



**SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF PENTECOSTAL STUDIES  
CONFERENCE PROGRAMME- 2026**

**THEME:** Democratisation, Prophecy and Politics in Pentecostalism

**DATE:** 25-27 February 2026

**VENUE:** University of Venda (Thohoyandou, Limpopo)

**DAY - 1**

TIME	THEME	PRESENTER
<b>WEDNESDAY, 25 FEB 2026</b>		
<b>PROGRAMME DIRECTOR – PETER WHITE MAIN VENUE</b>		
10:00 – 11:45	Registration	
11:45 – 12:40	Lunch	
12:40 – 12:45	Opening prayer	
12:45 – 12:50	Univen Protocols and remarks	Lufuluvhi M. Mudimeli
12:50 – 13:05	Welcome song	Univen Choir
13:05 – 13:10	Welcome address	Prof. Fulufhelo Netswera DVC: Research and Postgraduate Studies
13:10 – 13:15	Chairperson’s address	Solomon Kgatle
13:15 – 13:55	<b>Keynote Address 1</b>	Chammah Kaunda Academic Dean of the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies
13:55 – 14:15	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS – A Main venue</b>	
	<b>CHAIR – M Mzondi</b>	
14:15 – 14:35	<b>Paper 1</b> History and Evolution of the Nexus between Pentecostalism and Politics in Ghana	Comfort Max-Wirth Dept for the Study of Religion University of Ghana
14:35 – 14:55	<b>Paper 2</b> Contemporary Pentecostal churches practice prophecy primarily as inspirational preaching and teaching rather than predictive divination	Ndidzulafhi Mudau Human Science Department University of Venda
14:55 – 15:15	<b>Paper 3</b> Contact Without Contamination: Exploring the African Apostolic Indigenous Churches' Perception of Politics in Zimbabwe.	Lindah Tsara Christian Spirituality, Church History, and Missiology Unisa

	<b>PARALLEL SESSION -B School of Education Boardroom</b>	
	<b>CHAIR – Colluim Banda</b>	
14:15 – 14:35	<b>Paper 4</b> The Role of the Spirit and the Ballot Box in Political Decision-Making	K.T. Resane Historical and Constructive Theology University of the Free State
14:35 – 14:55	<b>Paper 5</b> At the crossroads of exorcism: Pentecostal deliverance versus “ <i>ku femba valoyi</i> ”	N’wa-Phaphama Madali Dolphin Mabale Department of Human Sciences University of Venda
14:55 – 15:15	<b>Paper 6</b> The Spirit and Suffrage: The Process of Electing Ecclesial Leaders From the Early Church to Contemporary Pentecostal Churches	Kwaku Boamah and Mishael Donkor Ampofo Department for the Study of Religions, College of Humanities, School of Arts University of Ghana
	<b>PARALLEL SESSION -C African Languages Boardroom First Floor</b>	
	<b>CHAIR - Thabang R Mofokeng</b>	
14:15 – 14:35	<b>Paper 7</b> Agent of Peace Campaign”: An African Pentecostal Response to Election Related Violence in Ghana	Emmanuel Kenin Church of Pentecost Ghana
14:35 – 14:55	<b>Paper 8</b> Practices and Challenges of Neo-Pentecostal Churches in a Democratic South Africa	Lufuluvhi M. Mudimeli University of Venda
14:55 – 15:15	<b>Paper 9</b> Pentecostalism and Democratic Engagement in Neo-Colonial South Africa	P. Mhlabane AFM Theological College
15:15 – 15:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	15:00 – 15:15
	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS – A Main venue</b>	
	<b>CHAIR - Daniel Nicolaas Andrew</b>	
15:15 – 15:30	<b>Paper 10</b> Biblical Motifs, Democratic Struggles, and Pentecostal Prophecy in South Africa	MJ Eilers South African Theological Seminary
15:20 – 15:50	<b>Paper 11</b> Prophets or Partners? Pentecostal Churches, Corrupt Politicians, and the Kairos of Ethical Compromise in South Africa	Khonani Mukundi Maselesele Talifhani Khomola Rendani Nthakheni Ndidzulafhi Mudau University of Venda
15:50 – 16:10	<b>Paper 12</b> The Psychosocial Impact of Public Prophecy in Pentecostal Worship Contexts in South Africa	Hundzukani P Khosa-Nkatini Pelewe Mphephu University of Venda

16:10 – 16:30	<b>Paper 13</b> Servant Leadership, Prophetic Discernment and Transformational Governance: A Missiological Framework for Spiritually Grounded Leadership in Pentecostal Political Participation and Public Safety	Manyabela Rose Mailula Unisa
	<b>PARALLEL SESSION -B</b> <b>School of Education Boardroom</b>	
	<b>CHAIR - Lufuluvhi M. Mudimeli</b>	
15:15 – 15:30	<b>Paper 14</b> Prophecy at the Polls: Pentecostal Political Consciousness and Voter Discernment Ahead of South Africa’s 2026 Local Government Elections	Rinae Munyai University of Venda
15:20 – 15:50	<b>Paper 15</b> Spirit-Empowered Unity: A Pentecostal Theological Reflection on the Government of National Unity in South Africa	Jack Magoro North Eastern Evangelical Lutheran Church In South Africa
15:50 – 16:10	<b>Paper 16</b> Religious Leadership of Numbers: CRL Commission and the Democratization of Christianity in South Africa	A.E. Bvumbi Unisa
16:10 – 16:30	<b>Paper 17</b> Prophecy, Political Discernment and Democratic Responsibility in South African Pentecostalism	Mboni Collins Makamu
16:30 – 16:35	<b>CLOSING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<b>Peter White</b>
16:35 – 16:40	<b>CLOSING PRAYER</b>	

**DAY - 2**

TIME	THEME	PRESENTER
<b>THURSDAY, 26 FEB 2026</b>		
<b>PROGRAMME DIRECTOR – COLLIUM BANDA MAIN VENUE</b>		
09:00 – 09:05	Opening prayer	
09:05 – 09:10	Welcome Remarks	Collium Banda
09:10 – 9:50	<b>Keynote Address 2</b>	Rev. Moss Ntlha General Secretary of The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa (TEASA)
	<b>CHAIR – K.T. Resane</b>	
09:50 – 10:10	<b>Paper 18</b> Prophecy, Pentecostals and South Africa’s socio-economic inequality	Marius Nel North-West University
10:10 – 10:30	<b>Paper 19</b> An Ubuntu Pentecostal historical construction of The Evangelical Alliance of South Africa <i>vis-a-vi</i> the Evangelical Witness of South Africa document	M. Mzondi South African Theological Seminary
10:30 – 10:50	<b>Paper 20</b> Pentecostalism, Prophecy, and Politics: Advancing Climate Action and Land Sustainability in Zimbabwe	Tracey Chirara University of Zimbabwe
10:50 – 11: 10	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS – A Main venue</b>	
	<b>CHAIR - Rinae Munyai</b>	
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Paper 21</b> Spirit of Unity in a Divided Nation: A Pentecostal Theological Analysis of South Africa’s Government of National Unity	Botshelo Mpho Ramoshaba Lufuluvhi M. Mudimeli University of Venda
11:30 - 11:50	<b>Paper 22</b> South African Pentecostalism in the age of regulation of religion	Collium Banda North-West University, Potchefstroom.
11:50 -12:10	<b>Paper 23</b> Vision and Societal Transformation: A Preliminary Study of the Visionary Church Leadership of Apostle Eric Nyamekye and its Impact on the Ghanaian Society	Leonard Opoku Agyemang Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture
	<b>PARALLEL SESSION -B School of Education Boardroom</b>	
	<b>CHAIR - K.P. Motuku</b>	
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Paper 24</b> Tensions or Synergies? Navigating the Kingdom of Christ and	Hundzukani P. Khosa – Nkatini Pretty N. Mabunda

	Worldly Kingdoms: A South African Pentecostal Perspective	University of Venda
11:30 - 11:50	<b>Paper 25</b> Pentecostal Practices in Democratic South Africa: A Critical Analysis of Faith Dynamics, Identity Construction, and Processes of Social Transformation	Ntsieni Mawedzha University of Venda
11:50 -12:10	<b>Paper 26</b> Exploring the Interplay between Pentecostal Church Politics and State Power: A Case Study of Forward in Faith Ministries International	Tsitsi Mwapfaa
	<b>PARALLEL SESSION -C</b> <b>African Languages Boardroom First Floor</b>	
	<b>CHAIR - Tracey Chirara</b>	
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Paper 27</b> Redemption Under Scrutiny: Pentecostal Pastoral Leadership and the Regulatory Oversight by the CRL Rights Commission	Thalukanyo Cloepatra Mufunwa Sadiki Mashudu Edward Muthivhi University of Venda
11:30 - 11:50	<b>Paper 28</b> The Kingdom of Christ versus the Kingdoms of the World: Pentecostal Perspectives on Spiritual Authority and Democratic Governance	Avheani Carol Ravele Mashudu Edward Muthivhi University of Venda
11:50 -12:10	<b>Paper 29</b> Pentecostal Theological Education and the Freedom Charter: The doors of learning is open for the one that pay at the door	Daniel Nicolaas Andrew University of the Free State
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Paper 30</b> Prophets, Politicians and the People: Pentecostal Influence on Ghana’s Electoral Culture	Nathan Perry Mensah Kwaku Boamah Stephanie Kwofie University of Ghana
12:10 – 13:00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
13:00 – 15:00	<b>Business Meeting</b>	Excutive Committee Prof. Solomon Kgatle
15:00 – 15:15	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
	<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS – A</b> <b>Main venue</b>	
	<b>CHAIR - Kwaku Boamah</b>	
15:15 – 15:35	<b>Paper 31</b> Prophetic Imagination and Political Engagement: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Pentecostal Prophets; Rhetoric in South Africa’s Electoral Politics	Ngudo Chauke Mashudu Edward Muthivhi University of Venda
15:35 – 15:55	<b>Paper 32</b> Pentecostal politics versus state politics: the devil in the details	Samuel Letang Assemblies of God in Botswana
15:55 – 16:15	<b>Paper 33</b> Between Heaven and Earth: Exploring Synergy and Symbiosis between the Kingdom of Christ and Worldly Kingdoms	Rendani Nthakheni Lufuluvhi M. Mudimeli

<b>PARALLEL SESSION -B</b>		
<b>School of Education Boardroom</b>		
<b>CHAIR - Ntsieni Mawedzha</b>		
15:15 – 15:35	<b>Paper 34</b> “Although we are children ... we can see”: Rev. James Moloantoa and Nascent Political Consciousness in Black Pentecostalism	Thabang R Mofokeng Northwest University
15:35 – 15:55	<b>Paper 35</b> Kingdom of Christ and Worldly Kingdom: Any synergy or symbiosis	Thivhilaeli Simon Nedohe University of Venda
15:55 – 16:15	<b>Paper 36</b> Deconstructing the Contrasting Duality of African Pentecostalism: A Critical Examination of Selected Peaks and Valleys	Charles Gyasi Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon-Accra / Methodist Church Ghana
<b>PARALLEL SESSION -C</b>		
<b>African Languages Boardroom First Floor</b>		
<b>CHAIR - Hundzukani P Khosa-Nkatini</b>		
15:15 – 15:35	<b>Paper 37</b> Call for Unitary Alliance Leadership: Solution to the South African Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches Crisis	A .E. Bvumbi Unisa
15:35 – 15:55	<b>Paper 38</b> The Kingdom of Christ and the Worldly Kingdom: A Theological Inquiry into the Possibility of Synergy or Symbiosis.	Rachel Pauline Aikin Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture
15:55 – 16:15	<b>Paper 39</b> African Pentecostalism In Botswana: Towards A Theology of Poverty Eradication.	Kenosi Molato
<b>16:15 – 16:25</b>	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	<b>Solomon Kgatle</b>
<b>16:25 – 16:30</b>	<b>CLOSING PRAYER</b>	

**DAY - 3**

TIME	THEME	PRESENTER
<b>FRIDAY, 27 FEB 2026</b>		
<b>PROGRAMME DIRECTOR – Lufuluvhi M. Mudimeli MAIN VENUE</b>		
09:00 – 09:05	Opening prayer	
09:05 – 09:10	Welcome Remarks	M Mzondi
<b>CHAIR - Samuel Letang</b>		
09:10 – 9:30	<b>Paper 40</b> Remembering Nicholas Bhengu: A Critical Engagement with Memory and Social Media Archival Practices on a South African Gospel Pioneer	Sphesihle Blessing Khanyile Central University of Technology
9:30 – 9:50	<b>Paper 41</b> She Was There: The Forgotten Messengers of the Resurrection and Their Relevance Today	Phumeza Cordelia Nonnie Jacobs Unisa
9:50 – 10:20	<b>Paper 42</b> Pentecostalism and the LGBTQ+ Debate: Navigating Tensions Between Doctrine and Constitutional Rights	Ngudo Ndanganeni University of Venda
10:20 – 10: 40	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
<b>PARALLEL SESSIONS – A Main venue</b>		
<b>CHAIR – Mashudu Edward Muthivhi</b>		
10:40 – 11:00	<b>Paper 43</b> Prophetic Discernment and Pastoral Leadership: Lessons from Jehoshaphat’s Story	Solomon Sipho Mahlangu Department of Philosophy, Practical and Systematic Theology, Unisa
11:00 - 11:20	<b>Paper 44</b> A Divided House Leadership: Reflections on the 8 October 2025 South African Church Defenders (SACD)Protest March.	A.E. Bvumbi UNISA
11:20 -11:40	<b>Paper 45</b> Unveiling the Strategies for Creating a Nexus Between the Pentecostal Theology of Unity and the Government of National Unity: South Africa	Bernard Chingwanangwana Lufuluvhi Maria Mudimeli
<b>PARALLEL SESSION -B School of Education Boardroom</b>		
<b>CHAIR – Jack Magoro</b>		
10:40 – 11:00	<b>Paper 46</b> Deviance in Pastoral Practice: A Critical Appraisal through an African Hermeneutical and Practical Theology Lens	Mashudu Edward Muthivhi University of Venda
11:00 - 11:20	<b>Paper 47</b> Luke’s Jesus and the Praxis of the Early Church: Toward a Charter for Total Freedom	K.P. Motuku UNISA

11:20 -11:40	<b>Paper 48</b> The gains and impact of the Pentecostal agenda in the government's strategy on poverty alleviation.	Elizabeth Ivy Smit
	<b>PARALLEL SESSION -C</b> <b>African Languages Boardroom First Floor</b>	
	<b>CHAIR – M Mzondi</b>	
10:40 – 11:00	<b>Paper 49</b> The Pentecostal stand on the church and state theology of the Zion Christian Church: History, politics and theological education	Kenokeno Mashabela Unisa
11:00 - 11:20	<b>Paper 50</b> Legal Theology as an Interdisciplinary Module in Theological Training	Jeffrey Kukuni Unisa
11:20 - 11:40	Classic Pentecostal Socio-Economic Community Building in Malamulele area: Case Study Bishop Maphophe	Dumisani Ngobeni
11:40 - 12:10	<b>Paper 52</b> The birth of political Pentecostalism with African leaders in African societies	Cardinal Modiri Shole SAUCIC
<b>12:10 -12:15</b>	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	<b>Solomon Kgatle</b>
<b>12:15 – 12:20</b>	<b>CLOSING PRAYER</b>	

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## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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University of the Free State, South Africa

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The journal is an international, open access publication that covers a broad range of topics related to Pentecostalism, neo-Pentecostalism and related renewal movements in Africa and other parts of the world. It seeks to foster multi-, inter-, and transdisciplinary scholarship in the academic study of Pentecostalism, emphasising the intersectionality of theology and practice within Pentecostal circles, denominations, non-denominational movement, and other ministries.

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