



SALT LAKE INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE

P.O. Box 112016 Salt Lake City, UT 84147-2016

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SALT LAKE INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR 2013-2014

The following appointments are effective Monday, May 6, 2013:

Rev. Fr. Elias Koucos, Board Chair

“First of all, I want to thank the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable Board for placing their faith in me by asking me to serve as their new Chair. I am truly humbled and honored to be serving in this capacity. I will have big shoes to fill as I follow the very capable and accomplished people who have performed so admirably in this capacity before me.”

Rev. Fr. Elias was one of the original members of the Salt Lake Winter Olympics Interfaith Roundtable, created in 1999, and is a member of the Roundtable Board. “Since the founding of the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable in 2002, we have experienced a steady growth in membership. This has helped lead to an increasing recognition of our interfaith work, in Utah and around the country. I especially appreciate that I have the assistance of past chairs and the current board to rely on as we continue forward in this very vital and worthwhile mission of inclusion and unity.”

Rev. Fr. Elias is a Utah native who was raised in Salt Lake. He has been an ordained clergyman for 20 years. He fulfilled his first three years of service in Pocatello, Idaho and has served the Salt Lake Greek Orthodox Church community for the last 17 years. In addition to his Pastoral responsibilities, he is the church’s Youth Director and is involved with the Boy Scout Council and Coalition of Religious Communities (CORC). He is also an Interfaith Advisor at the University of Utah.

He and his wife are the parents of two adult children.

Josie Stone, Board Vice Chair

Josie has chaired the Roundtable’s Interfaith Month Committee since 2011, a position she will retain in addition to her new duties. “I am very honored to be named Vice Chair of the Roundtable. I look forward immensely to continue working with our many diverse, talented, and giving members in this new capacity.”

Josie has lived in Utah for almost 10 years and is an active member of Salt Lake's St. Mark's Episcopal Church. She is a Registered Nurse and a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who has several years of experience in various medical fields. She owns her own educational consulting company, which provides clinical education and marketing programs to institutions both nationally and internationally.

Wendy J. Stovall, Board Secretary

Wendy has contributed to the Roundtable for several years as the Administrative Assistant. She and her husband Michael are the editors of "The Roundtable" newsletter, and members of the Roundtable Board. They have been involved with the Roundtable since 2006.

"I was very surprised and honored when I was asked if I would accept the nomination as Secretary for the Roundtable. I look forward to continuing the good work already accomplished by Elaine (Emmi)."

Wendy has participated in Interfaith/inter-denominational activities since 1993, when she was pastor for the local Unification Church, now known as the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. Her husband is currently the local pastor.

Indra Neelameggham, Treasurer

Indra is a Roundtable Board Member. She immigrated to the United States in 1983, and is known as Indramami or Indra Aunty to most young people of Indian heritage living in Utah. She and her husband Neale have been very involved in the Sri Ganesha Hindu Temple and India Cultural Center of Utah in South Jordan. She is much sought-after speaker on the subjects of Indian culture and Hinduism.

She is believed to be the first woman and the first Hindu to pray during the inauguration of a Utah governor. She offered the invocation during the inauguration of Gov. Gary Herbert on Jan. 7, 2013. "I thought it would be a little private ceremony in the governor's office." As it turned out, it was a big ceremony, attended by hundreds of people in the Capitol rotunda.

Alan S. Bachman, Community Outreach Chair

After serving as the Roundtable's Board Chair for the last three years, Alan is now looking forward to taking on the role of Community Outreach Chair.

In this newly created position, he will work on bringing new faith groups into the Roundtable, and assist with public relations with the various current member faiths. "After serving several years as Board Chair, I have a personal interest in wanting the mission of the Roundtable to be achieved: that of Peace and Harmony among the various faiths and belief systems."

The Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable

The Roundtable is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization consisting of over 220 individuals working to promote love, harmony, and an increased understanding among persons of all faith traditions, cultures, and belief systems everywhere.

Throughout the year, the Roundtable regularly co-sponsors a number of free community programs and events with the purpose of facilitating increased understanding through interfaith dialogue.

For donations or information about the Roundtable, annual Interfaith Month, and the Musical Tribute, please visit www.interfaithroundtable.org.