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FAKULTEIT TEOLOGIE
FACULTY of THEOLOGY
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WINTER SCHOOL

2-4 June 2015

Changing the world?

An invitation to faithful discipleship
and responsible citizenship



PROGRAMME

Tuesday 2 June

08:00 Registration

09:00 Welcoming

09:15 Opening worship: Rev. Ron Phillips

09:45 Keynote speaker: Dr. Barney Pityana

10:45 Tea

11:15 Morning parallel sessions (Day 1)

12:30 Lunch (delegates' own responsibility; cafeteria available)

14:00 Afternoon parallel sessions (tea/coffee will be served)

16:30 Spit-braai at the Faculty

Wednesday 3 June

09:00 Opening worship: Past. Xola Skosana

09:30 Keynote speaker: Prof. Amanda Gouws

10:30 Tea

11:00 Morning parallel sessions (Day 2)

12:30 Lunch (delegates' own responsibility; cafeteria available)

14:00 Afternoon parallel sessions (tea/coffee will be served)

16:00 Departure

Thursday 4 June

09:00 Opening worship: Rev. Yvette Moses

09:30 Morning parallel sessions (Day 3)

11:00 Tea

11:30 Keynote speaker: Dr. Coenie Burger

12:30 Evaluation and Closing

Church pastors, students, academics from schools of religion and the general public are invited to a Winter School entitled
Changing the world?

An invitation to faithful discipleship and responsible citizenship

Presented by the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with *Communitas*, the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology and Ekklesia from Tuesday 2 June to Thursday 4 June 2015 at the Faculty of Theology, 171 Dorp Street, Stellenbosch.

THEME

Changing the world?

An invitation to faithful discipleship and responsible citizenship

Many people ask the question: can we change the world? Most Christians will agree that only God can change the world. The question still remains: does this mean that we should sit back and evade our responsibility? We know that the Bible guides us to be faithful disciples of Jesus. We know that God's kingdom encompasses all of creation. Jesus Christ is Lord of every square inch of the universe. This means that discipleship has to do with all dimensions of life. Jesus came to the earth to make a difference in a real world. Discipleship therefore points towards responsible citizenship.

THE VISION OF THE WINTER SCHOOL IS

- Continuing theological education and formation of pastors and other spiritual leaders;
- Strengthening relationships between the Faculty and different churches, and
- Discussion of relevant theological, congregational and public issues.

KEYNOTE SESSIONS AND SPEAKERS

Day 1

The first day focus on our calling to be both faithful disciples of Jesus and responsible citizens. We live simultaneously in both the Christocracy (Christ governs) and a democracy (the people govern). As faithful disciples and responsible citizens we are called to witness within democracies about the transformative love of God for the world.

- *Prof. Barney Pityana (Former chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission; Former Rector and Vice-chancellor of UNISA; Former Rector of College of Transfiguration [Anglican Church of Southern Africa] in Grahamstown)*

Day 2

We live in a real world in a specific country. Can we rely on the state and politicians to govern this country? Every South African citizen has a responsibility. The second day focuses on the question: What are our responsibilities as church and as citizens?

- *Prof. Amanda Gouws (Professor in Political Science, SU, has published widely on issues in South African Politics and Gender Politics. In 2012 she received the award for Distinguished Women in Science from the Department of Science and Technology)*

Day 3

The last day focuses on the question of changing the world. Can the church play a role in this? How can we define this role?

- *Dr. Coenie Burger (Director of Ekklesia; Former Moderator of the DRC Synod)*
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PROGRAMME

The conference will consist of plenary and parallel sessions with ample time for discussion. The presentations will be primarily in English, but participants are welcome to make contributions in Afrikaans or Xhosa.

Participants will:

- choose one of the themes for the morning parallel sessions presented over three days;
- choose one of the Tuesday afternoon parallel sessions; and
- choose one of the Wednesday afternoon parallel sessions.

MORNING PARALLEL SESSIONS (P)

P1 Season of human dignity

By making use of three case studies the session illustrates the ways in which congregations manage to embrace human dignity in response to challenges. The focus is on the effect on the culture of congregations and on ministerial practice. A deaf minister and her hearing colleague share their experience of crossing boundaries between deaf and hearing in their congregation. Congregations' involvement with the work of Cease Fire illustrates the ways in which they support human dignity in a culture of gang violence. A congregation shares the challenges they face and the transformation they experience in their support and inclusion of people who live with HIV.

Presenters:

- Rev. Elsabe Döman (URCSA Die Strand)
- Rev. Jetro Cloete (URCSA Die Strand)
- Dr. Tiana Bosman (DRC Pinelands)
- Past. Craven Engel (Pinkster Protestantse Kerk, Hanover Park)
- Rev. Stephen Snyman (Calvyns Protestantse Kerk, Athlone)
- Dr. Spiwo Xapile (JL Zwane Centre in Gugulethu, Uniting Presbyterian Church in SA)

P2 Faithful discipleship and responsible citizenship in the Bible

In this session, members of the Department of Old and New Testament will explore the theme of Faithful Discipleship and Responsible Citizenship in the Old and

New Testament. On day one, they will propose that the narrowed down translation of ΠΙΣΤΙΣ as “belief” skews the interpretation of the Pauline letters. Instead it will be proposed that this word-group that primarily denotes loyalty and fidelity, including notions of trust, confidence and conviction frames the Jesus followers' relationship with God as well as the imperial context in significant ways. On day two, they will consider the following question: If faithful discipleship and responsible citizenship have anything to do with power relations in families today, is the Ephesians household code (with its patriarchal grain and complex history of interpretation) still of any use? And on the final day, they will ask what responsible citizenship means in a context of power struggles, of oppression, of new aspirations, and of new identity negotiation as witnessed in the books Ezra-Nehemiah and Chronicles.

Presenters:

- Prof. Jeremy Punt (Old and New Testament, SU)
- Prof. Elna Mouton (Old and New Testament, SU)
- Prof. Louis Jonker (Old and New Testament, SU)

P3 Challenging inequalities in South Africa

South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world with one of the highest gini coefficients (the measure most often used to measure income distribution). Must the church merely accept this fact or can we do something about this challenge? This theme will be discussed from three different perspectives:
(1) Theological and community developmental perspective;

- (2) Practitioner perspective;
- (3) Economical perspective.

Presenters:

- Dr. Nadine Bowers-Du Toit (Dept of Practical Theology and Missiology, SU; Director of Unit for Religion and Development Research)
- Mr. Craig Stewart (Director of The Warehouse, Cape Town, serving the church in its response to poverty)
- Prof. Stan du Plessis (Dean: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, SU)

P4 Responsible citizenship in a democratic South Africa

We live in a young democracy with specific problems and challenges. South African citizens can easily criticise what the politicians and business leaders are doing. The question is: What can the church do to help citizens taking responsibility in their own communities? Every citizen does not have power, but every citizen has influence. Three church leaders actively involved in the broader community will share their points of view.

Presenters:

- Dr. Braam Hanekom (Former Moderator of DRC Western and Southern Cape Synod; Pastor in Synodical Service for Public Witness)
- Dr. Donald Katts (Moderator of the Volkskerk/People's Church of Africa)
- Rev. Derrick Marco (Manager of Operations Western Cape, South African Electoral Commission; Ordained URCSA pastor)

P5 What kind of church do we need in 30 years time?

Some churches and congregations struggle to be relevant in an ever changing world. Three people from different backgrounds and church traditions will present their viewpoints on the question posed here:

- (1) From the perspective of a church leader within the Pentecostal tradition;
- (2) From the perspective of a person ministering through the internet and social media;
- (3) From the perspective of a young female pastor in a mainline church.

Presenters:

- Dr. Daniel Andrew (Pastor of Apostolic Faith Mission, part-time lecturer in Systematic Theology and Missiology)
- Rev. Gerjo Ben van der Merwe (Kruispad/Crossroad E-ministry)
- Rev. Londiwe Xulu (Pastor of Methodist Church Durbanville)

AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSIONS (PS) TUESDAY AFTERNOON 2 JUNE 2015 (PS)

(choose one session)

PS1 Human Dignity and poverty: Preaching in order to empower people in a context of poverty

Can the preaching that happens every Sunday in church, really help poor people? Can it enable them to look differently at themselves and their contexts, empowering them to become agents of change? This workshop will help you to look critically at the preaching of the church, in search of proclamation that gives hope, that addresses injustices in society and that brings the good news of the Gospel in contact with the real situation of people's lives.

Presenter:

- Dr. Shaun Burrows (Pastor of URCSA Franschhoek)

PS2 The Church as agent of child protection and development

Caring for children is a major part of the mandated theology of the Christian faith. Churches are well aware of the issues facing children, but are often ill-equipped to adequately address them, despite their best and often sacrificial efforts. The Children's Act is the legal framework for anyone involved in the care, development and protection of children. However the key to any law is its implementation. Often churches do not know what the law entails and fail to put even the bare minimum in place to ensure the adequate protection

of children. This workshop provides an overview of the Children's Act and other relevant legislation, as the different laws relate to church and community-based work.

The workshop will follow a week in the life of a church pastor, observing how his/her work intersects with children, the struggles he/she faces and the excitement and possibility he/she sees for promoting child protection and well-being through the work of his church. Relevant legal points will be highlighted along the way.

Presenter:

- Ms. Erica Greathead (The Warehouse, Cape Town, serving the church in its response to poverty, injustice and division)

PS3 Missional congregations

Faithful disciples will make a difference in the world. God calls congregations to be missional because in his very nature He is missional. This session will focus on the principles on which missional congregations are based. The session will include the stories of two congregations in different communities, inspiring participants to be more missional.

Presenters:

- Rev. Leon Klate (Pastor of Pniel Congregational Church)
- Rev. Tim Hawkrigde (Pastor of Somerset West United Church)

PS4 Transformative leadership in South Africa

The world has enough examples of leaders who merely focus on their own power

and enrichment. Leaders who are faithful disciples of Jesus Christ must be different. They must help to transform the church and society because they are transformed by the Holy Spirit. They lead because they want to serve the community as Jesus did.

Presenter:

- Rev. Esmé Bowers (Calvary Sanctuary, Full Gospel Church; Chair: Women's desk of the Evangelical Alliance of SA; Serves on mission commission of the World Evangelical Alliance; Serves on International Board of Lausanne Conference).

PS5 Stewardship, discipleship and responsible citizenship

We hear the cries today: "Show me the money!" "Pay back the money!" "It's all about the economy, stupid!" "Follow the money!" "Money talks!" These are not only the cries of our times but also the cries of the Hebrew prophets of old, the cries of Jesus and the Gospel writers. The Bible is first and foremost an economics text book and therein lies the healing and salvation of the world. This session will focus on the relationship between discipleship, stewardship and responsible citizenship.

Presenter:

- Rev. Alan Storey (Central Methodist Mission, Cape Town and activist)

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 3 JUNE 2015 (PS) (choose one session)

PS6 Transformed into Christlikeness - the liturgy as a primary means of discipleship

James K.A. Smith describes liturgy as a place where we receive a vision of God's Reign, nurture the desire to see God's Reign manifest among us, and learn the habits that enable us to live as true citizens of God's Reign. This means that worship is not just an expressive activity in which we proclaim our love and devotion to God. It is a transforming activity in which we become increasingly Christlike.

This session will explore how liturgy can function as a primary means of discipleship in our churches, and will provide practical guidelines for planning and facilitating disciple-making worship services.

Presenter:

- Rev. John van de Laar (Methodist minister; Founder of Sacredise, a publishing, resourcing and training ministry)

PS7 Discipleship in youth ministry

This session will pay attention to at least three areas in order to stimulate discussion on the theme of discipleship in youth ministry, namely: (1) Theological reflection is needed with regards to who the youth is; (2) Youth ministry needs theological foundations - it is not a social club; (3) Youth ministry could assist the church to be contextual and relevant in changing contexts.

Presenter:

- Dr. Anita Cloete (Lecturer in Youth Ministry, Dept of Practical Theology and Missiology, SU)

PS8 Multi-cultural congregations

We live in a diverse country with various different cultures, but unfortunately many congregations do not reflect this diversity. This session will help participants to embrace diversity in congregations and experience the rich value thereof. The presenters started a multi-cultural congregation in the Cape Flats and their story will encourage other church leaders who want to transform their congregations and communities.

Presenters:

- Prof. Xolile Simon (Dept of Practical and Missiology, SU)
- Prof. Mary-Anne Plaatjies-van Huffel (Dept of Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology, SU; URCSA Scottsdale)
- Revs. Dawid van Huffel & Clive Rademeyer, Messrs. Teboho Mahiele & Christo Adams (URCSA Scottsdale)

PS9 The coaching and mentoring of pastors and other church leaders

Most thoughtful leaders are aware of the value of having companions on the journey of life. Many leaders in the Church are accompanied by spiritual companions or directors or coaches. The challenge is rooted in who these mentors are, what they do in their companionship, and how they process the “stuff of life” that emerges. This session seeks to give insights into this process.

Presenters:

- Dr. James Harris (Former Dean of Studies, Anglican Diocese of Cape Town)
- Fr. Mxolisi Mpambani (Rector of St Mary, Gugulethu)
- Rev. Duncan McLea (Parish Rector and Team Leader of St John, Wynberg)

PS10 Challenges of ministries in poor communities

Jesus taught his disciples to care for the poor. As disciples of Jesus we want to accept this responsibility, but we know that there are a few challenges. This session will encourage and inspire faithful disciples to make a difference in poor communities.

Presenter:

- Rev. Walter Philander (Pastor of URCSA Piketberg)

REGISTRATION

- The registration fee for the conference is R350. URCSA and DRC pastors from the Cape/Western Cape Synod will be subsidised by their local Synods and will pay R200. There are also bursaries available for the Winter School (contact Wilma le Roux for more information).
- Lunch is not included in the programme - there are, however, a cafeteria on the premises of the Faculty of Theology, and many restaurants within walking distance. Participants are invited to a spit-braai on Tuesday 2 June 2015 (16:30 – 19:00); the cost is included in the registration fee.
- Please complete the attached registration form and return it to Wilma le Roux, e-mail wler@sun.ac.za or fax 086 563 7128 before Friday 22 May 2015.

ACCOMMODATION

Delegates are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements. A list of guest houses within walking distance of the faculty is available from Wilma le Roux, e-mail wler@sun.ac.za.

ENQUIRIES

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