

## Editorial

Welcome to the July 2016 edition of *Stellenbosch Theological Journal (STJ)*, previously known as the *Nederduitse Gereformeerde Teologiese Tydskrif/ Dutch Reformed Theological Journal (NGTT)*.

This edition presents 24 peer-reviewed academic articles. Five of these articles focus on the thought of the German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The articles by Walter Altmann, Carlos Caldas, Dion Forster and Dirkie Smit were first delivered as papers at a conference on “Bonhoeffer and the Global South: Reception History and Contemporary and Future Challenges,” held at the end of September 2015 at Stellenbosch University. The focus of the conference was on the reception and relevance of Bonhoeffer’s life and work for theological discourses in Brazil and Southern Africa. We hope to publish more of the articles presented at this conference in the December 2016 edition of *STJ*.

In March 2016 the faculty of theology at Stellenbosch University hosted the international conference of the *Societas Homiletica*, an international society for homiletics founded in 1986. We include in this edition Johan Cilliers’s presidential address entitled “Preaching between affirmation and anticipation.”

Another feature of this current edition of *STJ* is the fact that several of the articles engage directly with biblical texts (see the articles by Meiring, Michael, Nagel, Nel, Van der Walt, and Van der Watt). Within several of these articles the discourse on gender and embodiment plays a pivotal role. The focus on gender is also prevalent in the articles by Kaunda (“Towards an African ecogender theology”) and Modise & Wood (“The Relevance of the metaphor of God as Father in a democratic, non-sexist and religious society”), with both articles emphasising African perspectives. In addition, one of the reviews (by Marnus Havenga) discusses Sarah Coakley’s important work *God, Sexuality and the Self: An Essay ‘On the Trinity.’*

A dominant theme in current public and academic discourse relates to the so-called refugee crisis and the challenges and opportunities posed by this transcultural global phenomenon. Ernst Conradie’s article (“Divine election and migration”) provides a thought-provoking engagement with Reformed theology in response to the predicament of refugees. Our other

review (by Sias Meyer) discusses a collection of essays (*Vreemdelinge en bijwoners: Opstelle rond een urgent theologisch tema*) that deals not so much with migrants and refugees seeking asylum, but more specifically engages (in conversation with the minority position of the early Christians in society) with questions pertaining to the presence and witness of Reformed communities in post-Christian Europe.

Several of the articles in this edition, furthermore, focus on the witness and practices of Reformed churches (see the articles of Rossouw and Van Graan & Van der Merwe). The article of Henco van der Westhuizen discusses the Reformed theologian Michael Welker's "Biblical-realistic theology." Welker recently received the prestigious Karl Barth-prize, presented to him at the international Bonhoeffer congress held in Basel. The remaining articles deal mostly with important social ethical, cultural and missiological themes and its bearing on theological discourse (see the articles by Duncan & Urbaniak, Langerman, Mouton, Resane and Rheeder).

We also remind our readers that several of the previous editions of *STJ* and *NGTT* can be accessed online via our website.

**Robert Vosloo**

Editor: *STJ*