



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 4 April 2011 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville
(Voting Member)	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
(Voting Member)	Egyptian Coptic Church
	Temple Society Australia

plus

Belinda Jordan
Nicole Hunter

Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
Knox Council, Coordinator of Community Access & Equity

GUESTS

Chuen-Tat Kang

Guest Speaker
Director, Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia

APOLOGIES:

Cr Sue McMillan
(Vice-President)

Knox City Council, Dobson Ward and Mayor
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Uniting Church, FTG
Uniting Church, FTG
Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region
(ISOMER)
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WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Peter opened the meeting at 7:40pm with a prayer, bringing to mind current world events which reinforce to Network Members the importance of our activities.

1. INTRODUCTORY MATTERS

- 1.1 The Chairperson accepted the addition of two agenda items:
 - Report on the Cities of Harmony event of 10 March (Mark) and
 - Correspondence on the Junior Youth Empowerment Program for Interfaith.

2. PRESENTATION: MULTIFAITH CENTRE BUILDING, DESIGN AND DEMONSTRATION – INTRODUCTION TO ASIAN CULTURE AND RELIGION (TAOISM FOCUS)

- 2.1 He noted that the presentation was funded partly by VMC. The presentation focused on Taoism, which Chuen-Tat noted is a philosophy more than a religion. There is similar information available from a Buddhist, Christian and Islamic perspective.
- 2.2 The ideas for setting up a Tao temple conform to *Tao Te Ching*, a book of Tao philosophy written by Laozi, the founder of Taoism. Laozi was a colleague and friend of Confucius.
- 2.3 Tao temples and shrines are often erected on or near sacred places, especially those with geographic features like rivers, mountains and caves, where there is a strong flow of *qi*, or energy. They are recommended to be built on mountains, because these are sacred places where deities, human and divine could meet together. Grottoes ('cave heavens') are seen as sources of vitalising energy, being places of deities, so are also places where temples can be built.
- 2.4 Taoist temple design is based on the ancient art of *feng-shui* (literally 'wind' and 'water'), to access cosmic power and live harmoniously within the natural order, through best access to and use of a natural channel of energy.
- 2.5 There are five elements, phases or agents to articulate *qi*: greater and lesser *yang* (fire & wood), greater and lesser *ying* (water & metal) and a balanced centre (earth).
- 2.6 In response to a question, Chuen-Tat noted that a multifaith centre should be built in response to the views of the people (or at least the majority of the people) working on it, rather than being dictated to by the specific requirements of the Taoist philosophy.
- 2.7 Peter thanked Chuen-Tat on behalf of Network Members present for his very informative presentation.

3. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

- 3.1 Minutes of meeting of 7 February 2011: Mark noted a minor change to item 1.2 "presented" to "present". Minutes moved for acceptance with this change: Mark; Seconded: Gwenda. Approved.
- 3.2 AGM follow-up – remaining Office-bearer positions: Carried over due to lack of Members present.
- 3.3 Consumer Affairs Report Submission
Peter noted that this has been submitted, even though we were not technically required to submit until we had been incorporated for over 18 months. There have been no questions back. Mark noted that Clause 32 of our Constitution does require that the books be audited. Peter volunteered to perform an internal audit.
RESOLUTION: That Peter performs an internal audit based on the receipt book and cheque book supplied by Mark; Moved: Mark; Seconded: Maher. Approved.
- 3.4 Funding Request to VMC
Mark has answered all questions put to him on the application and that receipt of the information has been acknowledged. Gwenda will follow up with her contact at VMC.
- 3.5 Red Cross – Blood for Harmony Program
Mark described the program. Mark will follow up to find the hours of operation and the minimum number of people for which they would send out a mobile unit.
- 3.6 Treasurer's Report: Mark noted that the balance in the account as at 31 March 2001 was \$XXX (assuming the cheque for the incorporation report has cleared). He presented an invoice for \$NNN from the Temple Society for expenses incurred on behalf of KIN for the Knox Festival. There is residual material which can be reused.
RESOLUTION: Peter moved that this invoice for \$NNN be approved for payment; Gwenda seconded. Approved.

4. EVENT REPORTS

- *Knox Festival (5 March)*. Peter thanked Mark for his huge efforts, as well as Gwenda, Riad and Pat for helping staff the stand. The location near the Multicultural Stage was successful, as was the craft activity area for children. Mark also thanked Zoe for her work with the origami activity. We had passing traffic as well as some intense conversations with a few individuals. There was considerable interest in the Golden Rule Poster which Gwenda brought. For those interested, it is available from Scarborough Missions: http://www.scarboromissions.ca/Golden_rule/
- *Cities of Harmony Workshop (10 March)*. Mark and Nicole (from Knox Council) attended the half-day event in Werribee and reported on it. About fifty people from across Melbourne and Victoria attended. They proposed a community building model called IAP2, which Knox Council uses. This has five levels of community engagement – inform, consult, involve, collaborate, empower. The session was useful, although both Mark and Nicole commented that the workshops would have benefited from more time.
- *Eastern Region Interfaith Network Meeting (15 March)*. This was attended by Belinda, John, Mark, Gwenda and Peter. Belinda reported verbally on the event – a written report is nearly finalised. The general sense at the meeting was that it was valuable and should be repeated. Gwenda noted that while the groups broadly share a common intent, they are quite different in structure and focus. Next steps are yet to be decided, but will likely involve collaboration by some or all groups to set up some form of event. Gwenda suggested that KIN should identify by the end of 2011 an event and who could work with us to run it. Mark mentioned the survey summary, which we will try to place on the KIN web-site.
- Gwenda reported on the JCMA Conference, themed *The Role of Women in their Faiths*.

5. FUTURE ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Network Members present thanked Belinda Jordan for her contributions and wished her success in her assignment to Tonga. We would be pleased to receive any updates, reports or information from her on her experiences.
- Gwenda noted the City of Knox Sorry Day, planned for 26 May 2011. It will be held at 10:30am on the Knox Civic Centre Front Lawn. RSVP by 20 May to the Community Access and Equity Team at knoxcc@knox.vic.gov.au

6. CONCRETE PLANS FOR 2011

- 6.1 Junior Youth Empowerment Program for Interfaith: Members discussed the proposal to receive this presentation, circulated by email prior to the meeting. Views were mixed on the suitability of this presentation.
- 6.2 Jewish Museum of Australia: Peter will try again to contact them to see if they can present at a future meeting.
- 6.3 Peter will try to contact both people offering to present per 6.1 and 6.2, and organise one to present at the June meeting with the other to present at July.
- 6.4 Mark asked if Maher would raise again a visit to the Coptic Church, which he will do.

7. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, 6 June, 2011

Monday, 25 July 2011 – To be held at the Janssen Spirituality Centre,
located at 22 Woodvale Rd, Boronia, 3155.

Monday, 3 October 2011

Monday, 28 November 2011 (Joint meeting with KMAC)

Meeting closed at 9:45 pm.