

Introduction to New AsIPA Texts on InterReligious Dialogue

In our Asian context, almost all our Small Christian Communities find themselves situated within other faith communities. In today's conflict ridden world we need dialogue more than ever. The dialogue that was called for by the Second Vatican Council and reverberated by the FABC many plenary assemblies. One very important aspect of Dialogue is the dialogue that takes place between neighbours of different faiths. The new AsIPA texts presented below are a first attempt at producing materials for SCCs to use to train themselves to understand and practice Interreligious Dialogue.

Part of the '**B**' Series (blue) on training for Small Christian Community members with their facilitators

B12A – A Common Ground for Interreligious Dialogue - Together we seek the One we long for.

In this first module we want to understand that no matter what our belief, the deep longing for God comes from the mysterious knowledge people have that only God provides the answers to the ultimate questions in our lives – the answers that we seek to the purpose of our lives and the meaning of our death.

B12B – Interreligious Dialogue and Small Christian Communities - An Integral part of the Evangelising Mission of the Church.

In this second module we would like to understand the place of Interreligious Dialogue in the evangelising mission of the Church and how it is distinct from Proclamation. This module is very long and can easily be divided into two or more sessions. Facilitators must give time for concepts to be fully explored and discussed.

B12C – What and Why Interreligious Dialogue.

In this third module we look more deeply into why we want to engage in Interreligious dialogue and the basic requirements for anyone engaging in IRD. This text is for a group of Catholics who want to enter into Interreligious Dialogue with their neighbours or colleagues. The session is a preparation for interreligious dialogue. It is very important that we understand what interreligious dialogue is and that we develop the skills needed for meaningful dialogue. We are very clear that this is not an academic or theological level of dialogue but dialogue of ordinary people in their everyday circumstances of life.

B12D – Listening with the Heart - Dialogue is speaking and deep listening.

In this module we want to become more aware of the way we speak about our faith, the different layers of feeling and thinking that make up our beliefs and also become more aware of how well and deeply we listen when someone is speaking.