

Report on Theological Education at the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University

Looking back

> SALTTT had tasked Detlev Tönsing to compare theological faculties in SA more than a decade ago.

> External Evaluation of LTI and UKZN Faculty in 2014. Both ELCSA and UELCSA voiced the concerns of the state of training at UKZN.

SALTTT decided to look into the way forward jointly, including for the ELCSA Diploma program

> SALTTT tasking me in April 2015 to investigate the possibility at Stellenbosch University to become the preferred institution for the Lutherans.

Levels of interaction:

- Dean of Faculty Dean H Bosman
- Ecumenical Board as guest – main focus is on needs of ministry in Southern African context and the specific needs of denominations
- Ekklesia – focus on continuous training in ministry
- After each meeting I have reported to SALTTT as it tasked me to negotiate with SU.



Vision for the Faculty



Expanding Russel Botman's vision of deep transformation:

- focused inclusivity & access,
- of excellence through diversity,
- of ongoing renewal and innovation,
- of future-orientedness and
- social impact: civil society, academia & faith communities.



Conclusion

- By 2030 Theology must have **partnerships** not only with **churches**, but also with **mosques** and **synagogues**.
- By 2030 Theology must provide an **educational space** in which **critical reflection on theology and religion** is conducted in **dialogue with all academic disciplines** on campus, and in **constructive engagement with issues relevant to faith communities** in general.
- By 2030 Theology should be part of a **network of research and tuition spread across Africa** facilitated by technology, recognised for its academic excellence and local relevance. [NETACT & Partner Universities]
- Perhaps: *ex Africa semper aliquid novi* = “from Africa always something new”! A ‘**New African Theology and Religion Faculty**’

The ecumenical board - aims

We are committed to the

- a. development and deepening of Christian theology that draw from the different confessional traditions (represented in the Board) and is contextually relevant
- b. The development of houses of theological study for each of the member churches
- c. The development of a hospitable inclusive and healing community and space at the Faculty
- d. to the transformation and healing of our society as communities of unity, reconciliation and (restorative) justice

- a. development of Academic Training for
 - i. Undergraduate
 - ii. Post-graduate and
 - iii. Growing-and-utilising-our-own-timber programs-
(we will seek partnership with Net-Act in this regard)
- b. Spiritual and Ministerial formation of our students
- c. To Participate in Research projects with Faculty
- d. To Community interaction
- e. To the Recruitment of students

Full-time

Undergraduate programmes

Undergraduate classes are conducted bilingually, in English and Afrikaans according to the language competency of the students.

Teaching and training, like the research, are approached scientifically.

These interventions are complemented by a practical, community-oriented accent on social issues like HIV/Aids, poverty, violence, human dignity, ecology and justice.

- **BTh (Bachelor of Theology)**
- The BTh degree is a 3 year programme which trains students particularly as youth workers, service workers, counsellors and community workers.
- The programme includes modules on the subjects OT, NT, Systematic Theology, Ecclesiology, Practical Theology and Missiology. Students may choose to specialise in Youth Work.
- Write the National Benchmark Tests AQL
- National Senior Certificate (NSC) aggregate of at **least 60%** (excluding Life Orientation)

BDiv (Bachelor of Divinity)

The 4 year BDiv degree focuses on training for church ministry, specifically ministers.

The programme includes modules on the subjects Old Testament, New Testament, Systematic Theology, Ecclesiology, Practical Theology and Missiology. Some churches require students to include the two original languages of the Bible, Hebrew and Greek, as well as a South African language besides the mother tongue.

Admission requirements

- *Write the National Benchmark Tests AQL*
- *National Senior Certificate (NSC) aggregate of at least 60% (excluding Life Orientation)*

Bridging diploma course at Huguenot College in Wellington.

The Level 4 programme in Theology and Ministry is accredited by the Health and Welfare Seta and is a one year Certificate programme worth 134 credits.

Get 60% + , then B Th at Stellenbosch University

(Blended) Extended Learning

EKKLESIA has been in conversation with the University and the Faculty about the possibility of a (Blended) Extended Learning B Th program that can be done over more than three years.

This degree will make it possible for prospective students to get a first degree in theology while they are working. The prospects look good and we hope to be able to start (mid 2017) – (2018) – hopefully in 2019 – the timeframe keeps changing because of the Department of Higher Education changing the

What do we mean by Extended Learning?

Extended learning indicates that more than one mode of learning will be used in this specific program.

The course will be made up of

- Contact hours (lectures)
- Service Learning (practical work in a congregational setting)
- Web/IT based learning
- Work in cohort groups under leadership of a mentor/study leader

- Self-study
- Contact lessons could be done on a weekly basis on eg a Friday and a Saturday.

But the majority of churches have indicated that setting apart 3-4 weeks a the year be the preferred option for them. This will make it possible for students from outside the Peninsula to enrol for the course.

- We hope to formally begin in 2019.

Structure and content of Extended Learning Degree

It would be possible for students to first do a Basic Diploma in Theology (two or three years) and then a B Th degree (also in two years because of credits gained by way of the Diploma).

The degree would be a variation of the present B Th degree.

- The Extended Learning B Th (with the Diploma) will have a strong focus on preparing students for practical ministry. We would be allowed to adjust the content of the present degree to fit the specific profile of the new course.
- What we see is a degree that will contain all the vital theological subjects (OT, NT, Church History, Systematic and Ethical Theology, and Practical Theology) but also have a strong emphasis on preparing people for leadership and ministry in the church.

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY (50547:778)

1. Objective of the program

There are 3 points of departure for the Postgraduate Diploma in Theology:

- a. It is a bridging program between other academic disciplines and Theology.
- b. It addresses a need for theological knowledge with the view to personal enrichment.
- c. It offers students the opportunity to gain the necessary supplementation for training in Theology for access to further postgraduate study in Theology

Divided into an A course (for students without any previous training in theology) and a B course (for students with theology training inadequate for post-graduate studies).

- The A course has 2 parts. i. a comprehensive syllabus designed to offer applicants without any training in theology, the opportunity for a basic orientation in six theological subjects. ii. a more thorough treatment of 1 or 2 theological subjects that was introduced in the first part as well as a written assignment.
- The B course is for students who have already received formal training in theology. Within the framework of the programme each application will be assessed individually so that a selection of subjects in parts 1 and 2 of the programme can be made in accordance with the student's specific need and academic qualifications. In practice this means that if students have already done some of the prescribed books they may contact lecturers to request alternative books in their place.

Outline of course A

- First semester (60 credits obtained from six disciplines in seven exams). A general orientation (of at least 400 pages is offered) in six theological disciplines: OT, NT, Systematic Theology, Ecclesiology, Missiology and Practical Theology. The credits and the workload are divided proportionally in cases where students choose more than one subject in which to specialize. A student must complete the first part of the programme before he/she can continue with the second.
- Second semester (60 credits which include extensive reading in the area of specialisation as well as a research assignment). The focus is on a specific theological discipline in which the student wishes to specialise. The assessment of the second part of the program consists of (a) an assignment (\pm 30 pages) which focuses on a specific theme or a research proposal and (b) a specific reading list of approximately 1200 pages which is evaluated by means of an oral examination.