

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County Board Meeting
Minutes from January 5, 2017

Attendees: Erin Broich, Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Diehl, Rebecca Hinds, Eugenia Kendall, Susan Liddell, Brenda Mitchell, Nancy Rhodes, Todd Thalblum, Nathan Williams, Leif Zalewski. (Absent: Jerome Deister, Aaron Doolin, Steven Knudson, Hassan Selim, Taha Tawil, Joan Thaler.)

Guests: Bob Buntz (First Lutheran Church), Aileen Chang-Matus (Positive Words and Actions), Paul Crawford (Mt Mercy University), Marion Patterson (People's Church and Winding Pathways), Emy Sautter (Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center, Charlotte Martin (Mt Mercy University).

Charles Crawley called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

INSPIRATION

Eugenia Kendall presented chapter three of *Interfaith Leadership: A Primer* and led discussion on the two questions:

- 1) How has participating on the IRCLC Board changed how you interact with people from other faith traditions?
- 2) How has participating on the IRCLC influenced or strengthened your own faith tradition?

GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Aileen Chang-Matus presented the mission and activities of Positive Words and Actions, which was organized as a result of apparent intolerance and phobias. Gatherings of cookies, coffee and concerns, along with fellowship of like-minded people are offered. Movie discussion nights, news article discussion and panel discussions are held. The movement is about respecting all people at a concrete level.

Emy Sautter presented the Winter Film Series which will be offered by Prairiewoods. She asked for ideas on programs for inter-religious education. Emy was particularly interested in our support of the film, "Divided We Fall," on Feb. 26, 2:00p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Marion Patterson of People's Church and Windy Pathways presented information on an ecumenical service entitled Light One Candle, followed by a labyrinth walk, which is being offered in conjunction with Unity Center of Cedar Rapids. She requested support from the IRCLC to help cover printing expenses and to provide advertising on our website. Nancy Rhodes moved and Eugenia Kendall seconded a motion that we sponsor the event by paying for the printing of 150 programs. Carried.

MINUTES

Todd Thalblum moved and Alan Diehl seconded approval of the minutes from the Annual Meeting held in December. Carried

NOMINATION of BOARD MEMBER

Charles Crawley nominated Bob Buntz to be the 20th member of our board. Bob introduced himself and then left the meeting while his nomination was voted on. Approved.

COMMITTEES

Charles Crawley asked for volunteers for the various committees. The following is the slate as of this meeting:

Finance Committee: Nathan Williams (treasurer/chair), Steve Knudson, Rebecca Hinds.

Community Relations Committee: Brian Daugherty (chair), Ashok Chawla, Alan Diehl (liaison with EPON), Leif Zalewski.

Event Committee: Todd Thalblum (chair), Bob Buntz, Susan Liddell.

Communications Committee: Eugenia Kendall (chair), Erin Broich, Brenda Mitchell (secretary), Nancy Rhodes.

Nominations Committee: Charles Crawley (chair), Joan Thaler.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial Report: given by Nathan Williams.

The end of the year balances are as follows:

Checking account \$430.86; Money Market Account \$17,027.99.

Brian Daugherty moved and Ashok Chawla seconded approval of the report. Carried.

Community Relations Committee: Brian Daugherty reported.

University of Religion: At the request of Hassan Selim, Cornell College and Mt Mercy University have been contacted regarding the upcoming course; free tuition will be granted upon presentation of a student I.D.

Children of Abraham: The steering committee will be meeting soon to plan the 2017 programs.

Between the Traditions: "Muhammad in the Bible and Jesus in the Qur'an" is the topic of a program which will be offered in the spring—date and location to be determined.

Event Committee:

Holocaust Service: the committee will meet the end of the month to finalize the details of the service.

Annual Meeting: Todd Thalblum thanked Charles Crawley for his work in the planning.

Communications Committee: Eugenia Kendall reported.

The committee hopes to produce four issues of the newsletter in 2017.

Nancy Rhodes is working on updating the website.

OTHER BUSINESS

Charles Crawley reported that we will not continue volunteering at the Overflow Shelter due to difficulties getting sufficient volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Denine Rushing of Willis Dady Emergency Shelter at 369-7555. Products and funds are also needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workers for Peace Iowa meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. at the Oakland Road HyVee. Charlotte Martin announced that a discussion on the book *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild will be held at the Jan. 17 meeting.

Peaceful Protest Training will be held Saturday, Jan 14, at the CR Public Library from 10 a.m. to noon. This is conducted by Best Peaceful Protestors, Indigenous Iowa and Catholic Workers.

Light One Candle: Service and Labyrinth Walk will be held at Unity Center Cedar Rapids, Jan 20 at 5:30 p.m. People may register either on the Unity CR Facebook page or by calling 319 393 5422.

Buddhism and Christianity: Intersections and Divergences will be held at Christ Episcopal Church on Jan 22 and 29 at 5:30 p.m. Light dinner provided. Reverend Zuiko Redding of the Cedar Rapids Zen Center will be the class instructor. Contact Charles Crawley to register.

Refugees Welcome will be held at the LADD Library on Jan 24th from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. It is sponsored by Positive Words and Actions. Contact Aileen Chang-Matus at positivewordsactions@gmail.com to register.

Winter Film Series will be held one Sunday a month during Jan. Feb. and Mar. at Prairiewoods from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The next film will be "Samsara" on Jan 29. Contact Emy Sautter at esautter@prairiewoods.org for further information.

Intersections: Friday, Feb 3 at the First Presbyterian Church from 11:45-1 p.m. "Unpacking the 2017 Legislative Session" is the topic with Sen. Rob Hogg and Rep. Ken Rizer as speakers. Reservation deadline for the meal is Jan. 31 at 319 364 6148.

Mt. Mercy U: Paul Crawford stated that Interfaith-Interbelief presentations are being planned. More details to follow.

NEXT MONTH

Charles Crawley suggested that those who are interested meet for supper at 5:30 p.m. at Zio Johnno's, [also known as Via Sofia], 1125 1st Ave SE, on February 2, prior to our meeting.

Alan Diehl will lead the discussion on chapter four of our text.

Next meeting: February 2.

Eugenia Kendall moved adjournment at 8:30 p.m. seconded by Ashok Chawla. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Mitchell, secretary.