

MINUTES



MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 5 December 2005 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
 St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church
 Temple Society, Belgrave
 Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
 Our Lady of Lourdes Boronia, Catholic Church
 Sikh Faith
 Boronia Church of Christ
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
 St Joseph's Catholic Church

APOLOGIES:

St John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully Catholic Church
 Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)

OPENING:

Meeting was opened at 7:38pm by Rowland who welcomed everyone.
 Rowland read a passage from the Bible regarding the call of Abram (Abraham).

AGENDA:

The agenda was accepted as proposed.

4. Previous Minutes and Business Arising

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

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

Baha'i Community Celebration: No Network member attended.

Nostra Aetate Event: Gwenda and Sandra reported on a multi-faith event held in celebration of the 40th anniversary of this Vatican Council II document on inter-faith issues that they attended. They attended the Christian-Hindu and Christian-Muslim sessions respectively. Julian Burnside QC was one of the keynote speakers.

New Anti-terrorism Laws: Harpal noted that on the day of the arrests of alleged terrorists in Melbourne that the local police contacted a leader in his community, asking for someone to attend a briefing on the laws. The briefing was welcomed by the faith community.

Drafted for Discussion

3. Web-site Implementation
Some questions clarified:
- Office-bearers should be able to have email addresses by title rather than personal name
 - Content management will be the responsibility of the Network once the site goes live
- Agreements:
- Include community name, physical address (if applicable), contact name and phone number, email contact (if available), web-site link (if available), maximum of 3 lines of history; due by 15 December 2005
 - Adopt suggestions to have detail on site of when last updated and something about number of hits in recent period.
4. Treasurer's Report
Balance is \$XXX in the Network account, and \$XXX in the Knox Presbyterian account for the web-site implementation.

5. Future Items of Interest

1. Brett notified the Network of an upcoming sacred music evening at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at Corner Cathies Lane and Pumps Lane, Wantirna on 18 December 2005, 6:30pm for about 1.5 hours.
2. Peter drew attention to the request from City of Whitehorse for companions at lunches for socially disadvantaged people on the agenda.
3. Will the election of the new Knox councillors have any effect, positive or otherwise, on the Knox Inter-faith Network? We will monitor this for 2006.
ACTION: Peter to contact Mary Ryan on this matter.

7. Next visits and meetings

- 1) Confirmed meeting of 6 February 2006.
ACTION: Gwenda to confirm Truth and Liberation Organisation presenters.
- 2) Harpal noted that having a formal commemoration of the tsunami would not work well this month in his community due to other activities, but welcomed any Network member to attend his community on 21 December, with a service from 7-8:30pm, followed by dinner at about 8:45pm until about 9:30pm. The address is 127 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn.
- 3) Ideas on future presentations:
 - a. Presentation by the relevant police on the anti-terrorist laws and discussion of how the Knox Inter-faith Network might be able to work with police in the Knox area to help reduce any inter-religious tensions.
ACTION: Peter to contact local police (as first contact) to seek a presentation in April, and invite our local members – Chris Pearce & Jason Wood.
 - b. Gathering of all council-based inter-faith networks.
- 4) 2006 Meeting Dates and tentative topics:

3 April 2006	Possible forum on anti-terrorism legislation + forum for formal launch of web-site
5 June 2006	Multiple short presentations from different faiths on a topic such as: Purpose of life on earth and image of after-life? (Why are we here and where are we going?)
7 August 2006	TBD
2 October 2006	TBD
4 December 2006	TBD
- 5) Visits for 2006 to be made an agenda item for the 6 February 2006 meeting.
- 6) Gwenda suggested follow-up of the item raised by Daphne at the previous meeting (regarding members of the Network being available to assist in the local area in the case of any natural disasters).
ACTION: Gwenda to contact Knox City Council.

Draft for discussion

8. Annual Meeting

The session worked through options for office-bearers:

Chairperson: Request that Riad takes this on – to be confirmed on his return
Vice-Chairperson: Rowland (possible alternative as Vice-Chairperson is Harpal if Riad is not available and Rowland continues as Chairperson)
Treasurer: Rolf to continue
Secretary: Peter to continue
Publicity Officer: Brett

RESOLUTION: Moved Harpal, Seconded Pat, that:

- 1) The office-bearers as listed above are approved, subject to confirmation with Riad on his return from overseas in 2006.
- 2) Should Riad be unable to take on the role, the February 2006 meeting will consider the position of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, but Treasurer, Secretary and Publicity Officer will remain as nominated.

Carried unanimously

Meeting ended at 9:05 p.m.