

**NETACT  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SIMONSBURG CONFERENCE CENTRE, STELLENBOSCH, RSA  
29 July 2009**

**MINUTES**

1        **OPENING:**  
The Chairman opens the meeting with a prayer at 2.15 pm.

2	<p><b>CONSTITUTING THE MEETING:</b> Present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1        ABC (African Bible College - Malawi) – Rev Sam McDonald</li> <li>2        Hefsiba (Hefsiba Christian Institute for Higher Education - Mocambique) – Rev M Matiquele</li> <li>3        ISEU (Instituto Superior Emanuel Unido - Angola) - Rev CM Moma</li> <li>4        ISTEEL (Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangelica no Lubango - Angola) - Rev JB Luacute</li> <li>5        JMTI (Josophat Mwale Theological Institute - Malawi) – Rev SJ Chikoti</li> <li>6        JMTUC (Justo Mwale Theological University College - Zambia) – Dr DT Banda</li> <li>7        MTC (Murray Theological College - Zimbabwe) – Rev HW Murray</li> <li>8        NetACT Executive Director – Prof HJ Hendriks</li> <li>9        NETS (Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary - Namibia) – Rev S Gillham</li> <li>10       RITT (Reformed Institute for Theological Training - Kenya) – Dr T Togom</li> <li>11       ZTC (Zomba Theological College - Malawi) – Rev JA Thipa</li> </ul> <p>Apologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12       Hartgerink Trust (USA) – Dr R Hartgerink</li> <li>13       SU (Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University - South Africa) – Prof E Mouton</li> </ul>
NB198	<p><b>BI-ANNUAL REPORT (2008 – 2009)</b></p> <p><b>Decision:</b> The Board agrees to table the report and its proposals.</p>

NB199	<p><b>Mission and Goals (NB 190) – 2.1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2007 AGM requested that the 2009 AGM looks at the Mission and Goals and reformulate where necessary.</li> <li>• Proposal: The Board acts on suggestions by the EC to reformulate the mission and goals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> Proposal accepted for implementation as and when necessary.</p>
NB200	<p><b>Election of NetACT Executive (NB 135, 194) – 2.3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the Constitution: 4.9.2: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the NetACT Board of Governors can be re-elected once only in the same position.</li> <li>• The Chairperson's term is 2008-2010. It is his second term.</li> <li>• Vice-Chairperson's term: 2008-10 (It is her first term, but as she is leaving for fulltime further study in August 2009, this post needs to be filled today).</li> <li>• Our secretary was elected at the 2006 meeting for the period 2007-2009 (first term). We have to elect a secretary. The present secretary can be re-elected.</li> <li>• Dr Ron Hartgerink was co-opted on the EC. He serves on the Board representing donors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> Elected:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vice-chair election: Rev J Thipa (Zomba),</li> <li>2. Secretary election: Rev HW Murray (MTC)</li> </ol>
NB201	<p><b>Contract with Executive Director – 2.3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved by the 2007 AGM (NB 192).</li> <li>• The EC did a performance review (EC 222).</li> <li>• The Board requests the EC to renegotiate a contract with Prof Hendriks and the Faculty of Theology at SU for a three year period as ED, 2010-2012.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prof Hendriks is unanimously re-appointed for the period 2010 to 2012.</li> <li>2. Details of contract to be finalized by Executive and circulated to all members.</li> </ol>
NB202	<p><b>Applications for Associate Membership</b> (2009 AGM Agenda [pink paper], page 3) The following applications are tabled:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bible Media</li> <li>2. Christian Reformed Church World Missions</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Commission for Witness of the Dutch Reformed Churches Family in the Cape</li> <li>4. Reformed Church in America Global Missions</li> <li>5. Presbyterian Church in the USA – no official application received</li> <li>6. Gereformeerde Zendingsbond (Reformed Mission League) – no official application received</li> </ol> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The first four are accepted as Associate Members of NetACT.</li> <li>2. Official applications from the last two are awaited.</li> <li>3. New associate members to provide A4 page of information about their activities and services to ED, who will circulate it to NetACT members.</li> </ol>
NB203	<p><b>Financial Statements – 3.1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2007 and 2008 financial year statements are attached (see pp 17 &amp; 18 of NetACT Bi-annual Report for 2008-2009 &amp; Income Possibilities – page 22).</li> <li>• SU took care of all the bookkeeping as part of their financial system and audited NetACT’s statements.</li> <li>• The Financial Statements of the two years 2007-2008 are discussed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Financial Statements and Income Possibilities are accepted.</li> <li>2. NetACT Office to send financial accounts for 2007-2008 to all members and associate members.</li> <li>3. Executive to coopt Dr K Odendaal of CFW to assist in financial management and reporting in order to separate NetACT’s core functions from other activities with their separate funding sources. Report core costs and other expenses separately.</li> <li>4. To present in the next financial report the full picture of all finances.</li> </ol>
NB204	<p><b>10% levy for administration – 3.5</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since 2008 the NetACT office and administration expenses are funded by raising a 10% levy on all monies received and all services rendered.</li> <li>• This was not applied to income from accommodation in the NetACT House.</li> <li>• Since a very large amount of NetACT Office time goes into the NetACT House administration and in helping students from all over Africa with accommodation and registration and personal matters, a way should be found to compensate the NetACT Office in this regard in order to keep the service done on behalf of the Faculty of Theology intact.</li> <li>• If a 10% fee on resident fees be charged, the 2008 levy would have rendered R15,512 to the NetACT Office. This would have been less than 15% of the running cost of the office. The NetACT House takes more than 15% of office / ED time.</li> <li>• 10% of resident fees allocated on a quarterly basis starting 2009 to the NetACT administration cost point is suggested.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b></p>

	The matter is referred to the Committee for the NetACT House (consisting of two members of the Commission for Witness, two members from the SU Faculty of Theology, the ED and the NetACT House Manager), with full report to the Executive Committee.
NB205	<b>Annual Membership Fee – 3.6</b> All 2010 membership fees are paid up
NB206	<b>COMMUNICATION (NB 178) - 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing IT classrooms and updating old computers and programs are funding priorities.</li> <li>• An anonymous donor from the USA helped JMTUC to a very well equipped IT classroom.</li> <li>• The same donor is helping MTC to upgrade students' and administrators' computer-related equipment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The NetACT Office is requested to work with Dr Ron Hartgerink in order to network between this donor and NetACT institutions.</li> <li>2. NetACT institutions that are in need of IT technology equipment and development should put in a one-page proposal to the NetACT Office outlining what they require so that negotiations with the donor can be initiated.</li> </ol>
NB207	<b>Lecturer Exchange – 7.2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NetACT Office will help institutions to get help through Lecturer Exchange if they plan ahead and communicate their needs in time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>Institutions in need of assistance in lecturer exchange networking may contact the ED at the NetACT Office and put their needs to him.</p>
NB208	<b>Bible Media Contribution (NB 186) – 9.5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NetACT institutions received support from Bible Media during the last years, encouraging institutions to create manuscripts and publish these. The need for training of writers from within the NetACT network is accepted and emphasized.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NetACT extends a word of thanks to Dr Van Deventer and Bible Media encouraging them to continue with this outstanding practice.</li> <li>2. NetACT office to write to Bible Media about this need, with cc to all members and associate members.</li> </ol>
NB209	<b>Book</b> “Our Church has AIDS”: Through a donation, one copy of this book is made available to each student and lecturer of member institutions.  <b>Decision:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. These books are to be sold by member institutions at an affordable price to students and staff.</li> <li>2. Income to be used to the benefit of the institution's library</li> </ol>

NB210	<p><b>Theological Networks in Africa (NB 188) – 11.1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NetACT needs to be clear on how many more members it can accommodate.</li> <li>• Once a network grows too large, it stops functioning properly.</li> <li>• Organic growth of our network can enable far-off members to eventually become the seed for a new network.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> Similar networks to NetACT should be duplicated elsewhere in the region.</p>
NB211	<p><b>West African Membership (NB188.2) – 11.2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS) of the NKST (Church of Christ amongst the Tiv in Nigeria) expressed its desire to join NetACT.</li> <li>• This is an opportunity to join family to family.</li> <li>• NetACT has now reached the stage in its growth where additional economic and management dynamics will increasingly play in on its development and growth</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NetACT is willing to receive an official membership application.</li> <li>2. All costs relating to membership of NetACT will have to be carried by the RTS – NetACT will not be responsible financially in any way.</li> </ol>
NB212	<p><b>Evaluation</b></p> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>An evaluation form will be prepared and circulated.</p>
NB213	<p><b>2010: Venue and topic:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Format of this meeting: successful.</li> <li>• Consider “curriculum structure” to be a topic for next year. As a follow-up to this year’s workshop. How to construct a curriculum. Curriculum development – sequencing etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>The feeling of the participants will be tested.</p>

3	<b>OTHER MATTERS:</b>
NB214	<p><b>English Tuition to Portuguese-speaking Students</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an urgent need among Portuguese-speaking members of NetACT to establish a dependable system for English tuition.</li> <li>• Rev S Gillham of NETS in Namibia is willing to act as facilitator</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> NETS representative to be contacted by Angolan schools: Simon Gillham <a href="mailto:academicdean@nets.edu.na">academicdean@nets.edu.na</a></p>
NB215	<p><b>Cooperation with associate member Christian Reformed World Mission</b></p> <p>G. Bekker (CRWM) raises following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some people present at this meeting intend to be present for the unification of REC and WARC scheduled for June 2010 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA.</li> <li>• Bekker asked for board members' wisdom regarding the possibility of a NETACT-connected event before or after REC/WARC.</li> </ul> <p>Potential activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fellowship with one another and potentially with people connected with Reformed theological schools from throughout WARC/REC.</li> <li>2. Introduction of one or more educational programs such as Timothy Leadership Training.</li> <li>3. Visits to and interaction with faculties of Reformed theological schools in Michigan, particularly Western Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America in Holland, Michigan; and Calvin Theological Seminary of the Christian Reformed Church.</li> <li>4. Visits to book publishers and to sources of books for theological libraries.</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After board members stated their informal support for the idea, Bekker offered to work with NETACT on this possibility and stated the need for an announcement soon so that people can make appropriate travel arrangements.</li> <li>• The executive director offered to serve as the communications point between Bekker and NETACT members. Thus, all communication about this matter will flow through his office, or be done under his direction.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> Board agrees to mutual strengthening, program coordination (eg TEA workshops) as well as cooperating with CRWM on the issue mentioned above by Bekker. NetACT Executive to follow-up.</p>
NB216	<p><b>Libraries &amp; Information Science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The address by Ray Bouma on this topic was very relevant –email: <a href="mailto:rbouma@crcna.org">rbouma@crcna.org</a>.</li> <li>• Important is that the profile of the libraries be raised as an essential element in the teaching process of each institution.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Decision:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That NetACT works with ACTEA to revise / improve / update the library standards / requirements for accreditation to be in line with current best practices and considering changes in information technology (internet, CDs etc)</li> <li>2. That NetACT finds ways to train the librarians and the principals of the member institutions in use of internet and information technology and current best practices in library science and management (access, usage, admin etc)</li> </ol>
NB217	<p><b>ACTEA Accreditation &amp; Regional Standards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently much confusion and uncertainty is experienced by some member churches regarding this issue</li> <li>• The greatest need seems to be clear, uniform, understandable standards and requirements.</li> <li>• The South African reformed theological faculties at Stellenbosch, Potchefstroom, Bloemfontein and Pretoria are engaged in a process of consultations to clarify these matters.</li> <li>• A second stage in this process will be between all theological institutions in South Africa.</li> <li>• Once consensus is reached between these parties, the South African authorities on quality and standards will be informed about this consensus.</li> <li>• At this stage ACTEA should be engaged with the purpose of helping NetACT institutions towards accreditation at a level that will comply with the highest standards in Africa south of the Sahara, to ensure problemless academic transfer of students between any of the NetACT institutions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision:</b> NetACT Office to urgently enquire about the progress of these discussions, and keep member institutions informed of progress.</p>
4	CLOSING: There being no further business, the meeting is closed at 5.50 pm with a prayer.
5	<b>IMPORTANT:</b> On 31 July 2009 the Board Members unanimously agreed that the following outcomes of the workshop be attached to these Minutes.
NB218	<p><b>NEEDS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contextualisation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Hermeneutics – Relation between OT and NT</li> <li>b. Theological Interpretation</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Leadership: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Transformation</li> <li>b. Interdisciplinary Coordination</li> <li>c. NETS, Hefsiba and RST have existing leadership courses – distribute between member institutions</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Current Topics</li> </ol>

4. Broadening Entry Requirements – should be nationally contextual. How to reconcile academic requirements with vocational requirements.
5. Practical Work (link with academic work-assessment) – should be part and parcel of the academic program for the duration of the course. JMTUC’s practical programme to be distributed. MTC’s TEE practical programme to be distributed too.
6. Spiritual formation – assessment. Look into possibility of generating a course on Biblical Spirituality at next course for ONT
7. Process how female students are allowed and ordained
8. Discuss tension between requirements of Church and Accrediting Institution
9. Assessment to be constructive
10. Staff training – GATE & computer literacy
11. Library & IT – staff development
12. Sharing resources – development of curricula, English course for Portuguese and other language speakers: Contact Mrs L de Beer, tel +2782494201 for course “Reading Rocket” at Stimulus Maksimal in Pretoria, South Africa.
13. Gender equality – website for Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians: [www.thecirclecawt.org](http://www.thecirclecawt.org)

### **GOALS**

1. Transformation
2. Transformative / transforming theological education for students as well as for the ministry
3. Interdisciplinary multiplication
4. Regional cooperation:
  - a. NetACT facilitation?
  - b. Church leadership involvement and ecumenical cooperation
5. Distance education – explore internet possibilities.

### **PLANS**

Request to NetACT:

1. Coordinate exchange of “outcomes” and “modes of assessment” of the different member institutions
2. Explore the possibility of opening a Web portal about questions in relation to curricula with CEBITA (Centre for Bible Interpretation and Translation in Africa)
3. Exchange of formats of students’ assessment of courses and lecturers as practised by member institutions
4. Prepare a brief description of the reasons and context for choosing a particular core curriculum – share with all member institutions

### **PROJECTS OF MUTUAL CONCERN**

1. Open a website on which material can be posted and from where it can be downloaded – guides, lesson notes, articles, etc.
2. Gender equality: Every institution to write a 10-12 page article about Gender Equality in its context. This should include consultation of women voices. Check existing research. To be ready for agenda of 2010 AGM.
3. Lecturer exchange: identify capacity and needs, eg concentrated block courses on Greek and Hebrew, sharing teachers




**Meeting of a quorum of the NetACT Board at the same venue on 31 July at 6.15 pm:**

The following **decisions** are taken:

1. Status of this meeting: it is a continuation of the Board meeting held on 29 July 2009
2. Purpose: it confirms the additions contained above in NB218
3. On the AGM 2010 the Board decides:
  - i. Theme: refer to EC. Much will depend on the responses by member institutions regarding a possible continuation of an ONT workshop – responses will be required in a letter from the Secretary.
  - ii. Venue: refer to EC. Funds permitting, RITT may be the venue.
  - iii. EC to keep in mind the possibility of participation with TEA of CRC.
4. These Minutes: to be circulated to member institutions and then confirmed by the EC in the September meeting

Signed: ..... (Chairperson)

..... (Secretary)

Date: .....