APPENDIX B: PRE COURSE QUESTIONNAIRE

This Questionnaire was sent to students at TEEC at the beginning of the year, before they started the Women’s Studies course. There were no women students registered at COT for the Women’s Studies during the year of my research.

Instructions
Please fill in this questionnaire as soon as you receive this. Take time to fill it in as fully and carefully as possible. Feel free to write as much as you like for each question. Remember there is no correct or incorrect answer.
Send it back to me in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope by 5 March 2003

1. Biographical information
1.1 Name _______________________________
1.2 Address _________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________
1.3 Telephone _____________________
1.4 E-mail (if available) ___________________
1.5 Age – tick the appropriate box.
□ under 20 □ 20-29 years □ 30-39 years □ 40-49 years
□ 50-59 years □ over 60 years

1.6 Tick whether you are:
□ married □ single □ widowed □ divorced

1.7 Describe your family situation. For example, do you have children? If so, how many and how old are they? Are they boys or girls?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. About where you live
2.1 How would you describe the place where you live?
□ a large city □ a small town □ an urban township
□ a rural village □ a farm □ other

2.2 What do you think are some of the main issues that women in your community/area have to deal with? List 4
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2.3 How would you describe attitudes towards women in your community or area?
□ very positive □ mixed □ extremely negative and abusive
□ I don’t know □ other
2.4 Which of these issues affect women in your community/area/suburb?

☐ rape  ☐ domestic violence or abuse  ☐ unemployment
☐ single parenting  ☐ financial worries  ☐ poverty
☐ depression  ☐ lack of self-esteem  ☐ tiredness
☐ loneliness/isolation  ☐ other

2.5 Are you interested in helping women to overcome any of these problems?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

2.6 If yes, which one and how would you go about it?

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

3. About your work

3.1 Are you currently employed?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

3.2 If yes, is it:

☐ full-time  ☐ part-time  ☐ occasional/piece work

3.3 If you are employed, describe the kind of work that you do.

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

3.4 If you are currently unemployed or retired, are you involved in any other forms of work or service for which you are not paid?

☐ Yes  ☐ No

3.5 If yes, describe this work.

_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

4. Your educational background - schooling

4.1 Where did you go to school?

_______________________________________________________________________

4.2 When did you complete?

_______________
4.3 Did you leave school with:
□ Standard 8 (or equivalent) □ Matric (or equivalent) □ university exemption
□ other

5. Your educational background - tertiary
5.1 Before you came to TEEC, did you attend any other tertiary institution?
□ Yes □ No

5.2 If yes, which college/university/institution did you attend and what course/programme did you study?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5.3 What is your highest academic qualification?
________________________________________________________________________

5.4 Have you previously studied any courses in gender or feminist/woman’s theology?
□ Yes □ No

5.5 If yes, describe the course in a few sentences and say what impact it has had on you.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

5.6 Have you read any books on gender or feminist/woman’s theology?
□ Yes □ No

5.7 If yes, which 3 books have had the most impact on you?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

6. Theological education
6.1 When did you first register with TEEC?


6.2 Which courses have you completed already?


6.3 In addition to the Women’s Studies course, which other courses are you taking this year?


262
7. Church information

7.1 Which denomination/tradition do you belong to?
_____________________________

7.2 Give the name of your church and the address.
__________________________________________
__________________________________________
__________________________________________

7.3 Tick which of the following roles women can perform in your church.

□ ordained minister  □ a deacon/elder  □ preach
□ teach Sunday school  □ visit the sick  □ cater for church functions
□ clean the church/arrange flowers  □ fundraise for the church
□ administer sacraments  □ read the Scriptures during services
□ sing in the choir  □ none of these  □ other

7.4 Do women in your church belong to different groups or organizations, e.g. the Anglican Women’s Fellowship, the Women of St Ann in the Catholic church, the Baptist women’s association etc? Name them and what they do.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

7.5 Who leads the meetings?
____________________________________

7.6 Is there a chaplain or spiritual director for the organization?

□ Yes  □ No  □ I don’t know

7.7 If yes, who is it?
____________________________________

7.8 In the formal meetings, what are the main issues that the women discuss?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

7.9 When they chat together after the formal meetings, what are the issues they discuss?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

263
7.10 Do you think your church helps women to deal with the issues/problems in 7.9 above?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

7.11 Tick whether you have heard a sermon preached in your church about any of the following topics?  
☐ rape  ☐ wages of domestic workers  ☐ HIV/AIDS
☐ prostitution  ☐ sexuality  ☐ depression
☐ mothering/parenting  ☐ domestic violence  ☐ stress

7.12 Are there any activities in your church that focus on the above topics?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

7.13 If yes, describe them in a few sentences and how you think they help women.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

8. Your ministry in the church
8.1 What is your role/ministry in the church? In a few lines, describe your tasks.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

8.2 Why did you become involved in this ministry?  
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

8.3 What are some of the difficulties you have experienced in this ministry?  
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

8.4 Which of the following have supported you in your ministry?  
☐ people in your church  ☐ family
☐ leaders in your church, e.g. elders, council members  ☐ friends
☐ an older woman or mentor  ☐ books you have read
☐ minister, priest, pastor  ☐ bible study or prayer group
☐ retreats, prayer times  ☐ other
8.5 How do you think this Woman’s Studies course is going to help you in your ministry?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

9. About leadership and authority
9.1 Tick which of the following apply to you.
□ I like the father to be the head of the house. Then there is a clear authority and one person makes all the decisions
□ I would never challenge a rule or a decision in public, but I would discuss my dissatisfaction with my family and friends
□ The church or any organization has to have some rules.
□ When I don’t agree with the rules or decisions made by the church or an organization, I usually try and find ways to get around them or avoid them
□ The rules and decisions of the church and institutions are made by people who know better than I do, and they are usually right
□ If I believe a rule is wrong I am usually confident enough to challenge the authorities about it
□ Men make better decisions because they are more rational than women
□ I don’t regard any authority as having the answers; instead I make my own decisions based on my own experiences, feelings and intuitions
□ The priest/minister/pastor should be in control of the people in the church
□ Decision-making should be shared by both husband and wife, and the children should be included

9.2 List 5 qualities you think a church leader should have.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

9.3 Do you know any women who are in a leadership position in the church?
□ Yes □ No

9.4 If yes, would you describe them as a good or a bad leader?
□ Good □ Bad

9.5 If good, which of the qualities that you described in question 9.2 do they have?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
9.6 If you were a leader what leadership **qualities** would you try to live up to?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

10. **About the college**

10.1 Are students involved in decisions that are made at your theological college?
☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ I don’t know

10.2 Do women and men participate equally in the life of the college?
☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ I don’t know

10.3 Are there women on the staff?
☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ I don’t know

10.4 Are there women on the board?
☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ I don’t know

10.5 Are there students represented on the board of the college?
☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ I don’t know

10.6 Tick which of the following you **experience or** observe at the college.
☐ The staff understand the lives of the students and their problems
☐ Special attention is given to women students at the college
☐ Students can share their particular problems and needs with the college
☐ Letters or other communications from the college support me as a woman student
☐ Students are free to offer their opinions about the college e.g. the courses, the teaching, marking, the administration etc.

10.7 If you have ticked any, please explain how it happens.
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

10.8 What aspects of the leadership and management of the college do you like, or respond well to?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
10.9 What aspects of the leadership or management of the college do you feel uncomfortable, with or dislike?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

11. Your ideas about theology

11.1 Describe what God means to you in a few lines.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

11.2 How do you feel about calling God ‘mother’?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

11.3 Can you explain your feelings?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

11.4 In the story of creation in Genesis 2:18, the woman is identified as man’s helper. Is this how you like to describe your role as a woman in the family, and in the church?

□ Yes    □ No

11.5 If no, explain why you don’t think so.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

11.6 Tick the statements that you agree with.

□ Sex is a sign of our sinful nature
□ The soul is more important than the body
□ Sex is a gift to be celebrated and enjoyed
□ Menstruation and childbearing pollute women
□ One shouldn’t pay attention to the body because it is really the soul that counts
□ A woman’s body tempts men so it should be well covered
□ A female body is worthy

□

□
11.7 How do you understand each of the following texts?

There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28) (NIV)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. (1 Timothy 2:11-12) (NIV)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

11.8 From what you know, fill in the following chart about people in the history of the church. (Don’t worry if you cannot complete it.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of important men in the history of the church</th>
<th>Names of important women in the history of the church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>4.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>10.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.9 Do you think women are oppressed by the Christian religion?

☐ Yes ☐ Sometimes ☐ Never ☐ Not sure

11.10 If yes or sometimes, in what way?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

12. The things you know about, as a woman

12.1 Have you, or a woman who is close to you, experienced any of the following?

☐ giving birth ☐ breastfeeding ☐ caring for children

☐ any form of abuse ☐ any form of injustice because you are a woman
□ poverty □ disability □ premenstrual tension
□ post natal depression □ menopause

12.2 Which of these experiences have you discussed, written about, or read about as part of your theological studies up until now?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

12.3 Do you think these topics should be included in a study of theology?
□ Yes □ No □ Not sure

12.4 If no, why?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

12.5 If yes, which other topics concerning women’s lives should be included?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

13. About how you learn
13.1 When you are invited to speak in a meeting, a group or in class, how do you feel?
You may tick more than one.
□ Confident □ Embarrassed □ Stupid
□ Uncomfortable □ Frightened □ Challenged
□ Excited □ Unsure □ Happy

13.2 Tick which of the following statements apply to you.
When you are in a class or a tutorial do you:
□ Contribute to the discussion and express your own opinions freely
□ Say little, but listen carefully to the lecturer/teacher, and take down notes for study
□ Prefer to learn from your own experience and feelings, rather than from books and lectures
□ Ask critical questions and constantly evaluate whether the information from the lecturer/teacher or book is accurate
□ Listen with interest to other people’s views and learn from them
□ Sit quietly and speak to no-one about anything
□ Enjoy the challenge of other ideas and problem-solving, as well as sharing your own insights
☐ Talk to a friend about the issues after class
☐ Remain silent because what you say is often ridiculed or not understood
☐ Feel you have something to say but can’t quite find the words
☐ See the links between the discussion in the class to your own experience but feel too shy to share it
☐ Use the information gained in class in your family, work situation or church
☐ Other responses

12.3 Think about **two** things you have learnt to do, that you enjoyed learning. Don’t only think about formal learning, but it could be when you learnt to do something practical, e.g. cook food, change a car tyre, care for a baby.

____________________________
____________________________

12.4 What made it a positive learning experience for you?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

12.5 At your theological college, have you had any similar positive learning experiences?
☐ Yes, often ☐ Sometimes ☐ No, never

12.6 If yes/sometimes, describe what made them positive.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

12.7 If no, why do you think this is so?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

12.8 Tick which of the following views you agree with?
☐ The teacher is always the expert on the subject.
☐ Learning is best done with other people sharing their knowledge.
☐ A teacher is a person who facilitates learning.

Thank you for completing the questionnaire. Please send it back to me by 5 March.