



MINUTES

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 3 April 2006 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
 St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church
 Temple Society, Bayswater
 Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
 Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater, Catholic Church
 St John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully Catholic Church
 Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
 Sikh Faith

Cr Monique Davey
 Cr David Cooper
 Lisette Pine

Knox Council, Chandler Ward
 Knox Council, Scott Ward and Mayor
 Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer

APOLOGIES:

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
 St John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully Catholic Church
 Family Federation, Belgrave
 Sikh Faith
 St Joseph's Catholic Church
 Truth and Liberation Concern
 Boronia Church of Christ

OPENING and APOLOGIES:

The meeting was opened at 7:30pm by Rowland who welcomed everyone, and particularly Mayor David Cooper and Councillor Monique Davey and Lisette Pine.

Rowland also provided a reading of blessing and welcome describing the concept and importance of justification, from the Westminster Confession and Catechism.

Peter noted that Ian and Jacinta were absent due to the death of Jacinta's mother and the funeral in Alice Springs. The Network noted this and recorded its condolences to the family.

AGENDA:

The agenda was accepted as proposed.

4. Presentation and Qs&As – How does one get or gain forgiveness?

Aly presented the perspective from the Muslim community, as per the notes distributed. Gurdarshan Singh presented the Sikh perspective, with reference to sacred readings. Pat and Tina presented the Christian perspective, with reference to the parable of *The Prodigal Son*.

There was much commonality in the views across the presenters and discussion explored the implications of this and some subtle yet important differences between the views. The Network members present thanked all the presenters by acclamation.

Draft for discussion

6. Previous Minutes and Business Arising

RESOLUTION: The minutes as presented were accepted unanimously, noting the minor changes in the list of apologies and member affiliations.

1. Confirmation of 2006 Office-bearers
Rowland spoke to the motion passed tentatively at the 2005 AGM proposing that Riad Galil be accepted as Chairperson. Riad graciously accepted the nomination. This means that Harpal is confirmed as Vice-Chairperson.
2. Discussions with Knox Council re Emergency Plan
Gwenda reported on the discussion with Steve Pascoe and Fleur Cousins with reference to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entitled Provision of Support to Emergency Affected Persons at Relief and Recovery Centres tabled at the meeting.
DECISION: Gwenda agreed to be the liaison contact between Knox City Council and the Knox Inter-faith Network as we consider the MOU and its implications.
ACTION: All Network members to review the MOU to see if it is acceptable to their community. If so, then to identify approved contact points within their community who could become resources in case of the need to activate the MOU plan. Further, to consider for which ethnic communities they might provide contact points.
3. Presentation by Knox Police on Counter-terrorism and the Knox Community
Peter outlined current plans for this forum, planned as the basis for the 5 June 2006 meeting of the Network.

Confirmed Speakers:

Detective Sergeant Tony DeMarte - Terrorism / Security Intelligence Unit
Senior Constable Elizabeth Sidiropoulos - Multicultural Liaison Unit
Sergeant Wayne McDonald (Shift Supervisor at Knox for the Scoresby / Knoxfield area and contact point for the Network) will attend
Senior Sergeant John Hess - Knox Police Commander will also attend

ACTION: Peter to meet with Kath Oakley and Lisette Pine at the Council to confirm plans and publicity. **COMPLETED**

ACTION: David to speak with Graeme Emonson, CEO, City of Knox.

ACTION: Lisette to speak with facilities to confirm the venue. **COMPLETED**

ACTION: Peter to prepare poster, get sign-off from Council and distribute. **COMPLETED**

Registrations mandatory will be mandatory before the Forum, through Peter Evans on either secretary.kin@knoxinterfaith.org.au or 9763 6213.

4. Event Reports
Visit to Truth and Liberation Concern: Gwenda, David and Peter participated in the visit. Lance hosted the group and showed us around the building and shared hospitality. David commented favourably on the facilities.
5. Web-site Implementation
Meeting for final handover between Peter and Vivek planned for 18 April.
6. Treasurer's Report
The last statement showed a balance of \$XXX in the Network account. \$XXX deposits have since been made, along with \$XXX paid on the evening, giving a final balance of \$XXX

Rolf also noted that several annual membership fees of \$20 are overdue.

Draft for discussion

7. Future Items of Interest

1. AIS: Inaugural Commemoration of Mohammed's (pbuh) Noble Birth Program
Topic: *Universal Compassion of Divine Messengers*
Location: *Community Hall, St Stephen's Anglican Church, 360 Church St, Richmond*
Time/Date: 7:30pm, Monday 10th April
Registration: Ph: 9326 2177 or 0412 984 142, or email: info@intercultural.org.au

8. Any matter of Common Interest.

1. Cr Cooper mentioned the annual Knox luncheon for clergy. He is interested in broadening the meeting and having dialogue between council and representatives of faith communities.
2. Cr Cooper mentioned a broad desire to organise events to allow young people to socialise in the Knox area and flagged the possibility of leveraging the faith communities to assist in this broad endeavour.
3. Cr Cooper outlined a planned press release from Knox City Council to be released prior to Easter. After discussion with Network members the broad thrust of the press release was approved by the Network for final editing and release by Council along with the photo taken of members present at the meeting.

9. Next visits and meetings

1. 5 June 2006 – As per Agenda Item 6.3.
2. 7 August 2006 – Major festivals celebrated by various religions and cultures – speakers: Peter / Connie, Brett, Riad, Harpal (aim: 7 minutes each)
3. 3 October 2006 – Role of Women in Faith Communities – Details to be confirmed
ACTION: Riad to contact, Mervat from MICE.
4. Visitation: No visit planned between April and June due to the need to plan for the June meeting.

Ideas for future:

February 2007: Meaning and customs for marriage in various religions

Future: Official teachings of religions on tolerance for other religions

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

Draft for discussion