



NETACT ANNUAL REPORT July 2017

**Tabled at the Annual General Meeting and the Theology and Development Workshop
3-6 July 2017, Scott Christian University, Machakos, Kenya**

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VENUE

SCOTT CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, MACHAKOS: SHUTTLE AND DRIVING DIRECTIONS

View the venue at: <https://www.facebook.com/ScottChristianUniversityOfficial/>. Map on the webpage.

The shuttle service from the airport to SCU and back to the airport is arranged by the NetACT office and SCU. Pastor Charles Kimanzi is the Scott Christian University contact (communitychapel@scott.ac.ke). His phone number is 0723901999. In case you cannot reach him on his mobile call the conference venue office (0713745404, Mrs Josephine Kyalo). Physical address: Scott Christian University, Machakos County 2 km off Kangundo road from Machakos town.

THE PROGRAM (or agenda) of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING July 2017 is a separate document. The agenda contains the Annual Report, and reflects the programme regarding presentations by Associate Members and two workshops: the Theology and Development Workshop as well and the Multi-School Library Resource Program.

1 CONSTITUTING THE MEETING & OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

- The NetACT chair, Dr Maggie Madimbo, lead the meeting.
- The meeting will run according to the procedures contained in the Constitution (<http://netact.christians.co.za/constitution/>. Paragraphs 4.2.1.2 and 3 apply).
- The minutes of the previous meeting was approved by the Executive Council (these minutes are available online at: <http://netact.christians.co.za/minutes-annual-reports/>).
- The current composition of the NetACT Executive remains the same for July 2017 to July 2018 (three year term, Constitution 4.2.1.2), but the composition of the clusters and the representatives in the clusters have changed and new leaderships need to be elected for the clusters (Constitution 4.2.2.3 “and two representatives of each NetACT clusters not otherwise represented on the Committee” serve in the NetACT EC).
- This document headed: “NetACT Annual Report July 2017” contains the report for the period July 2016 to June 2017. The NetACT Office prepared the report with the cooperation of the NetACT Executive Committee. It will be discussed according to the guidelines in the agenda.
- As a Christian organization we deem it very important to get to know one another and the institutions we represent. Please also use meal times to get to know one another. Devotion in the mornings in the form of “Dwelling in the Word” in smaller groups aims at further doing this as well as to discern God’s way forward.
- Since we embarked on a research project on Theology and Development (T&D) we have a flash disk containing a Theology and Development Reader with material that will help presenters with the preparation of their papers. For the purposes of the meeting and minutes the terms Theology and Development and “Community Development” (CD) are used interchangeably.
- The NetACT Office will keep an attendance register that will minute attendance at the meeting.
- Voting rights: All NetACT Board Members have voting rights – one vote per member institution. Associate Members do not have voting rights, but are part of board meetings and are invited to participate in discussions. New members have voting rights once the Board accepted their membership applications.
- The NetACT Executive met three times. Their decisions of their meetings are incorporated in the Annual Report.

2 THE JOURNEY SINCE July 2016

2.1 Kenya as an AGM venue

Kenya was again chosen as venue because it presents the least challenges regarding visas and because of its excellent and affordable conferencing facilities. For this reason, Kenya may become a more or less permanent venue for network-wide meetings.

In November 2016 the Executive Director (ED) and Programme Coordinator (PC) visited Kenya on behalf of the Network for ACTEA's 50th anniversary celebrations. See the full report at Addendum II. An official "Certificate of Appreciation" was awarded to NetACT by ACTEA during the event. It signifies NetACT's own prominence among theological organisations in Africa. The second objective of the visit was to meet with Kenyan library representatives. The meeting was held at St Paul's University and played a very constructive role in shaping the MSLRP agenda for the current meeting. The ED and PC subsequently visit RITT, at Eldoret, a founding member of NetACT as well as a new NetACT member, the Bishop Hannington Institute in Mombasa. Both visits were wonderful opportunities to get to know the institutions, their staff and challenges.

One of the main objectives of this visit was to finalize the venue of our 2017 AGM. The office had to negotiate with Kenyan schools to find a venue that is both financially viable in terms of the NetACT budget and has the necessary library and internet facilities with a view to the planned librarians' consultation during the week of the AGM. Since it was decided to host the AGM at alternative partner institutions each year, it turned out that the conference venue of Scott Christian University in Machakos county is ideal for this purpose. It is 54 kilometres from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Dr Washington Kamau of Daystar University accompanied us to SCU where we met with the staff and inspected the facilities on offer. It was not a difficult decision to take, also because SCU Vice-Chancellor (and NetACT board member) Dr Mumo wa Kisau graciously matched the fee-structure of the 2016 meeting!

Proposal: The Board thank Prof Mumo and SCU for hosting the AGM and conference and for the hard work in preparing for such an event.

2.2 Theology and Development questionnaire, call for papers and reader

The 2015 Report/Minutes lists eight steps to guide the NetACT office on its way forward. Point 8.8 in particular required a lot of time and energy since it dealt with compiling a questionnaire and reports on T&D activities at our member institutions. It took some follow-up to get the reports in, but thank you to those who did supply the needed information. Based on the replies, we consulted with two experts in the field, Dr Nadine Bowers du Toit and Prof Naas Swart and subsequently sent out a Call for Papers for the 2016 and 2017 meetings. Our consultants and the office embarked on obtaining permission from publishers and journals to compile a reader of the relevant literature suggested by Prof Swart to serve as a resource for those presenting papers and for those who will be attending the workshop. This was a major undertaking, but now forms the backbone in terms of scholarly resources for our workshop and future workshops in this research project. Dr Hansen will give an overview of where we stand in the AGM meeting.

2.3 Relations and communication with the WCRC

The WCRC moved office from Geneva in Switzerland to Hannover in Germany in 2014-15. This disrupted their work and organizational structures. Serious health issues hampered communication with the WCRC Secretary of Theology. As a consequence, NetACT never received the promised funding by the WCRC for the development of further NetACT networks/clusters. This placed exorbitant amounts of pressure on the NetACT Office as without funding it would have been impossible to implement the decisions taken and goals set in January 2014, in Johannesburg. The office, however, understands the situation. We see it as a temporary setback and our relationship with the WCRC remains as fundamental to our existence and goals as before. We also remain convinced of the importance of the WCRC. NetACT is an Associate Member of the WCRC and vice versa.

The ED and PC travelled to Pretoria in March 2017 to speak to the outgoing WCRC President, Prof Jerry Pillay and the chair of their Finance Committee, Dr Kobus Gerber. Addendum I contains the report on this meeting.

Proposal: The Board request the EC and Office to do the necessary follow-up work to heal the relationship with the WCRC. NetACT should request funding for NetACT projects and must pursue a good relationship with the new General Secretary of Theology.

3 NETACT OFFICE REPORT

3.1 Financial Statements

Stellenbosch University (SU) is responsible for NetACT's financial administration. NetACT receives audited financial statements annually. It has to follow the strict regulations of US's accounting system. This service and the office facilities are offered to NetACT free of charge.

The NetACT EC appointed Dr Kobus Odendaal (DRC Western and Southern Cape Synod Commission for Witness) as the Donor Representative on the EC. It implies that he is a voting Board Member (Constitution 4.2.1.1 B iii).

An audited copy of NetACT's financial statements for the year 2016 is available on request from the office. Addendum III to the agenda represents a more "user-friendly" version with explanatory notes, which was compiled by Board Member Dr Kobus Odendaal.

NetACT finances follows a rather simple logic. All projects have their own income, either from donations or collaborators, or by means of monies allocated through successful funding proposals. Money handled by the NetACT Office is subject to a 10% administration fee that covers NetACT Office expenses. We are grateful that NetACT developed a good record of accomplishment and a very strong and supportive network of collaborators.

Proposal: The NetACT Board discuss and approve the 2016 Financial Statements.

3.2 Annual Membership fees

The membership fee structure approved by the Board in 2016 (Minutes: 4.6) stipulates:

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.

Proposal: NetACT continue the membership fee system.

The NetACT office will receive outstanding **2016-2017 membership fees** at the AGM (because of difficulties in transferring money to the office in SA). The Office has to report on the state of membership fee payments to the Board at the meeting.

3.3 NetACT Office

One of NetACT's goals is to maintain functional central office.

Prof Hendriks was appointed as NetACT Program Coordinator for 2015 onward in order to run the day-to-day office responsibilities and to ensure continuity. He is paid R10 000 per month. This is in no way a market-related salary for the amount of work that a Program Coordinator of this kind does, and NetACT remains grateful to him for serving in what cannot be anything else than a calling of love. Stellenbosch University upgraded the interior of the NetACT office to include three working stations and the necessary technological appliances for the effective operation of the office.

Prof Hendriks suggested, and the NetACT has accepted, that NetACT should appoint a full time secretary for the network. Prof Hendriks is willing to serve as Program Coordinator until such an appointment has been made. From the 2016 Minutes (4:7):

- That the NetACT Executive starts a process of investigating the feasibility and affordability of a full-time secretary/programme coordinator 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.

The office interviewed Rev Nico Mostert for this post on the 16h of January 2017 and reported to the Executive Committee of NetACT in February 2017. The NetACT EC propose him as a suitable candidate and attach his CV to the agenda for scrutiny and comments (Addendum IV). The office initiated a process of raising money for such an appointment. Rev Mostert will join NetACT as full-time program coordinator once a salary is secured and the appointment can be made.

Rev Mostert was serving in his first congregation in Lusaka in 2001 when NetACT had its second meeting. He also attended the Lusaka meeting as the representative of the Dutch Reformed Church (http://netact.christians.co.za/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2016/10/01_Board-Minutes.pdf). He is attending the 2017 AGM as secundus for Dr Gustav Claassen, General Secretary of the DRC. The Board has to approve his candidature at the end of this meeting. If the Board approves his candidature, the NetACT EC should see to all matters related to the formal appointment. Prof Hendriks will continue with the Office duties until Rev Mostert can take over.

Proposal: NetACT continue with the process of appointing a full-time Program Coordinator and delegate the process to the NetACT EC.

3.4 NetACT house

Another of NetACT's goals is to offer affordable and welcoming living environment for lecturers who are receiving advanced training. Stellenbosch achieved this in 2012 when two houses donated to NetACT was renovated to offer accommodation to 24 people.

NetACT transferred the property to the Stellenbosch University for maintenance and administrative purposes (but with the necessary stipulations regarding the exclusive use of property by NetACT). One of the students serves as the House Administrator, does the admin of the house and stays in the house free of charge. He/she also has a desk in the NetACT office. For information on the house visit <http://netact.christians.co.za/accommodation/> and or see the video about the house at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqYQ_yads8&feature=youtu.be.

Finding accommodation for post-graduate students at NetACT's anchor institutions remains a goal worth pursuing.

3.5 Communication: The Multi-School Library Resource Project (MSLRP)

NetACT furthermore strives toward developing and maintaining effective communication, internet facilities, consultation and networking among all member institutions.

NetACT assists all its institutions in this regard. Cornerstone Trust, based in Grand Rapids, USA, supported NetACT from its inception to obtain access to the internet and online resources. After our 2015 meeting and expansion, the Trust suggested that we develop a strategy to deal with all the IT funding requests as one project. This coincided with a report written for the Theological Book Network on the state of affairs in libraries in Nigeria (and Malawi). Our theological schools are struggling financially and cannot to buy important journals. Budget cuts curtail the buying of important theology books. One way to have access to the dynamic theological debates and information is through the internet. On top of this predicament, we found that most librarians are not trained or knowledgeable of how to access internet resources. Some struggle with inadequate hardware (computers) and unreliable electricity supply that force them to use the dated and time-consuming card catalogue system to search for books and journals.

The NetACT office then suggested that we embark on a three-phased project:

- 1 The development of a NetACT Internet Portal (NIP) that is somewhat like a table of contents that gives one access to a wide range of crucial information on open access books and journals as well as other research resources.
 To be add to the NIP are search engines, library guides, teaching and learning tools and general research tools (e.g. on how to develop a research proposals; styles of reference, how to write a research paper, guidance on how to avoid plagiarism, etc.).
 For some of these a licence will be needed, but NetACT plans to negotiate preferential and shared licencing fees on behalf of NetACT and ACTEA for theological-ethical research in Africa. We believe we will get better access and cheaper rates if we do this for a larger group.
 The NIP will have a section that are open to the public but also limited access areas for members only.
 The establishment of such a portal is a specialized job for which we got funding. Once it is in place, one needs a NIP moderator to run it on a daily basis. The moderator will be there for enquiries, info and help in general, upkeep of the NIP and uploading of new and additional resources as they become available. The NetACT Office is currently in negotiation with a mission organization that may provide and fund a person to serve in this capacity. He will most probably work from Stellenbosch.

2. The second step will be to train our librarians to use the NIP. The NetACT Office has been in discussion with the leadership and library representatives at the eight anchor institutions of the clusters (four in Kenya and four in SA). We visited Kenya in Nov 2016 (report Addendum II) and the four SA anchors early in 2017 (report Addendum V) with a view to this.
 As a result, the program for librarians at this years' AGM was drawn up so that detail planning of this project and the NIP can be done with a view to report and make proposals to the NetACT Board. The proposals will be discussed. The Board need to approve the way forward in order for the NetACT Office to continue with implementing the project.
 At this stage the tentative idea is that the librarians of the individual NetACT schools will be trained in their respective clusters at the SA anchor University. The faculties of theology and library people of the four SA universities volunteered this service.

3. The third step is to get basic information from our schools to implement the project. The library group will work on a detailed questionnaire. The information gathered via this questionnaire will be crucially important for our deliberations with funders and for the actual successful implementation of the project. The questionnaire will contain three sections: 1) Information on the school itself (staff & students, programs, e.g. on what is offered regarding theology and development – for our Theology & Development book). 2) We need library information: number of books, journals and infrastructure (computers, electricity supply, internet connectivity, etc.). 3) We need information on the librarian(s) themselves (numbers, training and training needs). Once the NIP is operational, all librarians will need some introduction / training in order to be able to utilize it. However, there are vast differences in the training of member institutions' librarians. The library group will work on a tentative training program that will address all levels of training of librarians. Developing the questionnaire forms the basis of acquiring the information needed to implement the library project.

MSLRP Funding: By God's grace both Cornerstone Trust (CT) and the Theological Book Network (TBN) had representatives at the Nov 2016 ACTEA 50th anniversary celebrations attended by Drr. Hansen and Hendriks. We did a lot of planning work with them. Subsequently we had discussions with librarians from the Kenyan anchor institutions at St Pauls University. We then visited Scott Christian University, especially their library – that proved to be adequate to host the 2017 meeting for librarians. We sent a funding proposal to CT and received a grant of \$36,700. Tyndale House Foundation also contributed \$15,000 for the project. These donations made this AGM possible. It includes money for building a NIP. At the completion of this

phase, we can apply for funding to cover all expenses dealing with the training of the librarians as well as additional program development expenses. CT called the project the **The Multi-School Library Resource Project (MSLRP)**. This became the name of the project.

Board Decisions that are needed.

- The NetACT Board initiated the MSLRP in 2016 (Minutes 4.9). The NetACT Office implemented the decision. After the Board meeting the Office will continue to implement the MSLRP. However, we need an official decision taken by the Board, on the advice of the library group, to continue with the process.
- Since the MSLRP will be of enormous financial and educational benefit to NetACT schools, we suggest that the Board stipulate that the training of librarians and access to the NIP will be available to all members whose membership fees are fully paid.

The NetACT Website was updated and is really something to be proud of. Look at <http://netact.christians.co.za/> A big “thank you” for the Dutch Reformed Church family in the Western Cape for this – in particular Dr Odendaal’s wife, Mariëtte, who did the work!

Our news portal is an important communication tool. Please visit <http://netact.christians.co.za/news/>. We report whatever happens in and around the office. We would like to receive campus news from our institutions. EC members should set an example. Send institutional news accompanied by a photograph if possible!

3.6 Lecturer Exchange

Since its establishment, **NetACT** has organized and promoted lecturer exchanges between institutions to provide expertise in certain academic fields where it is lacking. This also serves to create space and time for lecturers to further their own studies and research.

The NetACT office regularly negotiates exchanges. Towards this goal it will assist where possible in paying travel expenses. The 2016 Board meeting accepted the following four regulations to guide Lecturer Exchanges (Minutes 4.10):

This is the proposal that was accepted and that functions as guide to lecturer exchanges:

“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 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.”*

The 2016 meeting accepted the following proposal: NetACT requests the office and representatives of the clusters to compile a data base of NetACT institutions’ 1 staff (Minutes 4.10).

The office wrote to all the institutions requesting the information. Only a few schools replied and send the requested information. The office suggest that we handle lecturer exchange requests and external examiner nominees on an ad hoc basis as it seems to require too much administration to establish and update a lecturers’ data base.

Proposal: Institutions or persons in need of lecturer exchange or candidates to act as external examiners may contact the NetACT office and will be assisted in this regard.

3.7 Scholarships

The sourcing and provision of scholarships to advance the theological training of our institutions' lecturers and promising pastors of the churches they serve have always been important to NetACT. With regard to this, the following:

World Communion of Reformed Churches

NetACT is a member of the WCRC and this gives us access to apply for WCRC scholarships. For information on WCRC scholarships visit "the [Theological Education Scholarship Fund for Women in the South](#) [that] enables women from a wide network of Reformed churches in the Global South to build their capacity for effective partnership in God's mission." [<http://wrc.ch/leadership-development>]

Other Scholarships

The NetACT office and the Faculty of Theology secured an agreement with the Langham Partnership towards offering two scholarships per year for full time students from NetACT. However, this is limited to studies undertaken **at the University of Stellenbosch**. Any interested NetACT scholars and students may contact Dr Ian Shaw directly in this regard at ian.shaw@langhampartnership.org (or **c/o Secretary to Director of Scholarship Programme, gaynor.harvey@langhampartnership.org**) Langham has more than two scholarships which means members can apply and go to study anywhere they wish.

One can find the Langham website at: <http://uk.langham.org/what-we-do/langham-scholars/>.

Scholar leaders have also helped us with funding of postgraduate studies of partner students or staff: Contact Evan Hunter at erhunter@scholarleaders.org and visit their website at www.scholarleaders.org for more information.

One of the mayor challenges of the ED's of the clusters will be to look for scholarships and to develop partnerships with foundations, individuals and even congregations to provide for scholarships.

Oxford Center for Religion and Public Life

One exciting new development in the area of scholarships developed since the OCRPL approached NetACT to assist in negotiating an agreement between it (OCRPL) and the Stellenbosch Faculty of Theology in terms of which partial scholarships will be awarded to 10 to 15 PhD students per year to do research on topics related to religion and public life. These scholarships are earmarked specifically for theologians from the Two-thirds World and preference will be given for applicants in leadership positions or with leadership potential. For more information, contact details and application procedures visit http://www.ocrpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/PhilosophyDegree_Brochure.pdf.

3.8 Publications

NetACT has as one of its primary goals the publication of quality theological textbooks relevant to the African context.

Publications

We have several NetACT publications on our shelf: *Our Church has AIDS: preaching in the context of HIV/AIDS in Africa* and *Studying Congregations in Africa*. *Studying Congregations* have had seven reprints and may be ordered by NetACT institutions. It is also available in electronic format from the Office.

In 2006, NetACT realized that we need to address HIV&AIDS pandemic in different ways. We presented curriculum development workshops at member institutions in order to facilitate addressing the HIV& AIDS issue across disciplines. A second step was to deal with the related subject of gender inequality and gender justice. The books below are the result of our Network-wide collaborative research project. NetACT member institutions may download them in PDF format, free of charge, from the NetACT website at <http://netact.christians.co.za/books-articles/>:

Men in the pulpit, women in the pew? Addressing gender inequality in Africa, was the first of our publications published with the assistance of the Ecumenical Fellowship of Southern Africa (EFSA). In EFSA we have found a most valuable partner.

Living with Dignity: African perspectives on gender equality was the result of planning that began in 2011. The goal was to produce a textbook on gender for use in our seminaries and churches. NetACT members

wrote this book. To our delight it won one of the most prestigious prizes for theological literature in South Africa. We received the following message by email end of March 2016:

It is with great delight and a deep sense of gratitude to God and all of you that I share the good news that your book *Living with Dignity: African Perspectives on Gender Equality* (2015) has been awarded this year's prestigious Andrew Murray-Desmond Tutu prize. The prize commemorates the rich legacy of two influential South African theologians associated with reconciliation in church and society. The panel of reviewers was particularly appreciative of the fact that more than 20 theologians from across Africa contributed to the volume, and that you addressed the important issue of gender equality from so many different perspectives. The reviewers are positive that the book has the potential to influence the continent's ethos regarding gender equality in significant ways. They also emphasised the collaborative process through which the book has been produced, and reckon that it sets an important trend for future theological and academic cooperation in Africa – namely, through thinking and writing *together*.

The 2016 and 2017 workshops focus is on Theology and Development (T&D) will follow the same process. EFSA will sponsor the publication of the textbook. These EFSA-NetACT publications are available free of charge to NetACT members via the NetACT website. [<http://netact.christians.co.za/books-articles/>]

3.9 Curriculum & ACTEA

NetACT set as goal the upgrading of curriculum standards at member institutions.

The 2008 HIV Curriculum Development Workshops were our first step in actively helping NetACT institutions on the road towards accreditation of their programmes and qualifications.

Curriculum Development research and workshops

NetACT commissioned Rev Kruger du Preez to do research on accreditation and curriculum development within the NetACT institutions. Rev Du Preez received his PhD degree in March 2013. The title of his dissertation was: *Curriculum Development in Theological Institutions of the Reformed tradition in Sub-Saharan Africa*. The 377 page document can be downloaded free of charge from <http://scholar.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.1/80047>.

ACTEA

ACTEA (Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa) has been a key partner of NetACT. Acquiring ACTEA accreditation was one of the goals we set for all our institutions. NetACT supported institutions in different ways in obtaining ACTEA accreditation. Rev Dr Emmanuel Chemengich (echemengich@gmail.com) is the current ACTEA ED. Dr Shelley Chapman will represent ACTEA at our 2017 meeting.

FUTE (Forum for University Theological Education) is a forum of the major theological faculties and departments in SA. They negotiate with the National Department of Education in SA and with SAQA (South African Qualifications Agency) towards the accreditation of the qualifications they offer. Amongst other issues, standards and curriculum issues are their main focus. We finalized a memorandum of understanding between the three organisations (NetACT, ACTEA, FUTE) that aims to synchronize ACTEA accreditation with SA standards. However, the #Feesmustfall movement in SA played havoc with the universities and prevented the issue to be finalized. The office will keep pursuing it.

Proposal: Noted.

3.10 Reports on meetings and visits by the NetACT Office

- A. **VISIT TO NETACT INSTITUTIONS IN MALAWI & MOZAMBIQUE:** The Dutch Reformed Church requested the NetACT PC to attend a meeting with Hefsiba in Mozambique to help the institution with a strategic planning process. Dr Kobus Odendaal, of the CfW of the Western Cape, also a Board Member, and Prof Hendriks attended this meeting. They also had important discussions at another NetACT school, JMTI at Nkhoma in Malawi.

- B. GENERAL SECRETARIES OF THE DRC FAMILY OF CHURCHES:** Fourteen delegates of thirteen churches formed a forum. They met in Lusaka, July 2015, and in August 2016 in Malawi. All these churches are indirectly connected to NetACT and as such NetACT was invited and represented by the PC. The DRC sponsored attendance and one of the results of the meeting was that the DRC in SA subsequently requested associate membership of NetACT. Since the two bodies share several goals, NetACT may contribute to this forum. The NetACT Office will be present at the July 2017 meeting in SA where they have to lead a discussion on leadership.
- C. MEETING WITH IERA IN WINDHOEK.** The Kinkuni seminary project of IERA is a long-term project, reported on at previous AGMs. The project continues and Prof Hendriks serves on the committee formed to rebuild the seminary at Kinkuni (it was twice destroyed during the Angolan Civil War). Expenses of these meeting, usually in Windhoek, are paid for by Kinkuni funding.
- D. ACRP:** NetACT has been involved with the establishment of the Association for Christian Religious Practitioners in South Africa since 2014. The ED represented the Network at the workshops towards the registration of this body (aimed at the accreditation of ministry training practitioners in South Africa that do training on a pre-tertiary level). The ACRP has since joined NetACT as an associate member.
- E. ACTEA:** The Office visited Kenya in Nov 2016 for the 50th celebration of ACTEA's birthday. Addendum II is the report of the visit.
- F. NIGERIA:** The 2016 Annual Report shared about a 2015 and 2016 visit to Nigeria and about several projects that was a result of those visits (like the MSLRP). Another topic that came up was the need for the development of the discipline of Public Theology in addressing major challenges facing the country and our continent. The office facilitated a meeting between four Nigerian NetACT members during the Oct 2016 meeting of the Global Network for Public Theology in Stellenbosch. At this meeting a specific Public Theology workshop was planned to take place in Nigeria in May 2017. It was presented as the bi-annual TEA-West Africa (Theological Training in Africa) meeting in Jos / Bukuru at TCNN with our Vice Chairperson, Dr Tersur Aben, presiding. Drr. Hansen and Hendriks presented papers at this meeting. Addendum VI is the report of this meeting.
- G. VISITORS TO THE NETACT OFFICE:** We receive many local and international visitors at the NetACT office over the past year. One exceptional fruitful visit was when, in December 2016, Hannah Swithinbank, Theological Development Manager and Interim Theology and Network Engagement Team Manager of Tearfund visited the office. This led to Dr Sas Conradie's presence at this meeting and Tearfund applying for associate membership of NetACT.

4 CLUSTER MEETINGS, VOTING, NEW MEMBERS AND EVALUATION

- Vote to appoint the executive committees of the clusters.
- Vote on the applications of new members, and negotiate their membership with specific clusters.
- Deal with the possible termination of members that failed to attend meetings as prescribed by the NetACT constitution.
- Vote for or against the proposed new Project Coordinator for NetACT (Rev Nico Mostert).
- Evaluate the meeting.

5 ANNUAL MEETINGS

5.1 Previous venues

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • 2000 Karen, Nairobi, Kenya. | • 2006 Windhoek, Namibia |
| • 2001 Lusaka, Zambia | • 2007 Lusaka, Zambia |
| • 2002 Lilongwe, Malawi | • 2009 Stellenbosch (150 th anniversary) |
| • 2003 Stellenbosch, SA | • 2011 Lilongwe, Malawi |
| • 2004 Zomba, Malawi | • 2012 Brackenhurst, Kenya. |
| • 2005 Hefsiba, Mozambique | • 2013 DCMA, Worcester, SA, |

- 2015 Johannesburg, SA
- 2016 St Paul's University, Kenya
- 2017 Scott Christian University, Machakos, Kenya.

5.2 2018 Annual Meeting

The 2018 Annual meeting will be held in July 2018. Suggestions are to be made for a venue at the 2017 AGM. One possibility to consider is Stellenbosch, if the AGM could coincide with a possible Africa-wide conference on Theology and Development which is planned for winter 2018 at Stellenbosch.

NetACT request the office to organize this meeting and raise the necessary funding.

6 GENERAL

6.1 Approval of 2017 Annual General Meeting minutes

As with previous meetings, the NetACT EC requests the Board to grant it the authority to approve the minutes of the AGM.

6.2 Other issues

6.3 Closing prayers

ADDENDUM I REPORT of VISIT to UNIVERSITY of PRETORIA (24 MARCH 2017).

- 1 Background info: Drr Hansen & Hendriks made several attempts to get in touch with Prof Jerry Pillay, president of the WCRC, to deal with outstanding issues of the relationship between WCRC and NetACT. It was very difficult to get an appointment. However, a meeting was eventually held with Prof Pillay and Dr Kobus Gerber, WCRC's Chair of their Financial Committee. The following issue were discussed:

AGENDA WITH DR PILLAY & GERBER

- 1 WCRC commitments & where it stranded; problems around Dr D Visser retirement. We gave a short overview of NetACT and they of what happened at the WCRC.
- 2 Present NetACT projects: Community Development, Library / librarian training project and Kinkuni. The info of what NetACT do, was very enthusiastically received and will be shared with the WCRC at large.
- 3 Reporting about WCRC Gen Council meeting in Germany 28 Jun-8 July 2017. We were informed about the meeting of the WCRC
- 4 Expansion of NetACT to and in French-speaking countries: Pretoria & SPU cluster were requested to pursue this.
- 5 The possibility of a full-time NetACT –WCRC representative at the NetACT office in Stellenbosch.

Summary of discussion and positive outcomes of the meeting:

- They explained the situation in Hannover that led to the retirement of Dr Visser.
- The WCRC was never fully informed about NetACT and the relationship and commitments made by Dr Visser to the WCRC.
- Prof Pillay & Dr Gerber will rectify this and assured us that the relationship is a crucial one to the WCRC.
- They requested a report that they want to present to the General Secretary (Dr Chris Ferguson) and others.
- We were invited to put forward funding requests for the library project and for Kinkuni to their Partnership Fund.
- We brainstormed the possibility of getting a full-time WCRC representative in the NetACT Office that can attend to African issues and also to serve NetACT. The benefit NetACT offered included free office space and the NetACT office's and Stellenbosch University infrastructure / financial system.
- They were very impressed by the library project and the possibilities it had to serve the whole of Africa. They promised their full cooperation in this regard and urged us to see this as a justice issue i.e. that that a lack of adequate access to information from people and institutions simply because those people and institutions lack funding is a justice issue.
- They have no doubts that the maximum partnership funding (E33,000) should be requested to help fund the library project. They will help facilitate NetACT raise funding for other projects.

FOLLOW-UP:

The office sent Prof Pillay a report as requested by him, outlining the relationship. He took it to the WCRC General Secretary. This was his note after the visit:

From: Jerry Pillay [mailto:Jerry.Pillay@up.ac.za]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 12:41
To: Hendriks, HJ, Prof <hjh@sun.ac.za> <HJH@sun.ac.za>
Subject: Re: NetACT Annual General Meeting 2-7 July 2017

Dear Hendriks,

Greetings! Sorry for the delayed response. I have been traveling quite extensively. I have spoken very favourably about this to Chris Ferguson, WCRC General Secretary.. He would certainly be picking this up after the General Council. There is unfortunately no time to do so now. I will continue to follow up on your behalf. No worries about the 'damage'. It was more a matter from our side than from yours.

Hope this helps for now, limited as it is in information, purely circumstantially.

Regards, Jerry

ADDENDUM II NetACT: Report on representative visit to Kenya, 16-26 Nov 2016

Dr HJ Hendriks & L Hansen

1. Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) and Association for Christian Theological Education (ACTEA), Karen, Nairobi, 16-20 Nov 2016:

The AEA celebrated its 50th anniversary from 16-20 November 2016. This coincided with the 40th celebration of the establishment of ACTEA. The latter was founded by Dr Byang Kato, the first African General Secretary of AEA. Initially called the Accrediting Council for Theological Education, ACTEA's mission is to promote quality evangelical theological education in Africa by offering supporting services, facilitating academic recognition and fostering continental and intercontinental cooperation.

NetACT is a partner organization of ACTEA while ACTEA is an associate member of NetACT. Dr Hendriks serves as advisory member on ACTEA's Executive and Council – both of which met during the celebrations. Several major funders of both ACTEA and NetACT were represented at the meeting as well as church leaders and theologians from all over Africa (a total of eight NetACT board members representing their respective institutions were present as well). As such, the meeting served as an ideal opportunity to introduce Dr Hansen to many major theological role players in Africa. It also allowed for conducting crucial talks with our regular sponsors all of whom confirmation of their support for our library/librarian training project (see below).

An official "Certificate of Appreciation" was awarded to NetACT by ACTEA during the event which signifies NetACT's own prominence among theological organisations in Africa.

2. Finalization of 2017 NetACT AGM and workshop location and venue:

Our previous AGM was hosted by St Paul's University (SPU). Being one of the most visa-friendly countries on the continent as well as geographically central, affordable and well-connected for air travel, Kenya was a natural choice for the 2017 venue. The office had to negotiate with Kenyan schools to find a venue that is both financially viable and has the necessary library and internet facilities with a view to the planned librarians' consultation during the week of the AGM. It turned out that the conference venue of Scott Christian University in Machakos county and 54 kilometres from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi is ideal for this purpose. Dr Washington Kamau of Daystar University accompanied us to SCU where we met with the staff and inspected the facilities on offer. It was not a difficult decision to take, also because SCU Vice-Chancellor (and NetACT board member) Dr Mumo Kisau graciously, matched the fee-structure of the 2016 meeting.

3. Consultation with selected Kenyan librarians

One of the most exciting projects upon which NetACT recently embarked, is to develop an internet portal for NetACT and ACTEA members to access library resources in the internet. Stellenbosch University's library agreed to collaborate with NetACT to develop such a service and Mrs Heila Mare (senior librarian at the SU theological library) was delegated to help us with coordinating the project that includes developing a training curriculum for librarians in order to effectively use internet resources. In a first round of consultations, Mrs Mare joined us from 20-22 November in order to decide on the proposed venue for the Network-wide workshop and consultation to run concurrently with the 2017 Net ACT AGM. These discussions were held at SPU where SPILL and Rev and Mrs Rowland van Es acted as

our friendly hosts. In discussions with Kenyan librarians Mrs Mare was able to familiarize herself with services and library infrastructure in East Africa and, with the help of Kenyan colleagues, to compile a preliminary programme for the 2017 consultation. The latter is necessary also for the task of procuring funding for the project on which the NetACT office will embark now.

4. Reformed Institute of Theological Training (RITT) (22-24 Nov)

RITT is situated 24 km from the town of Eldoret in northwest Kenya. Rev Dr Komen was an outstanding host and graciously waited for us at the airport when we missed our 09:00 flight from Nairobi to Eldoret due to traffic congestion and had to wait for 9 hours at the airport for the next flight! At RITT 32 fulltime students are doing a Diploma in Theology in collaboration with SPU. Four fulltime and two part-time lectures make up the staff at RITT. NetACT last visited RITT in May 2010 (Dr Hendriks with Dr Kruger du Preez for the purpose of presenting a curriculum development workshop). Except for Rev Elkanah, all other staff members joined RITT after that time and as such the discussions addressed numerous issues and answered many questions. We visited the RCEA office in Eldoret. This was the same week of the RCEA General Synod and we had the opportunity to meet with Rev Musa Maima (Moderator) and Rev Jonah Lagat (General Secretary). RITT is situated on 70 hectares of land, on which they run a successful diary and plant a variety of crops. Their long term plan is to become an independent Christian University. At RITT one feels like being on a farm with a very friendly family taking care of you! During our visit to Eldoret we also had the opportunity to meet with Rev Elias K. Ng'etich, lecturer at Moi University, Eldoret's School of Arts and Social Sciences (Department of Philosophy, Religion, & Theology).

5. Bishop Hannington Institute (BHI), Mombasa (24-26 Nov)

The final stop on the 10-day visit to Kenya was at BHI, the most eastern NetACT member institution. Rev Dr Martin Wesonga was an outstanding host. We spent the morning of 25 Nov in discussions with staff, library personnel and students and the afternoon Dr Wesonga took us on a Tuk-tuk drive through Mombasa, a remarkable experience indeed!

BHI teaches a diploma in theology program in collaboration with SPU. They have 45 students (13 female), 2 fulltime and 6 part-time lecturers and also run an associated business school. Among their students 90% are Anglican the rest Methodist, Lutheran and Pentecostal. In a city and county under Muslim administered where Al-Shabaab attacks occur from time to time, the school and its leadership share a focus on Interreligious Dialogue and their dream is to establish a centre dedicated to addressing this challenge in a unique environment where a community of 50/50 Muslim/Christian inhabitants have to coexist peacefully. We left BHI with a strong impression of an upwardly moving institution served by a hardworking and dedicated staff and very friendly students.

Conclusion: We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all our hosts in Kenya, to the NetACT Executive who supported the visit and to the Faculty of Theology at the University of Stellenbosch that allowed us leave during this time. A special word of thanks also to our webmistress, Mrs Mariëtte Odendaal, who kept the rest of the NetACT family up to date on the progress of our travels through Kenya via our website's news feature (<http://netact.christians.co.za/>).

ADDENDUM III NETACT 2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NetACT Cost Centres & Funds available on 31 December 2016	
	31 December 2015
NETACT ADMINISTRATION	R186,960.53
NETACT TRAVEL & MEETINGS	-R808.79
NETACT KINKUNI PROJECT	R713,112.63
NETACT LECTURERS	R17,935.92
NETACT ANNUAL MEETINGS	R2,655.11
NETACT SCHOLARSHIPS	R38,152.72
NETACT PUBLICATIONS	R56,767.57
NETACT CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT	76.28
NetACT Administration: 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016	
Income and Expenditure	
For the period ending:	31 December 2016
TOTAL INCOME	R 137,965.82
DONATIONS: WCRC AND OTHERS	R 45,629.65
ADMINISTRATION FEE FROM OTHER NETACT ACCOUNTS	R 52,606.94
INTEREST & FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROFIT	R 15,358.84
MEMBERSHIP FEES RECEIVED	R 24,370.39
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	R 181,145.90
AFFILIATION	R 3,200.00
COPY AND PRINTING, CONSUMABLE MATERIALS	R 225.00
ENTERTAINMENT & REFRESHMENTS	R 170.00
FOREIGN TRAVEL & SUBSISTENCE	R 36,836.96
LEVY TO UNIVERSITY ON INCOME GENERATED	R 4,204.11
POSTAGE & COURIER	R 751.77
TELEPHONE	R 2,548.26
INTERNET NETWORK EMAIL LEVY	R 752.15
SALARIES: DIRECTOR AND STUDENTS	R 123,732.79
STATIONERY	R 8,724.86
SURPLUS / (SHORTFALL) FOR PERIOD	-R 43,180.08
Plus: ACCUM. FUNDS 01/01/2016	R 230,195.24
Min: Balance sheet item: Vat control account	-R 54.63
ACCUM. FUNDS AVAILABLE ON 31/12/2016	R 186,960.53

ADDENDUM IV CURRICULUM VITAE NICO MOSTERT**CURRICULUM VITAE NICO MOSTERT****PERSONAL DATA**

Name : Nicolaas Jacobus Mostert (Nico)
 Residence : 5 Chris Botha St, Westdene, Bloemfontein, 9301, South Africa
 Telephone : 051 - 4445480
 Cell : 084 5604671
 E-mail : nicom@absamail.co.za
 Date of birth : 25 Augustus 1967
 Marital status : Married to Wilna, we have 3 children
 Nationality : South African
 Language proficiency : Afrikaans and English

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

1988 - BA University of the Freestate
 1991 - BTH University of the Freestate
 2002 – MTH University of Stellenbosch

Dissertation theme: LEADERSHIP AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTICULTURAL CONGREGATIONS - A descriptive study on leadership in the multicultural congregation with special reference to the Dutch Reformed in Zambia

Current: Enrolled for Ph.D. at the University of the Freestate with Prof. K. Schoeman

Thesis theme: Spatial ecclesiology in urban South Africa – A practical theological case study of an urban multicultural congregation

Other:

Qualified facilitator of the **Meyers Briggs Type Indicator**.

Qualified facilitator of Learning Link International for **Valuing Diversity** and **Coping with change**

Attended various management and coaching courses

WORK AND MINISTRY HISTORY:

1988-1991 Served as youth worker with DRC Bloemfontein – Wes working in urban ministry and door to door ministry in cluster, high population residential neighbourhoods, organizing youth camps and coordinating youth ministry at the local orphanage

1992-2002 Served as pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church in Zambia (Lusaka). Functions were to lead the congregation, pastoral duties, facilitated the process to establish the congregation as a multicultural congregation. Established a ministry to the expatriate community
 Taught courses in Practical Theology at Justo Mwale Theological Collage of the Reformed Church in Zambia in Lusaka
 Served as Cultural advisor and Missions Board member for the Presbyterian Church of South Korea's mission in Zambia
 Formed part of the first board that helped with the formation of NETACT (Network for African Congregational Theology) and were responsible for starting up the HIV/AIDS program
 Undertook a personal study tour to the USA to look at Multicultural congregations in the USA

2002-2007 Served as congregational pastor in the DRC Greymont in Johannesburg. Served in various Synodical committees, served on the Executive Synodical Committee of the Highveld Synod of DRC.

- Initiated the successful church plant of a church in the then newly established urban city outside Johannesburg called Cosmo City.
- 2007-2008 Serving as pastor at DRC Hugenoet in Bloemfontein. Responsible for multicultural ministry (Sotho, Chinese and English ministry)
- 2008-2010 Left the formal ministry and worked in the corporate sector for Wiehahn Formwork and Scaffolding in the capacity of Branch Manager. Did sales training in Germany and were responsible for a 70-member staff component, financial management for the branch and managing projects in Lesotho and various other places around central South Africa.
- 2010-2017 Serving as Senior pastor of the DRC Hugenoet in Bloemfontein. Responsible for multicultural ministry (Sotho, Chinese and English ministry)
- Serving as chairman of the Board of 3 NGO's.
1. The Freestate Society for the Blind.
Focus here is working among the blind in our community, sourcing funds from the Lotto and Social services and coordinating eye screening and eye testing in local schools for the poorest of the poor
 2. ROC Foundation.
The Reach Our Community foundation is local NGO we have started in the Heidedal, a very poor community in Bloemfontein. It aids high school children with afternoon activities and homework, hosts a pre-school, facilitate homebased primary health care with nursing students from the University of the Freestate, skills training is done through a bakery which also serves as food provider for the feeding scheme. Donor funding is sourced from private companies and the Lotto
 3. Reformed Initiative for Community Development.
A faith based community development NGO which is started as a joint project between the 3 Reformed churches namely DRC, NG Kerk in Africa and URCSA. The aim is to source funding for church based community projects via a network providing donors with tax clearances for donating to a variety of rural and urban projects
- Research associate at the University of Freestate involved with Shepherds for Africa. It is a program developed to provide untrained pastors in rural and urbans communities with accredited pre-certificate theological education. This program functions within the University as part of Community learning.

Addendum V: Report on visits to the three SA theological faculties & libraries

REPORT TO NETACT EC ON NETACT OFFICE'S VISIT TO UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA ON 24 MARCH 2017. AGENDA WITH DR PILLAY & GERBER reported at 3.3. and copied as Addendum I.

WE ALSO MET WITH THE FOLLOWING UP THEOLOGY STAFF:

1. Prof Dirk Human, Deputy-Dean: Faculty of Theology
2. Dr Zoro Dube, Lecturer: New Testament Studies
3. Ms Marieta Buys, Pretoria Library
4. Dr Andre Ungerer, Head: Reformed Theological College
5. Prof Nelus Niemandt, Head of Department: Science of Religion and Missiology
6. Dr Kobus Myburgh, Head: Training for the DR Church
7. Mrs Ina Smit, librarian to the Association for Science in South Africa.

The purpose was simply to meet with staff, to inform them about NetACT and its projects and to meet with Dr Zoro Dube, their new Board Member (NetACT representative), and Mrs Ina Smit who is a very enthusiastic to help with the library project.

We were overwhelmed by how positive the group was after they got to know what NetACT really was about.

This meeting again made us realise the importance of such meetings. Similar visits are planned to UFS and NWU. Staff and library personal have to be properly informed. Both can play a crucial part in die development of NetACT projects. The potential that the library project has for all African institutions of higher learning is enormous. Financially everybody can gain from it. By working together and developing a NetACT Information Portal, we can pool resources and get access to resources that individual institutions cannot assess currently.

Jurgens Hendriks & Len Hansen
25 March 2017

REPORT OF UFS THEOLOGY FACULTY MEETING WITH NetACT REPRESENTATIVE

(COMPILED BY MS. SENOVIA WELMAN: THEOLOGY FACULTY LIBRARIAN)

DATE: 16 May 2017

TIME: 08:30 - 11:00

VENUE: Theology Faculty, Room TLG 120

PRESENT: Representatives of NetACT; UFS Theology Faculty Members and Theology Faculty Librarians of Stellenbosch University and University of the Free State

PURPOSE of the Meeting:

1. NEW DEVELOPMENTS in terms of networking amongst theology faculties and theology schools in Africa

NetACT's Dr Len Hansen, Prof Jurgens Hendriks and Mrs Heila Mare (SU's Theology Faculty Librarian) came to visit the UFS Theology Faculty on Tuesday 16 May 2017. The UFS Faculty Librarian was also invited to attend the meeting. They are all situated at Stellenbosch University and has already been to the Faculties of Theology at Pretoria and North West University.

They gave some background as to where they are with the exciting development of providing an internet portal for theological schools and of training the librarians of the NetACT schools. For the last-mentioned project they are getting very good funding since the project make so much sense.

The overall scope of the project has two major steps: develop and maintain the internet portal and train librarians to use it. The Kenya meeting (AGM) will focus on planning the venture with the NetACT Board present to advise and approve.

The Project:

1. Develop an internet portal for theological schools and
2. Training of librarians of the NetACT schools.

This is from the 2016 AGM Minutes (attached):

New Developments: *6 June 2016 added to this report): The Program Manager will inform the meeting of the latest round of discussions with Cornerstone Trust and other funders on a possible future information strategy development. We need a strategy how to empower our institutions and especially our libraries to obtain broad, fast and reliable access to scholarly databases, electronic books, journals and the internet in general. At this stage, a preliminary suggestion is that we have a full day discussion and information session on these matters at our next AGM (2017). An even bolder dream will be to have a concurrent meeting and training session at the next AGM for librarians.*

2 MULTI-SCHOOL LIBRARY RESOURCE PROJECT (PORTAL)

Points 2 and 3 were explained by Mrs Heila Mare, Theology Faculty Librarian of Stellenbosch University.

The potential that the library project has for all African institutions of higher learning is enormous: financially everybody can gain from it, and another possibility is that it can serve the whole of Africa.

- By working together and developing a NetACT Information Portal, theology faculties can pool resources and get access to resources that individual institutions can't assess. It will also be to NetACT's advantage to offer a more specialized service and access to resources to its members in the form of negotiated access to search engines, other journals and books and collection of books that are not available on the internet.
 - Theological Book Network has already made available their Classical Works which are FT & OA sources (about 4000 titles) for this project.
 - Mrs. Heila Mare of SU developed a Library Guide called Theology for Africa that can form the basis of something similar for the NetACT MSLRP project.
 - NWU Library have LibGuides which are already translated into French and Portuguese - two of the most spoken languages in Africa.
 - The MSLRP program can play a leading role in facilitating the sharing of Institutional Repositories between NetACT members and African Theological Institutions in general.
- It is possible to construct the internet portal in such a way that it is open and available to all theological schools in Africa - one may then have a menu of open access theological resources that everyone in Africa can use. NetACT member libraries may get access through a password system to these resources.
- Developing the internet portal will be a continuous process that will need a fulltime desk to administer.

3. TRAINING FOR LIBRARIANS OF THE NetACT SCHOOLS

*UFS Cluster: UFS Theology faculty is currently engaged in discussions with Justo Mwale University (Lusaka) and the Lesotho Evangelical Church to finalize MoU's with them.

4. NetACT AGM IN MACHAKOS, KENYA 2-7 JULY 2017:

NetACT Africa AGM and Theology and Development Workshop will take place from 2-7 July 2017 at the campus of Scott Christian University (SCU, a NetACT member), at Machakos in Kenya, to the south-east of Nairobi.

The main purposes of the meeting are:

- A workshop on theology and development (Community Development) – the second in our three-year project on this theme.
- The Annual General Meeting of the NetACT networks.
- Networking with our Associate Members and other representatives of international organizations. The Associate Members are organizations or churches that support our endeavours.
- We will introduce you to the Multi-School Library Resource Project that has the promise to internet access to a multitude of internet info for all our institutions. We also have the assurance that we will be able to train the librarians of our institutions to use the NetACT internet portal.

At this meeting (the AGM from 2-7 July 2017 in Kenya), only a select number of library-related people will gather with us to do the detail planning of the process, amongst others, they are:

- The librarians of the eight anchor institutions in SA: SU, PU, UFS, & NWU) and in Kenya: SPU, AIU, ILU, Daystar.

We have the assurance that we will be able to train the librarians of our institutions to use the NetACT internet portal. We have a firm promise that the librarian-training will be funded – travel, board and lodging! We need to do the detail planning of this project with the NetACT Board at the AGM.

- The training of librarians will take place AFTER creating the portal. It is possible to get funding for this part of the venture.
- At the planned AGM in Kenya only a select number of library-related people will gather with us to do the detail planning of the process.
- The Kenya librarian planning group need to work on a questionnaire that should go to all institutions and librarians taking part in the project. The info is necessary in order to plan the training program.
- We foresee that the training program should have several levels and alternatives. There are several possibilities on how and where to do the training of librarians once the program is clear.
- It can be done regionally. However, it seems that doing it within clusters* and having the training done at the libraries of the four SA universities, may be the best option.
- The librarian of the host university SCU.
- The librarian representing the Kenyan Chapter of the Christian Association of Librarians in Africa (CALA)
- The librarian of the Association for Science in South Africa (ASSAf). She specializes in open access sources and is committed in helping this venture.
- The IT Specialist of Stellenbosch University who will be responsible for the construction of the Internet Portal.
- All costs for librarians to attend this meeting will be carried by NetACT

SENOVIA WELMAN

17 MAY 2017

ADDENDUM VI: Report of TEA–West Africa 2017 conference Nigeria

Drr. Len Hansen & Jurgens Hendriks, NetACT / SU

Venue: TCNN, Bukuru (Jos)

Theme: Public Theology in Africa: Taking Christian faith into the public space.

Planning: In October 2016, four Nigerian NetACT Board Members as well as representatives from the NetACT Office attended the GNPT (Global Network for Public Theology) consultation “Democracy and social justice in glocal contexts” at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. TEA Nigeria consulted with the GNPT executive as well as with representatives from the Beyers Naude Centre for Public Theology. Dr Tersur Aben of TCNN had the responsibility to organize the Nigerian TEA meeting. It focussed on addressing the endemic conflict and corruption challenges of Nigeria. They invited Nigerian Christians serving in Central and Federal Government, business, the Nigerian military & police, academia and the church to present papers and / or attend the meeting. The latter would take the form of a consultation between these stakeholders and think-tank on work-ethics.

Nigerian visas: Difficulties in procuring Nigerian visas resulted in only Drr. Hansen and Hendriks attending from the South African side. The main issue, besides the exorbitant visa fees, was that the Nigerian Consulate in Johannesburg refused to receive visa applications from clergy or other church representatives. Fortunately, the Pretoria Nigerian Embassy eventually approved the visa applications.

The program. The interdisciplinary nature of the program was a blessing and was a logical outcome given the theme of public theology. Christians from various disciplines and fields accepted the challenge to discern, in a missional way, the realization of the Kingdom of God in a broken world filled with conflict and corruption.

- Some presentations focussed on scriptural principles that apply to the topic (McCain, Hendriks, Ishaya);
- Some presenters used a Systematic Theology approach (Hopkins, Williams);
- Others focussed on the new “discipline” of public theology (Forster & Hansen) while Dabin, a political science and economy lecturer, looked at the electoral and political cycles in Nigeria;
- In the Nigerian contexts contextual analyses of the history of Islam in Nigeria and the influence of Boko Haram (Gaiya, Turaki), [causing intense emotional vibes in the meeting] were especially appreciated;
- Yet other presentations were on challenges to and in the economy and business world (Bature, Vander Steen, Chikan),
- One discussion (Harley) was on the ecology with an outstanding video presentation that surveyed ecological disaster areas in Nigeria – this presentation was shocking to say the least;
- Two presentations took the form of case studies of Christian witnessing in different spheres of life (the former Federal Minister of Education, Ochekepe, and the former head of airports, Bature);
- In a fascinating presentation the history of Sierra Leone and the Amistad legacy that illustrated the power and influence of art on public discourse was greatly appreciated! A paper that did so in a similar fashion with reference to the popular song “New Nigeria”, by Stellenbosch PhD candidate, Anthony Ishaya was equally well received.;
- Finally, Agang engaged the role of theological education in social transformation.

Some remarks on the program and visit:

1. We are convinced that theology needs to be done interdisciplinary if it wants to be Trinitarian and missional in nature. Attending a discernment meeting like this one is inspiring and generates hope – notwithstanding the dreadful situation of conflict, corruption and religious violence in Nigeria.
2. We often marvelled at the way in which one begins to understand the Nigerian context and culture, as well as our Nigerian students in the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch, when one is in Nigeria, exposed to the history, stories and realities of the country.
3. Nigerian society is facing deep divides and much pain and anger. One clearly senses the precarious position of the church and Christians in a context where Christian-Muslim tensions may and do easily and often erupt in violence.
4. We also began to understand the respect and gratitude many of the Nigerian Christians in the Middle Belt and North felt towards the missionaries and the role of, for instance, the Dutch Reformed Church's missionary efforts in the region. Islam and British Colonialism left many tribes with strong feelings of inferiority and as if they were second degree citizens. The missionaries helped to restore human dignity. The assistance with economic and especially educational development the missionaries offered were and remain key aspects in restoring the human dignity of many of Nigeria's tribes.
5. During the visit, we were able to build new and strengthen existing relationships with various key leaders of churches, NGO's and academic institutions that will be of benefit to NetACT and Stellenbosch University. We paid JETS (Jos Evangelical Theological Seminary) a visit and met with alumni, library staff and the executive staff of the seminary.

We are thankful for travel mercies and the privilege to journey and cross boundaries.
Jurgens Hendriks and Len Hansen.

Papers by Stellenbosch University staff and students:

Rev Anthony Ishaya (PhD student): New Nigeria, prophetic envisioning. (paper read on his behalf)

Dr Dion Forster: Public Theology: the South African Experience. (paper read on his behalf)

Dr Len Hansen: On "learning to speak" and "speaking in tongues"; public theology as a multilingual endeavour.

Prof Jurgens Hendriks: Speaking the truth to power.

(Papers and program available on request, email hjh@sun.ac.za).

31 May 2017