

Professor Russel Botman, Rector & Vice Chancellor, Stellenbosch University, South Africa

Professor Russel Botman was appointed as Rector and Vice Chancellor in 2007 and has been associated with Stellenbosch University since 2000. He is an esteemed academic and theologian, and reveals a keen awareness of the need for close interaction with the community. These three components, namely academia, theology and the community, are closely interwoven in his professional career. In his former post as Vice Rector (Teaching), he was responsible for the management of a portfolio that was very close to his heart: the development and enrichment of the teaching and learning experience of the student in the classroom. Since 2007 he has put his weight behind the strategic repositioning of Stellenbosch University's research, teaching and community interaction to become better-aligned with the UN's Millennium Development Goals.

Professor Botman is a former president of the South African Council of Churches and has also served in the ministerial task group that advised the Minister of Education on matters regarding religion and education. He is well known for his national and international leadership, as a public theologian and ecumenical role-player. Before joining Stellenbosch University he taught theology at the University of the Western Cape.