

Letter sent to District Inter Faith Officers

19 May 2009

Direct line 020 7467 5176
E-mail: barrowj@methodistchurch.org.uk

I want to update you on some of the developments that have taken place since my last letter.

On July 6th, the Monday evening of the Methodist Conference, there will be an Inter Faith Relations fringe event at St Peters House, Exchange Street, Wolverhampton WW1 1TS, which is in the centre of Wolverhampton and only a few minutes walk from the Conference Hall. The event will be held from 7.30 p.m. until 9.00 p.m., preceded by a buffet meal. The title of the evening will be 'Inter Faith Relations in the 21 Century: the continuing journey. '

The aim of the evening is to enable those present to gain a greater understanding of Inter Faith Relations in today's world. I very much wanted to include a variety of women's voices and I delighted that speakers from five different faith communities have agreed to participate. The following are confirmed speakers at the event: Dr Deirdre Burke, Gopinder Kaur, Amra Bone, Ramona Kauth and Santosh Kundi. There will be the opportunity for informal conversation with the speakers both during the buffet meal and later in the evening. I hope that, if you are at Conference on the evening of July 6th, you will be able to attend the event.

July 6th will also see the launch of the new Inter Faith Relations leaflet, which is at the printers as I type this letter. If you want a copy before then, I will have a supply with me at the forthcoming MWM conference on Muslim-Christian dialogue from June 5th-7th at Swanwick. After my last letter, I hope that several of you have booked to attend all or some of the conference. I realise that June 5th-7th is a weekend and many of you have preaching commitments, but if you are in the locality I would encourage you to try and attend at least on the Saturday when speakers will include Dr Ataullah Siddiqui, Principal of the Markfield Institute of Higher Education in Leicester who will be accompanied by some of the College's Muslim students. Further details of the conference are available at www.mwm.org.uk.

During the MWM Conference there will be an informal meeting of District Inter Faith Link People (previously known as Advisors) to discuss what you would find helpful for me to include your Conference in October. If you are not going to be at the MWM Conference, could you please let me know by e-mail and before June 7th what you would find helpful to be included in your October conference.

I am presently revising the Inter Faith Relations pages on the Methodist Church website and these should be on-line before the Methodist Conference. I hope that it will be possible to include a blog so that I can keep you up to date on Inter Faith events and situations on a regular basis.

I am enclosing a copy of the internationally respected journal 'Interreligious Insight: a journal of dialogue and engagement' that the World Congress of Faiths kindly donated to the Inter Faith Relations Office. There is also a copy of the latest World Congress of Faiths leaflet giving details of forthcoming events and an opportunity join the World Congress of Faiths and to subscribe to the journal. At the moment World Congress of Faiths has a special offer of free subscription in 2008 if you sign a standing order.

I hope that I will be able to meet many of you at the MWM Conference in June and the Inter Faith Relations event on July 6th. Further details of the October Conference will be included in my next letter that I will send in July after the Methodist Conference. In the meantime, please let me know what you would find helpful to be included in your conference in October.

Each of you provides a vital link between the Connexional Office and the Districts and I am very appreciative of the work that you do in order to facilitate the relationship.

With best wishes,

Dr Joy Barrow
Inter Faith Relations Officer
Methodist Church in Britain