

Sea of Faith Network (NZ) Questionnaire 2007

Please Note: Thank you for your willingness to consider this Sea of Faith questionnaire. Your National Steering Committee thinks it important at this time that we discover what you think about your SoF Network, so we can better plan the future.

Immediately below you'll find the Sea of Faith 'statement of purpose'. You may find it useful to refresh your memory before moving to the questionnaire.

In most questions you will be able to select from a range of 'scores' from 1 to 5 to indicate your strength of feeling about issues. Although we ask for some personal information for statistical purposes, we don't need to know your name. Now, please, go for it!

Return Address

If not collected at the SoF Conference, please post (*before 30 November*) to:

The Secretary, SoF Steering Committee, 138 Rata Street, Inglewood, Taranaki.

Sea of Faith Network (NZ)

A Statement of Purpose

The Sea of Faith Network is an association of people who have a common interest in exploring religious thought and expression from a non-dogmatic and human-oriented standpoint.

The Sea of Faith Network itself has no creed. It draws its members from people of all faiths and also from those with no attachment to religious institutions.

The Sea of Faith Network (NZ) therefore ...

AFFIRMS the continuing importance of religious thought and practice as a vehicle for awe and wonder and for the celebration of key social and spiritual values;

DRAWS freely upon our spiritual heritage without being bound by it;

PROMOTES the quest for meaning and fulfilment as a human activity;

PROVIDES encouragement, stimulation and support in fellowship with others engaged in the quest.

1. Personal [Required for statistical purposes only. You are not asked to identify yourself.]

1.1 Your home Town/City:

1.2 Age bracket

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<30	31-40	41-50	51-60	>60 years

1.3 Gender

1	2
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
female	male

1.4 Where do you put yourself on the spectrum:

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
feeling/emotive/ experiential			rational thinker/ intellectual	

1.5 Where do you put yourself on the spectrum:

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
materialist			mystical	

1.6 Do you call yourself a 'spiritual' person? If so, can you describe what you mean?

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1.7 What does the word 'faith' (e.g., as in our name) signify for you?

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
trust, life attitude			belief commitment	

Do you want to elaborate on the meaning of 'faith' for you?

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2. Membership of SoF

2.1 How long have you been a member of a local SoF (or similar) group?

1	2	3
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Less than one year	1 to 3 years	4 years or more

2.2 How long have you been a member of the National SoF Network?

1	2	3
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Less than one year	1 to 3 years	4 years or more

2.3 How did you feel SoF met your needs at the time your first joined?

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
a little			completely	

2.4 How do you feel SoF meets your needs now?

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
a little			completely	

2.5 Which of these words or phrases describe what SoF means to you?

[Tick every circle that applies.]

	1	2	3	4
a	<input type="radio"/> truth seeking	<input type="radio"/> spiritual home	<input type="radio"/> sectarian	<input type="radio"/> socially nurturing
b	<input type="radio"/> like minds	<input type="radio"/> intellectual growth	<input type="radio"/> socially responsible	<input type="radio"/> unfocussed
c	<input type="radio"/> peacemaking	<input type="radio"/> progressive	<input type="radio"/> harmonizing	<input type="radio"/> introverted
d	<input type="radio"/> just a talk shop	<input type="radio"/> provocative	<input type="radio"/> intellectual	<input type="radio"/> intolerant
e	<input type="radio"/> seeking justice	<input type="radio"/> closed shop	<input type="radio"/> liberating	<input type="radio"/> open to others
f	<input type="radio"/> tolerant	<input type="radio"/> inspirational	<input type="radio"/> unifying	<input type="radio"/> dogmatic
g	<input type="radio"/> integrating	<input type="radio"/> proactive	<input type="radio"/> life affirming	<input type="radio"/> interpreting the ultimate

2.6 If Sea of Faith (NZ) didn't exist, where would you go, or what would you do, to meet your needs?

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2.7 Is the SoF Network still relevant, or has it fulfilled its purpose for you?

	1	2	3	4	5
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	still relevant				now irrelevant

3. Sea of Faith — The Network

3.1 How do you rate these SoF institutions?

		1	2	3	4	5
3.1.1	Newsletter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		don't read	limited value			excellent value
3.1.2	SoF Website	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		don't use	limited value			excellent value
3.1.3	SoF Resource Centre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		don't use	limited value			excellent value
3.1.4	National Conference	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		don't go	limited value			excellent value
3.1.5	Local SoF Group (or equivalent)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
		don't belong	limited value			excellent value

3.2 What changes would you like to see in the SoF website or Newsletter?

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3.3 What other resources or functions of the Network would you most value?

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3.4 How do you feel about the 'Sea of Faith' as the descriptive name of our network?

	1	2	3	4	5
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
	poor				excellent

3.5 Do you have a suggestion for a new name for the Network?

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3.6 How well does the Sea of Faith 'Statement of Purpose' (see page 1) reflect who we are & what we do?

1 2 3 4 5
○ ○ ○ ○ ○
poorly perfectly

3.7 Should the SoF Network chart a direction for its future, or simply respond to changes in the wind. What score best describes your wish for a proactive or reactive organization?

1 2 3 4 5
○ ○ ○ ○ ○
reactive proactive

Any comment?

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.....

3.8 What changes would most increase your satisfaction with SoF?
[state when you mean local or national level]

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4. Conferences

4.1 The cost of national conferences, in venues, administration and travel, and finding a willing organizing group are seen as future issues. At present 'profit' on larger annual conferences supports the engagement of overseas speakers.

Please indicate your preference: (ie what would you most likely go to?)

1 2
○ ○
National Conference (alternating South/North Islands—as now) National Conference (fixed central location)
3 4
○ ○
Biennial National Conference Regional Conference (all local organization)

5. Content of SoF Programmes

5.1 How satisfied are you with the content of your Local Group programme?

1 2 3 4 5
○ ○ ○ ○ ○
dissatisfied perfectly satisfied

5.1.1 What is it about programme content you *dislike* most in your Local Group?

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5.1.2 What would you *like* for your Local Group?

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5.2 How satisfied are you with the content of the National Conferences?

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
dissatisfied			perfectly satisfied	

5.2.1 What is it about programme content you *dislike* most about what is offered, in general?

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5.2.2 What would you *like* for future Conferences? (include new topics)

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5.3 Please indicate on the range your instinctive preference from entirely language-based programme content (spoken & text) on the one hand, to non-verbal, symbolic content, i.e. music, dance, visual arts (count drama close to this end) on the other:

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
spoken language, text			non-verbal, arts	

5.4 Forms of ritual or liturgy form part of religious practice in all traditions. In Sea of Faith gatherings, do you see a place for new or experimental forms of ritual?

5.4.1 — in Local Group meetings

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
never				every gathering

5.4.2 — in National Conferences

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
never				every gathering

Make a comment on 5.4 if you like:

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5.5 Our 'Statement of Purpose' invites us to 'draw freely upon our spiritual heritage without being bound by it'. How do you feel about engagement with progressive/radical theology and practice of Christian and other world religions at National SoF Conference?

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
programme entirely non-sectarian			welcome all 'religious' exploration	

6. Public Relations and Publicity

6.1 Should we have a higher profile on public issues relating to our 'Statement of Purpose', e.g. critiquing Brian Tamaki's demand for NZ to define itself as 'Christian'? (The 'active lobbyist' role would include monitoring media, letters to editors, press releases, seeking interviews with journalists.)

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
no active PR			active lobbyist	

6.2 What do you think are the most effective means of publicity for increasing membership? (Members of Local Groups have to actively seek membership of the National Network.)

6.2.1 Your ideas for publicity for SoF at the local level:

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6.2.2 Your ideas for publicity for SoF at the National level:

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6.2.3 Your ideas for publicity for National Conference:

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6.2.4 How might SoF appeal to a younger age group?

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You have reached the End of the SoF 2007 Questionnaire!

*** Please check that you have attended to questions on both sides of each page.**

The Sea of Faith Steering Committee is very grateful for your time, thought, and expressions of opinion. We do want to know what you think about *your* SoF Network. *Thank you!*

Now, please ensure that your completed form is collected at Conference, or post promptly to:

The Secretary, SoF Steering Committee, 138 Rata Street, Inglewood, Taranaki, (*before 30 November*).