

INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF LINN COUNTY - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Present: Aaron Doolin, Alan Diehl, Alan Fletcher, Ashok Chawla, Brian Daugherty, Catherine Quehl-Engel, Charles Crawley, Eugenia Vavra, Hassan Selim, Joan Thaler, Nancy Rhodes, Nathan Williams, Paula Mitchell, Susan Liddell, Taha Tawil, Todd Thalblum.

Guests: Shannon Beck.

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

INSPIRATION

Nathan Williams gave the following inspiration message written 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 that I have that desire in all that I
am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from
that desire.

And I know if I do this you will lead me through the
right road 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 peril alone.

MINUTES of February 4, 2016

The minutes of the February 4th meeting were reviewed and the following changes were discussed. The description for the March 27th event should be written as: At the March 27th meeting, Nina Scott will present the "The Baha'i Relationship to Abraham". It will be held in the

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Kesler Auditorium, Hickok Hall, Coe College from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. "Inter-Religious Council of Linn County - Board of Directors Meeting" also needs to be added to the top of the page. A motion was made to accept the Feb. 4th minutes with the additional changes, M/S/C: Fletcher/Thaler.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Alan Fletcher, Treasurer

- 1. Financial Report:** Itemized Receipts & Disbursements - 01/01/16 thru 02/29/16 - reviewed. Cash balance as of 02/29/16: \$16,573.65 [Checking = \$207.03 / Money Market = \$16,366.62] Alan stated he also has a stack of membership dues to check in. A motion was made to accept the Financial Report, M/S/C: Tawil/Williams.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE - Brian Daugherty, Chair

- 1. Children of Abraham:** Brian gave a report on recent program activities.
 - Between the Traditions:**
 - The Feb. 21st presentation on "Trinitarian-Unitarian Views of the Divine" was a success with 20 people present.
 - Among the Traditions:**
 - On March 27th, there will be a presentation given by Nina Scott on "The Baha'i Relationship to Abraham". While it falls on Easter Sunday, please come if your schedule allows.
- 2. Ethical Perspectives on News**
 - Nothing to report for Ethical Perspectives.
- 3. University of Religion**
 - Hassan and Brian will be meeting soon to determine when and where the University of Religion will be held.

Concerns: Taha Tawil brought up a concern to the Board about including a Baha'i faith representative as a part of the Children of Abraham discussions. Taha explained that it was his understanding that Nina Scott would be giving a presentation on "The Baha'i faith and the Relationship to Abraham" on March 27th, and was surprised to see within the February 4 minutes that "the Baha'i faith will be represented in the Among the Traditions discussions" when he did not think this decision had yet been made. Taha requested there be additional discussions held with the Inter-Religious Council after the March 27th presentation to decide if a representative from the Baha'i faith will be included in upcoming Children of Abraham discussions.

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Other board members questioned what process would be used to determine how to include a representative from the Baha'i faith within the Children of Abraham discussions. It was suggested that the Children of Abraham Committee bring a recommendation to the board to be discussed during the April meeting. It was also suggested that the March 27th presentation be videotaped and shared with the Board.

A motion was made to pay \$75 to have the presentation recorded along with the Q&A session held afterwards, M/S/C: Tawil/Quehl-Engel.

EVENTS COMMITTEE - Charles Crawley, Co-Chair

1. On April 17, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. "***Lest We Forget - A Community Service of Remembrance for the Victims of the Holocaust***" will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 220 40th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA. Magda Brown will be featured as a holocaust survivor. For more information please visit: www.holocausteducate.org or www.irclc.org. There will be singing and light refreshments. **Please contact Todd Thalblum if you would like to give a reading and/or help with the event.**
2. Planning efforts for this year's **Thanksgiving Service** on Monday, Nov. 21st have started. A theme, location and speaker still need to be determined. The thought is there will be a need to heal divisions that arise out of the election. There is interest in getting a larger speaker such as Congressman Keith Ellison. The Committee has a list of seven potential speakers to consider. The Whipple Auditorium at the Downtown Public Library was discussed as a potential location for this year's service. The location seats 200 people, but we would need to be out by 8:00 p.m. or pay an additional \$100 to keep it open longer.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE - Eugenia Vavra, Chair

1. **Membership Letters** - Brenda Mitchell mailed out this year's membership letter. If you did not receive one, please contact Brenda to be put on our mailing list.
2. **Newsletter** - Nathan Williams coordinated efforts to complete the Spring newsletter. Thank you to everyone who submitted content and information upcoming events.
3. **Website** - Nancy Rhodes and Eugenia Vavra will help keep the website updated. Eugenia explained the email account that was connected to the website was found, although it was noted that messages are still not being forwarded properly.
4. **Facebook Account** - Hassan Selim is assisting with creating a IRCLC facebook page. He also noted the email address did not seem to be working with setting up the facebook

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account. Eugenia said she would look into it and work on getting it fixed.

OTHER BUSINESS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **New Board Member** - Todd Thalblum presented Paula Mitchell, a representative from the Unitarian Universalist to serve on the board for a three-year term ending in December 2018. Paula works for the City of Cedar Rapids within their Community Development Department. A motion was made to accept Paula Mitchell as a new board member, M/S/C: Daugherty/Williams.
 - An updated IRCLC 2016 Board of Directors list with Paula's contact information was distributed.
 - Paula agreed to serve on the Finance Committee.
2. **Summer Meeting Months** - The IRCLC meetings were not traditionally held during June and July, when we met on the third Thursday. However, since we now meet on the first Thursday of the month, it was suggested that we meet as a board in June and not meet in July or August.
3. **Inspiration for the next meeting** - Ashok Chawla agreed to offer the Inspiration during the April meeting.

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made for the meeting to adjourn 7:59 p.m., M/S/C: Thaler/Tawil.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eugenia Vavra
03/13/16