

2019 Annual Report

for the Australian College of Ministries
a company limited by guarantee
ABN 96 130 267 604

prepared for the
Annual General Meeting
12th June, 2020

Members of the Company:

*Churches of Christ in NSW and
Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia*



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2019 Annual Report

Australian College of Ministries

This annual report is for the year ending 31st December, 2019.

ACOM is distinctively a college of *ministry*. Our courses are tailored for God's people wherever they work, minister and live—in the church, workplace and community. We develop healthy, effective leaders who can positively impact their own corner of the world.

The Australian College of Ministries (ACOM) is a company limited by guarantee with two members: Churches of Christ in NSW and the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia.

ACOM recognises and values the intimate history we share with the *Churches of Christ in NSW* who founded the College in 1942 to meet the growing need to train ministers and missionaries for our needy world. We acknowledge that without this generous financial support and ministry partnership the College would not exist today.

We also acknowledge the mission partnership and financial support of the *Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia* who contribute significantly to the depth and passion of our College.

The Directors of the Company in 2019 were: Karen Baker (Chair), Dr Andrew Ball, Simon Brailey, Neville Cox (Chair), Daniel Dwyer, Alison Feldman, Dr Les Gainer, Ken Graham, Alasdair MacDougall, Associate Professor Dennis Nutt, and Daniel Yeung. The Company Secretary was Catherine Kleemann.

Highlights for the year include:

The ACOM staff achieved significant milestones in 2019 under enormous time pressure. We are thankful for their love for our churches and students. ACOM has assembled a great team of Christian leaders and their hard work and commitment has produced the following fruitful outcomes:

**2019 had the largest graduating class
in the 76 year history of the College**

**2019 had the highest number of graduates for
Churches of Christ in NSW and the
Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia**

137 students graduated with degrees from ACOM on 18th May, 2019 in the Great Hall of Sydney University. This is a significant rise and **our largest graduating class in the history of the College.**

49.6% of graduates are affiliated with Churches of Christ (27% in NSW/ACT) and 4.4% with Christian and Missionary Alliance.

There are 68 graduates from Churches of Christ (including 37 from NSW/ACT and 4 from Vanuatu) plus 6 graduates from Christian and Missionary Alliance (it's early days, but there were 28 students studying in 2019). The names, degrees and church affiliations of graduates is available in the 2019 Graduate List below.

Graduate School of Leadership. Dr Keith Farmer was named Patron for the Graduate School of Leadership. He will help shape the quality and usefulness of our programs. With the new *Master of Leadership* as the flagship award, the Graduate School has been engaging with churches and church leaders as we continue to connect with our student and alumni networks through: conducting useful field research; providing seminars, roundtables and services; and building our referral network to assist in recruiting new students. Catherine Kleemann has served admirably as the inaugural Dean of the Graduate School of Leadership.

The Centre for Restoration Studies. Associate Professor Dennis Nutt was named as Patron. The Centre will continue to open dialogue about restoration movement distinctives, host colloquium events, as well as publish works of restoration history and values.

The Formation Centre. As spiritual formation is central to all we do, we have continued over recent years to develop a centre for excellence in personal formation and community transformation – taking the best of what we have been doing and reapplying it for future contexts. Dr John Robinson is leading the Centre and developing an international faculty in this field. He also led the inaugural *Formation Gathering* with 180 attending over three days with noted author Dr James Bryan Smith as the keynote speaker.

Alliance Institute for Mission. The Christian and Missionary Alliance of Australia are very pleased with the growth of their student numbers to 28 this year. Some students are beginning to take advantage of overseas learning opportunities. Our plans to increase programming in multiple languages is enhanced with the addition of Jess Collins, a member of the Epping Church of Christ. Associate Professor Peter Laughlin has served admirably as the inaugural Dean of the Alliance institute of Mission.

The staff of ACOM are based in Brisbane, Melbourne, Canberra, Western Australia and Sydney. They are the heart and soul of ACOM and approach their work with a passion for mission and ministry while excelling as highly trained professionals in their fields. The significant achievements of 2019 are a result of their dedication and service. They are ministers in every way. This is a great national team and is led and mentored by our extraordinary Senior Leadership Team of:

Neale Meredith (Vice Principal and Dean of Students)

Alicia Cleary (General Manager of Ministry Services)

Catherine Kleemann (Dean of the Graduate School of Leadership, Director of Ministry Services, and Company Secretary).

Associate Professor Peter Laughlin (Dean of the Graduate School of Leadership, and Academic Dean)



Graduate Destination Survey. Thanks to Neale Meredith, our Vice Principal and Dean of Students, for his close work in support of student initiatives, new partnerships and innovation in work-based learning. His recent survey of 2011–2018 graduates indicates that 77% are very actively engaged in a named ministry role in their local church. 43% are in paid ministry roles in local churches (19% of these are the senior ministry leader), and 31% of graduates are paid to work for para-church organisations. 48% of graduates are male and 52% are female. 38% of graduates are working in ministries affiliated with Churches of Christ.

Change in Board Directors. In September a number of directors were removed by their nominating member, Churches of Christ in NSW. I had the pleasure of noting in my report to the incoming directors that:

The ACOM Team recognises the exemplary service of the ex-directors of ACOM: Neville Cox, Associate Professor Dennis Nutt, Dr Les Gainer, Alison Feldman and Alasdair MacDougall. We acknowledge the significant contribution they have all made to this College and its success. They depart in good standing with the College.

We acknowledge that as they depart the College celebrates the highest graduating class in its history (142 students), 68 graduates from Churches of Christ (including 37 from NSW/ACT) plus 6 graduates from Christian and Missionary Alliance. This is the largest number of graduates from NSW Churches of Christ, as well as C&MA in the history of the College. As they leave, ACOM has 680 students and has made a profit for the last four years, is meeting all the requirements of the financial auditor, ACNC Standards and TEQSA's Higher Education Standards Framework, and is a respected member of the Sydney College of Divinity

More importantly, most of these directors served as spiritual mentors to many of the students and staff over more than two decades, and modelled Christian character to all those within the College.

We wish to honour them for their distinguished contribution and exemplary service.

Strategic alignment. We continue to work with both organisational members to align our strategy and operations to their own stated strategic goals. This is articulated in our Strategic Intent 2019–2023. We seek to add value to the health and wellbeing of the leaders and churches in both movements nationally.

The addition of the Christian and Missionary Alliance into the ACOM family, in August 2016 replaced a similar arrangement we had with Queensland Churches of Christ. This has brought the desired richness to our learning experience that we had hoped for. We have been enriched by:

Their strengths in intercultural ministry in Australia

Their emphasis on a missionary mindset in Australia and abroad

Their connections to mission sites and universities around the world

Their depth in missional theology

Their passionate spirituality and emphasis on character formation

As intended, all of these strengths have added immeasurable value to the Churches of Christ in NSW as a catalyst for growth and development. In addition we have been strengthened by the skills, personality and character of some of their key people such as Associate Professor Peter Laughlin, Ken Graham and Daniel Yeung. This partnership is working well relationally and enhances the experience of students and staff, and enriches the future of Churches of Christ in NSW.

ACOM has proved every year to be financially viable while at the same time producing a high quality of graduates that sees them serving in key church and ministry positions around the country. ACOM remains innovative in the market place with a solid reputation for producing job-ready graduates. This is in a climate where, generally, Colleges like ours are in decline or closing.

This was a year of significant growth and progress for ACOM. We are thankful to our board and staff for being passionate about preparing leaders for ministry and mission. We request your prayers as we strive to assist God's people to be transformed into agents of change who can make a positive impact on their corner of the world – in the name of Jesus!



Dr. Stephen Smith

Principal and Chief Executive Officer



2019 GRADUATES

*Graduation held in the Great Hall of the
University of Sydney on 18th May, 2019*

Churches of Christ in NSW

Master of Theology

Church of Christ – Liberty, Greenacre

Church of Christ – Ecclesia Mission

Master of Arts

Church of Christ – Southern Illawarra

Church of Christ – Coast Community

Church of Christ – ACOM

Graduate Diploma of Arts

Church of Christ – Nationsheart

Graduate Certificate in Leadership

Church of Christ – Wyoming COC

Graduate Certificate in Arts

Church of Christ – Bowral

Church of Christ – Kingsway Community

Church of Christ – Mayfield

Church of Christ – Coast Community Church

Church of Christ – ACOM

Church of Christ – Kingsway Community

Church of Christ – Freshhope Maitland

Church of Christ – New Day Church

Church of Christ – Kingsway Community

Church of Christ – Thornlie

Bachelor of Theology

Church of Christ – Lifegate Church

Church of Christ – Lower Blue Mountains

Church of Christ – Northgate

Bachelor of Ministry

Church of Christ – Campbelltown

Associate Degree of Christian Thought and Practice

Church of Christ – Thornton

Church of Christ – Campbelltown

Diploma of Christian Studies

Church of Christ – Castle Hill

Church of Christ – Red Church

Church of Christ – Campbelltown

Church of Christ – ACOM

Church of Christ – Campbelltown

Church of Christ – Kingsford

Church of Christ – Campbelltown

Church of Christ – Restore Church

Church of Christ – I-central 3:16

Church of Christ – Northside Community

Church of Christ – Rivergum

Church of Christ – Coast Community Church

Church of Christ – I-Central 3:16

Church of Christ – Kingsford

Church of Christ – Forster Tuncurry

Diploma of Ministry

Church of Christ – Coast Community Church

Church of Christ – Coast Community Church

Churches of Christ in Vanuatu

Diploma of Christian Studies

Church of Christ – Betarara, Maewo Penamma

Church of Christ – Vanuatu

Church of Christ – Wyjunmel Churches of Christ

Church of Christ – Panlimsi Churches of Christ

Churches of Christ
in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, Western Australia

Master of Leadership

Church of Christ – Queensland

Master of Arts

Church of Christ – Hume Ridge

Graduate Diploma of Arts

Church of Christ – Kardinia Church

Graduate Certificate in Arts

Church of Christ – Sunnybank

Church of Christ – HumeRidge

Church of Christ – Devonport Church of Christ

Bachelor of Theology

Church of Christ – One Community Church

Church of Christ – Withcott

Church of Christ – Door of Hope

Church of Christ – Door of Hope

Bachelor of Ministry

Church of Christ – Mt. Clear

Church of Christ – Highfields Church of Christ

Church of Christ – Shepparton

Diploma of Christian Studies

Church of Christ – Brighton

Church of Christ – Springwood

Church of Christ – The Lakes Church

Church of Christ – Springwood

Church of Christ – HumeRidge

Church of Christ – Springwood

Church of Christ – Southport

Church of Christ – Springwood

Church of Christ – Springwood

Church of Christ – Springwood

Church of Christ – Kardinia



Christian and Missionary Alliance

Graduate Certificate in Arts

Woden Valley Alliance

Christian and Missionary Vietnamese Church

Bachelor of Theology

Southside International Church

Associate Degree of Christian Thought and Practice

Alliance Church/ Canberra

Diploma of Christian Studies

Woden Valley Alliance Church

Woden Valley Alliance Church

Other Denominations

Master of Theology

Wollongong Baptist Church

Master of Leadership

Quinns Baptist Church

Gateway Baptist Church

New Peninsula Baptist Church

Ashburton Uniting Church

Vineyard – Northridge

Ringwood Community Church

Eastgate Church

Central Chinese Baptist

Master of Arts

Crossway Baptist Church

Graduate Diploma of Arts

Worship Centre Christian Church

Worship Centre

Graduate Certificate in Arts

*Good Shepherd Anglican –
Greenacre*

Westgate Vineyard Church

The Rock Community Church

Bachelor of Theology

Genesis Church

St Martins Community Church



*Wodonga Baptist
Church*

Elevation Church

Holy Seed Church

Stawell Uniting Church

Southern Lights Church

Foothills Vineyard Church

Gateway Baptist Church

Dubbo Baptist Church

Associate Degree of Christian Thought and Practice

Gateway Baptist Church

Diploma of Christian Studies

Christian Reformed Church Redlands

Hughes Baptist Church

Forster Tuncurry Salvation Army

Cross Link Christian – Gracehouse Church

EV Church, Erina

Figtree Anglican

Discovery Church

Hillsong Church

Biloela Baptist Church

Salvation Army – Forster

Salvation Army

Diploma of Ministry

Southern Lights

New Life Christian Church

CRC – Warragul

Kingston City Church

Worship Centre

Hawthorn West Baptist Church

Whitsunday Cornerstone

Moe New Life Christian Centre

Southern Lights

Grow Church

Life Source

Manningham Christian Centre

Southern Lights

Diggerland

St Josephs Parish Benalla

Church on Tarwin

Southern Lights

Hills Christian Family Centre

Wattle City Church

Bethel Family Church

Worship Centre

Burnie City Church

Worship Centre

BISSHOP Worship Centre



Financial Summary

ACOM's audited financial year accounts for January 2019 to December 2019 recognise a profit of \$92,667 after financial asset revaluations and \$11,954 before. While 2019 was financially stable, ACOM did see a decrease of 6% in total unit numbers. The decrease in units, and resultant decrease in student fees, was managed proactively so as not to have a negative financial outcome.

ACOM has two distinct student cohorts: direct students and learning centre cohorts. While direct undergraduate units saw a decrease of 3% for the year, direct postgraduate units increased by 25%, indicating an emerging market in our Graduate School and new awards including the *Master of Leadership* and *Master of Professional Supervision*. Learning Cohort units dropped by 16% overall during the year due to factors in individual cohort offerings outside of ACOM's immediate control.

ACOM has one investment in a managed investment portfolio. Returns were higher than budget for the 2019 year which was a blessing to operations.

During the year, ACOM has adopted leasing standard AASB16. This standard impacts the treatment of lease expenditure which was previously grouped as a motor vehicle expense. The overall impact to profit is minimal although it has created some unusual comparatives for the year with the introduction of new accounts on the balance sheet and profit and loss statement.

ACOM is grateful to the Sydney College of Divinity for their oversight and management of FeeHelp during 2019, providing consistent cash flow through the past 24 months.

The audited accounts identify events subsequent to the close of the financial year that are likely to have an impact on the financial outcomes of 2020, as such they identify COVID-19 will impact ACOM's operations. At this stage overall effect has not been fully realised as the ever-changing ministry and personal situation of students evolves. ACOM will continue to monitor and adapt to changes each trimester. We are grateful for the benefit of JobKeeper payments which provide a financial support during this time and to the flexibility of staff who have quickly adapted to working and teaching from home.

I close thanking our staff for their wisdom, stewardship and vision for the kingdom. May they always know the eternal impact they have made.



Catherine Kleemann
Director of Ministry Services
Company Secretary

