

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County, Board of Directors' Meeting
Minutes from Thursday, November 2, 2017

Attendees: Erin Broich, Bob Buntz, Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Diehl, Aaron Doolin, Eugenia Kendall, Brenda Mitchell, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Todd Thalblum, Joan Thaler.
Unable to attend: Afnan Elsheikh, Rebecca Hinds, Krishna Iyer, Steve Knudson, Susan Liddell, Leif Zalewski.

Guest: Meredith Mitchell

Charles Crawley opened the meeting at 7 p.m.

INSPIRATION

Alan Diehl read the book, *The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children*, by Bryan Mellonie and Robert Ingpen.

OLD BUSINESS

Religious Literacy at the Cedar Rapids Library: Eugenia Kendall says that the sub-group (Gina, Leif, Alan, and Nancy) has started formulating questions which the moderator could ask. Charles suggested that examples might be, What books are used in your tradition? How did you come to this point in your life? Questions will need to be finished by the end of December to be ready for the Jan 8th session.

Honoring Cedric Lofdahl and Taha Tawil: Bob Buntz is working on the wording of the plaques.

Interfaith Prayer Meeting: Because of the many tragedies occurring, a different one could be the emphasis each meeting. Other groups, nationwide, are meeting once a month for prayer. Some meet on site and some by phone. This may be a good time for us to revise our mission and vision statements, possibly modernizing them. This will be a topic for discussion at our January meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The terms of Erin Broich, Brian Daugherty, Krishna Iyer and Joan Thaler will end in December.

Erin is stepping down and will try to find someone from Mt. Mercy to replace her.

Brian is willing to serve another three-year term.

Krishna has agreed to serve a three-year term.

Joan is stepping down and Todd Thalblum will look for another Jewish member from Temple Judah.

The suggestion was made that we look for a representative in the Bhutanese culture. Ashok Chawla mentioned that probably 90% of them are Bhuddist, but not Zen.

Brenda Mitchell's term as secretary ends in December and she will be leaving the board, due to family issues. She presented a list of duties of the secretary and communications committee.

MINUTES

Brian Daugherty asked that the word "all" be stricken from the first sentence in the Children of Abraham report. Bob Buntz moved, Joan Thaler seconded approval of the minutes as corrected. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance report was presented by Charles Crawley as Steve Knudson was unable to attend.

Balances are:

Checking Account: \$226.82

Money Market Account: \$14,038.15

Steve is concerned that our current budget is not sustainable. However, we had a larger than usual amount spent on publicity because of the ad in the Gazette. Charles will be meeting with Steve about the budget.

Nancy Rhodes moved and Alan Diehl seconded approval of the financial report. Carried.

Community Relations Report

Inter-Religious Dialog Group meeting: Brian Daugherty reported that approximately 20 people were in attendance at the last meeting and there was good, lively discussion.

University of Religion: Native American Tradition will be offered early spring. Nancy Rhodes will teach the course, assisted by Brian Daugherty.

Ideas for future topics are: Jesus as seen in non-Christian religions; Icons, idols, statues, symbols. The second topic came out of discussion at the last meeting.

Ethical Perspectives on the News: Alan stated that reruns have been aired because the TV studio has been in process of remodeling. He suggested

1. we promote the programs by using the EPON FaceBook and YouTube.
2. we invite faith communities to get on FaceBook and then "invite" their friends to watch.
3. we ask for feedback from those who watch.

A report on upcoming programs was given.

Event Committee Report

Holocaust service: Todd Thalblum reported it will be held Monday, April 16 at the Chapel of Mercy at Mt. Mercy University. Michael Bornstein will be the guest speaker.

Thanksgiving Service: Charles Crawley distributed an outline of the service and asked that board members arrive by 6:30 p.m. A reminder of the items we have volunteered to bring to the reception will be sent a few days ahead of the service. The meeting will be held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church. The theme is "Creating a Welcoming Community" with Stacey Walker as guest speaker.

Annual Meeting: Will meet at Prairiewoods Spirituality Center, December 11 at 6 pm for the meal and 7 pm for the business meeting. Todd Thalblum will bring a photo of Rabbi Edward Chessman to be displayed, as he was instrumental in the formation of the IRCLC.

Communications Committee Report was given by Eugenia Kendall. She thanked Charles Crawley for writing an article for the newsletter and committee members for their efforts in mailing the newsletter. The next newsletter will be mailed in March. Eugenia requested ideas from board members on topics for the next newsletter. Newsletter ideas included: a review on the religious literacy discussions, preview of the Holocaust service, information on University of Religions class, and an article on the Parliament of World Religions conference.

In October the IRCLC website had 2,052 visits. There has been a total of 17,138 visits this year. Our

busiest year for website visits was in 2015 with a total of 18,432 visits. Eugenia stated she thinks we are on track for surpassing our busiest year in website visits. The IRCLC Facebook page has a total of 122 likes and followers. In Oct. there were three posts including 1) one for an Ethical Perspectives on the News post that reached 118 people, 2) one for the Thanksgiving Service that received 13 shares, and 3) one for the Inter-Religious Dialogue flyer that reached 286 people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nov. 15, 11:10 am and 3:15 pm—Islamic Feminist at Cornell College. Speaker: Dr. Roshan Iqbal

Nov. 15, 7 pm.—Islamophobia at Keslar Auditorium, Hickok Hall, Coe College. Speaker: Hassan Selim (overview of Islam will also be included)

Dec. 1, 11:45 am—Intersections at First Presbyterian Church, 310 5th St SE. Theme: Our Liberties We Prize: Challenges to our Freedoms. Speaker: Mark Stringer.

Jan 8 (Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity), Feb. 12 (Hinduism, Humanism, Islam), Mar 12 (Judaism, Native American, and Unitarian-Universalist), 6:30 pm-7:45 pm—Religious Literacy at the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Feb 1-7, Interfaith Harmony Week. Contact Hassan Selim for more information.

Nov 1-7, Parliament of World's Religions will be held in Toronto. Contact Charles Crawley for more information.

OTHER

Brian Daugherty thanked those who attended the Light to the World celebrations. The video that was shown at the celebrations for the birth of Baha'u'llah is now available on You Tube. Go to You Tube, type in "light to the world". The title is "Light to the World--Copyright Baha'i World Center".

Next meeting will be our annual meeting at Prairiewoods, December 11. Charles Crawley will bring the inspiration.

Nancy Rhodes moved and Aaron Doolin seconded adjournment at 8:07 pm. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Mitchell, secretary.