



MINUTES

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 5 October 2009 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Chairperson/Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
(Vice-Chairperson)	Egyptian Coptic Church
	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
	St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
	Boronia Church of Christ
	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
	ISOMER
	Temple Society Australia
	Uniting Church, FTG
	Uniting Church, FTG
	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

GUESTS:

Lisette Pine	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
Cr John Mortimore	Knox City Council, Chandler Ward
Cr Joe Cossari	Knox City Council, Collier Ward
	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Replacing nominated delegate)
	St Stephens Anglican Church, Bayswater

APOLOGIES:

(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Publicity Officer)	ISOMER
	ISOMER

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Peter opened the meeting at 7:40pm and Gwenda provided the opening prayer.

1. DISCUSSION TOPIC

Cr John provided a DVD containing an interview with Archbishop Elias Chacour (a Palestinian himself) on the challenges for coexistence of Palestinians and Jews in Israel. Network Members present viewed the DVD and then listened to comments by Cr John based on his personal experience. Those present discussed the information presented, recognised the need for a solution based in common humanity and encouraged all Members to reflect on the situation and continue to talk and to pray for a solution. Rod noted that the information inspires him, and should inspire the Network, to continue inter-faith dialogue. Those present thanked Cr John for sourcing the DVD and for his comments. Cr John offered to provide copies of the final DVD to those interested in having a copy.

2. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

- 2.1 Item 1.1 – Peter noted that the Minutes passed were actually from the 1 June 2009 meeting.
Minutes of meeting of 3 August 2009: Moved for acceptance with this amendment by Rod, seconded by Aly – passed.

2.2 Eastern Region Councils on Interfaith Networks

Lisette noted that a number of her counterparts have moved roles, so this will need coordination with the more active Council participants. Lisette suggested that the Network organise an event for early in 2010.

2.3 Incorporation Discussion

Peter introduced the discussion, noting the input documents. He noted that the major issue remaining seems to be the formal handling in the Draft Rules of member organisations, with their representation by a nominated delegate and possibly one or more alternate delegates. Mark outlined the background for this approach. He suggested that the solution could be to revisit and tighten up the definitions of member, member organisation.

Discussion ensued about whether Network membership should be based on organisations or of individuals, or should allow flexibility across both. Members agreed that we should retain the existing definition of membership eligibility in the Constitution, reflecting a religious body (faith community) present in the City of Knox.

Gwenda noted that rule 6(1) should start, “A member of the Association *which ...*”

Motion that the Draft Rules and Statement of Purpose as proposed, with the amendment noted above to the Draft Rules, be approved for submission to Consumer Affairs Victoria for approval. Further, that Peter Evans (Secretary) be authorised to submit the documents to Consumer Affairs Victoria seeking incorporation.

- moved Rod, seconded Maher – passed unanimously (by all eligible voting members).

2.4 Schools Program

The subcommittee had been unable to meet – action carried over.

2.5 Treasurer’s report

Rolf advised there was no change in finances since the last meeting. The current Network account balance at month-end August was \$XXXX.

Decision Referring to the license for a web content management tool, Network Members approved Peter to spend no more than \$YYY on sourcing such a license.

2.6 Correspondence Received

The Multifaith Future Leaders program was commended to all Network Members.

Network Members present supported the cross-linking of the Knox Inter-faith Network website to the Parliament of World’s Religions (PWR) web-site.

Action Peter to follow up with the PWR regarding cross-linking of the web-site.

Network Members present reviewed the proposed changes to the Multicultural Resource Directory and approved them.

Action Peter to submit the proposed changes to the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

2.7 Event Reports

2.7.1 *City of Greater Dandenong Interfaith Network – National Grassroots Conference, 8 August*

Gwenda reported on an outstanding event at an excellent venue.

2.7.2 *Victorian Interfaith Networks Annual Conference, 23 August*

Peter reported on the event. About half of the Interfaith Networks invited had representatives present, without about another quarter providing written reports presented on their behalf. Networks are taking a variety of approaches to engaging their communities, with ideas of possible interest to the Knox Network including: arranging a tour of a number of religious places on a single day (on a hired bus), festivals, an event based on art (painting, sculpture, music, etc.), and a project related to a physical space. Groups are also meeting a variety of intervals, so maybe Knox should revisit whether meeting every second month is right – maybe we should look at meeting quarterly with one larger yearly event.

2.7.3 *Presentation to Maroondah Interfaith Network, 29 September*

Gwenda reported on the meeting and the guidance she gave to this new network which is in its formative stages. They have formed a Steering Committee. The Chairperson thanked Gwenda for her contribution.

2.8 Future items of interest

2.8.1 *Grants from the Victorian Multicultural Commission*

Mark noted that the current round of funding for events held between January and July 2010 had closed on 25 September. He added that the Temple Society Australia has been successful in getting grants and commended this source of funding for consideration by the Network and maybe for its member organisations. He anticipates the next round of funding for events held between July 2010 and January 2011 will open around February 2011. (See summary attached to the minutes. This will be discussed further at our 23 November meeting.)

3. **PLANS FOR 2009-2010**

3.1 End of Year Meeting – Confirmed joint meeting with Knox Multicultural Advisory Group

This will be held 23 November in Rooms 1 and 2. The agenda and schedule is as follows:

6pm Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee business meeting

7pm Combined dinner – Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee and Knox Inter-faith Network

7.30pm Joint discussion – KMAC and KIN

8.30pm KIN business meeting, if required

We have been asked to confirm how many will be attending and any special dietary requirements (for catering purposes) by Monday 16 November, so please respond to the secretary (on his personal email: evansfamily@netspace.net.au) by no later than Friday 13 November.

(Confirmed attendees at the meeting were: Definite: Gwenda, Tina, Pat, Sr Moya, Peter Definite Not: Rowland Probable: Rod)

Possible topics suggested by Network Members were –

- What is the delineation between religious and cultural?

With the proposed incorporation, the Knox Inter-faith Network AGM is likely to be in February 2010.

4. OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

Deferred until next meeting.

5. NEXT MEETING

Monday 23 November 2009.

The meeting was closed at 10:10 pm.