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WINTER SCHOOL

31 MAY – 2 JUNE 2016

A home for us all –

The future of Christianity and our youth in Africa



Tuesday 31 May

08:00 Registration

09:00 Welcoming

09:15 Opening worship: Rev. Nkosinathi Geja

09:45 Keynote speaker: Rev. Esmé Bowers

10:45 Tea

11:15 Morning parallel sessions (Day 1)

12:30 Lunch (delegates' own responsibility)

14:00 Afternoon parallel sessions (tea/coffee will be served)

16:30 Spit-braai at the Faculty

Wednesday 1 June

09:00 Opening worship: Bishop Gilbert Filter

09:30 Keynote speaker: Ms. Lovelyn Nwadeyi

10:30 Tea

11:00 Morning parallel sessions (Day 2)

12:30 Lunch (delegates' own responsibility)

14:00 Afternoon parallel sessions (tea/coffee will be served)

16:00 Departure

Thursday 2 June

09:00 Opening worship: Ms. Annalise Wiid

09:30 Morning parallel sessions (Day 3)

11:00 Tea

11:30 Keynote speaker: Prof. Brian O'Connell

12:30 Evaluation and Closing

Church pastors, students, academics from schools of religion and the general public are invited to a Winter School entitled
A home for us all – the future of Christianity and our youth in Africa

Presented by the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with Communitas, the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology and Ekklesia, from Tuesday 31 May to Thursday 2 June 2016 at the Faculty of Theology, 171 Dorp Street, Stellenbosch.

THEME

A home for us all – the future of Christianity and our youth in Africa

We are very much aware that at this moment there are different groups who do not feel at home in South Africa or certain parts of South Africa. This is not how it should be. We believe that Christians in South Africa can help to create a home for all. We believe that the Biblical values provide us with guidelines to achieve our vision. We believe that the older generation struggled to live this vision of a home for us all, but that the younger generation can help us. In 1976 we had the Soweto uprising with many young people fighting for a better education system and a better South Africa for all. Forty years later we can ask the following questions: Is South Africa a home for all? What is the role of the church to create a home for all? Will the church be a home for our children and grandchildren?

THE VISION OF THE WINTER SCHOOL IS

- Continuing theological formation of pastors and other church members;
- Strengthening of the relationship between the Faculty and different churches, and between the churches;
- Discussion of relevant theological and congregational issues;
- Being a bearer of hope in SA.

KEYNOTE SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

Day 1

Day 1 will focus on the role of Christianity in the future of our country and continent.
“The Church: On a hill or agter die klip”

- *Rev. Esmé Bowers (Calvary Sanctuary, Full Gospel Church; Chair: Women’s desk of the Evangelical Alliance of SA; Serves on the mission commission of the World Evangelical Alliance; Serves on the International Board of Lausanne Conference)*
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Day 2

Day 2 will focus on how the church can become a home for all – with special reference to the youth.

- *Ms. Lovelyn Nwadeyi (Post-graduate student in Political Science at Stellenbosch University)*
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Day 3

On Day 3 the emphasis will be on education and a future for our youth.

- *Prof. Brian O’Connell (Former Rector and Vice-Chancellor of UWC; Former Head of the Western Cape Department of Education)*
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PROGRAMME

The conference will consist of plenary and parallel sessions with ample time for discussion. The presentations will be primarily in English, but participants are welcome to make contributions in Afrikaans or Xhosa.

Participants will:

- *choose one of the themes for the morning parallel sessions presented over three days;*
- *choose one of the Tuesday afternoon parallel sessions; and*
- *choose one of the Wednesday afternoon parallel sessions.*

MORNING PARALLEL SESSIONS (P)

P1 Season of human dignity: Embodying living with the Other

This year the Season of Human Dignity introduces three sessions that all show practical initiatives in our community that embody living a life together. On the first day Jaco Strydom reflects on Echo Communities where high school youth and young adults from different cultures live together in ten different houses all around the country. In these houses the homeless, the lonely, the poor and the suffering find a community of care with a way of making hurt people feel human again, giving them back their dignity. On day two film makers Jacobus Kriel en Stefan Enslin share how they use their films to bring hope and effect change in society by holding up a mirror to viewers and saying: "Look! This is how we are!" And on day three Arnold Motsau tells the story of Ithemba Lam, one of IAM's safe-houses for young gay people in the townships, that serves as an example of embodying living with the Other in a very tangible way.

Presenters:

- *Rev. Jaco Strydom*
(Leader of the ECHO community,
part-time minister and columnist)
- *Mr. Jacobus Kriel and Mr. Stefan Enslin*
(Film directors)
- *Mr. Arnold Motsau*
(Inclusive & Affirming Ministries)

P2 Hospitality in the Bible

This three day session will explore the theme of Hospitality in the Old and New

Testament in order to contemplate how South Africa may be a home to us all. In the first session Ntozakhe Cezula, with some insights from biblical and African traditions, will argue for the significance of hospitality in the process of reconstruction as he reads Genesis 18:1-16 in a context of hospitality in some African traditional behaviour. Also in the first session, Friday Kassa will look at the story of Lot and the people of Sodom in Genesis 19 which serves as a case study of the inversion of hospitality.

In the second session Marius Nel will discuss how the expansion of the church in the New Testament was made possible by the hospitality of strangers, and Jeremy Punt will focus on attitudes towards children in the New Testament. This session will focus on the willingness of the church to accept the hospitality of others in the New Testament and a re-envisioned role for children as a key for understanding its contemporary mission. And in the third session Julie Claassens will use the story of Abigail's hospitality as told in 1 Samuel 25 to contemplate what this ancient text has to say for contemporary situations of strife as one woman uses food to stop a war. Charlene van der Walt will also in the third session contemplate the continued value of eating together in contemporary situations of struggle and misunderstanding.

Presenters:

- *Dr. Ntozakhe Cezula*
(Old and New Testament, SU)
- *Rev. Friday Kassa*
(Old and New Testament, SU)
- *Dr. Marius Nel*
(Old and New Testament, SU)
- *Prof. Jeremy Punt*
(Old and New Testament, SU)
- *Prof. Julie Claassens*
(Old and New Testament, SU)
- *Dr. Charlene van der Walt*
(Old and New Testament, SU)

P3 Youth ministry: A home for all?

This session will focus on the role of youth ministry and how it can create a home for all. In the first session Llewellyn MacMaster will analyse the 1976 and 2015 student uprisings and suggest ways and means for faith communities to respond to the challenges and opportunities facing us collectively. Anita Cloete will reflect in the second session on youth and youth ministry from a global perspective. The importance that youth ministry be intergenerational, intercultural and missional will be the main focus of this session. Abigail Hopley will question whether young people feel at home in the church and discuss the challenge for young people to follow Jesus in a “selfie-centered” world. Anriëtte de Ridder will address the following questions in the last session: Is the church a home that tolerates the youth? Or is the church a home that includes the youth? Or is the church a home co-owned by the youth?

Presenters:

- *Dr. Llewellyn MacMaster*
(Manager: Civil Society Relations in the Division for Social Impact, SU)
- *Dr. Anita Cloete*
(Practical Theology – Youth Work, SU)
- *Ms. Abigail Hopley*
(Youth Co-ordinator: Anglican Church of Southern Africa, Diocese of Cape Town)
- *Rev. Anriëtte de Ridder*
(Pastor in Synodical Service for Youth and Family Ministry, DRC)

P4 The future of education in South Africa

Clearly there are problems in basic education in South Africa. The dropout rate is particularly serious, with only half of children enrolled in grade 1 making it to grade 12. South African learners have consistently performed below par

in international literacy and numeracy assessments. While the provision of basic education for the general population is the responsibility of government, civil society (including the religious community) can support government in many different ways to bring quality education to all communities in South Africa. The three days will focus on: (1) An analysis of trends in basic education and indication of possibilities for systemic improvement; (2) Government’s responsibility to deliver quality education to all communities; (3) An example of bringing quality education to a troubled and low income community.

Presenters:

- *Prof. Servaas van der Berg*
(Department of Economics, SU)
- *Ms. Leanne Jansen-Thomas*
(Head of Policy and Training: Equal Education)
- *Ms. Ashra Norton*
(Director: The Leadership College, Manenberg)

P5 1976 and 40 years on: Is there a home for us all?

It has been 40 years since the Soweto uprising of 16 June 1976. The protests began among students on the morning of June 1976 and spread throughout the country. It was an expression of frustration, discontent, but also of hope for a better future. The three inputs in this session will reflect on our current context in the light of that historic event. Speakers will help us to understand and identify similarities and differences between the protests of 1976 and current protests. Among the speakers in this session are seasoned activists of that period, and younger activists who are at the forefront of current public protests such as #Feesmustfall, Churches United Against Corruption, and Kairos SA.

The three days will focus on the following themes: (1) 1976 - Then and Now?;

(2) The Church in South Africa – Activism, Advocacy and Social Transformation; (3) Perspectives on 2016 #Feesmustfall and Youth and Student activism in SA.

Presenters:

- *Dr. Pieter Grove*
(Moderator: URCSA Cape Synod;
Pastor of Sarepta URC)
- *Rev. Edwin Arrison*
(General Secretary: Kairos SA; Anglican priest)
- *Mr. Axolile Qina*
(Chairperson: Student Representative
Council, SU; Student activist);
Mr. Jaco Botha
(Youth activist; Theology student, SU)

**AFTERNOON PARALLEL
SESSIONS (PS)
TUESDAY AFTERNOON
31 May 2016 (PS)**
(choose one session)

PSI Congregations and Early Childhood Development: Gateway to a better future in SA

Every child has the right of the best possible start in life. Research has proven that early childhood is a critical period for the cognitive, social and emotional development of a child and forms a foundation for the rest of their lives. The following will be discussed in this session: An overview of the importance of ECD and congregational diaconate, The strategy of the DRC and URCSA to develop congregational diaconate with a focus on ECD; Developing ECD stories from partner congregations; and The Synodical Partnership Project “Embrace”.

Presenter:

- *Rev. Leon Venter* (Pastor in Synodical Service for Poverty and Care, DRC)
- *Rev. Sean Esterhuizen*
(Pastor in Synodical Service for Poverty and Care, URCSA)

PS2 Welcoming the stranger: Revisiting hospitality and recognition

This session will consider how the notions of hospitality and mutual recognition can address some of the challenges posed to church and civil society in our world today – a world often marked by polarisation, exclusion, mistrust and violence. Special attention will be given to some important recent philosophical and theological publications on hospitality and recognition, also in the light of the so-called “refugee crisis” and the fact that migration has become a trans-national phenomenon. What does it mean for Christians and churches to be hospitable to strangers and to recognise the humanity of others amidst these realities? What are the challenges and opportunities involved in living in multi-cultural and multi-religious societies in our global world today? This session will seek to address these questions in conversations with some influential voices and texts.

Presenter:

- *Prof. Robert Vosloo*
(Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology, SU)

PS3 “Mind the gap”: The church of young people for all

People often speak about the generation gap between younger and older people. The question is: Should the church merely accept this gap or must the church do something to bridge this gap? Many young people do not feel at home in the church because they experience that the church only focuses on one generation. This session will emphasize that the youth are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today. The church must be a home for all.

Presenter:

- *Dr. John Klaasen*
(Lecturer: Department of Religion and Theology, UWC)

PS4 Church revitalization as a missional obligation

Many mainline churches as well as more recently established local churches are experiencing a decline in members and lack of healthy growth and effectiveness in serving our broken communities. In this session it will be argued that bringing churches back to vitality is as much a missionary task as the planting of new churches. Many pastors have gained hope for the future through a process of revitalization.

Presenter:

- *Dr. Harry Reeder*
(Senior Pastor: Briarwood Presbyterian Church, USA; Former Moderator of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church, USA)

PS5 The African Leadership Study

There are many organizations, schools and individuals in Africa with a burden and passion for developing and empowering effective leaders across all aspects of African culture. The Africa Leadership Study asked over 8,000 African Christians to identify those individual lay leaders, pastors and organisations demonstrating a high level of positive impact. The leaders they identified were then interviewed, all with the goal of identifying the qualities and formation experiences of effective and impactful African Christian leaders. The session will explore what was learnt during the ALS study. This includes the skill set and characteristics of effective Christian leaders and organisations; what has been crucial to success and impact; the role and development of youth within churches; interreligious ministries; mentoring; and leadership development.

Presenter:

- *Dr. Elisabet le Roux*
(Research Director: Unit for Religion and Development Research, SU; Member of the multi-country team for ALS study)

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

1 JUNE 2016 (PS)

(choose one session)

PS6 Healing of memories: Journey towards healing, reconciliation and unity

This session will offer an opportunity to experience a glimpse of a methodology aimed at contributing to the healing journey of individuals, communities and nations. The Institute for the Healing of Memories has developed this methodology over a number of years with the goal of redeeming the past, celebrating that which is life giving and laying to rest that which is destructive. Given the challenges in our societies today we believe that this methodology will assist South Africans to journey towards healing, reconciliation and unity.

Presenters:

- *Mr. Alphonse Niyodusenga*
(Deputy Director: Institute for the Healing of Memories)
- *Ms. Loret Loumouamou*
(Workshops Coordinator Western Cape: Institute for the Healing of Memories)
- *Mr. Mandla Klanisi*
(Community Healing Project Coordinator, Western Cape: Institute for the Healing of Memories)
- *Prof. Christo Thesnaar*
(Practical Theology – Pastorate, SU; Board member of the Institute for the Healing of Memories)

PS7 How can a congregation engage successfully with a community to build relationships and partnerships to eventually facilitate positive change?

This session will focus on the principles and practical guidelines of mobilizing church members to engage in responsible, respectful and fulfilling relationships with communities that can lead to sustainable initiatives which can lead to positive change. The discussion will be from the perspectives of both the community and the church.

Presenters:

- Ms. Louise Theron
(CEO and Manager: Helderberg Outreach, Helderberg Congregation)
- Past. Colin van Wyk
(Pastor of Bethesda Evangelical Church, Broadlands Park; Board member of Phambili Community Development Organization)
- Ms. Victoria Mangqwengqwe
(Principal: Umnqophiso Pre-Primary School)

PS8 Painting with the entire palette – an artist’s angle on worship

This session will focus on: (1) Exploring the numerous and varied elements of worship; (2) Embracing and knowing each other in the Father’s house; (3) Enjoying the endless relational shades of the most magnificent rainbow.

Presenter:

- Ms. Annalise Wiid
(singer, songwriter, author, graphic artist and speaker; Winner of the 2006 ATKV Lier award for Gospel Music)

PS9 Thursdays in Black: Transforming a Rape Culture

In this session Julie Claassens and Renate van der Westhuizen will think together about creative ways to address the reality of gender-based violence in our society. The presenters will show how a biblical text such as the rape of the Levite’s Concubine in Judges 19 in conjunction with other contemporary rape narratives (The Film *Dis Ek Anna* and the play *Karoo Moose*) can be used to create awareness and actively work to help create a world where rape is no more. Moreover, with reference to the title of this session, the presenters will share practical strategies for bringing the reality of gender-based violence to the attention of parishioners.

Presenters:

- Prof. Julie Claassens
(Old and New Testament, SU)
- Ms. Renate van der Westhuizen
(Deputy Head: Boston Private School)

PS10 Economic Inequality and its Consequences

This session will provide an analysis of economic inequality in South Africa and examine consequences that flow from it. It will also begin an exploration of developing a positive response to it, particularly at community and congregational level.

Presenters:

- Dr. Krige Siebrits
(Senior lecturer: Department of Economics, SU)
- Dr. Lionel Louw
(Minister in Community of Faith; Former Associate Professor and Head: Department of Social Development, UCT)

REGISTRATION

- The registration fee for the conference is R350. URCSA and DRC pastors from the Cape/Western Cape Synod will be subsidised by their local Synods and will pay R200. A number of bursaries are also available for the Winter School (contact Wilma le Roux for more information).
- Lunch is not included in the programme – there are, however, many restaurants within walking distance of the Faculty of Theology. Participants are invited to a spit-braai on Tuesday evening 31 May 2016 (16:30 – 19:00); the cost is included in the registration fee.
- Please complete the attached registration form and return it to Wilma le Roux, e-mail wler@sun.ac.za or fax 086 563 7128 before Friday, 20 May 2016.

ACCOMMODATION

Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements. A list of guest houses within walking distance of the faculty is available from Wilma le Roux, e-mail wler@sun.ac.za.

WINTER SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

The need for a Chaplain, who are available for the duration of the Winter School, was identified at the Winter School last year. The Chaplain's duties will be to listen to those for whom the Winter School may evoke strong, even turbulent emotions; the opportunity to pray with those struggling with issues arising from the conference and of course to be a "praying presence" throughout the conference. The Chaplain on duty will be Father Ron Philips, Dean in the Anglican Diocese of False Bay and Anglican Student Chaplain at Stellenbosch University. His office is in the Faculty of Theology, next to the main entrance of the Attie van Wijk Auditorium.

ENQUIRIES

Faculty of Theology

Helette van der Westhuizen (tel: 021 808 9560; e-mail: hvdwest@sun.ac.za)

Communitas

Wilma le Roux (tel: 021 808 3624; e-mail: wler@sun.ac.za)

Ekklesia

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