

Report on Theological Training 2019

Dear sisters and brothers, since reporting at the last synod on UELCSA hoping to make the University of Stellenbosch our preferred institution for our students to study at. This is exciting as the faculty has become very ecumenical and is the leader in the transformation process on campus.

Much progress has been made.

- We have three students studying in Stellenbosch and two at the University of Pretoria. They have enrolled for the MDiv, which is a 5-year course.
- Pastor Felix Meylahn has been requested to be the tutor and mentor for our students on a part-time basis (25% of a pastoral post). They meet regularly every week for a seminar on basic Lutheran theology and Spirituality and are accompanied through their studies at the faculty in weekly 1 on 1 conversations too.
- Our students, under guidance of Felix Meylahn also fully participate in the "Seminarium", which was started by the NG Kerk and URCSA. This program runs parallel to the academic program of the faculty and has been designed to equip them from the first year for ministerial work. We have been asked to contribute to it as it is currently being reviewed and updated after the first 8 years of implementation.
- We have observer status with the Ecumenical Board. This board consists of delegated members of the various partner churches of the faculty, and is consulted on all matters relating to the curriculum and staff of the faculty and its practical application.
- We have also been invited to participate in shaping the ecumenical spirituality of the faculty by joining the "Coram Deo" committee that plans the weekly chapel services celebrated in the faculty on Wednesdays – our mentor and our students have become actively and very eagerly involved in this too.
- We have applied to become partners of the faculty.

At the Seminarium we have already introduced own modules. Thus, not only do our own students grow in Lutheran foundational doctrine and traditions, but the students of the NG Kerk and the URCSA get to know this theological voice in the larger choir of theologies now represented at the faculty. Once we have more students and have the capacity to get more involved, we will introduce academic modules/courses on undergraduate level at the faculty as well.

Gilbert Filter and Felix Meylahn