

Department of Religion and Theology

Research Report for 2012 and Plans for 2013

1. Institutional Framework

a) Collaborative research frameworks

The Department of Religion and Theology registered the following three collaborative research frameworks in 2006:

- Moral education and formation towards a human rights culture
- Ecumenical theology and social transformation
- Christian ecological theology

The department also has a long-standing interest in the following field:

- Biblical, theological and contextual hermeneutics and rhetorical theory

In 2010 the department submitted a proposal for a SARCHI chair under the rubric of “Ecumenical Studies and Social Ethics”, incorporating several of the existing projects. This has led to a new initiative, namely a series of think tanks and public conferences on the interface between ecumenical studies and social ethics. Given the interwoven nature of these projects an integrated report is offered here while retaining the former rubrics where appropriate.

b) Desmond Tutu Chair

The vision for the establishment of an endowed Desmond Tutu Chair to support this project was articulated when this project was registered in May 2006. Given the availability of sufficient funds but an inability to make an appointment against this position since November 2009, the post was restructured as a rotating chair as an interim measure from 1 October 2012 to 30 November 2013. Christo Lombard occupied the chair in October and November 2012. TinyikoMaluleke and Ernst Conradie will each occupy the chair for a few months in the first semester of 2013, while plans for the second semester have not been finalised. This restructuring of the chair will be revised by May 2013 with a view to 2014. The activities of this chair will centre around a series of think tanks and public conferences on the interface between ecumenical studies and social ethics. The overall planning is listed here:

- Guiding visions for the transition to a post-apartheid society (Friday 9 November 2012) [Format: A preparatory paper by Christo Lombard with 2-page responses from invited participants]
- A critical assessment of “reconciliation” as one of the guiding visions during and beyond the transition period (26 October 2012) [Format: A preparatory paper by Ernst Conradie followed by prepared responses by invited participants]
- Notions and forms of “ecumenicity” in (South) Africa (22 February 2013) [Format: A preparatory paper by Ernst Conradie followed by prepared responses by invited participants]
- The quest for denominational identity within mainline churches (29 March 2013) [Format: A preparatory paper by TinyikoMaluleke followed by prepared responses by invited participants] + Public conference (24 May 2013)
- Ecumenical engagement in the form of NGO’s and FBO’s as dynamos for social transformation in the Western Cape (2 August 2013)
- Religion and moral formation towards responsible citizenship (30 August 2013) + Public conference (27 September 2013)
- Recognising current ecclesial reform / deform movements in South Africa + Public conference (first semester 2014)
- African Pentecostal expressions of ecumenicity in (South) Africa + Public conference (first semester 2014)
- African notions of leadership + Public conference (second semester 2014)
- Ecclesiology and ethics in the (South) African context: How is ecumenical studies related to social ethics? (first semester 2015)

More detailed reports and plans are provided where relevant below.

c) The envisaged Desmond Tutu Centre for Social Transformation

There has been a long-standing interest in discourse on social transformation at the University of the Western – in many departments and across several faculties. In the Faculty of Arts this has been a special interest in the Institute for Social Development and the departments of Philosophy, Religion and Theology and Women and Gender Studies. Although the concept of “social transformation” is necessarily rather amorphous, colleagues in the Department of Anthropology / Sociology have contributed to conceptual clarification alongside the other initiatives that may be covered under this umbrella term. The envisaged Desmond Tutu Centre for Social Transformation will seek to consolidate and enhance existing teaching, research and community engagement activities in this field in the following ways:

- Postgraduate modules offered in this field in various departments will be packaged and marketed as a more or less integrated offering (at least within a common timetable) in order to attract students to studies in social transformation.
- Several existing research frameworks and projects will be acknowledged under this umbrella. In terms of the current significant research projects in the faculty this may include a) Transformative Social Policy Programme b) The Earth in God's economy (ecological theology), c) Ecumenical Studies and Social Ethics and d) Gender Equality.
- The core of the envisaged centre's activities will be to develop partnerships with various non-government organisations, community based organisations and faith-based organisations in civil society that work on specific aspects of social transformation. The aim of these partnerships will be twofold. Firstly, the centre will offer an outlet to scholars and activists employed in such organisations to disseminate their work through research and postgraduate teaching in terms of the existing modules in the curriculum of various departments. It will thus strengthen the academic reflection within such organisations. Secondly, the centre will establish channels of communication with such partners in order to allow final year and postgraduate students to do internships within such organisations (whether voluntary or not) in order to understand developments in the appropriate fields, to gain field experience and to enhance their employability.
- The existing research projects will operate at the cross-section of this two way process. Postgraduate students will be encouraged to do research within collaborate research frameworks that can collectively help to understand processes of social transformation.
- In order to aid this process, the centre will host a series of seminars, workshops and public conferences with inputs from academics and activists in the field.
- The centre will also provide an institutional home for visiting academics working in any one of the fields indicated above.

It is envisaged that this centre will emerge through an organic process on the basis of current initiatives over the next two to three years. Administratively, several of the planned workshops and public conferences will be facilitated on the basis of a manager that will be employed from July 2012 to June 2015 with funds made available by the DVC for the project on Ecumenical Studies and Social Ethics (with respect to the SARChI Chair that was proposed in this area).

2. Social Ethics: Moral Education and Social Transformation

The following components of the project on Moral Formation towards a Human Rights Culture were identified since its inception:

- a) Ethical theory
- b) Responsibility theory
- c) Moral dimensions of worldview theory
- d) Discourse on a human rights culture
- e) The “global ethic” initiative and debate
- f) Moral and religious education in Southern African schools
- g) Violence against women and children; women's issues
- h) HIV/AIDS education
- i) Gender and Homosexuality

j) The role of religion in society to support moral cohesion

Progress was made in 2012 on the following aspects while plans are also underway for 2013 in such areas (significant developments are highlighted):

a) Ethical theory

In moral language a confusing set of concepts is typically used. In modules offered by the department a distinction is made between the role played by visions, virtues, values and obligations while related concepts such as goals, attitudes, principles, rules and moral codes also bear scrutiny.

In one of the think tanks on the interface between ecumenical studies and social ethics, the role of visions in the South African context was placed under the spotlight. It was discussed in relation to the *Diagnostic Report* produced by the National Planning Commission together with its *National Development Plan Vision 2030*.

In addition, Douglas Lawrie contributed a series of reflections on human dignity.

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| Events | DRT | Think tank hosted on Guiding visions for the transition to a post-apartheid society |
| Publication | D Lawrie | Of Human Indignity and the Limits of Ethics. <i>Scriptura</i> (2011) |
| Publication | D Lawrie | The Dialectic of Human Dignity and Human Finitude in the Psalms and Wisdom Literature <i>Scriptura</i> (2010) |
| Paper | C Lombard | Position paper on Guiding visions for the transition to a post-apartheid society |
| Paper | D Lawrie | Respecters of Rights or Virtuous People? Paper read at the conference of the Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Religious Education (IRE) group, held at UWC in September 2011 |
| Paper | D Lawrie | Whose Dignity/ What Culture? Paper read at a departmental seminar |
| Paper | D Lawrie | Old Ideas: Wisdom, Virtue and Moral Formation. Paper read at a colloquium of the Wisdom working group of the Old Testament Society, held at Stellenbosch University in 2012. |
| Paper | EM Conradie | Social cohesion: The deepest divisions in South Africa as a function of employability? Short paper at the above think tank |
| Plans | C Lombard | Edit the proceedings of the think tank to produce a booklet on the theme |
| Plans | M Pillay | Finalise first year text book on Responsible decision making |

c) Moral dimensions of worldview theory

The notion of “worldviews” is widely used in a variety of disciplines. Amidst the considerable confusion in this regard the underlying problem should be noted, namely that it is in principle impossible to gain a view of the world. It is therefore a matter of social construction. What, then, are the moral dimensions of the social construction of reality and indeed of ultimate reality?

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| Paper | EM Conradie | Discerning the parameters of the world of worldviews.” Paper read at an international conference on “Philosophy and Religion in Africa”, co-hosted by the Department of Foreign Languages and the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy (Washington) at UWC, 8-9 November 2012. |
| Paper | D Solomons | Black theology as unfinished business. Paper read at the same conference |
| Plans | C Lombard | Produce first year textbook on moral codes in various religious and secular traditions |

e) The “global ethic” initiative and debate:

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| Plans | C Lombard | Serves on a planning panel for an inter-faith Conference on “A shared moral vision for the future of South Africa?” (planned for February 2014) – sponsored by Turquoise Harmony Institute. |
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f) Moral and religious education in South African schools and workplaces

Following up on the two-day international conference of the Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Religious Education (IRE) group, held at UWC in September 2011, the Department was involved in various initiatives in this field:

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| Project | C Lombard | A bibliographic survey of theories and practices around the role of religion in moral formation. |
| Publication | J Klaasen | "Ministerial formation in The Anglican church of Southern Africa" in Marilyn Naaidoo(ed): <i>Between the real and the ideal</i> , Unisa Press. |
| Paper | C Lombard | "Religious and Religion Education in the new Christian private school group, Curro" at a Religion Education Workshop at UCT, September 2012 |
| Thesis | A Ilta | An assessment of the curriculum and implementation of Religious and Moral Education in Namibia based on a case study in the Oshana Region – Ongoing PhD research project; Supervisor: C Lombard |
| Thesis | L October | Ethics training in the workplace: A case study. Ongoing Masters research project; Supervisor: DG Lawrie |
| Plans | C Lombard | Edit a volume of essays based on the Conference papers of the IRE Conference held at UWC in September 2012 (to be funded by EFSA) |

Two research assistants, namely Newton Cloete and Rochelle Davids were employed to compile a bibliography on theories and practices around moral formation. This has produced some eight files with bibliographic entries in this field. This project will continue over December and January.

g) Gendered relationships between intimacy and violence

The Department of Religion and Theology, together with Department of Women and Gender Studies and partners such as the South African Faith and Family Institute (SAFFI), the Centre for Christian Spirituality (CCS) and Inclusive and Affirming Ministries (IAM) hosted a two day public conference at UWC on "Where are the Men?" 6-7 September 2012. This was a multi-media event with participation from UWC students and various NGO.

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| Essay | R Davids | Ethical reflection on abortion. Completed Honours research essay. Supervisor: MN Pillay |
| Event | DRT & WGS | "Where are the Men?" Two day public conference at UWC, 6-7 Sept. 2012 |
| Paper | MNPillay | "Gender, Education and Christianity: Feminism matters in the 21 st Century", Paper read at conference hosted by the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians on "Gender and Education", Faculty of Theology, University of Stellenbosch. |
| Publication | MN Pillay | Pillay, Miranda N 2012. "Challenging Patriarchal Masculinity in Act Like a Lady, Think like a Man: A Feminist Theo-Ethical Perspective", in Claassens, Juliana and Viljoen, Stella (eds), <i>Sacred Selves: Essays on Gender, Religion and Popular Culture</i> . Cape Town: Griffel. pp 81-100. |
| Thesis | D Beukes | Integrating Imago Relationship Therapy (IRT) into a Biblical Theological Approach to Marriage Counselling –Masters thesis, submitted November 2012; Supervisor: C Lombard |
| Essay | R Davids | The Church and Patriarchy: Controlling Human Sexuality in the Context of Abortion– Completed Honours research essay |

h) HIV/AIDS and education

The following students are working in this area:

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| Thesis | M Damon | The church and AIDS orphans – ongoing structured M.Phil. project (2010-); Supervisor: EM Conradie |
| Thesis | E Mwansa | Teenage pregnancies and the proportionality of guilt – ongoing PhD project (2012-); Supervisor: MN Pillay |
| Thesis | D Lambrecht | Church & HIV Aids: Response from Anglican parishes – ongoing PhD project (2011-); Supervisor: MN Pillay |
| Publication | MN Pillay | "Healing in the New Testament: Towards Integrating Individual and Societal Intervention Strategies in an AIDS Era.," <i>Journal of Gender and Religion in Africa</i> (forthcoming, 2012) |

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| Paper | MN Pillay | "Religion, Gender and AIDS: What's Wrong with Patriarchy?" Paper read at the International Congress on "Religion and Society: contemporary challenges", Faculdades EST, São Leopoldo, 10-14 September 2012 |
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i) Gender and Homosexuality

The following student is working in this area:

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| Thesis | N Joaquim | A case study of Homosexuality in the United Methodist Church– Structured M.Phil. thesis submitted in November 2012; Supervisor C Lombard |
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j) The role of religion in society to support moral cohesion

There is, of course, a rich tradition of academic reflection on the role of religion in society and more specifically in moral formation. Since the days of Kant this role is typically explained in functional terms. However, this has become highly contested in the Western world and in Africa alike. What, then, is the role of religion (more specifically ecumenical engagement) in moral formation within the African context?

Local faith communities have traditionally played a crucial role in maintaining the moral fabric of society. This role is recognised in the so-called Böckenförde principle which holds that the moral fibre of modern (Western) societies rely on moral sources that such societies cannot themselves guarantee or sustain. The moral fibre may be explained in generic categories (values, virtues, visions, duties) but the sources of inspiration behind them are particular and cannot be captured through a generic sense of religiosity. They are typically embedded in the archetypes, symbols and belief systems of religious traditions. To sustain such moral sources, the particularity of such traditions therefore has to be taken seriously.

This role of religion in caring for the vulnerable and in dispensing aid is widely recognised as indispensable in Africa, also by international aid organizations. Churches in South Africa have a long and outstanding track record of providing social services around education, health, caring for the deaf, blind, elderly, orphans and the homeless.

This role of local faith communities in maintaining the moral fabric of society may be described in sociological terms (for example in an important study by Robert Putham and others on "American grace") and is recognized in secular contexts, sometimes even with a sense of envy. Local faith communities rely on voluntary participation yet attract large numbers of very regular and highly committed adherents. Together, Christian churches form the largest and best supported organization on the African continent. Local faith communities typically (but not always) have trusted leaders who command considerable moral authority (which also leaves room for abusive charismatic leadership). Local faith communities draw on long-standing moral codes and traditions of wisdom that are widely accepted by their adherents. They are carriers of symbols and archetypes that people regard as persuasive and transformative. In contexts of rapid social change such moral communities help to maintain the "moral fabric of society", that is, some stability in terms of family structures, the cultivation of virtues such as care, and an ethos of respect for others and commitment to distributive and contributive justice.

Local faith communities nevertheless seem ill-equipped to make much of a difference to issues at the local level that are regarded as national priorities and at times resist such agendas imposed from the outside. As a result the reception of ecumenical initiatives in local faith communities is widely regarded as an intractable problem. Moreover, through processes of rapid social change such moral communities become fragmented faster than they are replenished – which bodes ill for the moral fabric of society. Many religious communities in Africa have become trapped in a consumerist culture of greed and even promote such a culture, for example through the "prosperity gospel". This may offer religious motivation for an upward social mobility but may also undermine the very sources of the moral fibre of society mentioned above. Moreover, trust in religious leadership is undermined by scandalous reports on abusive charismatic leadership, corruption, financial mismanagement and sexual misconduct by religious leaders.

This deep-seated tension between the possibilities of faith communities to maintain the moral fibre of society and their limitations to foster social transformation will be explored in two think tanks and a public conference in the second semester of 2013.

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| Publication | EM Conradie | A theological re-description of the emergence of religion: In conversation with John Calvin on the semen religionis. <i>Ned GerefTeologieseTydskrif</i> 53:1&2, 13-24. |
| Thesis | M Smith | The notion of citizenship in the writings of Desmond Mphilo Tutu – ongoing MA research project (2012-); Supervisor: EM Conradie |
| Thesis | M Meyer | The capability approach to education and development – ongoing MA research project (2010-); Supervisor: DG Lawrie |
| Thesis | R Leyanya | The relationship between church and state in Lesotho – ongoing M.Th. research project (2011-); Supervisor: C Lombard |
| Thesis | E Baron | The role of the media on the moral discourse on corruption in South Africa – ongoing PhD project (2010-); Supervisor: C Lombard |
| Essay | M Lakey | Globalization as assessed by the Accra Declaration completed Honours research essay; Supervisor: C Lombard |
| Essay | A Koopman | The role of the church in the formation of conscience – completed Honours research essay; Supervisor: EM Conradie |
| Plans | DRT | Ecumenical engagement in the form of NGO's and FBO's as dynamos for social transformation in the Western Cape – think tank to be hosted at UWC on 2 August 2013 |
| | DRT | Religion and moral formation towards responsible citizenship – think tank to be hosted at UWC on 30 August 2013 followed by a public conference on 27 September 2013 |

3. Ecumenical Theology

The following components of the larger project have been identified since its inception:

- a) Mapping Systematic Theology in Africa
- b) Bibliographic research on Systematic Theology and Ethics in African theology
- c) The development of a series of textbooks in Systematic Theology for use in (Southern) Africa
- d) Conferences in the field of African Christian theology
- e) African perspectives on “Ecclesiology and ethics”
- f) Reconciliation Processes in a Theological Perspective
- g) Ecumenical theological education in the African context
- h) The Quest for identity in mainline churches in South Africa
- i) Ecumenical discourse on the “God of Life”

Progress was made in 2012 in the following areas while plans for 2013 are also indicated (significant developments are highlighted):

a) Mapping Systematic Theology in Africa

The following postgraduate projects are currently registered in this area:

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| Paper | EM Conradie | “A distinctly South African way of doing theology? In conversation with Steve de Gruchy”: Paper read at the Joint Conference of academic societies in the fields of Religion and Theology, Pietermaritzburg, 18-22 June 2012 |
| Thesis | J Fischer | The relationship between the Church and the Reign of God in the Reconstruction Theology of JNK Mugambi: A critical analysis – ongoing Ph.D. research project (2009-); Supervisor: EM Conradie |
| Thesis | M Jambulosi | Evangelisation and unity in 20 th century Ecumenism: A comparative study of the roles of <i>Missio Dei</i> and unity in the Lausanne Movement and the World Council of Churches – ongoing Ph.D. research project (2010-); Supervisor: Hans Engdahl |
| Thesis | XSakuba | Notions of culture in African Christian theologies – Ph.D. thesis (2005-), submitted November 2012; Supervisor: EM Conradie |

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| Paper | H Engdahl | "Close Reading and Contrast Reading in Theology. Ecclesiology as Intermediary of Secular Science and Theology", Paper read at Uppsala University, December 2012, to be published in a book on 'Uppsala ecclesiology' (S E Brodd editor), March 2012 |
| Plans | H Engdahl | Work on book project: African Theology Ancient and Modern – the Theologies of Origen and (John) Mbiti |
| Plans | H Engdahl | Paper on "The Intersection of Theology and Philosophy. An Interrogation of Origen and Mbiti", Lund University, 23 January 2013 |

e) African perspectives on "Ecclesiology and ethics"

The core question posed in the project on ecumenical theology in Africa as a whole is related to an understanding of the nature and forms of ecumenicity in Africa. This is shaped by tensions between ecumenical discourse on Faith and Order and on Life and Work, also captured under the tension between "ecclesiology" and "ethics"

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| Thesis | W Engelbrecht | The ecumenical movement and the People's Church ongoing M.Th. research project (2009-); Supervisor: C Lombard |
| Publication | H Engdahl | "Theology as Politics in Afrikaner Nationalism and Black Consciousness. A Close Reading of F.J.M. Potgieter and Steve Biko". <i>Journal of Theology for Southern Africa</i> , 144 (November 2012). |
| Paper | H Engdahl | "Presuppositions of Ecclesiology in Africa. A Study of Origen and Mbiti", paper presented at the ecumenical conference on "Thinking Outside the Ecumenical Box" – The Quest for Dialogue in the Twenty-First Century, Assisi, April 2012 |
| Plans | DRT | Host think tank on "Notions and forms of Ecumenicity in Africa" 22 Feb 2013 |
| | EM Conradie | Prepare position paper in this regard |
| | EM Conradie | Edit booklet on "Notions and forms of Ecumenicity in Africa" |
| | EM Conradie | Teach postgraduate module in this field in 2013 |

f) Reconciliation Processes in a Theological Perspective

"Reconciliation" may be regarded as one of the operational concepts employed to express a vision for social transformation in South Africa towards 2030. A think tank hosted at UWC on 26 October focused on this theme. The outcomes of this work should be published in 2013. A few postgraduate projects also fall in this area:

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| Events | DRT | "Reconciliation: A conceptual analysis of and theological reflection on one of the guiding visions for a post-apartheid society", think tank hosted by the Department of Religion and Theology at UWC, 26 October 2012 |
| Paper | EM Conradie | "Reconciliation as one Guiding Vision for South Africa? Conceptual Analysis and Theological Reflection." Position paper presented at this think tank |
| Thesis | D Solomons | Reconciliation as a controversial symbol: An analysis of a theological discourse in South Africa between 1968 and 2010 – ongoing Ph.D. research project; Supervisors: EAJG van der Borgh & EM Conradie |
| | L Kobe | The relationship between remorse and offering forgiveness: Selected case studies from the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission – ongoing MA research project (2012-); Supervisor: EM Conradie |
| | E Arrison | The Relevance of the Taizé Community's Theology of Reconciliation for the Post-apartheid South African Church and Society" – ongoing structured M.A project (2009-); Supervisor JW de Gruchy |
| Essay | MS Nkosi | Completed Honours research essay on restitution; Supervisor: EM Conradie |
| Plans | EM Conradie | Edit and publish proceedings from the think tank on reconciliation |

h) The quest for identity in mainline churches in South Africa

A number of postgraduate projects fall more or less within this area. This will be one of the focus areas for 2013 with the department hosting a think tank and a public conference on this theme:

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| Paper | M Coetzee | "Dominantedogmatiesesleutels in die Ned GerefKerkna 1974" Paper read at |
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| | &EM Conradie | the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University, 20 September 2012 |
| Paper | EM Conradie | "The ambiguity of Johan Heyns: Sitting at Bavinck's left or right hand?": Paper read at a conference on "The Reformed churches in South Africa and the struggle for justice: Remembering 1960-1990", Stellenbosch University, 14-16 May 2012 |
| Paper | C Lombard | "Willie Jonker's gentle promptings for justice" Paper read at a conference on "The Reformed churches in South Africa and the struggle for justice: Remembering 1960-1990", Stellenbosch University, 14-16 May 2012 |
| Thesis | K Kondolo | The ministry of music: A case study on the United Church of Zambia and the New Jerusalem Church – ongoing PhD research project (2012-); Supervisor: EM Conradie |
| Thesis | A Potgieter | The Material Dimension of Religion: A case study of selected neo-Pentecostal Churches in Woodstock, Cape Town – ongoing structured M Phil research project (2012-); Supervisor: EM Conradie |
| | D Abrahams | The problem of hegemonic rule by ecclesial hierarchies. How a study in the early Martin Luther and Leonardo Boff can reveal the implicit danger and ways to overcome it" – completed M.Th. thesis(2008-); Supervisor: H Engdahl |
| | K Brooks | Deliverance from a Pentecostal perspective – ongoing M.Phil research project (2011-); Supervisor: EM Conradie |
| Plans | DRT | Host think tank on "The quest for identity in mainline churches in South Africa", 15 March 2013 |
| Plans | DRT | Host public conference on the same theme, 24 May 2013 |

i) Ecumenical discourse on the "God of Life"

Ernst Conradie was invited as guest editor of the international journal *The Ecumenical Review* to gather together a set of articles on the theme of "God of life" with a view to the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches on the theme "God of life, lead us to justice and peace" to be held in Busan, Korea, October – November 2013. The due date for submissions was 30 November 2012 while the editing process should be completed by 31 January 2013.

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| Publication | H Engdahl & AGöranzon | "Ecumenical Space on the Way to the WCC Assembly in Busan – Expanded for Whom?" <i>The Ecumenical Review</i> (March 2013) |
| Plans | EM Conradie | Finalise article on "The God of Life: A counter-intuitive confession?" |
| | EM Conradie | Edit collection of articles for <i>Ecumenical Review</i> |

j) Other contributions

The following additional contributions may be mentioned that are less directly related to one of the rubrics under ecumenical theology:

4. Christian ecological theology

This large collaborative project from the beginning included several subsidiary projects.

- a) Ecological theology: A bibliographic survey
- b) Hope for the earth: Ecology, eschatology and cosmology (completed)
- c) The crown of creation? Anthropology, ecology and eschatology (completed)
- d) The earth and God's work of creation and redemption (2006-2012+)
- e) Theological reflections on a culture of consumerism
- f) Ecological hermeneutics
- g) Dissemination of the project
- h) The Christian Faith and the Earth project (2007-2013)
- i) The church and climate change
- j) Ecological concerns related to a theology of place
- k) Ecology and mission

- l) Pneumatology and ecology
- m) Ecology and liturgy
- n) Hamartology and ecology
- o) Other contributions

Progress was made in 2012 in the following areas related to this research framework while plans for 2013 are also indicated (significant developments are highlighted):

a) Ecological theology: A bibliographic survey

Ernst Conradie participated in and co-hosted together with Prof Heather Eaton (St Pauls, Ottawa) and Prof Whitney Bauman, (Florida) a colloquium on “Christian Theology and the Earth” in San Francisco in November 2011. The colloquium was attended by some 15 leading figures in the field mainly from Canada, the USA and South Africa. A set of articles emerging from this significant colloquium (edited by the same team) was edited during the course of 2012 and will be published in the Journal *Theology* in 2013.

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| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM (ed): The journey of doing Christian ecotheology. Edited essay written to capture collective insights of a workshop on “Christian Theology and the Earth”, accepted for publication in <i>Theology</i> |
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d) The Earth in God’s economy: Reflections on the narrative of God’s work on earth

This was the major focus of the project from 2007 to 2012. The underlying problem is how justice can be done in Christian discourse to both God’s work of creation and salvation. A failure to do so may have grave consequences for a Christian ethos, praxis and spirituality. This is captured in phrases such as “human dignity”, “women’s emancipation”, “black liberation”, “cultural authenticity”. The project yielded two major edited volumes published in 2011 and 2012 and a substantial forthcoming monograph.

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| Papers | EM Conradie | “God’s economy? Theological reflection on the whole work of God in the light of the current global environmental crisis”: Plenary paper read at a conference on “Christian Faith and the Earth: Respite et Prospice” |
| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM (ed) 2011. <i>Creation and Salvation, Volume 1: A Mosaic of Essays on Selected Classic Christian Theologians</i> . Studies in Religion and the Environment, Vol. 5. Berlin: LIT Verlag. |
| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM (ed) 2012. <i>Creation and Salvation: Volume 2: A Companion on Recent Theological Movements</i> . Studies in Religion and the Environment, Vol. 6. Berlin: LIT Verlag. |
| Publications | Various | This volume included contributions of 25000 words each by Ernst Conradie (on Jürgen Moltmann), Hans Engdahl(on Gustav Wingren), Douglas Lawrie(on Gustavo Gutierrez) and Christo Lombard (on Arnold van Ruler) |
| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM 2012/2013. <i>Saving the Earth? The legacy of reformed views on “re-creation”</i> . Studies in Religion and the Environment Vol. 8. Berlin: LIT Verlag. (forthcoming) |
| Plans | EM Conradie | Complete a chapter on “What is the Place of the Earth in God’s Economy? Doing Justice to Creation, Salvation and Consummation” for an edited volumes emerging from the CFE conference |
| Plans | C Lombard | Prepare earlier PhD thesis on “Adama, Thora en dogma: die samehang van aardselewe, skrif en dogma in die teologie van A.A. van Ruler” for publication in the series Studies in Ethics and Theology |
| Plans | EM Conradie | Seek to make progress on a monograph on “The Earth in God’s economy” |

Newton Cloete was employed as a research assistant, partially to help with preparing the indices for these publications.

h) The Christian Faith and the Earth project

In 2012 much of the work in this project centred around the hosting of the international Christian Faith and the Earth conference at the Sustainability Institute near Lynedoch, 6-10

August 2012. There were 9 plenary papers and 21 parallel papers presented during the conference. Participants from Australia, Canada, Ghana, Korea, Norway, Sweden, Tanzania, the UK, Uruguay, the USA and Zambia attended the conference. The programme and a report on this conference is available elsewhere.

The project will conclude in 2013 with the publication of an edited volume based on the plenary papers delivered at the conference. Participants were invited to revise papers delivered during parallel sessions and to submit these for publication in *Scriptura*. The project itself is due to give birth to three smaller projects, namely on “Sin and the Suffering of God’s creatures” (based at UWC), “Ecclesiology and ecology” (based in Brisbane), and on “Pneumatology and ecology” (to be finalised”).

Newton Cloete was employed as a research assistant, partially to help with logistics around this conference.

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| Events | | CFE conference hosted |
| Paper | EM Conradie | “God’s economy? Theological reflection on the whole work of God in the light of the current global environmental crisis”: |
| Paper | N Cloete | The Christian doctrine of sin revisited in an age of ecological destruction |
| Plans | EM Conradie | Edit contributions submitted for publication in <i>Scriptura</i> |
| | EM Conradie | Edit an edited volume based on the plenary papers. A proposal has been submitted to T&T Clark International in this regard. |

k) Ecology and mission

Ernst Conradie was invited and participated in the major conference of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism held in Manila in March 2012 with a view to revise CWME’s statement on mission.

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| Papers | EM Conradie | “Creation and mission”: Presentation and the Pre-Assembly Mission event on “Together towards life: Called to live out the hope in Christ” hosted by the Commission for World Mission and Evangelism (WCC), Traders Hotel, Manila, Philippines, 22-27 March 2012 |
| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM 2012. “Creation and mission”, <i>International Review of Mission</i> (forthcoming) |
| | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM 2011. Missiology and soteriology: The power and limits of a multi-dimensional approach. <i>Missionalia</i> 39:1/2, 83-98. |

l) Pneumatology and ecology

Ernst Conradie was invited to act as guest editor for one edition of the prestigious (but not accredited) *Journal of Reformed Theology* (based at the VU University in Amsterdam) on “Pneumatology and Ecology”. This volume will be published as the last edition of 2012.

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| Publications | EM Conradie | Edited a collection of essays on “Ecumenical Discourse on Pneumatology and Ecology” for the <i>Journal of Reformed Theology</i> (forthcoming, 2012) |
| Publications | RO Agyarko | The Sunsum of Onyame: Akan perspectives on an ecological pneumatology, <i>Journal of Reformed Theology</i> (forthcoming, 2012) |
| Publications | C Lombard | Ecology and Pneuma: Needing and Finding Each Other?, <i>Journal of Reformed Theology</i> (forthcoming, 2012) |
| Publications | EM Conradie | What Makes the World Go Round? Some Reformed Perspectives on Pneumatology and Ecology, <i>Journal of Reformed Theology</i> (forthcoming, 2012) |

m) Ecology and liturgy

Andre du Plooy registered a masters project related to liturgy and cosmology under the supervision of Hans Engdahl. Ernst Conradie makes regular contributions to ecclesial publications in this area:

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| Thesis | AJ du Plooy | Liturgy and cosmology: A Study of the Anglican Liturgy of 1989 from the perspective of Gordon W. Lathrop’s Liturgical Cosmology – ongoing MTh research project (2011); Supervisor: H Engdahl |
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| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM 2012. Preekstudie – 1 Konings 18:20-21, 30-39. In: Orsmond, E & Botha, JG (reds): <i>Preekstudies met liturgiesevoorstellegebaseer op die Leesrooster2012/2013</i> , 184-188. Stellenbosch: BUVTON. |
| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM 2012. 'n Seisoen van die Skepping: Die vrugbaarheid van die grondkom in gedrang. In: Orsmond, E & Botha, JG (reds): <i>Preekstudies met liturgiesevoorstellegebaseer op die Leesrooster 2012/2013</i> , 175-176. Stellenbosch: BUVTON. |
| Plans | EM Conradie | Make similar contributions for the Leesrooster in 2013 |
| Conference | DRT | The department will host the annual meeting of the Theological Society of South Africa on the theme of "Land, Liturgy and Life". Several members of the department may offer papers at this conference. |

n) Hamartology and ecology

When work on the project on Creation and salvation has been completed (more or less by the end of 2012), Ernst Conradie envisages a next major project provisionally entitled "Sin and the Suffering of God's creatures". This will build on his earlier work on Christian anthropology and an article on interpretations of the doctrine of sin in ecotheology. The larger project will investigate the "sunny side of sin" (Arnold van Ruler) in the light of insights from evolutionary biology and the emergence of hominid species. Newton Cloete made significant progress with a Masters thesis in this area.

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| Papers | NMCloete | The Christian doctrine of sin revisited in an age of ecological destruction |
| Thesis | NMCloete | Hamartology and Ecology: A critical assessment of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's view on the nature of sin – ongoing MTh research project (2011-); supervisor: EM Conradie |
| Plans | NM Cloete & EM Conradie | Register new project provisionally entitled "Sin and the Suffering of God's creatures" |

o) Other contributions

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| Papers | EM Conradie | "In die netwerk van die omgewing": Paper read at the Lentekonferensie, Pretoria, 26 September 2012 |
| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM 2012. Between Vanity and Sanity: Review Essay on Klaus Nürnberger's <i>Regaining Sanity for the Earth</i> . <i>Journal of Theology for Southern Africa</i> 144-126-143. |
| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM 2012. African perspectives on the "whole household of God" (oikos). In: Mwase, IMT & Kamaara, E (eds): <i>Theologies of Liberation and Reconstruction: Essays in Honour of Prof. Jesse N.K. Mugambi</i> . Nairobi: Acton. |
| Publications | EM Conradie | Conradie, EM (ed) 2012. <i>Does matter matter? The significance of that which is financial, material, bodily and earthly in theological perspective</i> . Study document posted on the website of the Dutch Reformed Church' Commission for Public Witness. |

5. Biblical, theological and contextual hermeneutics / rhetorical theory

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| Paper | MN Pillay | "A Socio-Rhetorical Reading of Luke 10:25-37: A resource for healing in an AIDS era?" Paper Read at SBL Annual meeting 16-20 November 2012, Chicago |
| Essay | R Cloete | Re-thinking Masculinity in the 21 st Century: A Socio-Rhetorical reading of Luke 7:36-50 – completed Honours research essay; Supervisor: MN Pillay |
| Essay | N Joshua | Michal and David: An analysis of the narrative in 2 Samuel 6. Completed Honours research essay; Supervisor: DG Lawrie |

6. Individual Research Plans

Research Plans for 2013: WTW Cloete

I am continuing my research on the Hebrew poetry of the Old Testament with a focus on the concept of parallelism and its use in the study and interpretation of the poetic/versified texts of the Old Testament. I presented a paper on this at a seminar of the Department of Religion and Theology in April 2012 as planned, and my review of J. Luchsinger's *Poetik der alttestamentlichen Spruchweisheit* (Stuttgart: Kohlhammer 2010) appeared in *Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages* 38/1, 2012, 115-117. The time spent on the review of this book was indeed a worthwhile investment contributing to my research, given the many points of contact between them, as well as comprehensive nature of the book and its detailed attention to parallelism.

Currently I am reworking the paper in order to submit it for publication in an accredited scholarly journal. I shall also attempt to publish a more popularised version of part of it elsewhere within the coming year.

Research Plans for 2013: EM Conradie

My research plans for 2013 include the following, more or less in order of priority:

- I hope to make substantial progress with an envisaged monograph to be entitled "The Earth in God's Economy: Creation, Salvation and Consummation in Ecological Perspective". I have first rough draft available which can form the basis for reading in widening circles. I hope to structure opportunities where the seven chapters of the text can each be discussed in some depth with invited colleagues.
- I will be the lead editor for a volume entitled "Christian Faith and the Earth: Current Paths and Emerging Horizons" that emerged from the culminating conference of the Christian Faith and the Earth project in August 2012.
- I hope to conceptualise and start work on a new project on "Sin and the Suffering of God's Creatures"
- I need to write a position paper on "Notions and forms of Ecumenicity" for a think tank on the same theme to be hosted by the department on 22 February 2013. It is likely that this will lead to an edited booklet with various responses. This will form the backbone of a postgraduate module on ecumenical theology in Africa to be offered in the first semester of 2013.
- The department will host the annual meeting of the Theological Society of South Africa on "Land, Liturgy and Life". I will be involved in the planning and may also consider doing a paper for that conference.
- I would need to read up on the role of religion in society in relation to the two think tanks on dynamos for social transformation and on citizenship to be hosted by the department in the second semester of 2013. This may also dovetail with the postgraduate module on land as a lens for economic inequalities to be offered in the second semester of 2013.

Research Plans for 2013: J Klaasen

- To present a paper at The Society of practical theology in January at Potchefstroom University.
- Present a paper at The Theology Society of South Africa in June to be hosted by UWC.
- To continue to work in collaboration with another colleague on a course reader for first year ethics.
- To develop a post-graduate course in Theology and Development.
- Present a paper at The Society of Missiology in March.
- Prepare for a sabbatical in January 2014.

Research Plans for 2013: DG Lawrie

Research Plans for 2013: C Lombard

During the first semester of 2013 I shall be working on the texts of *readers* which I hope to finish during the course of the year (to be published in the Departmental Series: Studies in Religion and Theology):

- A reader for the module ETH 121, paper 2: *The Moral Codes of the World's Religions*. [A reader for the module ETH 121, paper 1: *Religion, Worldviews and Ethics*. This will be a collaborative effort with other colleagues, hopefully resulting in a reader for use in the second semester of 2013. These two readers will probably be published together as one comprehensive reader.]

- A reader for the module ETH 212: *Moral discourse on Human Rights and Civil Society* (ready for the first semester 2014)

During the first semester I shall also work on two major publications:

- Publication of a monograph on the theology of Albert Arnold van Ruler (1908-1970) – in Afrikaans (in the Departmental Series *Studies in Religion and Theology* - an update and publication of my dissertation on Van Ruler's theology).
- Publication of the papers delivered at the IRE Conference on Moral Formation and Ethics at School (September 2011, at UWC and Stellenbosch).

I also hope to publish the following articles during the course of the year:

- A 3000 word article on "A paradigm for teaching Bible and values within the Curro school curriculum" in a publication based on a paper at the Workshop on Religious Education at UCT, October 2012 (edited by AbdulkaderTayob).
- A peer-reviewed article on "Willie Jonker's gentle promptings for justice" (NGTT).
- An article on "The academic space for theological studies" (based on a paper delivered on the topic at a conference at Wellington (2010).
- A peer-reviewed article in the Journal for Reformed Theology: "Ecology and Pneumatology: Needing and finding each other?" (already submitted).
- Within the ambit of the Desmond Tutu Chair for Ecumenical Theology and Social Transformation I will prepare a paper (also to be published) on "Key concepts for Social Transformation in the Southern African context".

Serving on a Committee of the Dutch Reformed and Uniting Reformed Churches, I am responsible for coordinating and editing contributions on the work of the Holy Spirit (including the articles on the church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the flesh and life eternal).

Research Plans for 2013: MN Pillay

I plan to attend to the following activities:

- Circle Conference on "Reflections from the Pew and Pulpit: Successes, Struggles and Challenges of Women leaders in the Church", To be organised and hosted by DRT – Friday 19 April 2013.
- Gender, Education and Christianity: Feminism matters in the 21st Century. Prepare article for publication
- The Gospel of Matthew: Good News for Jews, Gentiles, Men, Women? Prepare article for publication
- A Socio-Rhetorical Reading of Luke 10:25-37: A resource for healing in an AIDS era? Prepare article for publication
- Finalize class readers for Ethics 111: Paper 1; TST 111: Paper 2