

Victoria Multifaith Society AGM

Nov. 6 2016, Victoria, BC



AGM Agenda

- Welcome
- Devotional Prayer
- Minutes from last AGM
- Board elections
- Annual Activity Report
- Treasurer's Report – Financial Statements
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Refreshments
- Special Topics & Upcoming Activities

Devotional Prayer



Sufi Prayer for Peace

Bismillah-i-Rahminir-Rahim

Send Thy peace, O Lord, which is perfect and everlasting,
that our souls may radiate peace.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may think, act,
and speak harmoniously.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may be contented
and thankful for Thy bountiful gifts.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that amidst our worldly strife
we may enjoy thy bliss.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that we may endure all,
tolerate all in the thought of thy grace and mercy.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, that our lives may become a
divine vision, and in Thy light all darkness may vanish.

Send Thy peace, O Lord, our Father and Mother, that we
Thy children on earth may all unite in one family.

Amen.

**The Prayers of Hazrat
Pir-o-Murshid Inayat Khan**

Review of last AGM Minutes

- **Board elections:**

- Ali Hemani Muslim board member
- Sheila Flood Baha'i board member
- Christine Johnston Unitarian board member
- Rev. John Steele Christian board member
- Sridevi Ganti Elected as Hindu board member
- Tom Hunsburger Buddhist board member
- Parminder Virk Sikh board member
- Neal Wasser Jewish board member

- **Treasurer's report**

- Motion and vote passed to accept Treasurer's report

- **Annual Activity Report**

- Outline of annual activity of the Society provided by outgoing VMS Chair Sharon Welsh

Board Membership Updates

- Christian board member John Steele resigned - replaced by **Malcolm Read**
- Buddhist board member Thomas Hunsburger resigned - replaced by **Janine Theobald**
- Jewish board member Neal Wasser replaced by **Shoshana Litman**
- Sikh board member Parminder Virk recently stepped down; ***seat vacant***
- First Nations board member ***seat vacant***

Board Structure

Ali Hemani – Chair

Sheila Flood – Secretary

Christine Johnstone – Treasurer

Board recommendations for election:

Acting Christian Board Member – Malcolm Read

Acting Jewish Board Member – Shoshana Litman

Acting Buddhist Board Member – Janine Theobald

Sikh Board Member – vacant

First Nations Board Member - vacant

Annual Report - Board Planning Activity

1. Development of a new VMS Board Terms of Reference
2. Annual planning exercise:
 - Confirm Vision, Mission and Objectives of VMS
 - Planning assumptions
 - Resourcing constraints
 - Deliverables and outcomes for Year 1 and subsequent years

VMS Vision

Vision

- Our goals: to learn from one another, to celebrate our unity in diversity, and to work respectfully together for the well-being of the community and the world.



Our Objectives

Key Objectives:

- To demonstrate that people of faith can work respectfully together
- To be a resource for the community by:
 - Responding to emergent humanitarian issues which impact on relationships between communities of Faith
 - Liaising with and providing resources to those wanting information and educational material on multifaith perspectives and social issues
- To increase engaged and committed membership

A dream
becomes a goal
when action is
taken toward
achieving it...

Annual Report - Activity Updates

VMS Sponsored Events:

- Family Faith Fair (UN Interfaith Harmony Week) – Feb 2016
- Youth Discussion on Islam: Current Issues - May 2016
- One Spirit, Multifaith Evening – Sept 2016
- Multifaith Lunch & Learn series – Sept/Oct 2016

VMS Collaborative Events:

- Spirit of Health Conference (with Uvic) – Oct. 2015
- Reconnect session (with Beth Gibson -First Church of Christ, Scientist) April 2016
- World Partnership Walk (with Ismaili community) - May 2016
- UN Peace Day (with Unity Church) – Sept 2016

UN Interfaith Harmony Week – VMS Family Faith Fair

Objectives:

- Raise awareness among families of the beauty and vitality of our faith communities
- Provide an informal forum to interact and share information on beliefs and practices

Venue: Cadboro Bay United Church

Date: Feb. 7, 2016

Attendance: 150+

Outcome:

- Eight world faiths were represented at the colourful fair exhibits at Cadboro Bay United Church.
- The event raised awareness of the other faith communities and their values
- **Raised \$1180** for the CBUC's Syrian refugee sponsorship program.



Interfaith Youth Session

Objectives:

- Opportunity to engage the youth in our faith communities in conversations about different faiths and topics
- Facilitated by Dr. Farouq Mitha

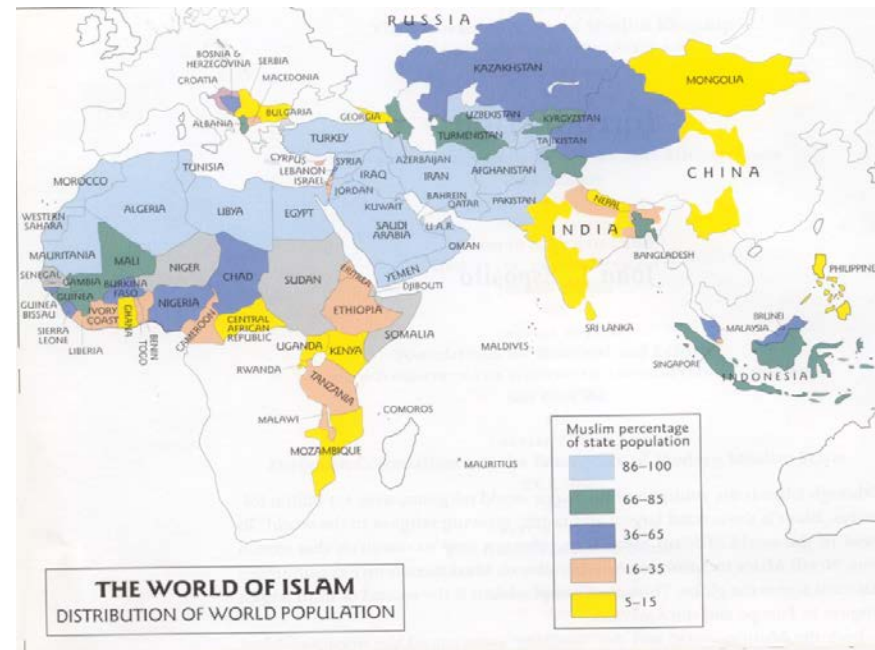
Venue: Ismaili Jamatkhana

Date: May 15, 2016

Attendance: 30

Outcome:

- Discussion with youth of historical context for some of the conflict between Sunni and Shia Muslim groups
- Start of dialogue and understanding of root causes



World Partnership Walk

Objectives:

- The World Partnership Walk, sponsored by the Ismaili community, is Canada's largest annual event dedicated to raising funds and increasing awareness to fight global poverty.
- An opportunity to engage our faith communities and networks in an issue of social justice.

Venue: Uvic

Date: May 29, 2016

Attendance: 2000+

Outcome:

- Demonstrated solidarity with other faith and community groups in support of development projects to fight global poverty.
- Every dollar we raise together is helping to bring hope to people and communities who need it the most.
- **Raised \$1160** on VMS Team page.



UN International Day of Peace

Objectives:

- Day-long celebration of the UN International Day of Peace with music, food, educational displays and activities for all the family.

Venue: Centennial Square

Date: Sept. 21, 2016

Attendance: 150 – 200

Outcome:

- Demonstrated solidarity with other faith groups for support of International Peace objectives
- Raised awareness of VMS goals and objectives
- Added to membership and email list



One Spirit – Multifaith Evening

Objectives:

- Celebrate the diversity of six of the great faiths of the world through the arts, all in celebration of the One Spirit that unites us all

Venue: Hindu Parishad & Cultural Centre

Date: Sept. 24, 2016

Attendance: 100

Outcome:

- Six world faiths were represented and shared devotional songs, poetry in praise of God
- The event raised awareness of the other faith communities and their cultural traditions of devotional worship through song and poetry





Lunch & Learn - Multifaith Thursdays

Objectives:

- An educational opportunity for community members to learn more about the major faiths of the world and ask questions

Venue: Christ Church Cathedral

Date: Sept. 29 – Oct. 27, 2016

Attendance: 40–50 per session

Speakers:

Sept. 29	Introduction: Dr Michael Hadley
Oct. 6	Islam: Imam Ismail Mohamed Nur
Oct. 13	Christianity: Rev. Ansley Tucker
Oct. 20	Unitarian: Rev. Shana Lynngood
Oct. 27	Bahá'í Faith: Garry Antinuk



Special Acknowledgements

A special vote of thanks to:

- All our board members and their families
- Jim Flood – website, IT and logistics support
- Sudhakar Ganti – A/V support for events
- ICA for their constant support and help with publicizing our events
- Last but not least – to each of the participating faith communities for helping to promote our events and supporting the vision of VMS!

Treasurer Report

Financial Statement:

- Revenues
- Expenses
- Bank Balance
- Filings





Victoria Multifaith Society

To learn from one another, to celebrate our unity in diversity, to work together for the well-being of the community and the world.

Stakeholder Engagement

- 7th Inning Stretch!
- Meet your Neighbour
- Introductions
- What's going well?/
Where can we improve?
- Open Floor: Get Jazzed!





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What does 'Multifaith' mean to you?





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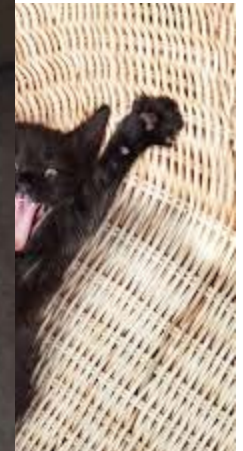
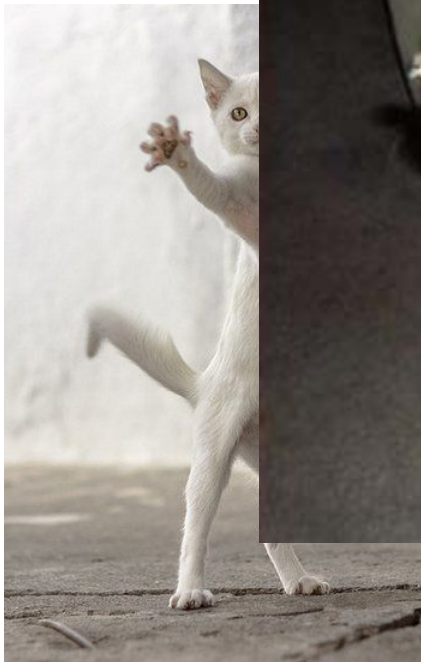
- What went well?
- Where can we improve?





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JAZZ HANDS!

Social Time



Special Requests for Topics

The following are special requests for upcoming topics:

- **How different religions respond to environmental concerns** - (Rev Dr) Adela Torchia
- **Living Well Dying Well** – Kim Holl
 - Hosting a Community Conversation
- **Elder Abuse Prevention** – BC CRN
- **Housing for Refugees** – ICA Elie Kozma
 - follow up on possible presentations to our respective faith communities for assistance

VMS Resources

Membership - \$10

Website:

<http://victoriamultifaith.com/wp/>

Contact email:

victoriamultifaith@gmail.com

VMS Calendar of Events:

[https://www.calendarwiz.com/VMS Calendar](https://www.calendarwiz.com/VMS%20Calendar)