FACULTY OF THEOLOGY CENTENARY CONFERENCE
SENATE HALL UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA, 5 - 6 APRIL 2017
CONFERENCE: GATEWAY TO THE FUTURE FROM A DECONSTRUCTED PAST

“Accept responsibility for our past and learn from that past for the sake of our future”

Vision and Mission of the Faculty of Theology
- Relevant theological and religious education
- Nurturing transformative leaders
- Quality research
- Justice, peace, the integrity of creation and reconciling diversity
- Engaging the marginalised

WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2017

09:00 - 09:35 Opening: Dean Professor Johan Buitendag
Welcoming & Presentation:
Between the Scylla and the Charybdis:
A Faculty of Theology at a Public University

09:35 - 09:45 Message of Greetings: Prof. Dr. Ing. Ioan Bondrea,
Rector of “Lucian Blaga” University, Sibiu, Romania

1 Steering Committee: Maake Masango, Piet Meiring & Andries van Aarde

2 Robert McAfee Brown, in Elie Wiesel’s Night
**Morning Session:**

**Ethos – Critical Perspectives on Our Past and a Gateway to Our Future**

**Presider – Maake Masango**

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<td>From Cottesloe to Trondheim. The Journey of the Dutch Reformed Church Tradition back in the ecumenical family of the WCC Daniel Buda</td>
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<td>10:15 - 10:30</td>
<td>Respondent Johan van der Merwe</td>
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<td>10:30 - 11:00</td>
<td>Dutch Reformed (NG Kerk), Netherdutch Reformed (Hervormde Kerk) and the WCRC: A narrative of ecumenical privation and return: From Ottawa to Leipzig Kobus Gerber</td>
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<td>11:00 - 11:15</td>
<td>Respondent Jaco Beyers</td>
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<td>11:15 - 11:30</td>
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<td>11:30 - 12:00</td>
<td>“Theologia” and the “Ideologia” of language, nation, gender, and the circle of international footprints Andries van Aarde</td>
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<td>12:00 - 12:15</td>
<td>Respondent Johann Meylahn</td>
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<td>12:15 - 12:45</td>
<td>Reflection and Panel Discussion Co-chairs: Willem Fourie &amp; Tanya van Wyk</td>
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<td>13:00 - 13:45</td>
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Afternoon Session:  
Faith and Praxis – Rooted in University and Church

Presider – Jerry Pillay

14:00 - 14:30  
(Confessional) Lutheran perspectives on the unity of the church  
Dieter Reinstorf

14:30 - 15:00  
To deconstruct or how to deconstruct?  
That is the question: A Presbyterian perspective  
Graham Duncan

15:00 - 15:30  
Reformed Spirituality and the Spirit of Reconciliation  
Piet Meiring

15:30 - 16:00  
Reflection and Panel Discussion  
Co-chairs: Yolanda Dreyer & Danie Veldsman

16:00 - 16:45  
Break

17:00  
Evening programme commences
Evening Programme:

Presider – Dean Johan Buitendag

17:00 - 17:30  Centenary Celebration: A Cloud of Witnesses
Recognition and Thanksgiving
Introduction of Jürgen Moltmann

17:30 - 17:40  WCC Letter of Greetings
and Gratitude to Professor Jürgen Moltmann
Daniel Buda, WCC's programme executive
for church and ecumenical relations in Europe

17:40 - 19:10  Public Lecture: Future of Theology – Jürgen Moltmann

Jürgen Moltmann was born on 8 April 1926 in Hamburg. He began studying theology as a prisoner of war in England (Norton Camp). Upon his return home in 1948, he continued his studies at Göttingen University, where he received his doctorate (Dr Theol) in 1952. In 1957 he was promoted to Dr Theol Habil and became a professor at the Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal in 1958. In 1963 he accepted a call to become chair of Systematic Theology and Social Ethics at the Protestant Faculty of the University of Bonn and in 1967 he became Professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Tübingen, from which position he retired in 1994. He received the Italian literary prize, Premio letterario La Tora Isola d'Elba, in 1971; the Amos Comenius Medal at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1992; the Ernst Bloch Prize of the City of Ludwigshafen in 1995; and the Grawemeyer Award for Religion in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2000.

Prof Moltmann is described as ‘one of the most influential Christian thinkers’ of our time. Since the end of the Second World War, his life and work have had an extraordinary influence on the history of theology in Europe, North America, and even Africa and Asia. His theological works are taught, read or engaged with in almost all notable theological faculties and seminaries around the world. In both Protestant and Roman Catholic circles, there is not one contemporary theological textbook in Systematic Theology that does not give extensive attention to the theological contribution of Moltmann.

The degree Doctor Divinitatis (honoris causa) will be conferred on Prof Moltmann by the University of Pretoria at the Autumn Graduation Ceremony of the Faculty of Theology on 6 April 2017 at 15:00 in the Rembrandt Hall (LC de Villiers Sports Grounds).

19:10 - 19:20  Words of Gratitude: Danie Veldsman
(HOD: Systematic Theology and Christian Ethics)

19:30 - 20:30  Finger Dinner
THURSDAY, 6 APRIL 2017

Morning Session:

A century of academic theology

Presider – Maniraj Sukdaven

08:30 - 09:00    The Study of Religion and Theology at the University of Pretoria: A Century of Endeavour in Conditionalistic Perspective
                 Kobus Krüger

09:00 - 09:30   On "speaking to" and "speaking from" our contexts:
                 Our systematic - ethical journey at the Faculty of Theology,
                 University of Pretoria"
                 Danie Veldsman

09:30 - 10:00   Old Testament scholarship and the opening up of new worlds
                 Jurie le Roux

10:00 - 10:30   New Testament Studies: Deconstructing the past:
                 Behind the text, in the text, confronted by the text
                 Ernest van Eck

10:30 - 11:00   Break

11:00 - 11:30   The tradition of Practical Theology at the University of Pretoria.
                 Looking back, looking forward
                 Cas Wepener, Yolanda Dreyer and Johann Meylahn

11:30 - 12:00   Ecclesia semper reformanda:
                 Deconstructing the system stories of churches
                 Wim Dreyer

12:00 - 12:30   Mission as breaking down walls,
                 opening gates and empowering traders:
                 From contextualisation to deep contextualisation
                 Nelus Niemandt

12:30 - 13:00   Reflection and Panel Discussion –
                 Co- hairs: Jaco Beyers & Zorodzai Dube

13:00 - 13:10   Closing: Andries van Aarde

13:10 - 13:30   Refreshments

15:00           Graduation Ceremony
                 Rembrandt Hall, LC de Villiers Sports Centre
A Cloud of Witnesses

Remember your leaders who have spoken God's word to you. Think about how their lives turned out, and imitate their faith. (Hebr 13:7)

1. Johan A. Heyns

Mandela said about Professor Johan Heyns: ‘Heyns was my favourite kind of Afrikaner. Morally and physically brave, honest to the core, he had the courage late in his life to admit to the error of his ways.’ He courageously exposed the errors of church and society. He was assassinated on 5 November 1994. The brave man had become a martyr.

2. Maake Masango

Professor Maake Masango's journey with the Faculty of Theology began in 2000 when he was appointed the first permanent black academic in the Faculty. He is a truly ecumenical theologian, known for his concern with the upliftment of disadvantaged people. He mentored and supervised 124 master’s and 32 PhD graduates, and developed a unique pedagogy for African students.

3. Ben J. Marais

In his address to the Dutch Reformed Synod, Nelson Mandela hailed Professor Ben Marais as one of the true prophets of our time. Marais opposed the Afrikaner churches’ support of apartheid and co-authored the ground-breaking publication, *Delayed action: An ecumenical witness from the Afrikaner church* (*Vertraagde Aksie*), which challenged the theological support of apartheid.

4. Albert S. Geyser

Professor Albert Geyser's contribution as an academic was inspired by hermeneutics and his emphasis on spirituality and the mystic traditions of early Christianity. He unpacked the political and spiritual consequences of biblical exegesis by emphasising the universal implications of the gospel message, and exposed separatism, racism and sexism. He was the doyen of Afrikaner theologians who actively resisted apartheid legislation and was subsequently dismissed as professor.

5. Andries G. van Aarde

Employing the methodology of engaged hermeneutics and focusing on the historical Jesus, Professor Andries van Aarde is concerned with the poor, marginalised and oppressed. Since 1985 he has been editor-in-chief of the renowned scholarly journal, *HTS Theological Studies*, which is rated one of the top journals of religion in the world.
6. Berend J. Gemser

Professor Berend Gemser was the pioneer of the academic study of Semitic languages in South Africa and the driving force behind the establishment of HTS Theology Studies, South Africa’s oldest theological journal. He advocated a theology free from fundamentalism and liberal modernism. He was honoured as one of the 100 leading minds of UP in 2008.

7. Chris R. de Beer

As Vice - Rector, Professor Chris de Beer was responsible for the amalgamation of the two Faculties of Theology in 2000. With his legal mind, managerial skills and sensitivity to church matters and values, he facilitated the agreement between church and university and endorsed a strong scholarly approach to theology.

8. André Bartlett

Dr André Bartlett champions the theological investigation of LGBT rights in the Dutch Reformed Church and in the South African society. He is known for his brave public witness and has become a ‘gateway’ to the exploration of new ideas and possibilities. He challenges traditional beliefs and practices.

9. C. Louis Brandt

In 1930, when the Transvaal University College became a university, the Reverend Louis Brandt, Moderator of the Hervormde Kerk, was excited about this development. He gave a very apt definition of a university: ‘A university is called to serve all of creation, from the lowliest of organisms, even the so-called inorganic, the atoms and electrons, to the highest spiritual life of human beings.’ In 1927 he described the Faculty of Theology as a multi-ecclesial institution. A truly comprehensive university should reflect a multidimensional reality.

10. Adrianus van Selms

Professor Adrianus van Selms was known for his academic excellence and uncompromising devotion to Christ, both of which assume radical inclusivity. This became evident in his strong opposition to the racial prejudiced Article 3 of the Hervormde Church. He distinguished himself as an ecumenical theologian and was honoured as one of the 100 leading minds of UP in 2008.