



the link

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



A CHANCE TO BEGIN AGAIN

In Noah's flood God rescues a righteous family who are tasked with making a fresh start after the wickedness of humanity had been wiped out.

In Jesus God sends a saviour who finds us caught up in the darkness and pain of sin and destruction, but who leads us from where we are into the light and grace of God's presence – we are redeemed. We are made new. We are each given the opportunity of a fresh start.

Whatever has happened in the course of 2019 the Christmas season reminds us to pause for a moment and reflect – to look beyond what has frustrated or hurt us, yet be encouraged and appreciative for the hand of God at work in our midst. We also look ahead. With the assurance that God's love for us is able to carry us forward through our uncertainties and our hopes.

May this Christmas be a special time of God's grace for you – whether gathered together with others or alone and far from those you love. As students and ministers of the gospel may God's grace in you be a witness to those around you – even in the midst of frantic summer and holiday activities. God's message, spoken through each of you, reminds the world that God, who was born among us, continues to live and serve in our midst. May your Christmas be joyful!



PROGRAMME CHANGES

2019 sees the conclusion to the phase-out of the short-course programmes that have served the College for over four decades.

Database records from the end of the 80s show 525 Award graduates and 938 Certificate graduates. Many of whom serve their congregations and local communities in various lay capacities, and we praise God for that extension of service and ministry through those who have been involved in making these programmes a success.

Our Access Assessment now opens the door to those seeking further studies, and our Christian ministry Higher Certificates provide ministerial alternatives to studies focused specifically in theology. The College is in the final stages of accrediting a new qualification that will assist those involved in Religious Education in schools and congregations.



IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SPECIAL PEOPLE

The College celebrates several staff long-term service awards, ranging from 5-years through to 25-years.

Our proud history is built on the contributions of many, many people over the past four plus decades – those based at the College offices and many more who volunteer and contract their expertise in a variety of roles (assessors, writers, reviewers, subject experts, invigilators, moderators, tutors, mentors). We are grateful for them all.



2020 REGISTRATIONS

We again offer both Option A and Option B discounts for course registrations in 2020. We also extend the registration period to February 5th, although students are encouraged not to wait until the last moment before submitting their applications.

Students who opt for Option C will need to complete a debit order authorisation form. Remember that results are not issued until accounts are settled.

Current students can update personal details and submit online applications through their student login – avoiding missed or indecipherable forms. If your online account has not yet been activated then do request that of a staff member.



Our newest board member Rev Kedibone Mntambo awards a medallion to one of the final students graduating on the Certificate of Competence in Theology programme.





GRADUATIONS



Bishop Eddie Daniels addresses the graduates

We welcomed one of our new external examiners at the graduation in 2018, Rev Prof Nico Botha, who addressed our graduates and their guests.

In 2019 the new Anglican bishop of Port Elizabeth, Rev Dr Eddie Daniels, congratulated the graduates and encouraged them in their ministries.

Graduating students also shared their own experiences of highs and lows during their study journeys, and spoke of God's faithfulness and the support of family and friends while engaged in the practical work of their studies.

2017 GRADUATES BY DENOMINATION

Denomination	Award	Certificate	H.Cert.Th	Dip.Th/Min	Dip.Th	B.Th	Total	% of Graduates
Anglican	8	7	19	5	1	5	45	22.2%
Congregational	0	0	0	1	1	2	4	1.9%
Lutheran	0	0	7	0	15	2	24	11.8%
Methodist	32	4	31	7	4	9	87	43%
Presbyterian	0	2	3	1	1	3	10	4.9%
Roman Catholic	1	5	7	0	0	0	13	6.4%
Salvation Army	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.5%
Other	8	3	2	0	3	2	18	8.9%

2018 GRADUATES BY DENOMINATION

Denomination	Award	Certificate	H.Cert.Th	Dip.Th	B.Th	Total	% of Graduates
Anglican	1	5	17	7	11	41	34.7%
Congregational	0	0	1	0	1	2	1.7%
Lutheran	0	1	5	5	6	17	14.4%
Methodist	4	0	23	4	7	38	32.2%
Presbyterian	0	0	1	1	2	4	3.3%
Roman Catholic	0	4	0	0	1	5	4.2%
Salvation Army	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Other	0	0	7	1	3	11	9.3%

Our graduation results reflect the ongoing changes in TEECs programme offerings. The Dip.Th/Min saw its final graduates as that programme concluded. The two short-course programmes are in the final years of their phase-out, with a final push in 2017 and the opportunity for repeats in 2018. We expect to celebrate the first of our Christian ministry Higher Certificate graduates in 2020.



A CLOSED DOOR OPENED

A student experience: PK, a member of the Zion Christian church and working in the security industry, applied to study in 2013 but did not meet the entrance requirement for accredited programmes. He returned in 2014 and opted to use the RPL route through the TEEC Access Assessment.

This instrument allows people, who do not meet formal entrance requirements, to demonstrate their current academic ability. This is evaluated and the College then invites successful candidates onto a range of our accredited programmes.

While PK's school-leaving certificate did not provide access to higher education, as a man in his 50s with life and work experience he was able to demonstrate his current competencies. He gained access to the Higher Certificate in Theology programme, which he then started in 2015.

His first year was a difficult one in that he dropped out of all three courses, yet the results he did obtain for work submitted were good, and so he continued with those same three courses in 2016. Two were passed but one was failed. PK successfully completed three courses in the first semester of 2017, but in the following semester passed one course, failed one and dropped out of the third. Again, the work that was submitted was such that courses could be carried to 2018 where he completed the remaining four courses on the programme and graduated with his Higher Certificate in Theology.

For a person like PK the door to tertiary education is normally closed, but the TEEC Access Assessment is able to open it, and the nature of all our Higher Certificate programmes is such that people are able to build upon their successes while working across semesters to achieve the programme outcomes. All this while still dealing with the normal challenges of busy lives.

As a new graduate with an accredited qualification that is registered on the National Qualifications Framework the field wide was open for PK to study further at any South African institution. He opted to enrol on the TEEC Bachelor of Theology programme in 2019. He completed his first two courses, using the re-submission option to deal with failed work in a first assignment, with good final results. He is on track and doing well with his undergraduate degree, having honed his basic skills and competencies in the certificate programme.

PK is one of several people who use TEEC's RPL mechanism to gain access to further study that had previously been denied them. This is why "Access" remains an important value for the College.

FUNDING SUPPORT

Looking for ways to fund your studies? Both Fundi (www.fundi.co.za) and StudentHero (<http://www.studenthero.co.za/>) can help. Request a pro-forma invoice from the College to support your application.



COLLEGE ON THE MOVE

In the early years TEE College was like a certain "wandering Aramean": Starting out in temporary accommodation behind the Catholic Cathedral in down-town Johannesburg in 1976, the College operations and staff migrated through various address until they finally, in 1993, settled down in Haddon – in the south of Johannesburg. For almost three decades the staff have adapted and extended the current facility to support the College's work and ministry. Recent years, however, have seen significant disruption of local services, space constraints as our programmes grew, and an evolving environment in this part of town.

Problematic issues have often been addressed singly, but their accumulative impact is leading us to explore a new future for housing the College's operations and staff – not only a new physical space, but also a new delivery space as we move programmes online. We'll keep you updated as our plans come to fruition.



TEEC PROGRAMME COORDINATORS

From 2019 the College has reorganised oversight of the offered Theology programmes.

Each now has a dedicated programme co-ordinator who manages the academic work of the programme.

Current staff members Barbara-Anne (Diploma) and Danielle (Higher Certificate) take on new roles, and they are joined by Debbie (Degree). This gives focus to the oversight, delivery and quality assurance of each programme.

Megan Baxter continues to oversee the four offered Christian ministry Higher Certificates (Christian Worship, Christian Leadership & Management, Christian Proclamation, and Pastoral Care). She is also pioneering their development for online delivery and will be joined by new staff in 2020 to bring those programmes online.



Barbara-Anne Hoy



Debbie van de Laar



Danielle Laubscher



Megan Baxter



RESEARCH AT TEEC

Increasingly Masters and Doctoral students from other institutions are approaching TEEC to research the College's work and also to work with some categories of TEEC students.

Where the College approves this then students who qualify to participate in the research subject are invited by the College to engage with the researcher – the College does not give out student details nor allow researchers to contact students directly.

Students decide if they want to be involved and always have the option not to participate. Choosing to participate, or drop out from participating, does not affect a student's study progress or standing with the College.

Research projects help to broaden insight into the work of theological education generally and serve to strengthen the work being done by TEEC – this we support and we encourage participation by those who can add honest value and insight to the researcher's investigation.

The College, like all institutions, generates statistical data and reports statutory data as required by law. This is part of our normal reporting and accountability.

At times we also extract and anonymise student data which is then aggregated to help us explore trends and dynamics within the student body – this aggregated information might at times be shared with other ministry partners. Privacy law permits students to opt-out of this aggregated data (but not from the statistical or statutory data). To do so send an email to opt-out@teec.co.za and we will flag your student record accordingly.



STUDENT DATA: PAIA & POPI

In keeping with developments in privacy law the College is currently reviewing all physical student files against the data we hold electronically and we are destroying unnecessary documents.

Remaining documents will be scanned and then destroyed. We are using a company which specialises in the destruction of confidential and sensitive materials; this is different from our usual paper recycling.

The general trend towards the digitisation of data is useful and improves efficiency, but it also carries the burden and responsibility of securing that information and controlling access, which the College takes seriously. Like all institutions we have a PAIA manual available on our website.



AFRICAN RESEARCH FOR AN AFRICAN CONTEXT

Introducing Sabinet - a whole world of journal articles

Keeping up to date with the latest African research in Theology has never been easier, thanks to the biggest collection of fully searchable, electronic academic journals of its kind: namely, the Sabinet African Journal.

We are very excited to introduce staff and students to four subscriptions available through Sabinet.

- **Stellenbosch Theological Journal**

STJ is a multilingual, South-African theological journal that aims to serve academy, church and society with high-quality theological contributions.

- **Neotestamentica**

Neotestamentica publishes articles on all aspects of the New Testament, ranging from historical to hermeneutical and methodological studies.

- **Missionalia**

Missionalia is the journal of the Southern African Missiological Society (SAMS) and contains articles, book reviews, and abstracts from a wide range of journals all about mission in Africa.

- **HTS: Theological Studies (practical theology in SA)**

With a focus on Practical Theology the journal disseminates the results of theological research of national and international scholars covering a wide multi-disciplinary scope.



How can I use this resource?

It couldn't be easier:

1. Use your phone or other electronic device to go to <https://journals.co.za>
2. Log in using the credentials supplied to you by the TEEC librarian.
3. Choose a few key words from your assignment topic to refine your search.
4. Read the abstract (which is a brief summary of the article).
5. If the article is helpful, click on the 'Article title' and simply download.
6. You can download any "Open Access" articles as well as the Journal articles TEEC has subscribed to.

Remember that our librarian is available to assist.

LIBRARIAN

At the start of the year we said goodbye to Lorna McCoy who had been managing the College library. The follow on plan did not materialise in the way we had hoped, and so staff have been 'holding the fort'. We have now been joined by Amanda Lendrum who has very quickly brought things up to date and has been helping programme staff broaden support and library resources for students – some of which are described on this page.

We are expanding the functionality of the library's online catalogue, and now include electronic resources alongside the physical copies. With the growing range of internet resources we are also identifying quality resources that will be helpful to students on their courses.

Links to resources should work directly from the catalogue by clicking on the icon.



While course workbooks provide the primary teaching material for courses the College continues to invest in resources which broaden, deepen and strengthen learning and growing through study.



STUDENT PORTAL

If your login has been activated then you were sent an email explaining how to use it (if not activated then staff can do that for you – give a call or send an email).

In addition to accessing the library catalogue, it is also possible to get copies of past results, your current confirmation of registration letter, as well as past statements and current balance for your student account. Note that the information is not 'live' to view but your request generates a query which will result in the documents being emailed to your registered email address.

Current students on a programme can also submit their future registration applications online rather than emailing, posting or faxing forms. It is also possible to update personal details.



THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BY EXTENSION COLLEGE

Registered with the Department of Higher Education and Training as a Private Higher Education Institution under the Higher Education Act 101 of 1997. (Registration Certificate No. 2008/HE08/002). Non-Profit Company Registration No: 2007/030481/08.