

The economic crisis

Towards sustainable economies and livelihoods

A day conference organized by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Tuesday 20th January 2009

10am – 4pm

At **Methodist Church House**, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR

Aim of the conference:

To reflect theologically on the root causes of the current economic crisis and the response of the church in terms of its prophetic, pastoral and partnership roles and responsibilities.

PROGRAMME

From 9.30	Coffee and tea available	
10.00	Bob Fyfe	Welcome and introduction
Chair: Bob Fyfe		
10.10	John Ellis	Setting the scene for the conference
10.25	Bob Goudzwaard	Keynote address 1: The underlying causes of the global economic crisis
11.10	Coffee break	
11.30	Ann Pettifor	Keynote address 2: The impact of current economic factors on sustainable lifestyles
12:15	Revd Dave Bookless	Theological response to the keynote addresses <i>(Due to unforeseen circumstances, this talk did not take place)</i>
12.45	Lunch break	
Chair: Mary Gandy		
13.30	Short inputs:	
	Murdo Macdonald	A Scottish perspective
	Geraint Hopkins	A Welsh perspective
	Paula Clifford	A global perspective
	Niall Cooper	The Get Fair campaign
	Alison Gelder	Housing and homelessness issues
	John Reynolds	Does responsible investment offer a solution to the current financial turmoil?
Chair: Frank Kantor		
15:15	Panel discussion	To include the morning speakers
15.50	Michael Bartlet	Summing up, conclusions, outcomes for the Churches
16.00	Bob Fyfe	Close of conference

Questions and discussion

There will be opportunities to address questions to the individual speakers during the day, from the floor. Written questions may also be submitted for the panel discussion in the afternoon. You will find a slip of paper on your seat for this purpose. Please make any written questions brief and concise and hand in the slip by the end of the lunch break.

Contributions to refreshment costs

A sandwich lunch is provided for those attending the conference. If you wish to contribute to the cost of refreshments, a box will be provided for this. The suggested contribution is £5, but all contributions will be gratefully received. If you would like a receipt, these will be available.

Conference organisation

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has organised this day conference on the initiative and at the request of those working for several of Britain's major churches on church and society issues. The planning and preparation has been done in partnership with Frank Kantor (United Reformed Church) and Paul Morrison (Methodist Church), of the Joint Public Issues Team. Special thanks also to the Methodist Church for providing the venue and various support services. Conference papers will be put on to the CTBI website as a permanent resource and it is also hoped to set up an online forum to take discussion of the issues forward.

About the speakers/contributors

Revd Bob Fyffe is General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

John Ellis previously worked at the Bank of England and is now strategic leader for the Methodist Connexional Team and Treasurer of the United Reformed Church

Bob Goudzwaard is Professor Emeritus of Economics and Social Philosophy at the Free University in Amsterdam, former member of the Dutch parliament and co-author of *Hope in Troubled Times: A New Vision for Confronting Global Crises*.

Ann Pettifor is former head of the Jubilee 2000 debt relief campaign, Campaign Director of Operation Noah and author of *The Coming First World Debt Crisis*

Revd Dave Bookless is Director of A Rocha UK, Moderator of the CTBI Environmental Issues Network and author of *Planetwise*

Dr Murdo Macdonald is Policy Officer for the Church of Scotland, Society, Religion and Technology Project

Geraint Hopkins is Policy Officer at Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales)

Paula Clifford is Head of Theology at Christian Aid

John Reynolds is Chief Executive of Reynolds Partners, an independent investment bank, and is Chairman of the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group

Niall Cooper is National Coordinator of Church Action on Poverty and the Get Fair campaign

Alison Gelder is Chief Executive of Housing Justice

Michael Bartlet is Parliamentary Liaison Officer for Quaker Peace & Social Witness

Mary Gandy is Secretary for Church and Society at Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

Frank Kantor is Secretary for Church and Society at the United Reformed Church