

# SEE JUDGE ACT



## Methodology

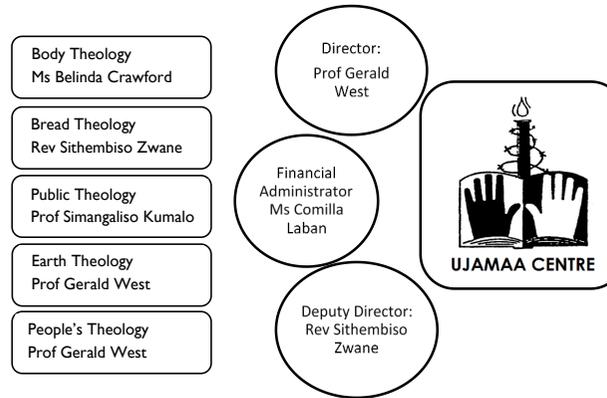
The methodological framework in which we work is the See-Judge-Act method. This method has a long history, beginning with the worker-priest movement in Belgium, and then spreading to Latin American liberation theology and South African contextual theology. Using this framework, our work begins with 'Seeing'; here we do social analysis with those among whom we work, using their categories and concepts to understand their reality 'from below'.

Having done social analysis, we then move on to 'Judge', by bringing social reality into dialogue with biblical and theological resources. This is the place in which we used Contextual Bible Study as a resource to 'judge' social reality, using biblical and theological understandings of God's project of transformation.

Finally, having analysed our world, and having judged this world by the vision God has for our world, we then 'Act' in order to bring our world into alignment with God's vision for our world. In each of these steps we work with local communities and churches.

Because this is our core 'business', all staff are required to locate biblical and theological resources at the centre of their work, are required to continually develop their capacities in these areas, and are required to produce community-related biblical and theological resources from their work.

## Organogram



## Acknowledgements

Our funding partners around the world are a vital component of our work. We have a number of funding partners, all of whom make a contribution to the viability of the Ujamaa Centre.

- Brot Fur Die Welt (Churches helping Churches)
- Fastenopfer
- Mensen met een Missie (AMA/CMC)
- ICCO & Kerk in Actie
- Arcus Foundation
- DKA

## UJAMAA CENTRE

*a just and democratic life for all*

**Centre for Biblical and  
Theological Community  
Development and Research**



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## History and location

The Ujamaa Centre is the product of the merger of two independent organisations, the Institute for the Study of the Bible (established in 1989) and the House of Studies for Worker Ministry (established in 1994). These two organisations merged in 1998, forming a single entity, the Ujamaa Centre, within the School of Religion and Theology, recognised by the University of KwaZulu-Natal as a community development and research centre.

The Ujamaa Centre is the product of various strands of liberation theology, particularly South African Black Theology, South African Contextual Theology, and South African Women's Theology. More specifically, the Ujamaa Centre is committed to working with communities of the poor, the working-class, and the marginalised, using the biblical and theological resources for social and individual transformation.

The Ujamaa Centre is located in the School of Religion, Philosophy, and Classics (SRPC). Given that our primary tools are biblical and theological, this location is not accidental. Being organically linked to SRPC not only provides access to important resources for our work, it also enables the Ujamaa Centre to have a direct impact on theological education and so the formation of new generations of church and community leaders.

## Theologies

Our work takes religion seriously, recognizing that religion is itself 'a site of struggle'. So the Ujamaa Centre stands in solidarity with ordinary religious people in their struggle for social justice. The Ujamaa Centre works with a theory of change in which religious change is essential to social development and justice. We work within five areas of problem analysis:

**Body Theology** - To restore human dignity, self-acceptance, and strengthen resilience among those marginalized because of their disability, sexual orientations, gender identity, HIV status and ethnicity, enabling them to mobilise themselves and access resources

**Bread Theology** - To build leadership capacity that enables the unemployed youth to access job opportunities

**Public Theology** - To build prophetic theological capacity among church leaders to enable the church to participate actively in the development of democracy and good governance

**Earth Theology** - To develop African theological resources for faith-based communities to enable them to engage constructively on the issues of land and environment

**People's Theology** - To recognize the capacity of the marginalized social movements and African Independent Churches (AICs) to do theology that enables them to become part of the prophetic public realm

## Organizational Objective

To build and develop leadership capacity among marginalized and poor communities using biblical and theological resources for social transformation

### Vision

Building a society in which religion enables a just and democratic life for all.

### Mission

Our mission is to mobilize, train, support; empower the marginalized poor communities, the working-class and the unemployed. We prioritise work with women, youth, people with disability, those living positively with HIV/AIDS and the LGBTI community. We work for the values of the kingdom of God and for a society in which all have abundant life (John 10:10).

