

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF LINN COUNTY--BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
Minutes from June 2, 2016

Members present: Erin Broich, Brian Daugherty, Susan Liddell, Brenda Mitchell, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Eugenia Vavra.

Guests: Jeremy Brigham, Chad Simmons.

In Todd Thalblum's absence, Hassan Selim presided over the meeting, which was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

INSPIRATION

Brian Daugherty presented the following inspiration:

The Prophets are like one single being. If you refuse one of them, you refuse them all... So, as the prophets recognize each other, if you don't admit one of them, it is as if you had admitted none of them. In fact, there's only One Light that appears through different windows and which reaches us through the person of each prophet. All of these lights stream from the same Sun. If you refuse a part of this light that shows that you're a bat. You're like a bat who says. "I am against this year's sun, but I accept last years." In fact, this year's and last year's sun are not different in any way. Whatever difference you think you perceive comes from the fact that you didn't really experience last year's sun. Jelaluddin Rumi

The purpose of the one true God, exalted be His glory, in revealing Himself unto men is to lay bare those gems that lie hidden within the mine of their true and inmost selves. That the divers communions of the earth, and the manifold systems of religious belief, should never be allowed to foster the feelings of animosity among men, is, in this Day, of the essence of the Faith of God and His Religion. These principles and laws, these firmly-established and mighty systems, have proceeded from one Source, and are the rays of one Light. That they differ one from the other is to be attributed to the varying requirements of the ages in which they were promulgated...Religious fanaticism and hatred are a world-devouring fire. Whose violence none can quench. The Hand of Divine power, can, alone, deliver mankind from this desolating affliction... Bahà'u'llàh

The basis of the teaching of Bahà'u'llàh is the Unity of Mankind, and His greatest desire was that love and goodwill should live in the heart of men.

As He exhorted the people to do away with strife and discord, so I wish to explain to you the principal reason of the unrest among nations. The chief cause is the misrepresentation of religion by the religious leaders and teachers. They teach their followers to believe that their own form of religion is the only one pleasing to God, and that followers of any other persuasion are condemned by the All-Loving Father and deprived of His Mercy and Grace. Hence arise

among the peoples. Disapproval, contempt, disputes and hatred. If these religious prejudices could be swept away, the nations would soon enjoy peace and concord. **Abdu'l-Bahà,**

Paris Talks 1911

GUEST INFORMATION

Chad Simmons reported having a flood resiliency conversation with Homeland Security member Dr. Jannah Scott.

He gave a report regarding an annual event in Elkader, IA, which focuses on the life of Emir Abd el-Kader, after whom the town is named. The town plans to move the event to Cedar Rapids, and it will be held the week of Sept 24. Chad asked if we would consider sponsoring the event. Because we did not have a quorum, no decision on sponsorship was made. This may be a topic for discussion in the September meeting.

Jeremy Brigham gave an update on lowans for Gun Safety. He asked if places of worship would be interested in participating in a musical event, The Concert Across America, on September 25. These will be concerts to remember the victims of gun violence. Again, no decision was made.

BUSINESS

Because we did not have a quorum, reports were given but no action was taken on them. They will need to be approved or corrected at our September meeting, along with the minutes.

MINUTES

Brenda Mitchell presented the minutes of the May 5 meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee report was presented by Hassan as Al Fletcher was not present.

--Income for May was \$784.14; expenses were \$221.00.

Checking account balance is \$1,148.03.

Money Market account balance is \$17,369.93.

--There were three new members, but no action was taken on their membership.

Community Relations Committee report was presented by Brian Daugherty.

--*Children of Abraham*: location of the June 4 meeting has been changed to Mount Mercy, Basile Hall, Flaherty Room. The topic is *Repairing/Healing the World*. Time is 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

--*University of Religion*: Three courses are being considered for future sessions. They are:

Life and Example of Prophet Muhammad taught by Hassan Selim;

Native American Tradition taught by Nancy Rhodes;

Religious Fundamentalism and Atheist Response taught by Alan Diehl.

Communication Committee report was given by Eugenia Vavra.

--It is hoped that the summer newsletter will be completed and mailed by early July.

--We have 39 "likes" on our Facebook page.

--Erin Broich will be working on the Facebook page.

--The draft of the policy for forwarding of e-mails was presented.

OTHER

Book suggestions for the prison ministry project were requested. Also, information regarding this project will be included in our summer newsletter and Facebook page.

Inspiration for the September 1st meeting will be given by Eugenia Vavra.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Mitchell, secretary.