

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County Board Meeting
Minutes from April 6, 2017

Present: Erin Broich, Ashok Chawla, Brian Daugherty, Alan Diehl, Aaron Doolin, Rebecca Hinds, Eugenia Kendall, Susan Liddell, Brenda Mitchell, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Todd Thalblum, Joan Thaler, Nathan Williams, Leif Zalewski. (Unable to attend: Bob Buntz, Charles Crawley, Steven Knudson.)

Guests: Afnan El Sheikh (Islamic Center), Meredith Mitchell.

INSPIRATION

Ashok Chawla gave an overview, with handout, of chapter six of *Interfaith Leadership: A Primer*. He emphasized the five skill sets of interfaith leadership. The suggestion was made that for our May meeting inspiration, Charles Crawley presents a summary of what he heard at the Interfaith Conference he attended in Des Moines.

Nomination Committee presented the name of Afnan El Sheikh to be a member of the board, representing the Muslim faith. After she introduced herself, Hassan Selim moved and Nancy Rhodes seconded approval. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Thanks were given to Todd Thalblum and Nathan Williams for their work on preparing and submitting the ad regarding anti-Semitism, which was printed in the March 26 edition of *The Gazette*.

Attention was drawn to the EPON program shown March 26 on "Hate Mongering", with Charles Crawley, Hassan Selim and Rabbi Jeff Portman of Iowa City as panelists.

Thanks were given for the great support which was shown at the Iowa Multi-faith Rally for Muslims at the Mother Mosque, March 26.

NEW BUSINESS

Brenda Mitchell presented an amendment to the communication committee policy regarding dissemination of information regarding community events. The amendment read, "The IRCLC will refrain from taking a position on specific legislative or governmental issues, except where issues of religious freedom or interfaith relations are at stake." After discussion, it was decided that the amendment would not be added to the policy; the communication committee will continue to approve articles for forwarding and will approve all issues on which the board has taken a stand.

Susan Liddell suggested that we reconsider taking a summer break. This topic will be discussed at our next meeting.

We wish to honor Cedric Lofdahl and Taha Tawil, founding and organizing members of the IRCLC, at the annual meeting in December. We need suggestions as to how we will honor them.

MINUTES

Brenda Mitchell presented the minutes from the March 2 meeting. Nathan Williams moved and Joan Thaler seconded approval. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee:

Nathan Williams presented the March financial report and also explained that there were minor errors in the January and February reports (less than \$1). These reports have now been corrected.

Corrected January totals: Checking account: (116.40), Money Market account: \$17,029.14

Corrected February totals: Checking account: \$793.02, Money Market account: \$16,030.16

March totals: Income: \$1,680.06, Disbursements: \$2920.80. Checking account: \$551.23, Money Market account: \$15,031.22.

Nathan Williams moved and Brian Daugherty seconded approval of new members Kristin White and Mt Mercy University (returning from 2015). Carried.

The offering for the Catherine McCauley Center taken at the Show of Unity service was \$911.

Community Relations Committee:

Brian Daugherty reported that all sessions of the Inter-Religious Dialogue will be held in the Flaherty Room at Basile Hall, Mt. Mercy University.

Alan Diehl stated that the next EPON planning meeting will be held April 12. He will email details regarding new episodes to Brenda Mitchell to be forwarded to the membership.

Todd Thalblum reported that the preparation for the Holocaust Service is almost complete. It will be held April 23 at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 310 5th St SE.

The Thanksgiving Service will be held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, 6621 C. Ave NE, November 20 at 7 p.m.

He suggested that the Annual Meeting be changed from Thursday, Dec 14 to Monday, Dec 11 so that Taha Tawil will be able to attend.

Communication Committee:

The report was given by Eugenia Kendall, who thanked all of those who were involved in the preparation of the Spring 2017 newsletter.

Our webpage has had 1546 visitors and the FB has 97 likes. *The Gazette* article regarding the event at the Mother Mosque has received 190 likes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

--April 13 Veriditas Labyrinth Walk from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Marion Patterson will hold an indoor labyrinth walk at Christ Episcopal Church, 220 40th St NE.

--April 23 Holocaust Service at 7 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 310 5th St SE.

--May 5 Class Conscious: Class and Classism in Congregational Life from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at People's Church Unitarian Universalist, 4980 Gordon Ave NW. Suzanne Zilber, PhD. will teach the course on how to make congregations welcoming for people of all social class backgrounds. Lunch provided. Freewill offering.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be May 4 at 7 p.m. Those who are interested will meet at Via Sofia's at 6 p.m. for supper. Inspiration thoughts will be brought by Charles Crawley.

Motion to adjourn at 7:44 pm by Todd Thalblum, seconded by Alan Diehl. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Mitchell, secretary