

## CH9009W Writing a History of a Faith Community

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**Offered:** 2018: Semester 2

This unit will introduce students to issues involved in writing a history of a local church, faith community or faith-based organisation. Historiographical and ethical issues such as the selection, use, and interpretation of different sources in the construction of a coherent historical narrative will be explored. The impacts of secularization, and of social, demographic, cultural, religious, and theological changes upon faith communities will be addressed. The unit will provide an opportunity for students to review and undertake research of selected Christian churches and organisations.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. outline a clear process for documenting the history of a local church or Christian organisation;
2. identify and use a range of historical sources and tools in the writing of a local history;
3. evaluate the relative strengths and limitations of archival, visual, and oral sources;
4. assess the impact of social, cultural, and religious factors upon the history of a local church or Christian organisation;
5. critically review a range of local histories and articulate ways in which particular challenges and pitfalls have been addressed; and
6. demonstrate critical awareness of the implications of constructing historical accounts for the development of Christian identity.

**Prerequisites:** 15 points in CH

**Class Time:** Nine sessions of 4 hours each

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| <b>Assessment:</b> | One book review (1,000 words)    | (20%) |
|                    | One seminar paper (1,500 words)  | (30%) |
|                    | One project report (3,500 words) | (50%) |

**Faculty:** Marita Munro

### Recommended Reading:

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Bradley, James E. and Richard A. Muller, *Church History: An Introduction to Research Methods and Resources*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2016

\* Curthoys, Ann and Ann McGrath. *How to Write History that People Want to Read*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Ely, Richard. *Mayfield Presbyterian Church, Victoria: Origins, Early Years and Character*. West Melbourne: Dissenters Press, 2012

Dekar, Paul R. *Community of the Transfiguration*. Eugene, Or: Cascade Books, 2008.

Fendley, J. Margaret. *A School on a Hill: Strathcona 1924–1984*. South Yarra, Vic.: Hyland House, 1986.

Holden, Colin & Richard Trembath. *'Divine Discontent': The Brotherhood of St Laurence: A History*. Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing, 2008

Howe, Renate and Shurlee Swain. *'The Challenge of the City': The Centenary History of Wesley Central Mission 1893-1993*. South Melbourne, Vic.: Hyland House, 1993.

Manley, Ken R. *'In the Heart of Sydney': Central Baptist Church 1836–1986*, Sydney, Central Baptist Church, 1986

Newnham, Lindsay L. *'This Changing Corner': A History of the Ivanhoe Baptist Church 1951-1975*. Melbourne: Ivanhoe Baptist Church, 1975

Newnham, Lindsay L. 'Writing a Local Church History'. Victorian Baptist Historical Society: Baptist Union of Victoria, c. 1995.

Emilsen, Susan et al. *'Pride of Place': A History of the Pitt Street Congregational Church*. Beaconsfield, Vic. Melbourne Publishing Group, c. 2008.

Otzen, Roslyn. *'So Great a Cloud of Witnesses': Ashburton Baptist Church*. Melbourne: Ashburton Baptist Church, 2015

Powell, Damian X. *'Memory and Hope': Strathalan Baptist Home for the Aged*. Hawthorn, Vic.: Baptist Social Services, 1995

Waterhouse, Catherine. *'Going Forward in Faith': A History of Melbourne City Mission*. North Fitzroy, Vic.: Melbourne City Mission, 1999