

Inter-Religious Council Board Meeting  
Minutes of November 3, 2016

Attendees: Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Diehl, Al Fisher, Al Fletcher, Eugenia Kendall, Susan Liddell, Brenda Mitchell, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Todd Thalblum, Joan Thaler, Nathan Williams.

Guests: Leif Zalewski (Baha'i), Paul Crawford (Mt. Mercy University).

Todd Thalblum called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

### **INSPIRATION**

A short discussion was led by Charles Crawley on chapter two of *Interfaith Leadership: A Primer*.

### **MINUTES**

Corrections were made to the October minutes. Eugenia Kendall moved and Nathan Williams seconded acceptance of the revised minutes. Carried.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Financial report

Al Fletcher reported income received in October was \$51.17. Expenses were \$848.49. Checking account balance is \$179.54; money market account balance is \$17,375.70.

Joan Thaler moved and Al Fisher seconded approval of the report. Carried.

#### Community Relations report.

--*Children of Abraham*: Brian Daugherty reported that a lively discussion with lots of comments took place in the meeting on October 30. Four additional names have been added to the email list. The committee will work on topics for 2017 soon.

--*University of Religion*: Titles of two of the topics have been changed slightly. They are: The Native American Tradition; and Atheist Response to Religious Fundamentalism.

The next course, The Life and Example of Prophet Muhammed, will be held Jan 14, 21 and Feb 4, 11 in the Keslar Auditorium at Coe College. Hassan Selim will be the instructor. The cost is \$30 for non-college students, but it is free for those enrolled in local colleges and universities, including Cornell.

--*EPON*: Al Fisher reported that the planning committee is waiting to see the effect of the time and channel changes on KCRG.

#### Event Committee report

--*Thanksgiving Service*: Charles Crawley stated that we will pay \$100 in order to use the library for an extra hour on November 21. He reminded us of the refreshments we had volunteered to provide. Todd Thalblum needs readings from those who are participating. The Mount Mercy University bell choir will be providing music, and they will also provide a keyboard for the congregational singing. *The Gazette* will be asked to provide publicity; the library will provide an audio-visual technician. We will need to provide baskets for the offering.

--*Annual Meeting*: This will be held December 15 at Christ Episcopal Church, with the dinner beginning at 6 p.m. and the business meeting at 7 p.m. Zaytoon will cater the meal at a cost of \$10. There will be a meat and a vegetarian option. Those planning to attend should contact Charles Crawley no later than December 8 with reservations. Please let him know which meal option you wish.

#### Communication Committee Report

Eugenia Kendall reported that the fall newsletter has been mailed. In 2016, three editions were published. It is hoped that we can publish four in 2017.

The website is current and is updated monthly.

Our FaceBook page has 60 likes. Please like and share the Thanksgiving posting on FaceBook.

#### **UPDATES**

--Al Fisher reported on our participation in the Overflow Shelter Project. If there is need, we will be volunteering the second week in December and the first week in January. All seven days in December are filled by volunteers.

--The Crestwood Housing Project was not approved by the city council. The \$8,000,000 grant probably will not be offered again so it is doubtful if this type of housing project will be able to be built in the area.

--Todd Thalblum asked for nominations for board members for 2017. He will provide the inspiration at the annual meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Nathan Williams will be teaching a class entitled, "Interfaith Relations for The Rest of Us" at a Presbyterian family summer camp. He asked for input for the class from board members, especially the non-Christian members. The class will be taught to adults.

*Intersections* yearly program was distributed. The topic for December 2 is "The November Effect: How the elections will impact Iowa and the nation." It will be held at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian church, beginning at 11:45 a.m.

Nathan Williams moved and Susan Liddell seconded a motion to adjourn at 8 p.m. Carried.