

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF LINN COUNTY--BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2016

Members present: (14) Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Jerome Deister, Alan Diehl, Aaron Doolin, Susan Liddell, Brenda Mitchell, Catherine Quehl-Engel, Nancy Rhodes, Todd Thalblum, Joan Thaler, Eugenia Vavra, Nathan Williams.

Guest: Shannon Beck.

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

INSPIRATION

Todd Thalblum shared the following thoughts, written by Alden Solovy, entitled *Let This Year*. The group read them in unison.

God
Help me to use this year wisely,
And with care,
Planting laughter in the hours,
And dedication in the moments,
In service to You,
In service to myself,
In service to humanity.

Let my inner wisdom shine
And my talents burst forth,
Bringing the gifts You gave me
To the works of my hands
And the works of my heart.
Let this year be for blessing.
Let this year be for healing.
Let this year be for joy.

God,
My time is like water in the desert,
Precious and scarce,
Giving life, giving hope.
Let this year be for creativity and discovery.
Let this year be for curiosity and imagination.
Let this year be for excitement and adventure.
So that the heavens smile on me
And Your creation calls me 'friend.'

Previous meeting minutes:

Joan Thaler moved and Nathan Williams seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the Annual Meeting as presented. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer's report was presented by Todd Thalblum in Al Fletcher's absence. He presented the abbreviated financial report which Al had emailed to board members.

\$100 to the Ecumenical Community Center for January rent
\$225 to the United States Postal Service for the annual bulk mailing permit fee
\$ 70 to the United States Postal Service as deposit to postage account for future mailings
\$395 total disbursements to date in 2016.

There have been no deposits or receipts to date.

The checking account balance is \$367.03 and the money market account balance is \$16,514.47, for a total of \$16,881.50 as of today.

Eugenia Vavra moved acceptance, seconded by Joan Thaler. Carried.

Community Relations Committee report was given by Brian Daugherty.

Children of Abraham

1. Within the Traditions: Presentation on " Marriage Today" will be given Jan. 31 at Mt. Mercy, Flaherty Room, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Presenters will bring the Roman Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran and Orthodox viewpoints.
2. Between the Traditions: "Trinitarian/Unitarian Views of the Divine" will be shared by Brian Daugherty, also at Mt Mercy, Flaherty Room on Feb 21, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

University of Religion

Brian Daugherty is working with Hassan Selim to offer classes on "The Life and Example of Prophet Muhammad." No dates have yet been decided.

Event Committee report was given by Charles Crawley.

1. He thanked the following people who were instrumental in making the signs which were used at the **Solidarity with Muslims, Immigrants and Refugee peaceful assembly**: Libby Slappey, Joan Thaler, Susan Liddell, Hassan Selim, Aileen Chang-Matus, Melody Rockwell, Eugenia Vavra. Over 100 people supported the event. Both the assembly and the Thanksgiving Service were reported in The Gazette, although the coverage of the Thanksgiving Service was more than a month late, only one paragraph long, and printed only after our repeated requests.
2. **Holocaust Service** will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, April 17. Magda Brown of Chicago will be the guest speaker.
3. **Thanksgiving Service**: The committee will determine a time to meet at our next meeting, February 4.

Communication Committee

Brenda Mitchell asked that the new email address be used when sending information or material, which is to be disseminated to members and friends. Mitchell.irc@gmail.com.

A copy of the welcome letter will be forwarded to Todd, as president of the board, for his signature.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Todd stated that all board members should choose a committee with which they wish to serve by the February meeting.

2. Revision of Bylaws

Brian Daugherty moved the approval of the bylaws, as revised October 15, 2015, and Charles Crawley seconded the motion. Carried.

3. Alan Diehl will invite other members of the Humanists of Linn County to the February meeting to participate in a discussion of their beliefs. He stated that there is no need to believe in a deity in order to live a meaningful life.

4. Because of room scheduling conflicts, the meetings will be held on the first Thursday of the month instead of the third Thursday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Feb 6, the Cedar Rapids Zen Center is sponsoring an Evening with Author Paul Rouzer, at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the Paul Engle Center.

Feb 5, Intersections will meet at 1st Presbyterian Church, with Suzanna de Baca, CEO and President of Heartland Planned Parenthood. Meal begins at 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$10.

January 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. a program entitled, Co-Exist, will be offered at the Healing Arts Center. Several of the IRCLC members are involved in the event.

Overflow shelter housing is offered during the bitterly cold evenings. Mon-Fri, a meal is served at Green Square Park and people are taken to the shelters by bus. Saturday evenings, 1st Lutheran Church and Sunday evenings, 1st Presbyterian Church host the meal. People should call 319 366 7999 for help.

Next meeting will be February 4 at 7 p.m. Nancy Rhodes will provide the inspiration.

Motion to adjourn was made by Nathan Williams and seconded by Jerome Deister.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Mitchell, Secretary.