



UNIVERSITY of the  
WESTERN CAPE

OFFICE OF THE RECTOR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**ENDORSEMENT AND SUPPORT OF PROF CHRISTO LOMBARD'S NETWORKING WITH ECUMENICAL, ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS PARTNERS REGARDING AN ENDOWED *DESMOND TUTU CHAIR AND CENTRE FOR SPIRITUALITY AND SOCIETY* AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WESTERN CAPE**

Dear Friends,

As you may know, Archbishop Desmond Tutu has been Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape for almost 25 years. At this "place of quality", this "place to grow", we have established a Desmond Tutu Chair for Ecumenical Theology and Social Transformation to honour and consolidate in ever new circumstances Desmond Mpilo Tutu's inspiring legacy of compassion and social justice.

Right from the beginning our dream has been to establish a fully endowed Chair, which can facilitate inter-disciplinary teaching and research through bursaries for especially post-graduate students in areas such as reconciliation studies, social transformation, ethical leadership and justice. To properly serve these aims, the Chair, based within the Department of Religion and Theology, is functioning within the structures of the Faculty of Arts.

To give substance to the Tutu legacy, the Department of Religion and Theology has launched a three-year project on "Ecclesiology and Ethics" - as one of the major current initiatives of the World Council of Churches is called. The new project at UWC consists of ten one-day colloquia or conferences to which various experts and stakeholders are being invited, and which have already resulted in a number of monographs capturing the outcomes of these deliberations.

To facilitate the dream of a fully endowed Chair, the University has appointed Prof Christo Lombard upon his retirement, as from 1 July 2013 for a period of one year (possibly two years), to establish the Chair and its programmes and to strengthen global ecumenical and academic networks to rekindle the original ideal of a financially safeguarded Chair.

Based on the very positive reaction of ecumenical partners in the Nordic countries and Germany during Prof Lombard's first trip to Europe, in September 2013, and the success of the various conferences and colloquia in South Africa thus far, a further initiative was started in the Faculty of Arts. This was to supplement the Chair (including bursaries for post-graduate

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a place to grow, from hope  
to action through knowledge

studies in the areas mentioned), with a *Desmond Tutu Centre for Spirituality and Society*.

Various donors enthusiastically suggested that such a Centre was a logical step, which would consolidate, in an effective and powerful way, the Tutu legacy at the institution that has been embodying Desmond Tutu's spirit, under his inspiring Chancellorship over many decades. Likewise, church leaders, community leaders, and many faith based organisations and non-government organisations, all active in civil society, have emphasised the real need for such a Centre, where academics and civil society actors can cooperate in teaching and learning, as well as research and community engagement.

At a meeting between the Senior Management Team at UWC (including the Rector, the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and the Institutional Planner), and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the Chair of the Department of Religion and Theology, and the current Desmond Tutu Chair, on 23 January 2014, an in-depth discussion of a document *A reignited vision for the Desmond Tutu Chair and Centre*, led to a comprehensive endorsement by Senior Management for the establishment of the *Desmond Tutu Centre for Spirituality and Society* at UWC. This endorsement includes inter alia the following: providing accommodation, space, and proper secretarial support for the Centre; as well as setting up an independent and tax-deductible Trust Fund and a responsible Body to run the Fund (in which donors can specify for which purposes and in which areas their contributions can be applied). For details of our concrete support you are referred to the letter of the Deputy Vice Chancellor in which the decisions and outcomes of the meeting are spelled out in detail.

It is thus a pleasure for me as Rector and Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, together with our new Chancellor, Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, to endorse all these plans to continue and strengthen the legacy of our previous Chancellor. I also wish to thank you and your organisation for support of this initiative through which young scholars interested in studying the role of values such as justice, peace and reconciliation, ethical leadership, and the challenges of social transformation, can be assisted to fulfil their dreams. It has been heartening to hear from Prof Lombard that many business leaders in South Africa have expressed interest in supporting this investment for the future of new generations in a South Africa that is shaped by the ideals of truth, honesty, ethical leadership, reconciliation, justice, fairness and compassion.

We at the University of the Western Cape are thankful for having partners from all over the world in working towards embodying the ideals that have driven our remarkable and inspiring former Chancellor, emeritus Archbishop Desmond Tutu, together with his wife, Leah.

With gratitude and kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B O'Connell', written in a cursive style.

**PROF BRIAN O'CONNELL**  
**RECTOR AND VICE-CHANCELLOR**

7 March 2014

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**March 2014**

## **LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Dear friends,

In the letter of the Rector of the University of the Western Cape, Prof Brian O'Connell, dated 7 March 2014, and through other documents which Prof Christo Lombard (the current Desmond Tutu Chair at UWC) can share, you are informed in detail of initiatives by the University to honour my legacy in tangible ways.

The University wishes to do that through the establishment of an endowed *Desmond Tutu Chair in Ecumenical Theology and Social Transformation* (including bursaries for students interested in ethical leadership, spirituality, reconciliation studies, justice, peace, human rights, social ethics and transformation), as well as setting up a *Desmond Tutu Centre for Spirituality and Society* (where these themes can be taught and researched in collaboration with churches, religious organisations, faith based organisations, but also business and civil society at large).

Amazed as I am that all these initiatives are undertaken in honour of my legacy, I am of course thankful, especially that the University so close to my heart, and of which I have been Chancellor for almost 25 years, wishes to institutionally make provision for such a Chair, such study opportunities for advanced students, and such a Centre – with a focus on the values that drive society. I think that is a wonderful dream and I hereby give my full support for and endorsement of their efforts. The idea of involving ecumenical, academic and business partners in making the Chair, the bursaries and the Centre viable and sustainable for many years to come, seems to be visionary.

It will be wonderful if many friends can share this vision and help towards its sustained realisation. Your participation and assistance will be highly appreciated.

God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desmond Tutu', followed by several horizontal strokes that suggest a flourish or the end of a signature.

Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu