



MINUTES – DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED

MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 1 October 2012 at Knox Civic Centre

PRESENT:

Representatives of Faith Communities present:

(President)	Uniting Church, FTG
(Treasurer)	Temple Society Australia
(Vice-President)	Janssen Spirituality Centre, Boronia
	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
(KIN rep to KMAC)	Egyptian Coptic Church
(Secretary)	St Simons Catholic Church, Rowville

APOLOGIES:

Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region
 (ISOMER)
 Uniting Church, FTG

GUESTS:

Sant Nirankari Mission

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER:

Pat opened the meeting at 7:40pm, welcoming all.

1. PRESENTATION FROM THE SANT NIRANKARI MISSION

- 1.1 The mission is a spiritual movement, from which members can seek spiritual 'realisation'. They also have with a strong focus on community, particularly on youth. However, the mission does not require members to follow any specific religion – they will accept members of any religion.
- 1.2 They began in north-west India in 1929 and now have over 2000 centres worldwide.
- 1.3 The second leader – Avtar Bani – created their version of holy writings.
- 1.4 They started officially in Melbourne in 1995, originally in Dandenong and now in Rowville. They have about 300 members.
- 1.5 They are running a 'Oneness Games' event at their site in Rowville on 6 October 2012.
- 1.6 They have a strong link to the donation of blood, dating from the murder of their leader on 24 April, 1980. Members donate twice a year and go in groups of about 100. This may form a link to the Blood4Harmony program which David has been working hard to promote.

2. MINUTES/ACTIONS FROM LAST NETWORK MEETING

- 2.1 Minutes of meeting of 16 July 2012:
Minutes moved for acceptance: Gwenda; seconded: Maher; approved unanimously.
The various action items were all completed and the agenda confirmed.
- 2.2 Insurance:
This is now in place – members thanked Mark for his work.
- 2.3 Red Cross – Blood for Harmony program:
Contact has been made with the Monash Interfaith Network.
- 2.4 Treasurer's report:
Mark noted a balance of \$xxx, but this excludes the insurance payment, which means the effective balance is \$yyy. This also includes the balance of \$zzz unspent OMAC grant money for the remaining "Policing and sensitivity to faith in Knox" component of the project as well as the new grant of \$mmm for the photographic exhibition. This leaves an effective operating balance of \$nnn.

3. PLANNING FOR 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

- 3.1 Contacting faith communities:
Gwenda will seek to contact various Catholic communities and the Hindu community.
Pat will contact St John's, Ferntree Gully.
Lee will try to contact other non-Christian communities.
Maher will try to contact the Armenian Catholic Community in Ferntree Gully.
Peter will try to contact ISOMER.
- 3.2 Contacting support groups:
Discussion ensued about contacting the libraries – which are interested in hosting the exhibition, which have dates, etc.?
Mark will contact key people at Council – particularly about whether the launch could be in Council space.

4. ITEMS FROM KNOX COUNCIL

- 4.1 KMAC proposal:
Federal Government funding for the Knox Harmony Day closes on 31 October.

5. UPCOMING EVENTS

- 5.1 VINAC Annual Conference, 28 October, Fitzroy Town Hall:
Gwenda will attend – Peter will try to attend.
- 5.2 City of Greater Dandenong Inter-faith Network Annual Meeting, 24 October:
Pat will try to attend.
- 5.3 Bayswater Community Festival, 24 November:
Mark will be attending, but representing The Temple Society and in an official role for the festival. Peter will represent KIN. Thanks to Mark for organising KIN attendance.
- 5.4 Media Training Course:
Mark has been accepted to a second round activity.

6. OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

Maher spoke to the event run jointly by the Muslim and Coptic communities on 18 September 2012 in response to the recent violence in Sydney arising from the video to which the Muslim community had taken deep offence. Details of the press conference and press release are available at www.MelbCopts.org.au

7. CONCRETE PLANS FOR 2013

7.1 Carried over to next meeting



8. NEXT MEETINGS

Monday, 26 November 2012 (Joint meeting with KMAC – date to be confirmed)
Bookings have been made for these events.

Meeting closed at 9:25pm