

## The Law of Church Governance (TMM48420)

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Module Level:	7
Module Credit Value:	20
Pre-requisites:	None
Co-requisites:	None
Excluded Combination of Modules:	None

**Aims:**

To equip students with an informed understanding of church law relating to ecclesiastical governance at all its various levels.

To equip students with an informed understanding of the law applicable the institutions of church governance, their legislative, administrative and judicial powers and the limits placed on the exercise of these.

To enable students to reflect on and develop their critical understanding of the law of ecclesiastical governance and its relationship to history, doctrine, and ecclesiology.

To enable students to undertake in-depth critical study of the law relating to church governance.

**Content:**

This module will explore the law of church governance.

The module may focus on the law of certain churches (e.g. the Church of England and other Anglican churches) but will also include a comparative ecumenical element.

Topics may include:

The historical, doctrinal, ecclesiological and juridical basis for the law relating to church governance.

The legislative, administrative and judicial institutions of the church.

The composition, functions, powers and limits on the powers of the institutions of church governance and the relations of these institutions one to another under the law of the church.

Civil law which is relevant to the exercise of power by the institutions of the church and the degree to which the civil courts may control it.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this module students will be able to

***Subject Specific Knowledge [SSK 1, 2, 3, 4]***

Demonstrate a systematic understanding and depth of knowledge of the law of church governance.

Understand, assimilate and evaluate critically methodologies and findings relating to the law of church governance.

Demonstrate an understanding of the methods of analysis and inquiry relating to the law of church governance.

Give a critical and comprehensive account of a range of methods for relating the law of church governance to faith, church and society.

***Subject Specific Skills [SSS 1, 2, 3]***

Apply their knowledge to undertake independent investigation of an area of the law of church governance, reaching valid conclusions, some of which may be original, and report these findings effectively within the conventions of the relevant academic or professional community.

Evaluate and apply methodologies relating to the law of church governance, develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, propose new hypotheses.

Reflect theologically in a sophisticated and rigorous manner, exercising sound judgement when engaging systematically and creatively with complex, unpredictable and ambiguous realities relating to governance in the church and the world today.

***Key Skills [KS 1, 2, 3]***

Carry out systematic and creative research into complex issues and communicate their findings with clarity, sensitivity, fairness and imagination.

Demonstrate initiative, self-direction and independence in tackling and solving problems, and in planning and implementing tasks.

Exercise their independent learning skills to pursue further professional development or academic study.

Modes of Teaching and Learning: Teaching methods to be specified by each TEI, using the 'Guidelines for Modes of Teaching and Learning'

Contact Hours: Contact hours to be specified by each TEI using the 'Guidelines for Contact Hours'.

Formative Assessment: Formative assessment to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on formative assessment.

Summative  
Assessment:

Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for undergraduate programmes.

Indicative Reading:

Indicative reading to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on creating bibliographies for undergraduate modules.