

CENTRE FOR CHURCH AND MISSION IN THE WEST

SELF-ASSESSMENT (2018-2020) FOR MID-TERM REVIEW, MARCH 2021

1. Introduction

General

The Centre for Church and Mission in the West (CCMW) is a modestly sized research unit, established in 2018, as a collaboration of practical theologians, missiologists, and church law experts, working at TU Kampen. In addition, external researchers are invited to join as visiting fellows.

The CCMW was founded as a consequence of TU Kampen's new policy regarding research groups. This policy was inspired generally by the failure of the Kampen/Apeldoorn merger in 2017, and particularly by the necessity to find an effective structure for practical theological and missiological research at TU Kampen. CCMW's precursor (2012-2017), the joint research group (TU/A and TU/K) *Reformed Traditions in Secular Europe*, had proved on balance to be too heterogenous to develop an effective and coherent research programme. Next to this, the 2017 Accreditation Committee (AC) had suggested to remove staff without sufficient academic output from the research units, and to reinforce the position of programme leaders by allocating them an annual budget.

Thus, CCMW was established with the purpose of creating more coherence by bringing together theological researchers with similar interests and research methodologies. Its result was a much smaller yet more coherent research group of practical theologians, missiologists, and church law experts. This felt like a natural move. Missiology and Practical Theology at TU Kampen had already developed an increasing affinity in terms of shared methodologies and interests. While Church Law research stems from a different tradition with different interests, the current trend towards ecclesial innovation and pioneering creates a growing need to reflect on such phenomena from an organizational and polity point of view.

The CCMW's mission is contributing through high-quality research to the sustainable innovation of the church and its mission in the secularizing parts of the world. While drawing on a wide range of theological research traditions, the CCMW concentrates on the study and innovation of Christian practices, inside and outside the church. Working in an ecumenical spirit, the CCMW operates in the Reformed tradition with a view to renewing this tradition for the improvement of church practices and the mission of the Christian church in the West.

The CCMW contributes to Christian mission in the West through the production of academic-standard, multi-method research on Christian practices, and an active valorization policy. This is done against the background of the West's contribution to Christianity's present role as a global religion on the one hand, and the current contribution of non-Western Christians to the missionary challenges in the West on the other.

The CCMW's current research programme (2018-2023) is titled 'Salvation in the 21st Century'. The Centre's current director is Stefan Paas, Professor of Missiology at TU Kampen and

Professor of Missiology and Intercultural Theology at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Vice-director is Hans Schaeffer, Professor of Practical Theology at TU Kampen.

More information can be found on the CCMW's website www.churchandmission.nl

2. Mission, Aims and Strategies

2.1. Mission

As can be suspected from its name, the Centre's primary mission is to serve society or, more specifically, the church and its mission in the secular West. It does so through the production of interdisciplinary research that meets the highest academic standards in the relevant fields of practical theology, missiology and church law.

The CCMW's current research programme is 'Salvation in the 21st Century'. The selection of this topic was inspired by several independent impulses, such as (1) the conviction that the (future) significance of theology is determined by its ability to sustain a vision of the 'good life' – as has been advocated programmatically by a.o. Miroslav Volf and Matthew Croasmun in *For the Life of the World* (2019), and Stefan Paas in *Zoeken naar het goede leven* (2019); (2) the observation that 'lived soteriology', that is, which visions of the good, wholesome, and 'saving' life animate missional/ecclesial practices and institutional structures, and how they relate to Christian soteriological traditions, is largely underresearched in practical theology, missiology and church law; (3) the growing awareness, influenced by recent ethnographic studies of missional practices (such as Wall, *Salvation and the School of Christ*, 2014; Strahn, *Aliens and Strangers?*, 2015; Riphagen, *Church in the Neighbourhood*, 2021 fc.), and by reports on missional pioneering in the UK and the Netherlands, that precisely this topic of 'salvation' is often a source of embarrassment for practitioners.

Leading question of the CCMW's research programme: how are current practices in church and mission in the secularizing and de-institutionalizing context of the West *motivated* by views on salvation, how do they *develop* in response to new conditions of faith, and how can they be brought into *dialogue* with theological traditions in order to contribute to a fruitful embodiment of Christian faith in the secular West?

This question is studied in the contexts of practices, individuals, and institutions:

- *Practices*. Exploring the relationship between ecclesial and missional practices on the one hand and sense-making narratives on the other. Which views of salvation animate existing practices of church and mission, and how are they intertwined with these practices?
- *Individuals*. Exploring (auto)biographical narratives of salvation. How do late-modern Christians' experience salvation? How does this change their relationship to the church as community, and its practices?
- *Institutions*. Exploring institutional expressions of salvation. How can church organization, the structure of the offices, and church law be expressions and embodiments of the good and wholesome life? How can they be (more) redemptive?

2.2. *Strategic Aims*

In their reflection on the AC's 2017 assessment of the TU/K's research programmes (2 July 2019), the boards of TU/K and TU/A agreed that

... the number of peer-reviewed articles (and book chapters) should shift to a relatively larger proportion ... At the same time, our role as theological universities, addressing Christians in church and society implies valorization, making research accessible for others. We will continue to do that. However, in this focus on valorization we aim to be less general and more precise, working with partners, growing in societal relevance.

In response to this particular nature of a theological university with its responsibility to serve the church and to balance this responsibility with the importance of high-quality research, the CCMW has formulated the following three strategic aims so as to fulfil its mission. Within the modest resource span of the CCMW, this number seems realistic yet ambitious:

1. The CMMW aims to be a *national hub* for interdisciplinary theological research in missiology, practical theology, and church polity (societal).
2. The CCMW aims to be *agenda-setting* for international academic theological research into the relationship between lived soteriology (views of salvation) and ecclesial/missional practices (academic).
3. The CCMW aims to be a *welcoming and stimulating context for PhD students* in the interdisciplinary fields of practical theology, missiology and church law (academic).

Evidently, aim #2 is the basis for the CCMW's contributions to aim #1. However, this order reflects the primary strategy as described above.

2.3. *Strategies*

Strategic Aim #1: *becoming a national hub for interdisciplinary theological research in missiology, practical theology, and church polity*. While the CCMW is located at TU Kampen and its core of paid researchers are drawn from the TU/K's academic staff, its strategy has been to build a strong network in order to build up its profile and visibility for societal partners. Its ambition is to become a nationally recognized hub for societal partners with regard to missiology, practical theology, and church law – particularly where these fields intersect.

The following strategies are being developed to achieve this aim:

1. *Developing the Centre in terms of memberships and partnerships*. The CCMW seeks not just to expand its human resources, it seeks to do so strategically. That is, the CCMW aims at having the right people at the table. Therefore, linking pins with relevant organizations are actively sought. Bi-monthly meetings for mutual discussion, exchanging (research) news, and discussing each other's work are the CCMW's main instrument to build up the relationships within the Centre.
2. *Building an active valorization policy*. Although an academic research institution must always ground its contributions in solid academic research, the CCMW's primary strategic aim requires an active policy of knowledge dissemination through relevant journals, op-eds, conferences, and a website.
3. *Gaining an annual funding of 35K Euros from societal partners, as a result of valorization*.

Strategic Aim #2: *becoming agenda-setting for international academic theological research into the relationship between lived soteriology (views of salvation) and ecclesial practices.* This is a modest goal, based on the expectation that the CCMW's research programme touches on a largely unexplored yet increasingly important field. The CCMW does not aim, as a Centre, to become internationally leading in its domains in general. It does, however, aim for its research programme to be an impulse for other academic institutions so as to recognize the importance of this topic for practical theology, missiology and church law studies.

With regard to publications: the overall academic publication record of CCMW's predecessor was considered 'not satisfying' by the 2017 AC. It 'strongly suggested that the aspect "academic" receives more attention in the researchers' profiles'. Above, it has been explained how the CCMW attempts to keep the balance between its responsibilities to science and the church. As for academic output, the CCMW maintains a norm of a *minimum* of one peer-reviewed article per year per 0.2 fte research time per year. Additionally, we encourage our researchers to publish one academic book per five years. Given its relatively small size of <1.0 fte research time for all senior researchers combined (see section 4.1), the publication strategy should be realistic.

Thus, the following strategies are being developed to achieve Strategic Aim #2:

1. 2-3 annual publications in internationally leading and relevant journals such as *Mission Studies, Missiology, International Journal of Practical Theology, Ecclesiology, Ecclesial Practices, Exchange*.
2. Between 2018-2023, 2-3 academic books will be published by the CCMW's members. Each of these books will be reviewed in at least five academic journals.
3. The CCMW's website will be further developed as an access to the CCMW's academic research.
4. While the CCMW does not have a specific open science policy (in addition to what the TU Kampen already has), it does encourage its members to upload their publications on academia.edu and/or similar websites.
5. In 2022, the CCMW will organize an international academic conference, with call for papers and a peer-reviewed publication of contributions to the conference.
6. Each of the CCMW's senior members are invited as speakers to academic conferences at least twice during the period 2018-2023.
7. Submit (together with academic partners) between 2018-2023 at least one funding application to an academic funding institute, such as NWO, ERC or Templeton.

Strategic Aim #3: *becoming a welcoming and stimulating context for PhD students in the interdisciplinary fields of practical theology, missiology and church law.* Within the general policy for PhD students by TU Kampen (which a.o. includes participation in the Initial Graduate School, and NOSTER for paid PhD students), the CCMW is developing the following strategies:

1. Pre-selection of promising MA-students, especially in the Master Course 'Church and Mission in the West'. Given the predominantly male composition of the CCMW's members (including PhD students) so far, special attention will be paid to the selection of promising female students.
2. Drawing sufficient funds to allow for at least one paid PhD student (AIO) annually.

3. Bi-monthly research meetings where PhD students can discuss their work together with senior researchers, and one day per year for intensive discussion.

The CCMW's open science policy and its PhD policy and training have been discussed above. As for the academic climate it seeks to foster, it can be added that the CCMW is a small unit where relationships are largely informal and warm.

3. Evidence

Building on applicable categories provided in Appendix E2 of SEP, this section presents the most important evidence showing to what extent the CCMW has met its strategic aims. For an exhaustive list of publications and other productions, see the Appendix of this self-assessment.

3.1. *Research products for peers.*

The CCMW has met its own strategic aims for (international) academic publications in 2018-2023. The following productions are particularly relevant with regard to the research programme 'Salvation in the 21st Century', as they work out in various ways how visions of the good life and salvation are animating missional/ecclesial practices and organizational structures.

- S. Paas and Marry Schoemaker-Kooy, 'Resilience and Crisis among European Church Planters', *Mission Studies* 35 (2018), 366-388
- S. Paas, *Pilgrims and Priests: Christian Mission in a Post-Christian Culture*, SCM: London 2019
- S. Paas and Philipp Bartholomä, 'The Missional Future of Free Churches in a Secular Context: A German Case Study', *Journal of Empirical Theology* 33 (2020), 1-21
- S. Paas, 'The Why of Mission', Edinburgh Theological Seminary (online lecture), 15 September 2020
- K.S. Tamminga, J.H.F. Schaeffer, J. Swinton, 'Potential Roles of Churches and Ecclesiology for Disability Inclusion' in *International Journal of Practical Theology* 24/1 (2020), 89-110
- C. van den Broeke, "Serving the peace? Disorder, order, and peace in church polity," in: *In die Skriflig/In Luce Verbi* 54/1 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4102/ids.v54i1.2602>
- C. van den Broeke, "The Missional Bishop: Classical Assembly, Church Planting, Church Renewal," in: Barry Ensign-George, Hélène Evers (eds.), *Church Polity, Mission and Unity: Their Impact in Church Life. Proceedings of the International Conference, Princeton, New Jersey, USA, 18-20 April, 2016*, Zürich: LIT-Verlag, 2019, 91-103 (Church Polity and Ecumenism: Global Perspectives 5).

3.2. *Use of research products by peers.*

Pilgrims and Priests (2019) was reviewed by:

- Todjeras, in *Ecclesial Futures* 1.1 (2020)
- Kolosova, in *SALT Crossroads of Religion and Culture* (2020)
- King, in *Regent's Review*, Oxford University (2020)
- Percy, in *Ecclesiology* (Jan 2020)

- Wrogemann, in *Theologische Literaturzeitung* (Nov. 2020)
- Pritchard, *Church Times* (2020)
- Platten, in *Theology* 124.1 (2021)

According to Google Scholar, ‘Crisis and Resilience’ (Kooy, Paas 2018) was quoted three times by different authors: A. Forsyth, *Developing Training for Pioneer Ministry in the Church of Scotland* (2019); L. Taylor, in *Mission Studies* 2020; M.H. Robert, in *Mission Studies* 2020. According to GS, *Pilgrims and Priests* (2019) was quoted twice by different authors: Byassee&Lockhart, *Better than Brunch* (2020) and Reitsma, *Vulnerable Love* (2020).

3.3. *Marks of recognition from peers.*

No academic research grants were obtained. However, at the time of writing S. Paas is involved in the preparation of a collaborative Gravitation application (NWO), while J.H.F. Schaeffer is participating in a collaborative Templeton Grant application.

Pilgrims and Priests (2019) was *Buch des Monats* in *Theologische Literaturzeitung* (Nov. 2020).

S. Paas has been appointed in the editorial board of *Ecclesial Futures* (2019).

Van den Broeke is a member of the Panel of Experts *Principles of Christian Law: Juridical Ecumenism* which meet since 2013 annually in Rome, Geneva and was also invited on 25-26 May 2018 to convene at the University of Oxford, England. Van den Broeke was also invited to lecture at the international conference because of the commemoration of Hendrik Pieter Scholte in Pella IO, USA, 15-17 August 2018. He lectured on *H.P. Scholte: Polity and Politics*

3.4. *Research products for societal target groups.*

3.4.1. *Professional*

A particular success was the initiative to host-edit (Stoppels) a special issue of the professional journal *Inspirare* (2, 2020). Several of the CCMW’s senior staff have written an article in this issue. Examples:

- Editorial: S. Stoppels, ‘Waar zien we heil in?’
- S. Paas, ‘Heil in de eenentwintigste eeuw: Een verkenning’, pp. 8-18
- G.J. Roest, ‘Jezus in postmoderne kleren: Mijn verschuivende visie op het heil’, pp. 19-28

Another relevant contribution was G.J. Roest’s chapter ‘Op zoek naar de toren in het midden: Verzoening in de westerse context’, in: William den Boer (ed.), *Hoe kan Jezus’ kruisdood ons verlossen? Christus victor en verzoening door voldoening in verleden en heden*, Buijten & Schipperheijn: Amsterdam 2020, pp. 177-187

Van den Broeke disseminated his academically published views on the significance of the classis for missional innovation processes in several professional studies. Also, he published a number of contributions on the question how church polity can contribute to a safe and healthy (wholesome, ‘saving’) church organization. Some examples:

- C. van den Broeke, “De classicale vergadering,” in: F. Tobias Bos en Leo J. Koffeman, *Nieuwe toelichting op de kerkorde van de Protestantse Kerk in Nederland*, Zoetermeer: Kok Boekencentrum, 2019, 225-241.
- C. van den Broeke, “Van censura morum naar jaargesprek? De vrijheid van het ambt en het human resource management van de kerk,” in: [Peter Raven, red.,] *Schuring tussen kerkrecht en arbeidsrecht*, z.p.: Kenniscentrum Arbeidsrecht, 2019, 46-66
- C. van den Broeke, “Meerdere vergaderingen,” in: Herman J. Selderhuis, *Handboek Gereformeerd Kerkrecht*, Heerenveen: Jongbloed, 2019, 293-303.
- C. van den Broeke, “Biechtgeheim en consequenties,” in: *Ouderlingenblad voor Pastoraat en Gemeenteopbouw*, jrg. 97, n°. 1109, November 2019, 11-14
- C. van den Broeke, “Macht, machtsmisbruik en recht in de kerk: Organen van bijstand en het kerkrecht voor de wereld,” ter gelegenheid van de presentatie van deel 5B van het Verzameld Werk van A.A. van Ruler, *Kerkorde, kerkrecht en het ambt*, Zoetermeer: Boekencentrum, 2018, 912pp; op: <http://www.aavanruler.nl/sample-page/publiciteit/>.
- C. van den Broeke, “Het recht op het geweten: Het ambtsgeheim en het biechtgeheim tussen het statelijke en religieuze recht,” in: *Zicht: Tijdschrift voor gereformeerd zicht op politiek en maatschappij*, 2018-3, 38-43. Leon van den Broeke, “The Classis and Presbytery at Issue, Kampen 22-23 mei 2018,” in: *Tijdschrift voor Theologie* (2018), 297-298.
- C. van den Broeke, *Geloven in de classis*, Zoetermeer: Boekencentrum, 2018, 72 pp.
- C. van den Broeke, “Waartoe is de classis op aarde,” *Woord en Dienst* jrg. 67, n°. 6-7 (2018), 12-13

A keynote lecture on ‘Pilgrims and Priests’ was given by S. Paas for the pastoral training conference in Zwolle, ‘Resident Aliens’ (22 May 2019) and for the CMS pioneer training in Oxford (4 March 2019). See <https://churchmissionsociety.org/resources/video-stefan-paas-pilgrims-and-priests-christian-mission-post-christian-culture/>. Both trainings were attended by over a hundred professionals.

In 2019, Schaeffer organized a conference on the decline of institutionalized church-membership at which colleagues from the Protestant Theological University, Baptisten Seminarie, Theological University Apeldoorn, and the TU Kampen participated. The papers were published in the peer-reviewed professional journal *Handelingen* (‘Mij niet meer gezien. Kerkverlating in perspectief’. *Themanummer Handelingen. Tijdschrift voor praktische theologie en religiewetenschap* 47/3 (2020)).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hans Schaeffer participated in building a website for professionals in the church how to deal with COVID, in cooperation with scholars from the Protestant Theological University, Tilburg School of Catholic Theology, and colleagues from the TU/K: www.pastoraatencorona.nl.

3.4.2. Popular

In 2019, G.J. Roest published two course manuals, based on his dissertation, for small groups within and outside churches, on salvation and Christian life:

- *Hoopvol leven: Ontdek de weg die Jezus wijst*, Buiten&Schipperheijn: Amsterdam, 2019
- *Open leven: Ervaar de weg die Jezus wijst*, Buiten&Schipperheijn: Amsterdam, 2019

A popularising book on theology and its contribution to ‘the good life’ was published by S. Paas (*Zoeken naar het goede leven*, 2019).

A particularly interesting project for societal groups is the NPO Radio 1 Podcast ‘De Ongelooflijke Podcast’, with S. Paas and journalist David Boogerd (3 April 2019 – today). This Podcast features conversations with prominent writers, artists, politicians, etc. on topics of religion, spirituality, and secularization in relation to societal questions. At the time of writing, the Podcast attracts c. 10-15K listeners.

<https://www.nporadio1.nl/podcasts/de-ongelooflijke-podcast>

Another interesting access to a wider audience, and one not regularly reached by academic theologians, took place when Paas was interviewed for NPO Jeugdjournaal (Nieuwsbegrip) on 19 April 2019 (‘Wat is Pasen?’, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEAKCJX9QXg>).

Paas was also given the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Christmas in *De Groene Amsterdammer* 51-52 (19 December 2018), in an interview by Roderick Nieuwenhuis, and on the meaning of Pentecost in *Zin in Weekend*, radio NPO5 NCRV/KRO (Annemiek Schrijver), 9 June 2019.

Schaeffer was interviewed twice on COVID-19 and its impact on churches and church services on regional Dutch television (RTV Oost) (<https://www.rtvoost.nl/radio/programma/131/Hoogtij/aflevering/547581> and <https://www.rtvoost.nl/radio/programma/131/Hoogtij/aflevering/559847>). Schaeffer also was interviewed on Kerk2030 on national radio NPO Radio 1 (<https://www.nporadio1.nl/dit-is-de-zondag/onderwerpen/65034-2020-09-20-kerk-2030-nieuw-enthousiasme-rondom-kerkzijn>).

Schaeffer published a book on salvific practices of being church, together with PhD-student Tamminga and a pastor: Koos Tamminga, Joost Smit, Hans Schaeffer, *Kerkzijn als antwoord. Inclusief gemeentezijn in een tijd van krimp en transitie*, Brevier: Kampen 2020. This book was accompanied by a series of online-webinars for professionals and church-members (<https://www.weetwatjegelooft.nl/cursus/kerkzijnsantwoord/>).

Van den Broeke is often interviewed as a national expert on church law and jurisprudence in with regard to religion. Of particular interest in relation to the research programme are the following interviews:

- *Trouw*: ‘De kerk is geen vrijplaats en moet juist opkomen voor de meest kwetsbaren’, 8 december 2018 <https://www.trouw.nl/religie-en-filosofie/-de-kerk-is-geen-vrijplaats-en-moet-juist-opkomen-voor-de-meest-kwetsbaren--~abbb2ae8/>
- *ZDF* on ‘Kerkasiel’ in The Hague , <https://www.zdf.de/nachrichten/heute-in-europa/heute---in-europa-vom-6-dezember-2018-100.html>

3.5. Use of research products by societal target groups.

1. Projects in cooperation with societal parties:

- *Kerk2030* is a Foundation for Church Renewal that co-sponsors a PhD project at the TU Kampen (CCMW). It organizes webinars with over 500 views, and on-site

training for local churches, and the publication of a series of booklets on church practices.

- In cooperation with the *Dienstencentrum PKN*, Stoppels, Roest and Dreschler conduct research (resulting in reports and articles) among PKN pioneers and pioneer communities.
2. Contract research:
 - In general: c. 50% of TU Kampen's annual budget is received through support by churches in exchange for the training of pastors and church workers.
 - Via *Praktijkcentrum* (where academic researchers from TU Kampen and church trainers work together) 7,5K/year funding (2018-2020) was received for the PhD project on Inclusion (Tammaing).
 - Via *Kerk2030* 15K/year is being received for a PhD project on church renewal (2020-...).
 - Via *De Verre Naasten* 10K/year was received for a research project (2018-2020), in exchange for training of their office staff (Dreschler)
 3. Use in education: *Pilgrims and Priests* is on the curriculum of a.o. TU Apeldoorn, Protestant Theological University, Vrije Universiteit, CMS Oxford, Princeton Theological Seminary, and is also used in post-academic education in the *Dienstencentrum PKN*.
 4. References to research products/outputs in professional and public domains:
 - The manuals *Hoopvol leven* and *Open leven* (Roest) were reviewed in *Nederlands Dagblad* (13-9-2019), *Tijding* (IZB), *Wapenveld* (Aug. 2020), and *Woord en Weg*. Roest was interviewed by several Christian media. At the time of writing, c. 1300 copies have been sold.
 - *Zoeken naar het goede leven* (Paas) was presented during the *Nacht van de Theologie* (nov. 2019) and reviewed in a.o. *Trouw* (22-11-2019), *NBD Biblion* (18-12-2019), *NRC* (19-12-2019), and *Reformatorisch Dagblad* (28-2-2020).
 - Schaeffer was asked to address the General Synod of the Reformed Churches (Liberated) in November 2019 on the societal and ecclesial transformations that are taking place, in order to focus the Synod on what they could contribute to leading the church.
 - Van den Broeke was invited by the General Synod of the Protestantse Kerk in Nederland to lecture and to receive the first copy of his *Geloven in de classis* which he had written by request of this synod, 19 April 2018, Hydepark, Doorn

3.6. *Marks of recognition from societal target groups.*

1. Financial and material support by society.

In 2018, the *Nederlandse Zendingsraad* decided to fund an extraordinary chair of missiology at TU Kampen for 5 years.

In 2019 Van den Broeke was able to gladly receive the generous gift of 26 metres of German and Swiss books on church polity for the special collection in the university library (Deddens Kerkrecht Centrum)

2. Membership of civil-society organizations.

Schaeffer is member of the Board of *Stichting Kerk2030*.

Van den Broeke is vice-chair of the general committee on church order of the Protestantse Kerk in the Netherlands

Noort is president of the *Nederlandse Zendingsraad*.

3. Public prizes.

In 2018-2019 Paas was elected Theologian Laureate (*Theoloog des Vaderlands*).

4. Accomplishments in the Past Three Years (2018-2020)

This section refers back to the CCMW's aims (2.2) and strategy (2.3), assessing them in the light of the most relevant evidence presented in section 3.

4.1. Strategic Aim #1: Becoming a national hub

Strategy #1.1: Developing the Centre in terms of memberships and partnerships

The CCMW has been successful in expanding both the number of researchers who are involved and the number of organizations that are represented. Particular successes were:

- the establishment of an extraordinary chair of missiology (Prof. dr. Gert Noort), funded by the *Nederlandse Zendingsraad*;
- the participation of dr. Sake Stoppels (*Christelijke Hogeschool Ede* and *Dienstencentrum PKN*) as a visiting fellow.
- The representation of especially the *Praktijkcentrum* and *Stichting Kerk2030* (through Schaeffer), the *Dienstencentrum PKN* (through Stoppels and Roest), the *Nederlandse Zendingsraad* (through Noort), and the *Christelijke Hogeschool Ede*, as these organizations are major players in the (Protestant) field of training and equipment of church workers, missionary pioneers, and churches in general in the Netherlands.

Against the background of the AC 2017's urgent advice not to sever the links with the TU/A, the CCMW is also pleased with the participation of Jan van 't Spijker, missiologist at the TU/A.

Finally, both Van den Broeke (Associate Professor) and Paas (Full Professor) are also employed at the Faculty of Religion and Theology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

Table 1: Researchers in CCMW + (paid) research time. Legenda: M=Missiology; PT=Practical Theology; CL=Church Law

	2018	2019	2020	2021
<i>Senior researchers at TU Kampen</i>				
Stefan Paas (M)	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Hans Schaeffer (PT)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Leon van den Broeke (CL)	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
Gert-Jan Roest (M)		0.05	0.05	0.05
Research time seniors	0.76 fte	0.81 fte	0.81 fte	0.81 fte

<i>Professors occupying an endowed chair</i>				
Gert Noort (M)				
<i>Visiting fellows</i>				
Sake Stoppels (CHE)		Visiting fellow	Visiting fellow	Visiting fellow
Jan-Martijn Abrahamse (CHE)			Visiting fellow	Visiting fellow
<i>Paid PhD students (AIO) at TU Kampen</i>				
Koos Tamminga (PT)	AIO (0.56)	AIO (0.56)	AIO (0.56, PhD completed)	
Jasper Bosman (PT)	AIO (0.6)	AIO (0.6)	PhD completed)	
Auke Dijkstra (CL)	AIO (0.23)	AIO (0.23)	AIO (0.23)	AIO (0.23)
<i>External PhD candidates (buitenpromovendi)</i>				
Martijn Dreschler (M)	Researcher (0.1)	Researcher (0.1)	Researcher (0.05)	PhD student
Annemiek de Jonge (M)	PhD student	PhD student	PhD student	PhD student (PhD completed)
Michael Diehl (M)		PhD student	PhD student	PhD student
Pieter van der Wilt (M)			PhD student	PhD student
Marco Buitenhuis (CL)			PhD student	PhD student
Joel van der Werken (CL)				PhD student (in preparation)
Matthias Voigt (M)				PhD student (in preparation)
Attila Csongor Kelemen (PT)	PhD student	PhD student	PhD student	PhD student
<i>Other members</i>				
Rianne ten Voorde			Academic secretary, researcher (M)	Academic secretary, researcher (M)
Jan van 't Spijker (M; TU Apeldoorn)	Lecturer and PhD student at TU Apeldoorn	Idem	Idem	Idem (PhD completed)
Philipp Bartholomä	Professor PT at FTH Giessen	Idem	Idem	Idem
Total research time	2.25 fte	2.3 fte	1.65 fte	1.04 fte

However, not everything has been a success. Unfortunately, Prof. Noort became ill after his inauguration and he has not yet recovered at the time of this writing. His planned research has therefore not been realized up till now. Also, the CCMW has insufficiently succeeded to expand its actual research time, even though it has reinforced its human resource basis. Finally, the CCMW has not yet been successful in creating more gender diversity.

Another issue that deserves attention in the near future is building up the ‘brand’ of the CCMW itself, apart from its individual (senior) members. While the senior members are generally well-known in the relevant academic and societal fields, the Centre itself has not yet achieved a strong institutional reputation. In these early years of its existence much energy was invested in building its research programme and expanding its network, while the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing ‘survival mode’ for universities have not been helpful in creating a strong profile.

Strategy #1.2: Building an active valorization policy

The evidence listed in sections 3.4-3.6 shows that the CCMW's strategy of developing an active valorization policy has been very successful so far. The Centre's senior members are nationally (and to some extent internationally) recognized as experts in their fields and they are regularly reviewed, interviewed, and consulted by societal partners. (Spin-offs of) their research products are used in education, churches, and denominational organizations.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented a projected conference for a wider audience in 2020. However, CCMW will cooperate with CHE in contributing to a new public conference on salvation and mission in May 2021.

Another issue that deserves attention is the development of the CCMW website. More could be made of its potential to reach out to a wider audience. Due to limited human resources this has not been realized so far.

Strategy #1.3: Gaining an annual income of 35K Euros

Through its institutional link with the *Praktijkcentrum*, the CCMW has raised 7,5K per year between 2016 and 2019 to fund the PhD project of Koos Tamminga. Another successful fundraising has resulted in an annual 10K for a research project into soteriological biographies of missionary pioneers by Dreschler. The third successful fundraising is through the link with Kerk2030 (annually 15K). Altogether, the CCMW is well on its way to meet its 35K-goal/year of fundraising via societal partners.

4.2. *Strategic Aim #2: Agenda-setting for academic theological research (etc.)*

Strategy #2.1: 2-3 annual publications in internationally leading and relevant journals.

The evidence listed in section 3.1 shows that this strategy has been largely successful so far. The CCMW has achieved its aim with some particularly relevant publications that have gained some traction in the field. At this stage the jury is still out on deciding whether the contributions of the CCMW have the potential to be agenda-setting in the research field of lived soteriology and missional/ecclesial practices.

Strategy #2.2: books and reviews

The evidence listed in sections 3.2-3.3 and 3.5#3 shows that especially Paas' book *Pilgrims and Priests* has been recognized in the academic field as an important contribution to contemporary missiological thinking on mission and salvation in the West.

Strategy #2.3: The CCMW's website will be further developed

As pointed out above, this strategy has only been partly fulfilled. Currently, the CCMW does not have sufficient time and resources to maintain and expand the website, thus curbing its potential.

Strategy #2.4: Open science

As explained in section 2.2 the CCMW does not have a specific open science policy in addition to what TU Kampen already has. However, its members are encouraged to publish their work on academia.edu and/or similar websites. At the time of writing, this is still something that needs to be worked on. Currently, three members have an open account where they publish (some of) their research:

- Leon van den Broeke: <https://v-u.academia.edu/LeonvandenBroeke>

(on 9 March 2021, this account had 34 followers and 100 views). Unfortunately, he has not been active in the past years, but he picked this up lately.

- Stefan Paas: <https://vu-nl.academia.edu/StefanPaas>
(on 9 March 2021 this account had 699 followers, and 24,343 views. It belonged to the top 3% accounts on academia.edu)
Paas is also on <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Stefan-Paas>
- Hans Schaeffer: <https://tukampen.academia.edu/HansSchaeffer> (on 11 March 2021, this account had 137 followers, and 4100 views).

Strategy #2.5: international academic conference in 2022

Due to its limited size and to the relatively unexplored topic of its research programme, the CCMW has decided only to host one international academic conference in 2018-2023. This is in preparation. Call for papers to be expected in May 2021.

Strategy #2.6: Speaking at academic conferences (at least twice for every senior member)

The COVID-19 pandemic has obstructed the regular pattern of (international) academic conferences. At his point it is unclear whether this target will be met.

Strategy #2.7: Funding request

Schaeffer and Paas are involved in collaborative funding requests at the time of writing (NWO and Templeton).

4.3. Strategic Aim #3: Becoming a welcoming and stimulating context for PhD students

Between 2018-2020 two PhD candidates at CCMW have received their PhD (Bosman, Tamminga), while two others will likely receive their degree in 2021 (De Jonge, Van 't Spijker). The TU Kampen has increased its efforts to create a professional support structure for PhD students. The new (Initial) Graduate School, for example, has already appeared to be a great help for one of our future PhD students (Dreschler). Also, the TU Kampen's institutional relationship with *Freie Theologische Hochschule Giessen* is already delivering results: a new German PhD candidate will be supervised by Paas and Bartholomä (who is a Professor at FTH).

In addition, the CCMW is developing the following strategies.

Strategy #3.1: Selection of MA students for PhD

CCMW is connected to the one-year Master Course Church and Mission in the West. This MA course is increasingly becoming a recruiting ground for future PhD students. Dreschler is the first one who has been encouraged to pursue a PhD, based on his excellent MA performance. At the time of writing, a modest honours programme is being developed for the MA CMW. Excellent and ambitious students will be selected on the basis of their performance during the first semester. Given the predominantly male composition of the CCMW's members (including PhD students) so far, special attention will be paid to the selection of promising female students. Two are in view now, at the time of writing.

CCMW fosters the connection between theological training and research also by connecting BA- and MA-students to its research programme. An example of this is an article, based on a BA-thesis on the response of several local churches to the COVID-19 pandemic, supervised by Schaeffer, that has now been submitted to a peer reviewed journal. Furthermore, the Master Course Church and Mission in the West is also offered as a special track within the formal theological training for ministers (Master Theologie Predikant).

Strategy #3.2: Funding

So far, the CCMW has been successful at drawing sufficient funding for at least one PhD position. Prospects for 2021 are favourable. However, while the societal funding aim has been met, the CCMW is still looking to expand its annual income in order to allow more paid PhD students.

Strategy #3.3: Meetings

So far, the CCMW has held monthly meetings where research, both from senior researchers and PhD students, was discussed. Recently it has been decided to change this pattern to a 6 per year schedule. While it has been the intention to schedule an annual day for PhD students, this target has not yet been achieved. At the time of writing, the decision is still to be made as to how crucial this particular target is for strategic aim #3, given the greatly improved conditions for PhD students at TU Kampen and the alternative options that PhD students have in the Graduate School and NOSTER.

4.4. Conclusion

Overall, CCMW's strategic aims have proved to be realistic, even if not all the aims have been achieved yet at the time of writing. CCMW's academic contributions so far resonate with what can be expected from a modestly sized research group that had to deal with the dropping out (due to illness) of one of its core senior members and with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in its construction stage. CCMW does not have the ambition to become internationally leading in the relevant fields of missiology, practical theology and church law. All the same, some of its (senior) members are internationally recognized as leaders in their field. The CCMW's aim of being agenda-setting in the research domain of lived soteriology in relation to ecclesial/missional practices is beginning to take shape. A crucial instrument for this, academic conferences, has however been blunted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the strategic aim of becoming agenda-setting has not yet been met. Of course, this has also to do with the fact that the CCMW is still very young, and that the research programme pertains to a relatively unexplored territory. In this sense, the agenda-setting purpose of CCMW's research programme will hopefully increasingly be realized in the years to come. Upcoming publications (most of the harvest of the research programme will likely be yielded in the second half of the research term) and the projected academic conference in 2022 will be important tools.

As for its role in society, CCMW has built strong relationships with relevant societal partners, such as *Praktijkcentrum*, *Kerk2030*, *Dienstencentrum PKN*, the *Nederlandse Zendingsraad*, the ABN AMRO-bank and the *Deddens Kerkrecht Centrum*.

5. Strategy for the Next Years

5.1. Strengths

In contrast with its predecessor, *Reformed Traditions in Secular Europe*, CCMW has been able to develop a coherent and recognizable research programme with realistic yet ambitious goals. As explained above, most of these goals are in the process of being achieved at the end of the current research term. In this sense, the CCMW is meeting its targets. Moreover, the morale is good, and PhD *Nachwuchs* remains on target. In sum, while continuing its predecessor's strong performance with regard to the church and other societal partners, the CCMW has also improved its academic coherence and output.

5.2. Weaknesses

The price that had to be paid for increased efficiency was a reduction in size. The actual research time allocated to CCMW is (very) small. In fact, all senior researchers *together* have less than 1.0 fte research time. This limited research time, distributed over four senior staff members, leads to a vulnerable existence. Moreover, chronic illness of one senior member, in combination with a constant high teaching (over)load leads to a systemic pressure on especially the senior staff members. A simple example: the writing of this report has cost the director of the CCMW approximately four full days altogether. That is equivalent to four weeks of his research time.

Another weakness is the lack of academic funding so far. While the CCMW is rather successful in finding resources among societal partners, funding applications with e.g. NWO have not yet been realized. Reasons are a chronic lack of time and a lack of support structures at TU Kampen, such as professional support for writing grant applications. While the university is serious about strengthening its research climate, its small size and the constant pressure of maintaining its teaching programmes place a severe strain on research ambitions.

5.3. *Opportunities*

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the opportunities offered by the online world, and tools such as Zoom and Microsoft teams. Given the increasing necessity to reduce our ecological footprint, the CCMW will continue to make use of such online tools as much as possible, for meetings and conferences.

With regard to the CCMW's strategic aims, its opportunities for building up its academic profile are:

- hosting an (at least partly online) academic international conference in June 2022;
- a more focused approach of grant applications;
- expanding the number of visiting fellows;
- further developing the website.

As for its societal profile, the CCMW's opportunities within the Netherlands are already rather exhaustively and successfully explored. Further opportunities may lie in expanding internationally.

5.4. *Threats*

The most prominent threat is the decision by the denominational synod of the uniting Reformed churches to reduce the annual budget for the TU/K. This may affect future possibilities for research.

5.5. *Looking forward*

At the time of writing, there is no apparent need to adapt or replace the CCMW's aims and strategies. They are fully 'work in progress', partly realized and partly under construction. Given the Centre's size and vulnerability, much has been achieved under challenging circumstances. Some of the strategies need particular attention, however, such as a fund application. Some fine-tuning of strategies may be required. Among these, especially the increasing opportunities offered by online conference tools needs attention. Finally, the persistent gender imbalance in CCMW is a reason for concern.

A measure that has been taken in the beginning of 2021 is a reorganization of tasks among the senior membership of the CCMW. Schaeffer will be responsible for national and international

networking, including the ‘management’ of (new) visiting fellows. Van den Broeke will be responsible for funding issues, and Paas will remain responsible for directing the CCMW, representing it in the *Programmaleiders Overleg* (PLO), chairing its meetings, writing reports, etcetera.

This measure is combined with a change of the meeting schedule. As monthly meetings appeared to be a bit redundant for such a small group, it has been decided to have meetings alternately for the senior membership (Paas, Schaeffer, Van den Broeke) and for the entire group. Both groups will meet 6 times per year.

Also, a student has been appointed as a secretary. She is in charge of preparing the meetings.

6. Summary

The Centre for Church and Mission in the West (CCMW) is a modestly sized research unit, established in 2018, as a collaboration of practical theologians, missiologists, and church law experts, working at TU Kampen. In addition, external researchers are invited to join as visiting fellows.

The CCMW’s mission is contributing through high-quality research to the sustainable innovation of the church and its mission in the secularizing parts of the world. While drawing on a wide range of theological research traditions, the CCMW concentrates on the study and innovation of Christian practices, inside and outside the church. Working in an ecumenical spirit, the CCMW operates in the Reformed tradition with a view to renewing this tradition for the improvement of church practices and the mission of the Christian church in the West.

The CCMW’s current research programme (2018-2023) is titled ‘Salvation in the 21st Century’ (More information on www.churchandmission.nl). In order to realize this programme, the CCMW has set itself three strategic aims.

1. The CMMW aims to be a national hub for interdisciplinary theological research in missiology, practical theology, and church polity.
2. The CCMW aims to be agenda-setting for international academic theological research into the relationship between lived soteriology (views of salvation) and ecclesial/missional practices.
3. The CCMW aims to be a welcoming and stimulating context for PhD students in the interdisciplinary fields of practical theology, missiology and church law.

At the end of 2020 (mid-term), the CCMW is well on its way to realize these aims. It has expanded its network through strategic fellowships, producing a steady income and clearly definable research contributions to conversations on lived soteriology and ecclesial/missional practices. These societal contributions are rooted in solid academic research which has led to some interesting and well-recognized international publications.

While the CCMW remains vulnerable in terms of size and research time, it has made the best of its possibilities by focusing on realistic yet ambitious goals. The second half of the research term (2021-2023) will show whether the purpose to become agenda-setting in the academic study of lived soteriology in relation to ecclesial and missional practices can be realized. A

growing number of publications and a projected international academic conference in 2022 will be instrumental toward this end.