

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County  
Minutes from February 4, 2016 meeting

Present: Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Jerome Deister, Alan Diehl, Al Fisher, Al Fletcher, Brenda Mitchell, Nancy Rhodes, Hassan Selim, Todd Thalblum, Eugenia Vavra, Nathan Williams.

Guests: Adam Blyth, Rocky Gissler, Lori Holman, Wes Schwarzenstein.

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

Nancy Rhodes gave the following inspiration message:

Great Spirit  
help me always speak  
the truth quietly,  
to listen with an open mind  
when others speak,  
and to remember the peace  
that may be found in silence.

Cherokee Prayer

Minutes of the January 21st meeting were corrected by addition and accepted. Al Fisher also gave an explanation of the former and current policies of the Gazette regarding the timeframe in which a reporter must respond to criticism of an article.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Finance Committee

Al Fletcher presented the financial report. We had interest income of \$1.11 and disbursements of \$485.00. Total cash in bank is \$277.03 and total sum in money market account is \$16,515.58.

### Community Relations Committee

Brian Daugherty reported on the Children of Abraham meetings.

--Within the Traditions presentation on January 31 on "Marriage Today". Twelve people were present, plus the presenters and moderator.

--February 21 at 2 p.m. Brian will give a presentation on "Trinitarian-Unitarian Views of the Divine" in the Flaherty Room at Mt Mercy.

--At the March 27th meeting, Nina Scott will speak on "The Baha'i Relationship to Abraham". It will be held in the Kesler Auditorium, Hickok Hall, Coe College from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

--June 5, discussion on "Repairing/Healing the World" will be held at Coe College.

--Sept 25, discussion on "Politics and Religion", the location to be announced later.

The topic for the University of Religion course will be "Life and Example of Mohammad". Brian and Hassan Selim will be meeting to finalize the plans for this course.

### Event Committee

The members of the committee will meet in a week to discuss the Thanksgiving Service. Suggestions for the location and for a speaker would be appreciated.

### Communication Committee

Eugenia Vavra will take over as chair of the committee.

### **OTHER**

Charles Crawley announced that Hassan Selim was interviewed on National Public Radio. The link to the program is <http://www.npr.org/2016/01/31/465075199/in-iowa-campaign-season-finds-muslims-caught-in-a-harsh-spotlight>.

Inspiration, March 3--Nathan Williams.

Alan Diehl shared his journey into Secular Humanism and, along with our guests, discussed the aims of the Secular Humanism Society of Linn County.

Motion to adjourn was made by Nathan Williams, seconded by Al Fisher, at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Mitchell, secretary.