

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

Attendees: Bob Buntz, Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Diehl, Rebecca Hinds, Gina Kendall, Steve Knudson, Susan Liddell, and Hassan Selim.

Absent: Aaron Doolin, Afnan Elsheikh, Krishna Iyer, Nancy Rhodes, Todd Thalblum, Leif Zalewski.

Visitors: Ritva Williams and four Bhutanese guests, including Narayan Adhikari (Guruji)

Charles Crawley, President, opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

INSPIRATION

Alan Diehl provided the inspiration for the meeting. Alan discussed the philosophy of humanism.

Hassan Selim will provide the inspiration for the March 2018 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Nomination of The Rev. Ritva Williams for Board (and consideration for Secretary's position):

Ritva Williams (Christian) introduced herself. She is the pastor at St. Stephens Lutheran Church.

RESULTS: Alan Diehl motioned to approve, Brian Daugherty seconded. Unanimous approval.
Ritva Williams will serve as the IRCLC Secretary beginning in March 2018.

Revisions of roster and committee assignments were reviewed.

Religious Literacy at the Cedar Rapids Public Library:

Jan. 8: Baha'i (Leif and Brian), Buddhism (Gina), and Christianity (Steve): Review

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

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

Questions have been sent out to the second set of panelists.

DISCUSSION: Aprox. 100 people attended the January event! The room was a little small and it was hard for some people to hear. Charles will follow up with the library to see if we can use a bigger space and/or use their stools. Presenters will come early to practice logistics. Members of the Board should plan to be there at 6:15pm. Rebecca Hinds will print nametags for the Council with Name and Tradition. Charles will order more flyers for us to handout.

The Board would like some audience feedback at these events: how did they hear about it, what did they like, not like, suggestions, would you like to sign up for our mailing list, what other events would you be interested in?

Review of Mission and Vision statement:

A report was given from Mission/Vision Taskforce. They had a meeting at the Mother Mosque and reviewed a variety of mission/vision statements from other Inter Religious Councils.

Review of Membership Plan:

A report from Membership Taskforce was given. Our current mailing list has 250 names/organizations but only 25-30 pay dues. People need to be reminded to support our work. We also need to make sure each organization has a contact person on the membership list so that our mailings are received. Steve will write a new Membership Drive letter and the Task Force will meet again after the meeting tonight.

New Business:

Faith Climate Action Week will take place during Earth Week, April 14-22, 2018. We could plan an event; we will receive a toolkit from them with more information. Gina will report back with more info next month.

A Contribution by Cedric and Marcia Lofdahl was made to the Anna Purna Ghosh Foundation in honor of the IRCLC

Death Penalty Reinstatement in Iowa

DISCUSSION: Charles shared the story of John Ely, former Peoples Church member, who worked for abolishing the Death penalty in Iowa. Ely established an Endowment for the IRCLC from which we receive \$500 a year. Brian heard this bill is "Dead in the House." It still has potential in the Senate but it probably won't be taken up or moved forward. Charles suggested we all think about the issue of the death penalty from our faith traditions and consider whether or not we would like to take a stand one way or the other. Steve wondered if "it within the competency of this board to take a stance?" Hassan suggested we host a community discussion to share our experiences and religious perspectives on the issue. It was decided the best option would be for Ethic Perspectives on the News to host a session on the Death Penalty. Alan is going to work on this.

Iowa House File 2031 allowing teaching the Bible

DISCUSSION: Any stance we take has to come from a united faith perspective. No action was decided upon for now.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Bob to approve the December minutes as emailed. Susan seconded the motion.

RESULT: Unanimous approval.

A motion was made by Ashok to approve the January minutes as emailed. Steve seconded the motion.

RESULT: Unanimous approval.

Rebecca Hinds will provide the minutes for the March meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

Steve distributed the financial report. Janet Tompkins, Kevin and Mary Gesing approved as new members.

The report for January was reviewed. As of January 2018:

Checking account: \$13,290.88. Money Market Account: \$13,290.88

Insurance payment for the year is now \$390.00.

Alan made a motion to approve the January financial report. Krishna seconded the motion.

RESULT: Unanimous approval.

Community Relations Committee

A report was given by Brian Daugherty.

Upcoming events include Christianity without the Cross Thurs. Feb. 22nd 11-12, Four Approaches to Religious Pluralism at Mt. Mercy, June 3rd 2-4pm, Who Do you say that I am? Views of Jesus within the Christian Tradition and Beyond, Aug. 26th and Sept. 2nd, and Idols, icons, Statues and Symbols, Oct. 28th and Nov. 4.

CANCELLED: University of Religion: The Native American Tradition, Nancy Rhodes: March 3, 10, 17, 24 (2-4 pm); Flaherty Room, Mount Mercy University

EPON report was given by Alan Diehl.

Event Committee:

No Report

Communications Committee

A report was given by Eugenia Kendall. Next newsletter will go out the end of February

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Deadline for content for IRCLC Feb. Newsletter: Feb. 17

Intersections: Representatives Liz Bennett and Ashley Hinson, "Examining the 2018 Legislative Session," March 2 (RSVP by Feb. 27 to crintersections@infaithallianceiowa.org or 319-364-6148)

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Hinds