

EKKLESIA

understand deeper – love more – serve better

**Ecumenical Centre for Leadership Development and
Congregational Studies**

Who is Ekklesia?

Searching for best practices, grounded in sound theology

Ekklesia is an ecumenical centre affiliated to the Faculty of Theology and focuses on the practical aspects of pastoral ministry, leadership development as well as being of service to the churches.

Ekklesia means ‘church’ or ‘congregation’ and consists of a network of 16 denominations. Together we strive to better serve congregations and communities in our quest to offer coordinated services.

What does Ekklesia offer?

Continued Theological Education and Vocational Formation

Ekklesia offers a variety of courses that focus on important theological themes, foster a better understanding of congregations, and form necessary ministerial skills. There are also courses on vocational formation and spirituality.

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Research on Congregations

Ekklesia engages in rigorous practical theological research to equip Christians and the Church to effectively engage in the work of renewal and transformation in society. The South African Partnership for Missional Churches, an Annual Research Conference, the Stellenbosch Winter School for congregational leaders and various tools, programmes and publications are produced as result.

MTh in Practical Theology and Post Graduate Diploma (With focus on spiritual formation and missional Leadership)

Ekklesia, in association with the Department of Practical Theology, offers an MTh-degree as well as a Post Graduate Diploma, with a strong focus on discerning leadership or missional spirituality in congregations. The facilitators in these courses are all leading academics and practitioners in their fields. In order to complete the MTh the students will need to complete 6 modules over two years as well as an extended research essay. Completion of the Post Graduate Diploma allows access to the MTh for persons who don't have sufficient previous theological training. Themes such as missional theology, leadership (in association with Stellenbosch Business School), Christian Spirituality and building Kingdom Communities are covered.

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'Word and Worship' project

A new and very exciting project is the publication of a joint English and Afrikaans Ecumenical sermon outline and liturgy based resource, 'Word and Worship', that focusses on the international RCL. This project aims to bring together ministers for dialogue and engagement for the purpose of sermon and liturgical preparation on a weekly basis. This resource is being used by most of the larger Churches in South Africa.

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Church Planting: fresh Expressions South Africa

Ekklesia hosts an innovative program on Church planting in partnership with the Fresh Expressions movement of the United Kingdom. The course consists of 24 modules that are presented part time over a period of 9 months. The purpose of the course is to equip and strengthen Church ministers and leaders to establish and develop creative and fresh expressions of being Church in the world – this includes training on church planting. Among the topics covered in the course are the following:

- the mission of God
- discipleship
- evangelism
- the development of communities of faith
- missional values
- missional small groups and

- missional leadership.

This course is offered in partnership with Ekklesia in a number of major cities across South Africa.

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Unit for Moral Leadership and Office for Moral Formation

The Unit for Moral Leadership is a joint venture of Ekklesia and the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology. The aim is to reflect on and help facilitate moral formation in congregations and the community. Special attention is paid to the role of leadership. Work is done in the following areas:

- **Violence and crime:** faith based and secular material for the rehabilitation of prisoners is available.
- **Education:** we present writing competitions for learners (on the topic of values and related issues), as well as character development programs for learners, teachers and parents.
- **Families:** we have materials (as well as DVD's) that offer guidance for young parents to help them establish values in their children's lives.
- **Farming communities:** please contact us to find out more about our program on holistic development for farm workers.
- **Local government:** we are available to facilitate discussions and processes that help with the implementation of suggestions for the transformation of municipalities with the aim of bringing about effective management, ethical leadership and the development of human capital.

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Book Centre

In collaboration with Communitas, the book centre offers a variety of scholarly and popular theological titles for purchase at competitive prices.

Participating Churches

- AME
- Anglican Church (ACSA)
- Methodist Church
- Moravian Church
- Dutch Reformed Church
- Rhenish Church
- United Presbyterian Church in SA
- Volkskerk in Africa
- Vineyard Church
- Great Commission
- Calvyn Protestant Church

- Apostolic Faith Mission
- Christian Reformed in SA
- United Congregational Church in SA
- Uniting Reformed Church
- Catholic Church

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