



Grace  
College

# Making the Connections

8 July 2021

## Our History

### Our Name

On 6 May 1969, the then Presbyterian and Methodist Women's College Council adopted a new name and motto for the College being constructed: **Grace**.

The minutes of that meeting state:

"GRACE was chosen as the name because it says two things.

First, it says that life calls for freedom and dignity, strength and generosity, in service to others.

Second, it says that, to live at our best, we need the help of God. Christian faith sees God's grace in Jesus Christ. Because He cared enough, He freely gave Himself to men. We have confidence in Him and want our lives to be lived in the same spirit."

These words were originally penned by the then Master of King's College and member of the College Council, Rev. Dr Ian H. Grimmett. King's College was a men's college at the time.

"Grace" is the word normally used to translate the *koine* Greek word *charis* in the Christian Scriptures. *Charis* variously means gift, blessing, favour, gratitude, thanks and kindness. The name of the Student Club magazine is *Charis*.

### Our Motto

Those same minutes outline the choice of motto thus:

"The motto is to be **'My grace is sufficient'**."

St Paul wrote this in his second letter to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 12:9). He was having a distressing time and asked God to take away the painful problem. Instead, he was assured that, though the problem remained, God's grace would give him all he needed to grapple with it successfully.

## Making the Connections

8 July 2021

God's grace enables us to reach life's proper goals."

In the context of the explanation, it is worth noting the complete verse from which the motto is taken: "My grace is sufficient for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Again, this explanation was penned by Dr Grimmett; and the Grace College motto is inscribed in the Grimmett window in the King's College Chapel.

### Our Crest

Our crest remains.

The minutes of the Grace College Council from 5 August 1971 read:

"It was resolved to adopt the following design for the Coat of Arms of Grace College:

Shield – gules [red] on a lozenge argent, a passion cross flory purpure.

The College motto 'My grace is sufficient' appears in English below the shield."



The College crest consists of a **purple passion cross flory on a white diamond on a red shield.**

Some of the meanings associated with these elements are:

Purple	Sovereignty; Justice
White	Truth; Sincerity; Peace; Security
Red	Fortitude; Generosity
Passion Cross	Christian Faith
Flory (Fleur-de-lis)	Faith; Wisdom; Purity; Light
Lozenge (diamond)	Nobility; Honesty; Constancy

The Coat of Arms was designed by a resident of the College and member of the College Council, Jane Trewern, who is currently a Companion of the College.

## Making the Connections

8 July 2021

# Our Future

## Our Name

The name **“Grace College”** remains.

We acknowledge the rich theological connotations that the name embodies; and the connections it maintains with the Christian foundations of the College.

For Christian people, grace is the undeserved, overwhelming, unconditional love of God who draws all things to Godself in Christ.

In its commitment to providing a safe, supportive student community for young women, the College has sought to embody such love and care for those who have been a part of the College’s life.

We celebrate the history of the community that the College has fostered and developed.

Theologically, grace is dynamic. A recent articulation of the dynamism of grace comes from the current President of Union Theological Seminary in New York, where Dr Grimmert studied. Grace “breaks upon us”. It disrupts. It does not violate, but rather it “cooperates with our capacities, enlarging our imaginations and expanding the borders of our usual actions” (Jones, Serene. 2009. *Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, p. 122.)

As we have considered the mission of the College in the contemporary context, the Grace College Council has recognised a more expansive need for sharing community in a university student body that continues to become ever more diverse.

From a Christian perspective, the decision to become gender inclusive is an outworking of the grace of God in the life of the College. In this context, the name “Grace College” continues to embody the mission of the College to share God’s love through fostering and developing student community.

## Making the Connections

8 July 2021

### Our Mission

Hence the re-statement of the mission of the College is:

**Grace College is an inclusive, respectful, safe home for a diverse community of independent, creative, compassionate tertiary students, working together to succeed academically, develop holistically, and contribute globally.**

### Our Motto

Our motto, **“My grace is sufficient”**, remains.

In its scriptural context, the words are an assurance of support for the writer beyond the writer’s own means.

Grace College seeks to continue to provide an environment that cooperates with the amazing capacities of our residents so that, as a community, they may expand one another’s imaginations and provide support for one another beyond each individual’s own immediate means.

### Our Values

Accordingly, the College Council has restated the values of the College in a new way for the current time. Grace College is committed to:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Community</b>  | living and working together through challenges and achievements to contribute globally                           |
| <b>Inclusion</b>  | embracing diversity  |
| <b>Respect</b>    | valuing ourselves, others and our world  |
| <b>Compassion</b> | treating ourselves, others and the environment with understanding, empathy and care                              |
| <b>Engagement</b> | engaging with each other, our studies, our work and our world intentionally, with curiosity and in a healthy way |

## Making the Connections

8 July 2021

### Our Logo

The new logo of the College echoes the colours and the central lozenge (diamond) of the original crest. A stylised “G” rotated 45° in coral red embraces a smaller diamond in blue purple depicting the mission of the College as an enfolding community of support.

