

Editorial

The *Stellenbosch Theological Journal (STJ)* is privileged to publish the important research which is presented in this supplement under the title *Vier Gereformeerde Kerke in Suider-Afrika (1990-2020)* [Four Reformed Churches in Southern Africa – 1990–2020)]. Included in this publication are twelve peer-reviewed academic articles that cast light on various aspects related to these churches. There is a focus on, among other things, themes such as ecclesiology, hermeneutics, worship practices, the experiences and role of women pastors, race relations, and the contemporary discourses on ecology, poverty and ecumenical relations. As such, this publication addresses an important gap in the historiography of Reformed churches in Southern Africa. The fact that the emphasis is on the last three decades, furthermore, makes it a valuable source for future research and orientation.

In addition to the publication of the twelve peer reviewed articles, we are also grateful for the sections that add further value for the interested reader. In this regard we refer to the accompanying word by the guest editors, as well as the introductory notes and concluding perspectives written by Prof JW (Hoffie) Hofmeyr. We also want to extend a word of appreciation to the guest editors Professors Hoffie Hofmeyr, Mary-Anne Plaatjies-Van Huffel and Rikus Fick.

Prof Plaatjies-Van Huffel sadly passed away in May 2020 – a great loss to the academy, church and ecumenical movement. We are thankful that she could still play a major role as church historian in this project, and that she could also contribute an article. We also welcome the decision to dedicate this supplement to her, since this is an apt recognition for her contribution to South African church historiography as well as her involvement over the years on the editorial board of *STJ*.

Robert Vosloo

Editor: *STJ*