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# WINTER SCHOOL

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY, STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY  
TUESDAY 5 JUNE – THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018

JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY:  
REDISCOVERING THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL



# PROGRAMME

## TUESDAY 5 JUNE 2018

08:00	Registration
09:00	Welcome and Arrangements: Bruce Theron
09:10	Word of welcome from the Dean, Faculty of Theology
09:15	Devotion: Stephen Pedro
09:45	Keynote Speaker: Eleanor Du Plooy
10:45	Refreshments
11:15	Morning Parallel Series
12:45	Lunch (Delegates' own responsibility)
14:00	Afternoon Parallel Sessions
16:30	Spit-Braai

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## WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE 2018

08:00	Registration
09:00	Welcome and Arrangements: Bruce Theron
09:10	Devotion: Anriëtte de Ridder
09:45	Keynote Speaker: Wilhelm Verwoerd
10:45	Refreshments
11:15	Morning Parallel Series
12:45	Lunch (Delegates' own responsibility) / Reconciliation lunch
14:00	Afternoon Parallel Sessions

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## THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018

08:00	Registration
09:00	Welcome and Arrangements: Bruce Theron
09:10	Devotion: Stephen Snyman
09:45	Morning Parallel Series
11:15	Refreshments
11:45	Keynote Speaker: Reggie Nel
12:45	Closing



# WINTER SCHOOL

TUESDAY 5 JUNE – THURSDAY 7 JUNE 2018

Church pastors, students, academics from schools of religion and all interested persons are invited to the 2018 Winter School, presented by the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, in collaboration with Communitas, Ekklesia and the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology.

The venue for the Winter School is the Attie van Wijk Auditorium, Faculty of Theology, 171 Dorp Street, Stellenbosch.

## JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY: REDISCOVERING THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

The focus of the winter school will be on rediscovering the power of the gospel concerning justice, reconciliation and unity with specific reference to the South African context. Especially the three keynote addresses will underscore the interrelatedness of these themes as well as the sacrifices and radical action needed from societal structures, institutions and individuals to create a society that embody these ideals.

The three focal areas of reconciliation, justice and unity are not only key values of the gospel but also vital issues in our South African society. A renewed and deepened process of reconciliation is the only remedy for the still rampant racism we experience; a deeper understanding of justice will help us to tackle the issues of inequality and poverty.

In all these endeavours, the gospel of Jesus Christ will be the normative source in conversation with various role-players especially those who are poor, wronged, vulnerable and needy. Theological reflections on unity, reconciliation and justice should not only inspire us to dream of a different world by questioning and even rejecting the status quo, but also empower and enable us to participate in the healing and restoration of the world.

We are convinced that faith communities should be spaces that fulfil a key role in the realisation of this new world. Therefore, some sessions will offer practical ways in which faith communities could be bearers of hope and spaces that facilitate and embody justice. We value interdisciplinary reflection, therefore one session will focus on the role of the justice system as an important institution, especially in the South African context, to promote justice for all.

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Every morning will start with a devotion session led by ministers from different faith communities:

**5 June: Stephen Pedro, Minister in Synodical Service for Witness, Uniting Reformed Church in South Africa (URCSA)**

**6 June: Anriëtte de Ridder, Minister in Synodical Service for Youth and Family Ministry, Dutch Reformed Church (DRC)**

**7 June: Stephen Snyman, Calvin Protestant Church**

The devotion session will be followed by a plenary session (one per day) with a keynote speaker on the main theme of the Winter School:

**5 June: On Justice: Eleanor du Plooy, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation**

**6 June: On Reconciliation: Wilhelm Verwoerd, Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology**

**7 June: On Unity: Reggie Nel, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University**

After the keynote session, the programme breaks into the **morning parallel sessions** with the following broad themes (**delegates choose one theme presented over 3 days**):

**P1: Biblical perspectives on Justice, Reconciliation and Unity**

**P2: Restitution, Reconciliation and Unity**

**P3: Justice and Decolonisation**

**P4: A generation seeking Justice**

After lunch, the programme breaks into **afternoon parallel sessions – choose one session on Tuesday and one session on Wednesday.**

## REGISTRATION

The following registration categories are available:

- Early Bird Registration Fee before 18 May 2018: R350\*
- Standard Registration Fee from 18 May – 31 May 2018: R450
- Single day fee: R150 (spit-braai excluded)
- Theology students may attend the Winter School at no fees – however, should you wish to attend the Spit-braai, a fee of R120 should be paid before 31 May 2018.

**Closing date for registrations: 31 May 2018.** After 31 May 2018 registration as day visitors only.

\* URCSA and DRC pastors from the Cape/Western Cape Synod will be subsidised by their local Synods and will pay R200 for early bird registration. A number of scholarships are also available – please contact Escois Benjamin at [ebenjamin@sun.ac.za](mailto:ebenjamin@sun.ac.za) for more information.

Please complete the attached registration form and return it to Marita Snyman, [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za](mailto:maritasnyman@sun.ac.za) or fax: 086 563 7128 before 18 May 2018 to qualify for early bird registration.

## LANGUAGE

The Winter School is attended by people from different denominations, some of whom do not understand Afrikaans. The programme will 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.

## 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, pray with those struggling with issues arising from the discussions, and to be a “praying presence” throughout the Winter School. His office is next to the entrance of the Attie van Wijk Auditorium.

## **REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH**

Tea/Coffee/Refreshments will be served at the times indicated in the programme. Please note that provisions cannot be made for special dietary requirements. These are delegates’ own responsibility.

Lunch is not included in the registration fee and participants are responsible for their own lunches – there is, however, a cafeteria on the premises with most affordable options.

Please see the note on the optional Reconciliation lunch on Wednesday 6 June.

## **SPIT-BRAAI**

All participants are invited to a spit-braai on Tuesday 5 June (16:30 – 18:00) – the cost is included in the registration fee. Only pre-registered participants will attend the spit-braai.

The Alumni Relations Office of Stellenbosch University invites all participants who are alumni of Stellenbosch University for pre-drinks in the Cafeteria before the spit-braai.

## **ACCESSIBILITY FOR WHEELCHAIRS**

The Faculty of Theology is unfortunately only partly wheelchair accessible through a side entrance and an elevator. Should you need any assistance, please notify the organisers in advance to make arrangements.

## **PARKING**

There will be a limited number of parking spaces available on the premises and the booms at the Noordwal-West entrance (at the Communitas and Archive entrance at the back of the faculty building) will be lifted.

## **KEEPING WARM**

Since central heating is not customary in University buildings, please dress warmly!

## **BOOK SALES**

Book exhibitions and sales will be conducted by SunMedia, Bible Media and the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology – credit card facilities will be available.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Participants are responsible for their own accommodation arrangements. A list of guesthouses within walking distance of the faculty is available from Marita Snyman, [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za](mailto:maritasnyman@sun.ac.za)



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

*Tuesday 5 June: A Generation Seeking Justice*

*Eleanor du Plooy, The Institute for Justice and Reconciliation*



**Eleanor du Plooy** is the Project Leader of the Ashley Kriel Youth Desk. In this capacity she contributes to the creation of enabling environments for youth development and empowerment via dialogue, research and analysis, training and advocacy with the intention to mainstream youth work in the IJR. She attended Stellenbosch University where she obtained a Master's Degree in Social Anthropology with a focus on Gender and Food Security and an Honours degree focused on Language and Identity.

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*Wednesday 6 June: Dark white work: towards deep reconciliation*

*Wilhelm Verwoerd, The Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology, Stellenbosch University*



**Wilhelm Verwoerd** is a Research Fellow attached to the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology. His local and international work as researcher and facilitator is concerned with the (re)humanisation of relationships across deep conflict divides, with an emphasis on inter-generational, restitutorial responsibility. He is particularly interested in the connections between contemplative spirituality and cross-boundary compassion for the enemy. He is a former lecturer in Applied Ethics and Political Philosophy and served as a researcher in the TRC. He has published a number of books and articles on reconciliation, including *Equity, Mercy, Forgiveness: Interpreting amnesty within the SA TRC*. A new book dealing with the transformation of the legacy of Verwoerd is entitled: *Bloedbande: 'n Dieper, Donker Tuiskoms*. (Publication date: July 2018)

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*Thursday 7 June: !ke e: /xarra //ke (diverse people unite / unity in diversity)*

*Reggie Nel, Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University*



**Reggie Nel** is currently dean of the Faculty of Theology at SU. He is respected in the global academic community in the disciplines of Youth Ministry and Missiology. He was directly involved in, leading the unification of youth and student movements in the 1990s and also coordinated and developed a community engagement project, called the "marginalized youth project", with Technikon SA from 2001 to 2004 and developed it into an access programme for youth workers in five regions. He was professor in Missiology at UNISA until he joined SU on 1 November 2017. He imagines a future where everybody will be challenged to grow as we build relations on our way to the unknown.

## MORNING PARALLEL SERIES

Choose ONE theme presented over three days

### **P1** | BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES ON JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

In this session, representatives of the discipline group of Old and New Testament will offer biblical perspectives on the theme of Justice, Reconciliation and Unity that speak to the power of the gospel. In the first session, our new colleague Peter Nagel will speak about Paul's deep desire to unite the Jesus movement with mainstream Judaism. This appeared to be an impossible task, but Paul gave it one last try, by reminding them about their common faith.

In the second session, Funlola Olojede from the Gender Unit will use the story of Vashti and Ahasuerus in Esther 1 to show how there is no justice without gender justice, inviting participants to deliberate on how gender justice and women empowerment can foster reconciliation and unity in the church. Nina Müller van Velden, who recently successfully defended her PhD thesis drawing on the narrative in John 4:5-30; 39-42, will consider the life-giving impact of Living Water through the person of Jesus Christ when Jesus meets an anonymous Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob.

In the final session, Marius Nel will show how Colossians emphasises the forgiveness of Christ as the basis of our forgiveness of others and the twin dangers of forgiveness that does not lead to reconciliation and reconciliation that is not based on forgiveness.

- **5 June: Unity through Faith – It's a matter of finding common ground**  
*Presenter: Peter Nagel, Old and New Testament, SU*
- **6 June: Justice, Reconciliation and Unity: Rediscovering the Power of Women in the book of Esther**  
*Presenter: Funlola Olojede, Gender Unit, Old and New Testament, SU*
- **Quenching thirst in unexpected spaces: When (L)iving (W)ater overflows**  
*Presenter: Nina Müller van Velden, Glossarium project, Old and New Testament, SU*
- **7 June: The Power of Reconciliation in Colossians**  
*Presenter: Marius Nel, Old and New Testament, SU*

### **P2** | RESTITUTION, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

We are desperately in search and need of better unity and social cohesion. But it does not come cheap. In this series of parallel sessions participants will discuss three dimensions of the pathway towards unity and above all the power of the gospel in all of this. Come and participate in these 90 min discussions.

- **5 June: Restitution is more than land reform. It also has a theological framework.**
- **6 June: Reconciliation requires more than justice. It also requires forgiveness.**
- **7 June: Unity is more than an institutional process. It requires a new way of thinking and a new way of loving.**  
*Presenters: Pieter Grove, Moderator: URCSA Cape Synod, and Braam Hanekom, Director: Centre for Public Witness*

## P3 | JUSTICE AND DECOLONISATION

South Africa has continued to face challenges since entering into democracy: There is a growing impatience with the slow pace of transformation. As a result more and more voices are calling for justice and decolonisation. What does it mean in our context? How do we handle it? All these questions are important in our search for healing as a nation – the first session will look at possible answers to these questions.

In the second session Nkosivumile Gola will look at decolonisation in South Africa. He states that decolonisation is a rightful and necessary demand from oppressed Black South Africans. From his perspective we shall see that anything less than a decolonised South Africa is considered a rejection of justice. Nkosivumile is a seasoned community activist and liberation theologian. His insights are always deeply challenging and thought-provoking.

The third session will take our discussion further by addressing aspects of the journey of decolonisation. In his highly acclaimed book *Orientalism*, Edward Said posed the question, in light of how the Holocaust has “permanently altered the consciousness of our time, why do we not accord the same epistemological mutation in what colonialism has done, and what Orientalism continues to do?” While there is a general consciousness of the benefits brought by colonialism, the atrocities of ongoing (neo)colonial practices are often unacknowledged or minimised. Like salvation, decolonisation matters. Also like salvation, decolonisation must engage the head, the heart, and the hands. We need to understand what decolonisation entails in our time and context, foster a deep inward commitment to the journey of decolonisation, and work to bring about decolonisation in our circles of influence.

- **5 June: A search for healing**  
*Presenter: Walter Philander, minister URCSA Piketberg*
- **6 June: Decolonisation – a demand of the black oppressed**  
*Presenter: Nkosivumile Gola, activist, guerrilla gardener and dreamer of a South Africa that looks different for all its citizens*
- **7 June: What does the Lord Require of You? Decolonisation as Doing Justice in South Africa in the 21st century**  
*Presenter: Alease A. Brown, PhD candidate, Faculty of Theology, SU*

## P4 | THE YOUTH – AGENTS IN SEEKING JUSTICE

After 24 years of “freedom” young people are still confronted by a society where human hierarchies remain dominant, where the myth of equality is being exposed on a daily basis, where black people are still on the margins of society. Does the gospel have the penetrating power to speak to young people as it did for the youth of the seventies and eighties? Is there a modern-day equivalent to Liberation and Black Theology? The new president of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, ended his 2018 State of the Nation speech with the following quote from this song, “*We are at a moment in the history of our nation when the people, through their determination, have started to turn the country around... Now is the time to lend a hand. Now is the time for each of us to say ‘send me’. Now is the time for all of us to work together, in honour of Nelson Mandela, to build a new, better South Africa for all.*” This challenge put forward by the president can be theologically linked to the biblical discourse of Isaiah 6:8 in his response “Here am I, send me” to God’s question, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” This session focuses on how youth in South Africa



are agents for seeking justice in our country because they have been obedient to this biblical call. Churches have historically played a significant role in the justice movements of South Africa and we want to build on that history and build the capacity for the church's role in supporting youth-led movements going forward. This session also focuses on a holistic understanding of the Christian faith and the Word of God by helping young leaders to engage their head and heart in the topic in such a way that they will feel equipped to take practical next steps towards bringing about justice and wholeness with Jesus in their own context.

- **5 June: Here am I, send me! A theological approach on youth engaging in the process of unity, reconciliation and justice**

*Presenters: Jacques Beukes, Lecturer in Theology and Student chaplain, Huguenot College; Dewald Jacobs, BDiv II student, SU, and Ashwin Thyssen, BDiv IV student, SU*

- **6 June: Justice, Reconciliation and Unity among and for youth in South Africa**

*Presenter: Stanley Henkeman, Executive Director of the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in Cape Town*

- **7 June: Jesus, Justice and the Young Leaders of South Africa**

*Presenters: Caroline Powell, The Warehouse, and Nkosivumile Gola, activist, guerrilla gardener and dreamer of a South Africa that looks different for all its citizens*

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## AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSIONS: 5 JUNE – choose one

### PS1 | SPEAKING UP FOR THE VOICELESS - THE VULNERABLE AND THE EARTH

*Presenter: Juanita Greyvenstein, SAFCEI, A Rocha and the Ecology Task team of the Western Cape*

It is now more than ever pertinent that Christians turn their gaze earthwards and reconcile with creation, which we so often take for granted. We need an “ecological conversion”. To live in harmony and with respect for the Earth indeed requires a change of heart, mind and perspective. This is not only an individual journey, but especially a communal journey, which we as faith communities need to undertake.

In this session the link between social and ecological justice will be explored, especially in how this plays out in our South African context. We will reflect on practices to discern the voice of the earth and participants from various denominations will share their insights into ways the church can take up her prophetic role in lifting up the voice of the earth.

### PS2 | MISSIONAL WORSHIP

*Presenter: Eugene Fortein, minister URCSA Citrusdal*

In this session, the presenter will give a fresh take on the meaning of Missional Worship, with particular focus on the challenges experienced by the congregation of URCSA Citrusdal. The citrus season (April – September) plays an important role in this farming community when there is a huge influx of seasonal workers from different cultures and language

groups. How does the Church become a worship place /meeting place despite these boundaries? Eugene will share stories of worship and how the actions of worship relate integrally to mission.

### **PS3** | SURPRISED BY HOPE: THE THREE-FOLD HOPE OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

*Presenter: Coenie Burger, former director of Ekklesia and Communitas*

We live in times where we are all desperately in need of hope. Coenie Burger is convinced that the Christian faith has a wealth to offer in this respect. He will argue that Christian hope actually comes to us in a triple dosage. He will discuss “creation hope” connected to the work of the Father, “Christian hope” connected to the work of Jesus, and “communal hope” connected to the work of the Spirit.

## **AFTERNOON PARALLEL SESSIONS: 6 JUNE - choose one**

### **PS4** | CONGREGATIONS AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT: A MISSIONAL APPROACH TO POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND DEVELOPMENT

*Presenters: Nioma Venter, Minister in Synodical Service DRC Western Cape, and Sean Esterhuizen, Minister in Synodical Service URCSA Cape Province*

This session will discuss early childhood development as systemic intervention to alleviate poverty and address issues of inequality in more than 50% of South African contexts. The church has the unique opportunity to shape

its involvement in development and areas of social transformation. The discussion will practically demonstrate different models for congregational initiative and involvement.

### **PS5** | SOUTH AFRICA AT AN ETHICAL AND MORALITY CROSSROADS?

*Presenter: Ben Theron, The Organisation Undoing Tax Abuse (OUTA)*

I was raised with a strict protestant work ethic and family values as well as a clear distinction between right and wrong. One of my earliest memories of what appeared to be wrong, was a childhood memory of travelling with my siblings and parents to Durban. We stopped at a roadhouse in Colesburg, where a queue formed at a side window. My father however, walked straight in to be served. He came out empty-handed, disappointed and furious. I recall him using language we were not accustomed to or taught. I was later informed that non-whites were not allowed inside and had to make purchases through the window.

All rational human beings have a moral compass. This is the ability to distinguish between right and wrong. When the liberation movement the African National Congress became the government of the day, South Africans were hopeful that the new dawn would bring prosperity, peace and tolerance. We as citizens expected to have a government that takes care of its citizens with honour... How wrong we were. Our heroes were soon shown to have feet of clay with exposés highlighting abuses we thought were behind us. The Arms deal is still haunting us, with the corruption in Medupi and associated with Chancellor House (ANC investment arm) impacting negatively on ESKOM and the nation.

To heal our nation and put this sordid past

behind us, will take a herculean effort, strong and capable leadership, but above all, a citizenry that will not allow their future stolen from them. We need all stakeholders to stand united against the excesses of the state and those who are meant to serve us. We are the people of South Africa.

## PS6 | HOW TO LIVE A SIGNIFICANT LIFE? FACILITATING A JOURNEY WITH LEADERS

*Presenters: Tommy O’Kennedy, Managing Director of Halftime South Africa, and Rick Papier, Agent of change and transformation in the West Coast*

A growing number of people reach a point in life where the pursuit of success alone is not enough. They are in a season of their life where they want their life to count for something more ... perhaps something eternal, a cause bigger than themselves. They want to figure out their calling, but also to give back, and to find a more meaningful and significant life in the process. In this session the presenters will offer an opportunity to experience a glimpse of how to facilitate a process with leaders to help them on their journey to move beyond success to significance.

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## THE RECONCILIATION LUNCH

**Jan van Zyl, minister DRC Moedergemeente Stellenbosch**



**The Reconciliation Lunch** has been held in Kayamandi, Stellenbosch for the past five years. Currently it is held at the Legacy Centre in Kayamandi every second Wednesday. From thirty to fifty people gather around the table at these lunches, and every person is served bread, a warm meal, salads, fruit and cold drinks. It is a table that brings people together from all different walks of life to share hearts, to learn and to grow together. Often the various cultural and racial groups in our nation are still without regular forums where they

can connect relationally and share life. In order for the people of our nation to work together and move things forward, people of diverse backgrounds must engage with each other and know each other more deeply. This can only happen in an open, relaxed, safe environment where people find it easy to engage in open dialogue about life and their various experiences.

The Reconciliation Lunch creates a space where hearts connect and strangers become family. While we eat, we share stories from our own lives about a particular topic, chosen by the facilitator who mediates the conversation for that day.

**Twenty participants of the Winter School will have the opportunity to join the Reconciliation Lunch on Wednesday 6 June from 12:30 to 14:30. After lunch, participants will visit other projects of the Legacy Centre.**

*Please note: this session is limited to twenty (20) people and tickets will be issued to the first twenty people who register for the lunch. Transport will be provided. The bus will leave at 12:15 from the Faculty at the Noordwal-West entrance and will return to the faculty at 16:00. Participants will need to excuse themselves earlier from the morning parallel sessions.*

## ENQUIRIES

### Faculty of Theology

Helette van der Westhuizen, 021 808 9560, [hvdwest@sun.ac.za](mailto:hvdwest@sun.ac.za)

### Communitas

Wilma le Roux, 021 808 3624, [wler@sun.ac.za](mailto:wler@sun.ac.za)

### Ekklesia

Divine Robertson, 021 808 2827, [dr@sun.ac.za](mailto:dr@sun.ac.za)

### Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology

Marita Snyman, 021 808 2538, [maritasnyman@sun.ac.za](mailto:maritasnyman@sun.ac.za)

