**Practical Restitution Recommendations for Faith Communities**

(2007 Restitution Foundation AGM – ideas from attendees)

***Truth and Reconciliation Commission***

* Read the TRC recommendations to the faith community in churches and develop tools to disseminate the information through bible studies, sermons, pastoral letters to congregations, etc.
* Lobby churches to engage with TRC recommendations.
* Continue with TRC-like hearings within churches

***Using liturgical spaces***

* Create platforms within churches to deliberate on critical issues facing the nation.
* Preach sermons about past atrocities and ensure other sermons include the truth about these atrocities.
* Engage the church community about the economic imbalances within South Africa.
* Embrace the challenge of restitution and preaching about restitution within congregations.
* Create space for and facilitate the sharing of personal stories of hurt caused by past injustices.
* Facilitate and host restitution discussion groups in every congregation.
* Facilitate the sharing of positive stories to give people hope.
* Create and participate in symbolic gestures, like eating meals together.
* Make family friends with a colleague or person from another cultural grouping.

***Encouragement and Management of Diversity***

* Assist church members to learn how to manage diversity within church and society.
* Encourage and motivate for the establishment of cross-cultural friendships/ relationships.
* Encourage white people to join township churches and submit to black leadership.
* Facilitate and host integrated church services where both black and white leaders lead and teach and preach.
* Create spaces for people to get to know each other and have honest conversations.
* Learn another South African language like isiXhosa or isiZulu, for example.

***Practical things churches and church members can do***

* Assist with the building of church buildings in the townships.
* Skills sharing, job creation and assistance to people to be successful in their jobs.
* Churches and church members should become involved in addressing issues around homelessness.
* Community resource centres in poor communities.
* Support disadvantaged churches with skills and finances.
* Invest in the empowerment and education of the youth – they are the future.
* Buy elderly people who suffered from apartheid laws homes to live in.
* Help churches to buy their own land and buildings.
* Help domestic workers and other employees to buy their own property.
* Specialised retired people can share their skills with previously disadvantaged communities.
* Create special projects for those who have been denied education.
* Invest in the training of previously disadvantaged churches in financial management.
* Establish church partnerships where a wealthy church invests money into an under-resourced church with no strings attached.
* Support disadvantaged schools with sport grounds and sport coaches.
* Create scholarships for people who have suffered the injustice of apartheid.
* Conduct an audit about what churches are already doing and how different churches could support each other’s activities.
* Give driving lessons to people who don’t know how to drive.
* Give your second car as a gift to those who don’t have cars.
* Adopt a simpler lifestyle that would enable you to share more and give back more.
* Be available for mentorship regarding skills you gained through injustice.
* Adopt a sports team from a previously disadvantaged background and invest time and resource.