

Inter-Religious Council of Linn County, Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes from Thursday, October 5, 2017

Attendees: Bob Buntz, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Aaron Doolin, Rebecca Hinds, Gina Kendall, Susan Liddell, Joan Thaler, Alan Diehl, Afnan Elsheikh, Krishna Kumare Iyer, Nancy Rhodes, Leif Zalewski. Unable to attend: Erin Broich, Ashok Chawla, Todd Thalblum, Hassan Selim, Steve Knudson. Absent: Brenda Mitchell

Charles Crawley, president, opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

**INSPIRATION**

Bob Buntz brought the following as our inspiration reading:

“Thoughts in Solitude” by Thomas Merton

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have the desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Alan Diehl will provide the inspiration for the November meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Three *Religious Literacy meetings* will be held at the downtown public library in January, February, and March. At each meeting, three IRCLC members will speak about their faith or religious tradition. Jan. 8--Baha'i (Leif), Buddhism (Gina), and Christianity (Steve) will be presented; Feb. 12—Hinduism (Krishna), Humanism (Alan), and Islam (Hassan) will be presented; March 12—Judaism (Todd), Native American (Nancy), and Unitarian/Universalist (Rebecca) will be presented. The meetings will be held from 6:30 to 7:45 PM.

Leif, Gina, Krishna, Alan, and Nancy will form a sub-group to create a list of questions to bring to the next board meeting for review.

The Program Committee plan to *honor Cedric Lofdahl and Taha Tawil* at our annual meeting with a plaque thanking them for their years of service on the IRCLC and they will also each receive a \$100 check from the IRCLC to use for their mission work. Bob will work on the wording that will be inscribed on the plaques and report back to the board in November.

A motion was made to approved the purchase of the plaques and \$100 checks for Cedric and Taha. M/S/C: Buntz and Thaler.

The board discussed the idea of coordinating an Interfaith Prayer meeting to address tragedies that are occurring across the nation. Several ideas were discussed including:

- Offering a communal place for prayer and meditation
- Need to determine when to hold Interfaith Prayer meetings
- Participate in one day a month fast
- Could just sit in silence or express words as needed
- Need to understand value of holding these type of meetings
- Could bring people together for community conversations - engaging the community to talk about issues
- Could hold other type of events such as yoga or meditation every month and spread word through Facebook
- How do we show up for the community?
- Hold knee to knee conversations to feel closer to others during difficult times
- Connect with Newbo's Happier Hour efforts and
- Partner with Prairiewoods to sponsor community discussions
- Doesn't the upcoming Religious Literacy efforts address engaging community conversations?
- Churches often do not have any concept of other faith traditions and want to promote understanding and acceptance.
- It was pointed out that we already have Inter-Religious Dialogue efforts that address this.
- When tragedy happens, people need a place to heal and talk.

Bob will come back with some potential models for this effort to explore and Charles will also bring back ideas for the board to consider. It was stated that we need to better promote our existing programs to increase attendance.

Hassan's agenda item was tabled.

## **MINUTES**

A motion was made to approved the September minutes as emailed. M/S/C: Diehl and Doolin.

Brenda Mitchell will be stepping down from her role as board secretary after the Annual Meeting. It was requested that Brenda create a list of all of the duties she manages within her secretary position.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance Committee Steve was unable attend the board meeting however he distributed the financial report via email.

The report for September was reviewed. As of September 30:

Checking account: \$377.82 Money Market Account: \$14,536.24.

A motion was made to approve the September financial report as emailed. M/S/C: Thaler and Liddell.

Community Relations Committee report was given by Brian Daugherty.

Alan shared an updated list of topics for *Ethical Perspective on the News* that included:

- October 8 Robotics, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work
- October 15 The Las Vegas Massacre: How Do We Respond?
- October 22 The Threat of Nuclear War
- October 29 DACA
- November 5 Suicide
- November 12 Income Inequity

Alan requested if board members have ideas for shows to please contact him. He also requested links for the shows be shared with members and posted on Facebook. It was suggested to share information about subscribing to the YouTube channel within an upcoming newsletter.

Brian stated that Children of Abraham discussions have all been recorded and there is also a YouTube channel for this effort to share and promote. Gina is working on linking the pages to the IRCLC website and FaceBook page. It was suggested to create a FaceBook event post for the next Inter-Religious Dialogue discussion that will be help on Oct. 29th. A finalized course description and outline for The Native American Tradition class by Nancy Rhodes has been created. The class has been postponed until the Spring. Next year there is discussion about bringing in other faith traditions for a discussion on Jesus sharing inside Christianity and outside Christianity viewpoints.

Communication Committee report was given by Eugenia Kendall.

The committee will be meeting soon to put together the Fall newsletter.

Events Committee report was given by Charles Crawley.

*Thanksgiving Service:* An outline for the Thanksgiving Service was shared with the board. Members who will be giving reflections were reminded to forward their readings to Charles by 11/2/17 or they will not appear in the Service Bulletin.

*Annual Meeting:* Will be held on December 11, 2017, 6:00 PM, Prairiewoods

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Light of Unity Celebration (Baha'i): October 9, 6:30 PM, CRPL, Whipple Auditorium*

*NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, Oct. 28, 2017, 5:30 PM*

*Interfaith Harmony Week, Feb.1-7, 2018: Hassan*

*Parliament of World's Religions, Nov. 1-7, 2018, Toronto*

*It was stated that the lowans for Gun Safety event was poorly attended. As a sponsor of the event we need to get the word out better.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gina Kendall