

NetACT Board of Governors

Minutes of the meeting held at the African Bible College in Lilongwe, Malawi; 5-9 August 2002

Monday, 05 August 2002

Opening

1.1 Introductory note – Rev Amon Kasambala, Chairman of NetACT

Rev Amon Kasambala, chairman of NetACT, extends a warm welcome to all the participants. He reminds us that NetACT is facing some serious challenges.

- Our primary challenge is to bring theology to the grassroots level. Theology must be relevant to the current situation in Africa. We have to wrestle with major social issues such as AIDS and poverty, and we have to assist the church in dealing with its leadership crisis and with the search for its own identity.
- At the same time we cannot close our eyes to the challenge put forward by what is happening on the global scene. We have to develop our links with the outside world.
- Thirdly, NetACT faces the challenge of facilitating in the development of the participating institutions. Together we need to realise who we are and where we are going. We should not be afraid to face our own limitations, lest those can become an obstacle to growth. Even at this meeting we need to raise the issues that cause concerns, problems, conflicts, so that they may become stepping stones to develop the future.

We are here to determine God's will for the future of this organisation. In Lusaka we laid the foundation – now we have to build further. We are involved in writing the history of this part of Africa.

Word of welcome – Rev C L Chimkoka, moderator of Nkhoma Synod, CCAP

The moderator of the Nkhoma Synod of the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian, Rev C L Chimkoka, addresses the meeting and welcomes the delegates from all the different countries of sub-Saharan Africa. In response to the introductory speech of the chairman, he points out that the local church is also experiencing similar challenges. The local church is struggling for survival. In this struggle the church needs to find its own identity. Missionaries failed to appreciate the things that really concern Africans like the ancestors, illness, magic, etc. On the other hand we live in the post-modern age, which is a different world altogether. And we have to relate to this new world. Rev Chimkoka assures the meeting that their presence will be an encouragement to the local church, especially also as they will attend services in different congregations in Lilongwe on Sunday.

Welcome from African Bible College

Dr Paul Chinchen, principal of African Bible College, states that it is a privilege to host the meeting. He also appreciates what NetACT is trying to accomplish. It is indeed true that the church is facing a serious challenge with the AIDS pandemic. In one congregation here in Lilongwe the pastor was saying that he had to conduct four funerals on one day. According to Dr Chinchen the only way the church can handle the challenges is by leadership development. That is also the vision that is driving the ABC. While the church in the West is declining at a frightening rate, the church in Africa is rapidly growing. The main problem, however, is the lack of well-trained leaders. Dr Chinchen's father saw this need, and therefore established the first African Bible College in Liberia in 1976. The purpose was to train leaders locally rather than sending them abroad for training. Late in the eighties they were invited to Malawi by a Life Ministry (Campus Crusade) missionary, and they entered Malawi under

the umbrella of Nkhoma Synod. This college was opened in 1991, and many of its graduates are currently serving in leadership positions in the church and para-church organisations, and even in the society at large.

Introduction

The chairman introduces Miss Hannatjie Jacobs to the delegates. She has been the Project Manager in the NetACT office in Stellenbosch since September 2001. She is actually the one who has put this meeting together. “Baie dankie! Dis lekker!”, says Rev Kasambala.

The chairman also explains that they have to change the agenda of the meeting due to the fact that the luggage of Prof Hendriks and Miss Jacobs, containing all the papers prepared for the meeting, had remained behind in Johannesburg when they flew in on Saturday.

After this all the delegates introduce themselves. The following people are present:

University of Stellenbosch:	Prof Jurgens Hendriks
NetACT office: Project Manager:	Miss Hannatjie Jacobs
Office for Witness in the Western Cape:	Prof Martin Pauw
Justo Mwale Theological College:	Rev Amon Kasambala
	Rev Devison Banda
	Dr Laban Chipwatanga
Zomba Theological College:	Dr Dolb Mwakanandi
	Dr Silas Nyirenda
	Dr Saindi Chiphangwi
Murray Theological College:	Rev Rangarirai Rutoro
	Rev Wilbert Runyowa
	Miss Tanatsiwa Tasiya
Hefsiba:	Rev Kruger du Preez
	Rev Venancio Patreque
Nifcott	Dr Hennie van Deventer
	Rev Chatha Msangaambe
	Miss Tracey Lamont
RITT:	Rev Ariko Ekitala
Rafa – Namibia	Rev Zach Pienaar
African Bible College:	Dr Paul Chinchin
	Mrs Janet Brown
Facilitators:	Dr Ron Hartgerink
	Rev Johann Theron (arrived later)

Practical arrangements

3.1 Travelling claims

- For those who can use a bus, bus fares will be paid out, even if they have used a car.
- Air tickets are provided to delegates from Kenya, South Africa and Namibia
- Delegates from Hefsiba at Vila Ulongue, and the hosting institution, Nifcott, can claim at the local tariff per kilometer.
- A food allowance of US\$5,00 per day will be paid to those who have spent a whole day or more on the road.

All these claims have to be given to Hannatjie Jacobs.

Dr Mwakanandi voices a complaint about the inconvenience of travelling by bus, especially since we had to bring our own beddings. He accepts that this is the current policy of NetACT, and that it implies that institutions may have to make a contribution. The group agrees that the policies have to be sorted out in this regard.

3.2 Status of delegates at the meeting

The chairman explains that the first part of the meeting should actually be a meeting of the NetACT Board, which includes only one delegate from each institution. Only those Board members will therefore have a vote in this meeting. However, the executive feels that it will be much more beneficial if all the participants from all the institutions can take part in the business meeting, so as to give everybody the opportunity to get better acquainted with the way in which NetACT is functioning. Even ABC has been included, because they naturally fit in with this group.

Annual report

The executive director, Prof Jurgens Hendriks, presents the report. While reading, he highlights the following issues:

- AIDS programme: was already presented at JMTC and MTC – the response was very positive. At this meeting we need to decide about the way forward. In particular we'll look at the involvement of institutions and local leadership. Christo Greyling will work for NetACT, but in partnership with World Vision.
- Scholarships – funds not really available. As soon as funds do become available, these will be distributed evenly by the executive.
- Guest lecturers: In March 2002 Prof George Hunsberger visited JMTC and NetACT institutions in Malawi and Mozambique. Dr Ben du Toit and Prof Bernard Combrink will be teaching at Zomba. Rev Johann Theron has been invited to introduce the Kingfisher course for mission mobilisation to this meeting.
- Handbooks: The new edition of the Handbook for Congregational Studies, adapted for the African context, is ready and will be distributed at this meeting. The book can be tested at various institutions, and will then be discussed at next year's meeting. Probably next year's meeting will be devoted to the writing of books.
- The administrative office for NetACT has been established. Hannatjie Jacobs was appointed as Project Manager. Unfortunately Hannatjie will leave the post again at the end of August. A new person will thus have to be appointed.

Discussion of the report

Installation of Computers

The different institutions explain about their struggle to install and operate the computers, and the Worldspace Satellite receivers in particular. The original agreement was that Megkon would install the equipment and train people to operate them. Unfortunately they failed to deliver on that promise. The group agrees on the following course of action:

- Attention should first be given to institutions that cannot even use the computer itself (like RITT), and the email facilities (like Hefsiba and Murray TC). Permission is granted that equipment can be purchased locally (in Kenya).
- Mr Henry Chamberlain of Stellenbosch will be asked to assist in getting all the systems going. He will be sponsored by NetACT to visit all the institutions, set up the equipment, and train people in the basics of operating the systems. He can also help the institutions to find the necessary technical support on the local level.
- NetACT will also assist to a certain extent with the upgrading of the computers, but after that the institutions will have to take responsibility for the maintenance. Institutions can negotiate with the NetACT office.
- A letter should be written to Megkon to inform them about the problems experienced with the installation of the equipment and how we intend to deal with it.

Scholarships

- To the question as to whether the scholarships can be extended to include undergraduate students, the following reply is given: NetACT's mission is to assist participating institutions to be more competent in serving the churches in leadership development. That implies that the upgrading of lecturers should be the first priority. However, funds are scarce so far. For the time

being it will hardly be sufficient even to help upgrade the lecturers at the various schools. Refer to Min Exec Nov 2001-7 (Policy on bursaries)

- Another question is: Are the scholarships only for studying at Stellenbosch? Reply: This question will have to be answered in terms of the Constitution. It will depend on what the Constitution says on who we are, and what the relationship of the NetACT is with Stellenbosch.

- **Guidelines on costs**

- For MTh – first year : R13 000, including books, accommodation, etc, plus travelling costs of R7000 (commuting)
- For MTh – over two years – R21 000 (plus R14 000 for travelling) – R35 000
- For DTh – R45 000 over three years.

International student exchange

- When students go to study at institutions that have a relation with NetACT, like the Free University, that university may sponsor such a student. Students from NetACT institutions may be assisted in finding such opportunities through a recommendation from the University of Stellenbosch. At the same time the overseas universities would also like to send their students to Africa for practical exposure. They often go to Stellenbosch, but could also be encouraged to go to other NetACT institutions.

- Can there be student exchange between NetACT institutions? Refer to ME Nov 2001-1.2. This goes together with the issue of accreditation and curricula. Institutions need to be rated. The meeting suggests that the possibility should really be developed for cooperation between institutions. Perhaps students would not need to go to Stellenbosch for a postgraduate diploma, because institutions closer by offer equivalent courses.

5.1 Rating of institutions and their curricula

The Zomba Theological College wants to know how NetACT can assist in their problem of obtaining accreditation for a BD degree.

- The issue is referred to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee could perhaps consider how they can help in the negotiations with authorities at Zomba. It must be clear, though, that NetACT is not an accrediting body. In any case it seems as though the Zomba problem is involving an internal struggle and bureaucratic delays.

- On the other hand there is already a proposal that NetACT will help with a rating of the curricula of the various institutions. The meeting ratifies the decision of the executive that there should be an evaluating committee.

- The executive suggested the names of Dr Riaan Venter, Dr Saindi Chipangwi and Rev Evert van den Ham. The latter will not be available.
- The Board elects Rev Manie Taute to replace Rev Van den Ham.
- Dr Chipangwi is appointed as the convenor of the committee.
- All institutions should submit their curricula and a list of their lecturers (with qualifications and the subjects they offer), as well as their number of students, to this committee before the end of September 2002.
- The NetACT office should prepare the necessary requirements to facilitate the meeting of this committee before the end of November 2002.

5.2 AFMIN

See ME Nov 2001-5 b). The Executive Director referred the AFMIN director to the various NetACT institutions, so that in case they want further training for the pastors they are training, they can contact these institutions.

Guest lecturers

- Funds will be available for sending lecturers to all institutions during 2003. However, institutions should give an indication of their needs well in advance – even for the long term until 2005. Visits of these people are mutually enriching. We benefit, but they also benefit. And eventually it opens the way for lecturers to get opportunities overseas.

- Guest lecturers have to teach according to local institution's curriculum and needs. For such lecturers to be really effective, it would be good if they could stay for a longer time (like six

months). Prof Tom Boogart of Western Theological Seminary, for instance, is available for such an extended visit (he teaches OT).

- If an institution needs someone for a specific subject, or wants a particular person, NetACT might facilitate. NetACT might also have the necessary contacts to identify people for specific needs. The need will in any case be the determining factor.
- There is also the suggestion that we should not only look at Europe or America but even at the rest of Africa (West Africa might have much to offer).
- Details needed for requests:
 - Need,
 - Discipline in which lecturer is needed,
 - When the person is needed,
 - Whether local arrangements are in place.
- It is agreed that the lecturers at Hefsiba may be regarded as guest lecturers to assist the church in Angola with the re-establishing of their theological training. NetACT will help to sponsor such a venture.

Visits of Executive Director and others to the USA and Europe

- The Executive Director made contacts at international conferences – especially with the authors of Congregational Studies handbook. Also met people of the Gospel and our Culture Network – George Hunsberger, and others. There are keys in their theology that may be a great help to us.
- The executive director emphasizes that it is essential to develop our relationship with other protestant institutions in Europe and USA. We certainly also need to expand our donor base.
- A trip is planned for the end of this year (15 October – ... November 2002). Prof Hendriks, Rev Kasambala and Dr Erasmus are going to present papers at meetings of the Religious Research Association and the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. They will make use of the opportunity to further the cause of NetACT. The trip is approved with the blessing of the meeting.
- It is emphasized that we should also build relationships within Africa. The conference presented by JMTC in March 2002, with John Mbiti and others, was a wonderful way of building relationships.
- Another way of building relationships might be a conference of students in NetACT institutions, with some of the students themselves presenting papers.

Fund raising in USA

- Not very successful so far. John Chettle presented the NetACT proposals to foundations sponsoring theological seminaries. Our approach was two-thronged – strengthening theological institutions and getting involved in the AIDS pandemic. This combination did not seem to appeal to donors. They opted for the one or the other. Necessary to really build contacts persistently. Ron suggests that it is necessary to have African people driving this fund raising effort. They have to come into the offices of the donors, confronting them face to face with the challenges of Africa. The general economic situation in the USA is very unstable at the moment; it might start improving soon.
- Paul Chichen explains that there are certain things that you can find funding for, other things do not appeal to people. People don't easily give for an abstract thing like developing African theology; they would rather give for something tangible. It is also much more profitable to bring people to Africa to see the situation, rather than just sending one person over from here. Also it might be useful to target congregations, rather than just big foundations.
- It was also suggested that NetACT should not become the type of middleman that will stand in the way of the different institutions. NetACT should rather facilitate direct relations between donors and the particular institutions.

NetACT house

- The ED reports that the house has been improved considerably. However, it is not suitable for couples. Except for the time in December when people are graduating, and might want to bring their wives along. For the rest of the time ladies cannot be accommodated. Currently the ladies are accommodated in flats near the Theological Seminary.
- The house is also available for NetACT people working on particular projects.

- Rev Runyowa complains that the house is also utilised by people from Africa studying in other fields. This opens the house to strange elements – even people who are drinking and smoking, thus causing embarrassment for ministers who are there for their studies. However, the fact that other students may stay there is making it possible to keep the tariffs reasonable.

Tuesday 06 August 2002

6. Opening

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7 Morning Devotions

Rev DL Banda, Principal of Justo Mwale Theological College, Lusaka leads the devotions by reading from John 15:1-11.

The parable of the fruit and the vine reminds us of the African proverb that unless one belongs, one cannot be. Unless we are part of Christ and of one another, we cannot live a fruitful life. Belonging is a precondition to bear fruit. NetACT is a network of institutions belonging together. Our togetherness makes it meaningful. BUT nothing can be achieved without Jesus. Many people are involved in the fight against AIDS, but some miss the touch of Jesus. The more we remain in Christ, the more fruit we bear.

7. Minutes of NetACT Workshop, Lusaka 18-25 April 2001

Various smaller editorial corrections are proposed and will be given the Project Manager.
The minutes are accepted.

8. Financial Reports

The financial reports up till 30/06/2002 are presented, explained and discussed.

A question concerning a discrepancy on the balance carried forward in cost point 44800 (NetACT house) will be queried and reported back to the Executive.

The Reports are adopted with appreciation for the way the finances of NetACT are administered.

9. Constitution

Two points require clarification and resolution:

9.1 Relationship between the University of Stellenbosch (US) and NetACT.

The letter from Prof Hendriks to the NetACT Executive dated 20 June 2002 is read and explained.

Resolved 1: Continue for the interim in the way things have been done up till now, but arrange for direct transfer of funds for development/upgrading of member institutions from the overseas donor to the institution concerned.

Resolved 2: Because of the danger of being attached to only one university, the Executive Committee is tasked to investigate the matter, obtain legal advice and find ways of establishing guarantees for the position and continuation of NetACT as an independent body, should its position in relation to US become problematic.

Resolved 3: The US, through its Faculty of Theology is thanked for the assistance given to NetACT and requests same to continue rendering this service to NetACT.

*The meeting adjourns for tea, after which Rev Johann Theron of the **Kingfisher Mobilising Centre** gives a presentation of the programs offered by the Centre.*

Some discussion and questions follow, whereafter Dr Chipangwi gives a word of sincere thanks

After adjourning for lunch, the discussion on the Constitution continues.

The meeting resumes at 13.30

Mai Tanasiwa Tasiya leads in prayer.

9.2 The draft constitution:

The status of the Constitution is discussed, pending the issue of the relationship with US.

Motion 1:

Defer the discussion of the constitution to a later date in order for the status of NetACT in respect of US is legally clarified.

Motion defeated

Motion 2:

Adopt the Constitution in order for NetACT to be able to function and await the advice of the Executive concerning the relationship with US after which the necessary amendments can be made to the Constitution.

Motion carried

The Constitution is tabled and discussed article by article.

9.2.1 Articles 1, 2 and 3 adopted unanimously.

9.2.2 Article 4:

Motion: Article 4. 1 to read as follows:

4.1 Membership

4.1.1 Members of NetACT shall consist of the following:

- The founder members of NetACT.
- Other theological institutions embracing the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition in Sub-Saharan Africa who subscribe to the Identity, Mission and Values of NetACT (Articles 1-3), subject to their being admitted by the Board of Governors of NetACT.

4.1.2 Associate members shall comprise the following:

Theological institutions of other Christian traditions (upon application) who subscribe to the Mission and Values of NetACT (Articles 2 and 3), shall be granted the status of associate members subject to the decision of the Board of Governors.

4.1.3 Observers: Individuals or institutions of other Christian traditions who are interested in working with NetACT may be granted the status of observer at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

Motion carried

Article 4.1 as amended adopted unanimously

4.2 Termination of Membership

Institutions cease to be members of NetACT when:

- 4.2.1 the institution requests to terminate its membership;
- 4.2.2 the institution no longer subscribes to the identity, mission and values of NetACT
- 4.2.3 the institution fails to attend the meeting of the Board of Governors for two consecutive years.

Motion: (Note that Article 4.2 becomes 4.3 etc)

Article 4.2.1 C i-iii be amended to read:

4.2.1 C **Donors representing the Donor Community**

- i. The Board of Governors shall invite a maximum of three representatives from the donor community, plus one person as *secundus*, to serve as members of the Board with full voting rights.

Motion carried

Motion: 4.2.1 D i: remove the words *ex officio*

Motion carried

Article 4.2 as amended is adopted unanimously

Article 4.3

Motion: (Note that Art 4.3 becomes 4.4 etc)

Art 4.3.1: be amended as follows:

Delete the word *maximum*;

Motion carried

Article 4.3 as amended is adopted unanimously

Article 4.4

Motion: Article 4.4 to be deleted and incorporated in a new paragraph under 4.1:

Motion carried

Article 4.5

Motion: Articles 4.5 et al. to be changed to 4.4 etcetera.

Article 4.4.1:

Replace *chairman* with *Executive Committee*

Motion carried

Articles 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 (new numbering) adopted unanimously

Article 4.7

Motion: Article 4.7 C be amended as follows:

Replace *approve* by *ratify*

Move amended art 6.1.4 to become 4.7 I

Motion carried

Article 4.7 as amended adopted unanimously

Article 4.8

Motion: Art 4.8.1 to read as follows:

“...for a period of three years

Motion carried

Article 4.8 as amended adopted unanimously

Article 4.9

Motion: Art 4.8 to read 4.9

Art 4.9.2 to be amended as follows:

“...determined by the Chairman in consultation with the Executive Director.”

Article 4.9 as amended adopted unanimously

9.2.3 Article 5

Motion: Art 5.2.2: delete the words *the University of Stellenbosch*

Art 5.2.7: replace *executive director* with *Board of Governors*

Art 5.5 to read as follows:

The Board of Governors will be responsible to have financial records properly kept. A six-monthly financial report will be submitted to the Board through the Executive Director.

Motion carried

Article 5 as amended adopted unanimously.

9.2.4 Article 6

Motion: Add the following sentence after 6.1:

Amendments to the Constitution`will be effected by the Board of Governors.

Art 6.1.1 replace the words *Executive Director* with *Secretary of the Board of Governors*

Art 6.1.4: Replace the words *Executive Committee* with *Board of Governors*
and move this to 4.7 I

Motion carried

Article 6 as amended adopted unanimously

Hereupon the entire Constitution was received as approved by the meeting.

The meeting adjourned for the night

Wednesday, 07 August 2002

Opening

Dr DS Mwanandi chairs and introduces Jurgens Hendriks who leads the devotions.

Reading from Acts 15:1-21 he deals with the need to be able to see. In the interaction between the Gospel and Hellenistic culture, new ways of understanding the Gospel developed. The Christian movement became a Hellenistic movement, later Roman. Later the western form of Christianity was exported to Africa. Many presented the Gospel in Africa as a westernised Torah. Only if the Gospel is inculturated through a genuine encounter between the Gospel and the cultures and contexts of Africa, will it survive. Don't remain in Europe or America. Become Africa. That is what Acts 15 teaches us. Our challenge is to do creative theology in Africa in terms of the Acts 15 agenda.

Discussions: What are the issues that we need to address in Africa. Which things have been brought to us that are western and not appropriate to the African context? Dreams are experienced as a form of God revealing himself and communicating to people. Many experience a calling to the ministry through dreams. Missionaries brought the Gospel, but it came in a westernised form. Western liturgies, for example, have been imported. These are not suitable to our African culture. We are more Scottish or Dutch than African. We as Africans have a problem to find the balance – to be both an African and Christian, to develop a liturgy that will truly reflect our own background and culture. Dialogue is needed between western co-workers and African Christians. Everywhere the same problems are found. There is tension between the past and the present. Everywhere different cultures are found. People, even from the same culture differ. Some are more westernised or modernised, other are more traditional. Everywhere we need to wrestle with what the Bible teaches us and to contextualise what it teaches us. Contextualisation is taking place, if only we had eyes to see. Many local choirs in Malawi have developed a contextual theology. We can learn from them.

Prayers: Two persons lead in prayer for Africa, our congregations, our leaders.

Practical arrangements

Miss Hannatjie Jacobs is given the opportunity to deal with various practical matter concerning finance travel, address lists etc.

Travel expenses: Refunding is a problem. The Executive is instructed to deal with the issue.

Travelling: Delegates are requested to notify the Nifcott people about the time of leaving

Sunday services: Those who are unable to attend should inform the Nifcott people.

Minutes

Minutes of this meeting be finished by this evening and have them approved by tomorrow.
All corrections to be given to the secretariat.

New membership

An application from African Bible College is tabled and the application letter read.

The ABC observers, Dr Paul Chinchin and Mrs Janet Brown leave the room.

After discussions it is moved:

First motion

- a) that the application be approved with immediate effect

Second motion

- a) that the application be received positively and that the next Board meeting will take a final decision
b) that the Executive be instructed to lay down procedure for accepting new members in future

The two motions are put to the vote. At the first vote there is a tie.

The chairman requests a second vote.

After a second tie, the chairman through his casting vote rules that the **first motion** is carried.

The Executive is instructed to lay down procedure for accepting new members in future.

The ABC representatives return and ABC is welcomed as new member.

Next meeting of the Board

The next meeting will deal in particular with publication of books.

The book on congregational studies is nearly ready for publication. Prof Hendriks will coordinate the process.

Two proposals for themes of new books are put forward:

- a) Preaching on AIDS. Prof J Cilliers (US) and Rev Christo Greyling to serve as conveners.
b) Christian Ethics in Africa. Dr Nico Koopman (US) to draft a proposal about the contents.

Discussion: NetACT should beware of the danger of relying too heavily on resources from one setting only (e.g. South Africa). Scholars from other regions should also be involved. At the same time NetACT should be beyond being over sensitive. Western academic standards need not be the norm for books for Africa. African scholars fail to come forward, amongst others because of lack of facilities. NetACT should assist to provide such facilities. Scholars from different regions should be brought together to work as a team. The Gospel must encounter the cultures of Africa. The diversity of Africa must be taken into account and publications should not deal just with one setting.

Suggestions:

- Particular problems should be raised.
- We should avoid being theoretical and vague in what is written.
- Institutions are requested to share information about books which are available and which they are using.
- Faculty members of the member institutions are invited to write draft proposals on the various topics proposed in the new books.
- A further topic to consider should be one on church leadership in Africa.

Agreed:

- The Executive is instructed to work out the details of the next meeting, taking account what has just been discussed and suggested.

- Members are urged to send in proposals for themes of further books and propose names of conveners.
 - Venue for the next NetACT meeting will be at Stellenbosch. Executive to work out details
- Information:** on the progress of the project *Dictionary of African Biography* is shared and member encouraged to contribute.

Election of members of the Executive of the Board.

Voting members meet immediately after tea to elect an Executive.

The Chairperson (Rev Kasambala) and Vice-Chairperson (Dr Mwakanandi) to continue
Secretary: Rev van den Ham has returned to Netherlands and henceforth has resigned.

Nominations are called for submitted and counted.

Dr Hennie van Deventer gained a direct majority and is thus duly elected.

The Board expresses its sincere thanks to Rev Evert van den Ham for the work he has done for NetACT

Appointment of personnel

The Project Manager has resigned.

The Executive Director is instructed to provisionally make an interim appointment, pending a permanent appointment in consultation with the Executive Committee.

The Board expresses its sincere thanks to Miss Hannatjie Jacobs for the work that she has done for NetACT.

Guest lecturer accommodation.

- Hefsiba and Zomba submitted proposals requesting funding for guest lecturer accommodation.
- Donors should be sought to offer grants directly to individual institutions. NetACT can assist by making written recommendations. Contribution will need to come from churches rather than individual donors since tax deductions (e.g. in USA and the Netherlands) will not be possible unless donations are made directly to a registered organisation.
- Institutions should prepare detailed project proposals for submission to potential donors.
- Buildings thus acquired should be used for the purpose stated and not for any other purpose.
- When drafting proposals the question should be: Is this the most urgent need at this stage?

Annual report: The way forward

Ron Hartgerink takes the floor. He leads a discussion on the NetACT Annual Report August 2002.

Computers

Mr Henry Chamberlain will be asked to assist in setting the computers up at the different institutions. The process should be completed by end of 2003, pending the availability of telephone lines etc. Local computer expertise should also be used wherever possible.

Accreditation and rating

A subcommittee is ready to engage the assignment. The Executive Committee to attend to Funding.

Scholarships and bursaries

The cost of sponsoring a student over two years for a MTh at Stellenbosch will be as much as R35000, and for a DTh over three years R45 000. The program should liaise with the program of the Commission for Witness who are currently sponsoring eight candidates from the member institutions and the churches they represent.

HIV/AIDS Program

Rev Greyling will be able to visit all of the remaining institutions with the current balance on the budget. Phase two (second module) can begin, providing Rev Greyling is available.

The Executive is instructed to take the necessary steps. R50 000 required is already in the account.

BUDGET 2003

Exchange program	R50 000
Angola	R27 000
NetACT house: Unforeseen expenses:	R10 000
Theological handbooks: Subsidy for finalising the <i>Congregational studies</i> book:	R10 000
Executive	R20 000
Next meeting:	R85 000
Accreditation	R 5 000
Overseas visits	R20 000
Visitors/Fundraising	R10 000
Administration	R78 000
Scholarships (US\$8000)	R80 000
Other office expenses	R12 000
TOTAL	R407 000

Namibia and Angola

There is a need to facilitate the setting up a joint theological institution in Namibia and to assist the Igreja Reformada in Angola with theological training. This raises the question of priorities for NetACT.

The Executive is instructed to deal appropriately with these issues.

Our aims, goals and limitations as NetACT

The chairman warns against NetACT overextending itself or becoming involved in so many issues that it is drawn away from its original aim and purpose.

The Board should regularly revisit its aims and goals in order to assess the achievements of NetACT. Also it is important to involve the local churches in the work of NetACT in order for them to develop ownership and also render financial support to NetACT.

On the other hand we need to export our expertise also by way of raising funds for NetACT.

Closing

The meeting adjourns after a prayer by Martin Pauw

Thursday, 08 August 2002**Present**

Rev Amon Kasambala (chairman); Prof Jurgens Hendriks (Executive Director = ED); Dr D S Mwakandani (vice-chairman); Dr H J van Deventer (secretary); Dr Ron Hartgerink; Rev D T Banda (JMTS); Rev Ariko Ekitala (RITT); Rev R Rutoro (MTS); Rev Kruger du Preez (Hefsiba); Dr Paul Chinchon (ABC); Ms Hannatjie Jacobs (NetACT).

Committee for fund raising

The ED explains that he is worried about the current situation regarding fund raising. Even though we are extremely grateful about what the Hartgerink Trust is doing for NetACT, it is a very unhealthy situation to rely mainly on this one donor. In addition it is also unfair to leave the whole fund raising effort in the hands of the ED. The Board agrees to resolve the matter in the following way:

- Rev Evert van der Ham will be approached to find out whether he would be willing to become a coopted member of the NetACT Board of Governors, with the special assignment of raising funds for NetACT in Europe.
- A committee for fund raising is formed, consisting of the following members:

- Prof H J Hendriks (ED – convenor of the committee)
- Dr Ron Hartgerink (USA representative)
- Rev Evert van der Ham (representing Europe – if available)
- Rev Amon Kasambala (representing Africa)

Membership fees and contributions for travelling

The ED also expresses his concern about the escalating of travelling costs. The Board decides to take two courses of action:

- All institutions will be asked to contribute a membership fee to NetACT. Probably the fee should initially be kept to a limited amount, so as to avoid the exclusion of institutions that are struggling financially. Nevertheless the fee is necessary as a sign of commitment to the ideals of NetACT. The funds could eventually be used to help with the travelling costs.
- Those institutions that can manage, should also be requested to cover the travelling costs of their delegates to NetACT meetings (for example the University of Stellenbosch). This request should be addressed to the various institutions by way of a formal letter. It should be clear, however, that this request does not put anybody under an obligation.

The Board refers these two decisions to the Executive for refinement and implementation.

Friday, 09 August 2002

Present

All delegates for NetACT meeting.

Prayer

Mrs Banda, project coordinator for ABC's home-based care programme, opens with a prayer

Reports about presentation of Module 1

25.1 Murray Theological School

Rev Rutoro reports that the course presented at MTS by Rev Christo Greyling in May this year, was a great success, and that they would want the programme to be extended to benefit many more people in the Reformed Church in Zimbabwe. Their own plan of action includes some of the following:

- To continue training and equipping lecturers, students, and other ministers for this ministry
- To include an HIV/AIDS course in the curriculum for Practical Theology
- To form home-based care groups and support groups at Morgenster, involving the students, the hospital and the local congregation.
- To plan and present an AIDS Sunday with appropriate liturgy once a term in collaboration with the Morgenster Church Council. Posters and other symbols can be used to make the church more HIV/AIDS-friendly.
- To sensitise the whole community and the church about HIV/AIDS, targeting in particular the leaders.

25.2 Justo Mwale Theological College

Dr Laban Chipwatanga reports that at JMTC Christo Greyling's course about "Breaking the silence" involved 7 theological institutions, plus ministers, plus people involved in HIV/AIDS programmes. The course was an eye opener, which changed the attitudes especially of ministers. Other institutions also realised that they ought to include this in their curriculum. The presentation of Module 1 convinced the College that they need to proceed with the Advanced Course. The areas identified for further training are: Management, Orphan Care and Counselling. JMTC also requests that participants in the course should be supplied with some textbooks.

NetACT HIV/AIDS Curriculum

26.1 Module 1

All institutions that haven't had the opportunity, confirm that they really want the module to be presented. There is a suggestion that students from various schools could come together for the course. However, for most institutions the students are not the only target group; ministers already serving in congregations urgently need to be sensitized about this issue. Christo indicates that the combination of students and serving ministers creates problems; perhaps the combination could rather be between students and their lecturers on the one hand, and then the ministers on their own. It is also emphasized that, if teams would be trained as trainers, such teams would always have to include a lady in the African context.

Decisions:

- a) The Board decides to request members of the executive committee to continue discussions with World Vision concerning the possibility of utilising Rev Christo Greyling on a wider level for faith communities, starting with the theological schools and ministers. In the process NetACT should report to World Vision about the progress so far, stress the further need, and what role Christo is able to play in this regard.
- b) A NetACT coordinating committee for HIV/AIDS training is appointed, consisting of Mrs Janet Brown (convenor), Rev Wilbert Runyowa and Rev Amon Kasambala. Their main task will be to identify the main areas to be addressed in Module 2, and determine how the training should take place.
- c) In conjunction with the institutions they also have to identify the facilitators to be trained for the presentation of Module 1. For this purpose they need to set up criteria. They will also have to look at the financial restrictions. The other option is that the committee might utilise South African trainers who are already available (the costs might however be too high).

The meeting adjourns for a practical session, in which the delegates meet with some of Mrs Brown's local group for home-based care.

The meeting resumes after an hour. This time only the Board members are present.

Reading of minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th August, 2002 are read and accepted.

Matters arising:

28.1 Rev Van der Ham coopted

Rev Van der Ham, being present in the meeting, assures the Board that he would be doing his best to raise funds for NetACT even if he would not be a Board member. In principle he accepts the offer to become a member, but indicates that he would first like to consult with the church council of the congregation he will soon be serving in the Netherlands, before giving a final answer. The Board asks the Executive Director to write a letter to the congregation about the matter.

Email at RITT

The Board agrees that an amount of US\$100,00 per year be given to RITT in order to enable them to send their emails from the internet café in Eldoret, seeing that they can't send email from their campus at present.

Scholarships

30.1 Scholarships available

The Board informs all institutions that two scholarships will be available from the beginning of next year, and that anybody is free to apply, though the institutions that are disadvantaged should be given priority. The scholarships will either be for two M Th degrees, or for one M Th and one D Th. The

applications may be for any of the theological disciplines. The Board assigns the task of working out the procedures, the criteria and the requirements for application to the Executive Committee.

30.2 NetACT Scholarships

After a thorough discussion of some of the problems that students are currently experiencing with scholarships, and realising how deep this issue is hurting, the Board comes to the following conclusions about the administration of scholarships:

- a) NetACT will have its own Bursary Account with the University of Stellenbosch and will not channel its scholarships through other parties. It will create its own mechanisms and formulate its own procedures.
- b) NetACT will award scholarships for students to commute for further studies. Students will receive funds to stay at their place of study for up to three months per year. This time can also be divided into two separate periods.
- c) The budget for these scholarships will be calculated in consultation with the students themselves, so as to make sure that their real needs are met. The budget will not be so tight that the students will have no “breathing space”, or room for emergencies and unforeseen circumstances. For the current budget, Rev Ariko Ekitala is asked to prepare a proposal as to what a reasonable scholarship for a NetACT student would look like, to be considered by the Executive Committee at their meeting in December 2002.
- d) It is agreed that there is a need for some control measures. For instance, students will have to complete a form to declare other bursaries applied for or received during their course of study. (Such a form has to be designed). The scholarship will be paid into the student’s account in the beginning of the year after receiving a report about the previous year of study.
- e) Mutual trust is essential. It is expected that the people applying for these scholarships, being mainly the lecturers of our various institutions, will be people of integrity, and therefore trustworthy

Dates for next NetACT meeting

The dates for the next NetACT meeting are set for Monday 4 – Friday 8 August 2003. The venue will be Stellenbosch.

Executive committee meeting

The next meeting of the executive committee is scheduled for the 6th and the 7th December 2002 in Stellenbosch

Closing

Prof Jurgens Hendriks closes the meeting with a prayer.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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Date