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| International Academy of Practical Theology  <http://www.ia-pt.org> | IAPT | *President: Professor Heather Walton*  *Theology and Religious Studies*  *University of Glasgow*  *Glasgow*  *G12 8QQ*  *Scotland*  [president@ia-pt.org](mailto:president@ia-pt.org) |

Dear IAPT Colleague,

In this newsletter you will find some important information regarding our forthcoming conference in Oslo and also the proposed membership of the Executive Committee (2017-19).

***Oslo April 2017***

As you will be aware the next conference is now only 6 months away. We are very excited about the theme ‘Reforming: Space, Body, Politics’ and our excellent team of plenary speakers: Vitor Westhelle from Chicago, Federico Settler from Pietermaritzburg, Nina Hoel from Oslo and Karlijn Demasure from Rome. In addition to plenary speakers there will be two important ‘Roundtable’ sessions on issues relating to the ‘reforming’ of practical theology. As usual the conference will also provide opportunity to gain an understanding of the host context through meeting local practical theologians and our programmed visits.

Interest in the conference has been very encouraging and we have good numbers of paper and poster proposals currently under consideration. The deadline of the call for papers is only a few days away so if you wish to make a proposal please do so immediately! Another issue to bear in mind as a matter of urgency is the need some members may have to apply for a visa to enter Norway. Our hosts can support you by providing a letter of invitation should this be necessary. Please contact the host committee via the conference website for their help in this matter.

As always the conference is a time when we consider our obligations to the Academy. Membership fees are one way of contributing to our on-going work and these are due prior to the conference. When paying your fees please also consider making a donation to the IAPT Scholars Fund which supports members without access to sufficient funding and enables them to participate fully in our academic community. IAPT is very much a community of its members and can I also remind you of the obligation the By-Laws place upon us to attend our biennial meetings *as a condition of continued membership*. If you are unable to be with us in Oslo please do make sure you register your apologies with our secretary, Annemie Dillen who maintains our attendance records.

Alongside our academic work in Oslo we will also have business sessions in which we will be taking important decisions about the future of the Academy. The Executive plans to propose changes to the By-Laws that will widen access to membership (as discussed in my last newsletter). Your thoughtful participation in our democratic processes is of great significance to the Academy. A detailed account of the proposed changes will be found in the next newsletter which will be sent early in January.

***Slate of Proposed Candidates for the Executive Committee***

An important task of the EC is to nominate candidates for the offices of the next Executive Committee. In accordance with the By-Laws, we present the following slate of candidates to the membership. The nominations will be confirmed during the business meeting at the Oslo conference (By-Laws VII.F.)

President: Trygve Wyller (Norway)

Vice President: Faustino Cruz (USA)  
Secretary: Annemie Dillen (Belgium)  
Treasurer: Auli Vähäkangas (Finland)  
Member at Large: Francis-Vincent Anthony (Italy)

Member at Large: Birgit Weyel (Germany)

***Introducing the Candidates***

Trygve Wyller (Norway)

Trygve Wyller wrote his doctoral dissertation on the relationship between modern autonomy and Christian belief. In recent years, his work has focused on two principal subjects: the interpretation and analysis of the distinct history of Christian care work and common ethical dilemmas in specific care traditions, especially the possible contributions from care traditions to the new development of citizenship in post-modern Europe. Among many publications in this field is: *Perceiving the Other: Case Studies and Theories of Respectful Action,* 2010 which he edited with Günter Heimbrock. He is currently working on projects exploring spaces, theology and migration with different international research co-operations. He recently published (edited with Hans-Joachim Sander and Kaspar Villadsen) the book *The Spaces of Others - Heterotopic Spaces. Practicing and Theorizing Hospitality and Counter-Conduct beyond the Religion/Secular Border. 2016.* Trygve is based at the University of Oslo where he has been Professor in Diaconal Studies since 2000 and was Dean of the Faculty of Theology from 2007-2014. He is Honorary Professor in the College of Humanities, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, 2014-2017. He is editor in chief of *Diaconia. Journal for the Study of Christian Social Practice*.

Faustino Cruz (USA)

Faustino (Tito) Cruz is based in Seattle, Washington. He has been on the IAPT Executive Committee since 2013 as member-at-large and treasurer. He serves as Associate Dean of academic affairs, and Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Leadership at Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry. Born and raised in Manila, he migrated to the United States in 1982 to enter the seminary of the Society of Mary (Marists). In 2000, before completing his PhD in Religion and Education at Boston College, he joined the faculty of the Franciscan School of Theology (FST), one of the member schools of the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in Berkeley, California. He taught courses in Practical Theology and served as Executive Vice President and Academic Dean of FST and co-director of the GTU Asia Theology program. For over twenty five years, he has ministered with Filipino, French, and Spanish speaking immigrant congregations in the United States, and has collaborated with academic and pastoral communities across Asia and Latin America. His recent publications include: “Tension between Scholarship and Service” in *Conundrums in Practical Theology* published by Brill; “Filipino Labor Migration and Human Trafficking in the United States,” an article published in Japanese by Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan; “Locating Multiple Immigrant Identities in Relatedness—Insights for Intercultural Leadership” in *C(H)AOS Theory: Reflections of Chief Academic Officers in Theological Education* published by Eerdmans; and “The US Religious Context: Catholic Multicultural Trends” in *Religious Leadership* published by Sage. He also contributed several entries and essays to the three-volume *Encyclopedia of Christian Education*, as well as to the five-volume *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*, both published by Rowman and Littlefield.

Annemie Dillen (Belgium)

Annemie Dillen is Professor in Pastoral and Empirical Theology at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven (Belgium). Her theological research focuses on families and children, domestic violence, religious education in families, empirical theology and fundamental practical theology.

In addition to articles in journals and edited volumes, she has published many books including: Het gezin: à-Dieu? Ethisch, theologisch en godsdienstpedagogisch denken over gezinnen vandaag (Verhandelingen van de Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten, Nieuwe Reeks), 2009; Geloof in het gezin? Ethiek, opvoeding en gezinnen vandaag, 2006. She has also been the editor of a number of English volumes: Dillen, A. & C.Wolfteich (eds) *Catholic Approaches in Practical Theology. International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, 2016**;** Dillen, A. & A. Vandenhoeck (ed.), *Prophetic Witness in World Christianities. Rethinking Pastoral Care and Counseling (International Practical Theology, 13)* 2011; Dillen, A. & D. Pollefeyt (ed.), *Children’s Voices. Children’s Perspectives in Ethics, Theology and Religious Education* (betl), Leuven, Peeters, 2010; Dillen, A. (ed.), *When ‘Love’ Strikes. Social Sciences, Ethics and Theology on Family Violence*, 2009.

Auli Vähäkangas (Finland)

Auli Vähäkangas wrote her dissertation on *Christian Couples Coping with Childlessness; Narratives from Machame, Kilimanjaro* (2009) She is now Professor in Pastoral Theology as well as vice dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Helsinki. Her research has focused on those in vulnerable situations: HIV-positives and childless people in their communities. Presently she is leading an international research project on ‘Youth at the Margins’ (2013-2016) funded by the Academy of Finland. She has additionally done research on palliative care and on the experiences of Finnish same sex couples regarding religious rituals for their partnership. On the present IAPT Executive she chairs the Programme Committee for the Oslo 2017 conference. Auli’s most recent publications include: *African communality contributing to dignity of the terminally ill – traditional and political Ujamaa in the Selian Hospice and Palliative Care Program in Tanzania*, (2016)

And ‘Religious Communities – A Resource or a Liability for Development?’ in *For Better for Worse; The Role of Religion in Development Co-operation*, Robert Oden (ed), Swedish Mission Council, Sweden, 2016 (together with Mika Vähäkangas).

Francis-Vincent Anthony (Italy)

Francis-Vincent Anthony was born in Mumbai and obtained his Doctorate in Theology with Specialization in Youth Ministry and Catechetics, at the Salesian Pontifical University, Rome (1993) - where currently he is professor of Fundamental Practical Theology. From 2009 to 2015 he was Director of the Institute of Pastoral Theology, Director of the Interfaculty Commission for Research, and Coordinator of Doctoral Programme in the Faculty of Theology. His areas of interest and research are: inculturation, interculturality, interreligious dialogue, human rights, religious education, youth ministry. Noteworthy among his publications are: *Ecclesial praxis of inculturation. Toward an empirical-theological theory of inculturizing praxis* (1997); *Faith and culture in Catholic schools. An educational-pastoral research on inculturation in the Tamil/Indian cultural context,* (1999). The recent volume *Religion and conflict attribution. An empirical study of the religious meaning system of Christian, Muslim and Hindu students in Tamil Nadu, India* (2014)was written in collaboration with professors Chris Hermans and Carl Sterkens. He has edited, together with other scholars, seven volumes in the area of practical theology and youth ministry and published over sixty items in specialized journals and edited books. He has participated in several international empirical research projects including *Believing and communicating* (2009-2016), *Religion and Human Rights 2.0* (2012-2017) and *Spirituality, Education and Leadership* (2016-2018).

Birgit Weyel (Germany)

Birgit has held a chair in Practical Theology with a specialization in Pastoral Care and Pastoral Theology, at the Protestant Faculty in Tübingen since 2008. Her field of research is lived religion in the (post-)modern world, religious pluralization and the methodology of Practical Theology. Currently she is working on a network approach to ecclesiology and interreligious pastoral care. She is chair of the Society of Empirical Studies in Religion (Arbeitskreis Empirische Religionsforschung e.V.), founded in 2014. Between 2008–2014 she was chair of the Department of Practical Theology in the Academic Society of Theology (Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie). She was member of the advisory board of the 5th Survey on Membership of the Evangelical Church in Germany as well as member of the advisory board of the exhibition *Frock coat, T-Shirt und Robe, Bicentenary of Wittenberg Protestant Preacher`s Seminary* (2016–2017). Her selected publications include: *Handbuch Praktische Theologie* (2007, with Wilhelm Gräb); *Religion und Gefühl. Praktisch-theologische Perspektiven einer Theorie der Emotionen* (2013, with Lars Charbonnier & Matthias Mader); *Praktische Theologie und empirische Religionsforschung*, (2013 with Wilhelm Gräb & Hans-Günter Heimbrock); *Heilige Texte. Literarisierung der Religion und Sakralisierung der Literatur im modernen Roman* (2013 with Klaus Antoni u.a.); *Kirchentheorie. Praktisch-theologische Perspektiven auf die Kirche* (2014 with Peter Bubmann).

***Host and Programme Committee Chairs for 2019***

The By-Laws also mandate the Executive Committee to nominate chairs of the Programme and Host Committees of the 2019 Conference to serve on the Executive Committee. Plans are underway to hold this event in São Leopoldo, Brazil and we are delighted that our members Valburga Schmiedt Streck and Júlio Cézar Adam have agreed to be nominated for these positions respectively.

Valburga Schmiedt Streck (Brazil)

Valburga Schmiedt Streck graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary) and the Faculdades EST (São Leopoldo/RS). She is Associated Researcher at the Faculdades EST (São Leopoldo/RS) and has coordinated and directed the Project on Theology and HIV/Aids in Latin America. Valburga researches social and pastoral practices with families and social networks in the context of vulnerabilities, looking particularly at new identities and social changes.

Júlio Cézar Adam (Brazil)

Júlio Cézar Adam gained his doctorate in theology from the University of Hamburg . He is Associate Professor of Practical Theology and coordinator of the Post-Graduate Program of Theology at Faculdades EST, São Leopoldo/ RS, Brazil. Julio has worked and researched in Practical Theology as it relates to the following subjects: Liturgy, Homiletics, Spirituality, Social Movements and Liberation Theology, Media, Pop Culture and Youth, Lived Religion in Brazil.

***Procedure for Nominations***

It is our hope that these candidates will be confirmed in office at our Oslo conference. The By-Laws do, however, allow for the nomination of alternative candidates:

*VII.E. Alternative candidates for one or all of the offices may be nominated by a petition containing ten signatures of current members. Petitioners shall ascertain, and indicate in their petition, that their nominee is willing to serve if elected. Petitions must be received by the President of the Academy three months prior to the next scheduled official conference of the Academy. The Nominating Committee (Executive Committee) shall present to the membership at the time of election (and earlier if it wishes), along with its own slate of nominees, the names of all persons properly nominated by petition.*

Please note that the nominations of potential alternative candidates have to reach the president (president@ia-pt.org) by the middle of January 2017.

We are very happy to commend these candidates to you and are confident that they will do a great job in leading the Academy into a new stage of our communal life. We look forward to discussing further how this life will change and develop when we meet in Oslo.

With warm greetings from a cold and rainy Scotland,



Heather Walton, President.

On behalf of the Executive Committee:

Robert Mager (Vice President)

Annemie Dillen (Secretary)

Faustino Cruz (Treasurer)

Constanze Thierfelder (Member at Large)

Cas Wepener (Member at Large)

Auli Vähäkangas (Programme Committee)

Trygve Wyller (Host Committee)