

9th International Diaconia Webinar

24th April 2026

(9.00 – 12.00 CET; 8.00 – 11.00; GMT, 10.00 – 13.00 EET)

Innovative Practice for Food Security and Sustainability - Analysis, Practice and Theology

Programme

9.00 - 9.10 Introduction to the event.

Introduction to the first session and the speakers.

9.10 - 9.55 Food security, food justice and faith in South Africa: practitioner perspectives:

✓ **Thabang Kotsedi** (Centre for Faith and Community, University of Pretoria, South Africa),

✓ **Liesl Stewart** (food activist and researcher, Cape Town, South Africa)

In conversation with **Nadine Bowers Du Toit** (Stellenbosch University, South Africa)

Short plenary

9.55 - 10.20 Break out rooms.

10.20 - 10.35 Coffee break ☕

Introduction to the second session and the speakers.

10.35 - 11.15 Practical and Research Initiatives on food production, ecology, food sharing and justice

✓ **Allon Makkinga** (Protestant Theological University, The Netherlands) ‘On Loan: research on the management of church-owned land in light of the ecological challenges of the 21st century.’

✓ **Christine Wenona Hoffmann** (Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany) ‘Vesper Church’ as an example of church action in food justice.

In conversation with **Thijs Tromp** (Protestant Theological University, The Netherlands)

Short plenary

11.15 - 11.35 Break out rooms.

11.35 - 11.55 Feedback from the groups and panel discussion.

11.55 - 12.00 Webinar Closing.

Joining Instructions

Zoom Link

There is no need to register, you may join by using the link:

<https://diak-fi.zoom.us/j/68978790188>

Webinar Web Page

<https://www.diak.fi/en/calendar/code-forum-international-webinars-academic-year-2025-2026/>

Webinar Resource Bank (Videos from previous webinars for educational use)

<https://international-diaconia-webinars.in.howspace.com/welcome>

For access password please write to Ville Päiväsalo: ville.paivansalo@diak.fi

Speakers

Thabang Kotsedi is a research coordinator for the Centre for Faith and Community at the University of Pretoria. She serves on the executive committee of the newly formed Union against Hunger in Pretoria, which seeks to eradicate hunger and malnutrition as social justice issues.

Liesl Stewart has spent two decades building and convening an alternative food network in Cape Town, connecting small-scale producers with consumers and reimagining food systems that honour God's love for all of Creation. She is driven by a deep conviction that how we grow, share, and eat food is an act of faithfulness to God and neighbour.

Nadine Bowers Du Toit is professor of Theology and Development and the director of the Unit for Religion and Development Research (URDR) at the University of Stellenbosch.

Allon Makkinga is a PhD-researcher at the Protestant Theological University (PThU) in the Netherlands. His research concerns action research conducted in collaboration with Protestant churches and diaconal organizations, aimed at developing a theologically responsible and context-sensitive policy on land owned by the church.

Christine Wenona Hoffmann is the professor for Practical Theology at the Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany. She holds a diploma from the Ruth Cohn Institute for Theme-Centered Interaction (TCI) International and is a certified supervisor with the German Association for Supervision and Coaching (DGSv).

Thijs Tromp is professor of Diaconal Studies at the Protestant Theological University, Utrecht, The Netherlands. His research focusses on diaconal and the contribution of the diaconal work to social inclusion. He is a team member of the SOIL project at the University.