



FACULTY *of* THEOLOGY
sol iustitiae illustra nos

New era for
THEOLOGICAL TRAINING
of ministers in Stellenbosch



URCSA & DRC Seminarium
at the Faculty of Theology,
Stellenbosch University



The Faculty of Theology grew out of the Dutch Reformed Church Seminary and is currently one of ten faculties of Stellenbosch University.

Besides the DRC, the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, the Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa and the Anglican Church of Southern Africa are church partners of Stellenbosch University. The faculty offers under and postgraduate training for students of the partner churches and a wide variety of other denominations.

The diversity of denominations ensures that a variety of persons and ideas inform, enrich and deepen our search for knowledge, our conveyance of knowledge and our application of knowledge. This enables us to optimally fulfil our role as knowledge partner in academic, church and wider societal arenas – locally and globally.

The agreements with partner churches of the university make provision for churches to found houses of study at the faculty with a view to the ministerial formation of their students. This ministerial formation focuses on aspects like spiritual and moral formation, personal formation and the development of leadership and ministry skills. The DRC and URC founded a seminary at the beginning of this year. Ministry students of the DRC and URC will be licensed once they have successfully attained their theological degree at Stellenbosch University and successfully completed the DRC and URC Seminary's prescribed ministerial formation programme.

The founding of a seminary of the DRC and URC at the Faculty of Theology is an important development. It gives substance to the words of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu: I am a good ecumenical because I am a good Anglican. We want to extend our ecumenicity by strengthening that which is particular to each tradition: ecumenicity through particularity. We believe this positive development is beneficial for the cooperation of the faculty and churches to prepare prospective ministers for the wondrous vocation of ministering the gospel faithfully!

In verbondenheid.



Prof Nico Koopman
*Dean: Faculty of Theology,
Stellenbosch University*

The word *Seminarium* literally means “seed-bed”, a place where potential can germinate and develop. This is the precise purpose of the newly founded URCSA and DRC Seminarium in Stellenbosch: to be a bed where students can grow – spiritually, personally and in their ministry.

This exciting new initiative was launched this year. Students at the Faculty of Theology who plan to be licensed in the DRC and URCSA, also enrolled for the Ministerial Formation Programme at the Seminarium in February.

How does it work?

DRC and URCSA ministry students simultaneously follow the Faculty’s academic programme and the Seminarium’s Ministerial Formation Programme. Both must be completed successfully for students to be licensed.

The academic training takes place at the Faculty, mostly in classes, while the Seminarium training is mainly through supporting relationships:

- All students are divided into support groups that focus on spiritual formation under the guidance of older students. The groups meet weekly to practise spiritual disciplines.
- Each student is connected to a training congregation in the first year, where they receive a minimum of 100 hours per year practical exposure to congregational work.
- A minister mentor is assigned to each student, with whom he/she has regular guidance discussions about his/her formation progress.
- Seminarium staff and lecturers guide and support students regarding pastoral challenges.
- Every student has a support committee consisting of his/her mentor, their group leader and a staff member of the Seminarium.

The Seminarium negotiates with congregations and ministers to act as training congregations and mentors. These networks of relationships support students to successfully reach the milestones in the Ministerial Formation Programme.



Dr Frederick Marais
*Principal URCSA and DRC Seminarium,
Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University*

The founding of the URCSA and DRC Seminarium at the Faculty of Theology in Stellenbosch is the start of a new chapter in our churches' guidance of theological students. Ministry students will be accompanied in their personal development process to an extent that was not possible before.

In this brochure you will read witnesses of what the support groups meant to Seminarium students in the first semester of our existence! These small groups help students, who study the Bible theologically, to also read the Bible together, to distinguish the Lord's voice and grow in their own relationship with God.

The milestones students have to reach will help students to continuously integrate their theological knowledge, the demands of ministry and their own journey with the Lord. Meetings with mentors and practical ministry experience in training congregations will also contribute to this process. Only once a student has effectively completed all four milestones, may he or she apply to be licensed.

Share this good news with the young people in your congregation who hope to study theology. Please note the important dates with a view to studying theology in 2013 and remember that ministry students must register with the University and the Seminarium for this joint education.

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Dr Hannes Koornhof
Chairperson
Curatorium: DRC Western and
Southern Cape

The founding of a Seminarium for the URCSA and DRC at the Faculty of Theology of Stellenbosch University is a significant moment in the history of the URCSA and DRC. Theological formation within the two churches has entered a new phase in three ways:

- It strengthens the relationship between the two churches. It is remarkable that two churches can, after decades of alienation, found a Seminarium of Ministry Formation and in this way contribute to the church unification process. It is a wonderful witness.
- The relationship between the Seminarium and the Faculty of Theology confirms the relationship between church and faculty and further extends it. The theological formation offered by the Faculty and the ministry formation offered by the Seminarium are different but complementary. Ideally the two programmes should supplement one another, improving the quality of training and strengthening the relations between students, lecturers and Seminarium staff.
- It creates a new relationship between students and training congregations, where students will do 100 hours of congregational work per year. We hope this will also contribute to the equipment of quality ministers.

The Seminarium was founded through a process of negotiations and discussion, building relations and learning to understand one another's unique needs and traditions. We go forward in the strength of the Holy Spirit. We hope that, with the founding of the Seminarium, we will cultivate ministers who can satisfy the modern demands of the ministry.

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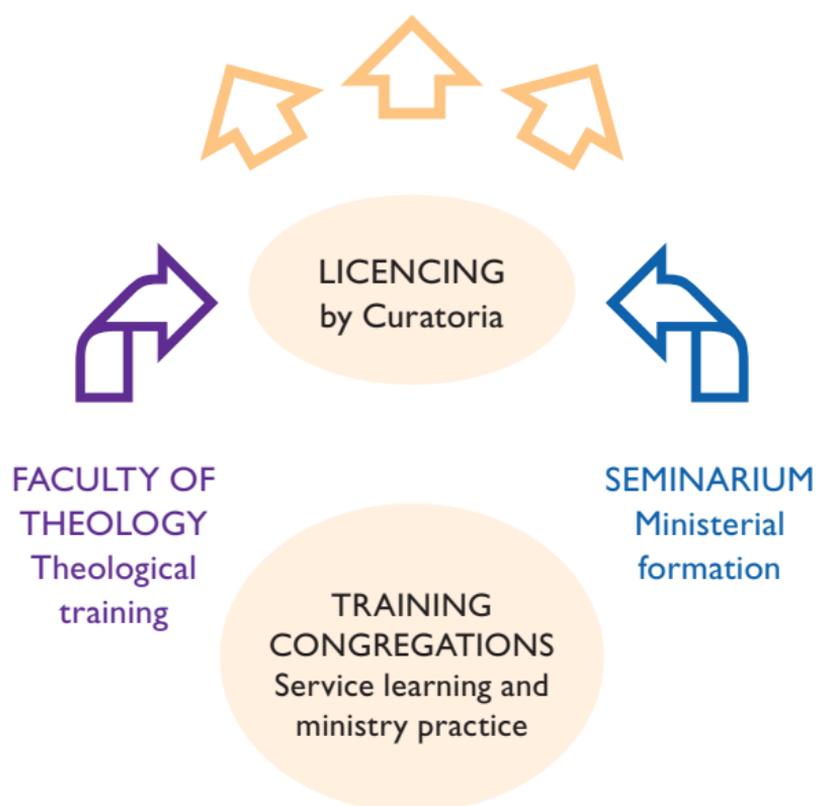


Dr Charles Flaendorp

Chairperson

Curatorium: URCSA Cape Regional Synod

Theological Training in Stellenbosch



Programme

The Seminarium programme is structured so that it takes place simultaneously and supplementary to academic studies at the Faculty of Theology. The practical experience in training congregations of the Seminarium and the Service Learning training at the Faculty of Theology are coordinated to optimise ministry formation and stimulate the integration of theory and practice.

Ministerial formation (Seminarium) focuses on spiritual leadership for congregational ministry, also in the context of training congregations.

Academic training (Faculty) is training in the various theological disciplines.

URCSA and DRC Seminarium Ministerial Formation Programme

The Ministerial Formation Programme focuses on the personal, spiritual and vocational development of students. On this formation journey, four milestones must be reached:

Milestone 1: Vocational development plan

Every student writes a Vocational development plan based on the processes of personal, faith and calling development in the first two years.

Milestone 2: Ministerial skills

Students practise core ministry skills in the congregations they are connected with, in order to master the skills. They are assessed at the *Communitas Accompaniment Centre* to determine their ministerial skills in order to develop their skills with the support of mentors. When a student's competency regarding core skills is satisfactory, the milestone has been successfully achieved.

Milestone 3: Credo

Students write a Credo expressing an own theological and faith language. The goal is to help students to convert their academic knowledge into operational faith language with which they can minister to people.

Milestone 4: New ministry development

In the final two years students have to independently develop a new ministry. They complete the full cycle of

- a community analysis,
- identifying a Kingdom opportunity,
- conceptualising a ministry,
- obtaining the approval of the church council,
- mobilisation of people for the ministry, and
- handing the ministry over to a new generation of leaders.

Students report to the church council of the training congregation, who then report to the Seminarium.



Faculty of Theology

The Faculty of Theology is a surprising place – an exciting, challenging environment where we never stop thinking and learning and wondering and discovering!

Here we are deeply rooted in our reformed tradition – the Faculty was founded more than 150 years ago as a DRC Seminary. Today we train ministers for four churches and have more than 500 students from a wide spectrum of denominations, countries, cultures, circumstances, perspectives. Here we are steadfastly committed to academic excellence, but also concentrate on practical equipment for service and leadership, with a community focussed emphasis on social questions like poverty and violence. Here our Afrikaans students can feel at home, yet we accommodate English speaking students just as well with our bilingual language policy, and we liaise on all levels in our country, our continent and the world. Here we produce theologians of international stature with exceptional achievements, yet continuously work to make the faculty more accessible to all, to embrace and guide our students as they find their feet on campus. We are committed to improving our students' academic, financial and emotional wellbeing, working with university support services, but also with our own tutors, year group mentors and counsellors.

As the smallest faculty on campus we are hospitable, energetic and creative, and we work hard to maintain our high standards and improve on them. For this reason a new curriculum has just been introduced, tailor-made to ensure that our students enjoy the theology adventure, while also effectively preparing them for the reality of the ministry and related careers.

www.sun.ac.za/theology/



Faculty of Theology Programmes

The **BTh programme** (Baccalaureus in Theology) is a new three-year programme that offers training for youth workers, service workers, counsellors and other community workers.

The four-year **BDiv programme** (Baccalaureus Divinitatis) focuses on training for church ministry (ministers).

The **Postgraduate Diploma in Theology** is a bridging programme for students from other disciplines or students with insufficient theological training to qualify for postgraduate programmes. PGDs can also focus on Chaplaincy and on Religion and Culture.

Church ministry candidates of the DRC and URC follow the BDiv with an **MDiv**, a one year full-time residential programme.

In the final year they do a **Postgraduate Diploma in Theology in Church Ministry**, which includes practical work and research in a congregation, assignments and classes.

Masters and doctoral degrees (MThs and PhDs) can be attained in all disciplines. There are also specialised programmes like the **MTh in Pastoral Care and Counselling**, the **MTh in Ministerial Praxis** and the **MPhil in Religion and Culture**.

Theological programmes focus on the practical theological training of ministers, Christian leaders, youth workers, service workers and pastoral caregivers in congregational contexts.

Undergraduate programmes include Biblical Studies, Contextual Hermeneutics, Systematic Theology, Ethics and Church History, Community Development and Pastorate. BTh students take subjects in their relevant disciplines like Youth Work. The DRC and URCSA require study of the two sources languages, Greek and Hebrew.

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“I discover more about other students. I have a completely different perspective of them.”

“At first it was difficult, but now my group is very supportive.”

“I was helped to get into a routine. I am more spiritual and I take responsibility for my own life.”

“I am discovering practical application in my own life. The manner in which I read the Bible has changed completely.”

“I connect well with the group. My mentor helped me with this.”

“I have learned to hear God’s voice.”

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Important dates 2013

Faculty of Theology

24 January	Welcoming programme for new first years begins
3 February	Faculty of Theology Opening service
4 February	Theological Day
5 February	Classes commence for theological students

URCSA and DRC Seminarium

29 January	Students meet Curatoria and Seminarium personnel
4 February	Closing date for enrolling at the Seminary
8 – 10 February	Retreat
12 April	Students and mentors meet
19 – 21 July	Retreat

Enquiries

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⁶ If you point these things out to the brothers and sisters, you will be a good minister of Christ Jesus, nourished on the truths of the faith and of the good teaching that you have followed. ⁷ Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. ⁸ For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

⁹ This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. ¹⁰ That is why we labour and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, and especially of those who believe.

¹¹ Command and teach these things. ¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

— 1 Timothy 4: 6-16



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