

MINUTES



MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 4 April 2005 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
 St Simons Rowville Catholic Church
 Boronia Uniting Church
 Temple Society, Belgrave
 Knox Reconciliation Group
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
 Family Federation, Belgrave
 Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
 Our Lady of Lourdes Boronia Catholic Church
 Sikh Faith
 Family Federation

Guests and Visitors:

Family Federation
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

APOLOGIES:

Ferntree Gully Catholic Church

OPENING:

Meeting was opened at 7:38pm by Rowland who welcomed everyone.

AGENDA:

The agenda was accepted as proposed with the addition of a minute's silence for each to reflect in their own way on the life and death of Pope John Paul II of the Catholic Church.

4. Presentation by Family Federation

(Summary as prepared by the Secretary – respectful apologies for any omissions or errors.)

The Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity was founded on 1 May, 1954, to end the suffering of God and humanity. Since that time, the Unification Church has expanded to more than 130 countries. There are about 30 core families in Melbourne and 60 core families in Sydney.

The broad mission of the Family Federation (known most fully as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification) is to bring about alignment between people of all faiths. This has been broadened recently to look for unification across all religions and races. It seeks to help people find a way back to a common God. Reverend Moon, the founder, has been a

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strong proponent of peace and the Family Federation is engaged very actively in a range of programs and forums to seek to advance the cause for peace (e.g., the Inter-religious and International Peace Council – IIPC).

The church has a core teaching known as the Divine Principle covering religious principles including creation and history. The teachings include how the story of Adam and Eve led to an initial distancing from God and the actions of the Unification Church seek to remove this distance. A key element of this is marriage and the family unit, and the fundamental importance of love and a loving approach to helping address today's issues in society. It teaches that the goal of all people should be to try to become as true parents are.

5. Previous Minutes and Business Arising

RESOLUTION: The minutes as presented were moved for acceptance by Peter, seconded by Daphne and confirmed unanimously.

1. Actions Arising
None other than as represented on the agenda.
2. Event Reports

Knox Festival: While we had a presence there, the general view was that it was not overly effective, although it was compromised in part by the weather on the Saturday. There was some interest from one person in the media, although it does not appear to have been followed up yet. The recommendation was to consider a different type of event for future participation. Daphne asked what the primary purpose of participating in an event such as this was and the members present confirmed that it had not been (to date at least) to raise funds.

RESOLUTION: Peter moved a motion of appreciation for Sally's immense effort, seconded by Harpal. Carried by acclamation.

City of Manningham Interfaith Network: No-one present attended their launch.

ACTION: Peter to follow up with their Network to offer ongoing support.

3. Treasurer's Report
2 membership subscriptions were submitted at the December 2004 meeting and have been banked, giving a balance of \$XXX as at start of the meeting. Further subscriptions were received at this meeting. The meeting approved expenses to be refunded to Sally: \$159 for brochure printing and \$25 for site fee for the Knox Festival. Peter tabled the receipt for \$50 for printing of the colour logos.

6. Future Items of Interest

1. Web-site and Knox Council Funding Application
Rowland reported that the Knox Council has granted the Knox Inter-faith Network \$1000 to prepare a web-site. Although this was less than the full value of the application and has not yet been received, the Knox Inter-faith Network recorded thanks to Knox Council for this and plans to use it to achieve the goals outlined in the application. To ensure this happens, the meeting approved creation of a Project Implementation Team as follows: Peter, Rowland, Daphne.
ACTION: Peter to call meeting of project group.
2. Report from Communities Together Project (A Model for Promoting Harmony and Understanding of Australian Muslims) - (Migrant Information Centre, Eastern Melbourne)

Peter tabled this report that noted with great thanks the value of participation of the Knox Council and the Knox Inter-faith Network. The meeting recorded specific thanks to our key participants – Sally, Brother Maurice, Riad, and John.

3. Celebrating and Promoting Harmony Event
Take from email from Riad
4. Book Review
Phil reported on a series of books by Neale Donald Walsch. He invited other people to read the books and was willing to have a discussion with other people on it.
5. Correspondence from Franciscus Henri, who contacted the Knox Inter-faith Network at the Knox Festival – raised by Sally. Sally has contacted him asking for him to clarify how his work would meet the purposes of the network. Action is pending his response.
6. The Sikh Community is running a dinner-dance on Monday, 25 April, 7pm-midnight at the Box Hill Town Hall. The flyer for this event accompanies the minutes.

7. Meeting dates and Functions for 2005

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| 6 June 2005 (Room 1): | City Life Church (To Be Confirmed – ACTION with Rowland to confirm by 7 April, else try for Buddhist Faith on this date) |
| 8 August 2005 (Room 2): | Buddhist Faith (To Be Confirmed – ACTION with Jacinta to confirm by 11 April for either June or August) |
| 3 October 2005 (Room 1): | TBD |
| 5 December 2005 (Room 1): | Annual General Meeting + TBD |

Gwenda raised the possibility of a speech by the Truth and Liberation group – she will follow up and confirm with the Knox Inter-faith Network Executive.

Harpal noted he has a copy of a DVD from the City of Greater Dandenong Network – this will be played at a future meeting.

Ideas for visitation:

May: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Wantirna (ACTION: Daphne to check)

July: Knox Presbyterian Church

September: City Life (ACTION: Rowland to follow up)

Sikh Gurdwara (potentially for near end of year as part of a commemoration of the anniversary of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami – ACTION: Harpal to follow up)

Meeting ended at 9:37pm.

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