

Network for African Congregational Theology

NETACT Board

Annual General Meeting held at Stellenbosch

4-9 August 2003

Monday 4th August, 2003

Opening

The Executive Director (ED), Prof Jurgens Hendriks welcomes the delegates. He explains that the chairman has not yet arrived because of other commitments in Johannesburg. A proposal of the Executive Committee is tabled that Dr Chiphangwi should chair the first part of the meeting, since he is replacing the previous vice-chairman, Dr Mwanandi, as delegate of the Zomba Theological College. The Board accepts the proposal.

Devotions

Rev Manie Taute, principal of Hefsiba, leads the devotions. He reads from Hebr 11:8-10, about Abraham who saw the city from afar. NetACT is still on its way into the future, having a vision that we would like to see fulfilled. We hope that God will grant that this meeting will lead us closer to the fulfilment of those visions. He concludes the devotions by offering a prayer for God's presence and guidance at the meeting.

Introduction of delegates

By request each attendant introduces himself/herself. The following people are present:

Mrs Maggie Madimbo (African Bible College, Malawi)
Dr Paul Chichen (African Bible College, Malawi)
Mrs Janet Brown (African Bible College, Malawi)
Rev Bruce Ritchie (Zomba Theological College, Malawi)
Rev Tinus van Zyl (Kingfisher Mobilising Centre)
Dr Hennie van Deventer (Nifcott, Malawi)
Rev Chatha Msangaambe (Nifcott, Malawi)
Prof Jurgens Hendriks (Stellenbosch University)
Dr Saindi Chiphangwi (Zomba Theological College)
Mr Ron Hartgerink (Hartgerink Trust, USA)
Rev Rangarirai Rutoro (Murray Theological School, Zimbabwe)
Rev Komburero Muungani (Murray Theological School, Zimbabwe)
Rev Silva Matamba (Instituto Biblico de Kinkuni, Angola)
Rev Manie Taute (Hefsiba, Mozambique)
Rev Campos Afonso (Instituto Biblico de Kinkuni, Angola)

Acceptance of agenda

The Executive Director (ED) presents the agenda. The Boards approves the agenda as suggested.

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held in Lilongwe, Malawi, in August 2002, are accepted without alteration.

Report about visit to USA/Netherlands

- a) The report is presented by the ED. He draws attention to the assistance which is available from the Reformed Church in America for HIV/AIDS programmes. Also the information about loans for the building of accommodation for guest lecturers. Zomba Theological College reports that they have taken up the contact, and are hoping to receive a loan.
- b) Muskegan congregation may be willing to sponsor the printing of sufficient copies of “Studying Congregations in Africa” for all the theological schools involved in NetACT.
- c) Western Theological Seminary is offering a scholarship for a one year residential Th M programme after completing the M Th at Stellenbosch (for example). The course focuses on research design and methodology, and develops the skills necessary to do theology in a hermeneutically sensitive and contextual way. It is recommended as an ideal opportunity to prepare for a D Th programme. Interested candidates can get the application forms through the NetACT office.
- d) Prof Tom Boogart, professor in Old Testament, will assist RITT in the coming year.
- e) Cornerstone Trust is one of the few American donor organisations that would consider projects outside the USA. Ron Hartgerink suggests, however, that they are rather looking at projects that really serve on the grassroot level. Something in the line of Project Africa. Rev Rutoro asks whether TEE programmes would qualify for this assistance. The impression is that TEE would indeed be the kind of programme that might be favoured. Prof Hendriks refers to the vision of NetACT, in which development of the congregational thrust of theological training is stressed. The Board agrees that this particular focus of NetACT needs to be developed. Most of the schools involved in NetACT are already busy with in-service-training programmes that challenge ministers to develop lay training. Various courses are utilised. The courses of Veritas College, of the Nehemiah Bible Institute and of Project Africa are very useful and helpful in the African context. Another factor which is hampering the work of the church on the local level is the lack of appropriate Christian literature in the vernacular languages. Rev Komburero Muungani, Rev Chatha Msangaambe and Mrs Maggie Madimbo are given the assignment to prepare a motion to advise NetACT as to how it can be involved in assisting the institutions in developing this aspect of the training, and report to the Board before the end of the meeting.
- f) At the request of the EC, Rev Chatha Msangaambe attended a meeting in Chipata, Zambia, in March 2003, at which part of the Project Africa course was presented. He submitted a very positive report about the experience. The ED indicates that there might be a willingness amongst the Project Africa facilitators to let others use the course in training leaders at the grassroot level.

Report about visit to Presbyterian Church of Scotland

During a visit of the ED and the chairman of NetACT to Edinburgh (23-27 June 2003), they had discussions with representatives of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The following are some of the positive outcomes of those discussions:

- g) There seems to be a real willingness to cooperate with NetACT in worthwhile HIV/AIDS projects. They might especially be interested in sponsoring the production of a book that deals with preaching on HIV/AIDS in the African context (homiletics and liturgy). They might also help to subsidize “Studying congregations in Africa” for students in NetACT institutions.
- h) Stellenbosch University is also negotiating with them about the appointment of a Presbyterian lecturer, who may act as a NetACT ambassador-lecturer in Southern Africa, dealing with, among other things, the HIV/AIDS modules of NetACT, and being a trainer of trainers.

The Board thanks the ED for the well-prepared reports about these visits. Without these the visits would probably have been much less valuable for the NetACT institutions.

Financial report

- i) Prof Hendriks presents the financial statements. Approval is postponed until Mr Pieter van Santen, the NetACT Project manager will be available to answer some questions.

- j) Some members raise questions about the way in which money is disbursed by the Stellenbosch University. Though it has advantages in terms of accountability and fund raising, it is creating problems for institutions to get their expenses reimbursed. These problems will be discussed when meeting officials of the University tomorrow.
- k) A donation of US\$25,000 was received from the US Department of Health and Human Sciences, particularly for the fight against HIV/AIDS. NetACT was allowed to use part of this money even for administrative purposes. It seems likely that more funds will become available from a huge provision made by Pres George Bush for the struggle against AIDS. NetACT may also benefit from this. If such a grant will become available to NetACT, it will be necessary to plan properly. It may even necessitate an extraordinary meeting of the NetACT Board.

NetACT office

The Executive Committee (EC) appointed Mr Pieter van Santen as NetACT Project Manager in December 2002. The Board takes note and approves this decision.

NetACT house

- a) The ED reports that the administration of the house is running well under the control of the Stellenbosch University. Currently the occupancy of the house is very high. The house has even made a small profit in the meantime. The ED pleads with all concerned students to make bookings well in advance.
- b) Several people attending the meeting, who benefit from the facilities, complain about the availability of rooms in the house. Though they accept that bookings should be done in time, it is sometimes difficult for people from Southern African countries to do that even six months before the time.
- c) Since there will be a meeting with the administrative personnel of the University's International Office dealing with the house, the Board decides that complaints should be brought to their attention, and problems should be ironed out.
- d) The Board rules that there should not be too many students staying permanently in the house. Preference should be given to NetACT-related students and countries.
- e) Stellenbosch University should be asked to consider building additional rooms behind the house. The Faculty of Theology should take responsibility for raising the funds. NetACT will present the request to them.

Computers

- a) In the past NetACT focused on providing the necessary equipment. At the moment there seems to be a great need for training in computer literacy. Various possibilities are available. Two are recommended: Mr Henry Chamberlain of Stellenbosch, and Mr Johann Lemmer of Wellington (with a group of technicians who assist him). The latter has already helped some of the institutions, and would be available to assist others. The Board agrees that NetACT could assist them with travelling costs to the various institutions.
- b) NetACT bought 15 computers from Price Waterhouse Coopers at a give-away price of R1000 each. These computers are available to the institutions and students registered for doctoral studies. The Board agrees that computers be given to Hefsiba and Murray Theological School. Even though Maggie Madimbo is not registered for a doctoral programme, she is also asking to be considered.
- c) The problem of a lack of reliable telephone lines still persists for at least three of the institutions involved in NetACT (Hefsiba, Murray and RITT). The Board suggests that these institutions should investigate the possibility of connecting through cell phones, and present the quotations to the NetACT office for further action.

More delegates welcomed

The following delegates have arrived in the meantime, and are welcomed by the acting chairman:

- Rev Amon Kasambala (Justo Mwale Theological College, Zambia)
- Rev Manasse Matiquele (Hefsiba, Mozambique)
- Rev Amorim Silambo (Hefsiba, Mozambique)
- Rev Xolile Simon (Stellenbosch University)

The Board also welcomes the following visitors with acclamation:

Mrs Barbara Hartgerink

Mrs Helen Hendriks

Rev Nelis du Toit (representing the Christian AIDS bureau)

Though Dr Chiphangwi wants to hand over the chair immediately, Rev Kasambala insists that he continues to lead the meeting, since he himself is still recovering after the flight from Johannesburg, and the business he had to attend to.

HIV/AIDS Project

- a) Mrs Janet Brown presents a report about the presentation of Module 1 at various institutions. Eventually the HIV/AIDS awareness course was presented at all the NetACT institutions except the Stellenbosch University (where it will be taught in November 2003). The course was very effective, though there is a question about whether the trained people will really implement the material. According to Rev Amon Kasambala, one of the facilitators for this course, the greatest challenge would be to integrate the material into the curricula of the institutions.
- b) Rev Manie Taute reports that Hefsiba benefitted a lot from the course. It has already been translated into Portuguese and has been presented to three different groups of pastors and other leaders in the meantime. Pastors have been touched deeply and are keen to do something. The Board agrees that available funds can be used to sponsor a trip for two facilitators of Hefsiba to present the course in Angola.
- c) In Malawi World Relief and the World Council of Churches presented a seminar about mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in the curricula of theological institutions. Theological institutions of all denominations participated in this seminar. In the Board there seems to be a unanimous agreement that curricula should be developed and integrated into the teaching programme of the various institutions involved.
- d) As for the continuation of the programme, it seems important to develop the second module, focussing on the role of the local congregations in the struggle against this scourge. The committee appointed at the previous annual general meeting should take the initiative. However, Rev Kasambala cautions that it's no use rushing on to Module 2, while Module 1 has not been implemented.
- e) Funds are available and more funds may still be acquired from sources abroad. The EC will meet with Mr Johan Chettle next Monday, and the raising of funds for this project will be one of the main issues on the agenda.
- f) All institutions are reminded that they should submit a proper report about the presentation of the first module at the various places.
- g) The Board decides that at least one representative from each NetACT institution involved in the HIV/AIDS programme, should attend the seminar in Pietermaritzburg (4-7 November 2003), organised by ACTEA, about "Theological Education in Context: Facing the reality of HIV/AIDS in Africa". Air tickets will be sponsored for these representatives. They should then be co-opted to help the committee in drawing up a curriculum to be used by all the institutions. The committee will then assist the various institutions by advising and training the theological lecturers.
- h) The chairperson of the committee, Mrs Janet Brown, asks that a new way should be found to make the funds available for the presentation of the courses. The streamlining of procedures will be negotiated with the University personnel tomorrow.
- i) Mrs Brown indicates that she would like to step down from the position of chairing the HIV/AIDS committee, but the Board pleads with her to continue and she agrees.

Books donated

Books donated by Prof Jackson Carroll will be distributed between the NetACT schools by Mrs Maggie Madimbo and Rev Silva Matemba.

Work on "Studying Congregations in Africa"

Delegates are divided into groups for editing different chapters of the book about "Studying Congregations in Africa". Prof Hendriks asks them to look specifically for any part of the book that may not be culturally sensitive or relevant and understandable in the African context.

Lecturer exchange

- a) This has been happening through the HIV/AIDS seminars
- b) Each institution is entitled to receive at least one guest lecturer per year. Costs will have to be calculated, but is likely to be around R7,000 per institution (for the air ticket; the institutions have to provide food and accommodation).
- c) Delegates are reminded that the idea of the lecturer exchange applies to exchange of lecturers between various NetACT institutions.
- d) Rev Tinus van Zyl asks whether funding would also be available for Kingfisher Mobilising Centre to present courses at the various NetACT institutions. Though the agreement with KMC was that they would provide for their own air tickets, assistance to institutions for the hosting of the meetings could be considered.
- e) The NetACT office received a request from Hefsiba about assistance with the travelling costs of other visiting lecturers not related to NetACT. Though the provision is in the first place for exchange of lecturers between the NetACT institutions and for visitors from well-known theological institutions abroad, the Board is reminded that the EC did in fact suggest that this provision could be expanded to include capable and qualified people from local congregations

Meeting adjourned

The meeting is adjourned. Delegates are informed about the arrangements for meeting with the Rectorate and other senior officials of the Stellenbosch University on Tuesday, 5th August, 2003, and the subsequent visit to Cape Town for site-seeing.

Tuesday, 5th August, 2003.

Delegates from RITT

The Board is glad to welcome Rev Ariko Ekitala and Rev Samuel Ngigii, delegates of the Reformed Institute for Theological Training in Kenya. They arrived very late on Monday evening.

Meeting with rectorate of Stellenbosch University

All the delegates of the NetACT institutions get the opportunity to meet with Prof Walter Claassen (Vice-rector of the Stellenbosch University) and Prof Stef Coetzee. The former provides an overview of what the university has to offer, and the latter informs the group about the NEPAD initiatives, and how the university is involved in that. Both of them emphasize the areas of common interest between the university and NetACT. Later the rector and vice-chancellor of Stellenbosch University, Prof Chris Brink, and some other top officials of the rectorate, join the group for a light lunch.

Sorting out financial and administrative issues

The NetACT group also meets Mr Frik Kruger, the person in the financial department of the University dealing with the Faculty of Theology and NetACT, who explains how they handle claims and payments in the financial system of the University. In response to complaints about the delay in the re-imbursing of funds spent by various institutions on behalf of NetACT, he promises that they will try to streamline the procedures. Even though it is not usually done, they might consider making payments in advance, provided that the institutions will afterwards provide the necessary documentation of expenditure. In a subsequent visit to the International Offices of the SU, an official outlines the registration procedures, and the delegates get the opportunity to meet Mr Cloete and Mr Siseko who handle the bookings for the NetACT house. While discussing the problems encountered in finding room in the house, it is discovered that there are currently five permanent residents. This is identified as one of the reasons why NetACT-related people sometimes struggle to find a place, and it is stressed that the administration should abide by the stipulations of the NetACT Board concerning permanent residents.

Trip to Cape Town

After the luncheon with the rectorate, the NetACT group departs to Cape Town, where they go up Table Mountain with the cable car and visit the Waterfront.

Wednesday, the 6th and Thursday, the 7th August, 2003

Course on curriculum development

Proff Arend Carl and Eli Bitzer, from the SU Faculty of Education present an excellent course in curriculum development. All the delegates to the meeting agree that they have gained a lot of knowledge and skills that will be of great value in developing and improving their various programmes of learning. From various proposals subsequently suggested by the NetACT Curriculum Committee, the following are approved:

- a) The NetACT joint meeting expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the organisers and facilitators of the curriculum workshop.
- b) NetACT will develop a set of curriculum standards for various theological programmes which can function as indicators of quality.
- c) NetACT establishes a small task force of specialists to develop such standards. They will also provide guidance and advice to all the NetACT institutions concerning curriculum development and quality improvement. The NetACT Board appoints the following people to serve on this task force:
 - A representative of the SU Faculty of Education (either Prof Carl or Prof Bitzer)
 - Prof H J Bosman of the SU Faculty of Theology
 - Dr Saindi Chipangwi of Zomba Theological College
 - Rev Kruger du Preez of Hefsiba
- d) The implementation of the standards will be voluntary, thus leaving it to the discretion of each institution in its unique circumstances.
- e) All NetACT related institutions are requested to introduce and offer HIV/AIDS courses as an integrated part of all programmes as a matter of the utmost urgency. (Each institution confirms individually its acceptance of this decision).
- f) The Board gives the NetACT Administrative Office the assignment to develop, within the next six months, an attractive directory of all member and affiliate member institutions, specifying contact addresses, faculty members and a brief synopsis of the programmes offered.

Provision of books and CD's

Discussing the position of the Faculty of Theology of the Stellenbosch University (SU) in relation to the NetACT institutions, Prof Hendrik Bosman stresses the fact that it is part of the network (web) – not the spider sitting at a distance waiting to snatch all the flies caught in the web! He offers the assistance of the faculty in the production and compilation of study material relevant to the needs of Africa. In particular he indicates that we should together explore the possibilities that come through computer technology. The faculty would for instance be able to put books on CD and supply it to all the NetACT institutions. Since not all institutions have CD Roms available, the Board determines that these should be supplied.

Election of vice-chairman

Three names are nominated for the position of vice-chairman of NetACT, left vacant with the retirement of Dr Dolb Mwakanandi. These are: Rev Kruger du Preez; Dr Saindi Chipangwi; Rev Ariko Ekitala. Dr Chipangwi is elected by an outright majority in the first round. The chairperson congratulates Dr Chipangwi and welcomes him on the Executive Committee of NetACT.

Friday, 8th August, 2003.

Scholarships

- a) Rev Ariko Ekitala and the NetACT office have to finalise the requirements for the NetACT scholarships as suggested in Lilongwe. They could also meet later today and co-opt students attending the meeting from Malawi and Zimbabwe to agree on how much will be needed for a daily living allowance. Expenses for travelling and tuition are rather constant.
- b) Western Theological Seminary offers a scholarship. Rev Christopher Munikwa of Zimbabwe has finished his M Th at SU and has registered for a D Th. He may, however, benefit in terms of research methodology, etc, at WTS (see NB 36c), and has been accepted for the course with a full scholarship before he continues with the D Th. The Board, however, suggests that we should not only consider those who have finished the M Th at SU, but even other students who have attained a B Th degree and could be trained to help at the NetACT institutions.
- c) Two NetACT scholarships have been awarded for this year. The Board reminds the institutions that there will again be two scholarships available this year.
- d) The ED reports that the following requests have been received:
 - From Nifcott for two ladies to study at Zomba. The Board agrees that this should be a priority.
 - From Prof Pauw for assistance to some students currently sponsored by the Committee for Witness of the Dutch Reformed Churches in the Western Cape.
 - Prof Pauw specifically argues the case for an opportunity to Rev Ngigii.
 - Student from Nigeria.
- e) All these requests are deferred to the planning session. Final decisions will be taken by the EC once it becomes clear what money is actually available for the scholarships.

Structuring of Postgraduate Diploma and M Th courses

Rev Manie Taute observes that the students who come to SU for postgraduate studies do not really receive much in terms of tuition from the lecturers. They basically receive a list of books to study on their own, and then come back to do the examinations. He expresses the desire on behalf of the institutions that more assistance should be offered to these students. The Board takes note of the following:

- a) Some of the professors/lecturers really take a personal interest in the students, and are reaching out to them and caring for them.
- b) The SU is making provision for guidance to postgraduate students in terms of research methodology and study methods through the Beyers Naude Foundation.

It is nevertheless agreed that the issue should be taken up with the Faculty of Theology, and that they should be requested to offer more definite assistance to students from Africa (particularly NetACT related students), so as to make sure that they get maximum benefit from their studies.

Annual meeting 2004

- a) The ED suggests that more money should be going into the production of books, especially in connection with AIDS. This may mean that one needs to cut on the costs of the annual meeting.
- b) In stead of completely cutting the annual meeting, the Board suggests that next year's meeting should just comprise the actual members of the Board (1 delegate from each institution). Every second year an extended group will then meet, where a particular issue can be addressed – for instance the writing of a book on AIDS or Ethics.
- c) The Board decides to have the 2004 meeting at Zomba Theological College in the third week of July (date is provisional; will be confirmed by the EC)

Gift of books

The Board takes note that the books donated by Prof Jackson Carroll have been distributed. The NetACT office is asked to write a letter of appreciation to the donor on behalf of all the NetACT institutions.

Publication of “Studying Congregations in Africa”

- a) The Board plans to have 2500 copies printed. It will cost approximately R50 per book. (R125,000 required). Ron Hartgerink will contact the Muskegan congregation concerning a donation, with a recommending letter from the chairman. The possibility is mentioned that the books can be sold by the institutions, and the income can be used to buy library books.
- b) The Board agrees that lecturers should be looking around for publications already existing in various countries, applicable to the African context and relevant to their needs, to be acquired for the different institutions. An amount of R20,000 is budgeted for this purpose.

Constitution

- a) The constitution does not stipulate anything about the issue of associate members. Kingfisher Mobilising Centre would be interested to become an associate member. The Board decides to receive them as such, while accepting that the constitution will still have to be amended in future to make provision for this.
- b) For the time being there will be at least four requirements for associate members:
 - They have to pay their own costs
 - They have to be in agreement with our goals and objectives
 - They have to add value to our programmes.
 - They may not use the name of NetACT in advertising themselves.
- c) The ED is asked to enquire as to whether NetACT needs to be legally registered as an organisation in South Africa.

Computers

The Board confirms that the three remaining computers in the NetACT office will be given to Rev Muungani, the Instituto Biblico de Kinkuni in Angola (in stead of Hefsiba) and to the African Bible College (to be used by Mrs Maggie Madimbo). See minute NB 41 b).

Long term NetACT prospects

Stellenbosch University (SU) can be regarded as the “anchor institution” to NetACT. It has brought a lot of benefits to NetACT, but the question is whether this will be a lasting relationship. The Board feels that a formal relationship needs to be negotiated with the University. This task is assigned to the EC, who should discuss the issue with the authorities of the SU, in order to produce a memorandum of understanding, to be presented to the next Board meeting.

New members

The Board accepts the **following procedures** for the handling of applications of possible new members:

- a) A letter of application addressed to the ED stating whether the institution accepts the NetACT constitution (especially point 4.1.1.B), mission and vision. In this letter the institution should outline to what extent it is willing to contribute to serve the mission and vision of NetACT.
- b) Documents that outline their constitution, denominational association, list of lecturers (with CV’s), number of students, history and full curriculum must be presented.
- c) Applicants should attend one annual meeting as observers, at the end of which the Board will vote, in the absence of the institution, whether or not to accept the institution.
- d) Financial contribution: commitment to pay the annual membership fees, and if the institution is relatively strong, an undertaking to pay for the travelling and other expenses of attending meetings.

The **following guidelines** are also approved:

- a) NetACT is a network of Reformed/Presbyterian theological institutions in *Southern Africa*, and will therefore mainly focus on institutions in this area. In some cases they will need upliftment.
- b) Reformed/Presbyterian institutions within *South Africa* who want to join NetACT will be welcomed to apply, but under the condition that they will be responsible for their own travelling and other expenses.

They should also be willing to contribute financially and with other resources to the achievement of NetACT's goals.

- c) Smaller evangelical theological training institutions in Southern Africa who want to join NetACT will only be considered after the long term financial sustainability of NetACT is secured.
- d) Institutions like Kingfisher Mobilising Centre, or similar parachurch organisations working in close relationship with Reformed/Presbyterian institutions, and are willing to help NetACT to attain its goals without causing any financial burdens, will be considered as associate members, not represented on the NetACT Board.

Application from the “Instituto Biblico de Kinkuni” in Angola

- a) The Board receives the application from the IBK in Angola for NetACT membership. Members of the Board ask several questions to the observer delegates from the IBK about their institution and church. The delegates indicate that their institution has 9 full-time lecturers and 28 students, and that they are serving the Reformed Church in Angola which has 80,000 members. In their absence the Board votes unanimously to accept the IBK as member of NetACT, on condition that they will provide the required documents and information.
- b) Members express concern about the communication problem at meetings, but the delegates confirm their determination to learn English.
- c) The Board asks all institutions to provide the qualifying documentation for their membership (see NB 63 b)

Other applications

The ED received two other applications. The first is from the “Africa Centre for the Great Commission” in Kenya, and the other from the “Eben-Ezer Ministries International” in Burundi. The Board decides that these applications cannot be considered for the time being, due to a lack of information about the institutions, as well as financial constraints.

Contact with Prof Kwame Bediako

- a) The ED has not yet made contact with Prof Bediako in Ghana, where an organisation similar to NetACT was formed. The Board confirms that the assignment still stands.
- b) Rev Ariko Ekitala indicates that useful books are available from Prof Jesse Mugambi of Kenya. The Board suggests that some of these books should be acquired for libraries of NetACT institutions.

Workload of NetACT office

The delegates agree that the Project Manager in the NetACT office ought to be free to attend the annual Board meeting. During the meeting here in Stellenbosch he has been so occupied with the practical and administrative arrangements that he has not been able to attend the meetings at all. The Board feels that alternative arrangements should in future be made to enable the manager to attend.

Planning session

Under the guidance of Ron Hartgerink the Board starts to consider the financial implications of all the activities planned and the decisions made since Monday. The figures are posted on a chalk board, and the delegates assist in drawing up a provisional budget for all the items. The Board requests Ron to organise the whole budget on paper, and to present it to the meeting on Saturday morning.

Adjournment

The meeting is adjourned with a prayer. Some members of the SU Faculty of Theology will join the group for supper.

Saturday, 9th August, 2003.

NetACT Financial Projections for 2004

Ron Hartgerink presents a spread sheet with a summary of the projected expenditures according to the decisions and plans made at this meeting. In all there would be a deficit of R484,107 to execute these plans, if no additional funds would be received. Dr Chipangwi reminds the meeting that the membership fees should be added (an income of about R4,000). In Ron's estimation there are income possibilities amounting to R700,000. There is no certainty about this, however, except for a commitment of R100,000 from the Hartgerink Trust. The Board expresses its appreciation to Ron for this unconditional donation. Ron also includes on the spread sheet a proposal about prioritising the expenditures, decreasing the deficit to R93,107. That implies that a number of activities would have to be kept on hold until the funds are available.

- a) The Board accepts the proposal with the following amendments (the ammended spread sheet is attached as Addendum 1):
 - Some suggest that one of the first items to be restored would have to be Phase II of the HIV/AIDS programme. Janet Brown suggests that at least the follow-up part of this phase should not be delayed. The AIDS committee indicates that R30,000 will provide for that.
 - Rev Taute stresses that the issue of lecturer exchange (which was also removed in Ron's proposal), should still be regarded as a priority, especially if the IBK in Angola has to be assisted. If at least three of the most urgent exchanges could be kept, it would require R21,000. The three institutions to be helped first, will be IBK in Angola, Hefsiba and Murray Theological College.
 - The upgrading of the various institutions' libraries is another priority that should not be compromised R20,000 already budgeted.
 - Prof Hendriks indicates that it would not be absolutely essential to have the full R125,000 available for the publishing of "Studying Congregations in Africa". An initial amount of R25,000 would be sufficient. That would free up R100,000 to be used in the other priorities indicated above.
- b) The Board mandates the EC to move the available funds in the different accounts in the current budget to the activities identified as priorities.
- c) The Board further requests that Prof Hendriks should meet the Dean of the SU Faculty of Theology to ask them to commit themselves in writing about making R60,000 available for NetACT initiatives in Southern Africa. They will be given the opportunity to allocate these funds to the different NetACT accounts. In the negotiations with the SU this amount will be regarded as the first part of its commitment to be matched by the Hartgerink Trust.

Developing a programme of lay leadership training

The ad hoc committee appointed to advise NetACT on the development of a programme through which theological institutions can assist churches to put more emphasis on the training of lay leaders (cf NB 36 c), reports to the plenary, and submits the following proposals accepted by the Board:

- a) As institutions recognised by the churches, we have to use the church structures already in place to reach the lay people in the congregations. This implies the following:
 - Work through the General Secretary or similar executive administrative officials in the churches to summon all the ministers for a refresher's course of 3-4 days, at which the empowerment of laity can be planned in depth. Obviously the ministers will be a key component of this plan.
 - Organise leadership training sessions in presbyteries both for ministers and lay leaders, eg church elders, Women's Guild leaders and youth leaders.
 - Create leadership training courses in the vernacular languages, to be adopted by the churches and used by congregations for the training of new church leaders.
 - Encourage the churches to seriously train catechumen teachers through the existing lay training centres, because these teachers have the responsibility of moulding active church members with a proper understanding of the Christian faith.

Permanent residents in NetACT house (NB 40 d)

- a) The Board upholds its previous decision that nobody should be allowed to occupy the rooms in the house for more than three months at a time. The duration is amended to four months.
- b) The Board agrees that, for the sake of good administration, at least one single permanent resident should be allowed to stay in the house.
- c) As a special favour, the Board allows Rev Omuntha and his family to occupy two rooms in the house until they complete their studies. After that no married couples will again be allowed. While they are there they can take the responsibility of the permanent resident mentioned above.
- d) During December, around the time of graduation, graduating students will be allowed to stay in the house with their spouses, provided that place is available.
- e) The local administrators are allowed some degree of flexibility, but within the parameters of the regulations outlined above.
- f) If women will in future be allowed to come for further studies, they will be accommodated in a room closer to the Faculty which the NetACT Project Manager has already identified.

Reports about HIV/AIDS training – first phase (NB 43 f)

Most institutions have already provided the reports, but Justo Mwale Theological College and Murray Theological College are asked to reduce their reports, which they presented to the previous annual general meeting, to a format that will give a picture to the donors of the value of the course within the different institutions, churches and communities.

Budget for NetACT scholarships – food and accommodation (NB 55 a)

Rev Ariko Ekitala reports that, after deliberations with other students studying at Stellenbosch, he would like to propose the following budget for the monthly allowances to be included in the NetACT scholarship:

Food – R50 per day	R1,500.00
Accommodation – R25 per day	750.00
Stationery and photocopying	500.00
Medical insurance	150.00
Local transport	200.00
Other expenses (toiletries, etc)	200.00
Total per month	R3,300.00

Seeing that there is already an agreement that NetACT students would be allowed to come to Stellenbosch for three months per year, it would imply that the amount required for allowances (apart from the travelling costs) would be **R10,000.00 per year**. The Board approves the proposal.

Book about preaching on HIV/AIDS

As soon as funds will become available, there will be a need for sermons to be included in the book on preaching related to the HIV/AIDS pandemic to be produced by NetACT. Institutions should inform the NetACT AIDS committee coordinator (Janet Brown) about members of staff that would like to participate in the project.

Words of thanks

- a) On behalf of the whole group Janet Brown expresses sincere appreciation to Pieter van Santen for the excellent job he has done with all the practical arrangements for the meeting.
- b) The chairperson offers Ron Hartgerink the opportunity to make some remarks. He says thank you for the opportunity to participate in the NetACT venture. In particular he appreciates the way in which his wife, Barbara has been welcomed into the fellowship of the group.
- c) Prof Jurgens Hendriks reminds the Board about the important meeting with the rectorate of Stellenbosch University on Monday and asks for prayers. (Ron, Jurgens and Amon will challenge the university to increase its financial support to NetACT).
- d) Rev Bruce Ritchie thanks the Board for allowing non-voting members to participate fully in all the deliberations.

- e) Rev Amon Kasambala, the chairperson, winds up the meeting with some closing remarks. He expresses the conviction that NetACT has developed a real sense of maturity. Rather than having the attitude of “what can we get out of it”, there is now a sense of responsibility. On behalf of the Board he thanks the ED and Project Manager for their tireless efforts to promote the interests of NetACT. He praises Ron Hartgerink and the Hartgerink Trust for taking the risk of offering their resources for the development of this network. He commends the vice-chairman and the secretary for their hard work during this week of meetings. He thanks the entire group for their enthusiastic participation. In conclusion he wishes everybody the travelling mercies of the Lord and challenges everybody to be an ambassador for NetACT.

Closure

Prof Hendriks closes with a prayer and a benediction.

NetACT Financial Projections For 2004 (In Rands)

August 9, 2003 - Stellenbosch

	Complete Case	Prioritized Case
NetACT House		
Balance at June 30, 2003	16,477	16,477
No New Programs	-	-
Balance at 12/31/2004	16,477	16,477
Administration		
Balance at June 30,2003	43,488	43,488
Remainder of 2003	40,000	40,000
All of 2004	100,000	100,000
Balance at 12/31/2004	-96,512	-96,512
Travel & Meetings		
Balance at June 30,2003	28,576	28,576
Exec. Comm. 2003	15,000	-
Exec. Comm. 2004	15,000	15,000
Balance at 12/31/2004	-1,424	13,576
HIV/AIDS		
Balance at June 30,2003	85,887	85,887
Actea AIDS Symposium	40,000	10,000
Angola AIDS Course	15,000	15,000
Phase II	200,000	30,000
Balance at 12/31/2004	-169,113	30,887
Lecturer Exchange		
Balance at June 30,2003	21,115	21,115
One Exch. Per Institution.	56,000	21,000
RITT 2003	7,000	7,000
Balance at 12/31/2004	-41,885	-6,885
Annual Meetings		
Balance at June 30,2003	102,324	102,324
Annual Meeting 2003	60,000	60,000
Annual Meeting 2004	30,000	30,000
Balance at 12/31/2004	12,324	12,324
Scholarships		
Balance at June 30,2003	77,924	77,924
Already Awarded	77,924	77,924
2 or 3 Students in 2004	75,000	75,000

Computers	Balance at 12/31/2004		-75,000		-75,000
	Balance at June 30,2003	159,026		159,026	
	Angola	20,000		20,000	
	NetACT Office Printer +	5,000		5,000	
	4 Cell Phones	8,000		8,000	
Curriculum	Balance at 12/31/2004		126,026		126,026
	Balance at June 30,2003	-		-	
	Develop Standards	40,000		40,000	
Publications	Balance at 12/31/2004		-40,000		-40,000
	Balance at June 30,2003	-		-	
	Congregations	125,000		25,000	
	AIDS Book	50,000		-	
	Library Books/CDROMs	20,000		20,000	
	Balance at 12/31/2004		-195,000		-45,000
Totals			-464,107		-64,107
2003 - 2004 Income Possibilities					
	Hartgerink Trust Immediate/Unconditional		100,000		
	Hartgerink Trust with Matching		200,000		
	Stellenbosch Match		200,000		
	CORE Initiative/USAID		200,000		
	NetACT Member Fees		4,000		
	Presbyterian Church-Scotland (AIDs Book)		<u>50,000</u>		
	Total		754,000		