EcoTheolStrategy: The Calling of Influencing Key Drivers

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Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Christoph Stückelberger, Professor of Ethics Universities of Basel, Moscow, Beijing, Enugu/Nigeria. Founder and Executive Director of Globethics.net, Geneva

stueckelberger@globethics.net www.globethics.net
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Personal Background

1979 Aufrbuch zu einem menschengerechten Wachstum
1986 OeKU with Lukas Vischer - 2016 30 years
1989 Multi-stakeholder Conf on Climate change
1990 First church campaign on Climate Change in Switzerland: «reduce each year fossile energy by 2%»
1996 Habilitation on Environmental Ethics
Ongoing concrete actions, green churches, worldwide teaching,
Petrified wood, 200 million years old! Arizona
1 Chinese Amity Foundation committed to environmental projects

2 Violent extremism as obstacle to environment

3 Jürgen Moltmann: Theology of hope, theology of life 2015

4 Young researcher on efficiency of solar energy.
1. 2000 Years of Creation Theology
500 Years inclusive salvation,
50 years of Ecotheology

1. Old church: creation theology as part of faith, but no direct environmental priority
2. Reformation: no salvation of humans without salvation of the whole creation
3. 18/19 Century: pietism, individual salvation, disconnection to technology and responsibility of churches for science and technology
4. 20th century re-discover eco-theol and creation
2. Survey 2016: Some Findings and Challenges


- Extension of resources and simplified access to resources. Online availability deserves first priority as form of distribution.
- Provision of resources in catchy ways. Therefore these type of resources should be prioritized as the junctions to connect, focusing on liturgies.
- Improvement of inter-connected collaboration. The “inters” seem to be beneficial for many participants and were often emphasised from survey.
- To raise the number of institutions who do provide ETCF-related lessons, it is a key connector to raise awareness and knowledge, mainly for future ministers and church affiliated persons.
- Awareness-raising. FBOs and churches should not be the odd person out when it comes to environmental and climate issues. Public relations for the non-affiliated public is not of utmost priority, but should not be neglected.
3. Theological Themes

In Theol often one-sided emphasis on Protology, rarely on Christology, Pneumatology, Soteriology, Eschatology.

Need to include all theol. Disciplines in Ecotheology
4. Ethical Themes

In Ethics often one-sided emphasis on Environmental Ethics. Need to include more often ethics of economy, politics, technology, cultures and media.
5. Church Actors

Churches and church-related institutions have manifold forms and specific changes and limitations
- Individual Christians as private persons
- Individual Christians in their professional professions
- Informal groups of christians
- Parishes
- Denominational churches (majority and minority churches)
- Christian movements, action groups, associations
- Academic and research institutions
- Interfaith activities
- National Council of Churches,
- Ecumenical associations on all levels up to WCC
6. EcoTheolStrategy ETS
A Contribution to the SDG’s 2030
A Contribution to Religions for Development
6.1 The Calling for Influencing Key Drivers

1. Churches and Theol. Institutions need a clearer analysis of power: Which are the key drivers of transformation? Which are the key strategies for transformation?

2. Mission as missio and calling of God is the call to transform the individual and the world in the light of God’s spirit and the perspective of God’s Kingdom.


4. The following order means: I emphasize first those underdeveloped in churches, CRO’s
6.2 Influencing Technological Innovation

• Analyze the worldview (visions, dreams, «The Silicon Valley Paradigm) and the means behind the technological innovation. Research ethics, innovation ethics as key contribution to ecotheology. See my book (co-ed) «Innovation ethics», free download www.globethics.net/publications, global series.

• Influence technol. innovation in three phases:
  1 Development definition of research projects and priorities, pre-phase
  2 Legislation for new technologies
• 3 Consumption/recycling in use of the technologies
6.3 Influencing Investors and Business

- **Investors community**, especially the global alliance of investors, mainly pension funds, for climate/carbon-neutral investments. Church reps to be active there.

- **Cooperation with Christian Entrepreneurs** (e.g. China) and other faith-based Entrepreneurs

- **Example Vatican Strategy** to launch «Laudato Si» of Pope Francis: high level invitation of catholic scientists and entrepreneur to the Vatican which creates publicity and media coverage.
6.4 Influencing Politics: Brics

• **BRICS/IN** Countries Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Indonesia, Nigeria) are key actors for environmental protection and Climate issues.

• **Churches/religious organisations in these countries should be strengthened in their EcoTheolstrategy.**

• **E.g. China:** Green Church has an enormous potential with 50-100 Mio Christians. E.g. of Globethics.net Leadership Center for Christian Entrepreneurs, church leaders, with BfdW on Diakonia. Opening of Amity International Liaison Representation in Geneva on 9 March 2015 to strengthen Advocacy work of Chinese Christian NGO.
6.5 Influencing Theologies/Ideologies

- De-legitimize violent extremism with religious justification as abuse of religions (see statement 5 March of interfaith consultation in Nairobi: www.globethics.net, news 5 March)
  *Promote peaceful transformation*

- De-legitimize apocalyptic end-war (Armageddon)
  *Promote that only God is judging history and is mastering time/kairos*

- De-legitimize Christian fatalism: fatalism is sin, action is expression of faith and response to God’s Alliance

- De-legitimize technological and economic monocultural optimism
  *Promote economic, technol, cultural, diversity as biodiversity*

- De-legitimize populist, absolutist order politics.
  *Promote a culture of trust in God’s providence in times of chaos*
6.6 Influencing by Liturgy/Spirituality

- Strengthen Eco-spirituality which means: unveil the energy coming from biblical visions of the God’s kingdom and life. Experience of the «alternative which is possible» (e.g. clean air ans stars on sky in Swiss Alps for Christian Entrepreneurs from Beijing)

- Enable processes of mourning and hope: mourn on end of time of (over-) consumption and discover the liberating potential of the «Age of Less» and new lifestile.

- Collection of prayers: Pray for rain? Express cry, mourning, joy, thankfulness, responsive faith in action
6.7 Influencing by Information/Education

- Suba Environmental Education of Kenya SEEK http://www.missionwild.org/index.php/about/ seeks the transformation of greater Suba by providing opportunities for young and old to know God through the wonders of His creation, while becoming environmentally literate, able to address environmental issues in a Biblical way that cares for both people and the earth. Combining mission and environment

- Globethics.net online Library, e.g. Climate Ethics Collection www.globethics.net/library Download of 1,8 mio docs for free via internet + 30 special collections


- Ökospirituality e.g. www.earthhealing.info, http://www.religiousindia.org/tag/eco-spirituality
6.8 Influencing by Church Actions

• See the encouraging examples presented from Korea, ECEN, UEM, Rwanda, Latvia, Lebanon etc.

• These actions are very important signs of home and concrete impact.

• But churches and CROs/development and mission partners should reserve more funds and human resources for advocacy and ecumenical voices such as climate justice of WCC.
6.9 Influencing by Networks

Examples of faith-based networks:

- Climate Justice Networks
- European Christian Environmental Network ECEN [www.ecen.org](http://www.ecen.org)
- Evangelical Environmental Network EEN [www.een.org](http://www.een.org)
شكراً جداً (Shokran Gidan)  merci 
thank you  teşekkürler  ngiyabonga 
baie dankie  kealeboga  diolch 
yn fawr  धन्यवाद (Danyavad)  謝謝 (xiexie) 
asante sana  gracias  Спасибо (spacibo) 
danke  grazie  adube 
osihe  dankjewel  obrigado/a