



## MINUTES

## MEETING OF KNOX INTER-FAITH NETWORK

Held Monday 3 December 2007 at Knox Civic Centre

**PRESENT:**

Representatives of Faith Communities Present:

(Chairperson)	Islamic Society of Melbourne, Eastern Region (ISOMER)
(Treasurer)	Temple Society, Bayswater
(Secretary)	St Simons Rowville, Catholic Church
	Egyptian Coptic Church
	Temple Society, Bayswater
	ISOMER
	Knox Presbyterian Church, Wantirna
	Our Lady of Lourdes Bayswater, Catholic Church
	Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
Lisette Pine	Knox Council, Access and Inclusion Officer
	Sikh Faith
Cr David Cooper	Knox Council, Scott Ward

**APOLOGIES:**

	Uniting Church, Ferntree Gully
	St Thomas More's Catholic Church, Belgrave
	St Josephs Boronia, Catholic Church
(Vice-Chairperson)	Sikh Faith

**OPENING and APOLOGIES:**

The meeting was opened at 7:40pm by Riad who welcomed everyone.

Gwenda led the prayer, using an inter-faith prayer book published by the Bahai community.

**AGENDA:**

The agenda was accepted as proposed.

**4. Presentations:**

Maher presented on the Egyptian Coptic Church – covering its history and faith. The church was founded by St Mark the Evangelist, and evolved in Egypt. Maher addressed the core of the faith of the church through addressing key questions.

1. Why were Adam and Eve removed from God's presence and received death for the sake of a piece of fruit?
2. Why did God, the creator of Heaven and Earth, crucify himself on behalf of mankind? Why didn't he sacrifice someone else instead?
3. What is the Holy Trinity as revealed in the Old and New Testaments?
4. Why was the Coptic Church the first Church to split from Western Churches regarding the nature of Christ?
5. What are the seven sacraments of the Coptic Church?

(The text of the presentations and backup slides are available on the Knox Inter-faith Web-site under the Minutes link.)

Maher also graciously provided CD's with Coptic Orthodox music and hymns.

## 5. Minutes from 17 October 2007 Meeting

### 1. Actions arising

1. *Brochure* – Rowland presented Version 2. Rowland suggested the key information for the major groupings could be presented in tabular form. Rowland requested support from someone who can prepare layout. Cr Cooper kindly offered to try and find someone who could do the layout. Ranjit queried whether the grouping of religions into two major groupings (Abrahamic and religions originating in India) and presentation as offered is appropriate. **ACTION:** Ranjit will review the content related to the Sikh faith and provide comments by email. **Agreement** was reached that each group represented in the Network would need to provide signoff for the content for its community.

2. *Carols by Candlelight* – Peter noted that the ceremony for 2007 had involved children representing various communities, co-ordinated through those communities directly rather than in part through the Network. The timeline for 2007 had not allowed direct involvement through the Network when involvement was considered. Some members of the Network were interested in the Network supporting participation in this event in 2008, if possible and acceptable, but concerns were raised by others that it needs to remain a Christian event. There was general agreement that brief, appropriate messages of friendship could be delivered by members of other faiths or on behalf of other faiths. **ACTION:** Cr Cooper will explore options with Malcolm Russell, which may include inviting Malcolm to the next Network meeting.

3. *AFP talk to Knox Inter-faith Network* – Riad has provided the contact names to Peter. Lisette noted she had contacted the AFP today and may have an update – she will email Peter. **ACTIONS CARRIED OVER PENDING THIS UPDATE:** Peter will draft a letter and copy it to Cr Cooper before sending it to the AFP; Cr Cooper will speak with the Mayor about supporting the letter.

4. *Council Call-up Item* – Cr Cooper reported on the October meeting of Council, and the resolution he moved at the meeting. This involved requesting further work to prepare appropriate terms of reference for a multi-cultural reference group. **ACTION:** Cr Cooper will provide the specific resolution to the Secretary, to be distributed to Network members.

5. *Performance inspired by holy or sacred writings*  
– Further discussion needed.

### 2. Event Reports and Matters of General Interest

*i. None reported*

### 3. Treasurer's Report

The balance is \$XXX.XX as at the end of October. There is also an amount of \$2,600 on deposit at the Presbyterian Church for the brochure. Interest will have accrued in the account on that amount.

There are currently 11 financial communities in the Network.

**ACTION:** Rolf will prepare a list of communities which are financial but not currently represented on a regular basis at the Network.

## 6. Future Items of Interest from Members of the Network

Riad noted the 2008 JCMA Conference will be held on 26-29 May 2008. Gwenda further noted the 2008 JCMA Women's Conference, which will be held on 18-20 February 2008.

Events as noted in the agenda and on the Network web-site at [www.knoxinterfaith.org.au](http://www.knoxinterfaith.org.au)

Peter noted that he is happy to put any Member event on the web-site to advertise it more broadly, should the Member Community so wish.

## 7. Election of 2008 Office-Bearers

Rowland Ward was accepted as Returning Officer.

- Chairperson: Riad nominated Gwenda as Chairperson, seconded by Rowland. Elected unanimously. This role would include being the contact point for inbound requests from media given the Publicity Officer vacancy.
- Vice-Chairperson: Aly nominated Maher as Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Rolf. Elected unanimously.
- Secretary:  
Rowland nominated Peter as Secretary, seconded by Pat. Elected unanimously.
- Treasurer:  
Rowland nominated Rolf as Treasurer, second by Riad. Elected unanimously.
- Publicity Officer: Carried over to 2008 as no nominees accepted the role. In the interim, Gwenda will coordinate with Cr Cooper to discuss options with Council early in 2008.

Members present thanked the outgoing office-bearers (Riad (present) and Harpal and Brett (in absentia)) for their contributions to the Network during 2007.

## 8. Plans for 2008

- Ideas for 2008
  - Meeting dates proposed for first three meetings of the year:
    - § 4 February – Gwenda to seek a presentation by either the Buddhist or Hindu communities.
    - § 7 April
    - § 2 June
  - Visits need to continue in 2008:  
Buddhist Community in Tecoma, Hindu Community in The Basin, Sacred Space at Knox Private Hospital. Gwenda to make enquiries.
- Victorian Multicultural Commission grants close 20 December 2007. Rowland proposed any action under this be delegated to the Committee for consideration. Pat suggested the Network might be able to put out a CD with stories from each of the major faith communities.
- The World Parliament of Religions will be held in 2009 – the Network needs to consider how it might interact with this major event.

## 9. Any Other Matter of Common Interest

- Location for Meetings in 2008
  - Gwenda reported that the Janssen Spirituality Centre could be considered as a venue for meetings of the Knox Inter-faith Network. Discussion showed a clear preference by Network members for remaining at the Council for meetings in 2008.

The meeting ended at 10:25 p.m.