



AL3126 - The Confession and Reconciliation: A Challenge to Churches in South Africa [Conference]

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Abstract: The records that make up this collection are the proceedings of the conference Confession and Reconciliation: a challenge to the churches in South Africa. This conference was convened by the Research Institute for Theology and Religion of the University of South Africa (Unisa) from 23-24 March 1998.

Introduction

The records that make up this collection are the proceedings of the conference 'Confession and Reconciliation'. 'A challenge to the churches in South Africa' convened by the Research Institute for Theology and Religion of the University of South Africa (Unisa) from 23 to 24 March 1998. The records come in three formats:

The paper-based manuscript of the conference proceedings for publication

The publication of the conference proceedings entitled 'Confession and reconciliation. A challenge to the churches in South Africa'. The publication is edited by C W du Toit

Two discs of the unedited conference proceedings

Professor CW du Toit, the Director of the Research Institute for Theology and Religion of Unisa, offers seminars within two overarching themes: 'The Forum for Religious Dialogue' and 'Science and Religion'.

In 1997 he elected to conduct a seminar on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) as it was the single most socio-ethical challenge of the day. To this end a working committee comprising critical theologians such as the late Dr Beyers Naude, Professor Nico Smith, Dr Nico Botha, Professor Tinyiko Maluleke and others was established.

The working group decided to draft an Open Letter of Confession, which expressed the co-responsibility of religious leaders for Apartheid.

This Letter was sent to twelve thousand ministers of religion. Six hundred and ten of them endorsed the Open Letter with their signatures.

The Open Letter, complete with the signatures, was submitted to the TRC on 15 November 1997. It is now in the custody of the National Archives and Records Services of South Africa, the custodian of all records produced as a result of the TRC process.

The Open Letter had stated that a conference would result from the response of the religious leaders.

The ensuing conference dealt with the TRC itself as presented by Archbishop Tutu, the rationale for and responses to the Open Letter, the necessity of Confession, restitution options and suggestions for a way forward for religious groups.

This conference may well have been the catalyst for members of the various faith communities to respond positively to an invitation by the TRC to make submissions on the role and status of faith communities under and during Apartheid.

The more than forty responses of the faith communities are dealt with in this Directory in the Research Institute for Christianity in South Africa (RICSA) Collection.



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Related Materials

The collection can also be accessed online at <http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/>

A guide to archival resources relating to South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission can also be found at: http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/trc_directory.pdf

The following collections resulted from the TRC Archival Audit:

- AL3021: Sooka, Yasmin
- AL3059: Dealing with the Past (Conference of Protestant Academy of Bad Boll, Germany)
- AL3060: The State vs. P.W. Botha and Appeal
- AL3061: Auditor General Reports on the Accounts of the TRC.
- AL3062: Office of the Public Protector, Synopsis of Cases regarding Complaints involving the TRC
- AL3063: Documents relating to the TRC Special Hearings on Health
- AL3066: Materials Relating To TRC Faith Hearings
- AL3068: Harris, Verne
- AL3100: Submission to the TRC concerning Relevance of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the Commissions Mandate
- AL3101: Jamiatul Ulama Transvaal, TRC Submission
- AL3102: Amnesty International TRC Materials
- AL3103: Institute for Healing Memories (IHOM) TRC Materials
- AL3110: Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVr)
- AL3115: Argall, Jane
- AL3116: Cherry, Janet
- AL3118: Marcus, Gilbert
- AL3119: Sheila Meintjies and Beth Goldblatt
- AL3120: Ross, Fiona
- AL3121: Julian Knight and Rudolph Jansen
- AL3125: The Challenge of Reconciliation: A Response of Church and Lay Persons to the TRC
- AL3126: Confession and Reconciliation: A Challenge to Churches in South Africa
- AL3128: Terreblanche, Christelle
- AL3129: Zapiro TRC Collection
- AL3130: African National Congress (ANC) TRC Materials
- AL3131: Cosatu Submission to the TRC
- AL3132: Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) Submission to the TRC
- AL3134: Iphepha Ndaba Newsletters from the Western Cape
- AL3135: Fester, Gertrude
- AL3136: Villa-Vicencio, Charles
- AL3137: Behr, Mark
- AL3141: Human Rights Watch Materials
- AL3142: NGO Working Committee on Reparations Materials
- AL3143: IDASA Sound Recordings Relating to the TRC



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Notes

Materials collected from TRC Archival Audit.

The TRC Archival Audit

Between 2003 and 2006, SAHA and Historical Papers, University of Witwatersrand embarked on a project to locate, retrieve and make available records relating to the South African Truth and Reconciliation Committee (TRC). The project entailed conducting an archival audit of all existing TRC records in order to identify and locate documentation in danger of being lost.

In the process of conducting the archival audit, SAHA and HP located many collections from individuals and organizations that participated in the TRC process, including this collection. Selections from these materials as well as TRC related material found in the freedom of Information Collection and other pre-existing SAHA and HP collections, were digitized and can be accessed online at <http://truth.wvl.wits.ac.za/>

A guide to archival resources relating to South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission can also be found at http://www.saha.org.za/pdf/trc_directory.pdf

Classification

- 1: CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS
 - 1.1: Manuscript of conference proceedings
 - 1.2: Published conference proceedings
 - 1.3: Electronic recordings of conference proceedings

Inventory

- 1: Conference proceedings
 - 1.1: Manuscript of the conference proceedings as prepared for publication, No date
 - 1.2: Publication of the conference proceedings: C W du Toit (ed.): Confession and Reconciliation: A "Challenge to the Churches in South Africa". Pretoria: UNISA, 1998
[1998]
 - 1.3: Two floppy discs of the unedited conference proceedings, No date