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WINTER SCHOOL

13 JUNE – 15 JUNE 2017

**REFORMING THE CHURCH, SOCIETY
AND OURSELVES**



PROGRAMME

Tuesday 13 June

08:00 Registration

09:00 Welcome

09:10 Devotion: Rev Carol Cloete-Piedt, Music: Mr Arthur Zimri

09:30 Keynote speaker: Dr Ishmael Noko

10:30 Refreshments

11:00 Morning parallel series Day 1

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Afternoon parallel sessions

16:00 Spitbraai

Wednesday 14 June

09:00 Devotion: Rev Nobunto Penxa-Matholeni; Music: Mr Arthur Zimri

09:30 Keynote speaker: Judge Steven Majiedt

10:30 Refreshments

11:00 Morning parallel series Day 2

12:30 Lunch

14:00 Afternoon parallel sessions

Thursday 15 June

09:00 Devotion: Dr Donald Katts; Music: Mr Arthur Zimri

09:30 Morning parallel series Day 3

11:00 Refreshments

11:30 Keynote speaker: Dr Margaret Blackie

Church pastors, students, academics from schools of religion and all interested persons are invited to the 2017 Winter School entitled

Reforming the Church, Society and Ourselves

*presented by the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with
Communitas, Ekklesia and the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology*

THEME

In the light of the 500 year celebration of the Reformation, the Winter School of 2017 will engage with the need for ongoing reformation of the church, society, and people. The focus will be on what we can learn from the Reformation, but also on discussing ways in which we need to seek new ways of being church in a rapidly changing society.

THE VISION OF THE WINTER SCHOOL

The vision of the Winter School is to assist in the continuation of theological formation of pastors and other church members, the strengthening of the relationships between the Faculty and different churches and amongst the churches themselves, and discussion of and reflection on relevant theological and congregational issues. We strive to be a bearer of hope in our region.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Day 1

13 June: Reforming the Church: Dr Ishmael Noko, President of the Inter-faith Action for Peace in Africa

The first focus is on the church. In a country like South Africa where approximately 80% of the population indicate an association with Christianity, the role of the church is of paramount importance. The task of the church is to be a bearer of hope as well as providing moral direction. For this reason, the church needs to be constantly reformed and transformed.

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Day 2

14 June: Reforming Society: Judge Steven Majiedt, Supreme Court of Appeal

The Reformation did not only focus on the church, but also impacted heavily on the broader society. This was always part of the Kingdom dream of the church: that it would be a blessing to all people. Therefore the second focus is on ways in which the justice system can contribute to the creation of an equal, just and caring society.

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Day 3

15 June: Reforming Ourselves: Dr Magaret Blackie, Department of Chemistry and Polymer Science, Stellenbosch University

Discussions about reforming the church and society are cheap if we do not also talk about repentance and transformation in our own lives. Therefore the third focus is on the formation and transformation of people. The need for people who seek the common good is key to a church that understands her role in changing times, and a justice system that seeks justice for all.

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MORNING PARALLEL SERIES

choose one of the themes
presented over three days

PI BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES ON REFORMING THE CHURCH, SOCIETY AND OURSELVES

In this session representatives of the Department of Old and New Testament will offer biblical perspectives on the theme of Reforming the Church, Society and Ourselves.

In the first session Marius Nel will discuss Gorman's description of how Paul understood the church as a community of transformed individuals who participate in the mission of God by embodying the justice, peace and righteousness of God. This has important implications for the contemporary church in South Africa.

In the second session Ntozakhe Cezula will focus on Nehemiah 5:1-19, arguing that a meaningful expression of faith lies in personal faith rather than in religious rituals and liturgies and thus personal faith is paramount for the reformation of church, society and ourselves.

In the final session Juliana Claassens will focus on the revenge fantasies in the Oracles against the Nations in Jeremiah 46-51 that underscore the necessity for responsible Bible reading practices. She proposes that in order to protect us from our own worst selves, the very human tendency to resort to revenge that inevitably leads to violence, we need to read these biblical texts in terms of contemporary hermeneutical approaches, which may play a role in helping end violence.

- Day 1, 13 June: "Reforming Church, Society and Ourselves by becoming the Gospel – A Critical appraisal of Michael Gorman's missiological reading of Paul" – Prof Marius Nel, New Testament, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University
- Day 2, 14 June: "Personal Faith as a Device to Reform the Church, Society and Ourselves: A Critical Analysis of Nehemiah 5:1-19 on the Grace

and Fear of God" – Dr Ntozakhe Simon Cezula, Old Testament, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University

- Day 3, 15 June: "Beyond Revenge: Responsible Bible Reading Practices in a Traumatized Land" – Prof Juliana Claassens, Old Testament, Director: Gender Unit, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University

P2 HUMAN DIGNITY & HOSPITALITY

The Season of Human Dignity will focus on human dignity and hospitality as practices in contexts of trauma, racism and economic injustice.

In the first session the film "Black Christmas" about the journey of survivors of the 1996 Christmas Eve racially motivated bombing in Worcester and one of the perpetrators, Stefaans Coetzee, will be screened. Following the screening Dr Deon Snyman of the Restitution Foundation will lead a conversation about the complexities of forgiveness and reconciliation.

In the second session Rev GP Kellerman, chairperson of the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process, together with members of the Worcester community will share stories about the peace meals and community interventions that guide the people of Worcester in their ongoing efforts towards hope and reconciliation.

In the final session Rev Niel Steyn and inhabitants of Echo houses will share stories of the ways in which lives are transformed when people from very diverse backgrounds live together under one roof. Through sharing meals people from outside are invited to cross boundaries and form "unlikely" connections. These are hopeful stories of how we all have something to give and learn.

- Day 1, 13 June: "Black Christmas - the film" – Dr Deon Snyman, Chief Operation Officer of the Restitution Foundation, & survivors of the Worcester bombing
- Day 2, 14 June: "The Worcester Peace and Reconciliation Process" – Rev GP Kellerman, Chairperson of the Worcester Hope and Reconciliation Process, & members of the Worcester community
- Day 3, 15 June: "Echo Houses in the Western

P3 SPIRITUALITY AND TRANSFORMING WORSHIP

Both the themes of Spirituality and Worship are receiving a lot of attention – and deservedly so. There is, however, a subtle and important connection between the two. Individual spirituality without the balance of corporate worship can be dangerous and misleading. On the other hand corporate worship that is not confirmed and strengthened by an individually disciplined spiritual life, can be shallow and without influence and energy. It is well-known that Calvin placed a strong emphasis on both these Christian activities. This series will focus on bringing these two vital activities in conversation with one another and exploring the ways in which they can strengthen and enrich one another.

The first session explores individual and collective experiences of Jesus'/God's presence (and absence) in the Fourth Gospel. References to God's presence are characterised by the transferral of “temple” imagery to both Jesus and the Johannine community as the dwelling place where God's “tabernacling” presence is experienced (1:14; 2:13–22; 14:1–6).

These images, distinctive of the “household” dynamic of John's Gospel (1:12–13, 18), are reflected in John 13–17 as intimate, mutual indwelling of God, Jesus, Spirit and believers. In the midst of his departing words (13:33; 14:2) and his followers' disillusion and grief (13:36–38; 14:1, 27; 16:20–22), Jesus invites them to “remain/dwell” in him/his love (15:4, 9) while receiving the other Counsellor/Comforter whom the Father will send in his name (14:26; 16:7, 13). The paper is particularly interested in Jesus' emphasis on “remaining” and focuses on two expressions of the community's spirituality in view of his continuing presence: holiness and love. These themes appear to draw on core notions from Torah, particularly Lev 19. We will finally ask how these notions were meant to transform their/our worship as a community, and how personal commitment and

corporate worship may engage and enrich each other.

The second session looks at new developments in this regard. Dr Bruce Theron attended the past two Worship Symposia of the Institute for Christian Worship in Grand Rapids and will share some of his impressions.

In the last session Prof Xolile Simon will apply this theme to an African context and explore the role of Spirituality and Worship in African Church Cultures.

- *Day 1, 13 June: “Johannine Spirituality and transforming worship” – Prof Elna Mouton, New Testament, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University & Dr Coenie Burger, Director: Ekklesia*
- *Day 2, 14 June: “Recent Developments in Liturgy and Transformation” – Dr Bruce Theron, Programme manager: Ekklesia*
- *Day 3, 15 June: “The role of Spirituality and Worship in African Church Cultures” – Prof Xolile Simon, Missiology, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University*

P4 LEADERSHIP

People in all walks of life are becoming increasingly disillusioned with traditional ‘hero leaders’. In the first session Prof Magda Fourie-Malherbe will look at examples from a number of contexts, ranging from politics to higher education to the church. Following from this, she will argue for the potential of distributed leadership to help us think in new ways about leadership, and so break the leadership ‘mould’. She will also illustrate how distributed leadership can through concerted action by a wider range of role-players, contribute to sustainable change in our communities and society.

There is a crisis of leadership at all levels of our society. In the second session Father Smangaliso Mkhatswa will try to unpack this assertion by doing a brief analysis of the great utopian dreams of our founding Mothers and Fathers and contrast those with where we are now. In doing so, we cannot ignore references to our constitution, social pathologies such as rampant corruption, violence, gini-coefficient, state looting etc. He will demonstrate how the cult of materialism has destroyed the moral fibre of the nation and will refer to the charter of positive values in the Scriptures.

We expect more from leaders now than ever before. In the third session Lize-Mari Doubell will address the question: What does it take to really excel and become the leader that is needed in your community? While the answers are not always as concrete as we prefer them to be, we can explore the possibilities.

- Day 1, 13 June: “How can distributed leadership break the leadership mould in South Africa?” – Prof Magda Fourie-Malherbe, Professor of Higher Education Studies, Stellenbosch University
- Day 2, 14 June: “Will South Africa survive without ethical leaders?” – Father Smangalis Mkhathswa, Founder member and Chairperson of the Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM)
- Day 3, 15 June: “What does it take to be a 21st century leader?” – Ms Lize-Mari Doubell, post-graduate LLB-student, Stellenbosch University, & Coordinator, Discourse Café, Frederik van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development

P5 YOUTH FOCUS

Student protest movements such as #FeesMustFall, Open Stellenbosch, #RhodesMustFall and the call for Decolonising Education in South Africa has shaken the tertiary education sector in 2015 and 2016.

In the first session we will look at the role churches and youth can play in reforming the Higher Education.

Young people in church and society are faced with many challenges that impact on their spiritual and identity formation. Join our youth workers' panel in the second session to hear perspectives on working with and alongside the youth in our current South African context – a context in which many young people opt out of church.

The last session in this series will focus on reforming our perception of our youth's role in church and society by exploring ways in which to engage and encourage them.

- Day 1, 13 June: “Youth and education in SA: the role of churches and the youth themselves” – Dr Michael Le Cordeur, Faculty of Education, Stellenbosch University
- Day 2, 14 June: “Youth issues related to church,

societies and education” – Panel: Ms Reza-Astrid Fourie, Coronation Street Methodist Church, Somerset-West; Mr JC De Jongh, DRC Helderberg, Somerset-West; and Mr Ashley Visagie, BottomUp NGO

- Day 3, 15 June: “Youth, church and society: the importance of an intergenerational approach to ministry within South Africa” – Dr Shantelle Weber, Practical Theology: Youth Work, Stellenbosch University, & Ms Melanie Thirion, Youth minister: DRC Proteahoopte

AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSIONS

DAY 1, 13 JUNE

choose one session

PSI “Ministry that informs and transforms – the contributions of Jamie Smith” – Dr Frederick Marais, Minister in Synodical Service: Ecclesial Training, Communitas

In this workshop we will look at the insights of Jamie Smith and establish formational practices that we can apply in congregations that wish to transform. Smith writes: So discipleship is more a matter of hungering and thirsting than of knowing and believing. Jesus's command to follow him is a command to align our loves and longings with his – to want what God wants, to desire what God desires, to hunger and thirst after God and crave a world where he is all in all – a vision encapsulated by the shorthand “the kingdom of God.” Jesus is a teacher who doesn't just inform our intellect but forms our very loves. He isn't content to simply deposit new ideas into your mind; he is after nothing less than your wants, your loves, your longings.

PS2 “Gender, church, society and us: From deformation to affirmation and reformation” – Dr Funlola Olojede, Post-doctoral fellow, Gender Unit, Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University

Can a church deformed by society reform the society? This paper notes that the traditional gender imbalance that characterizes the monolithic structure of church leadership is to a certain extent informed by the socio-political structure outside the church. It argues that there can be no true reformation without the church redressing the gender disparity in its leadership structure, and purposefully taking affirmative action in favour of women.

PS3 “Why we think joining the Missional Church Movement can help all of us” – Dr Coenie Burger, Director, Ekklesia & Rev Leon Klate, Pniel United Congregational Church

There is a strong, growing conviction amongst churches – in SA and abroad – that the focus of our lives and service should not be on ourselves and our congregations but on the community outside the congregation. In this session, we will tell the story of the missional movement and discuss ways in which leaders can help their congregations to move in that direction.

PS4 “Intentional discipleship and disciple making” – Rev Trevor Pearce, Director: The Growing Church, & Rev Jeremy Koeries, National Director of J-Life SA

“Follow me” was the first invitation Jesus offered those who showed an interest in his life and teaching. But it was not just a physical following. It also involved a radical turnaround of life-style, worldview and spiritual orientation. Discipleship takes place when individuals and communities intentionally, sacrificially and consistently live every aspect of their daily life in commitment to following Jesus.

There are two primary ways in which discipleship is emphasized. The first is that the invitation to follow Jesus is immediately followed by a promise – “I will make you fishers of people”. Jesus promises that as we intentionally follow him, our lives will more and more reflect his image, his nature and his character. And, as with Jesus, this will attract and change others too. The second understanding is that we are given a command to intentionally go and make disciples of all nations. To help people grow along the continuum – from unbelief to maturity. And to make disciples, who will in their turn make disciples. “Yes, but how?” is a common response. Let’s learn together as we focus on one of the most common challenges currently being reflected on across denominations today.

PS5 “Developing a pastoral care system in congregations” – Dr Leon Klein, Kuils River Methodist Church; Director: Global Care Centres

Is your local church adequately resourced to deal with the needs for multidisciplinary care in your church and community? This short course will assist you in developing practical steps to utilise laity, professionals, community service providers and institutions to achieve this goal.

PS6 “Organising civil society and the church for public witness” – Dr Lionel Louw, Minister in Community of Faith

In this session Dr Lionel Louw will bring together a panel representing different organisations to discuss ways in which civil society can be mobilized to play a constructive role in our society.

AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSIONS DAY 2, 14 JUNE choose one session

PS7 “Involving congregations in deep reconciliation” –

Rev Walter Philander, Minister:
URCSA Piketberg & Prop Jaco
Botha, PhD student, Stellenbosch
University and Ministry for
Reconciliation and Justice

This interactive session will strive to deepen understanding of contextual and just reconciliation as well as that which hampers reconciliation. The session will integrate notions of confession, forgiveness and restorative justice on a first level, but will also ask critical questions about that which hampers the public ministry of reconciliation as a core part of ecclesial identity.

PS8 “What can churches do to improve the crisis around education?” –Dr Braam Hanekom, Director: Centre for Public Witness, & Mr Mbulelo Bikwani, CEO: Desmond & Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation

Education remains one of the biggest challenges for South Africa. We cannot build a prosperous future on a weak educational foundation. Come and discern with us the systemic fault lines in our current situation. Help us to find systemic interventions and above all help us to define the role of the church in this challenging situation.

PS9 “Water: Key to sustainable economic and social development” – Prof Eugene Cloete, Vice-rector: Research, Innovation and Postgraduate studies, Stellenbosch University, & Prof Wesaal Khan, Department of Microbiology, Stellenbosch University

Millions of people in South Africa do not have access to a constant safe water supply. This impacts negatively on society in a number of ways, including education, health and development. The key challenges will be dismissed and potential solutions presented.

PS10 “Predictions of Christianity’s decline towards the year 2050 – threat or opportunity?” – Rev Trevor Herbert, Presiding Pastor, AFM Eerste River & Rev Sibongile Mente, Co-Pastor, AFM Kayamandi Stellenbosh

In this session, the speakers will focus on the future of the ecumenical conversation. The increasing role of the youth, women and urbanization in the future of Christianity, will be discussed. Rev Mente will speak about the findings of her book: Africa's Daughters – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2M5yBm5TLqU&sns=em>

PS11 “Preaching: what is new?” – Dr Johan Van der Merwe, DRC Stellenbosch Moederkerk

Dr Johan van der Merwe is one of the pastors at the Moederkerk in Stellenbosch and widely appreciated for his thoughtful preaching. In this session he will give special attention to new perspectives and approaches being used in the congregation.

PROGRAMME DETAILS

The venue for the Winter School is the building of the Faculty of Theology, 171 Dorp Street, Stellenbosch. The programme consists of three plenary sessions presented by keynote speakers, a series of morning parallel sessions presented on a theme over three days, and afternoon parallel sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Every morning will start with a devotion, complimented by a programme of music:

Tuesday 13 June: Rev Carol Cloete-Piedt, United Congregational Church

Wednesday 14 June: Rev Nobunto Penxa-Matholeni, Baptist Union

Thursday 15 June: Dr Donald Katts, Volkskerk van Afrika

Music: Mr Arthur Zimri, United Congregational Church

LANGUAGE

The Winter School is attended by people from different denominations, some of whom do not understand Afrikaans. The programme will therefore be conducted mainly in English. Chairpersons are carefully selected for each session so that they can translate if a person wants to ask a question in his / her mother tongue, e.g. Afrikaans and English, and in some cases also Xhosa.

REGISTRATION

- The registration fee for the Winter School is R350. URCSA and DRC pastors from the Cape/Western Cape Synod will be subsidised by their local Synods and will pay R200. A number of scholarships are also available – please contact Escois Benjamin at ebenjamin@sun.ac.za for more information.
- Lunch is not included in the registration fee, but there is a cafeteria on the premises. All participants are invited to a spitbraai on Tuesday 13 June (16:00 – 18:00); the cost is included in the registration fee.
- Please complete the attached registration form and return it to Divine Robertson, e-mail dr@sun.ac.za or fax: 086 563 7128 before Friday 2 June 2017.

ACCOMMODATION

Participants are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements. A list of guest houses within walking distance of the faculty is available from Divine Robertson, e-mail dr@sun.ac.za

WINTER SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Father Ron Phillips, Dean in the Anglican Diocese of False Bay and Anglican Student Chaplain at Stellenbosch University will be the chaplain on duty for the duration of the Winter School. The Chaplain's duties will be to listen to those for whom the Winter School may evoke strong, even turbulent emotions; the opportunity to pray with those struggling with issues arising from the discussions, and to be a "praying presence" throughout the Winter School. His office is Room 2013B in the Faculty of Theology, next to the main entrance of the Attie van Wijk Auditorium.

ENQUIRIES

Faculty of Theology

Helette van der Westhuizen (tel: 021 808 9560; e-mail: hvdwest@sun.ac.za)

Communitas

Wilma le Roux (tel: 021 808 3624; e-mail: wler@sun.ac.za)

Ekklesia

Divine Robertson (tel: 021 808 2827; e-mail: dr@sun.ac.za)

Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology

Marita Snyman (tel: 021 808 2538; e-mail: maritasnyman@sun.ac.za)

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