

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF LINN COUNTY

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 16, 2014

Members present (14): Rodney Bluml, Tom Capo, Ashok Chawla, Charles Crawley, Brian Daugherty, Alan Fletcher, Susan Liddell, Brenda Mitchell, Bill Mulcahey, Hassen Selim, Jim Siegling, Todd Thalblum, Joan Thaler, and Jen Yukl.

OPENING & INSPIRATION

President Todd Thalblum called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He gave the evening's inspiration about the holiday of Tu B'shevat, the Jewish New Year for Trees (sunset, January 15, 2014 to nightfall, January 16, 2014). Todd read "Fruit of God's Earth" – a prayer giving thanks for the promised fruition of new life.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

Minutes of October 17, 2013: Motion by Joan Thaler to approve as submitted
– Second by Brian Daugherty – Carried.

Treasurer Alan Fletcher reported these account totals as of 12/31/2013:

Checking = \$4,372.84 / Money Market = \$14, 599.57

Alan Fletcher is working to get our financial records in order. Vice President Tom Capo met today with our former treasurer, Don Eply. The checkbook and other records are now with Alan. On 1/7/14, the three signatories for our US Bank accounts were changed over to our new president, treasurer, and secretary.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Relations Committee

1. **Children of Abraham:** Brian Daugherty noted that a planning meeting will be held in February to pick topics for future events. He would like to have a representative from the Islamic faith join this planning group.
2. **University of Religion:** A course has not yet been planned for 2014.
3. **Ethical Perspectives on the News / Sundays, 11 am on KCRG, Channel 9:** Tom Capo gave this report in Cedric Lofdahl's absence. Program taping is a week ahead of schedule. Karl Cassel, Executive Director of Horizons, has joined as a new moderator. Joe Stutler joined recently as a new Associate Producer. The EPON Planning Group meets every 4 to 6 weeks to plan programs. A request was made for new topic ideas in future programming.

The current program schedule was distributed: *Ethical Issues of 2014* (1/19/14); *Prayer in the Public Square* (1/26); *Life, Death, and Profit* (2/2); *Core Curriculum Standards* (2/9); *OSHA and the Family Farm* (2/16); *Inequity for All* (2/23); and *Control of the Internet* (3/2).

Program Committee

1. **Thanksgiving Service:** Tom Capo asked to join in the planning of the next Thanksgiving celebration scheduled for Monday, November 24 at 7 pm. He has some new ideas for the format of the service.
2. **Holocaust Memorial in April, 2014:** Day, time, and location to be announced.
[Subsequent to our meeting, the following was decided: Yom Hashoah Service will take place on Monday, April 7th (7 pm) at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Marion. More information about the guest speaker, Cesare Frustaci, can be found at <http://holocausteducate.org/event/88/>.]

DISCUSSION about our Committees

This discussion was in response to an inquiry by Charles Crawley as to the difference between the Community Relations Committee and the Program Committee, since they both appear to oversee and promote a variety of "programs". Brian Daugherty gave some explanation of how these committees were formed. *[Further clarification in an email discussion between Brian Daugherty and Jen Yukl after IRC meeting was this: The difference is that the "Program Committee" covers our events/programs that happen once each year (i.e., Thanksgiving Service and Peace Service) while the "Community Relations Committee" oversees programs/courses which occur in a series and may recur throughout the year (Children of Abraham and University of Religion) or on an ongoing weekly schedule (EPON).]*

Communications Committee

1. **Newsletter:** Brief discussion about preparing quarterly newsletters. We need someone to collect articles and event information for publication. Helen Elsbernd did this in past years and sent the information on to Mary Lee Folkedahl-Meehleder for computer layout. Mary is still working with us. She also helps with maintenance of addresses in database and printing address labels.
2. **Website status:** Brenda Mitchell reported that Stuart Williams has the new framework ready and just needs to put the content in. He has been reminded that we will pay him to do this, but he does not desire to bill us. Jen Yukl will try to contact him. Note from October minutes – "His design uses software that makes it much easier to make changes and add information." This is good for us if one of us can learn to put updates in.
3. **Membership request letter from president w/ donor form:** Jen Yukl reported that this is sent out in January or February. Jen requested that we purchase pre-printed (black ink) envelopes for this mailing and gave the following bids:
 - **Technographics** – #10 = \$79.34 (500); \$104.85 (1000) / #6 ¾ **security** = \$78.82 (500); \$103.83 (1000)
 - **Copyworks** – #10 = \$68 (500); \$95 (1000) / #6 ¾ **security** = \$73 (500); \$105 (1000)Discussion led to MOTION by Tom Capo for Jen Yukl to purchase a thousand pre-printed envelopes in both sizes (#10, #6 ¾ security tint) before our next meeting – Second by Jim Siegling – Carried. Charles Crawley suggested that we consult Adcraft Printing, noting that they printed our new brochure and are a union company. Jen will call Adcraft for a bid.

COMMITTEES – Involvement of IRC Council Members

Continued discussion about our committees led to consensus that each member will decide which committee to join by our next meeting.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission (CRCRC): Tom Capo reminded us of the opportunity we have to give feedback to this commission. This was brought up at our annual meeting on 12/19/13:

“John Paul, their new director, wants to present to us research that has been done on Cedar Rapids – in the areas of public safety, education, business, marginalized groups, and other areas. He would like our impressions, feelings, and thoughts about this research. This research also provides for us an opportunity to see the needs in this community and how our faith communities might fill some of the gaps that exist in Cedar Rapids.”

Decision was made to have invite John Paul to meet with us at our February meeting. If this works for him, we will meet a half hour earlier on Thursday, February 20 (6:30 – 7:30 pm designated to CRCRC / 7:30 – 8:30 pm for our regular meeting).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Tour of Islam – with Peter Jauhainen and Hassan Selim:** Charles Crawley shared about these meetings on Islam being held *each* Sunday in January at Christ Episcopal Church (9:15 – 10:15 am, Adult Education Forum). Also, on Jan. 26 at noon, there will be a Middle Eastern lunch (\$5) and a presentation titled “The Egyptian Revolution of 2011, Then and Now” by Hassan Selim. Community response to the Tour of Islam can be seen in this recent news spot on CBS2/FOX28 <http://www.cbs2iowa.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/church-dialogue-islam-24459.shtml> . Charles related some of the negative comments posted on this site.
2. **Spiritual Awareness Day, Saturday, January 25 (11am–4pm):** Illuminations Healing Arts Center Ashok Chawla, Tom Capo, and Zuiko Redding are some of the speakers at this event. See <http://illuminationshealingarts.com/Events.php> for the day’s schedule of speakers.
3. **“Enhancing Relationships with the Enneagram” – January 30 & 31:** Rodney Bluml provided flyers for this event at Prairiewoods and asked that we invite people from our congregations.
4. **Intersections, “Faith & HIV: Modernizing Iowa’s HIV Law” – Friday, Feb. 7 (11:45am–1pm):** See <http://interfaithallianceiowa.org/events/intersections/> for details about registering for lunch.
5. **Prairiewoods annual event – March 28 & 29 – Compassion, as this relates to all creation:** See <http://pw.retreatportal.net/calendar/viewEvent.aspx?programcode=14PGR05256> for details.
6. **Jesus Seminar – “Reframing Gospels” – April 4 & 5:** Tom Capo announced that People’s Church will host this event. See <http://www.westarinstitute.org/events/cedar-rapids/> for registration details.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday, February 20 at the Ecumenical Community Center

- **6:30 – 7:30 pm** Guest – John Paul of Cedar Rapids Civil Rights Commission
- **7:30 – 8:30 pm** IRC meeting – Rodney Bluml will give the inspiration.
(Ashok Chawla offered to provide the inspiration at the April meeting.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

(Motion to adjourn by Brenda Mitchell – Second by Jim Siegling – Carried)

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Yuki
Secretary