

Minutes of the Inter-Religious County of Linn County meeting Sept. 1, 2016

Attendees: Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Aaron Doolin, Al Fisher, Al Fletcher, Eugenia Kendall, Brenda Mitchell, Paula Mitchell, Catherine Quehl-Engel, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Todd Thalblum, Joan Thaler, Nathan Williams.

Guests: Jeremy Brigham, Cedric Lofdahl

Todd Thalblum called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Inspiration was brought by Eugenia Kendall.

The moon reflected on the water - by **Eihei Dogen** (1200-1253)

Enlightenment is like the moon reflected on the water. The moon does not get wet, nor is the water broken.

Although its light is wide and great, the moon is reflected even in a puddle an inch wide. The whole moon and the entire sky are reflected in dewdrops on the grass, or even in one drop of water.

Enlightenment does not divide you, just as the moon does not break the water. You cannot hinder enlightenment, just as a drop of water does not hinder the moon in the sky.

The depth of the drop is the height of the moon. Each reflection, however long or short its duration, manifests the vastness of the dewdrop and realizes the limitlessness of the moonlight in the sky.

MINUTES

Al Fisher moved and Joan Thaler seconded approval of the May minutes. They were approved.

Eugenia Kendall moved and Nancy Rhodes seconded approval of the June minutes. They were approved.

GUEST INFORMATION

Jeremy Brigham gave an updated report on the Concert Across America to Stop Gun Violence, which will be held Sept 25, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the CSPA Hall. Nathan Williams moved and Charles Crawley seconded a motion that we give \$500 in support of Iowans for Gun Safety and its events. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Al Fletcher reported that we received \$51.17 income in August and spent \$100 for rent, making the balances in our accounts as follows:

Checking account: \$778.03 Money Market account: \$17,373.40

Charles Crawley stated that we have submitted a grant application to Rockwell Collins for funding for transcription services of the EPON episodes.

Community Relations Committee

--*EPON*: Cedric Lofdahl reported on KCRG schedule changes of both time and channels, causing a concern of a possible reduction in the viewing audience. The programs will be aired Sundays at 5:30 a.m. on KCRG Channel 9 and at 11 a.m. on Channel 9.2. It was suggested that we advertise the change in times and channels on our website, FaceBook page, and in the newsletter, and that we also advertise the cable numbers and not just the KCRG channel numbers.

Cedric also recommended that a member of the board be a member of the planning committee. Al Fisher volunteered to be on the planning committee.

We appreciate the 17 years that KCRG has provided us with free air time and production staff.

--*Children of Abraham*: Brian Daugherty announced the Among the Traditions meeting on Sept 25 on the topic, "Politics and Religion". It will be held in Flaherty Room, Basile Hall at Mt. Mercy University from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

--*University of Religion*: The three possibilities described in the June minutes are still being considered for the next session. Time and location are to be determined.

Event Committee

--*Holocaust Service* will be held April 23, probably at First Presbyterian church.

--*Thanksgiving Service*, to be held Nov 21 in the downtown library, will include three-minute reflections from a variety of faith traditions on Healing our Divisions. The handbell ensemble from Mount Mercy University will play a couple of pieces.

Al Fisher reported that the suggestion that Community Overnight Winter Shelter (COWS) should be a possible recipient of our Thanksgiving offering was being withdrawn as COWS was receiving a \$30,000 grant from Linn County. The event committee will bring other suggestions to our next meeting.

--*Annual Meeting* will be held December 15; the location is to be decided. The regularly scheduled December 1 meeting will not be held.

Communications Committee

Eugenia Kendall presented the draft of the communications policy for forwarding emails and other announcements to the board and membership. After discussion, Paula Mitchell moved and Cath Quehl-Engel seconded an amended policy. Approved. Copy of the policy is attached.

We have 56 likes on our FaceBook page with a goal of 100 likes by the end of the year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nathan Williams moved that we donate \$200 for the Abdul el-Kader event and promise to share volunteer opportunities with the board. Cath Quehl-Engel seconded the motion. Approved. Cath also asked for a flyer to advertise the event at Cornell College.

Charles Crawley presented a book entitled *InterFaith Leadership: A Primer* by Eboo Patel. He suggested that board members discuss different sections of the book at the beginning of our meetings, in lieu of the inspiration moments. He volunteered to lead the discussion at our October meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Intersections meets September 9 at 11:45 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Peter W. Marty will be the guest speaker. Topic: The often uneasy relationship between faith and citizenship.

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church is holding an inter-faith service of Prayer and Reflection on the 15th anniversary of 9/11 on September 11 at 7 p.m. Contact Pastor Ritva Williams to participate.

Abdul el-Kader event to be held at the Cedar Rapids Public Library, Sept 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jesus Seminar on the Road will be offering a weekend seminar Oct 7-8 at the PCI Medical Pavilion, Community Room—3rd floor, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Topic: Ancient Texts and the Spiritual Life, with guest speakers Hal Taussig Ph.D. and Celene Lillie Ph.D.

NAACP will hold a *Freedom Fund Banquet* at Coe College, October 29. The mayor of Waterloo will be the guest speaker. Todd Thalblum will offer one of the prayers.

Rodney Bluml of Prairiewoods asked if we might be willing to sponsor an event on RUMI to be held at Prairiewoods in 2018, taught by mystic and best-selling author Andrew Harvey. Eugenia Kendall moved and Charles Crawley seconded a motion to donate \$1,000 towards the event expenses. Approved.

October inspiration: Charles Crawley

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:35 p.m. by Al Fisher, seconded by Hassan Selim.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Mitchell, secretary.