

Press Release



16th September 2022

Over recent months the Executive Teams of both Stirling College and the Australian College of Ministries (ACOM), along with representatives of both College Boards, have been meeting with the purpose of imagining a better future for theological education, ministry formation and counselling training for Churches of Christ in Australia, the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Australia (closely aligned to ACOM), our other college partners, and all key stakeholders.

This has resulted in a unanimous decision by both the Stirling College Board and the ACOM College Board, to begin working together to explore creating one new College entity with multiple specialisations or schools.

While a final decision has not yet been made to bring the two Colleges together into one new entity, we are sensing that the time is right to explore this opportunity to bring two strong Colleges together to create an even stronger and more well-resourced training organisation to better serve our network.

There are still many areas to be addressed before a final decision can be made. We ask that you join us in prayer as we seek God's guidance in this endeavour. Our very real hope is that through this process we might ensure that the rich and vibrant histories and current cultures of excellence will not only be maintained but enhanced as we look to coming together to imagine a better future.

While these conversations are taking place, the Colleges will continue to seek opportunities to be working closer together, sharing resources and faculty, developing combined units in areas of interest, and promoting cross-institutional study for students seeking broader options. Essentially, we will leverage the strengths of each College and support each other where needed.

Professor Michael Adams
ACOM Board Chair

Dr Rob Nyhuis
Stirling Board Chair



It seems fitting that the Churches of Christ, with such a rich heritage as a unity movement, would seek closer ties between its two sister colleges: the Australian College of Ministries (ACOM) and Stirling College. What began as The Federal College of the Bible in Glen Iris in 1907 became two more localised colleges in 1942. It is wonderful to see that eighty years later the common ties of family draw them closer together for shared mission and service. ACOM is a founding member of the Sydney College of Divinity. We fully support this wonderful initiative and are excited to see what God has planned as the Churches of Christ seek to shine the light of Jesus in this corner of the world.

Professor Stephen Smith
Dean and CEO Sydney College of Divinity



The University of Divinity gives thanks for its continuing rich and fruitful partnership with the Churches of Christ. Our vision is for Christians to work together in education and research that resources students, staff, and churches for ministry in Australia and beyond. We look forward to supporting Stirling and ACOM as they seek to build on a long history of excellence, and as they respond to Christ's call to unity in all that we do.

Professor Peter Sherlock
Vice Chancellor University of Divinity