

# Master of Arts in Christian Leadership

The editor of Pacesetters met Rev Dr Simon Cheong, Program Director of School of Leadership, over breakfast. The conversation revolved around the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (MACL), an online program to be launched.

## Strategic Partnership

TCA College (TCA) is excited to partner with Life Pacific College US (LPC) to bring the MACL to this region. LPC is an accredited institution of biblical higher education and has been involved in educating leaders since 1923. Their flagship online leadership program has generated substantial traction in the US. The MACL offered in TCA is accredited with WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) and the Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE).

## Unique Program

Many pastors and Christian leaders in our region have expressed their need to be equipped in leadership skills. This partnership will open up new possibilities for pastors and Christian leaders across this region to acquire and develop advanced concepts of Christian leadership, and knowledge for God's service without having to leave their respective ministry contexts.

The MACL is an online program that is based on a cohort. They begin the program with a one-week onsite residency, followed by four weeks of online work. These residencies provide a rich learning and cohort experience that leads up to the transition to an online environment. Within this online learning community, collaborative learning, sharing of

resources; expressions of support, prayer and encouragement are exchanged; fostering an active, interactive environment in which both the course content and personal communication are not compromised. The second-year schedule follows the same structure, but ends with a capstone project.

In some ways, online learning is a key response to the voices of many adult learners for quality accelerated learning. Given the quality learning and the flexibility, I believe it is a great way forward.

## Best of Two Institutions

Students will benefit from the strengths of both institutions. They will glean knowledge and experience from strategic leadership studies that have been undergirded with a strong emphasis on the bible, theology and practice. The curriculum has been specially designed to achieve specific learning outcomes. For example, the capstone project will help students relate their research to diverse ministry contexts. This partnership will grant MACL students access to TCA's well-equipped library and the wide range of online resources at the LPC Library. Another asset to this partnership is the blend of scholarly and practical insights from an international faculty, given that this is a US-accredited graduate degree.

## Acquiring Advanced Leadership Skills

MACL is designed to help students develop advanced concepts of Christian leadership. Students will be taught best organizational practices, learn applied research, and implement strategic, bold and new leadership endeavours to impact their own ministry contexts. Students will learn self-awareness disciplines, be acquainted with the major approaches to leadership development, acquire tools for developing their organizations or

## Breakfast Interview with Rev Dr Simon Cheong



churches, discover the cultural trends in ministry, learn how theology influences the choice of leadership theories, and be equipped with biblical tools for contextualizing alongside various other skills.

As we end the interview, Dr Cheong exhorts Christian leaders and ministers: "I invite you to seriously consider enrolling in MACL Online. If you have a bachelor's degree and desire to pursue further specialized education and develop additional advanced skills in leadership and Christian ministry, the MACL is for you."



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