



SPTSA Conference – 20 to 22 January 2026
University of Pretoria

PROGRAM

THEME: Practical Theology's "Homecoming"

Tuesday 20 January

11:00-12:00 Registration (Snacks & Tea/Coffee)

12:00-12:30 Opening and welcoming:

- **Gift Baloyi** (SPTSA: Chairperson)
- **Annelie Botha** (Local Host Organiser: University of Pretoria)
- **Rantsoa Letšosa** (Dean of Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Pretoria)
- **Christo Lombaard** (HOD of the Department of Practical Theology and Mission Studies: University of Pretoria)

12:30-13:15 Keynote speaker: Rantsoa Letšosa (University of Pretoria)

Theme: "Practical Theology's Homecoming: A Systems Thinking Approach To Faith And Human Flourishing."

13:15-13:45 Facilitator of Q&A: Gift Baloyi (University of South Africa)

13:45-14:15 Break (Lunch at your own cost)

14:15-16:15 Paper presentations 1 (4 papers per venue)

SESSION 1 (Main Venue: Room 2-10) Session Chair: Zama Dlamini	SESSION 2 (Room A: Room 1-14) Session Chair: Joseph Pali
Paper 1: Du Plessis, Amanda (North-West University) Title: Human Flourishing Amid Suffering: A Contextual Pastoral Response Based On Micah 6:8.	Paper 5: Kemm, Nienke (Stellenbosch University) Title: Needs Of And Ministry To University Students In South Africa.
Paper 2: Denton, Rudy (North-West University) Title: Forgiveness As A Pastoral Care Imperative And A Restorative Social Justice Mechanism For "Homecoming" Within Communities Emerging From Conflict.	Paper 6: Ndereba, Kevin Muriithi (St. Paul's University) Title: Fostering Mental Health Wellbeing For Young Adults In Kenya: A Faith-Based Approach On Sustainable Development Goals.
Paper 3: Mouton, Dawid (Stellenbosch University) Title: Pedagogies Of "Home": The Need For Trauma-Informed Practices In Theological Education.	Paper 7: Weber, Shantelle (Stellenbosch University) Title: A Home For Children And Young People In Congregations And The Academy? Exploring The Implications Of The South African Child Protection Policy.
Paper 4: Manuel, Charmaine (University of Pretoria) Title: Developing An Embodied Disability Theology With Children With Disability In South Africa: The Role Of Christian Leaders.	Paper 8: Hoffman, Lyzette (University of the Free State) Title: Practical Theology And Human Flourishing: Planning Sunday School Lessons For Flourishing.

16:15-16:45 Break (Snacks & Tea/Coffee)

16:45-18:15 Paper presentations 2 (3 papers per venue)

SESSION 1 (Main Venue: Room 2-10) Session Chair: Dieter de Bruin	SESSION 2 (Room A: Room 1-14) Session Chair: Jacques Beukes
Paper 9: Nel, Marius (North-West University) Title: Values Of Sharing And Consuming: Designing Pentecostal Economic Ethics.	Paper 12: Botha, Annelie (University of Pretoria) Title: Feeling At Home, Belonging, Hospitality And Wellbeing: A Pastoral Approach.

Paper 10: De Beer, Stephan (University of Pretoria) Title: <i>Ending Homelessness: The 2021 UN Resolution; Biblical Imperatives; And Our Collective Theological And Political Failure.</i>	Paper 13: Dickson, Nicole (University of Pretoria) Title: <i>The Open Door: Pastoral Narrative Practices And Radical Hospitality.</i>
Paper 11: Mzondi, Modisa (South African Theological Seminary) Title: <i>An Ubuntu Pentecostal And Practical Theology Analysis Of The African Poor In The Post-1994 South Africa.</i>	Paper 14: Oosthuizen, Gideon (South African Theological Seminary) Title: <i>A Practical Theological Exploration Of Pastoral Ministry To Believers Engaged In The Divorce Process: A Case Study.</i>

18:15 Free evening (**Dinner at your own cost**)

Wednesday 21 January

(**Breakfast at your own cost**)

08:30-8:45 Devotions

09:15-11:15 Paper presentations 3 (**4 papers per venue**)

SESSION 1 (Main Venue: Room 2-10) Session Chair: Gift Baloyi	SESSION 2 (Room A: Room 1-14) Session Chair: Annelie Botha
Paper 15: Mofokeng, Elvis Mokete (University of Johannesburg) Title: <i>The Role Of Liturgy In The Status Of Environmental Literacy With The United Reformed Church In Southern Africa At Senwabarwana, Limpopo Province.</i>	Paper 19: Mdlulwa, Zinzile (University of South Africa) Title: <i>Coming Home To Earth: Practical Theology, Eco-Theological Frameworks, And Ecclesiastical Responses To Biodiversity Loss.</i>
Paper 16: Pali, Khamadi Joseph (University of the Free State) Title: <i>God Who Sees, Hears, Show Compassion And Acts (Exodus 3:7-8): Towards A Participatory Framework Of Congregational Ministry.</i>	Paper 20: Du Toit, Louisa Johanna (Hannelie) (University of Johannesburg) Title: <i>Can We Have Faith In Sustainability As The Solution For Humanity's Climate Crisis?</i>
Paper 17: Andrew, Daniel (University of the Free State) Title: <i>Social Cohesion And Economic Justice: Multicultural Congregations, Spaces Of Exclusion Or Belonging?</i>	Paper 21: Tetey, Smith (Global Theological Seminary) Title: <i>In Search Of Home In A World Of Displacement.</i>
Paper 18: Mokwena, Gerald (University of Pretoria) Title: <i>A Missional Leadership Model in Townships Congregations: A Practical Theological Reflection.</i>	Paper 22: Kipchumba, Mathew (McGill University) Title: <i>Genesis 1:28: "Fill The Earth"; Re-Imagining Human Migration In An Age Of Fear.</i>

11:15-12:45 Break (**Snacks & Tea/Coffee**)

12:45-14:45 Paper presentations 4 (**4 papers per venue**)

SESSION 1 (Main Venue: Room 2-10) Session Chair: Zama Dlamini	SESSION 2 (Room A: Room 1-14) Session Chair: Jacques Beukes
Paper 23: Ali, Joseph Olufemi (South African Theological Seminary) Title: <i>Sociocultural Considerations In Counselling African Couples Who Want To Adopt: A Pastoral Approach.</i>	Paper 27: Lombaard, Christo (University Pretoria) Title: <i>Faith As The New Normal.</i>
Paper 24: Enang, Bolanle (University of Pretoria) Title: <i>Pastoral Support For In-Between Families To Flourish.</i>	Paper 28: Sibanda, Cathrine (University of Zimbabwe) Title: <i>Connecting Faith And Action In Harare Communities: A Reflection On Practical Linguistic Theology.</i>
Paper 25: Freeks, Fazel Ebriham (North-West University) Title: <i>From Exclusion To Embrace: Welcoming Fatherless Families In A Diverse World.</i>	Paper 29: Meulenberg Alef (South African Theological Seminary) Title: <i>An Exploratory Study Of Faith-Driven Social-Entrepreneurs In Johannesburg, South Africa, Informed By Lydia Of Thyatira's Example In Acts 16:14-16.</i>
Paper 26: Mokone, Puseletso Clementinah (University of the Free State)	Paper 30: Smit, Stephan (South African Theological Seminary)

Title: <i>Creating Home in a Fragmented World: Pastoral Responses to Family Diversity.</i>	Title: <i>The Effect Of Decentralised Leadership On Reaching And Discipling Non-Church-Affiliated Emerging Adults In Doxa Deo, Langeberg.</i>
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14:45-15:15 Break (**Snacks & Tea/Coffee**)

15:15-16:00 **Keynote speaker: Prof Nadine Bowers-DuToit (Stellenbosch University)**
Theme: *"Making, Unmaking And Re-Making Home In Practical Theology? An Invitation."*

16:00-16:30 **Facilitator of Q&A: Jacques Beukes (University of South Africa)**

16:30-16:45 Break (**No Snacks & Tea/Coffee due to dinner after AGM**)

16:45-18:15 Business Meeting (AGM)

18:30→ Conference Dinner (**sponsored by UP**)

Thursday 22 January

(**Breakfast at your own cost**)

08:30-8:45 Devotions

09:15-10:00 **Keynote speaker: Prof Cas Wepener (Stellenbosch University)**
Theme: *"Mapping Practical Theology's Homecoming: A Ritual-Liturgical Cartography."*

10:00-10:30 **Facilitator of Q&A: Zama Dlamini (University of the Free State)**

10:30-11:00 Break (**Snacks & Tea/Coffee**)

11:00-13:00 Paper presentations 5 (**4 papers per venue**)

SESSION 1 (Main Venue: Room 2-10) Session Chair: Joseph Pali	SESSION 2 (Room A: Room 1-14) Session Chair: Dieter de Bruin
Paper 31: Hurter, Janke (University of the Free State) Title: <i>On My Way Home: In Conversation With Johannes De Villiers' Oppad Na Die Klooster In Die Sneeu.</i>	Paper 34: Laubscher, Martin (University of the Free State) Title: <i>Becoming At Home In Ruth's (Un)Preached World: A Letter To My Students On Learning How (Not) To Dwell In The Book Of Ruth ... And Re-C/Enter The (Un)Familiar World Anew.</i>
Paper 32: Koech, Magdaline Chepkirui (University of Kwazulu-Natal) Title: <i>Homecoming And Restoration: Ezra-Nehemiah's Prophetic Message For Africa's Ecological Rebuilding.</i>	Paper 35: Knoetze, Hannes (University of Pretoria) Title: <i>From Valley To Table: Psalm 23 And The Ecumenical Vision Of Homecoming.</i>
Paper 33: Ximba, Daniel (Psychopneumatic Institute) Title: <i>Practical Theology And Human Flourishing: Psychopneumatic Centric Therapy, A Theological Framework For Promoting Mental Health.</i>	Paper 36: Landman, Christina (University of South Africa) Title: <i>Using The Psalms As Intertexts During Hospital Visitations.</i>
	Paper 37: De Bruin, Dieter (University of Pretoria) Title: <i>Addicted To Love: The Eucharist As An Integrative Habit.</i>

13:00-13:30 Closing and acknowledgments – Gift Baloyi (Chair SPTSA)