



# **NETACT ANNUAL (ADMINISTRATIVE) REPORT 1-4 AUGUST 2006 PAULINUM, WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

## **1 INTRODUCTION: CONSTITUTING THE MEETING**

As with our previous meeting this report follows the sequence of the agenda. It incorporates the issues discussed in the minutes of the previous AGM as well as the interim Executive Committee Meetings which in turn addressed the issues raised and tasks given by August 2005 Annual Meeting at Hefsiba in Mozambique. Since there is a sequence in the EC meetings they will only be referred to by EC & number between 96 (31 August 2005) and 130 (4 May 2006).

The 2005 Mission and Goal Statement set by the 2005 NetACT meeting (**ADDENDUM 1**) form part of this report as a way of helping us to see to what extent we are achieving our goals.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the visit to the USA in Oct-Nov 2005 by the chair, the ED and PM. Dr. Ron Hartgerink made all the arrangements for a series of visits in Michigan and with his wife was a more than generous host. The report is attached as **ADDENDUM 2**. Our vice-chair made a follow-up visit in March 2006 (**ADDENDUM 3**). These reports and the positive benefits that came from it will be reflected in the report below and in the agenda of the AGM. Other highlights were the first Mustard Seed Foundation scholarships that were awarded (\$10,000) and the availability of \$15,000 for 2006-7.

**News from our institutions:** Like the previous year we should spend some time to listen to one another and as such request each institution to have a short report on developments at their institution. Do we have to congratulate staff members for receiving degrees or other distinctions? Are there urgent needs? Share anything to get us informed on what is happening at each institution. This applies to co-opted Board members too: please tell us where you are and what has happened in your life and work since our previous meeting.

## **2 ADOPTION OF MINUTES & REPORTS; VACANCIES**

### **2.1 Executive Committee**

The Chairperson's term is 2005-2007. Our secretary was re-elected at the 2005 meeting for the period 2006-8. He has, however, accepted a call to serve at Bible Media in Wellington (SA). That leaves us without a secretary after our AGM in Windhoek! We need to elect a new Vice-Chairperson for the term 2007-9. (From the constitution: 4.9.2: A Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the NetACT Board of Governors can be re-elected once only in the same position). Our Vice-Chairperson was elected at the Stellenbosch meeting for the 2004-2006 term. He may be re-elected. The ED proposes that we ask nominations for the vacancies on Wednesday morning and that we elect the new Executive Committee member early on Thursday.

## 2.2 Executive Director

The ED is retiring at SU at the end of March 2007 but will continue with classes to the end of June 2007 (at SU the retirement age is 60). The present ED is available to serve in a fulltime position in the NetACT office after his retirement. Rev Uma Onwunta, present PM, will complete his doctoral studies by the end of 2006 and leave for Nigeria by the end of June 2007. Weidenhof-house needs a new in-house administrator who does the reservations and accounts. It is important for the Board to discuss this and follow through with the guidelines set in the 2005 minutes 110.7 b and 130.2.

## 3 FINANCES

3.1 **Audited financial statements** for the year Jan Dec 2005 has been sent to all members Added as Addendum 8 = 3 pages). We will have preliminary statements for the period Jan-June 2006 at the meeting (Added as Addendum 9).

NetACT has the following accounts: Administration, Weidenhof house, Computers, HIV/AIDS Project, Annual & EC Meetings, Travels & Meetings, Lecturer Exchange, Scholarships, Publications, Curriculum and Ambassador.

**Contributions Jan-Des 2005 previous year: R410,894.61 See the Addendum 8 for the detail.**

**Since Jan 2006** we received several contributions, amongst others:

- A Grand Rapids based Trust for the Weidenhof House R218,539.11
- Mustard Seed Foundation: Scholarships \$15,000 (this has not yet been received but can be applied for. We usually get the money by December (2006).
- The Hartgerink fund sent \$10,000 on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2006 but it has not yet been transferred to our account from the States.

The following contributions were not received by SU but were paid to the recipients by the Commission for Witness of the Dutch Reformed Church in the Cape (it was simply easier to do it this way because of foreign exchange regulations for which the DRC has a much easier system):

- An anonymous donor pays the salary of an exchange lecturer (Rev. Dr. R Tshaka) for 12 months (2006) to help at MTC. The whole package amounts to R83,096.00 (it is not recorded in NetACT's financial statements – see below at §7)...
- A farmer who gave R10,000 for the accreditation process of MTC

The following money for bursaries was in a Faculty of Theology cost point but given to NetACT students:

- Private donations to the scholarship fund (Delpont family, SU cost point H475): R13,000.

The DRC in Windhoek-East budgeted R23,500 to help cover costs at the 2006 AGM. This money has not yet been received, but is available.

**3.2 Budget:** We should ask Dr Hartgerink to prepare a budget to be approved at the end of the meeting. The Office prefers two budgets: one for the remainder of this year and one running parallel with the financial statements, i.e. for Jan-Dec 2007. See addendum 9

**3.3 2007 Funding:** The Board needs to have a discussion on possible sources of income. (See 2005 minutes 112.3g and EC meeting minutes: 98,99,115a,)

- a) The ED had discussions with several **business people in Johannesburg** (Jan 2006). It is possible to get strong business people or even congregations involved in specific NetACT projects or institutions but one needs to have personal relationships between them and the

specific project of institution. We need to discuss this and agree on some guidelines. The ED will share more information on the talks he had.

- b) The ED can **report on funds that agencies have available** to support academic training, lecturer exchange and research in Africa (NRF Funds, i.e their *Focus on Africa Programme* and OSSREA). EC 129.
- c) The **2005 visit to the USA** was very productive as a major donation was made to improve the Weidenhof House by adding and furnishing two extra rooms (R218,539.11). EC 107b, 117. The donors do not want their name mentioned. However, the office will have to diligently report on the progress of the work. Driving this project involves a lot of work for the NetACT office.
- d) **Rent free loans to all NetACT institutions** who want to develop income generating projects will soon be available by NetACT being recognized as a mission partner of the RCA. By the time of the AGM we should have finalized the agreement between NetACT and the RCA. See ADDENDUM 2.5 and EC minutes 98d, 107c, and 118. Dr. Hartgerink's help in these negotiations was very valuable. The institutions who gave the ED specific requests for financial help with building projects should get the application forms from the office and apply: ZTC, JMTC & JMTI can be mentioned. The ED can assist and take this further with Dr Hartgerink when he visits the USA in Oct 2006.
- e) **The Hartgerink Trust has a US\$10,000** available to be matched by other contributions from SA in the 2006 financial year.

**3.4 International Steward.** The mission of this organization is to help organizations like churches, congregations and seminaries to become financially independent. Their address: 4595 Broadmoor SA, Suite 295, Grand Rapids MI 49512. Website: [www.internationalsteward.org](http://www.internationalsteward.org) e-mail [belder@internationalsteward.org](mailto:belder@internationalsteward.org) . See ADDENDUM 2:9 and EC 107, 116. Seven people from the NetACT house representing 4 countries attended a workshop / training event that took place near Cape Town. Their report was so positive that the EC decided (EC 116) on the following:

- a. The EC agrees that more people should be sponsored to attend the meeting in November 2006 in South Africa. People from different countries who are already in South Africa for study purposes can be delegated to represent NetACT.
- b. Dr Chipangwi asks for information about the workshop. The PM indicates that the attendants received handouts they could share with others in the various countries. However, it must be admitted that they were not officially delegated to represent the NetACT institutions. Therefore the NetACT Office will circulate the available information.
- c. Institutions can directly arrange with the International Steward to present the workshop in the various countries. Zimbabwe has already done so.
- d. The EC challenges the NetACT institutions to consider the possibility of including this subject in their curricula. It is reported that some have already done so, but the question would be what it would cost to get the facilitators to present the course in different countries. Indications are that they will consider the financial abilities of the particular institution when deciding about charges. It would, however, be essential for the institutions to show their enthusiasm about the matter by making an effort to raise a local contribution.
- e. The chairman, Dr Banda, suggests that regional conferences could also be arranged.

The ED received an e-mail from Prof Richard D. Allen, Ph.D., 7915 Wilderness Way, Ooltewah, TN 37363, USA on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May ([richarddallen@comcast.net](mailto:richarddallen@comcast.net)). He contacted NetACT on behalf of International Steward. Included in the e-mail was an M Div module on

*Biblical Foundations of Stewardship and fund development: A practical theology for funding the Great Commission.* It is available at the NetACT office. Perhaps this is a course that could be offered at seminaries and Stellenbosch University.

On May 29, 2006 IS wrote to the NetACT office:

Friends,  
 I'm writing to all the participants (and potential participants) of International Steward – a conference based ministry which helps ministry leaders strategically follow God's commands of Stewardship. <http://www.internationalsteward.org>  
 The time has flown by since we were all together! I am emailing to receive your response about our International Steward Conference that we held in Paarl a couple of months ago. When we met with Chuck and Larry, we had committed to meeting again the November time frame. Our commitment was to have a follow-up from our first conference & have another "beginners" workshop, because many of us felt the value of the conference was something that colleagues and other ministry partners should participate in.  
 My desire for emailing is to follow up with those two spoken commitments and find out if we're still on the same page. International Steward has committed to coming back in November to do two more workshops at our camp facility:  
 10-11 Nov =Fri/Sat Advanced Workshop: The 8-Month follow-up to our first workshop  
 11-13 Nov =Sat-Mon New Participants Workshop: The International Steward Basic workshop (the one we all participated in)  
***At this point I want to confirm your interest in participating and also the interest of others participating—would you please just confirm your interest by email and let me know how many people in your circle of influence could possibly attend. Or please email me with any questions.***  
 Blessings from MCM,  
 Todd King

## Discussion and proposals:

### 4 NETACT OFFICE

NetACT has set as goal:

- Maintain an adequately staffed coordinating office.

**4.1 The EC dealt with the workload in the office (EC112).** Mr van Santen is helping the office on a consultation basis as he is doing his Licentiate during 2006 and will most probably be called to ministry in 2007. He spent a lot of energy and time developing a very efficient way of running the NetACT house and office within the overall University administrative system. The result was that it was possible for Rev Uma Onwunta from Nigeria (who does the admin of the Weidenhof Street house) to serve as acting PM working for 3 hours a day in the office since October 2005. Pieter is called to help on an *ad hoc* basis.

### **4.2 Financial planning of the NetACT office for the next year: (Addendum 9)**

Rev Onwunta received R30,000 for 10 months (at R50 an hour, 3 hours a day) which will continue till the end of October 2006. It was paid as a scholarship. He will complete his doctorate work by September 2006 after which his dissertation will be sent to the examiners.

The ED would like to propose the following: that we continue the arrangement with Rev Onwunta for November and December, paying him R3,000 per month = in total for 2006: R6,000.

Rev Onwunta is willing to work on a 5 hour a day basis Jan-Jun 2007 after which he will return to Nigeria. Budgeted at R60 per hour = R5,000 per month for six months it will be R30,000 (This was what Pieter van Santen was paid). The ED and Faculty should be given the freedom to pay this money from the NetACT cost point in the most profitable way according to the regulations of SU.

For the rest of the year (July-Dec 2007) we should get someone residing in the NetACT house to be the house administrator. The pay for this is a free room (which in the case of the Onwuntas is a double room amounting to roughly R1800 a month as stipend). The Board should give the ED / EC the mandate to find the right person / couple to continue this invaluable service.

For the following second six months the proposed budget is: 5 hours per day at R75 per hour totalling R45.000 for July-December 2007. The present ED is available to do this work. The Board should make a decision on this.

4.3 **The expenses** (salaries, telephone, etc) of the NetACT office for the last years were:

2002:	R56,629.30 (Salaries: R36,476.04)
2003:	R98,946.39 (Salaries R84,678.00)
2004:	R100,531.30 (Salaries R83,803.98)
2005	R100,769.20 (Salaries paid as bursaries total R60,000)
2006 (Jan-Jun)	R47,500.00 (R15,000 of this was in the form of a bursary).

## 5 NETACT HOUSE

NetACT has set as goal:

- Create an affordable and welcoming living environment for lecturers who are receiving advanced training

The NetACT house provided the necessary infrastructure to play an important role in realizing this goal. See **ADDENDUM 4**, the 2006 report on the Weidenhof House.

See also for 2004 minutes pertaining to the house: NB 72 84, EC 44, 70. 2005: NB 115

**Proposed extensions to the NetACT house in Weidenhof Street:** Information **ADDENDUM 4b**. The extension of the house is made possible by a grant from a Grand Rapids based fund that contributed R218,000 for extensions and improvements to the house. The University is requested to build an additional 12 rooms on condition that the Dutch Reformed Church donates their section of the house to NetACT so that the two plots and houses can be consolidated. Consolidation is a requirement set by the Municipality. SU has drawn up plans on how to extend the available facilities in Weidenhof Street. We are awaiting final approval of the DRC, the Municipality and SU. Please pray that this will go through. The cost of the extension to the house is roughly R1,2 million.

**RCA loans for building projects at NetACT institutions:** see 3.3d

## 6 COMMUNICATION

NetACT has set as goal:

- Develop an effective system of communication, consultation and networking among all member institutions.

Communication is a constant hassle. However, one can now speak to Hefsiba on a cell phone and communication with MTC has improved significantly since their new Principal took over. He downloads e-mail through a cell phone.

**6.1 Network development USA: Communicating and networking with the PCUSA: See Addendum 2 and 3 the reports of the networking in the USA:** This will be dealt with later in this report at the discussion of the 2007 Annual Meeting §14.2.

**6.2 Communication with Angola** was a major obstacle. The undersea telephone cable broke and for a period we could not communicate. The money budgeted by the Hefsiba 2005 was not used. In June 2005 pastor Alexandre Mioca, Principal of ISEU in Huambo wrote to us and arranged to come and visit those institutions that are interested to network, amongst others SU. They were, however, forced to turn back at the Namibian border because of a dangerous virus scare.

The ED then initiated a major networking effort in order to get all the parties in Angola and South Africa that are interested to network, together during the AGM in Windhoek. The EC budgeted R10,000 for an Angolan delegation to come to the AGM by road.

- ✠ Rev Malungo, General Secretary of the *Igreja Evangelica Reformada de Angola* in Luanda.
- ✠ **IBK** *Instituto Biblico de Kuikuni*, Angola. Pastor. Silva Matemba or Pastor. Campos Afonso
- ✠ **ISEU**: *Instituto Superior Emanuel Unido*: Rev Alexandre dos Santos Mioco, Rector.
- ✠ **ISTEL**: *Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangelica no Lubango*. Principal Pastor JB Luacute.

At the time of writing this report, we were able to make contact with all the parties and they seemed to be eager to attend the meeting. The Angola Commission of the DRC in SA will also come to Windhoek. All the parties involved should try to work out how best to deal with the situation.

Since it is so expensive to fly to and from Angola, it seems that NetACT can only afford one Angolan Board Member. This Board Member should be able to communicate well in English, be involved in theological education and has access to e-mail and telephone. NetACT and the Angolan institution(s) should find a way to work together in attaining the NetACT goals and mission. However, these are just preliminary remarks; the discussions at the AGM will explore the options to be pursued. See also **8.3 where English** courses for Portuguese speakers are discussed.

## 7

### LECTURER EXCHANGE

**NetACT** set as goal:

- Organize lecturer exchanges among our institutions to provide needed expertise, and to create space and time for lecturers to further their studies.

Minutes of 2005 apply: NB117; EC 110, 121, 122,

#### 7.1 Rev. Dr. Rodney Tshaka's one year contract with MTC

Rev. Dr. Rodney Tshaka was appointed under the lecturer exchange program to MTC after completing his D Th as SU. His salary for 2006 was financed by someone known to the DRC's Commission for Witness. Since they are used to transferring money between SA and other

countries, we asked them to put him on their staff list and to handle all the legal requirements. Getting this agreement to work and Rev Tshaka in Zimbabwe took a considerable amount of time and work. We would like **MTC to report on this matter** – whether it is beneficial or not. NetACT paid the travelling expenses in getting Rev. Dr Tshaka to MTC from this account.

## 7.2 Unused Lecture Exchange budget

According to our 2005 budget we were in a position to help the three institutions with an average of R8000 each. Nobody made use of this. We need a good discussion on the lecturer exchange program.

The hypotheses with which we work are that the purpose of the exchange program is:

- a) To help colleges with lecturers where they lack professional people; i.e. to raise academic standards;
- b) To create opportunities for staff to get a break so that they can pursue their studies;
- c) To network NetACT institutions with one another and with other institutions globally;
- d) To help institutions through networking to build a broader support base, academically and financially.

A lot of time and energy were spent in our discussions with seminaries in the USA and with the PCUSA in order to build a network through lecturer exchanges. See for instance ADDENDUM 2 point 7: Dr Chipangwi followed-up on the PCUSA discussions with congregational leaders to come to seminaries and teach and learn and build bridges.

### Open invitations to help with lecturers:

- ✠ Louisville Seminary, PCUSA, Louisville KY, USA. See ADDENDUM 2 Point 2.
- ✠ Western Theological Seminary, Holland, MI, USA, See ADDENDUM 2 Point 7. Western is willing to fund and send at least four of their staff members to help at NetACT institutions.
- ✠ Stellenbosch University: Faculty of Theology – all the NetACT institutions between themselves.
- ✠ RCA missionary Rowland van Es teaches at St Pauls, Limuru in Kenya. His sending organization encourages NetACT institutions to use him.
- ✠ Prof Mike Goheen from Trinity Western University, Canada, a Newbigin / Biblical Theology scholar is available in 2008 when he has a sabbatical [mike.goheen@twu.ca](mailto:mike.goheen@twu.ca) .

### It seems as if:

- ✠ Board Members / NetACT institutions did not react to the information and opportunities created by NetACT and no longer seem to need help in this regard.
- ✠ The ED did not follow through on the opportunities by contacting each institution personally to remind them of the opportunities.

### Proposal:

- ✠ Those institutions that did not use their allotted lecturer exchange money forfeit it.
- ✠ We should change our budgeting procedure and say that the first institutions that negotiate and confirm an exchange may get the money budgeted.

## 8 SCHOLARSHIPS

NetACT set as goal:

- Providing scholarships to advance the theological training of our institutions' lecturers

It is important to follow our previous discussions and reports on this matter:

**From the 2005 Annual Report:** The administration of scholarships was done according to the approved guidelines (NB 88, and the "Decisions about Scholarships: 2002-2004" compiled by the Secretary). See EC 71, 80.

**2005-2006 minutes:** NB 118; from the EC meetings: EC 100, 109, 120.

### 8.1 Mustard Seed Foundation

We had a big breakthrough with the Mustard Seed Foundation. One should thank Pieter van Santen who spent his last days in office doing all the last-minute work in getting our proposal ready as well as the applications. \$5,000 was awarded to both Rev Munikwa and Msangaambe. \$15,000 is available for 2006-7. MSF awards the money to an institution which may then award it to anyone who applies and conforms to the requirements they set. South Africans from any denomination may therefore also apply. The office handles the applications and sends them to MSF head office to make the final decisions. Institutions can get application forms from the NetACT office.

### 8.2 Other Scholarships

Discussions with the WCRC lead to two scholarships being awarded by them to scholars from NetACT institutions: William Zulu of Zambia and Rev Ariko Ekitala of RITT (ADDENDUM 2 at 2.6). This led to the cancellation of the last-mentioned NetACT scholarship (during the budgeting process Hefsiba Aug 2005) that was awarded in Feb. 2004 (EC 31.4, NB 88) but not used.

We are receiving smaller amounts of money from well-wishers who get to know students while studying at Stellenbosch or in other ways. This money helps a lot in cases where there is a dire need and where people ran out of money. R13,000 has been received from the Delpont family. This money did not go through the NetACT account but through an account of the Department Practical Theology (H475). Two doctoral students were helped with R5000 each.

Rev Ngiggi got a NetACT scholarship but after a first visit to Stellenbosch, accepted a scholarship from Western Theological Seminary. He had to choose where to go and went to WTS. R17.000 was returned to the NetACT Scholarship account.

### 8.3 Angolan Request for English courses

The request from Angola to assist some of their lecturers with scholarships to study English in order to be able to proceed with studies needs our urgent attention (see request Rev Silva Matemba, EC 108c, 121). His letter is worth quoting:

**From:** Silva Matemba [mailto:silvamatemba@yahoo.com.br]

**Sent:** 21 April 2006 12:09

**To:** ONWUNTA Uma Agwu

**Subject:** a letter

Dear Uma / Pieter

In first place receive my best regard in name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Please could be possible to let me know how has going the arangement about my request(english estudies)? as you have knowledge that the I.B.K need a people that can espeak and whrite fluently in english. Please help me it will be better for our Institute. I will be glad to receive a news.

Your Sincerely

Matemba /Silva

Since our networking with Angola and achieving our goals depend to a large extent on the ability to communicate in English the ED had extensive discussions with SU. In order to have all the necessary information on the table that outlines the cost of the two options available: acquiring the necessary language skills in Angola or at Stellenbosch, the ED asked Ms Helene Lamprechts of Multi-Lingua Language Consultancy to prepare a memorandum for NetACT (this action was decided upon after consulting with Dr. Robert Kotze of the International Office of SU). This memo will only be available by the end of July and as such distributed and discussed at the meeting.

**Proposal:** discussion with the Angolan delegation on the best way for them to acquire English proficiency in the light of their needs and the cost and other factors outlined in the memo.

#### 8.4 Requests for scholarships

- ✠ The principal of RITT wrote to the NetACT office: *I would like to request that in the consideration of scholarships you consider our staff at RITT. We have three qualified and are currently helping to teach. In particular Mrs. Edith has been teaching HIV/AIDS and has an admission to Stellenbosch. We also have another staff that needs to join Stellenbosch. This would boost our ability to get accreditation.* - . The ED is negotiating with the DRC Congregation Durbanville-Bergsig to help us with a scholarship for her.
- ✠ We have applications from two Zimbabweans that need to be considered.
- ✠ There was an urgent request from Zomba for \$2,500 with which the EC awarded. Details at AGM available.
- ✠ JMTI (Nifcott from Nkhoma) put the following request:

Previously NetACT awarded scholarships for two women from Nkhoma Synod to study at Zomba Theological College....it happened that one of those ladies to whom we previously awarded the scholarships was accepted at Zomba at the beginning of this year. She is Mrs Chapota, a minister's wife.

We want to plead that she should again be placed on the list for scholarships. She is already busy with her studies, but is struggling with the funds. According to an estimate provided by her, the costs will actually be amazingly low. Though it would be a very tight budget, she may get through with about MK150000, which is equal to just about US\$1000. If you want I could send the full breakdown of the estimated costs.

#### 8.5 Scholarships available

Louisville Seminary has scholarships for NetACT students who want to do some research at their institution. See ADDENDUM 2 Point 2.

### 9 HIV/AIDS PROJECT

NetACT set as goal:

- Enhance and maintain the relevance of NetACT's proprietary HIV/Aids course and ensure that it remains part of the curriculum at each of our institutions.

Since Amon Kasambala took another vocation and Janet Brown died, nobody was in a position to attend to this goal and pursue and develop it. Follow the developments in the 2005 minutes (NB119 and subsequently in the EC minutes: 127). See the ADDENDUM 2 report of the visit to the PCUSA in Louisville where we had discussions with Bob Ellis of their Worldwide Ministries Division on AIDS in Africa. He advised us to get in touch with Janet Guyer the PCUSA Aids coordinator for Southern Africa stationed in Johannesburg. We basically stopped trying to apply for PEPFAR

funds. Dr. Ron Hartgerink is researching AIDS related funding possibilities in the USA and will report to NetACT in this regard.

From the EC meeting (127c):

The EC approves the proposal that Janet Guyer be invited to the AGM of the NetACT Board in Windhoek (August 2006). She is a networking person, and will assist the NetACT institutions to obtain assistance for HIV/AIDS programs. She is specifically concerned about the involvement of the churches. The EC agrees that she could lead a discussion at the AGM on the requirements for curricula to be taught at institutions. She will pay her own ticket to Windhoek. We could set aside at least two hours to discuss this matter.

**Proposal:** address this in the 2006 AGM Agenda.

## 10 CURRICULUM REPORT & ACTEA

**NetACT** set as goal:

- Upgrade curriculum standards at our member institutions.

It is important to follow our minutes on this issue: 2004 NB 87, 96, EC 43, 46, 52, 73. 2005: NB 120, EC 102, 128. All institutions are to report on accreditation developments.

### 10.1 Accreditation

**Stellenbosch** was academically assessed by the HEQC (Higher Education Quality Council) which evaluated all aspects of the university. The NQF (National Qualifications Network) and SAQA (South African Qualifications Authority) are busy to get all qualifications in SA standardized. New criteria were set in close association with UK NARIC, the British qualification authority. As such these standards are now in accordance with the international levels.

Proff Hendriks and Bosman (Program Officer at the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch) attended the Justo Mwale Theological College Theology Round Table Conference in March 2006 to amongst others explain these developments to JMTC and other institutions in attendance.

According to the new NQF /SAQA criteria most four year B Th degrees from other institutions in Africa is set at NQF level 6 which means it is equivalent to a 3 year degree in SA. The implication of this is that people with a 4 year B Th degree who were previously allowed to continue with a two year M Th degree at SA Universities must now first do a one year NQF level 7 degree (like the Post Graduate Diploma in Theology or another Honours degree). After completing the Post Graduate Diploma in Theology they may continue to do a one year M Th. In other words: instead of the previous two year M Th, a one year PDT and a one year M Th is required.

This change in policy has serious implications for all the NetACT and other institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa who are sending people to study in South Africa. The change in policy is a national issue and applies to all SA universities. Prof Mouton, Dean at Stellenbosch, will attend the AGM to give more information and discuss ways of dealing with these developments.

**Joint decision taken at JMTC in March 2006:** JMTC will give SU / Faculty of Theology a full description of their B Th according to the NQF template for registering programs. Stellenbosch will then present it at their division dealing with programs who may then present it to the NQF to see if the JMTC degree can be accredited on NQF level 7 as a professional four year baccalaurean degree.

After the discussions with JMTC the ED took initiative to get the necessary information from all the NetACT institutions on their highest academic qualifications and how it is accredited in order to see how these qualifications are rated according to the standards set by SAQA, NRF and UK NARIC. The International Office of SU was presented with this data and they provided the levels accorded to the NetACT institutions. See ADDENDUM 5.

The ED also has started discussions with ACTEA to get their view on the NRF / UK NARIC accreditation policy and whether or not ACTEA's accreditation is taken into account. The ED hopes to report on this at the AGM.

The following request from MTC should be discussed:

**1 UPGRADING OF NETACT INSTITUTIONS AND ACTEA**

MTC is in the process of engaging ACTEA as consultants in the process of upgrading the standards of its theological training. It is necessary for MTC to understand how NetACT views the work of ACTEA and its relations with ACTEA

**2 MTC AND I.T. NEEDS**

MTC needs to understand if and how NetACT can enable MTC to acquire information technology equipment. What is NetACT's policy concerning this matter?

Wishing you the best in organising the upcoming AGM!

Yours in Christ,  
Rev HW Murray (Principal)

## **10.2 Curriculum Development**

**Rev Kruger du Preez** who is working towards a D Th degree on curriculum development in relation to the NetACT institutions should update us on progress in his studies. His research proposal has not yet been accepted and therefore he is still not officially registered. We need a report from him as well as some detailed planning. Once he is registered there is a strong possibility of him getting a scholarship from the NRF (National Research Foundation) for this research. It may pay the Curriculum Desk / Rev Du Preez to get in touch with **World Wide Christian Schools, Dale Dieleman** (ADDENDUM 2.3 - [ddieleman@wwcs.org](mailto:ddieleman@wwcs.org) OR [www.wwcs.org](http://www.wwcs.org) ).

**Request from Rev du Preez to all the institutions:** Would your office be so kind as to ask the different institutions to bring with them all their curricula, Prospects etc that can be useful to make intelligent evaluations in the future?

**Update on the budget:** The R10,000 budgeted will be paid to Rev Du Preez in July or August 2006 to cover his costs. We should consider budgeting at least the same amount for 2007.

**Discussion and proposals** on the issue of accreditation should follow. It may be a good idea to ask the Dean of the Faculty of Theology to address us on this matter since she is serving on AKTO which is the joint body of theological institutions in SA where these issues are under discussion. Dr Chiphangwi and Rev Kruger du Preez may also be asked to lead us in preparing specific proposals.

## 11 PUBLICATIONS

NetACT set as goal:

- Publish theological handbooks relevant to the African context.

### 11.1 Studying Congregations in Africa

Minutes and previous discussions: 2003 (NB 59) & 2004: NB 90, 91 EC 50, 51, 72, 81; 2005: NB 121 and EC 97a; 101, 108, 111, 119, 123.

The publisher eventually reprinted 700 copies of *Studying Congregations in Africa*. There are enough copies available. We supplied all institutions during Dec 2005 with enough books for 2006 and 2007. Institutions can place orders for books when they need them.

Portuguese Translation: I quote from the EC minutes (EC 123):

The EC receives the report from Rev Kruger du Preez concerning the Portuguese translation of “Studying Congregations in Africa”, and it is clear that they are becoming frustrated, since progress is rather slow. It seems as if the ball is passed from one to the other. Venancio Patreque is working on it at the moment. However, Rev José Batikula, lecturer at **ISTEL** (*Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangelica no Lubango*) in Angola is willing to assist with the translation. The EC agrees that, in case the project would really get bogged down, Rev Bakitula could be given a chance, provided that the material completed thus far would be forwarded to him. The donors have also been informed about the awkward situation.

Discussion is needed on this situation at the meeting.

### 11.2 Other publications

The urgency to proceed with the planning and writing of textbooks that address the contextual situation in Africa in all fields of theology needs to be pursued as a priority.

- The book-projects “Preaching on Aids in Africa” is now on the agenda and the memorandum of Prof J Cilliers is added as ADDENDUM 6

**Discuss, adjust and nominate team members** for the project. **Final approval** for a go-ahead is needed from NetACT Board.

- “Ethics in Africa” is a priority. Prof Nico Koopman is convenor for this book project (Minutes 2002 point 14; 2003 NB 75). He is unfortunately sick at the moment and a memorandum of the progress is being awaited.

Proff. Cilliers and Koopman is applying for National Research Foundation funding to help with this project.

### 11.3 Books for Libraries

The NetACT office collected quite a number of books and, after getting permission from the EC, sent 11 cartons to MTC to support their bid to get ACTEA accreditation. Books donated by Prof Corwin Smidt of Calvin College and Dr. Manie Taute former Principal of Hefsiba were sent to all institutions.

**Addendum 5:** Memorandum of Dr. J Cilliers on “Preaching on Aids in Africa.”

#### **11.4 David Bosch: Transforming Mission**

The widow of Prof David Bosch wrote to the ED about a cheaper publication of the standard work on Missiology of Prof David Bosch. We can buy it for R85 and sell it at whatever price we decide. The American Orbis edition is twice that amount (R200). The person to contact in India is Prof Siga Arles at [arles@sify.com](mailto:arles@sify.com) or [arles@satyam.net.in](mailto:arles@satyam.net.in) If there are institutions that are interested to buy these books, they could either do it through the NetACT office or directly.

#### **11.5 African Bible Commentary (Zondervan 2006)**

The ED met with the copy editor of this 1600 page commentary which covers all the books in the Bible and was done by an all-African team of commentators, 70 in total. It is truly a contextual African commentary addressing in about 80 articles a number of important issues that deal with topics like AIDS, angels, demons and powers, healing, taboos, widow inheritance etc. In SA it is selling at R350 per copy. NetACT may be in a position to get it at R200 if we buy a large number. A copy of the commentary will be at the AGM. We should consider whether we should set a goal of supplying (selling at an affordable price) a commentary to each student going to the ministry.

**Discuss this proposal.**

## **12 NEW MEMBERS**

Dr George du Toit, principal of Paulinum Seminary in Windhoek attended last year’s meeting. He represented Paulinum and Nets who are affiliated through the Namibian Research Institute (NRI) to NetACT. We quote from our 2004 (NB 89) minutes:

The Board votes in favour of allowing them to become members, on the condition that they will provide a confirmation in writing that they accept NetACT’s identity, vision, mission and values as stipulated in the constitution.

We ask the Namibian Institutions to confirm this in writing and give it to us at our meeting!

From the EC minutes of August 2005 (EC 103):

#### **Membership application – Theological College of Zimbabwe**

- a) The EC explains about a visit which the Principal of the Theological College of Zimbabwe paid to the NetACT office. He presented their brochure, which was very impressive, and eventually requested that their college be considered for NetACT membership.
- b) The EC discusses the request, taking into account the decision of the Board that new possibilities of participation could be considered (NB 124.2). It is suggested that one such possibility might be that of self-sponsoring participation (implying that the institution would have to carry all its own costs for meetings – including travelling and accommodation). It seems unlikely, though, that this will be possible for an institution in Zimbabwe under that country’s current socio-economic situation.
- c) The EC decides to forward the information about this College, representing a wide variety of churches, to all the NetACT institutions before taking further action.

**For discussion:** The ED received a letter from Dr Rian Venter, who is moving from JMTC to the University of the Free State in SA in which he enquired about the Bloemfontein-based Faculty of Theology joining NetACT. The ED send the following resolution from the 2003 AGM:

### **NB 63 New members**

The Board accepts the **following procedures** for the handling of applications of possible new members:

- a) A letter of application addressed to the ED stating whether the institution accepts the NetACT constitution (especially point 4.1.1.B), mission and vision. In this letter the institution should outline to what extent it is willing to contribute to serve the mission and mission of NetACT.
- b) Documents that outline their constitution, denominational association, list of lecturers (with CV's), number of students, history and full curriculum must be presented.
- c) Applicants should attend one annual meeting as observers, at the end of which the Board will vote, in the absence of the institution, whether or not to accept the institution.
- d) Financial contribution: commitment to pay the annual membership fees, and if the institution is relatively strong, an undertaking to pay for the travelling and other expenses of attending meetings.

The **following guidelines** are also approved:

- a) NetACT is a network of Reformed/Presbyterian theological institutions in *Southern Africa*, and will therefore mainly focus on institutions in this area. In some cases they will need upliftment.
- b) Reformed/Presbyterian institutions within *South Africa* who want to join NetACT will be welcomed to apply, but under the condition that they will be responsible for their own travelling and other expenses. They should also be willing to contribute financially and with other resources to the achievement of NetACT's goals.
- c) Smaller evangelical theological training institutions in Southern Africa who want to join NetACT will only be considered after the long term financial sustainability of NetACT is secured.

Proposal: Discuss: If Bloemfontein shows continued interest to join NetACT it should be handled according to these guidelines.

## **13 ANNUAL MEETINGS**

### **13.1 ANNUAL MEETINGS: VENUES**

See: NB 125 and EC 113, 124 and 130a.

The cost involved holding the last couple of meetings were:

- 2001 Lusaka: All travelling expenses were in one cost point.
- 2002 Lilongwe R82,869
- 2003 Stellenbosch R75,117
- 2004 Zomba R77,307
- 2005 Hefsiba R50,637 (Kenya and Angola were not there!)
- 2006 Windhoek ?

The EC suggest that the next annual meeting be held in Lusaka in 2007. Stellenbosch requested that the 2009 AGM be held in Stellenbosch since it the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seminary. 2008 may go to Nkhoma's Josophat Mwale Theological Institute (JMTI – former Nifcott), MTC or RITT.

### 13.2 2007 ANNUAL MEETING PROPOSAL

**Background:** In 2000 the International Society for the Study of Reformed gathered in Stellenbosch. Ten of the nineteen published papers were from Africa, 9 of which from NetACT affiliated institutions / people. The society meets every three years, this year in Princeton. They were not in a position to fund NetACT members to attend so the ED consulted with their present chair, Prof Corwin Smidt from Calvin College on an alternative. He is chair of the Henry Institute and they will be in a position to put forward \$6,500 of the more or less \$10,000 needed to host a conference in Africa. This money will be available to be used to get NetACT institutions to Lusaka to attend their 2007 AGM as well as this conference on a theme that is addressing the financial viability of all our institutions.

**Proposal:**

**Conference theme** (as discussed at JMTC conference in March 2006): “The Effect of the Aids Pandemic and Poverty on Church Life in Sub-Saharan African: Stewardship implications.” Since all the NetACT seminaries are really struggling financially everybody was in agreement that we (NetACT) need to deal with this issue while other papers dealing with related subject will be more than welcome.

**ADDENDUM 7** is a memorandum of suggested events surrounding the 2007 AGM as it is currently in discussion. This draft served at the ISSRC meeting in Princeton in July 2006. It will also be presented to our PCUSA colleagues. The next AGM will therefore be scheduled for Monday 6 to Friday 9 2007 at JMTC.

**Proposal:** The AGM discuss the proposal, amend it where necessary and give the NetACT office in collaboration with JMTC a go-ahead to organise it. Every NetACT country should present at least one paper and the Board should receive the names of the responsible people during this meeting. Papers will be presented to an accredited journal for publication.

### 13.3 2007 ANNUAL MEETING: PCUSA COLLABORATION

This point is taken from §6 on Communication, Collaboration and Networking. **ADDENDA 2 and 3** apply with regards to the discussions we had on two occasions with the PCUSA. See **ADDENDUM 2:2** where the discussion in Louisville with Dr. Joseph Small and Rev. Jon Chapman is summarized. See also Dr. Chiphangwi’s report (Addendum 3). Our request to them can be summarized as follows: Can we develop a network between strong PCUSA congregational ministers who are pastor-theologians and specific NetACT institutions? The idea was put forward that such people come to Africa, stay in a congregation near a seminary, learn about the church and then all convene for a get-together at a meeting like the one we are planning in Lusaka in 2007. On a second round lecturer exchange can take place and cross-ocean visits, support and networking.

At this point in time we had **two responses**:

- a) A very positive development from Charles Wiley, Associate for Theology, Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on behalf of Dr Small and what seems to be a racially White group. They would like to cooperate in the 2007 event as described.
- b) An equally positive report was received from what seems to be the Black Caucus which invited NetACT to their Pittsburg meeting which was attended by Dr. Chiphangwi who reports:

*Before departure, I was a member of an ad hoc Committee which was formed to plan for the next step, namely, a similar meeting in Africa (possibly South Africa). I hope that you will hear about this from Dr. Ronald Peters.*

*Dr. Peters and I had a discussion regarding the possibility of exchanging lecturers. Another suggestion from his side was the possibility of our churches receiving pastors and small groups from congregations to visit Africa and be exposed to African spirituality. I promised him that I would report this discussion to NetACT.*

**Proposal:** The Board needs to discuss this issue. As the ED is visiting the USA in October 2006 he should visit the PCUSA and take the discussion and arrangements further depending on the decision taken by the Board on this matter. He will also meet with Prof Corwin Smidt for more detailed arrangements.

## 14 STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUDGET

NetACT's mission and goals were reformulated at Hefsiba in 2006. We did not have time to work on a detailed Strategic Plan on how to implement the goals. See NB 122-3,131 and EC 96, 106.

**Proposal:** Discuss the **Mission, goals** and work on a **Strategic Plan**. [In the 2004 report this issue was regarded as a priority and it was continually on the agenda of interim EC meetings (EC 67, 78). We should use a substantial amount of time and energy to revisit our strategic plan, decide on what our "core business" is and work on a way of telling or selling the NetACT story. This is necessary in order to focus on priorities and to use our existing resources productively. It is also important for raising funds and addressing possible donors.]

Our Budget should be approved according to priorities set in our strategic plan.

## 15 GENERAL

### 15.1 Approval of Annual Meeting minutes

As with previous meetings the EC requests the Annual Meeting to grant it the authority to approve the minutes of the annual meeting. The Annual Meeting approves its minutes on a day-by-day basis but is unable to approve the work done on the last day.

### 15.2 Amahoro African Gathering

In May of 2007, many African, and some non-African, Christian leaders will gather to address these questions at the [Amahoro](http://www.amahoro.info) African Gathering. These leaders will meet together in **Kampala, Uganda** for several days of constructive dialogue, planting seeds of thought and preparing the soil for new partnerships. These hopeful and dedicated leaders will seek to define and embody what it means to "be the church" in the emerging post-colonial world of Africa. Through their conversations and experiences, these African and non-African followers of Jesus will seek His Kingdom together, allowing their conversation to become the framework of long-term partnerships to enrich the work of the emerging church abroad. The Amahoro African Gathering is the beginning of the conversation... [www.amahoro.info](http://www.amahoro.info) (Addendum 10)

**Discussion:** The ED is negotiating with the organisers. It is possible to get reduced or subsidized funding for NetACT members. The ED suggests that at least one staff member from each of the NetACT institutions attend. This is networking in Africa. More information will be available at the AGM.

It was a privilege to serve in and through NetACT.  
Jurgens Hendriks, Devison Banda, Uma Onwunta  
21-06-2006

**ADDENDA:**

- 1 NetACT mission and goals
- 2 Report of the visit to the USA re network development
- 3 Report of Dr. Chipangwi's visit to the USA
- 4 Weidenhofstreet House Report.
- 4b Interim report on the proposed extensions to the NetACT house
- 5 Memorandum on Teaching English for Foreign Learners
- 6 Memorandum on the book project: Preaching on AIDS in Africa.
- 7 Memorandum on the 2007 AGM and related meetings
- 8 Financial statements ofr the year ending 31-12 2005 (three pages)
- 9 Financial position 31 May 2006 and preliminary budgeting
- 10 Amahoro meeting in Uganda May 2007 - info

## NETACT ANNUAL MEETING 2006: ADDENDUM 1

### Mission and Goal Statement

#### Mission

**NetACT is a network of theological institutions in Sub Saharan Africa, created and directed by these institutions, to assist them in preparing leaders for missional congregations.**

#### NetACT's Major Goals

- Upgrade curriculum standards at our member institutions.
- Develop an effective system of communication, consultation and networking among all member institutions.
- Provide scholarships to advance the theological training of our institutions' lecturers.
- Create an affordable and welcoming living environment for lecturers who are receiving advanced training.
- Organize lecturer exchanges among our institutions to provide needed expertise, and to create space and time for lecturers to further their studies.
- Maintain an adequately staffed coordinating office.
- Publish theological handbooks relevant to the African context.
- Enhance and maintain the relevance of NetACT's proprietary HIV/Aids course and ensure that it remains part of the curriculum at each of our institutions.

**Chair:** Rev. dr. DT Banda, Justo Mwale Theological College, PO Box 310199, Lusaka, Zambia.  
dtmbanda@zamnet.zm

Executive Director: **Prof. dr. H. Jurgens Hendriks, Chair: Department of Practical Theology and Missiology, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University.** [hjh@sun.ac.za](mailto:hjh@sun.ac.za)

**Address:** NetACT, 171 Dorp Street, 7600 STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA.  
<http://www.sun.ac.za/theology/netact>

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#### **Board Members:**

Dr D T Banda (Justo Mwale Theological College, Lusaka, Zambia); Dr Saindi Chipangwi (Zomba Theological College, Malawi); Prof Jurgens Hendriks (Stellenbosch University; Executive Director, NetACT); Dr Ron Hartgerink, South Haven MI, USA (representing donors); Dr Hennie van Deventer (Nifcott, Malawi); Rev Wilson Kasamba (Hefsiba, Mozambique); Rev Rangarirai Rutoro (Murray Theological College, Zimbabwe); Mrs Maggie Madimbo (African Bible College, Malawi); Rev Ariko Ekitala (RITT, Kenya); Dr George du Toit (Paulinum, Namibia); Rev Campos Afonso (Angola).

**NETACT ANNUAL MEETING 2006: ADDENDUM 2**  
**To: NetACT / Faculty of Theology**

**REPORT OF THE VISIT TO THE USA**  
**RE NETWORK DEVELOPMENT**  
**October 15 to November 6, 2005**

**Delegation:** Rev Dr Devison T Banda, Chair NetACT; Prof H Jurgens Hendriks, Dept Practical Theology & Missiology, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University (Executive Director NetACT); and Rev Uma A Onwunta, Presbyterian Church Nigeria, current DTh student in Missiology, and Program Manager: Housing and Admin NetACT.

**Purpose of visit:** Network development, fundraising and attending conferences. Both Stellenbosch University (SU) and NetACT have a number of academic / research agreements with seminaries and denominations in the USA that need regular “servicing” and planning. This visit was a follow-up of previous visits (especially the Oct-Nov 2002 visit) when Dr Amon Kasambala, Prof Hendriks and Dr JC Erasmus visited most of these institutions.

**INSTITUTIONS VISITED**

**1 Luther Seminary, St Paul, MN; Church Innovations Institute (CI) and the Gospel and Our Culture Network (GOCN) Annual Meeting: October 15-22**

We joined a delegation of eight ministers of the Partnership for Missional Churches, SA (PMCSA) led by Rev Andrew Esterhuizen and Dr Gordon Dames of BUVTON<sup>1</sup> / PMCSA in St Paul in which the work of Luther Seminary and the CI and their agreement with SU and the PMCSA were the main focus. A number of research and service institutes were visited (e.g. the Search Institute and Faith Inkubators). We had a very valuable meeting with Dr Curtiss DeYoung at Bethel University where he, the professor, and his staff specialize in Reconciliation Studies. Dr De Young also is the Special Assistant to the President for Reconciliation and Community Partnerships. They studied the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as well as that of multicultural churches. The main event was the GOCN meeting, the theme of which was a detailed introduction to the methodology and research results / interventions of CI. It was called “Cultivating Missional Systems” and was attended by 250 key judicatory personnel of prominent USA denominations. This was an extremely valuable meeting for getting in touch with key people of the Missional Church movement in the academic and denominational sphere.

The SU / NetACT delegation had the following interventions:

- We had the opportunity to present NetACT to the full meeting of the GOCN, challenging the conference members to become involved in Africa.
- We met with Richard Bliese, the new President of Luther Seminary as well as the Academic Dean, David J Lose. The work and mission of SU and NetACT were discussed as well as the agreement between Luther and SU / BUVTON with regard to the PMC endeavour.
- We had in-depth discussions with Church Innovations on the joint research project on missional congregations and the research “instrument,” *Church Future Finder*, which they are developing and which has much in common with the work done by the Unit for Religious Demographic Research (URDR). A follow-up visit by Gerbrand Mans of the URDR to the CI at St Paul was agreed upon.

<sup>1</sup> English: BUCTER: Bureau for Continuous Theological Education and Research.

- The visit of Proff Pat Keifert and Pat Ellison Taylor and a number of students from Luther Seminary to SU and the URDR / PMC was planned and discussed in detail. These two professors will be involved in teaching in our MDiv and MTh Ministry programs and a number of other BUVTON / PMC training courses.

## 2 **Louisville KY: Louisville Seminary and PCUSA: 22-25 October 2005**

We enjoyed a dinner with Dean T Thomson, President of the Louisville Seminary; David C Hester, Dean Academic Affairs and Professor in Christian Education; Johanna Bos, Professor of Bible and Old Testament Studies; and Garnett E Foster, Director of Field Education and Placement (of students in congregations during their MDiv program). We presented an overview of NetACT's work and the role SU plays as a NetACT member, especially with regard to post-graduate studies.

- Outcome: Prof Hester will be our contact in future negotiations. Louisville Seminary is willing to provide scholarships for NetACT / post-graduate students who want to work at their institution for a semester. They are also interested in being involved in providing lecturer exchanges between their institution and NetACT institutions.

The discussions at the PCUSA headquarters in Louisville led to the following resolutions:

- Dr Joseph Small of the Office of Theology and Worship plans to coordinate with their office for Theological Education and the Pastor Theologians Program to arrange that a group of 10 to 12 theologian pastors each visit and spend some time at one NetACT institution, after which this group will sponsor a lecturer / minister of each of the NetACT institutions to meet for a conference in Lusaka at JMTC for an in-depth consultation on the experience and development of a network between PCUSA congregations and NetACT institutions. Detailed planning - NetACT office and Dr Small: Further to this consultation, further steps will be decided about developing networking in addressing the NetACT mission and goals.
- Rev Jon T Chapman, Area Coordinator for Southern and East Africa of the Worldwide Ministries Division would very much like to do the same, but with a similar sized group of Afro-American ministers. Prof Warren Dennis of New Brunswick Seminary, who brought a large group of personnel and students to Stellenbosch and South Africa in January 2005, had so positive an experience that the momentum already exists for this and they have a substantial grant at their disposal. As mentioned, this group wants to convene in Stellenbosch after their visits to NetACT institutions in order, amongst other reasons, to be introduced to the URDR's work and the SU's Community Development programs. Detailed planning: NetACT office and Rev Chapman.
- Bob Ellis, on behalf of the Worldwide Ministries Division on AIDS in Africa, advised us as regards the problems we experienced with obtaining Pefar funding. The PCUSA decided not to apply for these grants since it is politically manipulative and even "unstable." They referred us to Rev Janet Guyer who works from Johannesburg. They have funds available for training Women's Guild members in all aspects relating to AIDS. Conferences and training is taking place in the Congo and Ethiopia. We were advised to approach Janet Guyer and write a proposal for funding such a project for the Women's Guild of the institutions associated with NetACT. Proposals should be ready by January 2006 for the next round of funding. The NetACT executive should decide who must do the follow-up. We are excited about this possibility, since empowering the Women's Guild was a goal that NetACT formulated in Lusaka in 2001.

The following institutions were visited in order to develop partners and to obtain their cooperation in raising the resources needed to attain NetACT's goals. In most cases, we have made contact with

these institutions in previous years. Dr Ron Hartgerink, board member of NetACT, who lives in South Haven MI, arranged most of these visits and accompanied us. Letters were written to all these institutions to affirm agreements made and to take the necessary steps to implement decisions.

**3 World Wide Christian Schools, Dale Dieleman – Wednesday, October 26, 2005.** The discussions took place at **Western Theological Seminary, Holland Mi.**

Since this was a first meeting, we spent some time in becoming acquainted with WCS, which has an extensive network in Africa and is sensitive about the issue of contextualization. WCS work in a supportive way so that Christian education in Africa takes place under the auspices of indigenous leadership and institutions. A formal agreement is needed between NetACT and the WCS, after which NetACT will be an official partner of WCS. It will be important for NetACT institutions to be informed by WCS about their work so that more specific arrangements can flow from such a meeting. It is clear that NetACT's Curriculum Desk can benefit immensely from a relationship with the WCS, who were invited to the next AGM.

**4 The Reformed Ecumenical Council (REC), Richard van Houten and Jim Lont, October 26, 2005. Grand Rapids Mi.**

We attended two meetings with the REC. At the first meeting, both the above gentlemen were present and, at the second, only Richard could attend. Seven of the ten NetACT institutions are members of the REC. However, some REC members in the Southern African region do not belong to NetACT. We spent some time in attaining an understanding of the mission and stories of the REC and NetACT. Unlike the WARC, the REC did not expel the DRC of SA during the apartheid years. This seems to have implications that are not yet fully resolved. At present, negotiations are taking place between the REC and WARC. All of this has an effect upon discussions.

The Commission for Theological Education is the obvious point of contact between these two institutions. In many ways, NetACT has already achieved much of the projected development of its member institutions by the REC Commission on Theological Education. The REC has access to resources that could strengthen the current work of NetACT and its LAT (Library and Textbook program) is at the disposal of all NetACT institutions.

It was decided that Richard van Houten will compile a memorandum of our discussions and present us with a proposal that can be pursued after both institutions have reported to their governing boards. Richard plans to visit NetACT / Stellenbosch in May 2006. Dr Coenie Burger of BUVTON, the present chair of the DRC moderamen, will be visiting the REC soon and should be informed of these discussions.

**5 Reformed Church in America: Mission in Africa, Derrick Jones. Friday, October 28, 2005. Chicago Il.**

We had discussions with Rev Jones in a very positive atmosphere. He succeeded Debra Braaksma, with whom we had previous discussions. Four issues were put on the agenda:

- 1) An invitation to visit our institutions, which he appreciated very much. The NetACT office will help him with these arrangements.
- 2) Linkage of some of their staff in Africa with NetACT institutions to assist with teaching and other issues.
- 3) He also promised to investigate the issue of rent-free loans for the institutions that want to build income-generating housing (ZTC, Nifcott and JMTC).

- 4) The development of partnerships between NetACT institutions and congregations / institutions in the USA was discussed. Derrick will send the NetACT office partnership-agreement forms, which, when approved by the governing bodies of the institutions, will lead to the implementation of the specific projects agreed upon.

### **6 Christian Reformed World Missions (CRWM), Ron Geerlings, Grand Rapids, October 31**

The CRWM has provided scholarships for students from Africa and is currently supporting William Zulu (Copperbelt, Zambia) and Ariko L Ekitala (Kenya, RITT). Geerlings visited SU in May. Most of the CRWM's involvement is in Nigeria, but, since many Nigerians are now studying at SU, they are keen to work with NetACT. The following issues were raised: Pastors and personnel as substitutes for studying NetACT staff, mission trips between the continents to build relationships and the possibility of financial aid for the NetACT house.

The NetACT office must examine the practical arrangements of the scholarship awarded to Rev Ekitala.

The Executive Director of World Missions, Gary J Bekker, spent some time with us and mentioned that the CRWM is committed to seminary capacity building.

### **7 Western Theological Seminary (WTS), Holland, Mi. Monday, October 31**

We met the Dean of Studies, Leanne van Dyk. Since she is well acquainted with NetACT and SU, we focused on developing cooperation. Three issues will be pursued:

- 1) WTS will create short research opportunities for NetACT post-graduate (doctoral) students whilst waiving tuition fees. Accommodation and guidance will be provided.
- 2) WTS staff will be encouraged and supported financially to teach at NetACT institutions. (Prof Hunsberger added that they are also considering the possibility of arranging for NetACT staff members to teach on African theological issues at their institution.)
- 3) They would like to investigate the possibility to send groups of WTS student on cultural immersion visits to NetACT institutions.

We had interviews with the following staff members who are willing to participate in the lecturer exchange program, and who would like to come as couples. Further information on these candidates is available.

- Rev Dr Mark Rich: New Testament and Ethics. Lutheran.
- Rev Dr Cynthia Holder Rich: Theology of Development, Practical Theology, Christian Education. RCA. She did her doctoral degree with Steve de Gruchy as supervisor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.  
(Both the above candidates have been teaching in Madagascar for five years.)
- Rev Dr Todd Billings: Systematic Theology. He has worked in Ethiopia and Uganda for two years. Presbyterian.
- Rachel Billings: Hebrew and Old Testament. Busy with a PhD in Old Testament. Presbyterian.

All four candidates expressed a willingness to become involved in building long-term relationships. They know that three weeks is the minimum expected time, but the desired period is three months.

The May-July term will suit them best and they expect only accommodation from the host institution.

### **8 Cornerstone Trust (CT), Aaron LeClaire, Grand Rapids, Mi. Tuesday, November 1**

We were received by Aaron LeClaire, a seminary graduate, who was well informed on what is happening in seminaries in Africa and elsewhere. CT is interested in developing leaders for church and society, as assisting traditional seminaries is part of their strategy. CT is concerned about the brain drain taking place in Africa. However, they do not award scholarships and make no long-term commitments. They allowed us to submit two or three of our most pressing needs, from which they will make a choice before a more detailed submission is required. The submission can be made whenever we are ready to do so. Their board meets ten times per year.

### **9 International Steward, Brett Elder, Grand Rapids, Mi. Tuesday, November 1**

The mission of this organization is helping the church and its organizations to develop financial independence. Amongst others, they developed a two- and three-credit academic course and they teach this world-wide, while focusing on training local people to present and contextualize the course. They usually expect the host institution to pay for travelling expenses one way and also to provide accommodation. These are waived if the host is not able to do so. They present a three-day workshop for ministers and officials. Their best results are attained by one- and two-week modules that they present to seminary students.

Since they will present the course in Cape Town in February, it was resolved that Uma Onwunta will attend and submit a report. The delegation will present a full report at the next AGM. Members who want to get in touch with International Stewards may do so. The NetACT office will assist when and where necessary. Rev Francois Cillie of the DRC's office in the Cape and his colleagues will also be informed of this ministry.

### **10 Roger De Young, Supervisor of the Reformed Church in America Mission Programs. Grand Rapids, Mi. Wednesday November 2**

David Dethmers, Mutual Mission Coordinator of the RCA, joined Roger. Since the latter attended our presentation at Western's Global Forum, he was familiar with NetACT and was very positive about our endeavours. The way they explained the general trends in missionary funding in the USA and their work on strategies how to deal with these realities was most helpful in this discussion. Americans like to be directly involved in ministries, such as evangelism and orphan care. Very few understand that realities in Africa need a different approach. The goals set by NetACT were in perfect agreement with those of the RCA.

The agreement and issues agreed upon with Derrick Jones in their Chicago office were accepted as our agenda. The official agreement necessary to set things in motion will emanate from his office and be submitted to the NetACT office. They are set to support those issues and would prefer to work with long-term partnerships. When we mentioned the loans required by three of our institutions for building projects, they explained the procedures to be followed.

## **PRESENTATION AND PAPERS**

### **1 Western Theological Seminary (WTS): Holland Mi. October 31, 2005**

We were asked to speak at WTS's Global Forum, a public event. Our topic was:

**The church of the future, the future of the church – in Africa?!**

Attached please find the flier advertising the event as well as the slides of our PowerPoint presentation. We had a large, diverse and very attentive audience who asked many questions and stayed on to continue discussions. Amongst others, in the audience were a member of the US House of Representatives as well as a Stellenbosch graduate, Rev. Andre Batt, who is now serving as senior pastor in an RCA congregation in Holland.

**2 The Annual Meeting of the SSSR and RRA at Rochester NY. Nov 3-6, 2005.**

Our papers are attached. About 450 papers were delivered at this meeting and our presentations were well attended. During both occasions, the discussions were intense and continued afterwards in the foyer. Dr. Banda and Rev Onwunta were very good presenters and made an impact. The present, past and president-elect of the SSSR attended our sessions. After our last presentation, Prof Donald A Miller, president-elect of the University of Southern California, took Dr Banda and Rev Onwunta to lunch, while Prof Hendriks was occupied elsewhere. However, after lunch, Prof Miller insisted on seeing the latter. At that meeting, he expressed his deep concern for events in Africa, pledged his support for NetACT, and insisted on helping us in whatever way possible. He is well connected with USAid and invited us to call on him for any possible need.

We also interviewed Prof Katie Day, who is a professor in Church and Society, Director for Urban Ministry at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Prof Will Storrar, present Director of the Princeton Centre of Theological Inquiry referred her to Stellenbosch. Prof Day was interested in working on Public Theology at either Princeton or Edinburgh, but Prof Storrar assured her that Stellenbosch is a much better venue for her research. She attended the SSSR meeting in order to meet us, as she is working on a proposal to obtain funding for a year's sabbatical at Stellenbosch. She also wants to visit the NetACT institutions where she will be available to teach Ethics or Congregational Studies. She is an ordained Presbyterian minister. A separate report on this discussion will be presented to the Stellenbosch Dean.

Numerous other contacts were renewed, and new ones made.

**IN CONCLUSION**

We are convinced that networking exercises such as this are invaluable in establishing relationships and in enhancing cooperation and resources. (On this, see Nancy Ammerman's 2005 publication: *Pillars of Faith*, ch 6, pp 158-205.) NetACT is becoming an example of how networking can multiply resources. We believe that the long-term benefits of regular visits to our most important partners are essential for development of the network. It has been a privilege to represent both NetACT and SU.

H Jurgens Hendriks, Devison T Banda, Uma A Onwunta  
Nov 14, 2005

PS. An itinerary containing detailed contact information is available at the NetACT office.

**NETACT ANNUAL MEETING 2006: ADDENDUM 3.**  
**REPORT OF THE VICE-CHAIR'S VISIT TO THE USA MARCH 29- APRIL 1**

Dear all,

First of all, I would like to thank the Executive Committee of NetACT for choosing me to represent NetACT at the Conference in Pittsburgh. I would also like to thank the Presbyterian Church, USA for taking care of my travel expenses to and from the USA. In a special way, I would like to thank our friend, Rev. Jon Chapman and Mrs. P. Chapman, Ms. Marva Morton (PCUSA, Louisville) Rev. Dave Carver, Sharon and Ariel, our former ZTC Students, Rev. S. Mchenga and Rev. T. Chitsulo who are studying at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Dr. Ronald Peters and his team, etc. My overall assessment of the Conference is that it was timely, challenging to all participants and very enriching. Once more, it was a privilege and a great honour to represent NetACT.

1. The main objective of the Conference was to discuss what the role of theological institutions and other stakeholders is (should be) in addressing the AIDS pandemic. What I liked very much was that the participants and facilitators represented many different disciplines, for example, theologians, social scientists, medical doctors and representatives of certain NGOs which are engaged in the battle against AIDS, e.g., the World Council of Churches, etc. Besides, one session featured a dialogue between PLWA and the conference participants.
2. Regarding the theological institutions, the main issue was, whether or not issues of HIV/AIDS are included in our curricula. In my presentation, I said that some of our institutions in NetACT have incorporated HIV/AIDS in their curricula. However, as far as Zomba Theological College is concerned, what we do at present is to organize two or three seminars each year, where facilitators help our students and their spouses to learn about HIV-AIDS. Besides the lectures, the participants go out on field visits to see what others are doing about HIV-AIDS. I also reported that, through the assistance of NetACT one of our former students was trained in South Africa, and he is often invited by churches and other interested groups to conduct seminars. We also encourage lecturers to deal with the issue in their own disciplines, e.g., practical theology, systematic theology, pastoralia, Christian ethics, etc. However, our goal is eventually, to have HIV/AIDS incorporated in our curricula.
3. Besides, presenting my report, I was included in a panel of respondents during a plenary discussion of one of the presentations.
4. At the closing service of worship, I preached.
5. Before departure, I was a member of an adhoc Committee which was formed to plan for the next step, namely, a similar meeting in Africa (possibly South Africa). I hope that you will hear about this from Dr. Ronald Peters.
6. Dr. Peters and I had a discussion regarding the possibility of exchanging lecturers. Another suggestion from his side was the possibility of our churches receiving pastors and small groups from congregations to visit Africa and be exposed to African spirituality. I promised him that I would report this discussion to NetACT.
7. I was also invited to preach in one of the churches in Pittsburgh before leaving for Louisville (the headquarters of the PCUSA).
8. While I was in Louisville, Rev. Jon Chapman made appointments for me to meet heads of departments at the church headquarters to hear about their work and also to share with them about NetACT and Zomba Theological College. I was also asked to preach at the church headquarters during their morning devotions.

**Conclusion**

Once more, I thank the NetACT Executive Committee, Pittsburgh Theological College, PC (USA), Rev. Jon Chapman and staff, and various people who made my stay in Pittsburgh and Louisville so memorable.

Saindi D. Chiphangwi.

## NETACT AGM 2006 ADDENDUM 4: WEIDENHOF HOUSE REPORT

### I Introduction:

It is our pleasure to present another annual report of the house to the NetACT Board through the office of the Executive Director. This report is intended to remind us of our guiding corporate vision and also highlight some of our modest efforts in achieving that vision in the passing administrative year.

### II The Vision which engages us

We are constantly challenged by “NetACT’s mission ... to assist the participating institutions to develop congregational theology and leadership” (Hendriks 2004:11).<sup>2</sup> This vision is influencing how the house is being administered and it is also paving the way for the possibility of a fresh and broader vision for theological education in Africa that is being born in many of the conversations that are taking place under this roof. We hereunder present some of the highlights in the year under review.

### III Highlights

The main highlights are not limited to but include the following:

#### 1. Strengthening the *koinonia*

In the house, *koinonia* (fellowship) is a core value we dearly cherish. As we celebrate our community and communion in Christ, we try to capture the essence of the African philosophy of *Ubuntu* by sharing in one another’s burden and giving every individual appropriate space and recognition in the activities of the house. In this way, the house has remained ‘a home away from home’ for many who come to Stellenbosch having neither friends nor relations to fall back on. We confess that we are terribly humbled to see that NetACT House is a recognized and respected source of spiritual strength and support for all the people using this God-given facility. In this connection, we believe that the life we share in the house and what the Lord is doing in our midst should be published to the brethren beyond our fold. And one of such opportunities came when I was invited to join the NetACT delegation to the USA last year.

#### 2. 2005 USA Trip

As already highlighted in the ED’s report, I was in the NetACT delegation that made a fund-raising trip to USA in October and November 2005. The experience was both challenging and fulfilling. I am glad that it gave some of our friends in the States the opportunity to hear, firsthand, what God is accomplishing in our continent through the modest efforts of NetACT. And we cannot thank God enough for blessing that outing with an anonymous donation of about US\$33,000 for the house extension and the provision of other needs.

While we remain thankful to all the NetACT officers through whose efforts and able representation such a donation became a reality, we equally pray for all the relevant authorities who are now making concerted efforts to ensure that the extension and renovation works commence in no distant time.

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<sup>2</sup> This reference is part of NetACT’s Vision Statement published in *Studying Congregations in Africa* by: Hendriks, H.J. 2004. Wellington: Lux Verbi, BM.

### 3. Income performance

Since we re-visited and relaxed our policy (see NB 40 70a )<sup>3</sup> as well as adopted the new room rates (R35 per night - single; R30 per night – double) from September 2005, our income performance has significantly improved. The evidence could be found in the comparative income figures from the University Finance between January and May 2006 and almost the same period last year:

<b>2005 (1 Jan – 29 May)</b>	<b>2006 (1 Jan – 31May)</b>
R23,144.00	R39270

### 4. Support from the Office

We would like to say that this report will be incomplete if we do not mention the unqualified support and cooperation we received and are still receiving from the Executive Director – Prof. H.J. Hendriks and the immediate past Project Manager – Mr Pieter van Santen. The duo are invaluable assets to the house administration and we earnestly pray for God’s blessings upon them as they spend and are spent for the kingdom of God in Africa.

### 5. Administrative Manual

To put the administration of the house on a stronger footing, we are in the process of producing an administrative manual which is a pioneering effort. This is being done in consultation with the university administration and the Executive Director of NetACT. Hopefully, the draft copy of this document would be available before the end of this year.

## **IV Recommendation**

- A. That the Board should note the pioneering effort to produce an administrative manual for the house and that when completed, the manual be put into use upon its ratification by the EC.
- B. That the Board should note and thank the ED and the immediate past PM without whose cooperation the administration of the house couldn’t have been what it is today.

## **V Appreciation and Prayer**

Once more, my wife and I will like to place on record, our profound gratitude for the opportunity of continuing this life-transforming ministry of Weidenhof House administration. Above all, we are immeasurably grateful to God for giving us the grace to cope with the challenges this responsibility brings. Finally, it is our prayer that the Lord would continue to bless all of us as we struggle to make the *missio Dei* wear a human face in the African continent and beyond.

Joyfully submitted:

Rev. Uma A. Onwunta.

22 June 2006.

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<sup>3</sup> The policy had stipulated that nobody should be allowed to stay in the house for more than three months at a time. Soon after the decision was made in 2004, the resultant effect was that many rooms were unoccupied for several months. This consequently led to a significant loss of income for NetACT.

**NETACT AGM 2006 ADDENDUM 4a: WEIDENHOF HOUSE proposed extensions**

**NETACT AGM 2006 ADDENDUM 4a: WEIDENHOF HOUSE proposed extensions**

## NETACT ANNUAL MEETING 2006: ADDENDUM 6.

### AIDS: A CONTEXTUAL CHALLENGE TO THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL IN AFRICA

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the greatest challenges facing the church and theology in Africa today is without a doubt the pandemic of Aids. It has become clear that this challenge must be met in a holistic way, in a concerted effort from government, the medical sciences, economical strategies, welfare resources etc. – if there is any hope of turning the tide. Church and theology also has a role to play, an important one at that, and to my mind preaching forms an integral part of this focused effort to battle and overcome the stigma of Aids. Preaching is important because it

- Helps to break the silence. It is a known fact that people, and African people in particular, tend to carry the burden of their Aids in silence. There seems to be a widespread culture of silence concerning certain aspects of life, in particular sexuality. Preaching which freely and openly articulates the problem of Aids, and does so in a pastoral manner, can help break down the barriers, and be instrumental in the verbalization of deep-seated emotions and pain. One thinks for example of the lamentations in the Psalms, which unreservedly expresses the sorrow and brokenness of human life.
- Articulates the fact that the gospel is contextual in its very essence. Preaching which is not contextual could hardly be described as preaching. The reality of Aids challenges preachers and homiletics to leave the world of abstract truths behind us, and to listen to the Biblical text and the context of Africa with a new expectancy. The reality of Aids clears our eyes to read the Bible in a new light; it opens our ears to hear the Gospel here and now, in and for Africa. Aids forces us to ask other homiletical questions, questions which we would otherwise not have asked; it calls us to consider anew who and where God is, who we are and what we should be, what the church should be and how we should act – to name but a few. Aids pushes theology and preaching over the cliff, into the abyss; it pushes us into the crises, confronts us with the culmination of a series of existential questions and hopes. It is to our advantage. True theology is born out of crises; true preaching responds to a cry - that of human beings, but also of God.
- Expresses the multifaceted gospel of Jesus Christ. Sermons offer different perspectives. This is exactly what is needed in our battle against Aids: the many voices of the church, stemming from different cultural backgrounds and religious histories, but uniting in its protest against this disease, and its search for Biblical answers.

A collection of sermons and also liturgies from the rich religious tapestry of our country and continent, will illustrate the different perspectives, the goal of contextualisation, and the freedom of speech for those in the bondage of silence.

#### 2. METHODOLOGY

This project will develop in three phases:

*Firstly*, we need to gather a number of sermons and liturgies that deals with the issue of Aids. Obviously, there will be different levels on which sermons and liturgies address Aids. It is of utmost importance that as many role players as possible partake in the exercise of finding and selecting these sermons and liturgies. The book should be a team effort, incorporating co-workers from South Africa, but especially also from within the membership of NetAct.

*Secondly*, the same (or adapted?) team will analyze the gathered data. The amount and character of material obtained will determine the content and format of the book, but the following provisional chapters, which need not necessarily follow this order, are envisaged:

Chapter 1: Introduction: Recent tendencies in the spread of Aids. Statistics concerning sub-Saharan Africa. Summary of stumbling-blocks in the fight against Aids.

Chapter 2: The theological questions opened up by Aids, especially the theodicy: Where is God in suffering? Issues like human dignity, etc. will also be touched on.

Chapter 3: Examples of sermons and liturgies demonstrating how the church addresses the above mentioned issues through preaching. Evaluation of sermons, with additional questions such as: What God-images do these sermons convey? What anthropology? What type of ecclesiology (way of thinking about the Church) – are present in the sermons gathered by the team? How is Scripture used?

Chapter 4: The way forward. Preaching hope in a context of Aids. Here the pastoral dimension of the Church’s contribution to the fight against Aids, within preaching and otherwise, will be evaluated.

*Thirdly*, editing of manuscript, done by editor, but with final approval of team.

**3. TEAM**

The team should not be too big, but still representative, about ten people. The following suggestions are open for discussion and adaptation:

Rev Keith Griffiths (Anglican busy with his MTh at Stellenbosch on Aids and Liturgy)

Rev Rachel Mash (Anglican busy with her MTh at Stellenbosch on Aids and Stigmatization)

Rev Christo Greyling (World Vision)

Editor: Prof Johan Cilliers (Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch)

We need about 6 people from other countries to be nominated. These people should be directly involved with AIDS work and / or academic work in teaching theology.

**4. FIRST MEETING**

A first meeting of the abovementioned team, organized and funded within NetAct structures, could be scheduled for 11-13 October, 2006, at the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch.

**Johan Cilliers**

**Prof in Homilethics & Liturgy. Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch. June 5, 2006**

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**NETACT ANNUAL MEETING 2006: ADDENDUM 7.  
PLANNING MEMORANDUM OF THE NETACT 2007 AGM AND EVENTS  
SURROUNDING IT**

**Conference theme** (as discussed at Justo Mwale Theological College [JMTC] conference in March 2006): “The Effect of the Aids Pandemic and Poverty on Church Life in Sub-Saharan African: Stewardship implications.” Since all the NetACT seminaries are really struggling financially everybody was in agreement that we (NetACT) need to deal with this issue while other papers dealing with related subject will be more than welcome.

**2007 program:**

**Saturday August 4, 2007:** Representatives of NetACT institutions and Overseas Scholars arrive in Lusaka, Zambia. Everybody stay on the campus of Justo Mwale Theological College (JMTC) where there is good accommodation and meals can be served.

**Sunday 5:** attend local churches. There are more than 30 Reformed / Presbyterian congregations in Lusaka alone... a city of about 2 million people.

**Monday 6 and Tuesday 7:** the ISSRC-Africa Conference. We keep this a smaller group (about 20-30) so that we can really deal in depth with the theme.

**Wednesday 8-Friday 9:** Overseas visitors and others interested visit the Victoria Falls & nature reserve at Livingston. Stay two nights in a Hotel (travel by bus). Cost +/- \$500.

**Wednesday 8-Friday 9:** NetACT institutions have their Annual General Meeting.

**Saturday 10:** Everybody is back in Lusaka. JMTC hosts an open Theological Conference. JMTC may then invite all the local seminaries / colleges and ministers who want to present papers or listen to papers to take part. People from overseas partaking will be a big boost to the College and African people in general.

**Theme: The prophetic witness of the Church in networking with government, business and other NGO's to address contextual issues**

**Sunday 12:** Departure.

**Costs:** The ED gave the following info to Prof Smidt after consultations with JMTC. Full accommodation at JMTC amounts to about \$50 per day (3 meals included). It may not be equivalent to that you are getting in Princeton, but it is more than wholesome and well prepared. The trip to the Victoria Falls is about 400 km (250 miles) each way. Travel and accommodation will be about US\$500 in total for the three days (meals excluded at the falls). JMTC will organize this and as such it will be a bargain.

**Financial Aid** from the Henry Institute at Calvin College will play a really important role in making such a venture a possibility. NetACT will do some detailed planning at our 1-4 August 2006 Annual Meeting in Namibia.

This will help in **securing the quality of the papers**. We need to appoint a committee to deal with the NetACT papers. They should guide the process and assist where necessary. Each country should appoint one person who is to present the paper. It should be the Principal or one who is well acquainted with the local situation. Two or three persons may work together in preparing the paper, but one should have the responsibility to see to it that things get done on time and that the standard of the paper is on par.

**2007 African Society for the Study of Reformed Communities  
CONFERENCE PRESENTATION SCHEDULE  
LUSAKA, ZAMBIA**

**“THE EFFECTS OF THE AIDS PANDEMIC AND POVERTY ON CHURCH LIFE IN  
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: STEWARDSHIP IMPLICATIONS”**

**Monday, August 6 (Drr Hendriks and Banda to coordinate papers from Africa and guide the process).**

8:30 – 9:00	Welcome and Introductions
9:00 – 9:45	Paper #1      Zambia
9:45 – 10:30	Paper #2      Zimbabwe
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 11:45	Paper #3      Malawi
11:45 - 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 1:45	Paper #4      Mozambique
1:45 – 2:30	Paper #5      South Africa
2:30 – 3:00	Break
3:00 – 3:45	Paper #6      Kenia
3:45 – 4:30	Paper #7      Namibia
4:30 – 5:15	Paper #8      Angola
5:15	Final Comments and Adjournment

**Tuesday, August 7 (Drr Smidt and Hendriks to lead the process of getting and selecting the papers of the second day).**

8:30 – 9:15	Paper #9
9:15 – 10:00	Paper #10
10:00 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:15	Paper #11
11:15 - 12:00	Paper #12
12:00 – 1:15	Lunch
1:15 – 2:00	Paper #13
2:00 – 2:45	Paper #14
2:45 – 3:15	Break
3:15 – 4:00	Paper #15
4:00 – 4:45	Paper #16
4:45 – 5:30	Paper # 17
5:30	Final Comments and Adjournment

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**Theological Conference at Justo Mwale Theological College  
Saturday August 11, 2007**

**Theme: The prophetic witness of the Church in networking with government, business and  
other NGO’s to address contextual issues**

08h00-09h00	Registration
09h00-0920	Opening & Introduction
<b>09h30-10:15</b>	Parallel Session 1

SPEAKER	PAPER	VENUE
1		
2		
3		
4		

**10h45-11h30** Parallel Session 2

SPEAKER	PAPER	VENUE
5		
6		
7		
8		

**11h45-12h30** Plenary Session (one main speaker if one can get someone who are really going to address a topic in which everybody will be interested, a “crowd puller”).

12h30-14h45 Lunch

**15h00-16h00** Parallel Session 3

SPEAKER	PAPER	VENUE
9		
10		
11		
12		

**NETACT AGM 2006 ADDENDUM 8: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2005**

**NETACT AGM 2006 ADDENDUM 8: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DEC 2005**

**NETACT AGM 2006 ADDENDUM 8: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31 DEC 2005**

**NETACT AGM 2006 ADDENDUM 9: FINANCIAL POSITION 31 MAY 2006 & BUDGET**

## NETACT AGM 2006. ADDENDUM 10

Amahoro AfricaTOWARDS A POST-COLONIAL  
CHURCH IN AFRICA

Uganda, May 7-18 2007

[http://amahoro-  
eastafrika.info/introduction/](http://amahoro-eastafrika.info/introduction/)

**Amahoro means** peace. It is a word of Bantu origin used widely across Africa. It has special meaning in places like Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo, where violence and genocide have inflicted such pain and suffering. When people from various tribes embrace, shake hands or kiss, and say "amahoro," they are expressing a deep hope for a better future.

Amahoro is a precious word in places where Christianity in the modern colonial era spread a message of grace and forgiveness for life after death, but did not integrate that proclamation with the profound Biblical message of justice, peace, and reconciliation in this life on earth.

By choosing an African word to name this emerging global network, we are expressing our shared commitment to seek to understand, live, and communicate the good news of Jesus Christ in an integrated, holistic way. We are affirming our belief that people who follow Jesus have a special bond with the poor, and with those who suffer from injustice and poverty and disease. We are communicating our commitment to a global conversation, friendship, and partnership among Christian leaders and emerging churches in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and North America.

**WELCOME**

Dear Friends:

Two years ago, I went to Africa with a theory that the conversation in America and Europe (and elsewhere) about the postmodern transition had a counterpart conversation in Africa - a conversation about post-colonialism. I came home very certain that these two conversations are part of one larger conversation, and that the larger conversation is the one worth having.

Friends, I want to personally invite you to this larger conversation of emerging Christian leaders in the global south. We will convene in Uganda, Africa from May 7 - 18, 2007.

There's a saying in Africa: **if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.** I trust we can go far, together with these emerging leaders from the global south. We have much to learn from their faith, their vibrancy, their courage, and their experience. And perhaps we can offer them gifts in return.

- Brian McLaren



**LOCATION: Uganda and East Africa**

Thinking of the location for this gathering, we decided on a central point for all the African countries so they could have easy access and safe travel. (It is also a beautiful place for all our western friends.)

Situated at the geographical heart of the African continent, Uganda has long been a cultural melting pot, as evidenced by the 30-plus different indigenous languages belonging to five distinct linguistic groups, and an equally diverse cultural mosaic of music, art and handicrafts.

**The Conversation:** The first four full days of the gathering (May 7-10) will be a conversational conference format. We will gather at [Kingfisher Safari Resort and Retreat Center](#) in Jinja, Uganda. This venue, about an hour from Uganda's Capitol, Kampala, will serve as a secluded getaway, a perfect home for the conversation.

**Field Trips:** After the conference, our non-African participants will accompany their African friends back to their homes in Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tanzania. Three full days will be spent in their homes, churches, and communities, experiencing the realities of the African continent firsthand.

**Debrief:** After spending three days with their African hosts, Western participants will travel back to Kampala's [Namirembe Guest House](#), a former monastery, for two days of 'debriefing.' We will share the stories and experiences from our field trips, as well as have conversations about how we can form and maintain equitable partnerships between the Western and African church.