

MINUTES

September 18, 2014

Members present (12): Rodney Bluml, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Fletcher, Susan Liddell, Brenda Mitchell, William Mulcahey, Hassan Selim, Jim Siegling, Todd Thalblum, Joan Thaler, Jen Yukl

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

INSPIRATION

Joan Thaler shared one of her favorite readings for tonight’s inspiration.

Birth is a beginning	From joy to gratitude,
And death a destination.	From pain to compassion,
And life is a journey:	And grief to understanding –
From childhood to maturity	From fear to faith;
And youth to age;	From defeat to defeat to defeat –
From innocence to awareness	Until, looking backward or ahead,
And ignorance to knowing;	We see that victory lies
From foolishness to discretion	Not at some high place along the way,
And then, perhaps, to wisdom;	But in having made the journey, stage by stage,
From weakness to strength	A sacred pilgrimage.
Or strength to weakness –	Birth is a beginning
And, often, back again;	And death a destination.
From health to sickness	And life is a journey,
And back, we pray, to health again;	A sacred pilgrimage –
From offense to forgiveness,	To life everlasting.
From loneliness to love,	– Rabbi Alvin Fine

MINUTES of August 21, 2014

Motion by Joan Thaler to approve as submitted – Second by Charles Crawley – Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Alan Fletcher, Treasurer/Chair

1. **Financial Report:** Itemized receipts & disbursements – 8/21 thru 9/18 – reviewed.
Cash balance as of 9/18/14: \$16,318.51 [Checking = \$704.13 / Money Market = \$15, 614.38]
Good financial shape: we received donations from several faith communities (total of \$830) and the only disbursement this month was rent. Additional note: we will be receiving the \$500 grant from Rockwell for EPON closed captioning service. Motion to approve financial report was made by Bill Mulcahey – Second by Jim Siegling – Carried.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Brian Daugherty, Chair

1. **Children of Abraham**

Brian reported that the program held on August 24, “Schools of Thought: Differences within Each Tradition,” went well. There was a lot of conversation after the presentation.

Schedule of events:

- **“Concepts of God”** – Sun., Nov. 9 (2:00 to 4:00 pm) at St. George Eastern Orthodox Church
Speakers: Fred Shaheen, Taha Tawil, and Todd Thalblum
- **“Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran: What makes us different?”** – Within the Tradition (new series)
Previous date of October 23 needs to be rescheduled and should be known next week.
Addendum per email from Bill Mulcahey on 9/24: When: Thurs., Nov. 13 (7:00 to 9:00 pm)
Location: Flaherty Community Room, second floor of Basile Hall, Mt. Mercy University
Presenters: Mr. William Mulcahey, former Director of Campus Ministries at Mt. Mercy University;
Father Fred Shaheen, St. George Eastern Orthodox Church; Rev. Cedric Lofdahl, retired Lutheran pastor

COMMUNITY RELATIONS continued...

2. **Ethical Perspectives on the News / Sundays, 11 am on KCRG, Channel 9:** no report
3. **University of Religion on Buddhism:** Brian Daugherty will meet with Zuiko Redding tomorrow about details. The course is planned for February 2015 (four Saturday afternoons).

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

1. **Thanksgiving Service – Monday, Nov. 24 (7:00 pm) – at Unity Center of Cedar Rapids:**
The Event Committee met prior to tonight's IRC meeting. Each community of faith represented in the IRC will be responsible for a section of the service, instead of the individual faith community reflections we have had in the past. From the committee's planning and further discussion in this meeting, the assignment of the various areas of the service is as follows:
 - Overall Program: Rabbi Todd Thalblum
 - Welcome: Unity Center
 - Greeting: Rabbi Todd
 - Main Speaker: Clint Twedt-Ball – Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Matthew 25; United Methodist pastor for eight years, including serving at Lovely Lane UMC in Cedar Rapids
 - Musical Offerings: Nina Swanson and the Unity Spirit Choir; Mt. Mercy Hand Bell Choir
 - Offering Remarks: Carrie Bryner from the Linn Community Food Bank
 - Ushers: Islamic Center (Hassan Selim); CR Zen Center (Jen Yukl); Temple Judah (Joan Thaler) Hassan and Jen will seek volunteers from their respective centers; six ushers should be adequate.
 - Closing: Buddhist community (Jen Yukl will be responsible to find someone.)
 - Light snacks and desserts: Community of Christ
 - Drinks: Unity Center
 - Publicity: Event Committee will contact *Hoopla* and *The Gazette*; Communications Committee will post announcement in fall newsletter, IRC website, and by email; Todd Thalblum will work on a flyer tomorrow.
2. **Annual Meeting – Thursday, Dec. 18 – Dinner at 6 pm – at Islamic Center**
Cost of the meal is \$10, payable at the door.
Contact Hassan Selim (hmhmselim@gmail.com or 319-440-7514) to make dinner reservation.

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

1. **Fall Newsletter:** Should be ready to be printed late next week. Main article is almost finished. Some formatting to be done and waiting for information on a couple events. Jen will purchase new paper needed and contact Gina at Christ Episcopal about getting newsletter printed by 9/26.
2. **Website:** Hassan has volunteered to assist Jen. They met on September 10 to review needs and worked on getting the EPON logo uploaded. Adding pictures from IRC events was discussed. Suggestion made that pictures be taken at the Thanksgiving Service and the Children of Abraham events scheduled in November.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Inspiration for next meeting:** Hassan Selim will give October's inspiration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area

1. **Intersections – next civil dialogue & luncheon – Friday, October 3 (11:45 am to 1:00 pm)**
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 310 Fifth St. SE
“Challenges in Higher Education” – Sally Mason, president of the University of Iowa
See <http://interfaithallianceiowa.org/events/intersections/> for details about registering.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, October 16 (7:00 pm) at the Ecumenical Community Center

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn was made by Brenda Mitchell – Second by Jim Siegling – Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Yukl, Secretary