

**‘Towards Integration for Mission’
Meetings of Spirituality Link Persons
and Justice Peace Core Team
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2-4 November 2017**

The Meeting of the GSAPJP Core Team and all the Unit link persons for Spirituality in Asia Pacific took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 2-4 November 2017. This meeting was part of the process initiated by the Asia Pacific Circle (APC) of unit leaders towards integration for mission. The meeting was ably facilitated by Ms Theresa Symons of Malaysia, who is also Regional Manager of the Mission Development Office, Asia Pacific. Theresa led the group into an integrative understanding.



Left to right

Front row - Theresa Symons, Magdalena Rini, Lucy Aung Sian Zam, Rebecca Kay Thi Oo, Niluka Perera, Taskila Nicholas

Back row - Regina Kuizon, Arlene Manoharan, Mary Anne Perera, Joan Lopez, Maria Lourdes Fabia, Hyun Ae Sun, Caroline Price, Deanna Pereira, Virginia Kim, Theresa Mandakath, Paula Rainbow, Sabina Pathrose, Jane Ng, Therese Meera Mathew

Process of contemplative listening and learning

From the start the group was invited to enter into process of “contemplative listening and learning”- how we could listen to and learn from each other, learn from the past, and envision a new future.

Clarifying current roles

The first day was devoted to getting to know each other and finding out what roles the groups play in Asia Pacific. The group had the opportunity to review existing role descriptions for unit link persons for justice and spirituality, and we reflected on whether these were appropriate for the times, and for the future. This was an important step because as the groups worked, a level of confusion about the role descriptions became clear.

A key question

An important question throughout was:

What future integrative structure might be needed – that was clear and adequate.



Caroline, Lourdes, Lucy, Regina

Good Shepherd response to realities

Our second day was devoted to identifying the reality we experience in the world around us, in our units and in the Asia Pacific region; part of this day's work included identifying the response of Good Shepherd to these realities - at Congregational, regional and unit levels. It was a sobering and reflective journey for all of us.

Challenges within both teams

We were then invited to identify issues and problems in the work of both teams. We looked at the "tree" of APJP Core Team, and the "tree" of the Spirituality network. And, what was happening at the roots, and to the leaves and branches as a result. Again, a sobering reality emerged. We identified the Core Problems, and the root causes that hamper our effectiveness for mission.

Challenged to go deeper, let go, be open to new

Reflection and listening together was important. While similarities emerged, the Core Problems were different. This was how it was up to now. Through the excellent facilitation of Theresa Symons, we were challenged to go deeper, to let go of whatever formed the past, and to be open to the new. How do we create a healthy "tree" for Good Shepherd in Asia Pacific into the future?



Magdalena, Paula, Therese Meera, Joan, Taskila

What is emerging

On day three we plunged into the process of identifying what is emerging, *the new, and a way forward* - even though we may not know fully what it means. Our deliberations will be shared with the Temporary Working Group set up by the APC that will meet in Indonesia in January 2018. And from there the APC will discern and come to a decision.

Our deep hope

Our deep hope is that whatever emerges will give birth to a clear knitting together of justice and peace with spirituality for the sake of mission, and that formation and working in partnership will enable Good Shepherd in Asia Pacific to be strong and risk together for mission!

Documentation

The documentation was shared with all participants. This will be compiled by Sr Deanna Pereira (CE India/Nepal), who is on the Temporary Working Group, and who will present it to the group in 2018.

Gratitude to our hosts!

Our thanks to the Province of Singapore/Malaysia for hosting this meeting, and to the community at Madonna Heights for their wonderful welcome and hospitality!

*Submitted by Caroline Price rgs (Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand)
7 November 2017*



Paula and Caroline