NetACT AGM minutes held from 3-7 July 2017
Scott Christian University, Machakos, Kenya

1. CONSTITUTION OF MEETING AND MEMBERS PRESENT:

- NetACT chairperson, Dr Maggie Madimbo opens the meeting with a short devotion and welcomes all delegates.
- Rev. Nico Mostert, reads messages of goodwill by the Secretary of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa, Dr Gustav Claassen and by the outgoing President of the WCRC, Professor Jerry Pillay. Both express their regret for not being able to attend the meeting as they are attending the WCRC General Assembly in Leipzig, Germany at the time.
- The delegates are welcomed by Prof Mumo wa Kisau, head of Scott Christian University.
- Delegates introduce themselves. See Adendum One for the complete list of attendees. A record number of 61 delegates (including associate member representatives, librarians and invited speakers participating in the Theology and Development Research Project) are present. Special mention is made of Rev Lukas Kaluwapa Katenda, from NETS and Fr. Evangelos Thiani from the Orthodox Patriarchal Seminary who are unable to attend because of health issues, Dr Taryn Gaunt who had to cancel her attendance of the Theology and Development Workshop due to the recent death of her brother and Dr David Ngaruiya who lost his stepmother and can therefore not be present during the whole of the AGM/Workshop week.
- The minutes of the 2016 AGM held at St Paul's University, Limuru, Kenya have been approved by the Executive after that meeting and have been circulated prior to the 2017 AGM. The minutes are accepted by the meeting as a true reflection of issues and decisions taken at the 2016 AGM.

The following logistical and organisational matters are addressed with regard to the 2017 AGM:

- **THE PROGRAM (or agenda)** of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING July 2017 contains the Annual Report that will be tabled at the 2017 meeting. It also reflects the programme regarding presentations by Associate Members and two workshops: the Theology and Development Workshop as well and the Multi-School Library Resource Program. This document headed: "NetACT Annual Report July 2017" contains the report for the period July 2016 to June 2017. The NetACT Office prepared the report with the cooperation of the NetACT Executive Committee. It will be discussed according to the guidelines in the agenda.
- The meeting will run according to the procedures contained in the Constitution (http://netact.christians.co.za/constitution/. Paragraphs 4.2.1.2 and 3 apply).
- The current composition of the NetACT Executive remains the same for July 2017 to July 2018 (three year term, Constitution 4.2.1.2), but the composition of the clusters and the representatives in the clusters have changed and new leaderships need to be elected for the clusters (Constitution 4.2.2.3 "and two representatives of each NetACT clusters not otherwise represented on the Committee" serve in the NetACT EC). The NetACT Executive met three times since the 2016 AGM. Their decisions of their meetings are incorporated in the Annual Report.
- As a Christian organization we deem it very important to get to know one another and the institutions we represent. Delegates are requested to use meal times to get to know one

another. Devotion in the mornings in the form of "Dwelling in the Word" in smaller groups aims at further doing this as well as to discern God's way forward.

- Since we embarked on a research project on Theology and Development (T&D) we have a flash disk containing a Theology and Development Reader with material that will help presenters with the preparation of their papers. Delegates who have not yet received these resources are invited to obtain them during the course of the week from the Programme Coordinator. For the purposes of the meeting and minutes the terms Theology and Development and "Community Development" (CD) are used interchangeably.
- The NetACT Office will keep an attendance register that will minute attendance at the meeting.
- Voting rights: All NetACT Board Members have voting rights – one vote per member institution. Associate Members do not have voting rights, but are part of board meetings and are invited to participate in discussions. New members have voting rights once the Board accepted their membership applications.

A: MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2 THE JOURNEY SINCE July 2016

2.1 Kenya as an AGM venue

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

In November 2016 the Executive Director (ED) and Programme Coordinator (PC) visited Kenya on behalf of the Network for ACTEA's 50th anniversary celebrations. See the full report at Addendum II in the 2017 Annual Report. An official "Certificate of Appreciation" was awarded to NetACT by ACTEA during the event. It signifies NetACT's own prominence among theological organisations in Africa. The second objective of the visit was to meet with Kenyan library representatives. The meeting was held at St Paul's University and played a constructive role in shaping the NetACT Internet Portal (NIP) agenda for the current meeting. The ED and PC subsequently visit RITT, at Eldoret, a founding member of NetACT as well as a new NetACT member, the Bishop Hannington Institute in Mombasa. Both visits were wonderful opportunities to get to know the institutions, their staff and challenges.

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

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

2.2 Theology and Development questionnaire, call for papers and reader

The 2015 Report/Minutes lists eight steps to guide the NetACT office on its way forward. Point 8.8 in particular required a lot of time and energy since it dealt with compiling a questionnaire and reports on T&D activities at our member institutions. It took some follow-up to get the reports in,

but thank you to those who did supply the needed information. Based on the replies, we consulted with two experts in the field, Dr Nadine Bowers du Toit and Prof Naas Swart and subsequently sent out a Call for Papers for the 2016 and 2017 meetings. Our consultants and the office embarked on obtaining permission from publishers and journals to compile a reader of the relevant literature suggested by Prof Swart to serve as a resource for those presenting papers and for those who will be attending the workshop. This was a major undertaking, but now forms the backbone in terms of scholarly resources for our workshop and future workshops in this research project.

An overview of the progress with the project is given by Dr Hansen and three members of the editorial board of the planned textbook that will be published at the end of the project, Professors Naas Swart, Nadine Bowers Du Toit and Dr Zablon Bundi. Next year's AGM will coincide with the final workshop on the current research theme. After this, the textbook will be compiled from papers delivered over the past three years.

Decision: The meeting expresses its gratitude for the ongoing work on the research project and looks forward to the publication that will result from it, which will be a valuable resource for members and other African institutions of theological education.

2.3   Relations and communication with the WCRC

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

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

During the week of the AGM, the Executive received a very encouraging message from Dr Gerber who was present at the General Assembly of the WARC at the time, informing them that the whole issue of the work of NetACT and its relationship was tabled at the Assembly as well as at the African division of the WARC and its Financial Committee. The preliminary reaction to NetACT's objectives, projects and other activities has been very positive.

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

3   NETACT OFFICE REPORT

3.1   Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Decision: The NetACT Board accepts the 2016 Financial Statements.

3.2   Annual Membership fees and new members

The membership fee structure approved by the Board in 2016 (Minutes: 4.6) stipulates:
> All members (of all clusters) to pay membership fees according to the formula below. The number of students studying at a partner institution is calculated according to full-time Certificate, Diploma and Bachelors students studying theology at the institution:
>
> *a.   Institutions with more than 100 students: R4,800 per year (about 325USD in June 2016):*
> *b.   Institutions with between 50 and 100 students: R2,400 per year (160USD):*
> *c.   Institutions with less than 50 students: R1,440 per year (100USD):*

Clusters are to advise the NetACT Office of institutions that are not able to pay membership fees, in which case such fees may be waived for a specific period.

The Office reports on the state of the membership fee payments to the meeting. Eleven Institutions paid their membership fees at the meeting. The Executive Committee will receive a full report on the state of the 2016-2017 membership fees at its first meeting after the AGM.

Decision: NetACT continue the membership fee system. It is decided that the USD amounts be followed due to unpredictable fluctuations in the exchange rates of the dollar to various African currencies.

Members have been requested by the NetACT office, with the approval of the NetACT Executive to allow members to pay outstanding **2016-2017 membership fees** at the AGM (because of difficulties in transferring money to the office in SA). The meeting decides that this will be possible in future at all AGMs due to the reasons given above. The office reports on the state of membership fee payments to the Board.

The Board approves the following new memberships:

St. John's College, Wau, South Sudan (member of Free State-ALU Cluster)

Chancellor College, Zomba, Malawi (member of St. Paul's-UP Cluster)

Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (member of Stellenbosch-AIU Cluster)

The Board approves the membership of Huguenot College, Wellington, South Africa (member of the Stellenbosch-AIU Cluster). The DCMA has recently been incorporated into this college and as such it remains a NetACT member but under the auspices of Huguenot College.

The Board approves the application of Tearfund as new associate member of NetACT.

In terms of the membership rules contained in the NetACT Constitution, the Board approves the termination of the membership of the following two institutions: Zomba Theological College (Malawi) and the Eskhol Theological College, Zomba, Malawi.

In view of appeals by their clusters, the AGM decides to retain the membership of Morija Theological School (Lesotho) and the Full Gospel Theological College (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). The absence from the past two AGMs of these two members are explained as resulting from changes in leadership, financial constraints or serious problems in communication.

3.3   NetACT Office: Staffing

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

Prof Hendriks was appointed as NetACT Program Coordinator for 2015 onward in order to run the day-to-day office responsibilities and to ensure continuity. He is paid R10 000 per month. This is not a market-related salary for the amount of work that a Program Coordinator of this kind does, and NetACT remains grateful to him for serving in what cannot be anything else than a calling of love. Stellenbosch University upgraded the interior of the NetACT office to include three working stations and the necessary technological appliances for the effective operation of the office.

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

- That the NetACT Executive starts a process of investigating the feasibility and affordability of a full-time secretary/programme coordinator for NetACT;
- That an appointment be made for a five year period;
- That this official will be based at the Stellenbosch office using its administrative system;
- That a job description be compiled in which the responsibilities of the ED and the new official is outlined;
- That the financial implications be taken in consideration and the money needed for the appointment be raised.

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

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

Decision: The NetACT Board thanks the Office for the work done in this regard. It accepts the reasoning for the process followed, namely that due to Prof Hendriks' health and the urgency of the matter an alternative process had to be followed in order to present a suitable candidate for the position to potential donors before approval could be sought from the Board at the AGM. As a consequence the Board retrospectively approves the candidature of Rev. Mostert. However, this remains an ad hoc and highly extraordinary procedure and NetACT remains committed to following a more detailed and consultative process including all NetACT members with regard to all future appointments. The Office is required to a) draw up a detailed job description for the new post b) ensure that the position is a contract position for 5 years c) ensure that a process of performance review is in place before the position is filled. All of these matters need to be approved by the NetACT Executive who has been granted completion authority with regard to this appointment.

3.4 NetACT house

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

NetACT transferred the property to the Stellenbosch University for maintenance and administrative purposes (but with the necessary stipulations regarding the exclusive use of property by NetACT). One of the students serves as the House Administrator, does the admin of the house and stays in the house free of charge. He/she also has a desk in the NetACT office. For information on the house visit http://netact.christians.co.za/accommodation/ and or see the video about the house at http://www. youtube.com/watch?v=OqYQ__yads8&feature=youtu.be.

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

Decision: Noted with gratitude by the Board.

3.5 Communication: The NetACT Internet Portal (NIP) and NetACT website

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

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

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

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

negotiation with a mission organization that may provide and fund a person to serve in this capacity. He will most probably work from Stellenbosch.

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

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

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

Decisions:

The NetACT Board initiated the NIP / MSLRP in 2016 (Minutes 4.9). The NetACT Office implemented the decision. After the Board meeting the Office will continue to implement the NIP / MSLRP. The Board approves the three-phased process and requests the Office to pursue the process accordingly.

Since the NIP / MSLRP will be of enormous financial and educational benefit to NetACT schools, we suggest that the Board stipulate that the training of librarians and access to the NIP will be available to all members whose membership fees are fully paid. However, as in the case of

membership fees where a member may appeal for a waiver of fees due to financial constraints, the same principle will be applied with regard to access to the NIP.

With regard to the NetACT Website, it has been updated and is something to be proud of. It can be found at http://netact.christians.co.za/. The site's news link is an especially important communication tool (http://netact.christians.co.za/news/). It serves to communicate important happenings in and around the office. Members are invited to submit campus news for inclusion on the site. EC members should set an example. Send institutional news accompanied by a photograph if possible!

Decision: The Board takes note of the new website and congratulate the office with it. A special word of gratitude goes to the Dutch Reformed Church family in the Western Cape for creating and maintaining the website – in particular Dr Odendaal's wife, Mariëtte, who serves as webmistress.

3.6   Lecturer Exchange

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

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

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

> *"In terms of the lecturer exchange agreement the parties agree that:*
> *1. The hosting institution must provide a course description, timetable and class list accompanied by a clear outline of what is expected from the visiting lecturer.*
> *2. Before the commencement of the visit, the visiting lecturer must give the host institution an outline of his/her program. Students at the host institution must also receive this outline beforehand. The outline must include a timetable (class dates and periods), prescribed material, assignments and the assessment procedure.*
> *3. An objective evaluation of the program should take place at the end of the course.*
> *4. This evaluation should be shared with the students, host institution and visiting lecturer. The results of the evaluation must be forwarded to the NetACT office if NetACT had any role in the networking and funding of the lecturer exchange."*

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

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

Decisions: With regard to the establishment and maintenance of a staff database of NetACT institutions, it no longer seems feasible as it simply requires too much time from the Office. The high turnover of staff at some member institutions also exacerbates the problem. Institutions may still submit CVs for staff members to be kept centrally on file at the Office, but this is no longer required. Institutions or persons in need of lecturer exchange or candidates to act as external examiners may contact the NetACT office and will be assisted to find suitable candidates in this regard.

3.7   Scholarships

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

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

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

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

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

Stellenbosch University have over the past three years offered scholarships for Masters' studies in Gender. Health and Theology. A call will be sent out again this year. For enquiries interested students may contact Dr Selina Palm at Stellenbosch: spalm@sun.ac.za.

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

Oxford Center for Religion and Public Life

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

> **Decisions:** The Board requests the Office to investigate the possibility of securing scholarships for NetACT institution staff and students on an ongoing basis. It furthermore requests the Office and Executive to investigate the possibility of establishing a scholarship scheme for the funding of sabbatical leave research between NetACT institutions on the continent and further abroad. In this regard it is suggested that contact also be made with the Association of South East Asian Graduate Schools of Theology as possible locations for sabbatical research.

3.8   Publications

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

Publications

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

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

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

Living with Dignity: African perspectives on gender equality was the result of planning that began in 2011 The goal was to produce a textbook on gender for use in our seminaries and churches. NetACT members wrote this book. To our delight it won one of the most prestigious prizes for theological literature in South Africa. We received the following message by email end of March 2016:

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

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

Decision: Noted with appreciation

3.9   Curriculum & ACTEA

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

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

Curriculum Development research and workshops

NetACT commissioned Rev Kruger du Preez to do research on accreditation and curriculum development within the NetACT institutions. Rev Du Preez received his PhD degree in March 2013. The title of his dissertation was: *Curriculum Development in Theological Institutions of the*

Reformed tradition in Sub-Saharan Africa. The 377 page document can be downloaded free of charge from http://scholar.sun.ac.za/handle/10019.1/80047.

ACTEA

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

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

Decision: Noted.

3.10 Reports on meetings and visits by the NetACT Office

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

B. **GENERAL SECRETARIES OF THE DRC FAMILY OF CHURCHES**: Fourteen delegates of thirteen churches formed a forum. They met in Lusaka, July 2015, and in August 2016 in Malawi. All these churches are indirectly connected to NetACT and as such NetACT was invited and represented by the PC. The DRC sponsored attendance and one of the results of the meeting was that the DRC in SA subsequently requested associate membership of NetACT. Since the two bodies share several goals, NetACT may contribute to this forum. The NetACT Office will be present at the July 2017 meeting in SA where they have to lead a discussion on leadership.

C. **MEETING WITH IERA IN WINDHOEK**. The Kinkuni seminary project of IERA is a long-term project, reported on at previous AGMs. The project continues and Prof Hendriks serves on the committee formed to rebuild the seminary at Kinkuni (it was twice destroyed during the Angolan Civil War). Expenses of these meeting, usually in Windhoek, are paid for by Kinkuni funding.

D. **ACRP**: NetACT has been involved with the establishment of the Association for Christian Religious Practitioners in South Africa since 2014. The ED represented the Network at the workshops towards the registration of this body (aimed at the accreditation of ministry training practitioners in South Africa that do training on a pre-tertiary level). The ACRP has since joined NetACT as an associate member.

E. **ACTEA**: The Office visited Kenya in Nov 2016 for the 40th celebration of ACTEA's birthday. Addendum II is the report of the visit.

F. **NIGERIA**: The 2016 Annual Report shared about a 2015 and 2016 visit to Nigeria and about several projects that was a result of those visits (like the MSLRP). Another topic that

came up was the need for the development of the discipline of Public Theology in addressing major challenges facing the country and our continent. The office facilitated a meeting between four Nigerian NetACT members during the Oct 2016 meeting of the Global Network for Public Theology in Stellenbosch. At this meeting a specific Public Theology workshop was planned to take place in Nigeria in May 2017. It was presented as the bi-annual TEA-West Africa (Theological Training in Africa) meeting in Jos / Bukuru at TCNN with our Vice Chairperson, Dr Tersur Aben, presiding. Drr. Hansen and Hendriks presented papers at this meeting. Addendum VI is the report of this meeting.

G. **VISITORS TO THE NETACT OFFICE**: We receive many local and international visitors at the NetACT office over the past year. One exceptional fruitful visit was when, in December 2016, Hannah Swithinbank, Theological Development Manager and Interim Theology and Network Engagement Team Manager of Tearfund visited the office. This led to Dr Sas Conradie's presence at this meeting and Tearfund applying for associate membership of NetACT.

Decision: Noted

4   CLUSTER MEETINGS, VOTING, NEW MEMBERS AND EVALUATION

- Evaluate the meeting. (Attached, Addendum Two).

5   ANNUAL MEETINGS

5.1   Previous venues

- 2000 Karen, Nairobi, Kenya.
- 2001 Lusaka, Zambia
- 2002 Lilongwe, Malawi
- 2003 Stellenbosch, SA
- 2004 Zomba, Malawi
- 2005 Hefsiba, Mozambique
- 2006 Windhoek, Namibia
- 2007 Lusaka, Zambia

- 2009 Stellenbosch (150th anniversary)
- 2011 Lilongwe, Malawi
- 2012 Brackenhurst, Kenya.
- 2013 DCMA, Worcester, SA,
- 2015 Johannesburg, SA
- 2016 St Paul's University, Kenya
- 2017 Scott Christian University, Machakos, Kenya.

5.2   2018 Annual Meeting

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

Decision: NetACT office is requested to organize the 2018 AGM meeting, raise the necessary funding for it and to coordinate it with the Africa-wide Conference on Theology and Development in Stellenbosch in July 2018.

6   CLOSING

The chairperson thanks the staff of Scott University for their hospitality, the NetACT office for organizing the meeting and all delegates for their attendance before closing the meeting with prayer.

PS The "minutes" of the meeting slots where the librarians met separately, has been compiled as a report and added as **Addendum Three**

Addendum One
Attendance NetACT Annual General Meeting
Scott Christian University, Machakos, Kenya
3-6 July 2017

NetACT Executive
1. Dr. (Mrs) Maggie Madimbo   ABC, Malawi.
2. Prof Tersur Aben   TCNN, Nigeria
3. Dr Len Hansen   ED, NetACT, SA
4. Prof Jurgens Hendriks   PC, NetACT, SA
5. Rev Rowland van Es   SPU. Kenya
6. Dr. Washington Kamau   Daystar, Kenya
7. Prof Hannes Knoetze   NWU, SA

Board members not listed above
1. Africa International University (AIU), Prof. Dr. James Nkansah-Obrempong
2. Bishop Hannington Institute, Mombasa, Rev Alphonce Baya
3. Chancellor College, Malawi. Contact person: Dr Joseph Thipa
4. ECWA Theological Seminary Kagoro (ETS Kagoro), Dr Sunday B Agang
5. Evangelical Graduate School of Theology, Ethiopia, Dr Theodros Teklu
6. Free State University (FSU), Dr. Khamadi Joseph Pali.
7. HEFSIBA Mozambique, Rev Samuel Matunda
8. Instituto Bíblico de Kaluquembe Evangelist António Bongue Kamwenho
9. Instituto Bíblico de Kaluquembe –Pastor Dinis Eurico.
10. International Leadership University (ILU), Prof Dr David Ngaruiya.
11. ITIERA, Angola. Pastor Campos Afonso
12. Josophat Mwale Theological Institution : Rev Matalius W.A. Likhoozi
13. Justo Mwale University (JMU), Dr Lukas Soko
14. Moffat Bible College, Mr. Michael Masso
15. Moffat Bible College, Dr Tom Joel Obengo
16. Murray Theological College, Rev Webster Vhembo.
17. Nile Theological College, Rev. John Tong Puk
18. Pretoria University, Dr Zoro Dube
19. Reformed Institute for Theological Training (RITT), Dr Hezron Komen
20. Scott Christian University: Prof Mumo wa Kisau
21. Stellenbosch University (SU), Prof. Nadine Bowers
22. University of Livingstonia, Dr. David Mphande

Librarian group

1.	ABC Malawi Monica Chimsinde
2.	AIU Dr. Ephraim Mudave
3.	Bishop Harrington Inst, Mombasa,: Hope Kapumo
4.	Daystar Ephrine Ubaga
5.	Daystar: Samuel Kung'u
6.	ILU Mr. Charles Nandain
7.	JETS (Nigeria) Mr Donald Garvie
8.	Mr Fraser Jackson, Scotland / Nigeria
9.	NWU Hester Lombard
10.	SPU Dr Peter Gichiri

11.	SPU Irene Muthoni Kibandi
12.	SU Mrs Heila Mare
13.	SU Miss Magriet de Villiers
14.	UFS Senovia Welman
15.	UP Leti Kleyn
16.	UP Christine Nel
17.	SCU Mary Maina

Paper presenters:

1.	Barnabè Msabah, Kenya
2.	Beukes, Jacques, Hugenot College, SA
3.	Anthony Muga: Care of Creation
4.	Marie-Louise Frost, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
5.	SAS Conradie, Tearfund
6.	Moses Deng Bol, South Sudan
7.	Zablon Bundi, SPU
8.	Rev. Jane Violet Kariuki, SPU
9.	Prof Ignatius Swart, University of the Western Cape, SA

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	
1.	**ACTEA** Dr Shelley Chapman
2.	**Biblica** Dr Amon Kasambala
3.	**Com for Witness DRC family,** Llewellyn MacMaster
4.	**Dutch Reformed Church in SA:** Rev Nico Mostert
5.	**Geref Zendings Bond,** Rev Willem-Henri Den Hartog
6.	**NET foundation** Dr Raymond Warnaar

61 people listed; 15 are women.

Addendum Two

EVALUATION: NetACT Annual General Meeting 3-6 July 2017
Scott Christian University, Machakos, Kenya

We received thirty-seven forms from 50 people present on Thursday 6 July 2017

[Rate the organization, venue, papers and meeting on a 1-5 scale. Make comments if you want to!]

1 **Organization (everything that was done / communicated before the meeting)**

Average 4.86. Only positive remarks about continuous updates regarding travel arrangements, accommodation and important events (specifically noted 5 times)

2 **Venue (accommodation, facilities, meals)**

Average: 2.67. Basic pattern: meals very good but accommodation and facilities were criticized especially lack of hot water, no water, problems with toilets and cleanliness. Only five respondents had no comments here.

3 **Papers & paper discussions (if you are from the library group, just put n.a.)**

Fourteen librarians did not answer the question because they met in the library during the Theology and Development paper slots.

Average: 3.83. Papers need to be more contextual/ empirical 2; give guidelines how to present:1; papers mostly from SA 1; would like copies of papers to take home 1; some papers were not up to standard 5; Papers should be peer-reviewed before delivering 1;

4 **Library group and their input**

Because of question 3 requesting a n.a. marking from librarians, 7 people assumed they should not comment on the library group … even though the library group regularly reported on their progress to the whole gathering.

Average: 4.52. One respondent remarked: the librarians were "really nice people." The other remarks were excitement about the possibilities of the project.

5 **Program and meeting**

Average: 4.32. Too packed, 2; well managed / organized, 6; enough time to get to know one another 1; stimulating and flexible program 1;

Suggestions: 22 evaluations forms had no suggestions while 15 had suggestions.

- Thank you to the organizers and SCU, 5;
- South Africans were proportionally over-represented 1;
- The recreational outing should be better organized, 1;
- Better accommodation & bedding, 6;
- Single rooms 2; Ask people beforehand if they are willing to share a room (or not) 1;
- Give information about towels, visas, money exchange, weather and plugs earlier;
- Local management and availability of staff was not good, 1;
- The distance between venue and accommodation was too far, 1.

Compiled by J Hendriks; 8 July 2017.

Addendum Three

Report on NetACT AGM and Library Portal Workshop
at Scott Christian University, Machakos, Kenya, 3rd-7th July 2017

Background
NetACT (the network for African congregational theology, website: http://netact.christians.co.za) is a partnership of 38 African theological colleges, seminaries, and theology faculties at universities, formed to provide support and encouragement to the members in their academic administration and practice and in their missional vocation. These institutions are formed into 4 clusters, each of which is anchored by a major South African university (Stellenbosch, Pretoria, Free State, and North West) and a major Kenyan university (African International University, Daystar, St Paul's, and International Leadership University). The theological institutions are based in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Angola, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burundi and Uganda (14 countries in total). The two main programs are currently community development (what impact can an institution and its courses have on the surrounding community?) and libraries, with the development of the NetACT Internet Portal (NIP). The portal will be a central space where users from all 40 partners can access digital library resources, and also various learning and teaching guides on topics such as study skills (for students) or how to develop a syllabus (for staff).

Attendees
Running in parallel with the AGM, the NIP Workshop comprised 16 specialized librarians (or IT trained members), as follows:

Monica Chimsinde, Africa Bible College, Malawi
Dr Ephraim Mudave, Africa International University, Kenya
Hope Kapumo, Bishop Harrington Institute, Kenya
Ephrine Ubaga & Samuel Kung'u, Daystar University, Kenya
Donald Garvie, Jos ECWA Theological Seminary
Fraser Jackson, Mission Africa
Hester Lombard, North West University (Potchefstroom campus)
Mary Maina, Scott Christian University, Kenya
Dr Peter Gichiri & Irene Muthoni Kibandi, St Pauls University, Kenya
Heila Maré & Magriet de Villiers, Stellenbosch University
Senovia Welman, University of the Free State
Dr. Leti Kleyn & Christine Nel, University of Pretoria

(The state of libraries within NetACT can be gauged from the fact that most of the specialized African attendees were from South Africa or Kenya.)

Purpose
NetACT have a vision for an internet portal where all members of all partner institutions will be able to access all available online resources to assist them in their studies, their academic careers, and their on-going ministries.
The meeting had two main tasks:
  i.   Brainstorm ideas about what should be included in such a portal
  ii.   Present proposals to the AGM for the way forward over the next year

Portal Elements
The portal will be split into a library resources section, and a learning and teaching section. The library section will have links to open (free) resources, and also links to password-protected resources, which either belong to NetACT or where access is being paid for by NetACT.
The library resources will cover:
- Electronic books, electronic journals, audio-visual material;
- Links to other theological websites (either to individual resources or to lists of resources);
- Links to downloadable software;
- Lists of core texts and reading lists from around the network so that partners can compare their practice with others;

- A complete list of African theological publishers;
- Links to institutional repositories[1] of full-text dissertations and theses (from within and without the network);
- A combined catalogue of all the partner libraries, so that users can search each other's libraries;
- There will be sections to highlight African journals, particularly those published by the partner institutions;
- Some of the major South African universities involved in the project are keen to help with converting print journals published by NetACT institutions into electronic form as well as institutional repositories of member schools who do not have the knowhow or equipment to do so (free of charge).

Some thought is being given to making some of these resources downloadable so that they can be held offline by partners for times when internet connections become unreliable.

Learning and teaching resources will include:
- Links to information literacy tools;
- Help-guides for students in all forms of study skills (critical reading, essay preparation, etc.);
- Links to syllabus creation and curriculum development for staff;
- Links to thesis writing guides for students and thesis supervision guides for staff;
- An explanation of concepts such as peer-reviewed journals;
- Helps with alternative analysis strategies such as spidergrams and mind-mapping, and anti-plagiarism resources such as referencing software and plagiarism checkers;
- One strategy we are considering is to use the portal to fill gaps in the information literacy provision in the partners, by making students undergo an information literacy course and pass a test before they can access the rest of the site.

NetACT would also like to source funds so that the portal would provide users with a workspace where they can do their written assignments, using legal software such as MS Office paid for by NetACT and saving their work on the NetACT platform where it will be securely backed up. All staff and students of NetACT partners will be eligible to use the portal, as will external research fellows and active alumni. Different levels of users will have access to different areas, and in general, users will only have areas to resources that their institutions do not already subscribe to (this will primarily the four South African universities.)

The portal will be multi-lingual – users will be able to choose from Afrikaans, English, French, or Portuguese. It will be intuitive to use, with various e-library concepts included, such as a capacity to search across all the different resource formats from a single search box. The aim is to have trained library staff taking it in turns to respond to help requests in real time, possibly with a chat facility. There will also be discussion areas for the library staff who are steering the project, and for users. In the future, we hope to expand to include a Virtual Learning Environment where users can take courses online with video lectures and remote upload of assignments.

Next Steps

The next step in the process (as agreed to by the NetACT AGM) is the creation of a feedback questionnaire to be circulated to all NetACT partners. This is the first stage in an iterative process of gaining sufficient information about the partner libraries to identify precisely the resources that the portal should include. The initial questionnaire should elicit enough information to allow three processes to take place:

i. Create an "invitation to tender" document which will be circulated to South African web-developers, one of whom will be chosen to do the technical build of the portal
ii. Identify potential "champions" for the portal (ideally one from each partner institution) who will receive the initial training when the portal is built

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[1] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Institutional_repository : An institutional repository is an archive for collecting, preserving, and disseminating digital copies of the intellectual output of an institution, particularly a research institution; Deposit of material in an institutional repository is sometimes mandated by that institution.

iii. Paint a picture of the current state of partner libraries which NetACT can use to show potential donors what a key element in library provision the portal will be.

The questionnaire was drafted during the workshop and finalised soon after it. The target timetable is to circulate it to all partners by the end of July, and receive the completed questionnaires by the end of August. Next July has been identified as a realistic date to have the portal ready for training. (The build process will of course include a "beta-testing" phase where the portal will be made available to certain competent users to try it out.) The first phase of training will bring together the afore-mentioned "champions" at the University of Pretoria, as the most convenient location. This first phase will also include more detailed feedback sessions, where the partner staff will be interviewed to get a fuller picture of their individual circumstances, so that the resources available, and the matching of particular resources to particular cohorts of users, can be fine-tuned.

Once the "champions" have been trained, they will return to their institutions to train other staff, some of whom will only need to know how to use particular areas of the portal. From there, training will be cascaded to all end-users.

Staffing

NetACT has chosen Mr Fraser Jackson as the person they want to run the portal. They have identified that he has the necessary blend of library skills (particularly cataloguing and systems librarianship), electronic resources management, IT skills, and experience of theological librarianship in an under-developed African context. Further, he has a range of contacts built up from his time in Scotland whom he can draw on for advice. For this to work, he needs to be based in South Africa. Explanation of the concept to the web-developers will require his presence in the meetings, and the build process will be iterative, with constant come-and-go between him and the developers as the technicalities and the "look and feel" are developed. He will play a key part in the training, especially the first phase in Pretoria, but also in at least some of the local training sessions. He will also have a day-to-day role in building some of the library elements such as a combined catalogue.

Fraser is currently employed by Mission Africa, based in Belfast, UK (www.missionafrica.org.uk/.). We requested Mission Africa to continue to support Fraser, and recognise that sending him to be based in South Africa as a missionary is the way forward.

NetACT Office; C/o Prof H Jurgens Hendriks

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