

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.

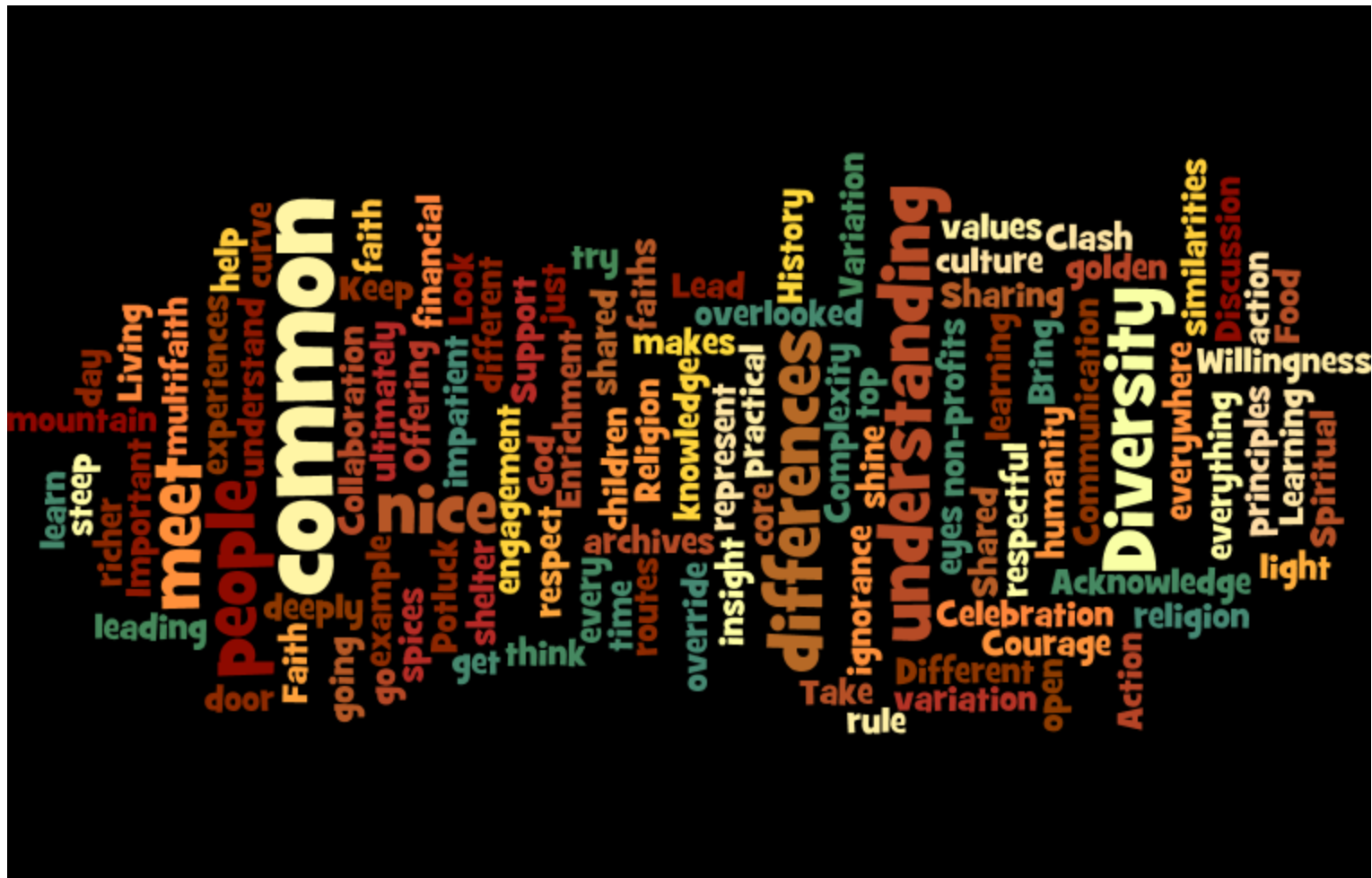


Review of last AGM Minutes

- **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

Janine



Treasurer Report

Christine

Financial Statement:

- Revenues
- Expenses
- Bank Balance
- Filings



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

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

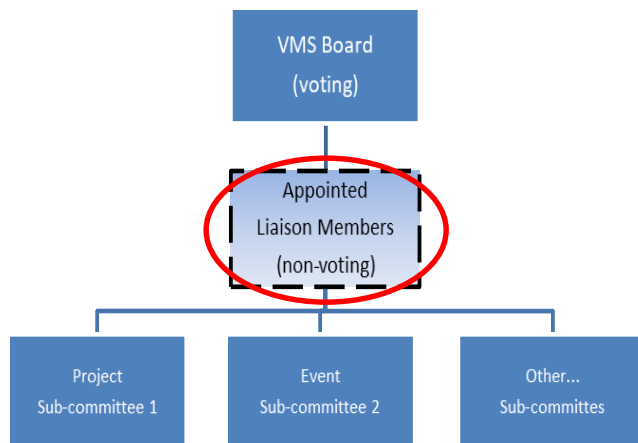
New MOU between VMS & ILN

Beth & Ali

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

Board Planning Activity

1. Annual planning:
 - Confirm Programming objectives – aligned with mandate
 - Review planning assumptions & capacity constraints
 - Distinguish between active *VMS sponsored events* and more passive *collaborative faith community events*
2. Key Milestones and Accomplishments: (traction)
 - **Growing a resource of “vetted” speakers** from a number of faith groups
 - **Liaisons & partnerships** with other faith groups & organizations
 - **Growing membership & distribution list** for outreach programs & events
 - **Annual Recurring Programming** – Keynote events & education series running for 2 years
 - **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

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



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

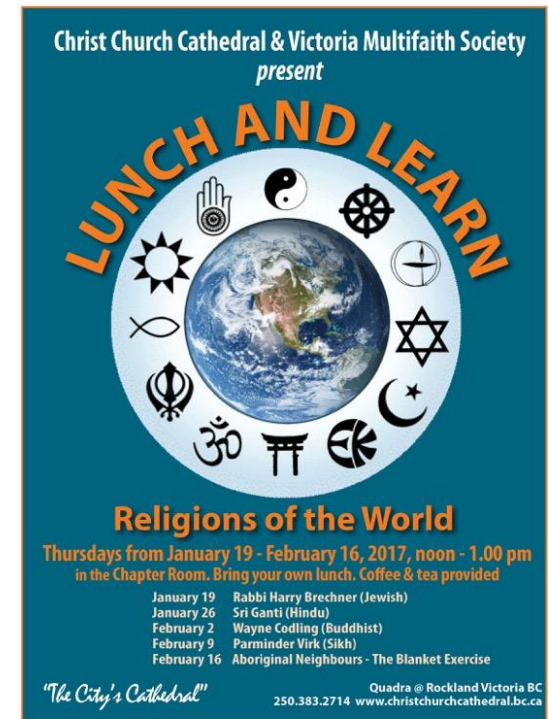
Venue: Christ Church Cathedral

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

Christine

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

Sri & Ali

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

Janine

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”



Travel the World Religions

Janine

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

4. Bahai – Oct. 20 - 22

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



Upcoming Events

Sheila

- **World Interfaith Harmony week event,**
 - Sunday Feb. 4th - 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

Sheila

- **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

Special Acknowledgements

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

