

Editorial

In this 2022 edition of the *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* (STJ) we are proud to present 40 peer-reviewed academic articles and 6 book reviews. Ten of these articles (STJ volume 2) are published in the section of the “Society of Practical Theology in South Africa (SPTSA; with Anita Cloete as managing editor). These articles offer in-depth engagements with themes within the fields of pastoral care, community development, homiletics, liturgy, and youth ministry. The articles that focus on pastoral care engage with activism, indigenous healing, community development as care as well as ageing and dying, whereas those in homiletics and liturgy attend to current topics like lockdown liturgies, prophetic preaching and how liturgy could enhance moral decision-making. Articles in youth ministry and community development, in turn, provide insights on the contemporary challenges in youth ministry as well as the role of faith-based organisations in transformation through the affirmation of human dignity.

Among the 30 articles in STJ volume 1 are four articles that form part of a special section honouring Prof Dirkie Smit – now the Rimmer and Ruth deVries Professor of Reformed Theology and Public Life at Princeton Theological Seminary, and formerly professor of Systematic Theology at the University of the Western Cape and Stellenbosch University – on the occasion of his 70th birthday. These articles (by Rachel Baard, Ernst Conradie, Ella Myer, and Hannah Reichel respectively) were first presented in October 2021 as part of online colloquium celebrating Smit’s theological legacy. It was jointly organised by Princeton Theological Seminary, the University of the Western Cape, and Stellenbosch University.

Also included in this edition is a special section with 5 articles presented at a conference on the theme “We are family: Theological and ethical reflections on family in South Africa.” This conference (held on 2–3 November 2021) was hosted by the Gender Unit of the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University in conjunction with North-West University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal (and organised by Manitza Kotzé, Funlola Olojede, Nina Müller-Van Velden and Nadia Marais).

The other 21 articles deal with a wide array of theological themes and open a window onto the vitality and creativity of the theological scholarship, also as it grapples with (Southern) African realities.

As editorial board we would also like to welcome three new esteemed scholars to our advisory board. They are Professor Musa Dube (Candler School of Theology, Emory University), Prof Rachel Baard (Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond), and Prof Hannah Reichel (Princeton Theological Seminary).

We would also like to pay tribute to several South African theological giants who passed away in 2021, and whose work and witness had a major influence on shaping the academy, the church, and society. They include Jaap Durand, Albert Nolan, Klaus Nürnberger, Hennie Rossouw, and Wentzel van Huyssteen. Their work often featured in the *NGTT* and *STJ*. We honour their remarkable lives and work. Their legacies will surely continue to inform and inspire.

Robert Vosloo

(General Editor: *STJ*)