

# AFRICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION

### Doctor of Philosophy of Religion (Ph.D. Religion)



Resubmission to the Commission  
for University Education



September 2016

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## 3.0 THE REGULATIONS OF THE CURRICULUM PROGRAMME

### 3.1 Title of the Proposed Programme: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Religion

### 3.2 Philosophy of the Programme

The philosophy of this programme is grounded in the Mission of Africa Nazarene University: "to provide holistic education that develops individuals academically, spiritually, culturally and physically, and to equip them with excellent skills, competencies and Christian values which will enable them to go into the world well prepared to meet the challenges of their time." It also contributes significantly with the university's vision "to be a light to the people of Africa through higher education grounded in the Wesleyan-Holiness Tradition; the University of choice for Christians desiring academic excellence; a community which will produce individuals of character and integrity of heart; and a place where lives will be transformed for service and leadership to make a difference in Africa and the world. This programme is guided by the general principle of "continued transformation" with 12 related principles. These include Guiding Principles (GP) together with an applied educational theory (ET) for the programme including:

#### GP1: **Contextualization of Biblical Truth**

ET1a: Biblical truth supersedes local cultural norms.

ET1b: Contextualization is required for cultural appropriateness.

ET1c: Institutional leadership is committed to open communication and collaboration among evangelical theological education institutions.

#### GP2: **Attentiveness to the Church**

ET2a: Basic orientation is toward the constituency church, rather than purely academic.

ET2b: Input from church members is actively sought and is accorded high priority in development, delivery, and assessment.

ET2c: Institutional leadership is committed to open communication and collaboration among evangelical theological education institutions.

#### GP3: **Flexible Strategizing**

ET3a: Educators are aware of the broad spectrum of training needs which may exist in the constituent church.

ET3b: The university is sensitive to needs which do exist, and creative in

responding to needs.

**GP4: Theological Grounding**

ET4: The task and guiding values of theological education are derived from and rooted in a biblical theology of creation, redemption, church, and ministry.

**GP5: Outcomes Assessment**

ET5: The value of education is determined by examining performance in ministry vs. merely resources and instructional procedures.

**GP6: Spiritual Formation**

ET6: A community life is cultivated which promotes and facilitates growth in grace.

**GP7: Holistic Curricularizing**

ET7: Academic, practical, and spiritual training is integrated into a unified programme of professional development.

**GP8: Service Orientation**

ET8: Emphasis is placed on leadership as servanthood whereas elitist attitudes are consciously renounced.

**GP9: Creativity in Teaching**

ET9: Teaching methods are selected reflectively or developed creatively to correlate with instructional goals.

**GP10: A Christian Worldview**

ET10: Training seeks to cultivate a mindset in which the Bible is the standard for measuring every area of life and thought.

**GP11: Developmental Focus**

ET11a: Faculty-student interactions are deliberately designed to encourage and facilitate self-directed learning.

ET11b: Teaching-learning methods cultivating dependencies are resolutely resisted.

**GP12: Cooperative Spirit**

ET12a: The university partners with the community and the students.

ET12b: Students partner with the learning facilitator and fellow students.

ET12c: A conducive learning environment is maintained.

In general the Ph.D. in Religion provides advanced understanding of the nature and purpose of religion, ministry, enhanced competencies in pastoral analysis and ministerial leadership. The design of all these incorporates the foundational nature of the biblical, historical, and theological disciplines and classical research therein.

### 3.3 Rationale of the Programme

#### 3.3.1 Needs Assessment

On an ongoing basis the university management seeks to identify market trends that demand a specific training. This involves reviewing summary reports of demanded programmes from the university's campuses which help identify popularly requested programmes. In particular, the department has surveyed church leaders and its graduate students regarding their aspirations for further study. For instance, in various yearly "Pastors Appreciation Day" conducted at Africa Nazarene university with over 66 denominations represented, leaders mentioned the need for doctoral studies. Their comments have indicated the strong need for doctoral programmes to further develop strong leaders and educators. In addition, doctoral programmes are

among those areas of university study the Ministry of Education expressed a need for Kenyan universities to offer to help Kenya reach its developmental goals. Furthermore, the curriculum development team, current members of the university's religion department staff as well as internet sources helped determine Doctor of Religion curriculum needs. The doctoral programmes at Africa Nazarene University help to further the University mission whose main focus is to serve God and humanity through higher education that develops individuals academically, spiritually, culturally, socially and physically. Besides academic values, the programmes are designed to stress moral values, character formation, and critical thinking which are essential for the candidates' advancement. In addition, the programmes seek to equip participants with conceptual techniques and understanding required for successful servant leadership, managerial and related careers in public and private sectors. This degree is a real need for developing countries, particularly in producing experts in related fields.

### **3.3.2 Justification of the Needs of the Programme**

Theologically the programme is anchored in the orthodox Christian faith as found in Holy Scripture and the classic creeds of the Church. However, it is particularized in the Holiness tradition, drawing foundationally on theological traditions and churches in this heritage while engaging the full spectrum of Christianity in a catholic spirit. Pedagogically the programme is communal in that the foundational residential seminars provide significant opportunity for fellowship and accountability with other ministers and religious educators; and it is flexible since the electives and research components allow for the crafting of a personalized emphasis. It is practical since principles of adult learning inform an action-reflection educational model where theology is applied to pastoral and educational ministry practice and vice-versa. It is also formational as the person the student is becoming in Christ is affirmed and nurtured. The ANU Bachelor of Theology (BTH), the Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry and the Master of Arts in Religion (MAR) programmes already contribute much toward the teaching ministries of the Church, including faculty development for our Bible colleges. However, noticeably missing has been doctoral level preparation for the Church in Africa. In offering the doctoral programmes in several areas of religious studies at ANU, the Religion Department recognizes the importance of developing scholars and ministers for the Church in Africa at a higher level. However, theological scholarship, as public, is a word to the Church and the world, for the glory of God. Considering this, the MAR thesis is seen to be more localized in nature while the doctoral thesis is intended to be more international in nature. At national and regional levels the program is intended to benefit church leaders as well as those who intend to aspire to be academicians. At international level the programs intend to benefit other Nazarene universities who are not offering similar programmes as well as other non-Nazarene universities.

### **3.4 Goal of the Programme**

The programme is an advanced, professional theological degree in which Africa Nazarene University takes to the highest level its mission to provide holistic education that develops individuals academically, spiritually, culturally, socially and physically, and to equip them with excellent skills, competencies and Christian values which will enable them to go into the world well prepared to meet the challenges of their time. The programme is an in-service curriculum designed to be completed while remaining within one's present ministry context. While it is especially for ministers and instructors who have already earned a master's degree

4. Displaying growth in understanding of and appreciation for the integration of Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience.
5. Showing a formation of a theology of ministry grounded in understanding of and participation in the mission of God in the world.
6. Applying acquired skills through research and communicate it to the Church and society.
7. Assessing their social environment, particularly the spiritual aspects, and offer possible solutions.

### **3.6. Modes of Delivery of the Programme**

The Ph.D. in Religion programme will be launched in intensive face to face seminar sessions during the January and September trimesters, each requiring pre-seminar and post seminar assignments. However, ANU offers its programmes in several additional modes, and these will be considered as market indicators demand.

### **3.7 Eligibility for the Programme**

#### **3.7.1 Admission Requirements for the Programme**

Candidates must meet all the ANU doctoral entrance requirements. The minimum doctorate admission requirement is the student must be a holder of a master's degree in a related area, or willing to work to overcome areas of deficiencies, with a GPA of 3.0 to 4.0 (B Plain). Holders of a Master's degree or equivalent academic qualifications of another institution recognized by Africa Nazarene University as of comparable status will also be granted greater consideration. In either case, the applicant should be able to produce evidence, to the satisfaction of the University, of his/her capacity to carry out original research. Beside the academic qualification, a candidate shall attach a concept paper of about 5 pages indicating the area of proposed research to the application form. This will serve as the basis for the admitting panel to choose supervisors in that area.

Subject to the approval of the University, the department may formulate regulations requiring applicants to have obtained such academic or equivalent qualifications as are considered necessary for registration within the academic area of interest of the department and may require applicants to submit to such tests or interviews as the department may find necessary.