

## SOUTHERN AFRICAN FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

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# MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 24 AUGUST 2023 IN PERSON AT THE DESMOND AND LEAH TUTU FOUNDATION AND ONLINE VIA ZOOM

ITEM	DETAILS
	Register of Attendance:
	In Person Bishop Augustine Joemath Cele Esau Chris Esau David Daniels Glynis Goyns Heather Tuffin James Madikizela Lettice Joemath Michael Graff Roland Langley Marla Burger Carl Lindeman Paul Tyler Andre Naidoo Aydin Inal Bridget-Nomonde Scoble (Quaker) Rev. Madoda Mfene (Uniting Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa - UPCSA) Francesca de Gasparis (SAFCEI Executive Director) Dr. Braam Hanekom (SAFCEI Board) Sean Brown (SAFCEI Staff) Tamzyn Pamplin (SAFCEI Staff) Gabriel Manyangadze (SAFCEI Staff) Portia Biggar (SAFCEI Staff) Judy-Rose Cyster (SAFCEI Staff) Tara Nair van Ryneveld (SAFCEI Staff) Tara Nair van Ryneveld (SAFCEI Staff) Olwethu Mbuthuma (SAFCEI Staff) Zwelisha Shobede (SAFCEI Staff)
	Lydia Petersen (SAFCEI Intern) Sizwe Manqele (SAFCEI Intern)
	Online (From All over Africa) Ayibongwinkosi Dube Bakalikwira Philip Eric Baphiwe Nxumalo Bernard Haupt Chanda Bwelele

Craig Morrison

**Daniel Mateus** 

David Munene (SAFCEI Board)

Doreen Chilungo

Elton Makombe

Ephraim Chimwaza

Ephraim Nyirenda

Ethel Mwafulirwa-Go Green

Getrude Chimange

Grace smith

Hailey Fudu

Happy Mbewe

Ilana Stein

Jan De Groef

John Freeth

Joshua Daka

Justice Zvaita

Kirtanya Maharaj (SAFCEI Board)

Lameck Mtali

Leena Amwaalwa

Leonia Nawa

Liz McDaid

Mabora Thupana

Maia Nangle (SAFCEI Staff)

Margie Pretorius

Mazwi Ndikolo

Mfundo Mahlase

Mike Pothier

Mitchell Samantha Macheka

Moffat kaunda

Nkosazana Mrubata

Nyendo Kinyonga

Peter Knox

Phatiswa Somdaka (SAFCEI Staff)

Precious Zulu

Raphael Mwisa

Rashid Said Ali

Rebecca Gurupira

Rev. Judy Bassingthwaighte (Johannesburg Anglican Eco-spiritual

Initiative - JAEI)

Rev. Kozanai Muchayi

Rev. Rachel Mash (ACSA Environmental Network)

Rev. Oscar Kasuka

Rev. Deon McDillon

Rhino Felix Banda

Richard Worthington

Sabrina Jacobs

Salieg Isaacs (SAFCEI Board)

Sara Nilsson

Saydoon Nisa Sayed

Sofia Svarfvar

Sr. Cathy Murugan

Symon Satiele

Tara van Ryneveld (SAFCEI Staff)

	Sister Usha Jevan (SAFCEI Board) Wayne Du Plessis
	Apologies: Kate and Geoff Davies Nyasha Mukaratirwa (United Religions Initiative - URI) Father Rodney Whiteman (SACC, Western Cape) Thahirh Matthee (SAFCEI Board) Sonia Montford (EATegrity) Lucinda Jafta (SAFCEI Board)
1.	MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
	The Board Director, Dr. Braam Hanekom, called the meeting to order.
2.	OPENING DEVOTIONS
	Devotions were opened by Sister Usha Jevan and Shaun Cozett
3.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
	Board Director, Dr. Braam Hanekom, welcomed everyone from, USA, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Namibia, Libya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria, Congo and Kenya, (existing and new members, visitors, staff, partners, etc.).
4.	IDENTIFYING PEOPLE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE
	Portia Biggar, Office Manager and Bookkeeper, informed all present.
5.	AGREEMENT ON THE AGENDA
	All agreed to the agenda, no disagreements.
6.	ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON AUGUST 2022.
	Minutes and financials had been distributed electronically prior to the meeting.
	Minutes were accepted of the previous Annual General Meeting. Dr. Braam Hanekom proposed the acceptance of the minutes.
	No objections.

7.	MATTERS ARISING None.
8.	ANNUAL REPORT  Francesca (SAFCEI Executive Director), Welcomed everyone near and far that initial the ACM
	far that joined the AGM.  SAFCEI's Highlights for 2022:
	<ul> <li>R9 640 557 was raised in funding.</li> <li>197 million people reached through our platforms and media engagement.</li> <li>Worked with more than 80 faith communities and collaborative partners.</li> <li>More than 50% of our staff, board and FLEAT participants are women.</li> <li>5 Campaigns #NuclearFreeSA, #EnergyPlan4All, #CageFreeSA, #Faith4SustainableConsumption and Green Action Week</li> <li>110 policy briefs interventions on key eco on key climate justice issues.</li> <li>9 Presentations on regional and international events.</li> <li>29 submissions on energy and climate justice made and 5 letters to the government on energy pricing.</li> <li>15 submissions made: 10 on climate justice and 5 on animal justice</li> <li>6 published in 4 in-country reports and 1 synthesis report climate and food governance structures and commissioned 1 policy review of the climate change bill related to agroecology</li> <li>413 Trained faith leaders</li> <li>5 online and in-person FLEATs held</li> <li>6 webinars hosted</li> <li>6 interfaith regional dialogues</li> <li>14 training sessions held: FLEAT, eco-footprint, nuclear advocacy and climate change workshops.</li> </ul>
	Acceptance for the Annual Report.  All voters accepted the Annual Report (11 voters).
9.	FINANCIAL REPORT  Nokuthula Ndlovu (SAFCEI Finance Manager), reported on SAFCEI's financials. Solace Auditors completed the financial statements for 2022, and gave an unqualified report of SAFCEI's financials.

	Grants and Donations received in 2022:
	Bread for the World 29%
	Church of Sweden 10%
	Swedish Society for Nature Conservation 16%
	Animal Justice funders 8%
	Ford Foundation 13%
	Open Society funders 13%
	Other funders and Donors 11%
	How 2022 programme funds were used:
	Energy & Climate Justice 31%
	Faith community & Outreach 15%
	Education - Media & Communications 18%
	Food & Climate Justice 20%
	Faith Leader Environmental Advocacy Training (FLEAT) 13%
	Animal Justice - Cage-Free Campaign 3%
	At the conclusion of the financial report, SAFCEI Board Director, Dr. Braam Hanekom, expressed sincere gratitude to Nokuthula Ndlovu for her dedicated contributions to SAFCEI as she moves on due to relocation.
10.	VOTE ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF ACCOUNTS.
	All voters accepted the Annual Financial Statement (11 voters).
	All voters accepted the Alliuai Financiai Statement (11 voters).
11.	APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2023: SOLACE AUDITORS
	Acceptance of Solace Auditors (11 voters).
12.	NOMINATION OF BOARD DIRECTORS & RESIGNATION OF BOARD DIRECTORS:
	Nomination of New Board Members:

Rev. Deon McDillon - Nominated by the Anglicans (11 Voters).

### **Resignation of Board Directors:**

Shaun Cozett.

#### 13. MOTIONS TO AGM

Faith communities from Southern and Eastern Africa reaffirmed the 2019 declaration for a New Vision for Sacred Life and Living Earth.

Grave concern was expressed over climate disruption, environmental degradation, and socio-economic injustices, emphasizing the urgent need for a new level of mobilization driven by ethical principles and visionary leadership. The motion highlighted the critical role of women and young people and called for a rethinking of a just energy transition, rejecting new nuclear and fossil fuel developments. The importance of systemic change in energy regulation was underscored, urging faith leaders to be a prophetic voice for climate justice and advocate for renewable energy.

Commitments included promoting energy justice, campaigning for efficient public transport, and urging governments to prioritize people and the planet over profits, specifically addressing the EACOP pipeline and the need for integrated energy planning in Southern Africa.

#### 14. KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY WANJIRA MATHAI:

Francesca (SAFCEI Executive Director) introduced Wanjira Mathai, a renowned Kenyan environmental leader with a passion for creating positive change. As the Managing Director for Africa and Global Partnerships at the World Resources Institute (WRI), she tackles critical global issues such as deforestation and energy access. With a deep commitment to environmental sustainability, Wanjira serves as the Chair of the Wangari Maathai Foundation and previously chaired the Green Belt Movement in Kenya. Named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people for 2023, throughout her remarkable career spanning over two decades, Wanjira has been a beacon of inspiration, advocating for social and environmental transformation at both local and international levels.

Amber Julius interviewed Wanjira Mathai, thanking her for participating in the forum. Wanjira expressed her inspiration by the work of the Southern African Faith Communities (SAFCEI), highlighting their critical role in the environmental movement. She emphasized the importance of faith-based organizations in mobilizing action and advocating for climate justice, linking good governance with equitable responsibility and resource allocation in addressing climate change. Wanjira underscored the significance of community leaders in fostering local climate solutions

	and called for solidarity and partnership among all stakeholders for effective environmental action in Africa.
15.	AOB - REPORTS LAUNCHED
	Gabriel Manyangadze launched a series of research papers focused on agroecology in South Africa, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Zambia.
	The synthesis report provides an overview of the state of the agri-food system in these four countries and the potential that an agroecological framework for the system provides.
	The reports are available to download <u>here</u> .
16.	CLOSURE OF MEETING
	Vote of thanks by Gabriel Manyangadze.
	Closing Devotions by David Munene.