

MINUTES of January 15, 2015

Members present (13):

Rodney Bluml, Erin Broich, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Allen Fisher, Alan Fletcher, Susan Liddell, Cedric Lofdahl, Brenda Mitchell, Todd Thalblum, Joan Thaler, Nathan Williams, and Jen Yukl

President Todd Thalblum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

INSPIRATION

– shared by Brenda Mitchell

Kids Pledge of Nonviolence:

Making peace must start with me. I commit myself as best I can to become a nonviolent and peaceable person.

To Respect Myself and Others:

To respect myself and other people and to keep from saying or doing mean things to others.

To Communicate Better

To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to talk and act when I'm angry, and to work at solving problems peacefully.

To Listen

To listen carefully to others, especially those who disagree with me, and to care about others' feelings and not always demand to have my own way.

To Forgive

To say I'm sorry and mean it when I have hurt another person, to forgive others when they have hurt me, and to keep from holding grudges.

To Respect Nature

To treat the environment and all living things, including my pets, with respect and care.

To Play Creatively

To play in fun ways and not mean ways, and to keep from using toys, watching TV programs and playing games that make violence look exciting or funny.

To Be Courageous

To challenge violence in all its forms whenever I see it, whether at home, at school or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

"Eliminating violence, one person at a time, starting with me."

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MINUTES – No minutes to approve

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Alan Fletcher, Treasurer/Chair

1. **Financial Report:** Itemized Receipts & Disbursements – 12/18/14 thru 12/31/14 – reviewed. Cash balance as of 12/31/14: \$15,796.34 [Checking = \$176.76 / Money Market = \$15, 619.58] Report shows itemized receipt/disbursement amounts from the annual meeting on 12/18 to the end of 2014. Figures for the first two weeks of 2015 will be on next month's report. Motion made by Cedric Lofdahl to approve financial report – Second by Brenda Mitchell – Carried.
2. **Membership dues / Membership letter and donation form to be mailed:** Charles Crawley gave a reminder about payment of dues from individuals and faith communities. Todd Thalblum will write the 2015 membership letter later this month.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Brian Daugherty, Chair

1. **Children of Abraham:** Committee members will meet January 25 to plan 2015 programs. Chris Seeman will be in Cedar Rapids in July for another Between the Traditions program.
2. **Ethical Perspectives on the News:** Planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20.
3. **University of Religion:** Buddhism course , Saturday afternoons in February
The Life, Teachings, & Legacy of the Buddha – February 7, 14, 21, 28 – 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Presenter: Zuiko Redding of Cedar Rapids Zen Center Cost: \$20 for entire course
Location: Mt. Mercy University, Flaherty Community Room in Basile Hall

EVENT COMMITTEE – Charles Crawley and Allen Fisher, Co-chairs

1. **Holocaust Commemoration – April 12-13, 2015 – Speaker: Renata Laxova**
A meeting will take place at the end of January for further planning.
 - Sunday, April 12: Mt. Mercy University chapel
 - Monday, April 13: twice at Coe College / Schools will be busing student to these presentations.
2. **Armenian Genocide of 1915 Commemoration** – A service, showing a PBS documentary about this genocide, is being planned for April. The Event Committee will meet in early February. Brian Daugherty suggested the public library as a good location for viewing films.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE – Brenda Mitchell and Jen Yukl, Co-chairs

1. **Newsletter:** Mailed last week. Request made for ideas and articles. Alan Fletcher suggested that someone write a short article about a religious “holy day” that is important in their tradition.
2. **Website:** Content was updated in first week of January. Ashok Chawla has volunteered to be our official IRC photographer. He has been able to get the pictures taken by Libby Slappy at the Thanksgiving service fellowship time.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Recent violence in Paris (Charlie Hebdo massacre):** Rodney Bluml brought this up; he had hoped that Hassan Selim would be here to ask if there has been any feedback in the Cedar Rapids Islamic community. Discussion followed about freedom of speech and civility of speech.
2. **Resolution concerning racial tension:** Nathan Williams presented a first draft with the title, “IRCLC resolution on police-involved violence”. Good discussion followed with a few changes and additions suggested. Nathan will incorporate these and bring a second draft to our February meeting. We are still looking for someone from the African American community to speak on this subject at one of our board meetings.
3. **Inspiration for next meeting:** Erin Broich volunteered.
4. **Committee service:** Todd asked that we keep the same committee members this year. Our two new directors will choose which committee they prefer. Addendum: Erin Broich will serve on the Communication Committee, and Nathan Williams will join the Finance Committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area

1. **Judaism 101 series with Rabbi Todd Thalblum – Sundays in January (Noon to 1:30 pm)**
Location: Christ Episcopal, 220 40th St. NE
RSVP to Charles Crawley at crcrawley@gmail.com or 319-899-8716.
2. **Spiritual Awareness Day – Saturday, January 24 (11:00 am to 4:00 pm)**
Location: Illuminations Healing Arts Center, 329 10th Ave. SE, Suite 115 Freewill Donation
Flyers are available at www.illuminationshealingarts.com and on the IRC website.
3. **Intersections – next civil dialogue & luncheon – Friday, February 6 (11:45 am to 1:00 pm)**
Note that there will be no meeting in January. Location: First Presbyterian Church, 310 Fifth St. SE
See <http://interfaithallianceiowa.org/events/intersections/> for details about registering and next topic.
4. **Poverty Simulation Training – Saturday, February 7 (9:00 am to Noon)**
Location: St. Mark’s Lutheran Church – 8300 C Avenue NE, Marion
Free – Sign up by January 23 at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080b49a8ae28a57-poverty>

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, February 19 (7:30 pm) at the Ecumenical Community Center

Addendum: Note time change to 7:30 pm this month, because of a schedule conflict.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Alan Fletcher – Second by Charles Crawley – Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Yukl, Secretary