# Appendix 1: List of needs expressed by persons with disabilities in Worcester

A Conference on Theology, Disability and Human Dignity 18 –20 May 2011 was hosted by Stellenbosch University facilitated by the Faculties of Theology, Psychology and the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies of the University of Stellenbosch, and participants from the disability sector, joined efforts over the past three days to look into terminology, accessibility, awareness-raising and sensitization, and equal opportunities relating to study opportunities and interaction with people and communities living with disability in society. On the 3rd day of the conference, the conference was hosted in Worcester whereby persons with disabilities voiced out the needs as follows:

(1) A work group be established to take forward issues and suggestions arising from presentations and discussions during the conference.

(2) A reference committee consisting of representatives of the seven disability groupings for the workgroup be selected.

(3) A secretariat for the workgroup be appointed

(4) The work group to give attention to the following:-

1. Clarify terminology
2. Include in early childhood development and primary education the support of parents to enrich parenting skills in raising their children with disability
3. Include in curriculums on all levels of education aspects of disability
4. Listing of needs identified by conference participants, e.g. mobility matters, access to entire building and not just part of it, transport, interpretation preferences
5. Needs assessment of persons living with disabilities in rural communities involving municipalities and government departments
6. Assessment of resources to address the identified needs appropriately keeping in mind the uniqueness of the needs of different disabilities
7. Sharing of resources between all stakeholders
8. Research strategies to put theory into practice in a way that meet the needs of people with disabilities in rural areas
9. Equal study opportunities for people living with disabilities
10. Join efforts with rural communities and NGO’s for practical studies of students
11. Accredited training for non-professional staff of centres and institutes e.g. in service learning programmes
12. Explore opportunities for collaborative tailor-made training initiatives in communities
13. Join efforts in public education and training in communities regarding awareness and sensitization
14. Enter into memorandums of understanding with communities, organisations of persons living with disability and service providers in the interest of people living with disabilities in alignment with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
15. Issues of consent for treatment and admittance in hospitals
16. Co-hosting of conferences on an annual basis
17. Sensitizing and engaging (e.g. using disabled coaches, advocates, etc.) church communities and ministers/pastors to make it possible for people living with disabilities to fully participate in all aspects and every level of church life (e.g. A ramp to the pulpit)
18. Continue to involve international experts in the conference
19. More involvement of people living with disabilities in future conferences as well as action plans arising from these conferences
20. Look at the possibilities of establishing special interest groups for different fields and disabilities
21. Establish and maintain a database to be a source of information and an instrument of empowerment e.g. in negotiations for services and lobbying for rights
22. Establish a forum of people living with disabilities to share information and to speak collectively on needs and human right issues
23. Joint efforts by US and Free State University training professional interpreters to assist students with disabilities to gain access to training in fields they prefer
24. Assist and partnering with organizations working in the field of disabilities to achieve goals of empowerment
25. Improving existing assistive devices and self-training toolkits (e.g. speech reading, lip speaking, electricity meters, etc.) for students with a diversity of hearing loss.