

**MINUTES**

**August 21, 2014**

**Members present (9):** Rodney Bluml, Brian Daugherty, Allen Fisher, Cedric Lofdahl, Brenda Mitchell, Hassan Selim, Jim Siegling, Todd Thalblum, and Jen Yukl

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

**INSPIRATION**

Brian Daugherty pointed to the mystery beyond our words and intellect with a few selections from the writings in four religious traditions (Taoism, Buddhism, Islam, and the Baha'i faith). A final quotation from Muhammad guides our ideas into living expression of this mystery – active love for one another.

The way that can be told is not the eternal Way. The name that can be named is not the eternal name. The nameless is the beginning of heaven and earth. The named is the mother of ten thousand things. Ever desireless, one can see the mystery. Ever desiring, one can see the manifestations. These two spring from the same source but differ in name. This appears as darkness. Darkness within darkness. The gate to all mystery. – Tao Te Ching

There is, O monks, an Unborn, Unoriginated, Uncreated, Unformed. Were there not, O monks, this Unborn, Unoriginated, Uncreated, Unformed, there would be no escape from the world of the born, originated, created, formed. – Buddha

Knowledge is a single point, but the ignorant have multiplied it. – Hadith (tradition of Islam)

This is the changeless Faith of God, eternal in the past, eternal in future. – Bahá'u'lláh (Baha'i)

Do you love your Creator? Love your fellow-beings first. – Muhammad

**MINUTES of May 15, 2014**

Motion by Jim Siegling to approve as submitted – Second by Cedric Lofdahl – Carried

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE – Alan Fletcher, Treasurer/Chair**

1. **Financial Report:** Itemized receipts & disbursements – 5/15 thru 8/21 – provided and reviewed. Cash balance as of 8/21/14: \$15,587.24 [Checking = \$804.13 / Money Market = \$14, 783.11] Alan Fletcher could not be here tonight, but emailed a copy of the financial report to all directors. This was reviewed and led to a motion, made by Brenda Mitchell, to approve the August financial report – Second by Brian Daugherty – Carried.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Brian Daugherty, Chair**

1. **Children of Abraham – Between the Traditions**

Report on June 8<sup>th</sup> interim event at Coe College with Chris Seeman: *Hearing the Prophetic Voice – Reading the Book of Isaiah through Time & Traditions* was well-attended and received good comments from attendees.

Schedule of regular events: All dates are on Sundays / Time – 2:00 to 4:00 pm

- August 24 – *Schools of Thought: Differences Within Each Tradition* – at the Mother Mosque
- November 9\* – *Concepts of God* – at St. George Eastern Orthodox Church  
[Addendum: \*Notice that this date has been changed from the previously announced date.]

Speakers: Fred Shaheen, Taha Tawil, and Todd Thalblum

2. **Within the Tradition**

Update on planning for the first event in this new series:

Thursday, October 23 at Mt. Mercy Univ. (Specifics about the time and location at Mt. Mercy TBA)

Topic: “Catholic, Orthodox, Lutheran: What makes us different?”

Presenters: William Mulcahey, Fred Shaheen, and Cedric Lofdahl.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS continued...**

### **3. Ethical Perspectives on the News / Sundays, 11 am on KCRG, Channel 9:**

- Cedric Lofdahl reported that Charles Crawley has applied with Rockwell for a \$500 grant.
- Cedric provided a handout listing EPON programs that can be viewed on YouTube. This chart includes the details of air date, topic, moderator, panelists, and number of views on YouTube. He noted that the program on minimum wage has the highest number of views. So far, 39 programs have been loaded on YouTube. Cedric has taken over doing this.
- A new program schedule will be completed after next EPON planning meeting on Tues., Aug. 26. Addendum – Program schedule received from Cedric after planning meeting noted above:  
*When Johnny Comes Marching Home (9/7); The Ethics of Bankruptcy (9/14); Are We Becoming a Culture of Fear? (9/21); Iowa's Crumbling Infrastructure (9/28); First episode is being arranged (10/5); Lessons from Ferguson (10/12); Immigrant Children in Iowa (10/19); The Militarization of the Police (10/26)*

### **4. University of Religion:** Brian Daugherty announced that a course on Buddhism is being planned for February 2015 and will take place on four Saturday afternoons.

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

### **1. Thanksgiving Service – Monday, Nov. 24 (7pm) – at Unity Center of Cedar Rapids:**

- The Event Committee will meet for a special planning meeting for this service before or after the next IRC on September 18.
- Clint Twedt-Ball has been booked as our main speaker. Clint is Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of Matthew 25. He has worked as a United Methodist pastor for eight years, including at Lovely Lane UMC in Cedar Rapids. See [www.hub25.org](http://www.hub25.org) for more information about Clint and the mission of Matthew 25.
- Offering of non-perishable food items and/or cash will be accepted and donated to the Linn Community Food Bank (as in past years). Carrie Bryner will give a 3-5 minute talk about this.
- Waiting to hear back from the hand-bell choir from Mt. Mercy University.
- Susan Liddell could not be here tonight but sent an email update on planning with Nina Swanson regarding the music:
  - . One song from the Unity Spirit Choir
  - . Congregational song, “We Gather Together”, with the Unity Spirit Choir
  - . Two congregational songs using lyric sheets – easy songs...
  - . Suggestion from Nina Swanson that the Mt. Mercy Univ. hand-bell choir do one or two songs
- Unity Center of CR will provide ushers, refreshments, and any kitchen support.

### **2. Annual Meeting – Thursday, Dec. 18 – Dinner at 6 pm (\$10)– at Islamic Center**

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

1. **Fall Newsletter:** Plan is to complete by end of September. Running low on color pre-prints. Newsletter will now be in black and white (past decision to discontinue pre-print order). Brenda has received responses to her email, listing the holy days in September through December. Michael Metz (pastor of Kenwood UMC) and Jen Yukl will write the main article, summarizing the Prairiewoods' event of August 14 with Michael Dowd. Rev. Dowd spoke about reconciling science and religion, climate change, and responsible action.
2. **Website status:** Clarification made that any non-IRC events that we advertise in our meetings and faith communities can be posted on our website.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **Appointment of Vice-President:** Since last meeting there has been one nomination to fill this vacancy until the end of the current VP term. Hassan Selim accepted nomination.

Motion by Allen Fisher to approve Hassan Selim as vice-president for the remainder of the current term (vacancy created by Tom Capo's move to Illinois) – Second by Cedric Lofdahl – Carried.

*[Addendum from Bylaws, Article IV, #3: "...the president and treasurer will be elected during odd numbered years and the vice-president and the secretary during even number years."]*

2. **Inspiration for next meeting:** Hassan Selim volunteered.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS of other events in the Cedar Rapids area**

- 1. LGBTQIA+ Community Summit – FREE event! – Thursday, Sept. 4, 2014 from 6pm - 9pm**  
Veterans Memorial Building in downtown Cedar Rapids (Enter the event from the 1st Ave entrance)  
Free, but need to REGISTER at: <http://www.lgbtfairhousing.eventbrite.com/>  
Explore and address critical issues for the LGBTQIA+ Community and Allies in a safe and supportive environment! Event brought to you by the Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission, the Marion Civil Rights Commission, PFlag of Linn County, Riverview Center, and numerous community partners and organizations.  
**Goals of this summit:**
  - Broaden awareness of the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community in the Cedar Rapids and Marion areas.
  - Improve knowledge and access to resources and opportunities available to the LGBTQIA+ community.
  - Identify gaps and needs in the LGBTQIA+ community and work towards solutions.
- 2. Intersections – next civil dialogue & luncheon – Friday, Sept. 5 (11:45am–1pm)**  
Location: First Presbyterian Church, 310 Fifth St. SE  
***Welcoming the Migrant Children (a panel discussion)***  
Panel members include **Erica Johnson**, Immigrants’ Rights and Racial Justice Advocate, ACLU of Iowa; **Ann Naffier**, Regional Attorney, Iowa Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON); and **Edwin Alvarado**, Diversity Fellow for the Latino Community, Diversity Focus.  
See <http://interfaithallianceiowa.org/events/intersections/> for details about registering.
- 3. Luminous Journey: The Visit of Abdu’l-Baha to America in 1912 (film) – Sun., Sept. 21 (1:30pm)**  
Whipple Auditorium, CR Public Library / Sponsored by the Baha’i community of Cedar Rapids  
This 2.5 hour film documents the visit of Bahá'u'lláh’s eldest son to America.  
Abdu’l-Baha was named by his father as head of the Baha’i faith.

### **Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 18 (7:00 pm) at the Ecumenical Community Center**

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm: Motion to adjourn by Cedric Lofdahl – Second by Jim Siegling – Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Yukl, Secretary