



**The Pacific Theological College**  
**500 YEARS OF REFORMATION – A CELEBRATION**

**17 - 18 March 2017, Friday and Saturday**



*The Programme*



## Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

- 8.20 Communion Service
- 9.30 Welcome to the participants  
Opening address of the Principal Prof. Feleterika Uili  
Nokise
- 9.45 Keynote on Reformation and Ecumenism in the Pacific:  
*Here I stand. Truth vs. Unity in Christ*  
Dr. Dr. h.c. Traugott Farnbacher  
(Mission OneWorld Neuendettelsau/Germany)
- 10.30 Tea
- 11.00 Group Discussion
- 11.30 Plenary Session
- 12.15 Lunch
- 13.30 Workshops offered by the four departments
- 15.00 Tea
- 15.30 Workshops offered by the four departments
- 17.00 Break
- 18.00 Dinner

## Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

- 8.45 Keynote on Gospel and Culture in the Pacific:  
*Living in Christ and in the Neighbour.*  
*The Freedom of a Christian and his/her Cultural Identity*  
Prof. Feleterika Uili Nokise (Principal of the PTC)
- 9.30 Group Discussion
- 10.00 Plenary Session
- 10.45 Tea
- 11.15 Workshops offered by the four departments
- 12.45 Lunch
- 14.00 Workshops offered by the four departments
- 15.30 Tea
- 16.00 Concluding Plenary Session:
  - Summary of the keynotes and discussions
  - Summary of the results of discussions in the workshops
- 17.00 Concluding Service
- 18.30 Feast

## **Workshops offered by the four departments:**

Theology and Ethics:

### **Luther's Theology of Creation and Climate Change in the Pacific**

Dr Davis will offer an exposition of the key points of Luther's doctrine of creation and discuss this in relationship with the issue of climate change in the Pacific. While climate change was unknown to Luther, key aspects of his theology speak to the issue today, including his theology of the cross and his criticisms of indulgences and humanity's misuse of creation. Finally, the shortcoming of Luther's theology in dealing with climate change in the Pacific will be addressed as a prod to Pacific theologians to do their own theological work on this pressing issue.

Dr Vaai focuses on employing the relational hermeneutical approach fundamental to the Pacific way of thinking and life to reconstruct a relational theology based on Luther's Reformation teachings to effectively inform eco-justice talanoa and address issues affecting the Pacific vanua such as climate change.

Biblical Studies:

### **Sola Scriptura!? Luther's Biblical Hermeneutics**

The workshop will offer a brief introduction to the topic, followed by a discussion based on short texts by Luther. It will centre on three questions: What did Martin Luther mean by "sola scriptura" (by Scripture alone)? How has this influenced hermeneutical strategies ever since? What sense does this make in Pacific Island contexts today?

Church and Ministry:

### **Priesthood of all Believers –**

#### **A relevant Option for Ministry in the Pacific today?**

'Priesthood of all Believers' – a hallmark of Luther's Reformation – has always been a challenge, first to the Roman Catholic Church and later to the Protestant Churches.

What light does 'Priesthood of all Believers' shed on sharing power and authority in the church? Should we redefine titles and ranks in this light? What is the meaning of a church office, when all are called to be priests? What actually does 'priesthood' mean to me and my work today? Participants are invited to voice out such questions and, in response, share their related experiences and visions.

Church History:

### **Demonizing Dissenters**

The workshop will look at the "dark side" of Luther: the excessive, at times outrageous polemics against his opponents, its reasons and its consequences. Luther's experience of the devil will be highlighted as important background to understanding his enormous resilience, and also his offensive behaviour and language. Questions concerning the meaning of the devil and patterns of demonization in the Pacific context may lead to discussion.