

Minutes of the NetACT AGM & Community Development Workshop, 3 to 8 July 2016, St Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya.

Monday 4 July 2016.

- 1 **Attendance:** For a full list of attendants, see addendum 1 to the report. The meeting was attended by 62 delegates, which included 36 representatives from 32 NetACT institutions, 10 associate members and 9 additional paper presenters (over and above the 6 paper presenters who represented member institutions). Seven member institutions were not able to attend¹ while one institution, IBK-MU (Angola) was prevented from attending due to a flight cancellation.
- 2 **Official opening:** (Monday 4 July at 08:00): The NetACT conference chair, Rev Dr R Rutoro welcomed everybody and read Luke 10:25-37 applying it to the workshop theme. After prayer, the group was welcomed by SPU vice-chancellor Dr Galagalo, which was introduced by SPU Dean of Theology Dr Sammy Githuku. The VC gave a brief overview of SPU's history and wished NetACT well. Dr Kobus Gerber welcomed the group on behalf of the WCRC. Our outstanding host Dr Zablun Bundi Mutongu, Director of SPILL, welcomed everybody to the Soteria Conference Centre.
- 3 **Community Development Literature overview** (09:00-10:45 daily; Chair: Dr Rutoro): Dr Nadine Bowers-Du Toit (University of Stellenbosch) & Prof Naas Swart (University of the Western Cape) gave an overview of the research project and the most important literature that will be discussed during the workshop. The Community Development Reader and material were made available prior to the workshop.
- 4 **NetACT Annual General Meeting (AGM) 1** (Chaired by Dr Maggie Madimbo).
 - 4.1 **Agenda and minutes of Jan 2015 AGM (Agenda 1 & 2):** The agenda was approved and the minutes were accepted. Voting procedures were explained and noted.
 - 4.2 **The Journey since Jan 2015 (Agenda 3.1):** The Executive Director and Program Coordinator (ED & PC) highlighted events since the previous AGM (January 2015, Johannesburg, South Africa) (outlined in the program). Noted.
 - 4.3 **New Constitution (Agenda 3.2):** The ED led the discussion on the new constitution emphasizing the wide consultation process that led to the present formulation. The constitution was unanimously approved. It was further emphasized that the constitution will remain a work in progress and members are invited to submit proposals at the 2017 AGM should it transpire that the constitution does not meet all the needs of the Network.
 - 4.4 **Theology and development questionnaire (Agenda 3.3):** The PC described the process that led to the workshop part of our meeting. First, a questionnaire was circulated among all member institutions. A feedback rate of about 90% was achieved and was used to formulate a "Call for papers" in light of contextual and shared concerns. Proff Swart and Bowers were co-opted to assist the NetACT office in compiling both a workshop program and a Community Development Reader that was forwarded to paper presenters and was later made available to all attendees. The future process toward compiling a textbook and other publications generated by the workshops in the three-year research cycle was outlined.
Procedure and the way forward approved.
 - 4.5 **Relations and communication with the WCRC (Agenda 3.4):** Dr Kobus Gerber, chairperson of the Finance Committee of the WCRC, gave an overview of developments at the WCRC against the background of the information given in the NetACT Agenda. The Secretary of Theology of the WCRC was and remains on extended sick leave and thus the financial support promised to

¹ From Malawi: JMJI, ZTC, UL, RPTS; Ethiopia: EFGTS; Lesotho: MTS; Burundi: ILU.

NetACT did not materialize. At the May 2016 meeting of the Executive of the WCRC the matter was discussed by the WCRC and Dr Gerber was asked to explain matters to NetACT, to reiterate the WCRC's commitment to work with and support of NetACT and to work with the NetACT office to secure funding and future cooperation. NetACT is invited by Dr Gerber to submit a report on its activities and a funding proposal (from the WCRC's Partnership Fund) to the WCRC general meeting in 2017. Dr Gerber will assist in preparing such a report and proposal.

Noted with appreciation. A special word of thanks to Dr Gerber.

- 4.5 Financial statements (Agenda 4.1):** The PC introduced the point and asked Dr Kobus Odendaal, who oversees the finances on behalf of the Board, to explain the system and answer questions.

The financial statements of the year 2015 was approved by the Board.

- 4.6 Annual Membership fees (Agenda 4.2):** After discussion the following decision on membership fees was approved by the Board:

All members (of all clusters) to pay membership fees according to the formula below. The number of students studying at a partner institution is calculated according to full-time Certificate, Diploma and Bachelors students studying theology at the institution:

- a. *Institutions with more than 100 students: R4,800 per year (about 325USD in June 2016):*
- b. *Institutions with between 50 and 100 students: R2,400 per year (160USD):*
- c. *Institutions with less than 50 students: R1,440 per year (100USD):*

Clusters are to advise the NetACT Office of institutions that are not able to pay membership fees, in which case such fees may be waived for a specific period.

- 4.7 The NetACT Office (Agenda 4.3):** The ED led the discussion. The following proposal was accepted:

That the NetACT Executive starts a process of investigating the feasibility and affordability of a full-time secretary/programme manager for NetACT; that an appointment be made for a five year period; that this official will be based at the Stellenbosch office using its administrative system; that a job description be compiled in which the responsibilities of the ED and the new official is outlined; that the financial implications be taken in consideration and the money needed for the appointment be raised.

- 4.8 The NetACT House (Agenda 4.4):** After discussion the Board noted the point and expressed its appreciation to the NetACT office for its running of the House.

- 4.9 Communication (Agenda 4.5):** The information given in the Agenda was discussed and supplemented by the ED and PC. This led to the acceptance of the following proposal by the Board:

That the NetACT Office in conjunction with the Executive will investigate:

- 1) The possibility of a parallel meeting during the 2017 AGM for librarians and IT specialists of member institutions to formulate a strategy for upgrading libraries and IT infrastructure and for training of librarians in the use of electronic resources. This will be done in collaboration with Cornerstone Trust, the Theological Books Network, the University-members of the Network that may contribute knowledge and skills to the venture and other institutions with a similar mission.
- 2) The acquirement of funding and possibilities to get access to theological and other applicable electronic databases and books for use by the whole of the Network.
- 3) An invitation to a panel of experts to train librarians in the use of electronic resources at the planned meeting in July 2017.

4.10 Lecturer Exchange (Agenda 4.6): Rev and Mrs. Van Niekerk of the DRC congregation Vryheid were welcomed at the meeting. Their congregation is funding NetACT's Lecturer Exchange program via a trust called the "Pleinfonds". The congregation is thanked for its continued support of this important program. After discussion the following were approved:

4.10.1 Lecturer Exchange Agreement in order to qualify for funding:

"In terms of the lecturer exchange agreement the parties agree that:

1. *The hosting institution must provide a course description, timetable and class list accompanied by a clear outline of what is expected from the visiting lecturer.*
2. *Before the commencement of the visit, the visiting lecturer must give the host institution an outline of his/her program. Students at the host institution must also receive this outline beforehand. The outline must include a timetable (class dates and periods), prescribed material, assignments and the assessment procedure.*
3. *An objective evaluation of the program should take place at the end of the course.*
4. *This evaluation should be shared with the students, host institution and the visiting lecturer. The results of the evaluation must be forwarded to the NetACT office if NetACT had any role in the networking and funding of the lecturer exchange."*

4.10.2 Staff Data Base. The office and clusters are requested to compile a NetACT institutional staff research data base (names, contact details and areas of expertise and research of member institutions' academic staff).

4.10.3 The DRC Vryheid congregation is accepted as an Associated Member of NetACT.

4.11 Scholarships (Agenda 4.7). Discussed and noted.

4.12 Publications (Agenda 4.8). Discussed and the following proposal re-accepted:

That NetACT investigate electronic publishing (e-books) and investigate the procurement of funds to supply theological students with e-readers and a basic electronic theological library.

4.13 Curriculum and ACTEA (Agenda 4.9):

The information in the program was discussed and noted. As part of the discussion the ED of ACTEA (a NetACT associate member), Dr Emmanuel Chemengich explain their aims with regard to and contribution to theological training in Africa. Still on the same topic of curricula and accreditation, a second NetACT associate member, the Association for Christian Ministry Practitioners (ACMP), represented by its secretary Dr Hannes van der Walt made a presentation on the latter association's history, background and aims. Dr van der Walt invited NetACT members to contact the ACMP and to possibly join it in the former's endeavours to raise the quality of and accreditation possibilities of pre-tertiary theological training in Africa.

4.13 Reports on meetings and visits by the NetACT Office (Agenda 4.10): Noted.

5 Workshop papers: Three papers were presented and discussed on Monday. Senior Board Members acted as chairs to these all such presentations.

6 Monday Evening: Individual clusters met and had informal discussions on inviting and considering applications by new members to join their clusters.

Mr Marc Myburgh, representing and introducing associate member EFSA, did a daily evaluation with report back on the next day.

Tuesday 5 July 2016:

- 7 **Devotion:** The PC led Dwelling in the Word. Isaiah 11 & 12 were read and discussed in small groups.
- 8 **Community Development Literature overview 2:** Dr Nadine Bowers-Du Toit & Prof Naas Swart.
- 9 **Workshops:** Four workshops took place during the day.
- 10 **“Afternoon adventure”:** As a break-away and socializing exercise, the group visited the Village Market in Limuru during the afternoon. Socializing and getting to know members of other clusters continued during the evening.

During the break-away session an informal meetings took place regarding cooperation between Nigerian NetACT members and the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology at the University of Stellenbosch. Formal discussion were planned for the Global Network for Public Theology meeting to be held in Stellenbosch from 24-26 October 2016. The latter will take the form of a pre-conference meeting between NetACT members and the GNPT Executive on Sunday 23 Oct from 14:00-16:30 at the Faculty of Theology in view of presenting a Public Theology conference in October 2017 in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. Nigerian and SA members agreed to participate in this venture. During the afternoon meeting, a Pastoral Exchange Program between Nigerian and South African pastors (from the DRC) was also discussed with Drr Gustav Claassen and Kobus Odendaal (from the DRC) and the Nigerian representatives present. Dr Kobus Odendaal and the PC undertook to continue the discussion and the possibility of such an exchange this year.

Wednesday 6 July 2016:

- 11 **Dwelling in the Word.** Acts 1:1-8 and 2: 37-42. The small groups discussed the passage in the light of the question: “What are the key biblical principles for a people’s movement from Acts?”
- 12 **Community Development Literature overview 3:** Dr Nadine Bowers-Du Toit & Prof Naas Swart
- 13 **Workshops:** Five workshops took place on Wednesday.
- 14 **Cluster meetings:** Placing of new members, election of cluster executive committees took place. The following persons were elected on the respective cluster executive committees:
- i. Stellenbosch/AIU: Prof James Nkansah-Obrempong (AIU, Kenya), Dr Maggie Madimbo (ABC, Malawi), Dr Len Hansen (SU)
 - ii. St Paul’s/UP: Rev. Rowland van ES (St Paul’s, Kenya), Dr Siphwe Dube (UP), Fr Evangelos Thiani (Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kenya)
 - iii. Free State/ILU: Prof Kobus Schoeman (UF), Dr Edwin Zulu (Justo Mwale, Zambia) , Dr David Ngaruiya (ILU, Kenya)
 - iv. Daystar/NWU: Prof Washington Kamau (Daystar University, Kenya), Dr Hannes Knoetze (NWU), Dr Peter Awojobi (UMCA, Nigeria)
- 15 **Associate presentations:** Biblica, the sponsor of the whole day, had an afternoon as well as an evening presentation sharing with members information regarding their activities in Africa and introducing them to their new user-friendly Bibles and illustrated the use of these Bibles.

Thursday 7 July 2016

- 16 **Dwelling in the Word.** Romans 12: 1-21 was read and discussed in small groups guiding us to answer the question: “What is the theological essence of transformation according to this passage and what should the implications if this be for the life and practice of a Christian Community?”
- 17 **Community Development Literature overview 4:** Dr Nadine Bowers-Du Toit & Prof Naas Swart.
- 18 **Workshops:** Three workshops were presented on Thursday.
- 19 **Associate Member presentations:** Dr Kobus Odendaal introduced the work and role of the DRC to the group; Dr Hennie van Deventer did the same with regard to Bible Media and the Nehemiah Bible Institute; and Rev Ferdinand van Niekerk regarding that of the Vryheid DRC congregation.

20 NetACT Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2:

- 20.1 New Members** were accepted and welcomed to the Network.
- 20.2 Cluster executives** were introduced and accepted by the Board (Addendum 1).
- 20.3 Executive election** were elected and welcomed. The NetACT Executive for the 2016-2019 term will consist of one representative from the executives of each of the eight anchor institutions of the NetACT clusters under the leadership of as chairperson, Dr Maggie Madimbo (ABC, Malawi) and vice-chairperson, Dr Tersur Aben (TCNN, Nigeria). **The executive is to elect a donor representative on the executive at their first meeting.**
- 20.4 2017 AGM and Conference:** To take place at the Daystar Athi River Campus, Machakos, Kenya. The executive is given a mandate to arrange the next meeting with the help of Profs Washington Kamau and John Kombo of Daystar University. The Office was requested to raise funds.
- With a view to the current and future workshops of the Theology and Development Research Project, paper presenters are invited to submit their papers to the ED for possible publication in a future textbook. Delegates are invited to nominate members for the editorial team responsible for the latter who will join Prof Swart and Dr Bowers-du Toit as editors. Dr Hansen will be the coordinator of the publication project.
- 20.5 Approval of 2016 AGM minutes:** The Board gives its Executive the power to approve the minutes and act on it.

- 21 Adjournment.** The ED thanks the outgoing NetACT Executive, especially Drr Rutoro and Madimbo for their years of service and the PC for his role in organizing the AGM and running the NetACT Office. A special word of thanks were given (and applauded) when our AGM donors were mentioned by name. Appreciation was conveyed to Dr Zablon Mutongu and his team at SPU who hosted us.

The outgoing chair Dr Rutoro graciously recalled NetACT's journey from its inception in Kenya to the present day. Special mention was made of previous chairpersons, Drr Kasambala, Banda and Thipa, as well as program coordinators such as Rev. Pieter van Santen, Dr Uma Onwunta and Prof Jurgens Hendriks. The role of Dr Ron Hartgerink and the Elmer Hartgerink Family Trust was highlighted and remembered with especial fondness, particularly with regard to the key role Dr Hartgerink played during the crucial first six years of NetACT's existence. We prayed for Dr Hartgerink.

The PC led the final prayer after which the meeting adjourned at 17:30 pm.

Minutes compiled by:

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Addendum 1

AGM ATTENDANCE LIST - SPU NetACT Africa Networks & Members 2015-2016

Stellenbosch University & Africa International University Cluster	
1.	ABC (Lilongwe, Malawi) Dr Maggie Madimbo
2.	ABC (Lilongwe, Malawi) Gilbert Madimbo
3.	AIU (Nairobi, Kenya) Prof Dr James Nkansah-Obrempong,
4.	DCMA (Worcester, SA) Rev Jan Oberholzer
5.	ECWA (Kagoro, Nigeria) Dr Sunday B Agang
6.	Hugh Goldie (Arochukwu, Nigeria) Rev Vivian Ifeoma Agu
7.	ISTEL (Lubango, Angola) Rev Avelino Rafael
8.	JETS (Jos, Nigeria) Rev Dr Bauta Motty
9.	MTC (Masvingo Zimbabwe) Rev Webster Vhembo
10.	MTC (Masvingo, Zimbabwe) Rev Dr Rangarirai Rutoro
11.	NETS (Windhoek, Namibia) Rev Berdian Beukes
12.	RTS (Mkar, Nigeria) Rev Dr Jonathon T Iorkighir
13.	Scott Christian University (Nairobi, Kenya) Dr Liz Mburu
14.	Seminario Emanuel do Dôndi (SED, Angola) Rev Coutinho M Moma
15.	Stellenbosch University (South Africa) Dr Nadine Bowers du Toit
16.	TCNN (Jos, Nigeria) Dr Tersur Aben
Pretoria University and St Paul's University Cluster	
17.	Bishop Harrington ITD (Anglican, Kenya) Rev Alphonse Baya
18.	Moffat Bible College (Kijabe, Kenya) Rev Tom Joel Obengo
19.	Moffat Bible College (Kijabe, Kenya) Mr Michael Masso
20.	Orthodox Theological Seminary (Nairobi, Kenya). Father Evangelos Thiani
21.	Pretoria University (South Africa) Dr Siphwe Dube
22.	RITT (Eldoret, Kenya) Dr Hezron Komen
23.	RITT (Eldoret, Kenya) Gerco Op't Of
24.	SPU (Limuru, Kenya) Dr John Bwire
Free State University and International Leadership University Cluster	
25.	FSU (Bloemfontein, SA) Prof Kobus Schoeman
26.	FSU (Bloemfontein, SA) Rev Khamadi Pali
27.	ILU (Nairobi, Kenya) Prof Dr David Ngaruiya
28.	JMU (Lusaka, Zambia) Dr Edwin Zulu
29.	JMU (Lusaka, Zambia) Dr Lukas Soko
30.	Nile Theological College (South Sudan) Rev. Santino Odong Othol
North West University and Daystar University Cluster	
31.	Daystar University (Nairobi, Kenya). Dr Washington Chege
32.	HEFSIBA (Vila Ulongue, Mozambique): Rev Manasse Matiquele
33.	ITIERA (Luanda-Kinkuni, Angola) Pastor Campos Afonso
34.	NWU (Mafikeng campus, South Africa) Dr Hannes Knoetze
35.	UMCA (Illorin, Nigeria) Rev Dr Peter O. Awojobi
36.	Vision Bible College (Sotori, Uganda) Past Moses Olele

Institutions present as observers	
37.	Presbyterian University of East Africa (Nairobi, Kenya) Dr Dorcas Chebet
38.	TEE College (Johannesburg South Africa) Mike McCoy.

Associate members:

39.	ACRP = Association for Christian Religious Practitioners (Pretoria, South Africa) Dr Hannes van der Walt
40.	ACTEA = Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (Nairobi, Kenya) Dr Emmanuel Chemengich (ED)
41.	Bible Media & Nehemiah Bible Institute (Wellington South Africa) Dr Hennie van Deventer
42.	Biblica International, Mr Glenn Paauw
43.	Biblica International, Mr Koos Fouché.
44.	Commission for Witness DRC family (Cape Town, SA) Dr Kobus Odendaal
45.	Dutch Reformed Church, Vryheid Klipkerk (Vryheid, South Africa) Rev Ferdinand van Niekerk
46.	Dutch Reformed Church, Vryheid Klipkerk (Vryheid, South Africa) Mrs Annatjie van Niekerk
47.	Dutch Reformed Church in SA (Pretoria, South Africa) Dr Gustav Claassen
48.	EFSA = Ecumenical Foundation of Southern Africa (Stellenbosch, South Africa) Mr Marc Myburgh
49.	EFSA (Stellenbosch, South Africa) Mrs Marc Myburgh
50.	ECWA = Evangelical Church Winning All (Jos, Nigeria) Dr Nathan Chiroma
51.	WCRC = World Communion of Reformed Churches (Hannover Germany) Dr Kobus Gerber

Paper presenters

52.	Frost, Marie-Luise (Researcher, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany)
53.	Kakwata, Dr Frederick, (NWU-Potchefstroom Campus (South Africa)
54.	Manya, Dr. Stephen (Daystar University, Nairobi, Kenya)
55.	Mutuku Sesi, Dr Josephine (AIU, Nairobi, Kenya)
56.	Nell, Prof Ian, (Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, South Africa)
57.	Swart, Prof Naas, CD Consultant, (Univ Western Cape South Africa)
58.	Tucker, Dr Roger (representative South African Theological Seminary)
59.	Yoms, Dr Ephraim (Pastor, ECWA, Nigeria)
60.	Mutongu, Dr Zablon Bundi (SPU, Limuru, Kenya – also our host!)

NetACT Office

61.	NetACT Executive Director: Dr Len Hansen (Stellenbosch, South Africa)
62.	NetACT Program Coordinator: Prof Dr H Jurgens Hendriks (Stellenbosch, South Africa)

OUR SPONSORS

NetACT wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the following persons and organizations. Without your support and your commitment to theological education and training on our continent our conference would not have been possible.

- **Agnès Arluison-Krüzsely, Executive Secretary, FAP (Fondation pour l'aide au protestantisme réformé)**



- **Koos Fouché – Biblica Africa**



Transforming Lives Through God's Word

- **Dr Mwaya wa Kitavi – Christian Reformed World Missions**



- **Dr Renier Koegelenberg – EFSA**



- **Dr Kobus Odendaal – Cape Synod of the Dutch Reformed Church**



- **Division for Research Development Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch**



- **Finally, a SPECIAL word of thanks to Rev. Roland van Es, Dr Zablon Bundi Mutonga and the staff of Saint Paul's University and the Soteria Conference Centre for their wonderful hospitality!**

