

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County Board Meeting
Minutes from March 2, 2017

Present: Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Diehl, Aaron Doolin, Rebecca Hines, Eugenia Kendall, Steve Knudsen, Susan Liddell, Brenda Mitchell, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Todd Thalblum, Joan Thaler, Nathan Williams, Leif Zalewski. (Unable to attend: Erin Broich, Bob Buntz).

Guests: Cliff Jette (Gazette photographer), Meredith Mitchell, Makayla Tendall (Gazette reporter), Charity Tyler (executive director of Cedar Rapids Public Library Foundation).

Charles Crawley opened the meeting at 7 p.m.

INSPIRATION

An overview of chapter five of *Interfaith Leadership: A Primer* was brought by Ashok Chawla, who posed the question, "How do we help our faith communities to be involved in the type of fellowship we experience on the board?" Discussion followed. Ashok volunteered to present chapter six at our April meeting.

GUEST REPORT

Charity Tyler presented the aims and goals of the CRPL Foundation. The three strategic priorities of the foundation are to 1) invest in young minds, 2) engage and strengthen communities, 3) transform lives. The campaign for 2017 is Take on Literacy. The goal is to have 120 businesses, clubs, and organizations participate. The IRCLC was invited to join the challenge.

OLD BUSINESS

Charles reported that the University of Religion class was well received.

The Proclamation of Linn County certificate, issued by the Linn County Board of Supervisors, affirming support for religious, ethnic and cultural diversity is now hanging in the meeting room at the Ecumenical Center.

The Show of Unity service was well attended and received. Over \$900 was collected for the Catherine McAuley Center.

NEW BUSINESS

Abdel-kader Education Project essay deadline is April 15. The project needs staffing and financial help. \$200 was approved in 2016. Guidelines for staffing and other needs will be presented at our April meeting.

Anti-Semitism: There was considerable discussion on how the IRCLC should react to the bomb threats and acts of violence to Jewish cemeteries and synagogues. Todd Thalblum stated that our response should include more than anti-Semitism, as other faiths have also been targeted in the last 18 months. As a result of the discussion, the board decided to take out an advertisement in *The Gazette* and to design yard signs. Todd will lead the formulation of the ad, and Nathan Williams will work on the design of the yard signs. Both of these responses will state that they are sponsored by the IRCLC.

MINUTES

Hassan Selim moved and Nancy Rhodes seconded approval of the February minutes. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nomination: Charles Crawley stated that progress is being made in selecting candidates but no names are currently being presented.

Finance: Nathan Williams presented the financial report.

Income for February: \$682.35; disbursements: \$770.58.

Checking account balance: \$793.02; Money Market account balance: \$16,030.16.

Joan Thaler moved and Ashok Chawla seconded approval of the February financial report. Carried.

Nathan stated that the ownership-of-account issue with the US Bank has been resolved and he now has full access to the account. At our next meeting, he will bring names of new people or organizations wishing to become members of IRCLC for the board's approval.

Community Relations:

Ethical Perspectives on the News: Alan Diehl has attended one planning meeting and will attend the second one March 8.

University of Religion: Brian Daugherty stated that the class taught by Hassan Selim was informative and well done and that the group of participants was very enthusiastic. Nancy Rhodes and Brian are planning to get together to plan the next course.

The former Children of Abraham meetings will be entitled *The Inter-Religious Dialogue Group*.

Upcoming meetings are:

April 30: Stewardship and the Environment

August 27: Defining Religion and its Purpose

Oct 29: Religious and Ethnic Pluralism in America.

All meetings will be held from 2 pm to 4 pm at a location to be determined.

Between the Traditions: no date or location has yet been decided for "Muhammad in the Bible; Jesus in the Qur'an".

Events:

Holocaust: Todd Thalblum stated that the committee had met and that he needs readings which will be included in the service. Jacob Eisenbach will be the guest speaker. Todd stated that people representing the former Czechoslovakian nation and the Armenian genocide will also be invited to participate so the service can be inclusive of others who suffered.

Thanksgiving: the theme will be "Creating a Welcoming Community" and Stacey Walker will be the guest speaker. Mt. Zion Baptist Church has been asked to host the event on Nov. 20 at 6:30 p.m. Aaron Doolin will check on the availability of the church.

Annual Meeting: Prairiewoods will be contacted regarding hosting the meeting. The dinner will begin at 6 pm, December 14, and the business meeting at 7 pm.

Communication: Eugenia Kendall gave the report.

Articles are being compiled for the next issue of the newsletter.

Our website has had 1,355 hits as of the end of February.

The Facebook page has seven posts, with 714 views of the announcement of the Show of Unity service and 511 of the coverage of the event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 11, 1:30 pm at Marion Public Library -- “Hugging the Porcupine: Speaking Peace to Hate” with Dr. David Klope as the speaker. The event is sponsored by Positive Words and Actions.

April 29, 9 am to 12 pm at Downtown Library—Healthy Child Screening Day, sponsored by CRPLF.

NEXT MEETING will take place April 6. Those who wish to eat at Via Sofia’s should meet at 6 pm. Ashok Chawla will present the inspiration.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Mitchell, secretary