

Discendi studio



"zeal to learn"

Calvin and Theological Scholarship

Presbyterian Theological Centre

Burwood, Sydney

April 7-9 2009

Discendi Studio is an initiative of the three theological colleges of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. For the first time we are holding a theology conference together.

In the 500th anniversary of the birth of John Calvin we are committed to continue his heritage of building a church which is ruled by God through the Scriptures and taught by pastors who have a love of God and his word and a zeal for learning. The conference will contribute to this by exploring the interaction of contemporary scholarship and ministry with Calvin's thought.

The aims of the conference are:

- to stimulate research and reflection for teaching staff in PCA colleges;
- to stimulate research and increase skills in theological thinking of students in PCA colleges;
- model the application of theological scholarship;
- to assist the development of a shared theological ethos in PCA;
- to further develop relationship networks between staff and students of PCA colleges.

Discendi Studio means 'zeal to learn'. The title comes from the couplet at the end of the "Dedication to the Reader" in 1559 Edition of Calvin's Institutes of Christian Religion: *Quos animus fuerat tenui excusare libello; Discendi studio magnum fecere volumen*. Battles translates this as "'Tis those whose cause my former booklet pled, Whose zeal to learn has wrought this tome instead". Calvin acknowledges that it has been the enthusiasm of his readers to learn from him that stimulated his writing, so that the *Institutes* grew to be a remarkable work of theology. We hope to continue the same zeal, stimulated by Calvin's writings.

Discendi Studio is presented by the College Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia www.presbyterian.org.au/theoed/index.htm

Discendi Studio is supported by:

Queensland Theological College www.qtc.edu.au

The Presbyterian Theological Centre, Burwood, NSW www.ptcsydney.org

The Presbyterian Theological College, Box Hill North, Victoria
www.presbyteriancollege.org

Call for papers.

Discendi Studio will provide the opportunity for two forms of papers.

1) Plenary presentations.

Plenary presentations will be from scholars with post-graduate qualifications or who have completed a significant portion of a post-graduate qualification. They must consist of new work and be at a standard which could be published in a refereed journal. All plenary presentations should relate to Calvin in some way. These presentation could be:

- Calvin scholarship e.g. an examination of Calvin's context, biography or thought;
- examination of the reception and/or influence of Calvin;
- examination of an exegetical, theological or ethical position with some interaction with Calvin's views;
- the development of a contemporary application of a theme in Calvin's thought.

Plenary sessions will have a 35-40 minute presentation followed by 10-15 minutes of questions. Presenters are encouraged to seek publication after the conference.

Proposals for Plenary presentations should be directed to John McClean at jmcclean@ptcsydney.org. Applications close January 31st 2009.

2) Interest sections

Presentations in the special interest sections will be in the following areas:

- Biblical studies (languages, Old Testament, New Testament, Biblical Theology)
- Christian Thought (theology, church history, ethics, philosophy)
- Ministry (pastoral theology and practice, preaching, Missiology)

These presentations give the opportunity for students (especially final year candidates and honours students), ministers and college teaching staff to present material. The presentations may be new research or surveys of a field of study. They may relate to Calvin but do not have to do so. Candidates who complete an exit thesis in 2008 and receive a distinction or high distinction are encouraged to present at the conference. Interest section sessions consist of a 20 minute presentation followed by 10 minutes for comments and questions.

Proposals for interest sections should be directed to

Biblical Studies convener – Bruce Winter bwinter@qtc.edu.au

Christian Thought convener - Jared Hood jhood@presbyteriancollege.org

Ministry convener - Peter Moore pmoore@ptcsydney.org

Proposals due January 31st 2009.

Student essay competition

Discendi Studio is open to students enrolled in a diploma, bachelor or masters degree in theology. Essays must deal with the contribution of Calvin to an area of theology or exegesis. Essays should be 3000 words. There is a first prize of \$400 of books from *Reformers' Bookshop*. Other prizes may be given. The winning entry will be presented at *Discendi Studio* and the author will receive assistance in having the work published in a relevant academic journal. Essays must be submitted to Jared Hood by January 31st 2009. Submissions should comply with ACT standards.

Attendance

Attendance is strongly encouraged from all full-time teaching staff at the three colleges, all ministry candidates and deaconess candidates, and full-time post-graduate research students. Travel, registration and accommodation costs will be paid for these attendees.

Candidates who exit in 2008 and have a paper accepted for *Discendi Studio* will also have costs paid.

Part-time teaching staff, students of the three colleges who are not candidates, ministers and others in the Presbyterian Church of Australia and other reformed churches are also invited. Conference registration costs \$120.

Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided for full-time teaching staff, all candidates for ministry, and full-time post-graduate research students from interstate colleges. This will be in shared rooms at *Sinclairs*, 92 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood.
www.sinclairs.com.au/burwoodlodge/lodge_location.php.

Planned Schedule

The planned conference schedule is given below.

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
9-10:30		Plenary Session	Plenary Session
11:00-1:00	Welcome Plenary Session	Interest section	Interest sections (11:00-12:00) Colloquium (12:00-1:00)
1:00-3:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
3:00-4:00	Interest sections	Interest sections	
4:30-5:30	Plenary Session	Plenary Session	
Dinner		Conference Dinner	
7:00-9:30	Plenary Session	Worship and Biblical Exposition	



Registration

Return to
Discendi Studio
77 Shaftesbury Rd
Burwood NSW 2134

or email to conferences@ptcsydney.org

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

If you are one of the following conference registration and accommodation where necessary is provided.

- I am a candidate studying at QTC/ PTC (NSW)/ PTC (VIC).
- I am 2008 exit student from QTC/ PTC (NSW)/ PTC (VIC) and am presenting a paper.
- I am a full-time postgraduate student at QTC/ PTC (NSW)/ PTC (VIC).

If you are paying for registration please complete the details below.

Make cheque for \$120 to Presbyterian Theological Centre.

Or
charge \$120 to my MasterCard Visa

Card Number:

Expiry Date: /

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____