

# DISABILITY SPIRITUALITY AND FAITH NETWORK

## AIMS AND OBJECTS

1. TO ENCOURAGE AND PROMOTE DIALOGUE WITHIN AND BETWEEN THE FAITH AND DISABILITY COMMUNITIES
2. TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR DISABILITY COMMUNITIES TO EXPLORE SPIRITUALITY
3. TO ADVOCATE FOR DISABILITY ISSUES WITHIN FAITH COMMUNITIES
4. TO ENGAGE IN THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON DISABILITY WITHIN AOTEAROA NZ
5. TO PROMOTE DISCUSSION ON ETHICAL ISSUES INCLUDING THOSE THAT AFFECT HUMAN RIGHTS (To identify and discuss the ethical and human rights issues impacting on people with disabilities.)

<i>Aim #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Resource</i>
<b>General Active Issues</b>			
1	Continue dialogue within the network	we are!	Council Meetings Email
1	Start bulletin board (for members only) on Internet site with monthly topics i.e. "Things that have helped us in regards disability and spirituality". Email notice of topic around network. Mail newsletter to those not on web.	yes, we have a Yahoo group but it is not very active, Who would come up with the topic and moderate the discussion?	Web group
4	Who to do theological reflection with, and how?	We do it when we talk on faith and spirituality amongst ourselves in community	Always a work in progress
<b>Project: Disability Awareness Sunday</b>			
1	Promote disability Sunday	Rhonda and Vicki have provided material for Web site. Vicki will promote in Anglican areas. Pam has written letters to CFFD, Methodists and draft letter to the Anglicans. Vicki to develop resources to go with the lectionary. DSF to send letters out to Churches about a month before outlining what Disability Awareness Sunday is, and including DSF resources.	Web Site Contacts Database

Aim #	Description	Notes	Resource
<b>Project: Spiritual Resource Anthology</b>			
1	Publish/circulate/draw attention to published material	<p>Apart from the brochure and the Proceedings, what else? Where and how to draw attention to them.</p> <p>The proceedings have been received electronically for publishing on the web.</p> <p>The resources book/web project may part answer this</p>	<p>Brochure Proceedings Web Site Spiritual Resource Project</p>
3	Encourage relationship building and awareness of disabilities within faith communities	<p>Name the communities, building a relationship by whom. Needs further definition</p> <p>Spiritual Resource could be the starting point for this.</p>	Spiritual Resource Project
3	Education around understanding disabilities that are present in faith community	Who can do this? Education can imply existing ignorance and be perceived as pejorative. Reword to “Increase understanding of disabilities within faith communities”?	<p>Spiritual Resource Project Web Group Email Personal Contacts</p>
3	Draw together resources to promote change as appropriate	<p>Spiritual Resource Project may go a long way to help this</p> <p>Disability Awareness Sunday resource for Lectionary</p>	<p>Spiritual Resource Project DAS project</p>
3	Don't reinvent the wheel, use what's out there	Absolutely – Spiritual Resource Anthology Project aims to do just that	Spiritual Resource project
5	Set up communications within networks	<p>What other networks?</p> <p>What concrete things do we have to communicate?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DSF Flyer</li> <li>- Disability Sunday resources</li> <li>- Spiritual Resource book/web</li> </ul>	<p>Contact Database Web &amp; paper Spiritual Resource project</p>
5	Identify existing resources for others to consider membership of	May be picked up in Spiritual Resources project	Spiritual Resource Project

<i>Aim #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Resource</i>
	<b>Project: Aims &amp; Objects</b>		
2	Set up group for reflection (May be useful to use the 'Monthly Topic" if defined, or define a topic	Our visioning statements might be a good place to start - reflect, brainstorm and tease out into meaningful actions?  Now an official Project!!!	<b>Complete</b>
3	Self examination – What has shaped our views?	Self awareness is good, but too much navel gazing does not progress make!	Council meetings. <b>A &amp; O project</b>
	<b>Telling Our Stories(A &amp; O sub project)</b>	<b>Invite DSF contact list, and any others who are interested) to write/email their stories.</b>	
1	Share personal stories	Ask people to submit their stories (after the Spiritual Resources project is well underway)  To be shared on web site	A & O Web site
3	Story telling to bring people together	Who will do? Who to ask	Web Site Contacts Database
1	Share our own journey with each other (our stories, our giftedness)	We have a forum but it is not being used ... Why?	Web group
	<b>Spreading the message (A &amp; O sub project)</b>		
1	Produce promotional materials, i.e. fliers, ideas for churches	We have the DSF network brochure  Promote AGM  Write to Churches in time for Disability Awareness Sunday and include resource pack  Advise members andorganisation of Spiritual Resource Anthology  I need contacts in Churches etc to send material to.	Brochure  DAW Project  Spiritual Resource Project  Contact Database

<i>Aim #</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Resource</i>
	<b>General Aims unallocated</b>		
1	Share resources e.g. panels from conference, stories from back of proceedings, banners, display board	With whom? I've been trying to get the conference proceedings on the web site for the last two years	Contact Database Web Site
1	Be available to speak to service providers re spirituality, faith communities re disability	How would SP know about us and us about them? Who would be able to talk on the issues?	
1	Have web site advertised at conferences etc	What conferences? Where else can we advertise and what are we advertising? Web-site needs a revamp!	
1	Organise regional discussion groups	good idea in theory but needs ideas and resources - anyone interested?	
2	Forums (email, Internet website, chatroom), workshops	Web group created but not very active. Attempts at a workshop on EDAM Interim Statement failed!	Web group
3	Overcoming patronising, and paternalistic/maternalistic attitudes/tendencies	How? Human Rights Awareness? Materials?	
3	Networking between people who share similar interests i.e. hobbies, arts, sports	How to determine the demographics and the participants? What format will the networking take? Who will do?	
3	Educating (and counseling) people to let go of the need to control	Who would do this? How would we identify those with a need to control.	
4	To encourage the network to engage in theological reflection. Council engages in process themselves, evaluates process for effectiveness and how it can be disseminated to network.	do we?? when, who, and how exactly do we do this?? Cathy to email what the term 'theological reflection' means in theological circles	
4	Do the theological colleges (papers) incorporate disability identity into discussions	who could find this out?	Vicki?
5	By using modern technology i.e. web groups	We are but it is not very active! Is this a lack of interest or are we missing something?	Web group