

The Hon. Rev. Dr Lynn Arnold AO appointed next Chancellor of the University of Divinity

The Council of the University of Divinity is delighted to announce that the Honourable Reverend Dr Lynn Arnold AO has been appointed as the University's next Chancellor, commencing a three-year term on 1 January 2027.

Dr Arnold has devoted his life to public service, social justice and community leadership across faith, humanitarian and civic spheres. He served as the 40th Premier of South Australia from 1992-1993, after over a decade in state cabinet, with his political career marked by commitments to advancing social equity, reforming education, and driving sustainable economic development.

After leaving politics, Dr Arnold served as CEO of World Vision Australia and later as Regional Vice-President (Asia-Pacific) for World Vision International. From 2008-2011 he was CEO of Anglicare SA, championing social justice and community empowerment.

Ordained as an Anglican deacon in 2013 and priest in 2014, Dr Arnold currently serves in ministry at St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide and has held a range of leadership and patron roles focused on reconciliation, sustainable development, justice and community wellbeing.

Dr Arnold has combined ministry with active and continued engagement in public life, contributing to theological education, public discourse and community advocacy. A champion of lifelong learning, he holds a PhD in Sociolinguistics and degrees in Arts and Education from the University of Adelaide, as well as a Graduate Diploma in Theology (St Barnabas College) and a Diploma in Senior Company Administration (through ESADE in Barcelona).

In announcing the appointment, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McLaren said: "It is exciting to welcome Dr Arnold as the second Chancellor of the University. He brings a wealth of experience that will help ensure the University continues to contribute to enriching and enhancing the wellbeing of Australian society."

Dr Arnold will become the University's second Chancellor, succeeding inaugural Chancellor, Dr Graeme L Blackman AO, who will conclude his term at the end of 2026, after serving in the role since the University's inception in 2012.

Welcoming the appointment, Dr Blackman said: "Dr Arnold brings to his new position a rare combination of pastoral insight, executive leadership and a lifelong commitment to serving others."

Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, chair of the University Council-appointed search committee said: "In our task of identifying the next Chancellor, we considered candidates from across the country. Along with his outstanding achievements, Dr Arnold has a deep commitment to the University's mission and vision – his appointment is of particular importance at this time when the University is growing its national profile".

The Council of the University of Divinity warmly congratulates Dr Arnold on his appointment.

