Symposium Building Bridges towards a more Humane Society: Celebrating 25 Years of the Bridging Gaps Program

**Dates:** Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October 2020

**Form:** Zoom conference

**Friday: Contextual Theology and Biblical Interpretation as Catalysts for Academic Theology**

Moderator: Prof. Dr. Peter-Ben Smit

14.00 – 14.15 Opening by Prof. Dr. Ruard Ganzevoort, dean of the Faculty of Religion and Theology Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

14.15 – 14.45 “I Won’t Behave Myself. I Won’t Hate Myself.” Harnessing the Multi-Coloured Butterfly in Genesis 37 as an Izitabane Icon – Dr. Charlene van der Walt

14.45 – 15.15 First response by Tainah Biela and plenary discussion

15.15 – 15.30 Break

15.30 – 16.00 “You Always Have the Poor among You“: Biblical Reading and Economics – Dr. Darío Barolín

16.00 – 16.30 First response by Charl Fredericks and plenary discussion

16.30 – 16.45 Break

16.45 – 17.15 “The Reading of Biblical Texts Came Directly into my Life and Strengthened Me”: Theology and the Bible in the Context of Gender Injustice – Mary-Luz Reyes Bejarano

17.15 – 17.45 First response by Dr. Funlola Oluseyi Olojede and plenary discussion

17.45 – 18.00 Concluding reflections by Prof. Dr. Hans de Wit, founder of the Bridging Gaps program

**Saturday: Catalyst for Community: Contextual Theology and the Churches**

Moderator: Kirsten van der Ham

9.00 – 9.15 Opening by Prof. Dr. Mechteld Jansen, rector of the Protestant Theological University

9.45 – 10.15 First response by Ester Damaris Wolla Wunga and plenary discussion
10.15 – 10.30 Break
10.30 – 11.00 *The Land Will Mourn and the Fish of the Sea Will Perish: Reading the Scripture in the Context of Environmental Injustice in Lake Poso, Indonesia* – Lady Mandalika
11.00 – 11.30 First response by Geke van Vliet and plenary discussion
11.30 – 11.45 Break
11.45 – 12.15 Group discussions in breakout rooms
12.15 – 12.45 Concluding plenary
12.45 – 13.00 Concluding reflections by a representative of Kerk in Actie

*The Bridging Gaps program is sponsored by Kerk in Actie, VUvereniging, Stichting Sormani Fonds, Nederlands Luthers Genootschap, Stichting Catharina Halkes Fonds, Doopsgezind Seminarium, Remonstrans Seminarium, and Baptistenseminarium.*