

**Inter-Religious Council of Linn County,
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes from Thursday, May 3, 2018**

Attendees: Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Aaron Doolin, Rebecca Hinds, Susan Liddell, Sue Reid, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Taha Tawil, Todd Thalblum, Ritva Williams, Leif Zalewski. Ashok Chawla, Steve Knudson, Bhim Magar, Alan Diehl
Absent: Bob Buntz, Afnan Elsheikh, Krishna Iyer, Gina Kendall
Guests: Dhuha Tawil, Hydrocephalus Association

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Charles Crawley, president, opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. by reading our mission and vision statement: "The mission of the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County (IRCLC) is to provide a means for people of faith to promote understanding and respect and to work with the community for the spiritual, moral, social and civic welfare of Linn County. Its vision is to provide inspiration and programming in order to foster a caring community in which honesty, respect and responsibility are celebrated." (from the Bylaws, Article II)

GUEST PRESENTATION - Dhuha Tawil (Hydrocephalus Association)

Dhuha shared information about hydrocephalus, a condition that affects 1 in 500 to 2 in 1000 births, as well as persons of all ages due to injury. To raise awareness, support and research, Dhuha is promoting the first annual Iowa Walk to End Hydrocephalus, Sunday, September 30, 2018, Des Moines Water Works Park - 2201 George Flagg Parkway. Register at lowawalk@hyrdoassoc.org.

Moved by Charles Crawley, Seconded by Sue Reider that the IRCLC make a contribution of \$100 to the Hydrocephalus Association. Approved.

INSPIRATION

Ashok Chawla shared the history of Ashoka, third emperor of the Mauryan Dynasty that ruled almost entire Indian subcontinent from 268-234 BC. He read from a translation of King Ashoka's twelfth edict, encouraging his subjects neither to praise their own religion nor condemn the religion of others, but rather to honor the religion of others. King Ashoka wanted all his subjects to "be well-learned in the good doctrines of other religions."

Rabbi Todd Thalblum will provide the inspiration at our next meeting on Thursday, August 2.

We need to set a date for the picnic in July - contact Hassan and Alan.

OLD BUSINESS

Meeting with Amber Mussman and Kevin Delecki on 4-25-18 at CRPL (Charles, Sue, Bob, Nancy, Steve).

- "Know Your Neighbor - Part 2" - library staff will be developing a survey of their members and ours to see what sort of questions public has about religion

"Know Your Neighbor" - Nancy Rhodes provided a tabulation of the survey of participants put together by Hassan.

Report from Mission/Vision Taskforce: Bob, Charles, Gina, Susan, and Taha

The Task Force produced the three following draft statements:

Vision#1: To be a spiritually diverse and literate community that engages the issues of our time in a respectful way while asserting the values of our community.

Vision#2: To be a role model for religious and non-religious traditions through recognizing the common values that we hold to establish unity, peace, and justice.

Vision#3: As a community of diverse beliefs, we come together to establish solidarity, peace, and justice.

Mission: Relate. Educate. Advocate. Celebrate!

After much discussion we ended up with the following:

Vision: (something that doesn't exist yet, but our dream for the future): a peaceful, caring community

Mission: to promote mutual understanding and respect among our community of diverse beliefs

Values: Celebrate. Advocate. Relate. Educate.

Report from Membership Taskforce: Charles and Ritva

Updated database has 409 entries, including 263 email addresses. 77 persons or institutions have paid dues in the past: of these 62 have emails, and 15 do not.

Discussion centered around the differences between operating under a membership vs fundraising model. It was concluded that we have been operating on a membership model, since paying membership dues to the IRCLC gives you a vote at the annual meeting. People join the IRCLC because they believe in the cause. Going forward we may opt for both, asking for annual membership fees, and a general fundraising campaign conducted by the Fundraising Committee going out to make contacts with businesses, banks, colleges, universities and others agencies to seek sponsorships.

For immediate action: invite to 77 who have paid dues before to renew their memberships.

List of visitation opportunities at IRCLC Member Faith Communities: Gina

- Gina set up a Google doc which was passed around.

Minutes of April 4 Meeting: Review and Approval: Moved by Ashok. Seconded by Hassan. Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee - Steve Knudson, Treasurer

The financial report for April 2018 was reviewed:

April Receipts	\$705.87	Year to Date: \$1,493.48
April Expenses	\$214.80	Year to Date: \$1,151.07
Totals	\$491.07	\$342.41

Checking Account Balance \$708.12 Money Market Account Balance: \$13,293.46

Motion to approve the April financial report: Moved by Taha. Seconded by Rebecca. Approved.

Community Relations Committee - Brian Daugherty (Chair)

Discussion centered around the need for more structure and collaboration on this committee.

- Change the bylaws to limit terms for committee chairs in order to keep things fresh/rolling - details need to be worked out - Brian D: don't make the terms too short, it takes time to get to

- know how to do the job
- Under the current bylaws, the officers of the board all serve 2 years. There are no term limits on how long a person can serve as a board member.
- Todd's suggestion: president appoints chairs for all committees at the beginning of each year, no chair can serve more than 3 consecutive years.
- Change the bylaws to allow non-board members of IRCLC to serve on committees. A member is anyone who has paid their individual dues or is part of an organization that has paid dues on their behalf.

Event Committee – Todd Thalblum (Chair)

- Holocaust Remembrance Service on April 16, 2018 at Mount Mercy University Chapel of Mercy, 7: 00 pm was a great success. More than 250 persons attended. The speakers were very good. The space worked well to accommodate everyone.

Communications Committee - Gina Kendall (Chair)

Nancy filling in for Gina reported visits to the website increased 18.5% over the previous month; an increase of 4 FaceBook likes; and 10 posts initiated with the engagement surrounding the Buddha's birthday celebration (1005). Gina has added pictures from the Holocaust remembrance service, information about upcoming events, while she waits for the appropriate documents from the state to set up a donation button.

Announcements/Forthcoming Events/Deadlines:

- Intersections, "Living and Dying as an Atheist," Dr. Hector Avalos, Iowa State University: June 1, noon (RSVP by May 29 to crintersections@infaithallianceiowa.org or 319-364-6148)
- Four Approaches to Religious Pluralism, Chris Seeman, June 3, 2-4 pm. Mt. Mercy University, Flaherty Room
- Operation Overnight (Geonetric website makeover): Application process opens in July
- "Who do you say I am?" Views of Jesus, within the Christian Tradition & Beyond, Aug 26 and Sept 2, 2-4 (Coe College)
- "Idols, Icons, Statues & Symbols," Oct 28 and Nov 4, 2-4. (Location TBD)
- Parliament of World's Religions, Nov. 1-7, 2018, Toronto
- IRCLC Annual Thanksgiving Service, Nov. 19, First Lutheran Church. Lori Erickson, keynote speaker.
- IRCLC Annual Meeting, Dec. 10, Location TBD

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 2. Meet at Via Sofia's (across from Coe College) at 6:00 pm for dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ritva Williams