

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Sedibeng Trust (Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa) and Stellenbosch University (Faculty of Theology)

Tuesday 18th Sept. 2012 at Weidenhof House, Stellenbosch

The General Assembly of 2010 authorized the transfer of the funds generated by the sale of the Federal Seminary property (R600,000 plus interest) to the Sedibeng Trust and further instructed the Sedibeng Trust to "investigate the purchase of houses or properties suitable for the accommodation of official UPCSA students at approved education institutions."

Enquiries were made in Stellenbosch with respect to the availability of suitable premises for the housing of UPCSA students for the ministry. However, it soon became evident that the purchase of a house in Stellenbosch was beyond the financial resources of the Sedibeng Trust. Just when it appeared that no further progress could be made, a new possibility presented itself. The Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch working in conjunction with NetACT (a network of Presbyterian and Reformed institutions in sub-Saharan Africa) had purchased in 2000, two adjacent historical houses as accommodation for mainly post graduate students from other African countries. During 2010/11 these two houses were completely refurbished so as to provide modern and private accommodation for 24 students. As Weidenhof House was seen to offer highly suitable premises for UPCSA undergraduate ministry



students, the Faculty and NetACT were approached with a proposal to accommodate UPCSA students in exchange for a once off donation by the Sedibeng Trust towards the substantial costs incurred for the refurbishment. This offer was gratefully received and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sedibeng Trust and the Faculty of Theology was drawn up (see attached document).

As the Sedibeng Trust did not wish this agreement to be simply between itself and Stellenbosch, the Presbytery of the Western Cape, within whose care the students fall was invited to send representatives to the signing ceremony. Ministers from the Presbytery that attended were: Rev Rod Bosis (current Moderator of the UPCSA); Mike Muller (Clerk of Presbytery) Dave Hunter (Chaplain to UPCSA students); Fundiswa Kobo; Madoda Mfene; Dave Smit and Thabo Noti.



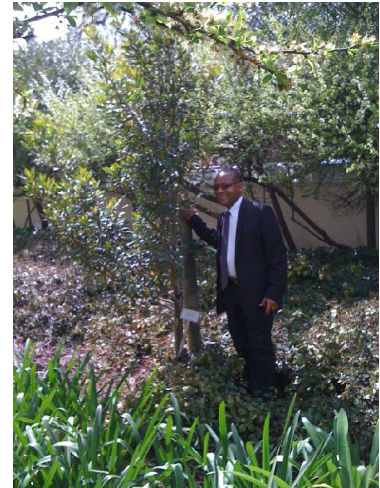
The Sedibeng Trust was represented by the Chairman of the Sedibeng Trust, Rev M. Ramulondi and Rev Eddie Germiquet (Ministry Secretary and Trust member).



Stellenbosch University was represented through the following members of the Faculty of Theology: Prof. Nico Koopman (current Dean of Theology); Ms Liena Hoffman (Faculty Manager); Profs Jurgens Hendriks (Net ACT Director) Dirkie Smit; Jeremy Punt and Rev Kurgi Samaila (Weidenhof House Administrator). A number of Weidenhof residents were also present.

Prof. Nico Koopman welcomed all present and expressed the joy of the faculty in being able to accommodate UPCS students and in being able to cement the Partnership between the Faculty and the UPCS in this way. Rev Eddie Germiquet gave a brief outline of events leading to this occasion and introduced the Chairman of the Sedibeng Trust, Rev Mukondi Ramulondi. Rev Ramulondi explained the meaning and vision of "Sedibeng" and reflected on the importance of this occasion. Rev Ramulondi then handed over the cheque of R200,000 to Prof Koopman.

Rev Ramulondi then signed the MoU on behalf of the Trust and Rev Germiquet signed as witness. Rev Hunter concluded the formal part of the proceeding with an appropriate prayer of thanks.



Presbyterian tree at the Faculty

An informal gathering then followed and fellowship was enjoyed over snacks and soft drinks.

