

Press Release

For Immediate Release

November 6, 2009

What Now? Reassessing Values and Direction in an Economic Downturn Ethical Finance Consultation

Meeting in the wake of the international financial crisis of the past eighteen months, a residential consultation took place on November 2-3, 2009, at St. George's House, Windsor. *Where Now? Reassessing Values and Direction in an Economic Downturn*, was jointly sponsored by Faith in Business, a key part of the ministry of Ridley Hall, Cambridge.

The gathering of twenty-two eminent leaders from the world of finance, business, government, academia and the church gave significant time to in-depth discussion of the economic issues challenging the world. It was organised by Dr Richard Higginson, Director of Faith in Business at Ridley Hall, and Gary McKeone, Programme Director at St George's House.

Among the topics examined from a Christian perspective were the breakdown of trust – reward and responsibility; values and virtues; credit and debt; the shift of power from West to East; the change in the ethos and practice of banking; and hope for the future. A variety of opinions were shared in a frank, open, but friendly atmosphere. A fair measure of agreement was reached in identifying initiatives that could contribute significantly to a healthier future in coming years. In particular, participants agreed to work together on a new statement about the social good of banking.

While it is anticipated that this consultation will bear significant long term fruit, it is a precursor to a week-end conference on *Sustaining a Business Recovery* which will take place at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, from March 26-28 2010. Thinking from the Windsor consultation will be shared with a wider public so that Christians might take the conversation and actions flowing from it a stage further. More information can be found at www.faith-in-business.org.