



MINUTES

NETACT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4th AUGUST 2011, HOFMEYR HALL, FACULTY OF THEOLOGY, STELLENBOSCH, SA

1 OPENING

The Chairman opens the meeting with Scripture reading from 11 Corinthians 1. The need for hope is universal. On the basis of God's faithfulness and promises, hope is never absent. Hope is not based on power in the Church, neither on the abilities of man. In Christ we find the only way to survive. In union with Him, we become hopeful. Verse 21: It is God Who enables, makes, manages. The mustard seed of NetACT, born in a chicken run, has grown into a huge tree, and despite setbacks and challenges, through God who enabled us, and Who continues to give us hope, is continuing to grow. God is our hope. A prayer is said by the Secretary.

2 CONSTITUTING THE MEETING

Present:

- 1 ABC (African Bible College - Malawi) – Dr LS Kamlongera
- 2 Hefsiba (Hefsiba Christian Institute for Higher Education - Mocambique) – Rev M Matiquele
- 3 ISEU (Instituto Superior Emanuel Unido - Angola) – Rev KNSP Simão
- 4 ISTEEL (Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangelica no Lubango - Angola) - Rev A Lucamba
- 5 JMTI (Josophat Mwale Theological Institute - Malawi) – Rev AM Nthara
- 6 JMTUC (Justo Mwale Theological University College - Zambia) – Dr E Zulu
- 7 MThC (Murray Theological College - Zimbabwe) – Dr R Rutoro
- 8 NETS (Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary - Namibia) – Rev S Gillham
- 9 RITT (Reformed Institute for Theological Training - Kenya) – Rev S Ngigii
- 10 Stellenbosch University Faculty of Theology - South Africa – Prof N Koopman (alternate: Dr I Nell)
- 11 ZTC (Zomba Theological College - Malawi) – Dr J Thipa
- 12 NetACT Board Chairman – Dr DT Banda
- 13 NetACT Executive Director – Prof HJ Hendriks
- 14 NetACT Board Secretary – Rev HW Murray

Apologies:

- 15 Hartgerink Trust (USA) – Dr R Hartgerink

Associate Members:

- 16 Commission for Witness (DRC Family) – Dr J Botha & Dr K Odendaal
- 17 Reformed Church in America – Rev R van Es

NB **2011 AGENDA**

2011- **Decision 1:** *The proposed agenda and EC minutes are approved*

1

NB **BOARD MEMBERS**

- 2011- • African Bible College (ABC): Dr Limbikani Kamlongera alternating for Rev Sam
2 MacDonald.

Decision 2: *NetACT Office to suggest to ABC that Dr Kamlongera become Board Member in the light of the current topic of Gender Equality*

ED

- Elmer E. Hartgerink Trust: Dr Ron Hartgerink – (representing donors) requested to be exempted for this meeting due to work related to being on the Board of Western Theological Seminary.

Decision 3: *Approved.*

- ISTEEL (Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangelica no Lubango): Rev Alberto Lucamba alternating for Rev Avelino Ravael, Principal, who is presently in the USA

Decision 4: *Approved*

- Justo Mwale Theological University College (JMTUC): Dr. Edwin Zulu, (Principal). The outgoing chair of NetACT and previous principal of JMTUC has served two terms as NetACT chair, completing the second, final term chairing this meeting.

Decision 5: *Approved, and appreciation is recorded for leadership and work done.*

- Murray Theological College (MThC): Dr Rangarirai Rutoro, (Principal) Rev Henry Murray is the previous principal and present secretary of NetACT and will act as secretary for this AGM.

Decision 6: *Approved*

NB **ELECTION OF NETACT EXECUTIVE (NB 135, 194, 200)**

2011- Constitution: 4.9.2: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the NetACT
3 Board of Governors can be re-elected once only in the same position.

- The Chairperson has done two terms, his second term being 2008-2010. New chair has to be elected.
- Vice-Chairperson's term: 2010-2012: (It is his first term). No election (except if voted chair)
- 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.

Decision 7: *Current Secretary to continue until end of his term in 2012 at AGM*

- Dr Ron Hartgerink was co-opted on the EC. He serves on the Board representing donors. According to Constitution no term is stipulated for duration of representation. Art 4.3c of Constitution allows for 3 donor representatives.

Decision 8: *Alternates to be appointed according to Constitution to represent the donor community to ensure representation at each AGM.*

Elections: nominations are invited, and elections will be the last item on the agenda.

NB
2011-
4

SUCCESSION OF CURRENT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FUTURE HEADQUARTERS OF NETACT

Discussions:

- Fast growth needs to be managed
- Situation is fluid and calls for wisdom
- NetACT belongs to all its members, and not to any particular member institution
- Future NetACT venue and ED can come from any member institution with the ability to host and employ such

Decision 9:

ED

The Board approves the proposal of the EC (January 2011):

- i. *Possibly SU as HQ for 2012-2014.*
- ii. *Current ED is available for re-appointment for the above period.*
- iii. *For sake of consolidation of growth and development of NetACT, this is probably the best option at the moment.*
- iv. *EC to present to AGM a Declaration of Intent on WCRC:*
 - a. *NetACT anchoring to WCRC to create a dynamic, interdependent and two-way process*
 - b. *Formal association with WCRC on institutional level eg. as associate member*

In the light of the above decision, the Board reacts as follows to the recent developments:

- NetACT has become an affiliated member of the WCRC – in other words we can now officially take the matter of NetACT future development to an ecumenical body that share and acknowledged our constitution, mission and goals.

Decision 10: Approved, with thanks to ED

- Dr Douwe Visser, Executive Secretary for Theology of the WCRC, invited the current ED to serve on the WCRC Theology Network Consultation to prepare a report for the next WCRC General Council Meeting in 2017. This request was both because of the ED being a respected theologian but also because of his association with NetACT and the work that NetACT has done in Sub-Saharan Africa.

ED

Decision 10: Approved

- From SU we have the assurance that Prof Hendriks will continue to 2014 and that Prof Elna Mouton, previous Dean and NetACT Board Member, is willing to assist with regard to Curriculum Development in Biblical Studies and Gender issues in the years to follow up to her retirement in 2017. We feel that we need to begin to decentralize NetACT.

ED

Decision 11:

1. *The principle of decentralization is accepted by the Board.*
 2. *EC will need to revise the Constitution.*
 3. *Decentralization implies a Head Office, preferably with a Head Office rotating between hubs.*
 4. *Board accepts the position that NetACT Office does not belong to one single institution, and that, in principle, it should be rotating between member institutions.*
- As such we were thinking that we can start forming a Portuguese-speaking NetACT hub around Hefsiba where Hefsiba takes the lead and be the NetACT venue for the growing number of Portuguese seminaries that want to join. Angolan seminaries want to send their lecturers to Mozambique because the Angolan

authorities recognize the Mozambican accredited degrees of Hefsiba.

- Similarly we ask or nominate another institution to start forming a NetACT hub. JMTUC mentioned at the Lilongwe meeting that they would be willing to host a NetACT office. They have an MTh program that is nationally accredited and in the process of being ACTEA accredited. The FUTE process in SA will lead to the recognition of the JMTUC MTh programme. As such we feel that a NetACT hub around JMTUC should be developed. Our outgoing chair should be the natural person to develop this hub if his institution agrees. The ED will assist in delegating or duplicating NetACT office info and resources to the hubs.
- We can write to all the seminaries that applied unsuccessfully to become NetACT seminaries and invite them to cluster around JMTUC. The result will be something like regional synods that when they all meet, form a general synod!
- We think this will help us to begin moving in a direction that prevents one institution (SU) to become something like a godfather. We also need time to discern the way forward prayerfully while we take this matter to the WCRC and ask their advice and support.

ED

Decision 12:

- i. *EC to look into the financial implications of a Portuguese hub, and a date of implementation*
- ii. *Board unanimously endorses the process so far, and EC is requested to push this process forward with report to the 2012 AGM*

NB **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (NB 203) .**

- 2011-5
- SU took care of all the bookkeeping as part of their financial system and audited NetACT's statements.
 - An audited copy of the 2009 & 2010 statements are available for scrutiny.
 - Since the statements are rather technical Dr Kobus Odendaal of the Commission for Witness was requested by the EC to simplify it. The simplified 2010 statements are presented to the Board by Dr Odendaal.
 - Only R10,600 come from membership fees, and the rest of the more than R400,000 income is from donations generated by the NetACT Office through the efforts of the Executive Director.
 - The Financial Statements of the two years 2009-2010 was approved by the EC.

Decision 13:

- i. *The Board ratifies the approval by EC of the 2009-2010 statements*
- ii. *Thanks and appreciation expressed to SU accounting department for accurate work.*
- iii. *Thanks and appreciation to Dr K Odendaal for his kind services.*
- iv. *Need for budget for 2012 to be prepared and published – will also help prospective donors*
- v. *Budget for the rest of 2011 is approved*

ED

NB **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (NB 175, 205)**

2011-6 Report:

- All members paid their fees for 2011. The fees totalled R10 600.
- The Board to decide if the fees structure be raised

Decision 14:

- i. *Within 5 years (2012 to 2016) membership fees need to cover 20% of the annual Administration cost point budget.*
- ii. *To start this process, membership contributions for 2012 are increased as follows:*
 - 1 *Institutions with more than 100 fulltime theology students: R3000 per year.*

- 2 Institutions with between 50 and 100 theology students: R1500 per year.
- 3 Institutions with less than 50 theology students: R900 per year.
- iii. The Board request all members to pay their 2012 fees by the end of 2011.
- iv. NetACT office to send out the accounts after the AGM.

ED

NB **Weidenhof House**

- 2011-7
- The Faculty of Theology at SU showed their loyal support and dedication to NetACT by taking responsibility for renovating and enlarging the house at a cost of R6 million.
 - Board Members had the opportunity to visit the house which will hopefully be in service from Sept 2011.
 - Several persons played a crucial role in this endeavour and first to be mentioned is Mrs Liena Hoffman, the Faculty Manager, as well as the previous and present Deans: Prof Elna Mouton & Prof Nico Koopman.
 - It may well be said that the House is the best student housing on campus.
 - During the discussions, the SU Dean expresses the appreciation of his faculty for the positive influence and effect of NetACT on his faculty and beyond.

Decision 15: The SU Faculty of Theology Dean to be officially thanked for his support of NetACT

ED

NB **COMMUNICATION (NB 178, 206)**

- 2011-8
- The ED spent a considerable amount of time in helping ISTEEL to plan an IT room with 40 computers that can be used to
 - teach IT to its students
 - to raise funds for the seminary by renting the facilities to other institutions to teach IT courses.
 - The help of a professional computer expert, Mr Corne van der Walt, was obtained. He accompanied the ED in visiting the Angolan NetACT institutions in 2010.
 - The proposal was presented to a funding agency with the help of Dr Ron Hartgerink in July 2011.
 - It is the same agency that funded the IT equipment of JMTUC and MThC.
 - We are optimistic that the proposal will be accepted and that we will be able to intervene – in good time – for other NetACT seminaries in need of IT facilities.

Decision 16: The Board thanks the ED for his inputs and the progress on this front.

NB **LECTURER EXCHANGE (NB 179 and 207)**

- 2011-9
- Quite a number of exchanges were negotiated and even funded through the NetACT office: JMTUC, JMTI and Hefsiba received assistance in 2011.
 - A trust fund in Vryheid, SA provides regular assistance for this purpose.
 - The Office has a vast number of contacts to pursue.
 - Institutions in need of assistance in lecturer exchange networking may contact the NetACT Office
 - Planning well ahead of time will almost definitely yield positive results.

Decision 17: Requests are again invited, best to put requests one year in advance.

NB

NB **SCHOLARSHIPS (NB 180)**

- 2011-10
- **Mustard Seed Foundation**
 - After a lapse due to the economic recession, MSF started awarding Scholarships again.
 - NetACT students were the first to receive scholarships to the amount of \$15,000 (2011).
 - MSF Scholarship application forms for 2012 are available at the ED. These forms apply to students studying at Stellenbosch.

- **World Communion of Reformed Churches**
 - NetACT now is a member of the WCRC and this gave us access to their scholarships.
 - Especially female doctoral candidates have a very good chance of getting funding from them.
- **Other Scholarships**
 - We are receiving smaller amounts of money from well-wishers who get to know students while studying at Stellenbosch or in other ways.
 - This money helps a lot in cases where there is a dire need and where students run out of money.
 - The DRC Commission for Theological Training helped a considerable number of NetACT and other Reformed / Presbyterian students with scholarships to complete their degrees.
 - SU also helped a considerable number of students who had financial difficulties on completion of their degrees.
 - The ED / NetACT Office is constantly looking for scholarships.
 - In 2007 scholarships totalling R242,821 were received, in 2008 R273,486, 2009: R102,762; 2010: R129,616; 2011 (so far): R122,371.
 - Most of the scholarships, however, linked the donor and the student and are not reflected in the NetACT cost point.

Decision 18: *Members are encouraged to please make use of these opportunities by spreading the news.*

NB

NB **HIV/AIDS PROJECT & PUBLICATIONS**

- 2011-11
- The CD workshops were a huge success.
 - At this stage Rev Kruger du Preez is completing his doctoral studies on the state of CD in the NetACT institutions.
 - Once this is done, his “team” will continue to conduct these workshops. Nigeria and Angolan institutions are anxious to take their institutions through the exercise.
 - The NetACT publications “*Our Church has AIDS: preaching in the context of HIV / AIDS in Africa*” and “*Studying Congregations in Africa*” are reprinted as needed by institutions.
 - Since June 2008 a donor contributed close to R200,000, for *African Bible Commentaries*.
 - In 2011 450 English copies of ABC and 450 Portuguese copies were purchased at subsidized prices.
 - NetACT institutions can negotiate with the ED to get copies.
 - The Gender Equality project that is now enacted will hopefully lead to our next publication.

Decision 19: *The Board notes the developments and progress with appreciation.*

NB **CURRICULUM REPORT & ACTEA**

- 2011-12
- Accreditation of member institutions by ACTEA is at present the number one priority of NetACT.
 - The Chair, Secretary and ED attended a one day meeting with the *Forum for University Theological Education (FUTE)* and ACTEA.
 - These processes take a lot of time, but we are positive that the outcome will lead to a much better dispensation regarding recognition of academic qualifications.
 - Institutions needing financial support in their quest for accreditation may contact the NetACT Office
 - NetACT commissioned Rev Kruger du Preez to do research on the issue of

accreditation and curriculum development within the NetACT institutions.

Decision 20:

- i. *The EC to pursue the matter and report to the next AGM.*
- ii. *Appreciation expressed for Rev Du Preez's good work*
- iii. *He is assured of the Board's concern and prayer for his health*

ED

NB **NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

2011-
13

1 Deaf Christian Ministry Africa

- A representative from DCMA, Rev Jan Oberholzer, attended the CD Workshop in Malawi and put forward a passionate plea to become a member.
- DCMA will, in a sense, serve all churches involved in NetACT as they will provide theological training for deaf pastors serving deaf people in ordinary, but most often, congregations of the deaf.
- They will pay all expenses in attending NetACT meetings.

2 IESA: Igreja Evangelica Synodal de Angola (The evangelical Synodal Church in Angola).

- They attended the CD workshop in Jan 2011 at ISTEEL in Lubango in Angola.
- The ED visited the church in 2004 and the seminary in 2011.
- It has about 60 resident full time students (with parallel training for the wives of the students – all accommodated in student housing on the campus).

3 IEBA: Igreja Evangelica Baptista em Angola (The Evangelical Baptist Church in Angola).

- They attended the CD workshop in Jan 2011 at ISTEEL in Lubango.
- The seminary is in Luanda.

Decision 21:

Deaf: Full membership granted

IESA and IEBA: applications not approved, but contact maintained.

ED

NB **RELATIONSHIP NETACT & WCRC**

2011-
14

- NetACT – and as such its member institutions – became an associate member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches.
- All member institutions were requested to support the NetACT application – which they did.
- Through the above membership, the WCRC became an associate of NetACT.
- This happened through the discussion we had on the future of NetACT at the CD workshop in Malawi when Dr Visser of the WCRC was invited to attend.

Decision 22: *Noted with appreciation*

NB **ANNUAL MEETINGS**

2011-
15

- The Gender Equality project is a three year (2011-2013) project that will incorporate the AGM meetings as a sideline when it meets.
- 2011: The Gender Equality Workshop was a success.

Decision 23: *The evaluation of the workshop will be reported to the EC and included in the EC minutes*

ED

- 2012: There is sensitivity as to the venue for the Gender Equality Workshops of 2012 and 2013
- Factors to be considered:
 - organisational infrastructure
 - ability to generate finances for the workshops
 - currently SU is the cheapest option available

- The best approach may be to say that NetACT conducts its CD workshops at the institutions in their respective countries but that the present Gender Equality research project venue remains at Stellenbosch for 2012 and 2013.

Decision 24:

- *Tentatively SU is chosen as the 2012 venue*
- *Issue is referred to the EC for final decision based on availability of resources*

ED

NB APPROVAL OF ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

2011-16 **Decision 25:** *The EC to approve the minutes at its first meeting, after which it needs to be circulated to member institutions*

ED

NB ELECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2011-17 **Decision 26:**

Chairman: Dr J Thipa
Vice-Chair: Dr R Rutoro
Donor Representatives in addition to Dr Ron Hartgerink: Dr Anneke Ferreira and Mr Hendrik Herselman

ED

3 CLOSING

- Prayer by Prof N Koopman at 1.15 pm
- Group photo taken for inclusion in NetACT website

ED

Signed: (Chairperson)

..... (Secretary)

Date:

EVALUATION

NETACT GENDER EQUALITY WORKSHOP 1-3 AUGUST 2011 IN CONJUNCTION WITH: STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY; EFSA, CRWM & GZB

22 people evaluated the workshop on Wednesday afternoon August 3, at 12:30. Nobody from Stellenbosch took part in the evaluation.

Four headings were suggested. Members could comment & write whatever they want to. The exact words of the first evaluations were used and when the same was said in subsequent evaluations it is indicated by the number it was repeated. At times exact phrases were added. By noon on the third day everybody had enough confidence to speak out, which can be seen in the evaluation below. I think that the 30 minutes given to each seminary to tell their own story – not in a very structured way – and to report on the questionnaires without forcing them into any type of mould, created the openness to share. “//” indicates another comment on the same topic.

The quality of this evaluation says a lot about the quality of the representatives!

1 COMMENTS ON THE ORGANIZATION BEFORE THE MEETING

- a) Thank you very much for good **communication & organization**; it was well done and in time for the participants to prepare / helpful-friendly-generous / transparent & excellent (20). **Travelling arrangements** were very good (16). Air Malawi & Zimbabwe airways no longer reliable (2).
- b) In my case I had very little time to get my visa and everything in order, it was stressful: financially & physically.

2 ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING DURING THE TIME ON CAMPUS

- a) **Organization & accommodation** was OK (14). // Beds to short rooms uncomfortable (2).
- b) **Food (6)**: Felt spoiled // appreciated special diets. Food was good (but no pap –be culturally sensitive! (4); Drinking water from day 1 available please.
- c) **Time management** was well done / excellent (4).// Facilitators did very well, people were affirmed (2) // Effort should be made to end the day at 7 pm or 08:30 pm. Beyond that people get exhausted (3). // Time for informal discussions should be formally given a place in the program (3). // Give us time to go shopping /sight-seeing (3). [This did happen on day 3 & 4 after the evaluation].
- d) **Diversity in contributions**: Stellenbosch contributors got more time than contributions from other institutions... look at this in future (2). // Most morning / plenary sessions were given to Stellenbosch. This didn't seem fair. Were other institutions asked if they were interested? I did not like the parallel session, wanted to listen to both papers (6).
- e) **VENUE**: Stellenbosch is a beautiful but intimidating place! In the context of the workshop dealing with one kind of power-imbalance the reality of this power-imbalance is a shame. // Another person appreciated the venue.
- f) **NetACT house** a surprise: JOB WELL DONE!

3 ABOUT THE WORKSHOP ITSELF: CONTENT

- a) **Papers were relevant and inspiring /educative / well done** (19); this issue affects all African societies // perhaps coming to grips with the **African** context was not

achieved – take more time on the cultural aspects of the different contexts // Written comments on papers will improve it. // I feel empowered to address these issues and empower women. // There is a need for more uniformity in presentations. // What about role plays & visiting a safe house & listening to stories? // Scripture was well interpreted – it helps one to deal with the gender topic & assist women. // It was an eye-opener to me.

- b) **Positive critique on papers (5):** Papers were of mixed quality: Prof Mouton was very good, fresh, creative... but many speakers assumed a feminist hermeneutic rather than arguing for it. Those not holding this view were at various points referred to as “ignorant,” “unenlightened,” and “out-dated.” This makes it very difficult to express a contrary view. // another request: make it clear to ALL participants that we hold varying views on certain matters. Effort should be made to create a safe environment where people could express themselves without being put in a defensive mode. // In the beginning I felt like being the only stranger in Jerusalem & when I asked someone else about it, she was relieved because she felt the same. We were uncertain where we were heading and what we could contribute – possibly because this is such an emotional issue. // Try to get the playing field levelled when you start, we were not always certain if we could speak out and what was expected from us. // One should create space for one another & accept this reality without losing those where very little has yet been done to get Gender Equality as defined by the workshop. Nobody should feel inferior because of where they are.
- c) **Institutional reports (3):** terrific progress in many ways at the NetACT seminaries. The context of the workshop clearly coloured the reports – presenters knew what people expected to hear and were less frank about the reality on the ground. It was disappointing not to have prayed for each of the seminaries – it slipped my mind as well! Presentations should be 15-20 minutes. // Should perhaps be shorter.. some spoke about issues that were not related to the workshop, e.g. building projects. // The reports from the different schools helped us to see that not all of us were on the same page.

4 THE FUTURE PROCESS, SUGGESTIONS

- a) **Organization:** Delegates whose tickets were bought but did not come because of not attending to their visas should not happen again, try to prevent this. // TV should be made available at the residence.
- b) **Gender Equality** should be addressed to pastors, pastors’ wives; youth, secondary school teachers & congregations. // We need more training on gender issues in an *African context* / We need to have curriculum development that deals with these issues.
- c) **BOOKS (4) :** The first book is a good idea. The second book is also a good idea but there is an underlying difference in hermeneutics within our group that will become difficult to manage as the process goes forward. Please be gentle on our differences! // Give priority to publication; think about journal publication; how do we get consistence of participation. // All need to be involved. // Review papers & publish.
- d) **Procedure:** Begin with a keynote speaker. Explain terminology to all. Work from scripture. Prof Mouton set an example, follow that. // Technical sessions should come within the first two days; // Balance presenters according to topics.

Practical Theology en Missiology

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5 August 2011.