

**Inter-Religious Council of Linn County,
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes from Thursday, September 6, 2018**

Present: Bob Buntz, Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Diehl, Rebecca Hinds, Krishna Iyer, Gina Kendall, Steve Knudson, Bhim Magar, Sue Reider, Taha Tawil, Ritva Williams.

Absent: Aaron Doolin, Susan Liddell, Hassan Selim, Todd Thalblum, Leif Zalewski.

No Show: Afnan Elsheikh

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Charles called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Presentation by Ashley Glassberg from Wills Dady, regarding the Community Overflow Weather Shelter System (COWSS). They are **looking for committee members, minimally 1**, but more okay to attend one monthly meeting, to help identify a more central location for the overflow shelter, help set up transportation, set policies and procedures, help with issues that arise, acquire supplies, etc.

Post presentation discussion:

Charles suggests that we put their information out on our network.

Taha will attend their September 12 meeting at Waypoint 9am

Recommendation to give a gift of \$100 to COWSS.

Moved: Rebecca Hinds. Seconded: Gina Kendall. Approved.

INSPIRATION

Pastor Ritva Williams read from the New Testament letter attributed to the brother of Jesus, James 2:1-17, warning against showing favoritism to the wealthy while neglecting the needs of those who lack food, clothing or shelter.

Rev. Rebecca Hinds will provide the October inspiration.

OLD BUSINESS

Know Your Neighbor Part 2 with CRPL: CRPL has sent out survey to its members (still waiting on Amber Mussman to get enough data for decisions).

Results of Mission/Vision discussion in August:

Mission: To promote mutual understanding and respect among our community of diverse beliefs, and to work toward the social and civic welfare of all.

Vision: Our vision is a caring community in which honesty, respect, and responsibility are celebrated.

Values: Celebrate. Advocate. Relate. Educate. CARE!

Changes to Bylaws: Must be voted on at the Annual Meeting, according to Article X-Amendments of the Bylaws.

- The President will appoint Committee Chairs at the beginning of each year, with no chair to serve more than three consecutive years.
- Allow non-board members of the IRCLC to serve on IRCLC committees. A

member is anyone who has paid their individual dues or who is part of an organization that has paid dues on their behalf.

- Changes to Mission, Vision, and add Values

IRCLC Banner: Bob to get an estimate for the cost of a banner with grommets.

Discussion: Bob reported that we would need to provide specific measurements, and give them the design to print; e.g. a 6' by 2' weatherproof banner with grommets would be about \$90, plus \$75 for layout. Questions: do we want 2' wide x 6' high or 6' wide x 2' high? What do we want to put on it? Our logo? Just words, e.g. our name, vision statement, and web address? Deadline for decision: annual meeting

Recommendation: Alan Diehl to pursue redesign of logo with his friend (name?) who does logo and website design. The cost not to exceed \$250.

Moved: Bob Buntz. Seconded: Sue Reider. Approved.

Board Representatives

Charles talked to Emily Sautter esautter@prairiewoods.org asking if someone would be willing to serve on our board. She offered they might need to set up a rotational system of representation. Are we OK with that? The consensus was "Yes we are."

Charles reported that Ahfnan Elsheikh will not be continuing on the board. We can have up to 20 people on the board. We now have 18. Charles is especially interested in bolstering representation by minority faith communities (i.e. non-Christian faith groups).

Taha suggested that we consider the possibility of a representative from the Cedar Rapids School district; each college has a chaplain; what about religion professors? or a neighborhood association?

Thanksgiving Service – Alan to ask Transamerica about sponsorship for annual Thanksgiving Service (production of flyers and other relevant materials).

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, Oct. 27, 5:30, IBEW Hall: Bob Buntz and Charles Crawley will donate the cost of two tickets each (\$120). We need four people who can attend on behalf of the IRCLC. Taha & wife have committed to attend on our behalf, we need 2 more. Please let Charles know by our October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Todd Green, Associate Professor of Religion at Luther College, is willing to come to CR in 2019 (winter/spring) to talk about Islamophobia. Cost is \$1000. Christ Episcopal library will sponsor. 10 organizations are being asked to contribute \$100 each. Is the IRCLC willing to be a partner in this? YES!

Moved: Taha Tawil. Seconded: Sue Reider. Approved.

Request from Angie Pierce-Jennings at Prairiewoods to partner in an inter-generational book group that will focus on a young adult's inter-religious book, the *Wish Tree* (200 pages). Question: what does it mean to partner with them? We decided we need more information. Charles is to invite someone to come to our meeting and/or gather more information via email.

Suggestion from Sue Reider to come up with list of books from each of our faith communities to help us better understand each other. Recommend purchase to CRPL and put on our website? Each of us is to identify on 3 books plus 2 websites that would help someone understand our faith tradition. Bring to next meeting.

Other New Business:

Faith Leaders to Bless the Waters (Sept 15) see handouts – need some folks to do – Alan: statement about value of water, Taha & Gina will represent IRCLC – send prepared words to Emily Sautter esautter@prairiewoods.org by tomorrow

Blessing of Animals (Sept 30) at Prairiewoods – needs “blessers” –

Annual Iowa Walk to End Hydrocephalus – Sunday, Sept 30, 2018 Des Moines Water Works Park, 2201 George Flagg Parkway, beginning at 8:30am

Minutes of May 3 Meeting: Review and Approval. Moved: Taha Tawil. Seconded: ALAN Diehl. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Steve Knudson, Treasurer

The financial report for August 2018

August Receipts	\$230.90	Year to Date: \$3,465.55
August Disbursements	\$128.67	Year to Date: \$1,706.27
Receipts less Disbursements	\$102.23	\$1,759.28

Checking Account Balance \$2,121.42 Money Market Account Balance: \$13,297.03

Rockwell Collins has agreed to provide a gift of \$500 for Closed Captioning of EPON.

Recommendation to receive the financial report as presented.

Moved: Bob Buntz. Second: Ashok Chawla. Approved.

Community Relations Committee - Brian Daugherty (Chair)

- Inter-Religious Dialogue topic “Who do you say that I am” August 26, Sept 2, 2-4pm at Coe. Attendance was better on August 26 (25 persons). The 2nd date was in the midst of the long weekend, resulted in a smaller turnout. People asked good questions, were genuinely interested. Discussion: At the end of the second session, Robin asked, where we go with all that? Can we

edit those videos to give summaries of what Jews or Muslims say about Jesus? What speaker said about Jesus? Put videos on Facebook and website, to provide good modeling of how to do interreligious discourse. Should the videos be available to presenters for their own use? Robin videotaped both sessions, at no cost, puts them on YouTube, put links on FB/website. – Robin is very busy, not always quick to get them out.

- Same format for “Idols, Icons, Statues & Symbols” Oct 28 & Nov 4, 2-4 at Coe – Send first announcement a month ahead of time, send reminder one week ahead of time.
- **Ethical Perspectives in the News:** Alan Diehl reported that Cedric Lofdahl is stepping down as executive producer and Terry Boyden will take his place. Upcoming shows include “Crisis in Catholic Church – Sex Scandal” “Marijuana in Iowa” “Immigration” and more.
The program is viewed by 5000-6000 households each week. In its heyday used to be in 20,000 households each Sunday morning. It does not have huge viewership on YouTube. This could be improved with a better time slot and more FB coverage.

Event Committee – Todd Thalblum (Chair)

- Thanksgiving Service: November 19, 2018, First Lutheran Church. Keynote speaker, Lori Erickson, author of *Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God* (lives in Iowa City) (Marita Wohlgast coordinator worship – see Thanksgiving Prayer handout – suggest readings around the theme of “gratitude” maximum length of 200 words. Worship at 7pm with treats afterward. Submit 200 words for the booklet by Oct 4 to Charles.
Same choir that sang last year (Andrews Christian Academy Chimers) will sing this year plus FLC Choir
- Annual Meeting: December 13, 17, or 20, 2018 – at St. George’s Orthodox Church

Communications Committee - Gina Kendall (Chair)

- Shared statistics regarding website visits, and FaceBook likes
- Active donation button on FB
- Rebecca updating community events page
- Can add donation button to website
- Estimates for moving to Constant Contact: tabled till next month
- Website needs to be rebuilt, easy to manage, Alan’s friend is willing to do this, would cost \$1000

Announcements/Forthcoming Events/Deadlines: - see agenda

Rise for Climate Action, Sept. 15, 10-12, Green Square Park: We are a sponsor, so please attend!

Happy Teej Festival – Sept 22, 11:30am-5:30pm 3791 Blairsferry Rd

Annual Iowa Walk to End Hydrocephalus – Sunday, Sept 30, 2018 Des Moines Water Works Park, 2201 George Flagg Parkway, beginning at 8:30am

“Voting Rights in Iowa,” Daniel Zeno, Policy Director, ACLU of Iowa, Oct. 5, 11:45, First Lutheran Church. RSVP to crintersections@interfaithallianceiowa.org by Sept. 25.

NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, Oct. 27, 5:30 pm, IBEW/Miller Hall, 1211 Wiley Blvd. S.W.

Parliament of World’s Religions, Nov. 1-7, 2018, Toronto (Charles attending)

IRCLC Annual Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 19, First Lutheran Church. Lori Erickson, keynote speaker.

IRCLC Annual Meeting, Dec. 13, 17, or 20, at St. George’s

Next Meeting: October 6. Meet at Via Sofia’s (across from Coe College) at 6:00 pm for dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ritva Williams