Victoria Multifaith Society AGM
Nov. 26 2017, Victoria, BC
AGM Agenda

• Welcome & Devotional Prayer
• Review of Minutes from last AGM
• Treasurer’s Report – Financial Statements
• Board Governance Structure & Elections
• Annual Activity Report
• Special Topics & Upcoming Activities

Refreshments

• Special Session: Living Well, Dying Well – Kim Holl
Devotional Prayer
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.
Review of last AGM Minutes

• **Board Membership & Election Results:**
  – Ali Hemani .................. Muslim board member
  – Sheila Flood .................. Baha’i board member
  – Christine Johnston .......... Unitarian board member
  – Sridevi Ganti ................. Hindu board member
  – Malcolm Read ................ Elected Christian board member
  – Janine Theobald .............. Elected Buddhist board member
  – Shoshana Litman ............. Elected Jewish board member
  – Vacant ........................ Sikh 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 VMS Chair & Board Members
Stakeholder Engagement
Treasurer Report

Financial Statement:
- Revenues
- Expenses
- Bank Balance
- Filings

Christine
Board Membership Updates

– Christian board member Malcolm Read has resigned - **Henri Lock** is currently the acting member

– Sikh board member Parminder Virk has returned and is currently the acting member

– First Nations representative **seat is still vacant**
Board Structure & Elections

Ali Hemani – Chair
Sheila Flood – Secretary
Christine Johnstone – Treasurer

Board recommendations for election:
• Acting Christian Board Member – Henri Lock
• Acting Sikh Board Member – Pam Virk
Partnerships:

• Victoria Interfaith Liaison Network (ILN)
  – Aligned mandates
  – Members represent leadership from specific faith congregations
  – Also focused on service projects and shared activity

• Collaboration & partnership with UVic Multifaith Services & the UVic Interfaith Student Association
  – Annual UN Interfaith Week Event
  – Access to devotional space on campus and student interests
New MOU between VMS & ILN

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between VMS & Interfaith Liaison Network (ILN):

• Agreement to:
  – Consult, advise, and collaborate on planned initiatives
  – Coordinate communication channels
  – Share & pool resources

Governance Structure:

Rationale:
• Builds VMS capacity
• Engagement with faith communities is deeper & more inclusive
• Ability to resource more events & projects
• A more coherent voice
1. Annual planning:
   – Confirm Programming objectives – aligned with mandate
   – Review planning assumptions & capacity constraints
   – Distinguish between active \textit{VMS sponsored events} and more passive \textit{collaborative faith community events}

2. Key Milestones and Accomplishments: (traction)
   – \textbf{Growing a resource of “vetted” speakers} from a number of faith groups
   – \textbf{Liaisons & partnerships} with other faith groups & organizations
   – \textbf{Growing membership & distribution list} for outreach programs & events
   – \textbf{Annual Recurring Programming} – Keynote events & education series running for 2 years
   – \textbf{Implementation of tools}: social media, website, outreach calendar, & eventually a CRM
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
Lunch & Learn Part 2 - Multifaith Thursdays

Pam

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: Jan. 19 – Feb. 16, 2017

Attendance: 40–50 per session

Speakers:

Jan. 19 Judaism: Shoshana Litman
Jan. 26 Hinduism: Sridevi Ganti
Feb. 2 Buddhism: Wayne Codling
Feb. 9 Sikhism: Parminder Virk
Feb. 16 First Nations – Blanket Exercise
UN Interfaith Harmony Week – Collaboration Event with UVic MFS

Objectives:

• Raise awareness of the diversity of our faith communities and highlight our shared values.
• Provide a forum to interact and share ethics, beliefs and how each faith needs to approach current challenges faced

Venue: University of Victoria

Date: Feb. 5, 2017

Attendance: 180+

Outcome:

• Eight world faiths were represented by the extremely passionate and articulate panelists who spoke to the theme of what their faith needs to “heal the world”
• The event raised awareness of each faith community’s ethics, values, and their approach to face the key challenges today.
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 campus

Date: May 28, 2017

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 $1955 on VMS Team page.
Travel the World Religions

Objectives:

• An opportunity to learn from and mingle with people of other religions within their places of worship and congregation.

• Tear down the barriers of misconception & ignorance.

Date: June 2017 - Feb. 2018

Attendance: 20 – 50 per session

Destinations:

1. Chabad Centre for Jewish Life and Learning – June 5

2. Zen Buddhism Centre – July 6
   “Meditation with a Whiff of Zen”

Janine
Travel the World Religions

Objectives:

• An opportunity to learn from and mingle with people of other religions within their places of worship and congregation.

• Tear down the barriers of misconception & ignorance.

Date: June 2017 - Feb. 2018

Attendance: 100 – 200 per session

Destinations:

3. Hindu Temple – Sept. 16
   – Six world faiths represented and shared devotional songs, poetry in praise of God

   – The “Gathering” – a celebration of the teachings and 200th anniversary of Bahá’u’lláh – the founder of the Bahai faith.
Upcoming Events

• **World Interfaith Harmony week event,**
  – Sunday Feb. 4\(^{th}\) - Uvic David Lam Auditorium

• **2018 Lunch & Learn series: Multifaith Perspectives on Modern Issues (Jan. 18 - Feb. 15)**
  – What: Scriptural Reasoning Series – 1 theme / week
  – When: A weekly panel on Thursday Noon – 1 pm
  – Who: Rotating panelists from different faith groups
  – Where: Christ Church Cathedral
Upcoming Events

• **2018 Living Well, Dying Well series**
  – Where: Sanctuary *1600 Cook St.* at the corner of Mason.
  – When: Sundays 2 to 4 p.m.
    21 January, 18 Feb., 25 March, 22 April and 27 May.

• **Travel the World Religions:** (Dates TBD)
  – Muslim, Sikhism, Christian
A special vote of thanks to:

• All our board members and their supportive families
• Jim Flood – Website, IT, and logistics support
• Sudhakar Ganti – A/V support for events
• ICA for their support and help with publicizing our events
• UVic Multifaith Services & the Victoria Interfaith Liaison Network
• Last but not least – to each of the participating faith communities for helping to promote our events and supporting the vision of VMS!
VMS Resources & Membership

Individual Membership - $10
Faith Group membership - $50

Website:
http://victoriamultifaith.com/wp/

Online membership registration is now available.

Contact email:
victoriamultifaith@gmail.com

Facebook: Victoria Multifaith Society
Social Time