

Inter-Religious Council Board Meeting
Minutes of October 6, 2016

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

Guests: Rebecca Hinds (Pastor, People' Church), Cedric Lofdahl, Phoebe Trepp (director of Willis Dady).

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

INSPIRATION

Charles Crawley presented the book *Interfaith Leadership* and asked the question, "How did you get to where you are today as an interfaith leader?" (see page 29 of the text). Responses were given by Charles, Al Fisher, Todd Thalblum, Hassan Selim, and Brian Daugherty. We will continue the discussion with chapter two in November.

GUEST INFORMATION

Phoebe Tripp presented information regarding the Overflow Winter Shelter program in Cedar Rapids. Three shelters are participating, with an additional 14 beds. The Salvation Army will take those for whom there are no beds, on an as-needed basis. This year, the shelters will be open when the temperature is predicted to drop below freezing. Sufficient staff is available at the three shelters, but the Salvation Army is asking for volunteers to help staff their facility between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. Monday through Sunday evenings. Todd Thalblum suggested that the IRCLC volunteer to help during the first week of each month between December and March. Accepted.

Phoebe then discussed the Crestwood Housing Project. The city council meeting when the project will be discussed will be held October 25th beginning at 4 p.m. Board members are invited to attend and speak in support. Al Fisher will attend and represent the IRCLC.

MINUTES

Hassan Selim moved and Brian Daugherty seconded approval of the September minutes as presented. Carried.

COMMITTEE PRESENTATIONS

Finance Committee

The report had been mailed to each board member by Al Fletcher who was not able to be present.

Income for the month of September was \$1,001.13. Expenses were \$800. Balance in checking account \$978.03; balance in Money Market account \$17,374.53.

Al Fisher moved and Eugenia Kendall seconded the report. Carried.

Brian Daugherty moved and Joan Thaler seconded acceptance of the new members listed in the May report. Carried.

Community Relations Committee

Brian Daugherty reported on the following:

University of Religion: He is still awaiting outlines and course descriptions for the three possible topics.

Children of Abraham: Brenda Mitchell read a letter from the Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Cedar Rapids, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to share an introduction of the Baha'i faith and its connection to the prophet Abraham. The Assembly looks forward to continuing participation in Children of Abraham programs. (see addendum for complete letter).

The September meeting has been rescheduled for 2 p.m. Oct 30 at Mt. Mercy, Basile Hall due to the anticipated flood on the previously scheduled date. The topic is "Politics and Religion".

EPON: Cedric Lofdahl reported on a meeting he had had with Kevin Schrader from KCRG regarding the time changes. KCRG is totally committed to Ethical Perspectives, but the schedule is set. He suggested that we wait two to three months to see what happens regarding viewership. A crawler was shown on the TV screen the first week of the time change showing the new times and channels. We suggest that they replay the crawler.

Event Committee

The report was given by Charles Crawley.

Thanksgiving Service: Proceeds from the offering will be given to the Linn County Food Bank. Joan Thaler will ask the library director if she is willing to give the welcome.

Annual Meeting will be held December 15 (there will be no meeting on our usually scheduled date, Dec 1). Dinner will begin at 6 p.m. and the business meeting at 7 p.m. Charles Crawley will ask Christ Episcopal Church to host the meeting. (Update: Christ Episcopal has agreed to do so).

Holocaust Service will be held April 23 at 1st Presbyterian Church.

Communication Committee

Nathan Williams reported that the newsletter should be ready for mailing by the middle of the month. The committee is meeting next week to prepare the newsletter for mailing.

Eugenia Kendall reported that we now have 59 "likes" on the website. The target continues to be 100.

OTHER

The NAACP banquet will be held Oct 29 at 7 p.m. at Coe College. Al Fisher moved and Nancy Rhodes seconded a motion to pay \$480 for a table. Carried. Those attending will be Todd Thalblum (who will offer a prayer), Charles Crawley and Libby Slappey, Susan Liddell, Nancy Rhodes, Al and Ellen Fisher and Joan Thaler.

The event on RUMI to be held at Prairiewoods in 2018 has been cancelled. The board had agreed to contribute \$1,000 towards the costs of the event. [Update: the money was not paid.]

The November Intersections meeting will cover the topic of water quality.

Inspiration at the November meeting: Charles will present the second chapter of the Interfaith Leadership for discussion.

Al Fisher moved and Joan Thaler seconded adjournment at 8:20 p.m.

ADDENDUM

Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Cedar Rapids, Iowa
PO Box 2298, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. Tel (319) 423-9932.
September 20, 2016

To the
Board of the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County

Dear Friends,

We appreciated the opportunity we had to share an introduction of the Baha'i Faith and its connection to the Prophet Abraham.

The Inter-Religious Council of Linn County exists to educate and promote Religious understanding and work for the common good of our community based on the ideals of caring, honesty and respect. As one of its founding members, we look forward to our continuing participation in the Children of Abraham programs, and feel this program and programs of this kind to be vital to counteract the hatred, misunderstanding and mistrust found currently in our world.

We look forward to continuing nurturing conversations through our representatives.

With profound gratitude,

The Local Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Cedar Rapids.

