

**Report of the NetACT AGM**  
**26-30 January 2015**  
**Kopanong Conference Centre**  
**Johannesburg, South Africa.**

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## 1 Presence

By the end December 2014 to the first week of January 2015, the possible attendees stood at 75. All attendees were responsible for their own travel expenses. On Friday 22 January, the Kopanong Conference Centre was supplied with a list of 57 attendees that confirmed their attendance. However, seven of the 57 delegates could not attend due to visa issues (two each from Nigeria, Angola and Ethiopia, and one from Kenya). One extra delegate arrived having secured funding for air travel shortly before the meeting. Three delegates only arrived after the start of the conference and were only able to attend one day, again due to the late issuing of visas (two delegates from Angola and one from Nigeria). Five of the 57 delegates attended as presenters during the Community Development Workshop and not as representatives of their respective institutions. Most of the latter persons stayed for two days. Three attendees made presentations on behalf of Associate Members and had to depart shortly after their presentations. Seven Associate Members were present. A total of 27 theological institutions were represented (of which some were represented by two delegates). If not for the visa complications, 32 institutions would have been represented (these institutions had all been in the possession of airline tickets to Johannesburg). Should all institutions that were invited have had the resources for travel or did not run into visa or passport delays, more than 40 institutions would have been represented at the meeting.

The attendance list, according to specific categories follows below:

<b>NetACT Africa: 26-30 Jan 2015 name list according to category</b>		
<b>INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
1.	António, Kiauzowa	Baptist Seminary, Angola
2.	Awojobi, Peter	United Missionary Church of Africa, Nigeria
3.	Banda, N	Reformed Presbyterian Church, Zomba Malawi
4.	Baya, Alphons,	Anglican Church Kenya: Bishop Harrington Institute for Theology, Mombasa, Kenya
5.	Beukes, Berdian,	Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary, Namibia.
6.	Buitendag, Johan	University of Pretoria, SA
7.	Chege, Washington .	Daystar, Nairobi, Kenya
8.	Chiroma, Nathan,	Evangelical Church Winning All, Nigeria
9.	Du Preez, Kruger,	Hefsiba, Mosambiek
10.	Eale, Bosela,	International Leadership University, - Burundi
11.	Edema, Tesfaye,	Ethiopian Full Gospel Church, Addis Abeba
12.	Hofmeyr, Hoffie	Nkhoma University, Malawi

13.	Jumbe, Joster	Reformed Presbyterian Church, Zomba, Malawi
14.	Kisau, Mumo	Scott Christian University, Kenya
15.	Knoetze, Hannes	North West University, SA
16.	Kometsi, Mojaki	Lesotho Evangelical Church
17.	Likhoozi, Matalius	Josophat Mwale Theological Institution, Nkhoma, Malawi
18.	Madimbo, Maggie	African Bible College, Lilongwe, Malawi
19.	Manuel, Adelaide	Seminario Emanuel do Dôndi, Huambo, Angola
20.	Mburu, Elizabeth	International Leadership University, Nairobi, Kenya
21.	Mostert, Nico	Justo Mwale Theological University College, Lusaka, Zambia
22.	Mouton, Elna	Stellenbosch University
23.	Mphande, David	Ekwendeni Campus, Faculty of Theology of the University of Livingstonia, Malawi
24.	Ndukwe, Olo	Hugh Goldie Theological Institution (HGTI), Nigeria
25.	Oberholzer, Jan,	Deaf Christian Ministry Africa, SA
26.	Othol, Santino	Nile Theological College,. South Sudan
27.	Rafael, Avelino	ISTEL, (Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangelica no Lubango), Angola
28.	Schoeman, Kobus,	Free State University, SA
29.	Thiani, Evangelos	Orthodox Church, Kenya
30.	Tushima, Cephas	JETS (Jos ECWA Theological Seminary), Nigeria
31.	Van der Merwe, Sarel	North West University SA
32.	Vhembo, Webster	Murray Theological College , Zimbabwe
33.	Wepener, Cas	University of Pretoria

### **Associate Members**

1.	Botha, Gerhard	Dutch Reformed Church (DRC), Free State, SA
2.	Odendaal, Kobus	Commission for Witness, DRC,
3.	Tilton, Douglas	Presbyterian Church of the USA - SA representative
4.	Van der Walt, Gideon	DRC, Free State, SA
5.	Van der Walt, Hannes	AMTP = Association for Ministry Training Practitioners

6.	Van Deventer, Hennie	Nehemiah Bible Institute
7.	Visser, Douwe	World Communion of Reformed Churches, Germany
<b>Institutions who paid tickets but could not get their visas in time ... they did not attend</b>		
1.	Abate, Berhnemary	Addis Abeba, Ethiopia
2.	Aben, Tersur	Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN) in Jos, Nigeria
3.	Eurico, Dinis, .	Instituto Bíblico de Kaluquembe – Missão Urgente; Angola
4.	Sambango, Matias	Instituto Bíblico de Kaluquembe – Missão Urgente; Angola
5.	Yilma, Tufa	Addis Abba, Ethiopia
6.	Onwunta, Uma,	World Communion of Reformed Churches Nigeria.
7.	Iorkighir, Jonathan	Reformed Theological Seminary, Mkar, Nigeria
8.	Kombo, James	Daystar, Kenya
<b>Presenters: Community Development Workshop</b>		
1.	Bowers-du Toit, Nadine	Stellenbosch University
2.	De Beer, Stephan	University of Pretoria,
3.	Le Roux, Lisa	Unit for Religion and Development Research, Stellenbosch University
4.	Obadji, Agbiji	UNISA / Nigeria
5.	Swart, Naas,	UNISA, South Africa
<b>Short presentations</b>		
1.	Mahokoto, Marlene	Ecumenical Fellowship of Southern Africa
2.	Nalwamba, Kuzipa	Eco-theology project
3.	Smuts, Peter	ACTEA = Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa
<b>NetACT staff members</b>		
1.	Hansen, Len,	Stellenbosch University, new Executive Director
2.	Hendriks, Jurgens	Stellenbosch University, outgoing Executive Director

## 2 2014 NetACT Annual Report

The final report is on the website and was sent to all attendants before the meeting. At the meeting it was distributed with an attendance list. The content of the 2014 report had the following sections:

### PROGRAM (AGENDA)

#### KOPANONG SHUTTLE AND DRIVING DIRECTIONS

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING January 2015

- 1 CONSTITUTING THE MEETING
  - 2 2014 AGENDA (PROGRAM) & ADOPTION OF MINUTES
  - 3 THE JOURNEY SINCE JULY 2013: NEW MEMBERS
    - 3.1 Negotiations: August 2013-April 2014
    - 3.2 Discussions and decisions: May 2014
  - 4 FINANCES
    - 4.1 Financial Statements
    - 4.2 Annual Membership fees
  - 5 NETACT OFFICE
    - 5.1 Office staff
  - 6 NETACT HOUSE
    - 6.1 Weidenhof House and the Luckhoff Street Manse
  - 7 COMMUNICATION
  - 8 LECTURER EXCHANGE
  - 9 SCHOLARSHIPS
    - 9.1 World Communion of Reformed Churches
    - 9.2 Other Scholarships
  - 10 HIV/AIDS PROJECT & PUBLICATIONS
    - 10.1 Publications
    - 10.2 Electronic publications and readers for all NetACT students
  - 11 CURRICULUM REPORT & ACTEA
    - 11.1 Accreditation: NetACT's commitment
    - 11.2 Curriculum Development research and workshops
  - 12 MEMBERSHIP
    - 12.1 From the previous annual reports and minutes
    - 12.2 New membership applications
    - 12.3 IERA Seminary being built at Kinkuni, Uige province, Angola
  - 13 ANNUAL MEETINGS
    - 13.1 Previous locations
    - 13.2 2016 Annual Meeting
  - 14 GENERAL
    - 14.1 Approval of Annual Meeting minutes
    - 14.2 Other issues
    - 14.3 Closing prayers
- ADDENDUM I: NetACT Constitution (present one)  
 ADDENDUM II: CONSTITUTION NetACT AFRICA  
 ADDENDUM III: NetACT bylaws for new members  
 ADDENDUM IV: NETACT 2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 ADDENDUM V: ACTEA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
 ADDENDUM V: Living with Dignity

### 3 Minutes of the meeting

#### Minutes:

**NetACT Annual General Meeting 2015; NetACT Africa, constituent meeting; NetACT Africa Research Project Workshop on Theology and Community Development, 26-30 January 2015, Kaponong Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.**

**TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY 2015:**

#### 1. Welcome and opening:

Current NetACT vice-chairperson, Dr Maggie Madimbo welcomes all delegates at the meeting. Dr Madimbo will act as chairperson for the week as the current NetACT chairperson, Dr Rangarirai Rutoro is unable to attend. Dr Madimbo opens with prayer and wishes all delegates a fruitful week of discussions. She expresses Dr Rutoro's disappointment at not being able to attend and his wishes to all for a successful meeting and conference.

#### 2. Delegates present and apologies

See report page 2

*Apologies were received by:*

- Dr Rangarirai Rutoro (Murray Theological College, Zimbabwe). Morgenster is, however represented by Rev Webster Vhembo.
- Dr James Nkansah-Obrempong (AIU, Kenya) due to visa problems.
- Dr Lydia Mwaniki (St. Paul's, Kenya) due to prior conference obligations.
- Rev. Manasse Matiquele (Hefsiba Christian College, Mozambique), due to prior obligations. Hefsiba will, however be presented by Dr Kruger du Preez, former staff member of the college.
- Dr Edwin Zulu (current Secretary of NetACT and Head of Justo Mwale Theological University College, Malawi), due to other pressing duties. The institution is however presented at the meeting by Rev Nico Mostert former DRC pastor in Lusaka.
- Dr Uma Onwunta (WCRC representative for Africa). Due to visa delays.

It is also explained to the meeting that due to the nature of the meeting – being both an annual and constituent meeting as well as a workshop, not all delegates and participants are yet present. Some delegates are still awaited due to delays in visa application processes and some may have to leave the meeting before it closes on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### 3. Welcome by Incoming NetACT Executive Director

Dr Len Hansen welcomes all present on behalf of the NetACT Africa central office. He expresses his gratitude that the process of the expansion of NetACT has reached this crucial stage after three years of preliminary discussions. A special word of welcome is extended to:

- Delegates from countries that are for the first time are represented at a NetACT meeting, namely Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho and South Sudan.
- Prof. Jurgens Hendriks, who has been instrumental in the drive toward the expansion of the Network as well as in the organisation of the AGM and workshop.
- Dr Douwe Visser from the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WRCR) for attending the meeting. Dr Visser's attendance is seen as an indication of the

commitment of the WCRC to NetACT's cause, even more so since he is only able to attend the first two days of the meeting due to other pressing engagements. The presence of the WCRC is also welcomed in light of WRCR initiative in requesting the expansion of NetACT into a continent-wide network of networks.

#### **4. Welcome by WCRC representative**

Dr Visser welcomes all delegates on behalf of the WCRC, reiterates the latter's commitment to NetACT's objectives and expresses the hope for a successful meeting.

#### **5. Introduction of delegates**

The chairperson asks all delegates to introduce themselves and the institutions they are affiliated to.

#### **6. Overview of the NetACT journey to Kopanong**

Prof. Jurgens Hendriks gives a short overview of the NetACT journey over the past three years, and especially of the period April 2013 to April 2014, in preparation for the constituent meeting. The minutes of these meetings are available upon request from the NetACT office in Stellenbosch.

#### **7. Current NetACT 2015 AGM:**

The minutes of the 2013 NetACT AGM is approved. In light of the cost and extent of the current meeting, no AGM was held in 2014 and the Executive Director's 2014 annual report NetACT activities over the past 18 months is tabled for discussion. The report has been circulated prior to the meeting and is approved.

##### *7.1. Matters arising from the report:*

- The financial statements for the 2013 and 2014 financial years are explained by Dr Kobus Odendaal, who has over the past years assisted NetACT in the matter of finalising its financial statements. It is reported that the financial position of NetACT remains healthy, although this remains a matter to be continuously monitored.
- The current fee structure is noted.

Decision: A proposal that the NetACT Board (of the future NetACT Stellenbosch-AIU) will decide on the fees for its partner institutions for 2015 is accepted. As no membership fees are due to NetACT Africa, individual future networks, in light of the principal of independence, may decide upon their own fee structure or of may follow that of NetACT (Stellenbosch-AIU).

- The outgoing ED expresses his gratitude to Stellenbosch University for allowing NetACT to make use of the University's financial system and services in order to keep the financial administration of the Network on a secure, transparent and efficient track.
- In 2014 the NetACT Executive Committee appointed Dr Len Hansen as ED of NetACT Africa and of Prof. Hendriks as Programme Manager for NetACT (the future NetACT Stellenbosch-AIU). As Dr Hansen will still be responsible for fulfilling all his prior duties in the Faculty of Theology, the Programme Manager will also be responsible for the day-to-day running of the affairs of the NetACT office. Prof Hendriks will also remain involved in an advisory capacity in NetACT Africa.

Decision: Prof Hendriks is thanked for his years of faithful service to the Network in the capacity of Executive Director. His appointment as Programme Manager is approved and the assembly expresses its gratitude for his willingness to continue his relationship with the Network in a new capacity.

- The assembly notes with appreciation the finalisation of the Gender Equality Research Project and the resultant publication of *Living with Dignity: African perspectives on gender equality*, to be officially launched later during the week.
- The assembly notes the progress made with the Kinkuni Project in Angola.

Decision: The suggestion that the coordination of the project will in future resort under the duties of the Programme Manager is approved.

- The assembly notes the ongoing crucial role played by the Weidenhof and Luckhoff Houses in supplying student accommodation in Stellenbosch during the past year. It also expresses regret that Luckhoff House, which was rented by the University of Stellenbosch had to close at the end of 2014 due to circumstances beyond the control of NetACT.

The assembly approves the suggestion that, although the day-to-day management of Weidenhof House in the past formed part of the duties of the Executive Director, it will in future be the responsibility of the Programme Manager.

### 7.2. The assembly notes and approves the continued investigation and negotiations of the ED and Programme Manager with regard to:

- lecturer exchange
- the procurement of scholarships for staff of member institutions
- the procurement of information technology, the improvement or establishment of electronic communication for and with member institutions, the objective of supplying staff and students of member institutions with personal electronic libraries in the form of e-readers
- the fact that, due to the establishment of the new networks, some of its current member institutions will be changing their membership to new networks. These members are thanked for their years of support and involvement of the network and are wished well for their future involvement in the new networks. Special mention is made of Dr Edwin Zulu, current secretary of NetACT and head of Justo Mwale Theological University College, who will now join the new Free State-ILU network. The assembly also notes that, in light of the current changes in membership, new members will join the existing NetACT network (the future Stellenbosch-AIU Network). The Executive Committee and Programme Manager are requested to attend to these new applications.
- the drafting of a MOU between ACTEA (Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa) and FUTE (Forum for University Theological Education) with a view to obtaining access of ACTEA accredited institutions (among them NetACT partner institutions) to South African Universities for postgraduate study purposes.

### 7.3 Date and location of 2016 AGM:



It is explained that in the past, due to financial considerations, NetACT annual general meetings coincided with Network research project workshops. It is proposed that the same logic be followed with regard to the 2016 meeting. Suggestions are called for an approximate date and place of such a meeting. It is suggested that this meeting will also serve as an AGM of NetACT, again in light of cost implications and in view of the research project that will be embarked upon during the week and which will as an initial research project include all NetACT Africa networks. Due to the variety of frustrating experiences and the failure of delegates from some African countries, it is suggested that the 2016 AGM of both NetACT Stellenbosch-AIU (and fellow networks, if they so wish) as well as NetACT Africa, takes place in Kenya. Dr Washington Chege offers the facilities of Daystar University in Nairobi as a possible location for the meeting. July 2016 is suggested as a possible date for the 2016 meeting.

Decision: The assembly thanks Dr Chege for his kind offer. The NetACT Africa Executive Director and Programme Manager are requested to investigate the possibility of hosting the next meeting at Daystar University and to determine a date in July 2016 in consultation with the Executive Committees of member networks. As was the case with the current meeting, it is decided that NetACT Africa should procure funding for the hosting (accommodation and conference) of the 2016 meeting, and that individual networks and their members will be responsible for the travel costs of their members.

### **8. Constituent meeting NetACT Africa and future networks (Session One):**

It is explained by the chairperson that the constituent meeting and related discussions will not be attended to in a single session over the four days of the conference. This will be done to give delegates the opportunity to get acquainted and for informal discussions regarding membership to new networks and related issues.

Dr Hansen explains the rationale of the first session. This session has as objective to begin discussions on a future constitution of NetACT Africa. At the same time this will give delegates the opportunity to identify specific issues that they may wish to include, exclude or address in their own Networks' constitutions. The draft constitution has been circulated to delegates before the meeting. It is explained that the draft constitution was modelled on the existing NetACT Constitution and as such it reflects much of the latter, especially with regard to values and objectives. Delegates are also reminded of the principles that were identified in preliminary discussions and that is hoped to be reflected in the document, namely:

- To retain the NetACT mission and goals and to adjust it for a new dispensation.
- For historic reasons and as it represents an established brand, to retain the name NetACT. In the case of the network as a whole in the form of NetACT Africa, and in the case of individual networks, in combination with any other identifying word/s. As a preliminary way to distinguish between the proposed four networks the following was decided upon on grounds of the anchor institutions of the new networks: St Pauls University that will partner with Pretoria University and will provisionally be known as NetACT St Paul's-UP; NWU will partner with Daystar University and will provisionally be known as NetACT Daystar-NWU; Stellenbosch University will partner with the African International University and will provisionally be known as NetACT Stellenbosch-AIU; the University of the Free State will partner with the International Leadership University and will provisionally be known as NetACT Free State-ILU.

- Due to historical and capacity considerations and the need for a central NetACT Africa office, this role will be fulfilled by members of the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University. The central office of the broader network will remain situated at Stellenbosch University with the representative of that institution maintaining responsibility (in collaboration with individual networks) for future matters pertaining to the network of networks as a whole. This decision is also in line with an express request received from the WCRC.
- The relationship of the new networks will be based on the principles of independence, cooperation and consensus. This will partly prevent the danger of strong hierarchical centralisation of decision-making power. The principal of the freedom and independence of individual networks needs to be maintained as long as it is exercised within the current constitution, aims, vision and mission of NetACT which will, until such a time when it may be decided by all the members of NetACT Africa to change or adapt these. Thus, within the individual networks contextualization within these broad aims, vision and mission will be promoted and will find expression, for example: drawing up their own constitutions; choosing their own names (which will include the name NetACT); identifying, accepting and limiting the number of members and individual network associate members; deciding on membership fees, procuring network-specific funding and the financial administration of these funds; electing their own officials/leadership; initiate curricula development workshops as requested by members without demanding or enforcing any curricula changes on any individual member; initiate their own activities alongside those shared by the whole of the network, including research projects, sharing information on scholarship opportunities, lecturer exchanges or whatever other activities benefits them individually and are in line with the NetACT aims and objectives.
- “crossing of boundaries” between networks, for example, when an institution is a member of one individual network, but certain expertise or niche foci exist within another network and which might, at a certain time, prove relevant or necessary within the context of a member institution of another network, collaboration across network boundaries should be allowed.
- Promoting diversity within networks – geographical, denominational diversity as well as language diversity.

*Comments by and decisions: Draft constitution of NetACT Africa:*

- a) With regard to the phrasing of the introductory paragraph (Article 1: Identity and Definition) of the proposed NetACT Africa constitution: “operating on a post-secondary level in the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition in Sub-Saharan Africa.” The concern is expressed that the latter sentence will not reflect the fact that NetACT Africa will not only include members from the Presbyterian and Reformed traditions, but also other traditions, such as the Orthodox tradition on the continent. Dr Visser explains that the WCRC is in agreement with the new broader focus of NetACT and that it welcomes members from other traditions to the Network, provided that they can identify with the aims, objectives and values of the Network as expressed in the latter’s constitution.

<p>Decision: That the wording of the above-mentioned phrase be changed to reflect the historic roots of the Network in the Presbyterian and Reformed traditions without limiting the membership of the Network to these traditions.</p>
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- b) With regard to paragraph two of Article 1: Identity and Definition: Concern is expressed that the sentence: “to address their multitude challenges, such as the HIV and AIDS pandemic, abuse of power, corruption and economic injustice” unnecessarily emphasises and strengthens the negative perceptions of the continent.

Decision: To rephrase the sentence without express mention of specific challenges and with acknowledgements of the strengths of churches and congregations on the continent in the following way: “to remain true to the *missio Dei* by utilising and improving their strengths and to address challenges that face the continent.”

- c) With regard to Article 3: Values, paragraph 3.1, to reformulate the phrase “the revelation of God as contained in the Old and New Testaments” a theologically more nuanced rephrasing is suggested.

Decision, paragraph 3.1 will read as follows: “the revelation of God as proclaimed in the Old and New Testament”.

- d) With regard to Article 3, paragraph 3.3: “While acknowledging that our cultural, racial and ethnic differences have created much division and suffering, NetACT Africa believes that we are united in Christ, the head of the church, his Body; NetACT Africa believes that Christ has transformed our diversity from a cause of division and suffering to a source of creativity and one of our richest resources.” The wish is expressed that this paragraph be rephrased to emphasise the Trinitarian character of God’s work within the church.

Decision: Paragraph 3.3 will be rephrased as follows: ““While acknowledging that our cultural, racial and ethnic differences have created much division and suffering, NetACT Africa believes that God has united us in Christ, the head of the church, Christ’s Body; NetACT Africa believes that the Holy Spirit has transformed our diversity from a cause of division and suffering to a source of creativity and one of our richest resources.”

- e) With regard to Article 3, paragraph 3.5: In view of the prevalence of challenges and suffering on the African continent as manifested in all dimensions of individual and community life, NetACT Africa commits itself to prioritise the identification, development and distribution of programmes directed at addressing these challenges and reducing their effects within the mandate of the NetACT Africa mission.” Again a more positive wording is suggested to also acknowledge the existence of strengths and efforts upon the continent and by its churches themselves in addressing the challenges referred to.

Decision: It is decided that paragraph 3.5 be reformulated as follows: “In view of the prevalence of African challenges as manifested in dimensions of individual and community life, NetACT Africa commits itself to prioritise the identification and development of new or existing strengths, efforts and programmes aimed at addressing such challenges and their effects, to promote such strengths and efforts and to promote such programmes within the mandate of the NetACT Africa mission.”

- f) With regard to Article 4 (Organisation and Membership), paragraph 4.1.4, concerning the relationship between NetACT Africa and the WCRC, the necessity of explaining this relationship in a separate paragraph is questioned. It is explained that there exists a special relationship between NetACT Africa and the WCRC. NetACT Africa is an affiliate member of the WCRC and vice versa. However, in light of the initiating role that the WCRC has played in the expansion of NetACT into a continent-wide network

of networks, NetACT Africa, it has been decided in preliminary discussions to acknowledge this role and to benefit from the knowledge and support of this global institution. For this reason it was decided to propose that a representative of the WCRC be on the NetACT Africa Governing Board with full voting rights, something that is not applicable to any other affiliate members.

Decision: That a representative of the WCRC forms part of the Board of Governors with full voting rights as proposed in the draft constitution, but that its inclusion in Article 4, paragraph 4.3.1.1 A (iv) will suffice as it provides for such representation. Article 4, paragraph 4.1.4 of the draft constitution will thus be excluded from the final version of the NetACT Africa constitution.

- g) With regard to Article 4, paragraph 4.2.2, concerning termination of membership of NetACT Africa in cases where “The network no longer subscribes to the identity, mission and values of NetACT Africa; the network fails to attend the meeting of the Board of Governors for two consecutive meetings”. A more nuanced rephrasing of the latter sentence is requested in light of the possibility of legitimate, unforeseen circumstances that may prevent the attendance of a Board meeting.

Decision: Paragraph 4.2.2 will read as follows: “The network no longer subscribes to the identity, mission and values of NetACT Africa; the network fails to attend the meeting of the Board of Governors for two consecutive meetings without supplying legitimate reasons for such failure to attend”.

Decision: The NetACT Africa Executive Director is requested to amend the draft constitution in accordance to the above decisions with a view to further discussions on the finalisation of the NetACT Africa constitution. A second round of discussions will ensue on Thursday 29 January 2016. Delegates are requested to continue with informal discussions on which of the four new networks their institutions wish to join and to inform Prof Hendriks of these decisions before the second round of discussions on Thursday.

## **9. Introduction: EFSA**

Mrs. Marlene Mahokoto is the first of a series of representatives of a variety of organisations (some of them affiliate members of NetACT Stellenbosch-AIU and future affiliate members of NetACT Africa). These organisations were invited to give short presentations on their history and work in order to introduce themselves to the broader network with a view to possible future networking with newly-established networks in the NetACT Africa fold.

## **10. NetACT Africa joint-research project on Theology and Community Development (Session One):**

Dr Hansen explains to the assembly that doing and promoting theological research on the African continent has always been part of the aims of NetACT. Past research projects included those on HIV and AIDS, and the recently concluded gender equality project. In the past these research projects ran for three years and comprised of three workshops which ended in the publication of research findings in the form of a textbook that may be used in partner institutions. One of the objectives of the research projects is the inclusion of all members of networks (usually in the form of one or more of their staff members) in doing research and contributing to a publication at the end of the period. All networks are free to initiate their own research projects. However, at this stage of the development of the project it was thought best to initiate a joint research project across all the networks and including all their members.

The theme of the research project will be “Theology and Community Development”. The reasons behind this choice are threefold:

- a) Because the challenge of community development is one that faith communities face across the continent. No part of the continent can be said not to be in need of community development, even if contexts may differ widely with regard to the development challenges that exist. The church is not only the social institution with probably the farthest reach on the continent, but it has also been said in the past that, theologically, it has a responsibility toward the development of communities it forms part of. As such, the theme of theology and community development seems relevant to all churches and congregations in Africa.
- b) Because community development is not only a challenge to faith communities, but to other social institutions, governments and NGO’s as well, has been a strong focus on a variety of agendas on the continent. This not only offers the possibility for NetACT Africa and individual networks to solicit funding for such a project or phases of it, but also offers opportunities for interdisciplinary enrichment of the discourse on development – to the benefit of theology but also from the side of theology to the benefit of other disciplines or role players.
- c) The discipline (or sub-discipline) of Theology and Development, when compared to traditional theological disciplines, is quite new. As a result it may be that the necessary expertise may not yet exist on our continent in this regard – unlike in other theological disciplines. It may be that in many of our institutions of theological training, experts, research or textbooks written from an African perspective by African writers on theology and development does not yet exist – and perhaps not even a sensitivity toward the issue exist in some parts of our continent.

One major difference between the new NetACT research project and the previous ones concerns the disciplinary status and character of Theology and Development. Unlike where it was possible to reflect on HIV and AIDS or gender equality from any theological perspective and addressing it, quite easily, from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, Theology and Development is a discipline with its own history, jargon, often-used methodologies, etc. This does not mean that one may not reflect on elements of Theology and Development from the perspective of other theological disciplines, but it does require a degree of familiarity with the discipline of Theology and Development itself. For this reason, a selection of experts in the field have been invited to address delegates at this first workshop in order to introduce the field, its discourses, jargon etc. to the Network in order to ascertain a way forward in the project. During the final session of the workshop, session 6, decisions will be taken on how to best pursue the objectives of such a project with a view to the 2016 workshop and beyond.

The assembly welcomes Prof Naas Swart from UNISA, in Pretoria South Africa. Prof. Swart is an authority in the discipline of Theology and Development and speaks on “The development of a theological-ecclesial and religious focus on development: A broad overview”. The chairperson of the session is Prof. Liz Mburu (ILU, Nairobi). All presentations were followed by discussion.

### **11. NetACT Africa joint-research project on Theology and Community Development (Session Two):**

Presentation by Dr Nadine Bowers Du Toit, Senior Lecturer in Theology and Development, Stellenbosch University on the theme: ‘Theology and Development: What’s theology got to do with Development?’ Chairperson: Dr Douwe Visser.

### **12. Introduction of collaborators and affiliates:**

The following institutions were presented to the workshop followed by questions and discussion.

- DCMA (Deaf Christian Ministry Africa): Rev. Jan Oberholzer.
- Nehemiah Bible Institute, Wellington: Dr Hennie van Deventer
- CLF (Christelike Lektuur Fonds): Dr Gideon van der Walt
- PCUSA (Presbyterian Church USA): Rev. Doug Tilton
- DRC & URCSA Joint Commission for Witness: Dr Kobus Odendaal
- AMTP (Association for Ministry Training Practitioners): executive director, Dr Hannes van der Walt.

### **WEDNESDAY 28 JANUARY 2015:**

The day begins with a reflection on Scripture/dwelling in the Word. The rest of the day is dedicated to the workshop on theology and community development as well as the introduction of NetACT collaborators and affiliate members.

#### **13. NetACT Africa joint-research project on Theology and Community Development (Session Three):**

Paper presented by Dr Obaji Agbiji (Nigeria, currently postdoctoral fellow at UNISA, South Africa) on “Engaging Christian faith communities in development in the context of violence.” Chairperson of the session and discussion is Dr Nathan Chiroma (ECWA, Nigeria, representative and at present postdoctoral research fellow at Stellenbosch University).

#### **14. NetACT Africa joint-research project on Theology and Community Development (Session Four):**

Presentation by Dr Lisa le Roux, researcher at the URDR (Unit for Religion and Development Research) at Stellenbosch University. Dr Le Roux spoke on “Understanding the community: The importance of research for community development.” Chairperson for this session was Dr Washington Chege, Daystar University, Nairobi.

#### **15. NetACT Africa joint-research project on Theology and Community Development (Session Five):**

Presentation by Dr Stephan de Beer on “*Perspectives on faith and urban community transformation.*” Chairperson: Prof. Mumo Msau, Scott University, Kenya.

#### **16. NetACT Africa joint-research project on Theology and Community Development (Session Six):**

Presentation by Dr Hannes Knoetze (NWU, Mafikeng Campus, South Africa). Chaired by Dr Cephas Tushima (ECWA Theological Seminary, Jos, Nigeria).

Discussion follows the final presentation on the theme of Theology and Community Development.

#### ***Decisions:***

It is decided that NetACT Africa proceeds with the joint project on Theology and Community Development. The next workshop is to coincide with the NetACT Africa and NetACT networks’ AGM in July 2016 in Nairobi.

NetACT Africa Executive Director is requested to:

- a) Collect all papers presented at the workshop and to distribute it to all delegates and their institutions.
- b) In collaboration with Prof Naas Swart and Dr Nadine Bowers Du Toit, compile a representative selection of journal articles on Theology and Development for distribution among delegates and institutions to serve as a point of orientation on the theme with a view to the preparation of contributions for discussion in Nairobi, 2016.
- c) To identify a possible theme related to Theology and Community Development in Africa and to issue a call for papers in light of this theme for presentation and discussion in Nairobi, 2016.

Participating institutions are requested to identify at least one member of staff, either specializing in Theology and Development or in any other theological discipline, but with an interest in Theology and Development, with a view to represent the institution on the research team for the next three years.

## **THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2016**

The day begins with a reflection on Scripture/dwelling in the Word.

### **17. Introduction**

Dr Peter Smuts, Dean of Graduate Studies, Bible Institute of South Africa and member of the Executive Committee of ACTEA (previously known as the Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa, but now as: Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa) addresses the assembly to explain the role and procedures of ACTEA on the African continent.

### **18. Book launch: *Living with Dignity: African Perspectives on Gender Equality***

Professor Elna Mouton, chief editor of NetACT's most recent publication *Living with Dignity: African Perspectives on Gender Equality* (Sun Press, 2015) explains the process and rationale behind the publication of the book. This is done not only with reference to the book's contents but also to the symbolism behind the choice of the cover design. A collection of 19 contributions by mostly women, but also men among the member institutions of NetACT, the book is the result of a three year project. Prof Mouton thanks her co-editors, Rev. Gertrude Kapuma (Malawi), Dr Thomas Togom (Kenya) and Dr Len Hansen (South Africa). Contributors are thanked and sincere gratitude is expressed to those institutions, such as the DCMA, PCUSA and Stellenbosch Faculty of Theology, that have made the annual workshops possible that lead to the writing of the book. EFSA is thanked in particular as a key collaborator as it was responsible for carrying the production costs of the publication.

As the book is dedicated to the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians in light of its 25<sup>th</sup> year of existence, the first copy of the publication is presented to Dr Maria Frahm-Arp, from the University of Johannesburg. Dr Maria Frahm-Arp accepts the book on behalf of the Circle and expresses the Circle's gratitude for the honour and the wish that the issue of gender justice remain on the agenda of NetACT as it has been on that of the Circle since its inception.

Copies of the publication are also presented to authors who are present, Dr Maggie Madimbo and Dr Olo Ndukwe as well as to Prof Hendriks and Dr Hansen. All delegates receive a copy of the publication for the libraries of the institutions they represent and the Executive Director of NetACT Africa undertakes to supply each of the NetACT Africa institutions with an

electronic copy of the book. The latter will facilitate the book's effective use by all staff and students of NetACT Africa member institutions.

## 19. Introduction

- Introduction of the *International Journal for Freedom in Religion* and presentation of complementary copies of the Journal to all delegates by Prof Hendriks on behalf of the editors.
- Introduction of the research project on Eco-theology called "A rainbow on the land" by Mrs Nalwanba Kuzipa on behalf of the project. Delegates are invited to join individually in this project or to bring it to the attention of colleagues that are not present, but may want to join it.

## 20. Individual Network meetings

The four networks subsequently met separately to discuss issues pertaining to individual networks, including individual constitutions and the election of officials that will lead the networks and that will represent them on the NetACT Africa Board of Directors for the following three years.

*It is mentioned that, in the election of the leadership of the new networks, it be considered that at this initial stage of ongoing negotiations and discussions (especially of the NetACT Africa draft constitution) it be considered to elect a chairperson from either of the anchor institutions and to elect an executive director from the other. It is also suggested that, in order to streamline operations and to limit numbers of members of Executive Committees to attend meetings – something that has proved difficult in the past – that the office of secretary will no longer be required and that the duties of the secretary will in future be fulfilled by executive directors in the various networks.*

Decision: The above suggestions are accepted. As such a chairperson will be elected from one of the anchor institutions and an executive director from the other for the first three year term. The draft constitution will be amended to reflect the changes with regard to the office of secretary.

Delegates disperse to meet as individual Networks.

## 21. Report back and matters arising from individual Network meetings

*21.1 The following four NetACT networks are formed with their respective member institutions:*

Following discussions and negotiations the following networks were formed:

### **Stellenbosch University & Africa International University:**

1. Africa Bible College (Malawi)
2. Africa International University (Nairobi, Kenya)
3. Deaf Christian Ministry Africa (Worcester, SA)
4. Hugh Goldie Theological Institute (Arochukwu, Abia State, Nigeria)
5. Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangelica no Lubango (ISTEL, Angola)
6. JETS (Jos ECWA Theological Seminary), (Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria)
7. Josophat Mwale Theological Institution (Nkhoma, Malawi)
8. Murray Theological College (Zimbabwe)
9. Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary (Windhoek, Namibia)
10. Reformed Theological Seminary (Mkar, Benue State, Nigeria)
11. Scott Christian University (Nairobi, Kenya),



12. Seminario Emanuel do Dôndi (SED, Angola)
13. Stellenbosch University (South Africa)

**Executive:** Chair: Dr Rangaria Rutoro; Vice Chair: Dr Maggie Madimbo; Dr James Nkansah-Obrempong is elected as the new Executive Director of this network since we want someone from Kenya on the EC. Dr Len Hansen in his position as the Executive Director of NetACT Africa will form part of the EC

#### **Pretoria University & St Paul's University**

1. Bishop Harrington Institute for Theology (Anglican Church Kenya, Mombasa, Kenya)
2. Orthodox Theological Seminary (Nairobi, Kenya)
3. Pretoria University (SA)
4. Reformed Institute for Theological Training (Eldoret, Kenya)
5. St. Paul's University (Limuru, Kenya)
6. Zomba Theological College (provisionally) (Zomba, Malawi)

**Executive:** Chair: Dr Lydia Mwaniki; Vice-chair: Fr Evangelos Thiani, ED Dr Cas Wepener.

#### **Free State University & International Leadership University**

1. Faculty of Theology of the University of Livingstonia, Malawi
2. Free State University (Bloemfontein, SA)
3. International Leadership University (Nairobi, Kenya)
4. Justo Mwale Theological University College (Lusaka, Zambia)
5. Morija Theological Seminary (Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa)
6. Nile Theological College (South Sudan)
7. Religious Institute- Ethiopian Full Gospel Believers' Church (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)

**Executive:** Chair: Prof Liz Mburu, Vice-chair: Dr Edwin Zulu, ED: Prof Kobus Schoeman.

#### **North West University & Daystar University**

1. Baptist Seminary (Luanda, Angola)
2. Daystar University (Nairobi, Kenya)
3. HEFSIBA (Mozambique)
4. Instituto Bíblico de Kaluquembe – Missão Urgente; Angola
5. International Leadership University (Burundi)
6. North West University (SA)
7. Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Zomba, Malawi)
8. UMCA Theological College (United Missionary Church of Africa, Ilorin, Nigeria)

**Executive:** Chair: Dr Washington Chege; Vice Chair: Dr Peter Awojobi, ED Dr Hannes Knoetze.

#### **Membership applications:**

The following institutions expressed the wish to join NetACT but were not able to attend the AGM and thus have not yet been assigned to a particular network:

1. Presbyterian University of East Africa, Kikuyu, Nairobi, Kenya (Contact person: HEAD - School of Theology: dr Dorcas Chebet, [jumadorcas@hotmail.com](mailto:jumadorcas@hotmail.com) )
2. Kenya Baptist Theological College, Limuru, Kenya (Contact: Dr Jack Yates, [ndovu222@yahoo.com](mailto:ndovu222@yahoo.com) )
3. Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya (Contact person Dr John Bwire, [john\\_bwire@yahoo.com](mailto:john_bwire@yahoo.com) )
4. Moffat Bible College, Kijabe, Kenya. (Contact person: Rev. Tom J. Obengo, Vice Principal for Academic Affairs [academics@moffatbiblecollege.org](mailto:academics@moffatbiblecollege.org) )
5. Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN, a seminary of the Fellowship of Christian Churches in Northern Nigeria), C/o Dr Tersur Aben, [vnstaben@hotmail.com](mailto:vnstaben@hotmail.com); +2348023619412 , Box 64, Bukuru-Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.

### Associate members:

Associate Members (as defined in the NetACT Africa constitution) are linked either to an individual network or to NetACT Africa as a whole. However, the final decision regarding the latter will only be possible in light of the developments in NetACT Africa and the individual Networks. For the moment, the following institutions/associations regarded as Associate Members of the whole network:

<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>	
<b>ACTEA:</b> Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa	Dr Emmanuel Chemengich (Exec Direc); <a href="mailto:echemengich@gmail.com">echemengich@gmail.com</a> +254 (735) 960 101; Nairobi, Kenya
<b>Association for Ministry Training Practioners</b>	Dr Hannes van der Walt, <a href="mailto:Hannes.VanderWalt@up.ac.za">Hannes.VanderWalt@up.ac.za</a> , 0826432562, C/o Centre for Contextual Ministry, Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa, 0002
<b>Bible Media &amp; Nehemiah Bible Institute</b>	Dr Hennie van Deventer: <a href="http://www.bmedia.co.za/hennie@bmedia.co.za">http://www.bmedia.co.za/hennie@bmedia.co.za</a> Tel: +27 21 864 8225 Cell: 072 433 0085; <a href="mailto:nbi@bmedia.co.za">nbi@bmedia.co.za</a> Tel +27 21 864 8258. Bible Media Box 5, & Nehemiah Bible Institute Box 841, Wellington, 7654. <a href="http://www.nehemiah.co.za">www.nehemiah.co.za</a>
<b>Biblica</b>	Mr Koos Fouché, Regional Director Southern Africa Biblica, South Africa. (+27) 835974514. <a href="http://www.Biblica.com">www.Biblica.com</a> (formerly the International Bible Society) <a href="mailto:Koos.Fouche@biblica.com">Koos.Fouche@biblica.com</a>
<b>Christian Reformed World Missions</b>	Dr Mwaya wa Kitavi <a href="mailto:mkitavi@crcna.org">mkitavi@crcna.org</a> Tel: 616 224 0706 Christian Reformed World Missions, P.O. Box 65928-00607, Kamiti-Nairobi. Dr Gary Bekker, <a href="mailto:gbekker@crcna.org">gbekker@crcna.org</a> Tel: 616 224 0706 <a href="http://www.crcna.org/pages/index.cfm">http://www.crcna.org/pages/index.cfm</a> <a href="http://www.crcna.org/pages/crwm.cfm">http://www.crcna.org/pages/crwm.cfm</a>
<b>Commission for Witness DRC in the</b>	Dr Johan Botha, <a href="mailto:jbotha@kaapkerk.co.za">jbotha@kaapkerk.co.za</a> Tel: +27 21 957 7207, Cell: 083 284 6701. Alternative: Dr Kobus Odendaal,

<b>Western Cape</b>	<a href="mailto:missio@kaapkerk.co.za">missio@kaapkerk.co.za</a> ,Tel: +27 21 957 7204 cell +27-82-732-4752. Kerksentrum, Privaatsak X8, Bellville 7535, South Africa. <a href="http://www.ngkerk.org.za/wesensuidkaap/">http://www.ngkerk.org.za/wesensuidkaap/</a>
<b>Ecumenical Foundation of Southern Africa (EFSA)</b>	Dr Renier Koegelenberg; <a href="mailto:renier@cddc.co.za">renier@cddc.co.za</a> ; Tel.: +27 (0)21 880-1734; Cell.: +27 (0)83 625-1047. <b>Postal address:</b> P.O. Box 3103, Matieland, Stellenbosch, 7602, South Africa. <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:efsa@cddc.co.za">efsa@cddc.co.za</a> ; <b>Websites:</b> <a href="http://www.efsa-institute.org.za">http://www.efsa-institute.org.za</a> ;
<b>Evangelical Church Winning All</b>	Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, C/o Dr Nathan Chiroma, <a href="mailto:nhchiroma@sun.ac.za">nhchiroma@sun.ac.za</a> or General Secretary ECWA: <a href="mailto:samwajek@gmail.com">samwajek@gmail.com</a> 0764278241; Faculty of Theology, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND, 7602..
<b>Gereformeerde Zendings Bond</b>	Arie van der Poel, ( <b>Reformed Mission League</b> ), <a href="mailto:arievanderpoel@gzb.nl">arievanderpoel@gzb.nl</a> 0343 - 512 444; Or: <a href="mailto:avdpoel@gzb.nl">avdpoel@gzb.nl</a> = office 0343 - 521 392(f), Box 28, Driebergen 3970, Nederland Website <a href="http://www.gzb.org">www.gzb.org</a>
<b>Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA)</b>	Doug Tilton, <a href="mailto:Tilton@igc.org">Tilton@igc.org</a> Cell: 082 079 0520, PO Box 291883, Melville 2109, South Africa. <a href="http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/africa.htm">www.pcusa.org/http://www.pcusa.org/worldwide/africa.htm</a>
<b>World Council of Churches (EHAIA)</b>	Rev Dr Nyambura Njoroge. <a href="mailto:nn@wcc-coe.org">nn@wcc-coe.org</a> 150 route de Ferney, PO Box 2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland. Phone +41 22 791 6111 Fax +41 22 791 0361. <a href="http://www.oikomene.org">www.oikomene.org</a> (Direct phone to NN 6340). EHAIA: Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy
<b>World Communion of Reformed Churches</b>	Dr Douwe Visser. Executive Secretary for Theology, Mission and Communion, World Communion of Reformed Churches  New address: <a href="mailto:douwe.visser@wrcr.eu">douwe.visser@wrcr.eu</a> ; +41 227916240; cell +31 6 12 58 39 87; Knochenhauerstr. 42, 30159 Hannover, Germany.

### 21.3 Matters arising from individual Network meetings:

The following concerns and suggestions are made in light of discussions made during the meeting of the individual networks.

- a) Uncertainty with regard to the position of NetACT Africa vis-à-vis the individual networks needs to be made clearer. Especially with regard to the legal status of individual Networks as this has implications for a) their use of the NetACT brand in fundraising and b) their financial administration and the financial responsibilities of the individual networks alongside that of NetACT Africa.
- b) More clarity is requested regarding the assets of NetACT Africa, for example, Weidenhof House. It is explained that Weidenhof House is not the property of NetACT Africa, nor of NetACT Stellenbosch-AIU. The property belongs to Stellenbosch University but is run on a day-to-day basis by Stellenbosch-AIU with the assistance of a house administrator. NetACT Stellenbosch-AIU does however receive a small remuneration for its administration of the house. NetACT Africa as such does not own any property or any other moveable assets. The offices it occupies are offered free of charge by Stellenbosch University, as is the use of the latter's financial infrastructure. No membership fees are payable by member Networks to NetACT

- Africa, but it has the right and responsibility to procure its own funding – for example with regard to its responsibility of financing the annual NetACT Africa AGM. The NetACT Africa Executive Director is also a staff member of the Stellenbosch University Faculty of Theology and his/her NetACT duties forms part of the rest of his duties in the Faculty. The Faculty is therefore also responsible for the payment of his/her salary. Should funding be available and should the need arise to appoint additional office staff for the NetACT Africa office, the Board of Governors may appoint such a person or persons and NetACT Africa will be responsible for the salary of such person/persons. No individual Network will share the latter responsibility.
- c) With regard to the financial administration of the individual networks: it is of some concern that these duties will be difficult to perform within some networks. The current NetACT Stellenbosch-AIU system need not be followed by other networks. It is difficult of not impossible for Kenyan institutions. The Networks will have to be registered at the Kenyan government and such registration is currently exceeding difficult, especially in the case of associations with religious objectives/with a religious foundation.
  - d) Another suggestion with regard to financial administration is that Networks may co-opt the services of an affiliate to assist with these tasks, for example by using existing structures and expertise in affiliates to this purpose.
  - e) A final suggestion is that the financial administration with regard to membership fees be centralized and be administered in collaboration with the individual Networks by the NetACT Africa central office at Stellenbosch University.
  - f) It became clear that the above issues also pertain to the draft constitution and that more discussions are needed in order to finalise the NetACT Africa constitution.
  - g) It is suggested that the need for individual constitutions for the different NetACT networks are indeed needed or even preferable. The concern with the principles of collegiality and independence of individual networks are noted, but it may be preferable to rather have one constitution that governs all Networks together. Matters pertaining to individual networks may then rather be stipulated in sets of rules and regulations applicable to individual networks which may be amended by them as the need arises. In this case the need for a unified mission, objectives and values for all Networks will be served as well as the need for rules regarding the joint, central administration of NetACT Africa. On the other hand it will serve the principal of independence as individual Networks will have the opportunity to formulate their own rules and regulations with regard to issues that concern their individual Network.
  - h) It is suggested that for the interim, before the NetACT Constitution is finalized with a view to its acceptance in Nairobi 2016, that individual Networks draw up letters of intent or a memorandum of understanding applicable to that Network for the time being.
  - i) In light of the difficulties delegates from a variety of countries experienced in obtaining visas, it is suggested that NetACT Africa puts these challenges on its agenda and may work toward preventing a similar situation in future. For this reason it is suggested that careful consideration be given to hosting future AGM's in countries where visa regulations prevent unnecessary challenges to delegates and to give at least 6 months of notice to delegate of upcoming meetings where they will be expected to be present.

*The assembly takes the following decisions regarding the above:*

- |   |
|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) That the different executive committees of the individual Networks, in collaboration with the Executive Committee of NetACT Africa, revisit the proposed draft</li> </ol> |
|---|

constitution of the latter in order to make recommendations toward amending it. The reworked constitution will be tabled for discussion and acceptance at the Nairobi 2016 meeting.

- b) The discussions mentioned in (a) above will include serious consideration on whether a single constitution may not be preferable to 4 individual constitutions in addition to the constitution of NetACT Africa.
- c) The discussions will also include the consideration of and suggestions toward what needs to be addressed in the NetACT Africa constitution, what matters may be addressed within a set of rules and regulations, and what the relationship between the latter and the constitution may be.
- d) The discussions will also look into the issue of the organisation of the financial administration of the individual Networks and the issue of 2015 membership fees and their administration until the finalisation of the NetACT constitution and rules and regulations.
- e) Networks are requested to look into the possibility of formulating letters of intent / memoranda of understanding in the interim, that is, until July 2016, and whether they would like to do so within their own Networks.
- f) The NetACT Africa Executive Committee investigates the best way of dealing with the recent challenge of obtaining visas by delegates of member institutions.

The Chairperson concludes the meeting with prayer. She thanks all delegates for their presence and their valuable contributions. Dr Kobus Odendaal is thanked for coordinating the photo session earlier in the day as partial record to this historic meeting. The staff of Kopanong Conference Centre and Ms Lenor Eybers, Lekgothla Africa Events & Conferences are thanked for the professional manner in which the delegates were treated and the way in which the conference was handled.

#### **FRIDAY 31 JANUARY 2015**

Departure of delegates.

## **4 Draft NetACT Africa Constitution**

The following draft constitution, as amended at the meeting, will serve the Networks in the interim period and will be finalised at the July 2016 meeting. This will also be the constitution from which the NetACT Board of Governors will make suggestions as to further amendments to be tabled in Nairobi in 2016.



### **Article 1: IDENTITY & DEFINITION**

NetACT is the *Network for African Congregational Theology*, a network of individual theological networks operating on a post-secondary level that had their origin in the Presbyterian and Reformed tradition in Sub-Saharan Africa. NetACT *Africa* refers to the overarching network to which all individual networks belong.

*Congregational Theology* is theology as practiced in the Christian Congregation as the Body of Christ, discerning the will of God in the process of interpreting the Scriptures specifically in the sub-Saharan contexts of the constituent members of the networks, empowering the congregations to remain true to the *missio Dei* by utilising and improving their strengths and to address challenges that face the continent..

## **Article 2: MISSION**

NetACT Africa aims at assisting the partner institutions in developing congregational theology and leadership. It seeks to achieve this aim through:

- i) Contextual relevant training of congregational leadership;
- ii) Upgrading of academic standards and institutional capacity-building;
- iii) Developing research programmes at the participating institutions;
- iv) Developing continuous education programmes;
- v) Lecturer-exchange between its participating institutions;
- vi) Conferences and publications in the field of theology in Africa;
- vii) Addressing specific challenges in African contexts, especially by providing the theological, moral and spiritual undergirding to curb this pandemic.

## **Article 3: VALUES**

- 3.1 NetACT Africa accepts as foundation of its values and activities the revelation of God as proclaimed in the Old and New Testament.
- 3.2 NetACT Africa believes that Christian congregations are instruments of God's mission in this world, a royal priesthood, called to be a sign and foretaste of the Kingdom of God by:
  - i) Demonstrating our unity and *koinonia* in Christ;
  - ii) Declaring the praises of Him who called us out of the darkness into his wonderful light and proclaiming this good news to all;
  - iii) Practising and promoting love and forgiveness, justice and peace; serving the needs of the world by reaching out to all who suffer in any way;
  - iv) Upholding the sanctity of all human life and respecting the integrity of creation;
  - v) Urging those in authority to use the power given to them to the honour and glory of God and to the benefit of those entrusted to their care;
  - vi) Interceding for all mankind and the whole of creation.
- 3.3 While acknowledging that our cultural, racial and ethnic differences have created much division and suffering, NetACT Africa believes that God has united us in Christ, the head of the church, Christ's Body; NetACT Africa believes that the Holy

Spirit has transformed our diversity from a cause of division and suffering to a source of creativity and one of our richest resources.

- 3.4 NetACT Africa respects the autonomy of all participating institutions and individual constituting NetACT networks, acknowledges the contributions of each and cherishes mutual respect, understanding, assistance, humility and openness in the interaction between its participating institutions.
- 3.5 In view of the prevalence of African challenges as manifested in dimensions of individual and community life, NetACT Africa commits itself to prioritise the identification and development of new or existing strengths, efforts and programmes aimed at addressing such challenges and their effects, to promote such strengths and efforts and to promote such programmes within the mandate of the NetACT Africa mission.
- 3.6 NetACT Africa seeks co-operation with organisations, agencies and institutions which are active in similar fields of research and programme-development.
- 3.7 NetACT Africa is committed to utilise all resources entrusted to it in a transparent and accountable way in full agreement with its aims and mission.

#### **Article 4: ORGANISATION & MEMBERSHIP**

##### **4.1 MEMBERSHIP**

###### **4.1.1 Members**

NetACT Africa consists of member NetACT networks that subscribe to Articles 1-3 of this constitution in their own, individual network constitutions.

###### **4.1.2 Associate members**

Individuals or institutions working in close cooperation with NetACT Africa and supporting its Mission and Values (Articles 2 and 3) may be granted the status of associate members subject to the decision of the NetACT Africa Board of Governors.

###### **4.1.3 Observers**

Individuals or institutions of other Christian traditions who are interested in working with NetACT Africa may be granted the status of observer at the discretion of the Board of Governors.

##### **4.2 Termination of Membership**

A network ceases to be a member of NetACT Africa when:

- 4.2.1 The network requests to terminate its membership;
- 4.2.2 The network no longer subscribes to the identity, mission and values of NetACT Africa; the network fails to attend the meeting of the Board of Governors for two consecutive meetings without supplying legitimate reasons for such failure to attend
- 4.2.3. In the case of the termination of membership, a NetACT African member institution forfeits the right to use the name NetACT in any new network it may wish to establish.

##### **4.3 GOVERNANCE**

#### 4.3.1 NetACT Africa BOARD OF GOVERNORS

##### 4.3.1.1 NetACT Africa-Africa shall be governed by a Board of Governors, composed of

###### A. *Members appointed by individual NetACT networks:*

- i) Each NetACT network will appoint one member (primus) as its delegate in the Board of Governors of NetACT Africa with full voting rights. Except when explicitly decided otherwise by the network, this member will be the chair of the network.
- ii) Each NetACT network will appoint one member (second) representing the member (primus) in the Board of Governors of NetACT Africa in case of his/her absence and exercise his/her duties with full voting rights.
- iii) The Executive Director of each network as well as the Executive Director of Africa (if he/she is not the representative in a different capacity of one of the networks).
- iv) The WCRC will be a voting member of the NetACT Board of Governors and will be represented by both the Secretary of Theology and the African Representative of the WCRC or either of the two latter should one not be able to attend.
- v) A chairperson of the NetACT Africa Board of Governors will be elected by the Board. The Executive Director of NetACT Africa may not serve as chairperson of NetACT Africa as well.

###### B. *Co-opted members:*

- i) The Board of Governors may co-opt three members to the Board of Governors with full voting rights.
- ii) A co-opted member will not be represented in case of his/her absence in any meeting of the Board of Governors.
- iii) Co-opted members should include a representative of the donor community.

###### C. *Associate members and observers*

Associate members and observers do not have the right to vote.

##### 4.3.1.2 Election of members, terms of office, vacancies and election/appointment procedures

- i) The term of members of the Board of Governors is a period of three years or until such time that they cease to represent the appointing or electing network, notification of which will be given by the respective appointing or electing body.
- ii) Members may be re-elected and re-appointed after a period of three years by their respective appointing or electing networks.
- iii) The chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary of the NetACT Africa Board of Governors will be elected for a period of three years.
- ii) A chairperson, vice-chairperson and secretary of the NetACT Africa Board of Governors may be re-elected once only in the same position.
- vi) Should a position in the Board of Governors fall vacant, the respective appointing or electing network is entitled to appoint or elect a new member in the vacant position.

##### 4.3.1.2 Meetings of the Board Governors

- i) The Board of Governors of NetACT Africa shall meet at least once every three years at a time and place determined the NetACT Africa Board of Governors' Executive Committee upon consultation with all members of the Board.



- ii) Notification of the meeting of the Board of Governors, accompanied by a tentative agenda, will be sent six months before the date of the anticipated meeting.
- iii) The members of the Board of Governors are entitled to amend the tentative agenda up to two months before the anticipated meeting.
- iv) The final agenda of the meeting will be sent two weeks before the date of the anticipated meeting.
- v) A quorum of any meeting of the Board of Governors of NetACT Africa shall be constituted by the presence of more than half of the representatives of the member-networks.
- vi) Decisions will be taken by a simple majority of votes. In cases of an even number of votes, the chairman will have a deciding vote.

#### 4.3.1.3 Functions of the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors shall:

- i) Elect from its midst a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.
- ii) Appoint a NetACT Africa Executive Director after consultation with the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch; the NetACT Africa Executive Director may not simultaneously serve as chairperson, vice-chairperson or secretary;
- iii) Ratify the appointment of Program managers of NetACT Africa;
- iii) Amend or change the Constitution of NetACT Africa should the need arise and in accordance with Article 5 of this constitution;
- iv) Set and revise policy and objectives for NetACT Africa in compliance with the mission and norms and values of the NetACT Africa constitution and in compliance to Article 5 of this constitution;
- v) Approve the annual report of the chairperson;
- vi) Approve the annual financial reports;
- vii) Approve the budget for the next period;
- Viii) Lay down by-laws, policies and procedures for the effective functioning of NetACT Africa in compliance with the mission and values of the NetACT Africa constitution.

#### 4.3.2 NetACT Africa EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

##### 4.3.2.3 Composition

The NetACT Africa Executive Committee shall consist of: the chairperson of the NetACT Africa Board of Governors and the Executive Directors of the individual NetACT networks.

##### 4.3.2.4 Time and place of meeting

The NetACT Africa Executive Director should call a meeting (telephone or Skype) of the Executive Committee at least once per year.

##### 4.3.2.5 Functions

The NetACT Africa Executive Committee shall:

- i) Supervise the implementation of the policy and programmes as determined by the NetACT Africa Board of Governors;

- ii) Execute duties assigned by the NetACT Africa Board of Governors;
- iii) Appoint such personnel as is necessary for the effective operation of NetACT Africa, its bureau and programmes;
- iv) Receive the reports of the NetACT Africa Executive Director, Program managers and the Executive Directors of the NetACT Africa networks;
- v) Prepare annual reports for the NetACT Africa Board of Governors, donors, supporting and participating institutions;
- vi) Prepare the budget for the next period;
- v) Facilitate arrangements toward any NetACT Africa meetings.

#### 4.3.3 OFFICIALS AND STAFF-MEMBERS

##### 4.3.3.1 General Guidelines

Proper job descriptions shall guide the work of all elected, appointed and employed officials and staff-members.

##### 4.3.3.2 The NetACT Africa Executive Director

- i) Shall co-ordinate all functions of NetACT Africa;
- ii) Shall be the liaison officer between NetACT Africa, donors and member institutions;
- iii) Shall be responsible for marketing, fundraising, administration and communication;
- iv) Shall be responsible for the facilitating of funding and administration of agreed programmes,
- v) Shall be responsible for the effective functioning of the NetACT Africa office.
- vi) The NetACT Africa Executive Director may be appointed in a full-time or a part-time capacity.
- vi) The NetACT Africa Executive Director may be appointed from among the Board of Governors and in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch.
- vii) The appointment of a NetACT Africa Executive Director shall be with agreement of the employing institution, Stellenbosch University.
- viii) The NetACT Africa Executive Director shall be responsible to the NetACT Africa Board of Governors.

##### 4.3.3.3 Program Managers

- i) NetACT Africa shall appoint Program Managers responsible for the effective implementing of agreed programmes should the need arise.
- ii) Program Managers shall be responsible to the NetACT Africa Executive Director and the NetACT Africa Board of Governors.

##### 4.3.3.4 Office Personnel

Office personnel may be appointed on a full-time or part-time basis at an agreed remuneration or in voluntary capacity to assist the NetACT Africa Executive Director in his/her duties.

#### 4.4 NetACT Africa OFFICE

The NetACT Africa office is situated in the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University and as such the NetACT Africa Executive Director needs to reside in or near Stellenbosch and shall be appointed in collaboration with the Faculty of Theology.

#### 4.5 FINANCIAL RECORDS & REPORTS

4.5.1 The Board of Governors will be responsible to oversee the proper keeping of financial records.

4.5.2 An annual financial report will be submitted to the Board via the Executive Director.

### **Article 5: AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

5.1 A properly motivated proposal for an amendment or alteration to the NetACT Africa Constitution shall be presented by a member network to the Board of Governors via the Board's its secretary.

5.2 Articles 1, 2 and 3 of this Constitution will not be altered or amended unless supported by representatives of at least 75 % of the member networks as represented on the Board of Governors upon consultation with the executive committees of the member networks.

An amendment or alteration of any Article of this Constitution, other than the Articles 1, 2 and 3, done by way of a simple majority of votes member networks.

*On the final day of the NetACT AGM the following decisions were minuted that concerns the process of finalizing the constitution of NetACT Africa: The assembly takes the following decisions regarding the above:*

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) That the different executive committees of the individual Networks, in collaboration with the Executive Committee of NetACT Africa, revisit the proposed draft constitution of the latter in order to make recommendations toward amending it. The reworked constitution will be tabled for discussion and acceptance at the Nairobi 2016 meeting.</li> <li>b) The discussions mentioned in (a) above will include serious consideration on whether a single constitution may not be preferable to 4 individual constitutions in addition to the constitution of NetACT Africa.</li> <li>c) The discussions will also include the consideration of and suggestions toward what needs to be addressed in the NetACT Africa constitution, what matters may be addressed within a set of rules and regulations, and what the relationship between the latter and the constitution may be.</li> <li>d) The discussions will also look into the issue of the organisation of the financial administration of the individual Networks and the issue of 2015 membership fees and their administration until the finalisation of the NetACT constitution and rules and regulations.</li> <li>e) Networks are requested to look into the possibility of formulating letters of intent / memoranda of understanding in the interim, that is, until July 2016, and whether they would like to do so within their own Networks.</li> <li>f) The NetACT Africa Executive Committee investigates the best way of dealing with the recent challenge of obtaining visas by delegates of member institutions.</li> </ul> |
|---|

## 5 Living with Dignity

The following excerpt from the first pages of the book serves as a summary of the project:

### LIVING WITH DIGNITY African perspectives on gender equality

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## 6 Evaluation

The group was asked to rate the organization, venue, papers and meeting on a 1-5 scale and to make comments. 35 evaluations were received. The comments are summarized (+ indicates repetitions).

### 1 Organization: 4.5 out of 5.

- NetACT office communicated & coordinated excellently+2

### 2 Venue (accommodation, facilities, meals): 4.5 out of 5.

- Very expensive venue +1
- Appreciation for free Wi-Fi in conference centre, wish it was available in rooms +1
- Mosquitoes in rooms +2
- Everybody should have separate rooms

### 3 Papers: 4.3 out of 5

- Papers varied
- Too broad & not specific enough +1; It should be more practical / applicable
- Papers positively mentioned: Nadine, Stephen, Lisa
- Some papers were rather technical and discussion got stuck on one theme
- With one exception all the Power Point presentations put too much info on slides
- One page summaries of papers should be presented to group; another one requested hard copies at presentation; the promise to provide all the papers on the internet was made & should be kept.

### 4 Program and meeting: 4.2 out of 5.

- Excellent time management +1
- Public address system would have improved communication if used from the beginning (noise from adjacent meeting-rooms was disturbing)
- More time to introducing schools & personal+2; have holy communion together; have more group discussions; have a cultural evening of sharing; give more time for sharing “stories of hope” or pain (+1); We had enough time in evenings to process information and communicate + 1; “evenings should be better structured;” would like to take a nap in afternoon
- Provide access to buying air time units and first aid service
- Make provision for sight-seeing and relaxation; have a free day for fun activities +1
- There was a need for the four networks to have more time to deliberate; a number of issues concerning how the relationships are going to work are not clear yet
- The visa issue needs high level engagement and the AU should be approached in this regard
- The attitude of goodwill & hospitality amongst members & commitment to the dream was remarkable; Great achievement with “Living with Dignity” and great promise for the future +2; Call to pray for the networks.

## 7 Financial Report of the 2015 AGM

### NetAct 2015 AGM

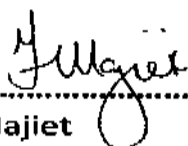
#### Income and expense report

Period 1 Jan 2014 - 20 February 2015

R

<b>Income</b>	<b>200 917.19</b>
Ecumenical Fellowship SA	100 000.00
Christian Reformed World Mission	54 114.04
Prespeterian Church	11 087.78
Hartgerink	34 694.87
Interest income	1 020.50
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>230 379.70</b>
Conference expenses	166 692.63
Travel and accomodation - speakers	41 961.72
Travel NetAct office	1 065.03
Admin fee - NetACT office	19 989.27
	-
SU indirect cost	671.05
<b>Profit/Loss for period</b>	<b>-29 462.51</b>
Opening balance 1 Jan 2014	16 030.93
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b><u>-13 431.58</u></b>

The shortfall of R13 431.58 will be paid by WCRC



.....  
 F Majiet  
 Director: Financial Services  
 Stellenbosch University

.....  
 23 / 02 / 2015  
 Date

## 8 Urgent: Where to find what you need

- 7.1 A number of our institutions faced major challenges in obtaining visas to visit South Africa. This also had serious financial implications for institutions and for NetACT Africa. Our next meeting will thus be in a **more visa-friendly country, Kenya.**

- 7.2 Please take note of the **NetACT website**. <http://www.sun.ac.za/netact/> This report and documents referred to it will be accessible via the website. If there is information concerning NetACT activities that you wish to add to the website, please send it to the office for posting on the web.
- 7.3 **Membership fees.** At this stage the only network that will raise membership fees for 2015 will be Stellenbosch-AIU. It will be the same as in 2014. This will be done from the office with a letter to their member institutions. Once the other networks are on their way and can budget, they can take their own decisions in this regard.
- 7.4 **Conference papers:** the six conference papers will be posted on the website for downloading as they are received from the presenters. Please notify the office should you experience any difficulties in accessing the papers as they will then be sent via e-mail.
- 7.5 **Hard copies of *Living with Dignity*** may be ordered it from the publisher. Please find the latter's contact details in section 4 (above).
- 7.6 **E-copies of *Living with Dignity*:** You will be able to download it from our website as a pdf file. *These electronic copies will be free of charge and will apply for downloads from Africa only.* This is the benefit of a network! A printed book sells for US \$25 – excluding postage!
- 7.7 **Network development:** The NetACT office will assist the new networks with whatever needs they may have. As soon as the post-2015-AGM administration has been seen to, a NetACT-Africa Executive meeting will be convened and developments will be reported on. The EC will then guide us on the way forward. The individual networks may continue to invite new members to their networks within the parameters of our constitution. Please do not hesitate to ask assistance in inviting possible new members from the central office if needed.
- 7.8 **2016 AGM Community Development Papers.** The process in preparation for the 2016 conference is as follows:
- A Our presenters have gracefully agreed to assist in compiling a **reader** that will contain a number of articles and/or book chapters that are crucial to in introducing the field of Theology and Community Development. The reader will be available via the NetACT Africa website once completed.
- B **A short questionnaire** is in the process of being compiled. This will be sent to all NetACT Africa institutions. It will form a crucial part of our research project as we need to know whether or how many of our institutions include elements of Theology and Community Development in their curricula and what form these elements take – from degrees to short courses, to modules, etc. Secondly we would like to know, from the perspective of our different partner institutions and their specific contexts, what they see as the most important challenges regarding Theology and Community Development on their part of the continent. This will inform the decision with regard to possible themes for a call for papers for our next (2016) conference. We would like your response during April or May this year.
- C Based on the result of the questionnaire, a **call for papers** will be issued that will deal with the issues identified in the questionnaire. We hope to receive papers on a variety of issues and from the perspective of a variety of theological disciplines (OT, NT, Church History, Systematic Theology, etc). As such, not being a specialist in the field of Theology and Development in the strict sense should not prevent anyone to make a



valuable contribution to the project. Responses to the call for papers need to have reached the central office by June or July, 2015.

## 9 The next NetACT Africa AGM: Nairobi July 2016

The conference decided that the next meeting will be held in Kenya in or near Nairobi. It will probably be at the Athi River Campus of Daystar University. Daystar graciously offered their facilities for this purpose.

The date was set for July 2016. Please send us comments on the possibility of the week of 11-6 July 2016.

The NetACT-Africa office will again organise the meeting, which include raising funds to cover the venue expenses. Members will however again have to fund their transport to and from Kenya.

## 10 NetACT Africa on a Thursday

This is who we were and what we looked like on Thursday Jan 30, 2015



**Back row:** Kobus Odendaal, Kruger du Preez, Hannes van der Walt, Gerhard Botha, Nico Mostert, Alphons Baya, Naas Swart, Kobus Schoeman, Hannes Knoetze, Doug Tilton, Gideon van der Watt, Avelino Rafael, Santino Othol.

**Middle row:** Nathan Chiroma, Adelaide Manuel, Jan Oberolzer, Mumo Kisau, Elna Mouton, Olo Ndukwe, Berdian Beukes, Peter Awojobi, Joster Jumbe, Bosela Eale, Evangelos Thiani, Sarel van der Merwe, Kuzipa Nalwamba.

**Front row:** Majoki Kometsi, Cas Wepener, Washington Chege, Len Hansen, Jurgens Hendriks, Maggie Madimbo, Cephass Tushima, David Mphande, Tesfaye Edema, Matius Likhoozi, Webster Vhembe, N Banda, Kiauzowa António.