

MINUTES of September 17, 2015

Members present (9): Erin Broich, Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Fletcher, Cedric Lofdahl, Brenda Mitchell, Todd Thalblum, and Jen Yukl

President Todd Thalblum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

INSPIRATION

Hassan Mahmoud/Selim is home ill this evening, but sent the inspiration to Todd by email. Todd shared Hassan's reflections after attending the Rosh Hashanah service at Temple Judah on September 13.

I had the honor of attending the Rosh Hashanah service at Temple Judah this last Sunday. My dear friend, Dr. Bob, explained to me briefly the significance of this Holiday and times. He said, and I quote, "The books are sealed, but God has not yet made up His mind."

This reminded me of a beautiful Hadith (prophetic teaching of Prophet Muhammad). According to this hadith, the Prophet, God bless and grant him peace, said that on the Last Day, when the last two souls are brought forth before God, they are both condemned to hell. As the angels escort them to their final fiery abode, one of them wistfully looks back. Thereupon, God commands the angels to bring him back and asks the man why he turned back. The man replies, "I was expecting something else from you." God responds, commanding the angels, "Take him to My Garden."

It is our expectation of God that determines where we are. This points to the need for thinking well not only of God but also of God's creation, despite the fact that we are all messy, imperfect works in progress, struggling along in this journey. – Hassan M. Mahmoud

MINUTES of August 20, 2015

Motion made by Brenda Mitchell to approve with one amendment (a correction to the attendance) – Second by Ashok Chawla – Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Alan Fletcher, Treasurer

- Financial Report:** Itemized Receipts & Disbursements – 8/20/15 thru 9/17/15 – reviewed. Cash balance as of 9/17/15: \$17,594.54 [Checking = \$1,085.47 / Money Market = \$16,510.07] Alan noted that we received the \$500 grant from Rockwell, to be used for EPON closed captioning. Motion made by Cedric Lofdahl to approve financial report – Second by Brian Daugherty – Carried.
- Approval of new delegates/members:**
There is one new faith community this month, as listed under "Receipts" in the financial report. Motion made by Jen Yukl to approve this delegate – Seconded and Carried.
Welcome Packet: It was suggested that we create a "welcome packet" to send to new delegates. Brenda Mitchell volunteered to write a letter of welcome, to be sent with a few brochures. This will begin with the faith community added this evening.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Brian Daugherty, Chair

- Children of Abraham:** Brian reviewed details about these programs:
Among the Traditions: Presenters: Todd Thalblum, Taha Tawil, and Fred Shaheen
 - "Kingdom of God" – Sunday, Nov. 15 (2-4 pm) – Coe College, Keslar Auditorium, Hickok Hall**Between the Traditions:**
 - "The Crucifixion of Jesus? The Messiah? Who Died on the Cross & Why?" – Sun., Nov. 8 (2-4 pm) – Coe College, Keslar Auditorium in Hickok Hall – Presenter: Brian Daugherty
 - "Trinitarian & Unitarian Views of the Divine" – Feb. 21, 2016 (2-4 pm) – Mount Mercy University, Flaherty Community Room, Basile Hall – Presenter: Brian Daugherty**Within the Tradition:** A program in this series is being planned.
- Ethical Perspectives on the News:** Cedric noted that EPON has added another moderator – Craig VanSandt, Associate Professor of Management at UNI. There are now eight moderators.
EPON program schedule (Sept. 20 through Oct. 25): "Decriminalizing Sex Work" (9/20); "Freedom Rocks: Free or Not" (9/27); "The Confederate Flag" (10/4); "Business Morality and Religious Freedom" (10/11); "Wealth Disparity" (10/18); "No Labels: Principles vs. Compromise" (10/25)
- University of Religion:** Nothing currently scheduled. Please send suggestions to Brian.

EVENT COMMITTEE – Charles Crawley and Allen Fisher, Co-chairs

1. Thanksgiving Service: Monday, November 23 (7:00 pm) – Islamic Center of CR

Planning details were reviewed and updated:

- Theme: “Gratitude & Hope in Violent Times”
 - Guest Speaker: Dr. Carlos Grant, Metro High School Principal
 - Readings: Each faith tradition represented on the IRCLC board will share a brief reading on the theme. Nancy Rhodes will be available to present a Native American piece. In the past, we have encouraged children to be involved in these presentations; however, we are asking for adults this year due to the nature of the theme.
 - Deadline for program: The name of the reader and the reading (no longer than a quarter of a page) should be submitted to Todd by November 1.
 - Flyer: This will contain original artwork by Joan Thaler.
 - Music: Respecting the Islamic community’s tradition, Mt. Mercy’s bell choir will not perform. Hymns will be sung a cappella. Erin will check if Carolyn, of Mt. Mercy, can coordinate this.
 - “Welcome from the President”: Allen Fisher, past president, will give this.
 - Offering: We are considering donating proceeds to Family Promise of Linn County (FPLC), a nonprofit and non-denominational organization for families in transition. More information can be found at <http://www.familypromiseoflinncounty.org/>. In years past, we have giving to the Linn Area Community Food Bank. The final decision will be made at October meeting.
- 2. Annual Meeting and dinner: Thursday, December 17 – Mount Mercy University**
- Cost: not yet determined. Erin Broich will check into this.
 - Invitation letters: Suggestion was made to send out invitations to let people know that this is an open meeting. The event committee will discuss this further at their next meeting.
 - Recognition for those ending service as board members: suggested by Charles Crawley. Todd will look into the cost of plaques. Jim Siegling will be leaving, due to health concerns. Cedric Lofdahl and Jen Yukl may not begin new terms. Todd has names of several interested candidates. Jen will check back with someone from the Buddhist tradition, who has expressed interest.
- 3. Holocaust Commemoration: sometime in April 2016, exact date to be determined**
Christ Episcopal Church is a possible location; Todd will contact to confirm this.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE – Brenda Mitchell and Jen Yukl, Co-chairs

1. **Newsletter:** Target date is mid-October. The IRLC resolution is our main article, the Thanksgiving Service announcement will be in the space usually used for Holy Days, and we are working on the first page content to include quotes on non-violence from various religious traditions.
2. **Website:** Nothing new to report. Jen continues to update this.
3. **IRCLC Facebook page:** No update. Hassan is to create and make posts.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Resolution concerning Racial Tension and Police-involved Violence – final update:**
Todd submitted this to Jennifer Hemmingsen at *The Gazette*; it will be in the paper on Sunday or early next week. Jen has posted it on our website. As noted above, it will be in our next newsletter.
2. **Inspiration for next meeting:** Brenda Mitchell volunteered for October 15.
[Note: Ashok Chawla will give the inspiration at the annual meeting in December.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS of events, sponsored by other organizations, in the Cedar Rapids area

- **Sweetgrass Flute & Nature Festival – Sept. 25-27 – Prairiewoods**
See <http://www.sweetgrassfest.com/> for schedule, workshop registration, and volunteer opportunities.
- **Intersections – Fri., Oct. 2 (11:45 am to 1:00 pm) – First Presbyterian Church – Cost, \$10**
Topic: “Taking a Look at the Pope’s Encyclical on Climate Change” Presenter: Bill Mulcahey
Registration required: Email crintersections@interfaithallianceiowa.org or call 319-364-6148
[See <http://interfaithallianceiowa.org/events/intersections/> for more details about topic and presenter.]

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, October 15 (7:00 pm) at the Ecumenical Community Center

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm: Motion to adjourn by Charles Crawley – Second by Erin Broich – Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Yukl, Secretary