The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) International Meeting on Faith in Finance, Zug, Switzerland, Oct 30-Nov 1, 2017 <u>www.arcworld.org</u> MIKE EVEN, SENIOR ADVISOR TO ARC, SUMMARY OF WORKING GROUP THEMES

MIKE EVEN, SENIOR ADVISOR TO ARC, ON THE COMMON THEMES THAT HAVE EMERGED IN THE DISCUSSIONS, WED 01 NOVEMBER, 2017

Common themes:

- 1. What I've heard from almost every group is this need for a **single point of entry** into the faiths, with a clear recognition that faiths have significant differences between them and have their own needs to communicate on various specifics. I heard it in at least three contexts.
 - a. Investment manager group clearly asking for some kind of coordinated ability to reach out to all of you. That is one kind of entry.
 - b. The second kind of entry I heard from several groups was about image choosing the language, creating the right interpretation and heard it most as it related to impact investment - not letting that concept hijacked into something very commercial but rather let it be used for what it is intended to be used, by this group. So something that can represent that kind of language and can represent multiple interests.
 - c. Finally a single point of entry that does not force us to recreate things for the faiths, so if there are things already being done, not to recreate them. Don't necessarily reinvent a sustainable investing platform but instead take an existing platform, represent multiple faith groups and try to create something with that that is specific to faiths.
- 2. The second very, very strong theme was on **information and advice**: information sharing and advice giving, help from everything from the most basic help for those just starting their investment programmes all the way through to very sophisticated help on very specific issues for those who are already doing more.
- 3. Final thing which was a completely overwhelming theme yesterday, was **engagement**. That is a very, very big theme. Hard to define specifically at this stage but something like the ICCR but is more global in nature and perhaps operates a bit differently on coordination etc. allows for corporate engagement and potentially government engagement; a platform where these world can meet
- 4. Somewhere in here, every conversation revolved around **impact investing** even though it didn't necessarily need to go there, so I would put impact investing back in there as a final topic that is very, very strong.