

Ujamaa

Contextual Bible Study and community transformation

May 6th, 2026

4:00 – 6:00 PM (SAST)

Presenters:

Dr. Sithembiso Zwane – University of KwaZulu-Natal

Prof. Charlene van der Walt – Church of Sweden / UKZN

Focus:

This webinar presents the work of the Ujamaa Centre and its approach to community development through theology. It explores how Contextual Bible Study fosters participation, critical reflection, and social transformation, particularly among marginalized communities.

Modality: Online – **Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85356594764?pwd=2BjHPj2dC1PXKwMNBjUo1GcqPNCzpq.1>

Registration: matteo.rovellini1@gmail.com (registration free of charge)

More information: www.veread.org



Content of the webinar:

The Ujamaa centre was initiated in 1985 as part of the School of Theology at the then University of Natal (currently known as UKZN). It is a non-partisan, non-denominational, Centre for Community Development and Research which supports capacity building on development, good governance on church and civil society levels through theological education to ensure rigorous participation of all citizens in social transformation.

The Ujamaa Centre is the ideological-theological product of various strands of liberation theology, particularly South African Black Theology and South African Contextual 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.

At the heart of the Ujamaa Centre is the concept and practice of praxis. Praxis involves an ongoing commitment to the cycle-spiral of action-and-reflection. This is central to our work. It is praxis that has enabled the Ujamaa Centre to respond to the ongoing and changing realities of South African and Southern African context. We try to respond faithfully to our context, using biblical and theological resources, and then we carefully (and formally) reflect on what we have done and how we have done it. It is praxis that keep us connected both to the community and the academy.

Content to be covered broadly

1. The Core Values of Contextual Bible Study (CBS) (Community development)
2. The Core Methodology of CBS (See-Judge-Act): (Organizational development)
3. The Facilitation of CBS Process (Personnel development)
4. The Construction of CBS Process (Resource development)
5. Discussion and questions