

## **St Augustine's College of Theology: Mission and Core Values**

St. Augustine's College of Theology is validated by the Ministry Division of the Church of England to provide ministerial formation for those intending ordained or licensed lay ministry. The college also offers certificate, diploma, BA, GDip, PGDip and MA courses to students interested in the study of theology and to ordained clergy and licensed lay ministers who are pursuing their in-service professional development. From 2019, the college has also hosted a small Ph.D. program in collaboration with Durham university. St. Augustine's serves the Anglican dioceses of the South-east: its original sponsoring Dioceses of Canterbury, Chichester, Rochester, and Southwark, as well as London, Chelmsford, and Guildford. As a validated institution on the Church of England's Common Awards programme, St. Augustine's also has accreditation, administration and quality control responsibilities for the IME Phase 2 programme taught by Chichester diocese.

### ***Mission Statement***

St Augustine's welcomes students into a community of Christian learning, the ethnic, social, educational, and theological diversity of which is generative for formation and education. To foster this diversity, we commit to making our programs accessible to students with limited economic resources and/or educational experience. In fulfilling our calling as a learning community, we pursue the Church of England's vision of ministry and discipleship in the Body of Christ. We form and equip lay disciples and licensed lay and ordained ministers as faithful, missional, collaborative, theologically informed, culturally aware, and resourceful disciples and leaders for the service of Christ within complex and changing social contexts.

### ***Core Values***

**Transformation** of men and women into the likeness of Christ

**Readiness** for ministry and mission in a changing society

**Communication** of the Gospel in diverse contexts

**Spirituality** robust enough to flourish in personal and public life

**Diversity** that informs and invigorates classroom and community

**Learning** centred on challenging theological study that leads to facility in theological reflection

**Accessibility** of ministerial formation for students of diverse backgrounds, occupations, and educational experience

**Collaboration** of staff, students, clergy, diocesan officers, and laity in Christian formation and learning

## ***Institutional Commitments Adopted in Relation to Diversity and the Environment***

### **Diversity, Racism, and our Life in Christ: A Statement of Commitment**

The trustees, staff, and students of St Augustine's College of Theology affirm their commitment to the gospel of reconciliation in Jesus Christ and we take as the measure of our faithfulness Paul's words, "there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Since we have failed to live up to this calling, we repent of our hard-heartedness and of the prejudices and fear that perpetuate racism and discrimination against our brothers and sisters, made in God's image. We dedicate ourselves to fostering a community of formation and learning, free from the blindness and bias of privilege, in which all may thrive and participate fully in the calling of God.

We acknowledge and take to heart the deep hurt and suffering caused to our neighbours in the Church and in our nation by the collective and individual sin of racism. As trustees, staff and students, we shall listen to the witness of this suffering, learn what we must do to live and work in the unity of Christ, act with and encourage those who are seeking racial justice, pray for those who live under the burdens of racism, and, with God's help, strive to become a community of reconciliation that dares hold out Christ's hope in the world.

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees, June 2022.*

### **Environmental and Climate Destruction: A Statement of Commitment**

The trustees and staff of St Augustine's commit to the design and implementation of a 'net zero carbon action plan', together with other measures that will establish environmental sustainability as a core element of its corporate life, reflected also in the college's formational goals. We recognise that addressing our present environmental and climate emergency is a mandate of the Christian gospel and we support the development of a curricular focus on the theology and spirituality of climate justice and environmental responsibility before God.

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees, November 2022.*