

International Academy
of Practical Theology

<http://www.ia-pt.org>



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Dear IAPT colleagues

Greetings from Pretoria.

The 2013 IAPT conference in Toronto was a stimulating and enriching experience for many of the IAPT members. The new Executive Committee hereby would like to thank Pam Couture, Robert Mager and the local organizing committee (LOC) again for a very well organized conference. The feedback of the participants was overwhelmingly positive. We also would like to thank all the participants who contributed to the success of this event. The IAPT biennial conference remains the most important event on the IAPT calendar. We missed those members who could not attend, and hope to see them at the next conference in Pretoria in 2015.

On behalf of the new Executive Committee (EC) I also would like to thank the 2011 – 2013 EC for all their work during the past two years. In particular we thank Claire Wolfteich for excellent leadership and for the meticulous way in which the IAPT matters were managed during her term of office. The calm atmosphere at the business meeting at the Toronto conference reflected the detailed preparation of the EC and the good functioning of the IAPT under her leadership. (The minutes of the business meeting as well as the list of participants were emailed to all members.)

Since our very successful conference in Toronto we had a smooth transition of the tasks and responsibilities to the new EC. The EC already had a number of Skype call meetings and the next one is scheduled for early December 2013. We look forward to serve our members and to ensure the good functioning of the Academy. Please contact us at info@ia-pt.org or write to president@ia-pt.org if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions.

In this newsletter you will find important information regarding the 2015 conference, the call for nomination of new members and information about the IAPT working groups.

We also briefly report on the progress with the 2013 conference publication and the IAPT finances.

IAPT conference, Pretoria, South Africa: 16 – 20 July 2015

The Executive Committee decided, after due consideration of requests of several members of the Academy, and in consultation with the Host/Program Committee Chair, to move the dates of the 2015 IAPT conference in Pretoria from April to July 2015. The conference will now start on *Thursday afternoon 16 July 2015*, and will end with a conference dinner on *Monday evening 20 July 2015*.

We are aware that this date may not suit all our members. The EC tried to take the schedules of our colleagues in different parts of the world into account, and also considered the practical aspects such as the availability of venues at the host institutions (UP and Unisa). The 16-20 July 2015 date is the date that the hosting universities can offer. It is in the middle of the summer vacations for our colleagues from the northern hemisphere and the winter vacation period for those in the southern hemisphere, but this seems to be the best possible time for most colleagues to undertake a long trip. This time of the year also seems to be the most feasible option for those who would like to combine the conference attendance with a vacation in south(ern) Africa.

Malan Nel, the Host/Program Committee Chair for the 2015 conference, and the LOC are already hard at work to ensure the success of the Pretoria conference. The theme for this conference is *Practicing Ubuntu: Practical Theological Perspectives on Injustice, Personhood and Human Dignity*. The call for papers will be distributed early next year.

Membership nominations for 2015

The EC invite your nominations for new members for 2015. According to our By-Laws the nominations should be made no later than one year prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Academy. The nominations for new members are thus due by *15 June 2014*.

Eligibility: The Academy desires members (1) who subscribe to the purposes of the Academy; (2) are researchers and scholars in the practical theological fields and related disciplines; (3) have a distinguished record of publications with regard to the foundational issues of practical theology and its subdisciplines or who have made other recognized significant contributions to practical theology; and (4) have a Ph.D., Th.D., or comparable research and scholarly degree or a certifiable demonstration of serious research and scholarly accomplishments.

Process: According to our By-Laws, members may nominate one or more persons for membership by sending a letter of nomination, *supported and signed by another member*, to the current President of the Academy (president@ia-pt.org). Letters of nomination should (1) summarize the academic and other contributions to practical theology of the nominee and (2) include a brief *curriculum vitae* with a list of major publications and

current contact information, including the nominee's mailing address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address.

Reminders: Members are accepted on the basis of academic qualifications and their contribution to practical theology with an "additional concern to maintain international, ecumenical, and gender balance" (By-Law V.B). As you make nominations, we encourage you to specifically consider groups that are underrepresented in the Academy. Nominations are best made by colleagues not from one's own institution to avoid institutional promotion. Nominations are also best made by scholars within a particular national context when the academy already has representatives in that context. We also remind you to nominate those who desire active participation in the academy. New membership only becomes effective after attending the first or second conference following the nomination and requires payment of dues whether or not members are able to attend a particular conference.

Working groups

Although the biennial conference is the most important activity on the Academy's calendar, we would like to encourage active participation in the ongoing work of the Academy. One way to do so is to participate in the working groups. The following working groups have already been established. Please contact the EC representative or contact person for the working group(s) if you are interested to join one of these working groups. You are also welcome to write to us if you are interested in starting a new working group. We see it as an important part of the EC's task to facilitate discussion and collaboration among our members.

Working group for underrepresented regions

Contact: Valburga Schmiedt Streck (valburga@est.edu.br)
 EC liaison: Tito Cruz (cruzf@seattleu.edu)

Catholic approaches to practical theology

Contacts: Tom Beaudoin (tbeaudoin@fordham.edu) and
 Annemie Dillen (annemie.dillen@theo.kuleuven.be)
 EC liaison: Robert Mager (Robert.Mager.1@ulaval.ca)

Interfaith approaches to Practical Theology

Contacts: Daniel Schipani (dschipani@ambs.edu) and
 Tabitha Walter (Tabitha.Walter@unibas.ch)
 EC liaison: Pam Couture (pameladcouture@gmail.com)

Practical theology and poetics

Contact: Heather Walton (Heather.Walton@glasgow.ac.uk)
 EC liaison: Pam Couture (pameladcouture@gmail.com)

Methodology in Practical Theology

Contact and EC Liaison: Robert Mager (Robert.Mager.1@ulaval.ca)

Working group for publications

Contact and EC liaison: Constanze Thierfelder (thierfec@mail.uni-marburg.de)

2013 Conference Publication

The editorial committee received approximately 25 proposals. The selection process is currently underway, and authors will be notified of the final selection before or on December 20.

Finances

We can report that the Academy's finances are in good shape. The checking and saving accounts together currently hold a little under €11,000, and the surplus from the Toronto conference will soon be deposited. The last payments regarding the Toronto conference are now in process, and we will very soon have the financial statements ready to be audited. Regarding membership fees we can report that 94 members have paid the 2013-2014 dues. Those who still owe the payment of membership dues are requested to contact Neil Pembroke (n.pembroke@uq.edu.au), our treasurer, as soon as possible.

Congratulations

Riet Bons-Storm, the 'founding mother' among the 'founding fathers' of the Academy, was recently honoured with a Knighthood in the Order of Orange-Nassau for her contribution to the emancipation of women in Dutch society. We congratulate her on this recognition of her academic work.

Sincerely,



Jaco S. Dreyer, South Africa (President)

On behalf of the Executive Committee:

Pam Couture, Canada (Vice President)
Robert Mager, Canada (Secretary)
Neil Pembroke, Australia (Treasurer)
Malan Nel, South Africa (Host/Program Committee Chair)
Constanze Thierfelder, Germany (Member at Large)
Faustino (Tito) Cruz, USA (Member at Large)