

**Inter-Religious Council of Linn County,
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes from Thursday, March 1, 2018**

Attendees: Bob Buntz, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Aaron Doolin, Rebecca Hinds, Krishna Iyer, Gina Kendall, Susan Liddell, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Taha Tawil, Todd Thalblum, Ritva Williams, Leif Zalewski.

Absent: Ashok Chawla, Alan Diehl, Steve Knudson, Afnan Elsheikh

Visitor: John Derryberry, Executive Director at Family Promise of Linn County

Charles Crawley, president, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

INSPIRATION

Taha Tawil provided the inspiration for the meeting: a story from Quran about how Moses learns from Al Khadr not to be know-it-all, but to be humble and appreciative of the unique gifts and knowledge of others.

Hassan Selim will provide the inspiration for the April meeting.

Presentation by John Derryberry: Executive Director of Family Promise of Linn County

John provided information about Family Promise (including a flyer and his business card). FP works with homeless or near-homeless families with children move into sustainable housing. After a 2-3 year hiatus, they are re-launching under three themes:

- Safety: drug tests and background checks of all their clients/guests
- Stability: FP's financial stability and building their network from 8 host communities to 12 in 2018, then to 15 in 2019.
- Dignity: faith communities hosting homeless families sends the message that these people are important and deserve to be cared for.
- Once every 12 weeks, host congregations donate unused space in their buildings from Sunday evening through the week till the following Sunday morning to house up to 3 homeless families (total 15 persons), and provide meals.
- Support congregations provide volunteers to staff the day center or pitch in at a host congregation, drivers, and/or chip in with fundraisers.
- Both host and support congregations needs to provide financial support to FP
- FP provides a day center at 1st Presbyterian Church for clients to sleep (if they work at night), work with a case manager, look for jobs/housing, shower, do laundry, etc.
- FP's re-launch is starting with only one family now to help new hosts come on-board, and to establish safety and stability procedures.
- Each family gets 45 days in the program with up-to-three extensions.

After John left the IRCLC, we voted to give him a donation of \$100.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Religious Literacy at the Cedar Rapids Public Library (6:30-7:45 PM):

Feb. 12: Hinduism (Krishna), Humanism (Alan), and Islam (Hassan): Review

March 12: Judaism (Todd), Native American (Nancy), and Unitarian (Rebecca Hinds)

Questions (will) have been sent out to the third set of panelists.

Survey of attendees for final "Know Your Neighbor": Who will take this on and what questions do we want to ask? **Hassan Selim agreed to produce and distribute the survey.**

Report from Mission/Vision Taskforce: Bob, Charles, Gina, Susan, and Taha

The 2nd meeting focused on “vision” as a preliminary to developing a mission statement. The taskforce will meet again before the next board meeting.

Report from Membership Taskforce: Charles and Ritva

The clean up of the membership database will be done after Easter.

New Business:

List of visitation opportunities at IRCLC Member Faith Communities:

Gina Kendall has agreed to put together a form/spreadsheet to gather information detailing where, when, how, who to contact, what to wear, etc. The goal is to twice a year schedule a board visit to one of our communities inviting others to join us.

Hiring an administrative/communication director:

The Mission/Vision Taskforce raised this possibility. The IRCLC used to have a paid position to do the monthly minutes, newsletter, website, etc. Having a paid position would enable us to build up the capacity for greater outreach and information. Discussion focused on costs, e.g. minimum 10 hr/week at \$15-\$20/hr. We would need to be able to bank on approx. \$10,000/year to support such a position, therefore we need to figure out how to fund it. There is also a possibility of subcontracting with an existing entity. We also need a job description. Todd & Bob & Steve & Gina will work on this.

Minutes of Feb 1st Meeting: Review and Approval

February Minutes were emailed to board members.

Correction: Taha Tawil needs to be listed as absent.

Motion to approve the February 1st minutes as corrected. M/S/C: Hassan Selim, Second?

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Steve Knudson, Treasurer

Steve was unable attend the board meeting however he distributed the financial report via email.

The report for February 2018 was reviewed.

Correction: Change the date from December 2017 to February 2018

Closing Cash Balance: \$14,176.69 Checking account: \$885.00 Money Market Account: \$4.00

Motion to approve the February financial report as corrected. M/S/C: Taha Tawil, Krishna Iyer.

Community Relations Committee - Brian Daugherty (Chair)

Ethical Perspectives on the News (Alan Diehl)

The Inter-Religious Dialogue (Brian Daugherty):

“Who do you say I am?” Views of Jesus, within the Christian Tradition & Beyond, Aug 26 and Sept 2, 2-4. Location: *TBA, but Kesler at Coe is preferred.*

“Idols, Icons, Statues & Symbols,” Oct 28 and Nov 4, 2-4. Both at Coe College.

Taha expressed concern about elimination of the Children of Abraham dialogues without due process. Todd also indicated that he felt he had not been adequately consulted on the topics for the Inter-Religious Dialogues; people who are expected to present should be consulted more. Charles suggested that the topic be tabled for a separate conversation about how to continue.

Event Committee – Todd Thalblum (Chair)

Holocaust Remembrance Service, April 16, 2018, Mount Mercy University Chapel of Mercy, 7: 00 pm. The IRCLC has offered to usher at the event. *Todd solicited the names of persons willing to usher, read, and invited children from each of our communities to participate in a candle lighting ceremony.*

“Annual” IRCLC Picnic (June or July?)

Thanksgiving Service: November 19, 2018 (location TBD): Suggestion for speaker, Lori Erickson, author of *Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God* (lives in Iowa City)

Annual Meeting: December 10, 2018 (location TBD)

Communications Committee - Gina Kendall (Chair)

Communications Committee Proposed Activities
Newsletter, Website, Facebook

Announcements/Forthcoming Events/Deadlines:

“Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home: Carry Pope Francis’ eco-encyclical into your daily life through practical steps,” with Betty Daugherty, FSPA, & Angie Pierce Jennings, Mondays, 9:30-11:00 AM, Feb. 19-March 26, Prairiewoods

Religious Literacy at the Cedar Rapids Public Library (6:30-7:45 pm): March 12

Intersections: Caleb Gates, Catherine McAuley Center, “The Refugee Crisis in Iowa,” April 6 (RSVP by April 3 to crintersections@infaithallianceiowa.org or 319-364-6148)

Faith Climate Action Week (Interfaith Power & Light): April 14–22 (Gina)

Holocaust Remembrance Service: April 16, 2018, Mount Mercy University Chapel of Mercy, 7: 00 pm.

Operation Overnight (Geonetric website makeover): Application process opens in July

Parliament of World’s Religions, Nov. 1-7, 2018, Toronto

IRCLC Annual Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 19, Location TBD

IRCLC Annual Meeting, Dec. 10, Location TBD

Next Meeting: April 5, 2018, 7:00 PM. Meet at Via Sofia’s (1125 1st Ave SE, Cedar Rapids—across from Coe College) at 6:00 PM for dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ritva Williams