

Spiritual formation at the Baptist Convention College of South Africa: a qualitative study¹

*Marilyn Naidoo
Department of Practical Theology
University of South Africa*

Spiritual formation is a significant component of the educational work of a theological institution that prepares students for church leadership. Theological institutions have a responsibility to engage students in reflecting on spiritual life, to provide opportunities for students to deepen their spiritual journeys and to develop in students a spiritual maturity that is required of future Christian leaders. This article reports on the findings of a descriptive study carried out on spiritual formation in theological education to find out whether spiritual formation is intentionally pursued and to examine the academic and non-academic methods in which spiritual formation is being fostered in theological institutions. Special emphasis is made in reporting on the findings at one particular research site, the Baptist Convention College of South Africa. This exploratory study offers evidence to support the assumption that theological institutions are fulfilling their stated goals of shaping student spirituality.

Spiritual formation is a significant component of the educational work of a theological institution that prepares students for church leadership. Theological institutions have a responsibility to engage students in reflecting on spiritual life, to provide opportunities for students to deepen their spiritual journeys and to develop in students a spiritual maturity that is required of future Christian leaders. This article reports on the qualitative findings of a descriptive study carried out on spiritual formation to find out the academic and non-academic methods in which spiritual formation is being fostered in theological institutions.

¹ This research was supported by grants from the National Research Foundation and is gratefully acknowledged.