

SAFCEI ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**VIA ZOOM****TUESDAY 26 JULY 2022 16:00****MINUTES FEEDBACK**

Dear fellow advisory council members

This is just a short feedback on the meeting we had earlier this week.

1. A special welcome to an old Board member but now a new member of the council, Muhammad Ridwaan Gallant.
2. After some discussion we proposed the following guidelines to be presented to the board, as a framework and possible points of departure.
 - 1) It is important to recognize that ecological challenges ask for a *collective approach*. No single sector can win the battle alone – we need to work together. It might be that people sometimes frown or look down upon the religious sector or faith communities. It is however very important that we maintain our presence in a humble and modest way.
 - 2) We need to stay connected to the bigger symbolic universe and theological framework that each religion within SAFCEI represents. There are some deep roots and important symbols and points of departure that we must never let go. These are very important guiding principles for our way forward.
 - 3) Although we are an interfaith organization it does not mean that we do not have *specific individual faiths* within our midst. It is for example important that Buddhists remain Buddhists and Christians remain Christians. It is only when each and every individual remain true to his or her religion that we can honestly contribute to the challenges in front of us.
 - 4) It is very important that SAFCEI find the *unique contribution* and make the unique contribution that we as a faith community can bring to the table.

Dr Braam Hanekom, Prof Ernst M Conradie, Rev Dewald Hoffman, Rev Rachel Marsh, Ms Ilana C Stein, Ms Tahir Matthee, Bishop Geoff Davies, Dr Muhammad Ridwaan Gallant

3. Bigger challenges and current issues at stake. The following were listed:
 - 1) The important link between poverty and ecology. Take for instance the impact of poor informal settlements on wetlands and water in the Western Cape.
 - 2) Bio- diversity
 - 3) Water and clean water in the years to come.
 - 4) Climate change. It was mentioned that the CO2 emissions in SA ranks among the top 15 countries in of the world. We need to hold government accountable.
 - 5) The whole energy crisis is much more than just electricity for today and tomorrow. We need a just and sustainable energy transition.
 - 6) Sanitation. It might sound as if it is not a church issue, but if you really want to take ecology and human dignity seriously it must be on our agenda.
4. If we start to solve today's problems now, it will probably take us 5 to 10 years, and then it will be too late. We should rather start by addressing the problems that we anticipate being on our table within the next 10 years, so SAFCEI needs to be proactive.
5. These notes will be circulated to the council members and then be forwarded to the Board.
6. Next meeting will be early next quarter, October 2022.
7. Closing