





**FRONTIER**

Enable - Empower - Release

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<https://www.frontiertraining.org/>



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Prospectus



FRONTIER is open to any Christian from any denominational tradition.



And he (Jesus) said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest” LUKE 10.1 -12 (ESV)

## Introduction

### FRONTIER Vision:

*FRONTIER aims to enable, empower and release individuals into Christian leadership as mission practitioners within the local church.*

FRONTIER is an intentional traineeship in local church leadership. Through mentored missional practice, thought and application, FRONTIER enables individuals to engage in missional practice, empowers them to become leaders in missional practice, and releases them into the local church to be missional leaders.

As a traineeship, FRONTIER, offers both a residential and non-residential pathway, during which participants acquire, through MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, either:

### Diploma of Ministry

- (entry into theological studies at Bachelor of Ministry/Theology level)

or

### Graduate Diploma of Divinity

- (entry into theological studies for those holding an undergraduate degree)

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please phone 02 6021 3594 to speak with a representative from our FRONTIER team @ ST LUKE'S.

*FRONTIER has partnered with Melbourne School of Theology, an affiliated college of the Australian College of Theology (<https://www.actheology.edu.au>).*



A 12-month FRONTIER residency enables participants to become an intimate part of missional church where they actively explore and engage in missional leadership. At the end of the residential year, participants return to their local church, or into missional ministry opportunities within the wider church, as missional leaders.

As full-time, or part-time, academic option, a FRONTIER non-residency enables participants to engage in their local church, where they actively explore and engage in missional leadership.

Non-residential participants come to Albury to attend the live-in intensives.

Past FRONTIER graduates are leading transformational mission in their home congregations, serving missionally within schools and wider church ministries, and taking up opportunities as church planters.

**Janet completed FRONTIER in 2018. She is now engaged as the church planting team leader within the NSW rural town of Corowa, where St Luke's is working with the local congregation to re-establish the church. She leads missional communities, connects with locals, coordinates outreach activities, and provides a point of contact for locals interested in knowing more about Jesus.**

**Laura completed FRONTIER in 2018. During the year she began working at St Paul's Lutheran College, Walla Walla, NSW in the girls boarding house. She began an outreach ministry within St Paul's during 2018, helping several girls reconnect with Jesus. St Paul's invited her to stay on and offered her a more permanent job in the girls boarding house. She continues to apply her experience of FRONTIER within the school community.**



FRONTIER's residential program nurtures life-long discipleship, faith, and spirituality within the grace embrace of a growing missional church community.

They live and work together as missional teams, developing missional skills and leadership, discovering their call to missional leadership as they grow and experiment under the grace of the Spirit's guiding.

FRONTIER is a ministry of ST LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALBURY, NSW, and her missional focus of being a GROWING CHURCH FOR A GROWING CITY. It is delivered in partnership with the LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA'S NEW AND

RENEWING CHURCHES DEPARTMENT and MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND supported by THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.



## Study and Faith Formation

FRONTIER focuses on missional practice, spiritual and personal development, and missional leadership.

The scope of this training includes:

- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Communities of Practice            | Church planting models     |
| Spiritual formation & Discipleship | Missional Leadership       |
| Strategic & Structural planning    | Vision formation           |
| Resourcing & Finance               | Social demographics        |
| Cultural narratives                | Growing missional churches |
| Spiritual warfare                  | Pastoral care              |
| Evangelism                         | Personal assessments       |

These core elements of missional leadership are delivered with support from in-the-field experienced mission practitioners, church planters, and missional consultants using current research and practice. FRONTIER uses an array of methods to deliver the training elements of the program, through which participants develop skills of reflective theological practice to empower their experienced as missional leaders and practitioners.





Important to this process is the regular engagement in a faith community.

The residential component allows participants to journey with others on a similar path, growing together, encouraging one another, demonstrating grace and love, and reflecting on shared missional experiences. Those doing the non-residential pathway will be encouraged to develop a support network around them to assist in this growth process.

As a part of the LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA'S church planting initiative (<http://www.lca.org.au/new-churches.html>), FRONTIER participants are supported by LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA'S NEW AND RENEWING CHURCHES DEPARTMENT with Dean Eaton, the Church Planting Mentor and Mission Facilitator.

All FRONTIER participants are expected to be an active member of a worshipping faith community.

## Formal Study Pathways

**FRONTIER focuses on active exposure to a missional context.**

**The program's goal is to create church missional leaders and practitioners capable of leading or renewing the local church.**

As a campus of MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY FRONTIER offers a Diploma of Ministry, or a Graduate Diploma in Divinity focusing on missional leadership and practice. Within these degrees FRONTIER offers the following units

### 1. **Jesus and the Gospels** (on-line)

Participants will:

- explore the influence of the historical, socio-cultural, religious and political setting of first-century Palestine as the context of Jesus' life and ministry.
- analyse the distinctive features of the four Gospels and the interrelationships between them.
- discuss the life and identity of Jesus, and His message, mission, and ministry.

### 2. **Foundational Christian Beliefs** (intensive)

Participants will:

- outline the importance and functions of beliefs in Christian understandings of life and the world.
- analyse the creeds as statements of Christian beliefs. Use context to examine the main aspects of Christian doctrine.
- evaluate personal beliefs in the framework of Christian doctrine and present an analytical evidence-based argument or reflection on aspects of foundational Christian beliefs.



### 3. **Missional Leadership** (intensive)

Participants will

- explore a theology of Christian leadership based on grace, servant hood and the missio dei" (mission of God).
- define the gospel and describe its impact on Christian leadership and ministry.
- demonstrate a knowledge of a range of leadership principles.
- analyse and describe a church planting or missional ministry context and develop a strategy to lead it in a missional way

### 4. **Church Planting** (intensive)

Participants will

- explore biblical perspectives on church planting.
- explain methodologies of church planting in social and cultural context.
- reflect on participation in church planting activities, and
- analyse personal issues in church planting

### 5. **The Early New Testament Church** (on-line)

Participants will

- explore the history, themes, theology and narrative presented in the Book of Acts, and the contents, themes and theology of selected New Testament Epistles.
- analyse key developments and emerging patterns in the beginnings and expansion of the early church, and
- explain the issues confronted by and teaching of selected New Testament Epistles.

### 6. **Theology of Mission** (intensive)

Participants will

- explore and analyse the biblical and contemporary theology of mission
- examine current issues in mission in the light of the theology of mission
- apply perspectives from 'Theology of Mission' to current issues and specific ministries in world Christian mission

### 7. **Gospel, Church and Australian Culture** (intensive)

Participants will

- explore the nature of the gospel and the principles of its contextualization.
- critically interpret Australian culture as a basis for the contextualization of the gospel.
- analyse the challenges for a church in Australian culture and propose appropriate responses.
- present an analytical evidence-based perspective on the gospel, church and Australian culture.

### 8. **Practical Ministry Field Education**

Participants will

- explore the practical issues of ministry settings.
- analyse approaches to the practical issues of ministry settings.
- participate in church planting or other missional ministry settings (under supervision).
- assess the management of practical issues as observed in a local congregation, a church plant, or other missional ministry setting.



The Practical Ministry Field Education unit is offered in both semesters, and offers a variety of options

- Congregational leadership and administration,
- Pastoral Care,
- Evangelism,
- Youth ministry,
- Children's ministry, and
- Cross cultural ministry

The *Diploma of Ministry* provides credit toward a Bachelor of Ministry or Bachelor of Theology degree. The *Graduate Diploma in Divinity* is for those with an undergraduate degree, and offers some flexibility in design to accommodate those with a Bachelor of Ministry or Bachelor of Theology degree.

A theological qualification is an important aspect of the life and ongoing practice of missional leaders. Such formal education empowers missional leaders to engage in transformational ministry within the local church.

## Shared Missional Experience and Missional Placement

FRONTIER exposes participants to the missional fringe of the church, engaging the secular world, or those points where the world interfaces with the Church. Missional activity is a fundamentally practical experience, full of risks, failures, joys, and hope. Participants practice missional activity in a variety of contexts, including, community, city, or rural settings, schools, aged care, local church, etc.

FRONTIER allows participants to experience missional communities, missional churches, cross-cultural faith communities, church planting, and missional ministry networks. Participants are encouraged to engage in some form of community activity such as sport, hobby groups, interest groups, etc., or even part-time work, as they develop their missional skills and abilities. They do this collectively, enabling them to work through the shared experience in a structured and empowering community of practice.

## Rest and Recovery

Study and faith formation, combined with missional placement and experience exacts a physical, emotional and spiritual toll on the most resilient of missional practitioners.

FRONTIER corresponds with the academic year, providing 3 x 2-week rest and recharge periods.



# What does FRONTIER offer?

**FRONTIER aims to enable, empower and release individuals to engage in missional leadership within the local church. Participants are released into a missional leadership with the following:**

1. Practical experience in forming and sustaining a Community of Practice.
2. Experience in creating, sustaining, growing, and developing missional communities.
3. A developed pattern of life-long spiritual formation, faith and discipleship practice.
4. A growing understanding of missional leadership, including understanding social demographics, cultural narratives, and how to develop a Vision for Mission.
5. Practice, implementation, design and review of church planting and missional practice models and methods.
6. Practical exposure and experience in the various stages of planning required to missionally renew the local church.
7. A working appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of various evangelism and discipleship methodologies.

8. An appreciation for the theological fundamentals that shape missional leadership.
9. An understanding of Spiritual warfare.
10. Refined & focussed ministry and missional leadership.
11. Ethical behaviour and standards for operating within a church environment.

**A key component of FRONTIER is the mentoring relationship participants develop with the trainers and support people. As a participant, this relationship extends beyond the FRONTIER year. FRONTIER will continue supporting, encouraging and mentoring participants as they find a ministry that suits their giftedness and call for mission.**

**On completion of FRONTIER, participants may be eligible to be formally credited as church leaders within their respective denominational church. FRONTIER will help guide participants into the appropriate path set within their respective tradition for more formalised ministry accreditation**



# The FRONTIER experience

FRONTIER begins in January and ends in December.

The year is broken into 4 terms, with 3 x 2 week rest and recuperation breaks.



## The four terms of FRONTIER

are progressive in the missional journey participants will experience. After an initial orientation period, each quarter includes:

### Participation and development of missional communities

Formal and informal study

Missional placement and experience

Spiritual formation and growth

Individual and community reflective practice

Assessment, evaluation and vocational shaping



### An average FRONTIER day might look like

8.00am – 8.30am	morning prayer
8.30am – 10.30am	missional placement
10.30am – 12.00pm	study – both formal or informal
12.00pm – 12.30pm	midday prayer
12.30pm – 3.30pm	personal time
3.30pm – 8.00pm	missional engagement – e.g. local sport team / hobby group / visitation
8.00pm – 8.30pm	evening prayer

### A FRONTIER week might look like

Sunday	worship at St Luke's / forming a missional community
Monday	team building / missional placement at local school, hospital or aged care facility, visiting, etc
Tuesday	study / missional engagement – e.g. sporting team training with local club or participation in local evening sports competition
Wednesday	missional training, study & reflection / rest
Thursday	time with FRONTIER mentors - missional engagement – sporting team training with local club or participation in local evening sports competition
Friday	day of rest / missional placement at local school, hospital or aged care facility, or visiting, etc
Saturday	day of rest / participation in local sport competition



## Supporting Church

**Integral to the FRONTIER program is the involvement of the local church.**

As a residential program, participants become part of ST LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALBURY, where they are cared for, supported and encouraged. Participants are encouraged to develop intentional spiritual friendships with congregational members, who will listen, pray, encourage and connect in a non-threatening, relaxed, friendship of faith.

*Non-residential participants will be encouraged to find similar support in their home congregations.*

## Home Supporting Church

**FRONTIER is designed to release participants to their home congregation to undertake or missional leadership.**

It is important that the home congregation is a supportive part of the FRONTIER journey. Participants will provide regular updates of their journey through social media, letters, congregational visits, and other means. We will encourage a developing conversation with the home congregation, in order for participants to find a missional leadership most suited to the their home church.

We also ask each home congregations to include the FRONTIER participant in their prayers, praying for them each Sunday in their worship services, and offering encouragement and support through regular contact. This supportive relationship helps the FRONTIER participant in their missional experiences and studies, as they reflect, grow and mature in Christ. It also benefits the home congregation by allowing them to track and share the FRONTIER experience of the participant.

## Participants

**FRONTIER is open to any individual**, from any denominational body, who feels a call to missional leadership, and wishes to grow in a way that empowers that leadership to become a meaningful and valued aspect of their faith journey. There are no age, gender, or other limits on participation for those with a passion and call to missional leadership.

*While our residence is set up for individual participation, we are open to the possibility of couples or families doing the program. We encourage couples or families to discuss their needs and interest with us before applying*

## Non-Residential

**As a residential program, FRONTIER** is designed to develop a team approach to missional leadership. The non-residential program is open to those within a local church, who have the support of their local church to undertake FRONTIER.

*This is particularly important for who do not wish to reside in the residence, but still wish to participate in FRONTIER.*



# Price

**FRONTIER fees adjust each year. Please check out our website for an update on these. <https://www.frontiertraining.org/costs>**

The price for the residential program includes:

- Accommodation (including all utilities and internet),
- Travel costs associated with study,
- First-Aid Training,
- Professional Standards Training, and
- Mission Conferences, workshops, webinars, forums.

**The price for the non-residential program** provides administrative support, morning & afternoon teas for the unit intensives, and other affiliated costs required to deliver FRONTIER not covered by your unit fees.

**The price for the Diploma of Ministry or Graduate Diploma in Divinity** are set by MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY. Please refer to MST's Fee Schedule for more information (<http://www.mst.edu.au>).

Food and other living expenses are the participants own expense. However, St Luke's is a very generous community, and we will assist you in whatever ways we can.

## FEE-Help/Youth Allowance/AUSTUDY

FRONTIER participants may be eligible for FEE-Help, Youth Allowance or AUStudy. AUStudy (+25 years) & Youth Allowance (<18-25 years) rates, which are applicable only for a full-time study load deemed to be at 75%, are available from the Department of Human Services - <https://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/payment-finder/> FEE-HELP is available for Australian Citizens and those holding special Visas for all degrees offered through the MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY (conditions apply – see <http://studyassist.gov.au>).

*A FEE-HELP loan is not available for the residential aspect of this course.*



# Application Process

The Application process for FRONTIER is quite simple:

- Complete the application form attached to this prospectus, or available through our website [www.frontiertraining.org.au](http://www.frontiertraining.org.au);
- Submit 3 references – one should be your local Pastor, someone who knows you well, and either your current employer or learning facility, and,
- Send the application before the 1st of December (residential program and/or semester 1 following year) or 1st of July (semester 2) to:

### FRONTIER

St Luke's House  
436 Guinea St  
Albury, NSW, 2640

or

[stlukes@tpg.com.au](mailto:stlukes@tpg.com.au)

- We will acknowledge your application, and arrange an interview time with you.
- Upon acceptance we ask you pay the first quarter fee.
- We will then send you the information you need to prepare and begin your FRONTIER journey.

*You do not need to enrol at MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY as your FRONTIER application will enable us to enrol you as a participant in FRONTIER.*





# About Us

## ST LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – A GROWING CHURCH FOR A GROWING CITY

*ST LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH is in the border city of Albury, NSW. It is a sending church in an emerging missional model of church, and part of the Lutheran Church of Australia's Church Planting Initiative in partnership with the Lutheran Church of Australia's New and Renewing Churches Department.*

St Luke's is the largest and oldest Lutheran church in the NSW rural city of Albury, one of the fastest growing rural cities within Australia. Albury is a border town with Wodonga, VIC, also rated as the fastest growing rural city in Victoria and is about three hours north of Melbourne on the Hume Highway.

The Lutheran presence in Albury/Wodonga is quite unique. It has three worshipping congregations, a P-12 Lutheran School, Lutheran Aged Care (the largest of its kind in the region), and Australian Lutheran World Service. In the surrounding Riverina there are several Lutheran congregations of various size, a Lutheran primary school, and Lutheran secondary college. This configuration makes Albury/Wodonga a microcosm of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

There are numerous other church communities in the Albury/Wodonga region, all with varied and unique styles of ministry, including two new church plants.

St Luke's has a training vision, recently partnering with ATEL, a local training provider, to develop a Church Administrator. It has great facilities, all geared to provide a wonderful training venue where people can grow and learn in a loving and grace empowered environment.

**FRONTIER is a natural extension of St Luke's vision of being –  
A GROWING CHURCH IN A GROWING CITY.**



**David Grulke** is lead Pastor of St Luke's. He has a Doctorate in theological practice, focusing specifically on leadership. His academic qualifications compliment his extensive pastoral experience in leadership, theological practice, life-long learning, missional practice, and faith formation. He has served in several ministries, including parishes, schools, and Defence chaplaincy. Much of his ministry has been on the fringe of the church, connecting with those outside the church.



**Malcolm Hall** is our evangelist - church planting team leader. Over the past four years Malcolm has developed relevant skills around building relationships with the local community, by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. He serves as the church planting team leader in the ministry team at St Luke's as our Church Planter. Malcolm enjoys most sports, reading and films etc. What Malcolm enjoys the most is coffee and talking about the Gospel of Jesus.



**Peter Reed** is our music director. He holds a Bachelor of Jazz Studies and a Diploma of Youth work. He's previously worked as a School Chaplain, a mission's trip organiser, and an Instrumental Music Teacher. Most of his ministry has been with unchurched teenagers and families, and he has a passion for engaging local churches into missions and sharing his faith in an easy to understand way. Peter loves music, good coffee, great food, board games, and science fiction.





**Janet Mieglich** brings a blend of life experience and practical application through her ministry. Having completed a Certificate in Christian Studies while participating in FRONTIER 2018, her calling is essentially rural and regional congregational health. With previous experience in Children's Ministry and as Coordinator she has also volunteered in many and varied roles in the last 35 years. With a heart for individual and congregational restoration and prosperity, her most rewarding achievements include encouraging and supporting others in their Christian journey. Janet enjoys spending time with her new granddaughter, four adult sons and partners, extended family, friends and church family in Strathalbyn SA. Gardening, reading, walking, painting and renovating are her favourite pastimes.



**Steen Olsen** is a recently retired Lutheran Pastor who over seventeen years served parishes in Australia (Hunter Valley NSW, Tuggeranong ACT/Cooma NSW) and New Zealand (Christchurch) and then as bishop of the Lutheran Church of New Zealand for twelve years and finally as director for mission for the Lutheran Church in South Australia and the Northern Territory for a decade. He received his doctorate from Fuller Theological Seminary, CA USA. His publications include *Bring Jesus: Making Sense of Mission*, *125 Years of Grace: St Luke's Lutheran Church Palmerston North 1882 – 2007* and he is co-author with Dr Noel Due of *Spirit Filled: Normal Christian Living*. A post-war Danish migrant, Steen has a special interest in helping the church to be more missional in its culture, theology and practice.



**Tim Edwards** runs the administration ministry of St Luke's. He completed a Cert II Business Administration trainee ship and is now employed to be the front person of St Luke's. He has a passion for serving and connecting people with Jesus. Tim enjoys caring for his cats, movies, building his backyard, and quirky humorous things



**Mark Worthing** holds a Ph.D. in the history and philosophy of science from the University of Regensburg, Germany, and a Dr.theol. in foundational and ecumenical theology from the University of Munich. He is currently pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, North Adelaide. He was formerly Senior Researcher at the Australian Lutheran Institute for Theology and Ethics (ALITE) (2013-2015) and Senior Research Fellow of the Graeme Clark Research Institute at Tabor College, Adelaide (2010-2012), Head of Humanities, Tabor College (2006-2010), Head of Theology and Postgraduate Studies, Tabor (2001-2005); and lecturer in theology, Luther Seminary (now ALC) 1996-2001. He is currently an adjunct lecturer and thesis supervisor at Flinders University.



**Dean Eaton** is an experienced church planter and missional practitioner, personally planting 21 new churches in Australia and Japan. His teaching experience includes being a Senior Lecturer and Principal of Tabor College in Adelaide, SA. After Dean became a Lutheran several years ago, the Lutheran Church of Australia invited him to become the Church Planting Mentor and Mission Facilitator for the Lutheran Church of Australia' New and Renewing Churches Department. His mentoring of missional communities is a transformative key to how we grow churches in the 21st Century. In addition to these leaders, St Luke's has access to a range of other highly skilled and unique Pastors, church leaders and laity with the capacity to mentor, guide, support and encourage missional activity and formation.

His recent publications include *Unlikely Allies. Monotheism and the Rise of Science* (ISCAST/Bible Society, 2019); *Iscaiot* (Morning Star 2018); *The Winter Fae. A Fantasy Novella* (Stone Table Books, 2018); *Martin Luther: A Wild Boar in the Lord's Vineyard* (Morning Star, 2017); *What the Dog Saw* (Morning Star 2017); *Narnia, Middle-Earth and the Kingdom of God* (Stone Table Books 2016); *Graeme Clark. The Man Who Invented the Bionic Ear* (Allen&Unwin 2015); *God and Science in Classroom and Pulpit*, with G. Buxton and C. Mulherin (Mosaic Press 2012).

Mark is an ordained pastor of the Lutheran Church of Australia, is currently a Fellow of the Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology (ISCAST), member of Omega Christian Writers, and a founding member of the International Society of Science and Religion (ISSR).

# Frequently Asked Questions

Can I do frontier as a Non-residential participant?

**Yes! FRONTIER is designed** with the option of either a residential or non-residential pathway. The structure and delivery of FRONTIER as a missional leadership traineeship means you can complete the Diploma of Ministry or Graduate Diploma of Divinity in partnership with your local church leadership and community.

You should discuss this with your local church leadership.

Can I do frontier part-time, as Single units, as a distance or on-line participant?

**FRONTIER is delivered** through intensives and workshops, so it is possible to simply enrol for a single unit or do the study component part-time. Contact us and discuss your interest so we can serve you in this way.

As FRONTIER is intentionally designed to develop missional leaders, we believe spending the time connected with others in a hand on, daily encounter, is essential to forming good habits and discipleship patterns. Such a process of formation is integral to successful and effective church planting and/or missional practice and developing relationships that will encourage and empower you once you transition from FRONTIER into planting a church or renewing a faith community through missional practice.

Do I need a working with Children's card?

**Yes! Before you can begin FRONTIER,** you will need a valid Working with Children/Vulnerable People Card from your current State of residence. Without it you will not be able to engage in any missional placement or activity. If you do not have either a NSW or VIC card, we will assist you in gaining one during your orientation.

Will the Diploma of Ministry or Graduate Diploma of Divinity prepare me for Lay Ministry within the Lutheran church of Australia or within my own denominational tradition?

**Possibly!** We will assist you in seeking registration as a lay worker in the Lutheran Church of Australia. We will also assist in transitioning you into a recognised ministry within your own tradition. The purpose of FRONTIER is to create missional leaders for the local church. While you will do some generic ministry within the congregation, school, or aged care context, this will be intentionally shaped and supervised as missional practice, not traditional pastoral or parish lay work/ministry.

I already hold a degree in ministry, do I need to do it again?

**NO!** If you have recently completed a degree in ministry, which focusses on missional practice and/or church planting, you do not have to do it again. If you have completed a similar academic qualification from another learning institution, please chat with us and we can discuss tailoring FRONTIER so you only need to do those units within the Diploma of Ministry or Graduate Diploma of Divinity that enables you to grow as a missional leader. The Diploma of Ministry or Graduate Diploma of Divinity is designed to give a theological base line from which to shape you into a competent and capable missional leader. The learning you do around that through missional praxis is the exciting aspect of this program.

## How will frontier affect our church?

**FRONTIER is hands-on, practical missiology.** It involves study, application, and reflection all within the context of a missional environment. Mission is never conducted in isolation to the local church, and missional leaders need the supportive base of the local church for them to do their most effective work. Having people intentionally engaged in a learning-reflective practice and sharing that with the local church is empowering and invigorating for congregational members. We will actively include and engage the participant's home church and assist in mutual support processes for the duration of FRONTIER.

FRONTIER is not just about doing mission; it is about foundational faith and spiritual formation required for missional practitioners to be effective in whatever missional enterprise they engage. That means they need to adopt a pattern of discipleship, faith formation, and spirituality that becomes a life-long habit. Not only will the local church provide missional experience and practice, but their journey will also enable them to help shape practices of discipleship and faith formation. That is an exciting mix, which we know God will bless. By sending them back to their home churches, we are giving an amazing gift of grace and hope to the local church.

We are also aware that many congregations or faith communities have not transitioned into a place of missional vision, practice or identity. Part of your time with FRONTIER will be spent learning how to help a local church transition into a missional mindset. We will give you practical and practiced methods of helping communities realign their vision of who God has called them to be. Some of that will take place within your home church as part of your time within FRONTIER.

## Why not encourage participants to do a vocational education and training course such as the certificate iv in ministry and theology?

**Our focus is on** developing missional leaders who can operate and develop within a specific and intentional missiological framework. Our hope is to provide skilled, life-long learners to the church for missional leadership practice, who may go on to become leaders or even Pastors of missional churches. VET based training does not provide such opportunities. It is also does not attract FEE-Help to cover the course costs.

It may be, in response to their FRONTIER year, participants wish to pursue further study, and we would like to position participants so this option can be realised. Vocational Education and Training courses do not provide an adequate pathway into undergraduate study, and therefore limit opportunities for growth and development as missional leaders. The Diploma of Ministry stream provides the first year of a Bachelor in Ministry if participants wish to pursue that option, while the Graduate Diploma of Divinity opens options for higher level study such as a Master's degree focussing on missiology.

## How will this course benefit participants in the future?

**The program is intentionally designed** to balance theology, practice and reflection in a fundamentally pragmatic way, shaping missional activity and understanding. The Diploma of Ministry or Graduate Diploma of Divinity will give participants a good theological understanding, but the way we develop this in a missional context of experience and practice will give them a unique and fundamentally life changing approach to missional practice. Living in community, sharing experience, reflecting and applying lessons learned, all contribute to growing and maturing the individual into a missional practitioner capable of venturing into the non-church world. While this will have great benefit to the individual, our focus is how the individual, with the growth and learning they have gained, can benefit and bless the wider church.

## When do applications close?

### Applications for FRONTIER work on a semester basis:

- Semester 1 close on the 1st Sunday in December.
- Semester 2 close on the last Sunday in June.

## What other ministry does this help me work towards if i want to?

**That's up to the participant** there is no real limit! When you have finished FRONTIER, you will have gained experience and knowledge as you explored ideas in theology and missional ministry. You will have developed skills in time management, teamwork, reflective practice, communication and community leadership. You will have experienced school, aged care and congregational environments. While these skills will be shaped in a missional context, they can also serve well in a variety of vocations that require good community service skills.

Completing the Diploma of Ministry provides the participant the opportunity to go on to further study and complete a Bachelor of Ministry and /or Theology, as the units covered constitute the first year of a Bachelor's degree. The Graduate Diploma of Divinity also opens the door to further study and theological formation.

A participant desiring to become a Pastor within the Lutheran Church of Australia should note that the Lutheran Church of Australia requires a specific path prior to ordination. We will work with you and assist in positioning you to help realise this call to the Pastoral Office, if that is where you wish to progress. Australian Lutheran College recognise the units offered in FRONTIER so transition into the Pastoral Ministry program provides elements of recognised prior learning, reducing the length of time at Australian Lutheran College.

For those seeking a formal ministry role within their own theological tradition, FRONTIER may offer the first steps toward this, but we will need to work with you and your denominational governing body to position you into their ministry formation stream.

## Is one 'day off' per week enough?

**One 'official' day off per week** should be fine for most participants. There will be a variety of activities that provide a range of opportunities which will occur during the week, many of these will help to balance the rest-work life balance FRONTIER will develop in you. You'll also be given time off between terms to rest and recuperate. If this proves insufficient then participants may need to negotiate a second day off per week. FRONTIER is intentional about developing life habits that will sustain you for the long journey of missional leadership and practice. We know how important it is to get the balance right, and what an empowering freedom such a balance offers when embedded in a personal lifestyle of discipleship, faith formation and ministry.

## Do I have to get a part-time job?

**NO. As a FRONTIER participant** enrolled at Melbourne School of Theology undertaking full-time study, you will be eligible for Commonwealth Government Fee-HELP (if you're an Australian Citizen), and may be eligible for Youth Allowance/AUStudy (note: this is means tested). If you receive both these benefits, there is probably no need for you to work. In some cases, working may impact upon your entitlement to Youth Allowance/AUStudy.

However, we are intentional about creating space where you can connect with people outside the church, and work is one of those opportunities. We strongly encourage every FRONTIER participant to engage in some social or community activity, such as sport, hobby groups, part-time work, or other social activity as part of the FRONTIER experience. Even if you don't need the money, working is a great experience that helps connect and build relationships with non-church people.

FRONTIER participants have found work within local cafes, after school care programs, and even as boarding house supervisors. There are many opportunities within the local area for part-time work.

## Will I be paid for my days of missional ministry?

**No. FRONTIER is a voluntary missional experience,** designed to allow you to learn, take risks, fail, and grow as a missional leader without the burden of meeting an employer's expectation or outcome. Your home church may decide to contribute towards your tuition and training, but any arrangement of this type is at your home church's discretion.

## Are the references essential to apply?

**Yes. This is an important way** for us to make sure that you're ready for FRONTIER and that you'll have the necessary support from outside the FRONTIER environment to encourage your growth and formation throughout the year. They will also be essential for us to enrol you in the Diploma of Ministry or Graduate Diploma of Divinity through the Melbourne School of Theology.

We seek three references, one from your Pastor, one from your employer or learning institution, and one from a friend. We strongly advise that you sit with each and discuss your future with them before asking them to write a reference for you. That way they will be able to write a reference that specifically speaks into your application to participate in the FRONTIER program.

## What will happen in the interview?

**Interviews can be daunting** but our intent is to ensure that we get to know you a little and discover what inspired you to apply for the FRONTIER experience. It's also a chance for you to get to know us and ask any questions in an open and friendly forum, as we work together to ensure that FRONTIER is the right fit for you.

## WHEN CAN I APPLY?

**NOW** Applications for FRONTIER are now open.

## Is frontier only for Lutherans?

**No! FRONTIER is a missional formation year** for anyone interested in developing the foundational skills for missional leadership and practice. While the training is embedded in a Lutheran congregation, it is delivered in partnership with the Melbourne School of Theology, an inter-denominational theological college. The entire program is developed and delivered in partnership with a collective of Lutheran and other denominational Pastors and laity. Much of the material we use comes from other denominational and non-denominational traditions, which we intentionally use as part of our formation and shaping of participants, while remaining respectful of their unique theological tradition. Any participant, regardless of denomination, is welcome to become part of the program.

As a FRONTIER participant you'll have a shared learning experiences, work as a team, and grow in your faith capacity to be an effective missional practitioner regardless of denomination. No! FRONTIER is a missional formation year for anyone interested in developing the foundational skills for missional leadership and practice. While the training is embedded in a Lutheran congregation, it is delivered in partnership with the Melbourne School of Theology, an inter-denominational theological college.

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Step into a new  
journey



**FRONTIER**

Enable - Empower - Release

**Enable** your faith to dig deep into the everyday world

**Empower** your theology foundations to deliver new perspectives

**Release** your knowledge to launch into leadership



**FRONTIER**

Enable - Empower - Release

*FRONTIER is a ministry of ST LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, which is a congregation within the LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA and in partnership with the NEW AND RENEWING CHURCHES DEPARTMENT and the LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA NEW SOUTH DISTRICT*

MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY is an affiliated college of the AUSTRALIAN COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY, CRICOS code: 02650E



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