

## **RESOLUTIONS OF THE ACRP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017 as approved on Saturday 26 August 2017**

1. Regarding the application to establish ACRP as a professional body in terms of the NQF Act (67 of 2008) and SAQA policies, it was resolved -
  - a. That progress made with the application process be noted with appreciation.
  - b. That the benefits but also the risks for a institution of faith working in a regulated environment be considered. (This resolution was formulated in view of the discussions during the conference of the CRL Commission's report on "commercialisation of religion and abuse of people's belief systems".)
  - c. That ACRP management be requested -
    - (i) To continue engaging with SAQA to support the earliest possible finalisation of the professional body application process.
    - (ii) In the meantime to extend the professional body services that are already provided by the ACRP Council for Pastoral and Spiritual Counselling (CPSC) to the other ACRP councils, namely the Council for General Ministry Practitioners (CGMP) and the Council for Ministry Training Practitioners (CMTP).
    - (iii) While continuing with the professional body process, to attend to risks for faith institutions working in a regulated environment as identified during the conference.
  
2. Regarding the development of a training dispensation that will provide formally recognised training to church leaders and ministry who did not have this opportunity in the past, it was resolved -
  - a. That progress with the process to register QCTO and SAQA accredited ministry qualifications on NQF Levels 2 and 5 be noted with appreciation.
  - b. That the appointment of ACRP as QCTO's Assessment Quality Partner (AQP) for the Level 2 and 5 qualifications also be noted.
  - c. That comprehensiveness in teaching and training programmes be pursued by ACRP in partnership with training institutions (skills development providers), with particular attention to issues highlighted during the conference including -
    - (i) Personal spiritual formation and character development
    - (ii) Contextuality
    - (iii) The need for mentoring
    - (iv) Integration of theory and practice.
  - c. That ACRP management be requested -
    - (i) To continue engaging with SAQA and the QCTO to support the earliest possible registration of the qualifications.
    - (ii) In the meantime to support ministry training providers in preparing for formally recognised training to this group. Formally recognised training includes the relevant qualifications as well as Continued Professional

Development (CPD) and bridging programmes.

- (iii) That a process to recognise prior learning (including informal, non-formal and non-accredited formal learning) of church leaders who did not have the opportunity of accredited training in the past, be introduced as part of the process towards the awarding of professional designations.

3. Regarding the reports of the CRL Rights Commission and their attempts to introduce a system to regulate religions in South Africa, it was resolved -
  - a. That the problems in the church and ministry environment identified by the Commission be noted with concern.
  - b. That ACRP management be requested to determine the appropriate way for ACRP to respond to these problems, with an emphasis on positive steps such as support to intensified training, while also applying disciplinary measures that fall within ACRP's scope as professional body service provider.
  - c. That the CRL Commission be informed that ACRP is strongly opposed to the idea of any institution of government being placed in the position to regulate religion in the country; that solutions to the identified problems should be sought within the framework of existing legislation and policies; and that ACRP is willing to play its part to help solving problems within the existing framework.
  
4. A word of thanks goes to the outgoing directors, former chairperson Dr Pieter Fourie, former vice-chairperson Dr Sello Maboea, and board member Rev Phaphile Celesi. Be assured of our deepest appreciation for your the leadership and your dedication to the process to establish ACRP and prepare the organisation for its role as professional body and in the field of religious professions. May our God bless you and keep you.