

**Inter-Religious Council of Linn County,
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes from Thursday, October 4, 2018**

Present: Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Rebecca Hinds, Krishna Iyer, Gina Kendall, Sue Reider, Hassan Selim, Taha Tawil, Todd Thalblum, Ritva Williams, Leif Zalewski.

Absent: Bob Buntz, Ashok Chawla, Alan Diehl, Steve Knudson, Susan Liddell
No Shows: Aaron Doolin, Bhim Magar

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Charles called the meeting to order at 7pm.

INSPIRATION

Rev. Rebecca Hinds provided the inspiration, a poem called "Belonging" by Karen Hering from an anthology called *With or Without Candlelight*.

Taha Tawil will do the inspiration on November 1.

OLD BUSINESS

Readings for Thanksgiving Service: 200 words on theme of "gratitude" (see "A Thanksgiving Prayer" by Diana Butler Bass for ideas). **Readings due to Charles by Oct. 18 (two weeks from today).** Received readings from Gina (Buddhist), Leif (Bahai'), and Krishna (Hindu).

Rise for Climate Action, Sept. 15, 10-12, Green Square Park: IRCLC participants included Gina, Alan, Taha, and Charles. Gina: everyone gathered, different activities, e.g. music, write prayers, make signs, opportunity to speak more politically, various coalitions, marched to the river, did some chanting, ended with a blessing for the river from different traditions (Gina did one). Taha: there was a divine presence, a spirituality, advocacy for our mother earth, Dave Osterberg gave a history of clean energy act, Iowa was the first in the nation to have environmental regulations. Signs were re-used from other events (Love Your Mother Mosque//Love Your Mother Earth). Not much media presence, maybe only one from KCRG; some folks put the event on social media

Bhutanese Community of Eastern Iowa, Sept. 22, "Teej Festival" – Charles: it was really wonderful; they have a lot to teach us about hospitality. Charles sent an article from the Gazette (see email).

Hydrocephalus Walk in Des Moines: 300 people in attendance; a lot of speakers, families with their children from age 1 to 35; raised over \$25,000. Taha's daughter was co-chair. Next year in Iowa City hopefully. Mercy Hospital in Iowa City is sponsoring research. Good start.

Know Your Neighbor Part 2 with CRPL: CRPL survey. There weren't very many, but we can use them to plan for next year's series.

IRCLC Banner and Logo: Update from Alan Diehl? Alan absent.

Todd Green, Associate Professor of Religion at Luther College, is willing to come to Cedar Rapids next year to speak on Islamophobia. Cost is \$1,000. Current sponsors: IRCLC, Christ Episcopal Church Library Committee, and Interfaith Alliance of Iowa. Charles has asked additional support from Cornell College, Mother Mosque, Mount Mercy University, Islamic Center, most likely Temple Judah too.

Request from Angie Pierce Jennings from Prairiewoods: Partnership in inter-generational book group to read the children's book *Wishtree*, about a Muslim family's experience of moving into a new neighborhood. Will be held in Jan/Feb. 2019—needs a co-facilitator from IRCLC for two sessions, and also asked if we would split the cost of books for attendees with Prairiewoods.

Co-facilitator: Hassan Selim.

Each book is worth \$9.99 on Amazon.

Motion to approve spending \$100 to help with the cost of books.

Moved: Sue Reiser. Seconded: Gina. Approved.

Recommended books and websites on our faith communities (Sue Reider) to recommend CRPL to purchase and to put on our website: Contributors so far: Rebecca Hinds (Unitarian Universalist), Brian Daugherty (Baha'i)

Other Old Business? Taha and Sara Tawil going to NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet; Saturday, October 27 at 5:30pm; need two more people? No volunteers, Taha encouraged to take kids/friends.

New Business:

Email from Afnan Elsheikh – she has been doing service work in sub-Saharan Africa, withdraws from board, is starting up an inter-religious group on campus of Northwestern University.

Preparations for Thanksgiving Service:

Greeters: Sue, Gina, Taha

Refreshments: See signup sheet

Officers/Board Members for 2019

President: Charles will serve until Hassan Selim finishes his studies in May.

Vice-President:

Treasurer: Steve Knudson continuing

Secretary: Ritva Williams continuing

Past President: Todd Thalblum will come off list of officers, to be replaced by Charles Crawley.

Todd will continue to serve as a member of the board.

Alan, Aaron, Gina due to come off the board.

Doug Gustufson will be representative from Zen Center, retired math prof from Kirkwood.

Gina is willing to train a replacement for the communications team.

We are down to 18 board members, we are open to accept two more, preferably non-Christians or ecumenical Christians. Taha suggests we seek out someone from the Orthodox community and/or the Linn County Evangelical Association, if they still exist; and/or someone who works for justice.

Minutes of Sept. 6 Meeting:

Review and Approval: Moved by Gina. Seconded by Taha. Approved.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Steve Knudson, Treasurer

(see his report)

Received & Accepted: Moved by Hassan; Seconded by Leif. Approved.

Community Relations Committee - Brian Daugherty (Chair)

Oct 28 & Nov 4 at Coe College (see handout)

Ethical Perspectives on the News (Alan Diehl) – absent

Have found a couple more producers: Quinn Pettifer, Beth Parker

Event Committee – Todd Thalblum (Chair)

Thanksgiving Service: November 19, 2018, First Lutheran Church, 7:00 pm

Keynote speaker, Lori Erickson, author of *Holy Rover: Journeys in Search of Mystery, Miracles, and God*. Title of address: “The Transformative Power of Pilgrimage” ... free will offering for Family Promise (Taha let’s rotate which group we support each year.)

Annual Meeting: Thursday, December 13; dinner at 6pm; meeting at 7pm; St. George’s Orthodox Church, 3650 Cottage Grove Ave SE, Cedar Rapids. They will take care of the food. They will charge us per person.

Communications Committee - Gina Kendall (Chair): Newsletter, Website, Facebook

Gina: stats on social media; suggestions for content of October newsletter

Looked at different on-line options for online newsletters:

Constant Contact: one user \$17 for up to 500 emails/month; \$38.25 per month 10 users.

Go-Daddy has its own email program \$6/month, also have a donation button

We currently spend \$204 for 3 print newsletters. Plus \$32 per ream of paper + volunteer labor.

Motion to try Go-Daddy for the next newsletter (trial project). Moved by Todd. Seconded by Hassan. Approved.

Announcements/Forthcoming Events/Deadlines:

- Women's March to the Polls, Oct. 8. Meet at 11:45 am at NewBo Market and march to Jean Oxley Center at noon (10 minute walk). You can vote that day.
- "Golda Meir: The Journey," Oct. 16, 7:00 pm, Marion Public Library, Meeting Room A
- "Ramayana" Dance Drama, Oct. 27, 3:00pm, Theatre Cedar Rapids, performed by Sampradaya Dance Troupe; hosted by Hindu Temple to fund their Go Green program.
- NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, Oct. 27, 5:30 pm, IBEW/Miller Hall, 1211 Wiley Blvd. S.W.
- "Idols, Icons, Statues & Symbols," Part 1, Oct. 28, 2-4 pm, Coe College, Kesler Auditorium in Hickock Hall
- "The Christian Right's Assault on Public Education," Dr. Peter Jauhiainen, Professor of Religion, Kirkwood Community College, Nov. 2, 11:45, First Lutheran Church. RSVP to crintersections@interfaithallianceiowa.org by Oct. 30.
- Parliament of World's Religions, Nov. 1-7, 2018, Toronto (Charles attending)
- "Idols, Icons, Statues & Symbols," Part 2, Nov. 4, 2-4 pm, Coe College, Kesler Auditorium in Hickock Hall
- IRCLC Annual Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 19, First Lutheran Church. Lori Erickson, keynote speaker.
- IRCLC Annual Meeting, Dec. 13, 6pm dinner with meeting to follow at 7pm; St. George's Orthodox Church, 3650 Cottage Grove Ave SE, Cedar Rapids. Note: Changes to Bylaws to be voted on at this time.

Next Meeting: Nov. 1, meet at Via Sofia's (across from Coe College) at 6:00 pm for dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ritva Williams