

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF LINN COUNTY--BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
Minutes of April 7, 2016

Members present: Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Jerome Deister, Alan Diehl, Al Fisher, Al Fletcher, Brenda Mitchell, Paula Mitchell, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Todd Thalblum, Eugenia Vavra, Nathan Williams.

Guests: Shannon Beck, Emelia Sautter

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

**INSPIRATION**

Ashok Chawla gave the following inspiration message:

HYMN TO CREATION

Then there was neither being nor non-being.  
The atmosphere was not, nor sky above it.  
What covered all? And where? By what protected?  
Was there the fathomless abyss of waters?

Then neither death nor deathlessness existed;  
Of day and night there yet was no distinction.  
Alone That One breathed calmly, self-supported,  
Other than It was none, nor aught above it.

Darkness there was at first in darkness hidden;  
This universe was undistinguished water.  
That which in void and emptiness lay hidden  
Alone by power of fervor was developed.

Then for the first time arose desire,  
Which was the primal germ of mind, within It.  
And sages, searching in their heart, discovered  
In nothing the connecting bond of Being.

Transversely was their severing line extended:  
What was above it then, and what below it?  
There were begetters, there were mighty forces,  
Free action here and energy up yonder.

Who verily knows and who can declare it,  
Whence it was born and whence came this creation?  
The Gods are later than this world's production.  
Who knows then whence it first came into being?

He, the first origin of this creation,  
Whether he formed it all or did not form it,  
Whose eye controls this world in highest heaven,  
He verily knows it, or perhaps he knows not.

*Rig Veda X.129 – Translated from original Sanskrit by Ralph T. H. Griffith in 1889*

## **MINUTES**

Al Fisher moved approval of the minutes of the March 3 meeting as printed. Seconded by Hassan Selim. They were approved.

## **GUEST INFORMATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT**

Emelia Sautter of the Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center invited us to participate in the workshop, "The Spiritual Dimension of Climate Change: An Interfaith Experience Making Connections and Honoring Diversity," which will be held August 28th at the PFSC. IRCLC will support the workshop and Charles Crawley volunteered to be the contact person. Those interested in helping to plan the workshop should contact Emelia at [esautter@prairiewoods.org](mailto:esautter@prairiewoods.org).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance Committee report was presented by Al Fletcher.

Income in the month of March was \$1,998.10.

Disbursements were \$424.

Checking account balance is \$1,780.03.

Money Market account balance is \$16,367.72.

Nathan Williams moved approval of the report and Eugenia Vavra seconded the motion, which carried.

Brian Daugherty moved and Ashok Chawla seconded a motion to accept the applications of seven new members. Carried.

Community Relations Committee report was presented by Brian Daugherty.

--*Children of Abraham*: The meeting held March 27 on the topic "The Baha'i Relationship to Abraham" was well attended. The meeting was recorded and will be available soon on YouTube. However, the Children of Abraham Steering Committee is at an impasse as to whether the Baha'is should be represented in the Among the Traditions discussions. The two scheduled sessions in 2016 will take place with the current three presenters.

-- *Ethical Perspectives on the News*: There is no information regarding new programs.

-- *University of Religion*: No further information is available.

Event Committee report was given by Charles Crawley.

--*Thanksgiving Service*: Zuiko Redding from the Zen Center will be the speaker. The tentative theme for the service is "Healing our Divisions". Zuiko's topic will be "We are all human beings". Whipple Auditorium has been reserved, and the committee meets again April 25 for further planning.

-- *Holocaust Service*: Todd asked for more volunteers to participate in the service, which will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, Sunday, April 17 at 7 p.m. The speaker, Holocaust survivor Magda Brown, will also be speaking at Cornell College, April 18 at 6:30 p.m. and at Mt Mercy U, April 19 at 7 p.m.

Communications Committee Report was presented by Eugenia Vavra.

--The spring edition of the newsletter has been mailed.

--The website has been updated, and Todd has received two emails via the website.

--The IRCLC FaceBook page is now live, thanks to Hassan's help.

## **OTHER**

Inspiration for our May 5 meeting will be given by Alan Diehl.

Motion to adjourn was moved by Al Fisher and seconded by Paula Mitchell at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Mitchell, Secretary.