



UNIVERSITY *of the*  
WESTERN CAPE

CONFERENCE BROCHURE

6 to 10 August 2012

Christian Faith and the Earth:  
*Respice et Prospice*

A place of quality,  
a place to grow, from hope  
to action through knowledge

# Background on the research project

The Christian Faith and the Earth project will hold its culminating conference from Monday 6 to Friday 10 August 2012 at the Sustainability Institute near Cape Town.

The Christian Faith and the Earth project is an international collaborative research project with the aim to assess the state of the current debate in Christian ecotheology and to provide a sense of direction for further discourse. The focus of the project is on the content and the significance of the Christian faith with a view to transform a Christian ethos, praxis and spirituality. It complements various other discourses on the Bible, Christian history, various ethical issues, ecclesial praxis, Christian mission, worship and on religion and ecology.

The project was launched in 2007. It is structured in the form of various working groups – of which some are more active than others. The culminating conference will bring such work together and will assess the challenges for the road ahead.



The speakers for this conference thus far include Clive Ayre, Sigurd Bergmann, Ernst Conradie, Celia Deane-Drummond, Denis Edwards, Heather Eaton, Guillermo Kerber-Mas, Tinyiko Maluleke, Fulata Moyo, Joerg Rieger, Peter Scott, Christopher Southgate and Ben Stewart, and Yong-Bock Kim.

The programme will include excursions to environmental projects in the vicinity, to the cheetah sanctuary at Spier Estate (within walking distance) and inputs from the South African Faith Communities' Environment Institute. The Sustainability Institute is situated near Lynedoch in the midst of the Cape winelands with panoramic views of the nearby mountains. The site also houses various development projects, sustainability initiatives and a local primary school. It is therefore most suitable for a project of this kind.

The conference will be hosted by the Department of Religion and Theology at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa.



# Call for papers

Any interested scholar may submit a proposal for a parallel session on any of the following main themes:

Where on earth is God? Theological reflection on the identity of the triune God in the light of the current global environmental crisis

God's economy? Theological reflection on the whole work of God in the light of the current global environmental crisis

Does God's care make any difference? Theological reflection on the suffering of God's creatures.

Where on earth is the church? Theological reflection on the nature, mission, governance and ministry of the church in the light of the current global environmental crisis

At home of earth? Theological reflection on anthropology and cosmology in the light of the current global environmental crisis

Whither does the wind blow? Theological reflection on the Holy Spirit and spirituality in the light of the current global environmental crisis

An ethos for our time? Theological reflection on appropriate ethical concepts in the light of the current global environmental crisis

Seeing the world through God's eyes? Theological reflection on liturgy and life in the light of the current global environmental crisis

Where do we go from here? Theological reflection on the methodological differences between various discourses on religion and ecology

Proposals, including a title, an abstract of 150 words and a contact email address may be submitted before 31 January 2012 to Ernst Conradie at [econradie@uwc.ac.za](mailto:econradie@uwc.ac.za).

# General arrangements

## Conference programme

The conference will start by 14h00 on Monday 6 August 2012 and will conclude by 13h00 on Friday 10 August 2012. A pre-final version of the programme will be emailed together with the registration forms.

## Registration

If you plan to attend the conference please send an email to Heather Griffiths at [hgriffiths@uwc.ac.za](mailto:hgriffiths@uwc.ac.za) in order to obtain a registration form (in MS Word-format).

Registration should be completed by 31 May 2012. Please note, however, that the conference facilities can accommodate a maximum of 50-60 persons so that late registration is not advised.



## Conference fee

The conference fee is R1800 (in South African Rand). This includes all meals, teas, transport from and to the airport and the use of the facilities. It excludes accommodation (see below). Since the aim of the conference is to foster work on a collaborative research project, attendance for only part of the conference is not possible.

Conference fees have to be paid into the following bank account:

Bank: ABSA

Account Holder Name: University of the Western Cape

Account number: 4050894067

Branch Code: 560810

Swift Code: ABSAZAJJ

Branch Name: Epping

Please also indicate the following Entity / Account number in the reference:

100211-550901

Add your full names

Email the deposit slip to Heather Griffiths at [hgriffiths@uwc.ac.za](mailto:hgriffiths@uwc.ac.za).

Please note that registration will not be deemed complete before payment of the conference fee is received and confirmed.

Participants are responsible for arranging their own transport to Cape Town, for booking accommodation and for covering all costs in this regard.



## Accommodation

Limited accommodation is available at the Sustainability Institute itself. Various other options are indicated in the table below. Participants may obtain further information and should book and pay for their own accommodation through the contact persons indicated on a first come, first served basis. For all inquiries, please indicate that you will be attending the Christian Faith and the Earth conference at the Sustainability Institute. All prices are indicated as per person per night and include bed and breakfast.



Place	Type	Contact person	Address / website	Price range
Sustainability Institute	Double (preferred) and single rooms, shared ablution	Gyronesa Valentyn	Gyro@sustainabilityinstitute.net	R400 / R450
Onze Rust Guest House	Single and double rooms, 50% deposit required	Ester Bezuidenhout	info@stellenboschstay.com	R445 / R650
Soverby Guest House	A variety of rooms and cottages	Carlien Malan	soverby@adept.co.za / www.soverby.co.za	R480 / R695
Spier Hotel	Luxury hotel	Gyronesa Valentyn	Gyro@sustainabilityinstitute.net	c.a .R1300



# Transport from and to Cape Town International Airport and to accommodation

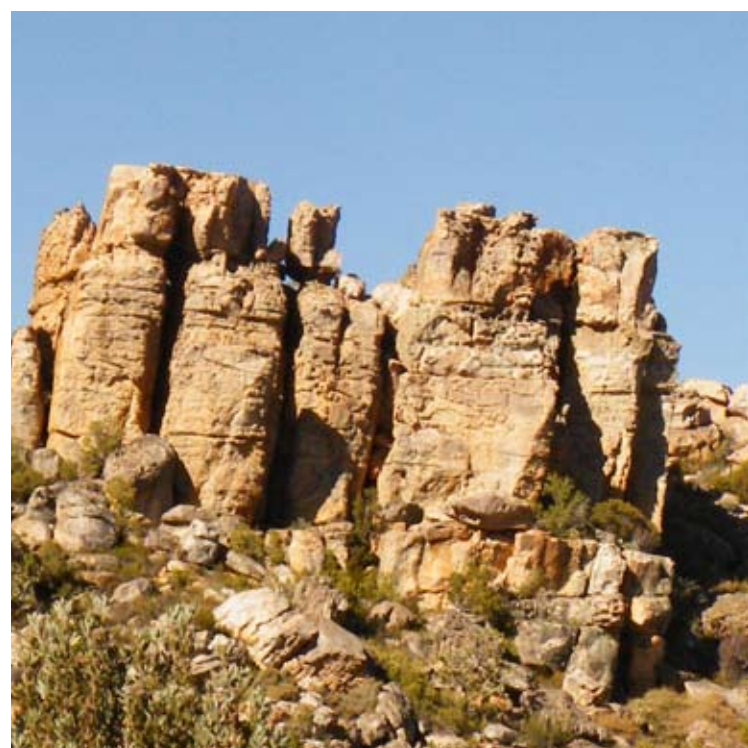
Local transport will be provided from and to Cape Town International Airport (30 minutes away) on the opening and closing days of the conference (only). If you wish to make use of such transport, please complete the information on the registration form and communicate any late changes in flight details. Please plan to arrive on Monday 6 August around 11h00-12h00 at Cape Town International Airport and to depart Friday 10 August from Cape Town International Airport not before 15h00.

If for some reason you have to arrive outside these suggest times, you would have to make your own arrangements for transport (and pay for that). You may consider the company Calvyn tours and may contact them at [calvynstours@yahoo.com](mailto:calvynstours@yahoo.com).

For those not staying in accommodation at the Sustainability Institute itself, transport will be provided to and from the recommended options for accommodation before the start and after the end of the programme each day.







## Financial support

If you do not have financial support from your own institution to attend the conference, you may apply for assistance in this regard on the basis of a number of scholarships that should become available through the World Council of Churches. Please feel free to make inquiries, but note that such possibilities will be limited. A letter of application should be submitted by 29 February 2012.

## Excursion to Namaqualand

The carpet of wild flowers in some areas of Namaqualand (300 km North of Cape Town) may be out by middle August, depending on winter rains. If you are interested in an excursion to the famous Cedar mountains in the weekend following the conference, please inform Ernst Conradie at [econradie@uwc.ac.za](mailto:econradie@uwc.ac.za) by 31 March 2012. The feasibility and the costs in this regard will depend upon the number of persons participating.



## Practical information

The following practical details may assist you in your planning to participate in this conference:

- The value of the South African Rand fluctuates but is currently around 8.00 to the US \$.
- Weather in August near Stellenbosch may be cold and wet or sunny and wonderfully mild. Come prepared with warm clothes since most venues do not have central heating.
- The international nature of the conference may be enhanced through the Olympic Games taking place during the same week. This may also prompt some reflections on sustainability!
- You are welcome to distribute this conference brochure to any other interested person.



## Due dates

Submission of abstracts	31 January 2012
Financial support	29 February 2012
Namaqualand excursion	31 March 2012
Registration	31 May 2012



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