



**MCGILL OFFICE  
OF RELIGIOUS AND  
SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**MULTI  
FAITH NETWORK**

**Report of MORSL's Winter Multi-Faith Network Meeting -- Thursday October 14, 2021**

## Part one: Welcome and introductions

### Members present.

1. Chloe Liu (GCF)
2. Babatunde Alli (PGSS)
3. Cassie Powell (P2C)
4. Fr Anthony Atansi (Newman staff)
5. Ariel Pan (NCSS)
6. Daniel Klingelhofer (ISM staff)
7. Seb Lee (IVCF staff)
8. Juss Kaur (Sikh)
9. Ariella Ben Ezra (Hillel staff)
10. Alexandre Evans (Baha'i)
11. Elisheva Eisenberg (Hillel)
12. Candice Wendt (LDS staff)
13. Olivia Bala (LDS, written report)
14. Carlene Gardner-MORSL
15. Mathew Birgen-MORSL

### Regrets and Absences of reps from

1. SSMU
2. MCGSS
3. MCSS
4. A&P
5. Am McGill
6. Chabad
7. Challah for Hunger
8. Dharma Society
9. Falun Dafa
10. IJV
11. Ismaili
12. MSA
13. McGill Chavurah
14. OCF
15. Quakers
16. St.Martha's
17. TMA

## Part two: Updates

### Group updates (highlights and challenges)

1. Newman Catholic students-Ariel Pan
  - Resumed in person activities.
  - Currently focusing on rebuilding internal structures.
  - Challenge (s): Staffing challenge around COVID-19 regulations to hosting safe events.
2. International Student fellowship-Danielle Klingelhofer
  - Resumed meeting in person at café Ambrose.
  - They do Bi-weekly Bible studies, sports group, pumpkin carvings, apple picking, etc.
  - Challenge(s): How to navigate the requirements on vaccine passport for in person meeting.
3. Intervarsity- Sebastian Lee.
  - They resumed in person activities. They do Bible studies in English and French.
  - Challenge(s): Navigating COVID regulations.
4. McGill Graduate students' fellowship-Chloe Liu.
  - Weekly in-person Bible studies, life discussions, they are seeing numbers growing.
  - Challenge(s): programs promotion has been a challenge. How can PGGS help?

5. Hillel-Ariella Ben Ezra and Elisheva Eisenberg.

- In person holiday celebrations in September.
- In person programming resumed as well as their weekly meetings.
- They have plans of running dinner events in the synagogues. Events that are open to all.
- Challenge(s): They are experiencing a hard time finding space for in person gathering. Their current building is under renovations.
- Difficulty connecting with SSMU as regarding new space.

6. Sikh Students- Juss Kaur.

- Challenges in connecting with fellow members-lockdown changed most of their programming. Leaders got more responsibilities added.
- Students are busy.
- Suggestion: Is there a possibility for interfaith gathering among the various groups?

7. PGSS-Babatunde Alli.

- Thompson house is open and running-vaccine passport a requirement.
- Individuals/groups can book spaces at the house.
- Pgss is currently doing hybrid programming e.g. language cafes.

8. Newman center-Fr. Anthony Atansi

- The center has social/spiritual/intellectual programing.
- The center is almost back to full normalcy. They have Sunday mass.
- They had a retreat for students in September.
- Daily and Sunday liturgical activities.
- The library is also running and is open to all.
- Social programming ongoing and actively run by the NCSA.

9. Baha'i –Alexander Evans

- Open devotional-They are currently meeting outdoors.
- Celebration: There is a large number of Baha'i students at McGill this year.
- Challenge(s): They have no space to meet especially in the winter.

10. LDS- Candice Wendt and Olivia Bala.

- Involved in speaking at an interfaith gathering.
- Participation in food drives
- Providing support students during this pandemic time.
- Resumed in person Bible studies
- They are planning to help at women's shelters and the homeless shelters.
- Participation in bishop's storehouse with the purpose of distributing food to families in need.

11. P2C-Cassie Powell.

- Resumed in person activities, weekly Bible studies, etc.
- Challenge(s): Navigating COVID 19 regulations by SSMU.

## 12. MORSL-Carlene Gardner.

- We are currently doing our programming virtually.
- We have a quiet space that individuals can use by appointment.
- We will soon start in person programming as we have received permission to.
- We have a cohort of 18 students attending the Parliament of the World's Religions.

## Part Three: Round Table on Collaborative Initiatives

Topic: Interfaith dialogue and support for student activities.

Summary of discussion outcomes:

- The need for interfaith activities is timely. Key to interfaith events is to showcase the different religious traditions
- Activities/interfaith events should focus on small group discussion. This helps promote interaction and conversation among students from various religions. Interfaith events should not just be about panel discussion but bring in students' participation.
- The event is recommended for winter semester. It should include some tabling.
- MORSL to help with the coordination of these interfaith activities.
- Outreach; MORSL's to help in organizing a faith-club based activities night to raise visibility of the clubs and encourage engagement, while encouraging interfaith harmony.

## Closing remarks

- A suggestion to MORSL to provide some training on how have a meaningful interfaith dialogue.
- PGSS will pursue the possibility of advertising and promoting MORSL as a place where students can come, to be connected to the various clubs of their choice.
- Café Ambrose is open for booking a study space. A donation for anytime you use the space is encouraged.
- Re-entering the campus life: Ways to return to in person campus life after a year long of remote connection.
- Desire to hold more frequent meetings that are informal, not focused on reports and business

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting ended at 6:30 pm.