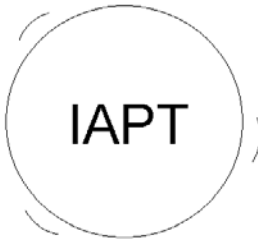


International Academy
of Practical Theology

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



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Dear IAPT colleagues

Greetings from Pretoria.

One of the aims of the President's newsletter is to inform members of the work done by the Executive Committee on behalf of its members. In this newsletter you will find important information regarding the 2015 Pretoria conference, the 2013 conference publication and some administrative issues. Most importantly, this newsletter serves as a reminder that nominations for new members are due soon.

The biennial conference is an important event on the IAPT calendar. Malan Nel, the conference host and chairperson of the Local Organizing Committee, gives more information regarding the theme and the keynote speakers. The newly established Publications Committee is also hard at work. Constanze Thierfelder is chairing this working group. She reports on the work of this committee and the progress with the 2013 conference publication. Our secretary, Robert Mager, shares some information regarding the establishment of the IAPT archives and give information regarding the update of our membership list.

IAPT membership, responsibilities and participation

With just a bit more than a year before the next conference we would like to remind members that the By-Laws (III.B [By-Laws](#)) state:

Active Members maintain active status by payment of dues and regular attendance at Academy conferences, as defined in the Membership Rules and Procedures of these By-Laws. Active Members may forfeit membership by failing in these responsibilities, as determined by the Executive Committee according to the Membership Rules and Procedures.

Membership of the IAPT implies a commitment to participate in the work of the Academy. The biennial conference is the most important event on the IAPT calendar, and this is the reason for the requirement that members participate regularly in the Academy conferences. With just a bit more than a year before the next conference, I trust that you are looking forward to participate in the next conference. We know that it requires more time and money from the majority of the IAPT members living in the northern hemisphere to attend a conference in the southern hemisphere. (It has therefore become common practice not to schedule back-to-back conferences in the southern hemisphere. We are thus already planning to meet in 2017 in Norway.) We therefore appeal to our members to start planning to attend the conference in Pretoria from 16 – 20 July 2015. Due to our very limited Scholarship Fund we will only be able to financially support a few members. We therefore encourage our members to explore all possible means (e.g. scholarships and travel grants) to help fund the cost to attend the conference. It will be highly appreciated if those who are able to contribute to the Scholarship Fund ([Scholarship donations](#)) would do so. The lack of sufficient funds to sponsor colleagues from underprivileged contexts is one of the major reasons why the IAPT struggles to become a truly global community.

Theologians often find it difficult to talk honestly and openly about money. Although it is a sensitive issue, at least for some, we would like to remind members of their responsibility to pay their dues. The IAPT, like most academies or scholarly associations, needs the membership fees to support the work of the IAPT. We always aim to keep our membership fees as low as possible. A regular financial audit also ensures that the IAPT funds are used in a responsible manner. Membership fees are due at the time of the Academy's regularly scheduled conferences, whether or not members are able to attend a particular conference (By-Laws V.H). A year after the conference in Toronto, only about two-thirds of our members have paid their dues for the 2013 – 2014 cycle. Those members who have not yet paid their dues for this cycle will again receive a reminder and are urged to pay ([Membership fees](#)) as soon as possible.

The biennial conference is the most important event on the IAPT calendar. However, the IAPT has the potential to be much more than meeting for a few days every second year. We would like to see the IAPT as an active and vibrant network of scholars who shares a passion for practical theological reflection and research. The actualization of this potential is, however, dependent on the participation and initiative of the members of the IAPT. The EC will gladly support initiatives in this regard, but we see it as a "bottom-up" rather than a "top-down" process. Active participation in one or more of the working groups ([Working groups](#)) is one way to strengthen our network and to ensure that the IAPT's work is not only restricted to the biennial conferences. 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.

NB REMINDER: Membership nominations for 2015

The EC invites 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 July 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.

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

We remind you that the theme for the 2015 Pretoria conference is *Practicing Ubuntu: Practical Theological Perspectives on Injustice, Personhood and Human Dignity*.

The three plenary sessions will be as follows:

- *Practising Ubuntu:* Prof Raymond Khumalo (University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa)
Respondent: Prof Puleng LenkaBula (UNISA, South Africa)
- *Injustice and human dignity:* Prof Pamela Couture (Emmanuel College, Victoria University, University of Toronto, Canada)

- Respondent: Prof Emmanuel Lartey (Candler School of Theology, Emory University, USA)
- *God and personhood*: Prof Wentzel van Huyssteen (James I. McCord Professor Emeritus of Theology and Science, Princeton Theological Seminary, USA)
Respondent: Prof Friedrich Schweitzer (University of Tübingen, Germany)

The Call for Papers and more detail on registration fees and accommodation will follow soon. Please keep an eye on your Inbox!

Publications

Last year the Executive Committee of the IAPT established the Publications Committee as one of the working groups. Members are Pamela Couture and Robert Mager as editors of the Toronto Conference volume, Bernd Schröder for the relationship to the IJPT, Mary Elizabeth Moore, Yolanda Dreyer, and Constanze Thierfelder chairing the working group. Daniel Schipani and Hans-Georg Ziebertz agreed to help when necessary.

The first task was to put the publication of the Toronto Conference Volume on the right track. We had to decide about the size of the volume, the price and which articles to include. A new agreement was negotiated with Lit-Verlag, the publisher of our conference volume. We succeeded in lowering the initial publication costs quite a bit.

The Publications Committee discussed the possibility of a closer relationship between the IAPT and the *International Journal of Practical Theology* (IJPT) published by De Gruyter. Members of the IAPT can subscribe to the IJPT at the reduced fee of 76€ per annum (instead of 152€). The subscription for the online version costs 49€. A further reduction to 20-30€ would only be possible if the subscription were part of the membership fee of the IAPT. We need further discussions on this.

Administrative matters

IAPT Archives

It does not seem that the Academy has formally kept archives of its documents through the years. It would be important to do so. We are trying to locate the most important documents (books, minutes of meetings, programs, etc.), and to figure out a process to collect them. There are plans to centralize our archives at Boston University. Robert Mager will write to senior members to see if they would have some of the earliest documents. Please write to him if you happen to have kept many of the documents through the years: secretary@ia-pt.org.

Membership list

The secretary is trying to keep the membership list up-to-date. There are three main issues with the list:

- Please send him a note if you retire. You will remain an IAPT member, but the requirements for conference attendance differ.
- Write to him as well if you move from one university posting to another, if you wish to use a different email address or if your postal address changes.
- Please check if the information on the members' page of the website is accurate and indicate any necessary change to the secretary: secretary@ia-pt.org.

Please contact us at info@ia-pt.org or write to president@ia-pt.org if you have any questions, ideas or suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jaco S. Dreyer', written in a cursive style.

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)