic introduction to New Testament Greek and is especially for any students who may have the opportunity to pursue further studies overseas, but is open to any who wish to attend.

UNIT 192: INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL HEBREW (D3 – 1 hour per week)

Diploma students have the option in their final year of attending a Hebrew class for one hour per week during one term. It is designed to give a basic introduction to Biblical Hebrew and is especially for any students who may have the opportunity to pursue further studies overseas, but is open to any who wish to attend.