



Call for Papers: Kampen 2022

- Practical Theology, Missiology and Church Polity Conference
- 8-10 June 2022
- Theological University Kampen, the Netherlands

‘Visions of the Good Life: Salvation in the Twenty-First Century’

Salvation and the Good Life

This conference is organized by the [Centre for Church and Mission in the West](#), which seeks to draw together scholars with a variety of theological approaches to research on mission, ecclesial practices and church polity. The main topic of this conference is connected to the CCMW’s research programme, ‘Salvation in the Twenty-First Century’.

What is life about? Why are we here? What is the use of doing the things we do? Questions like these have concerned human beings throughout the ages. Asking them touches the deeper levels of life: our intentions and motivations, the visions that inspire and animate us. As it is always easier to focus on the ‘what’ and ‘how’, especially the ‘why’ questions tend to be ignored. In Christian theology, such questions are related to what is called ‘salvation’.

‘Salvation’ is traditionally the subject of soteriology, that is, Christian teachings on God’s mission of transforming his creation towards the fullness of his reign, working out the ‘saving’ efficacy of Christ’s ministry, death and resurrection for creation in general and humanity in particular. Traditionally, the topic has been intimately connected with Christian reflections on eternal life, sin, forgiveness, community, and atonement. In our times, ‘salvation’ has expanded and diversified in a great many directions, such as human flourishing, peace-building, the future of the planet, happiness, health, and prosperity. According to a recent study, the future of Christian theology as an intellectual discipline depends to a large extent on its contribution to ‘the good life’ (Volf, Croasmun, *For the Life of the World*, 2019). This conference builds on the assumption that visions of the good life (in all these senses) continue to animate current practices of mission, church and polity. ‘Salvation’ thus is about the motivation, content and form of Christian practices inside and outside the Church.

Papers and Sessions

We welcome papers that explore views on and practices of salvation. How are views on salvation motivating current practices in church and mission in the secular and multireligious West, how do views of and practices of salvation 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 and multireligious West. Possible questions:

- How do late-modern people in general and Christians in particular experience salvation? How does this experience change their relationship to the church as community, and its practices? Which views of the good life are dominant in our societies and how can theology engage with them?
- Which views of salvation animate existing practices of church and mission and what are the consequences of such views for the motivation and efficacy of practitioners – for better or worse?
- 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?

Papers may include different methodological fields, such as ethnography, practical theology, missiology, (church) law, systematic theology, biblical theology, and social science approaches. We specially invite junior researchers to submit a paper, as this is an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with other researchers.

Attendees range from senior scholars to doctoral students, local ministers, missionary pioneers, and other practitioners. This is also an excellent place to present as a postgraduate or early career researcher, or as a pastor/scholar in ministry. Learning is generously shared, and critiques are supportive.

There are two types of paper sessions at this conference: 30 minutes sessions and 45 minutes sessions. Shorter sessions are meant for junior researchers such as PhD students who are in the initial stages of their research, and typically focus on one issue for debate and feedback. Longer sessions are meant for senior researchers and more advanced PhD students, who want to present a part of their research.

Papers for longer sessions are selected based on *quality* (level of completion, originality, etc.), *relevance* (thematic, theoretical, methodological, etc.), and *representation* (nationality, gender, etc.).

A limited number of sessions are for practitioners (on invitation) in order to stimulate conversations between scholars and practitioners.

The committee intends to make space for all the submitted papers. In the event of more papers than the time allows for, a waiting list will be organized.

Note: in the interest of reducing our carbon footprint, some plenary sessions will be online. While junior researchers are encouraged to attend physically, senior researchers who come from afar will be invited to present their lecture and/or paper online. All attendees are encouraged to come by train. Kampen railway station is on a 10-minutes walking distance from the University.

How to Submit a Paper Proposal for this Conference

- 1) Please, send a short paper proposal to Prof. Stefan Paas (spaas@tukampen.nl) **before December 1st, 2021.**
- 2) Wait for a response. You should receive a response within two weeks. If, for any reason, you do not receive feedback with reasonable time, please contact the CCMW secretary Mrs. Rianne ten Voorde, MA (mail@riannetenvoorde.nl).
- 3) Depending on the above criteria, and the number of papers, we will make a selection of 45 minutes and 30 minutes seminars. We will let you know what type of session you are in in our confirmation-email on your proposal.
- 4) Remember to register. If your paper is accepted for presentation, you still have to register for the conference. After you have registered, your paper is formally accepted for presentation.



How to Present a Paper at this Conference

By May 1st, 2022 you should submit your paper in full text. Paper sessions take 30 or 45 minutes and as we would like to leave ample time for discussion, please do not take more than ca. 15 or 20 minutes (depending on the length of your seminar) for the presentation of your paper. This would amount to ca. 1.500 or 2.000 words for the oral presentation. However, the written version of your paper can be longer, up to 10-15 pages (5.000 words). All full text papers will be circulated to all registered participants a week ahead of the conference. Projectors are available in all conference rooms.

Submission Guidelines

To propose a paper, please submit your proposal **before December 1st, 2021** via email to Prof. Stefan Paas (spaas@tukampen.nl). The proposal should contain:

- your name, title, nationality, and institutional affiliation;
- the title of your paper;
- a brief description of your topic (50-100 words).

We will let you know about the status of your proposal **before December 15th, 2021**.

Do not hesitate to contact our academic secretary Mrs. Rianne ten Voorde (mail@riannetenvoorde.nl) should there be a delay in our response. You can also approach her for any questions you might have about the conference.

Online registration for the conference will be open from **October 14th, 2021** via our website www.churchandmission.nl.

Publication

We intend to publish the keynote lectures and a selection of presented papers in a peer reviewed volume. More detailed information will be provided in the course of 2022.

Kampen and its Theological University



The [Centre for Church and Mission in the West](#) is part of the [Theological University in Kampen](#), and it works together with a number of partner institutions such as the *Christian University for Applied Sciences* in Ede (Netherlands), the *Freie Theologische Hochschule* in Giessen (Germany), and the *Evangelical Theological Faculty* in Louvain (Belgium).

Kampen is a nice, compact and largely medieval town, tracing its historical roots back into the 12th century. The town center, beautifully situated on the river IJssel, is a feast of history.

The train journey from Schiphol Airport (Amsterdam) to Kampen takes ca. 1,5 hour.

The Theological University is located in the heart of the medieval centre. It was founded in the 1940s and received full academic status in the 1980s.

Currently, it hosts a variety of MA courses in theology, around its core mission of providing ministry training for the Reformed Churches Liberated.

Kampen is the home of the only full (English language) MA course in missiology and practical theology in the Netherlands.

Its ca. 150 students and ca. 20 academic staff represent a variety of ethnicities, cultures, and denominations.

