



www.chicointerfaith.org

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Minutes: March 14th 2018

Present: Lon Halley / Friend of Christ, Anne Tsong / Public, Lakshmi / Sky Creek Dharma Center, Pamela Beeman / Trinity UMC, Bonny Hamilton, Wendy Smith / Chico Food Project, Jim Anderson / Friends, Marv Megibow / Congregation Beth Israel, Ted Sandberg / First Baptist, Robert Trausch / CHAT, Leslie Johnson / CHAT, Deborah Muth, Thomas Kelem / Stonewall Alliance, Joan McCormick / Christian Science, Gail Hill / Chico First Baptist, Jackie Leser / Bahai, Rosie White / AQRT, Jesse Kearns / First Christian

Introductions: Each person present stated their name and any agency affiliation.

Opening Focus: Lakshmi: ancient Sanskrit chant, roughly "lead us from unreality to truth, darkness to light, fear of death to knowledge of immortality." "shanti" = peace. Different paths to finding peace within ourselves – meditation groups at Sky Creek. Vipassana meditation has a 2,500 year tradition. 10-day silent retreats are available - no distractions, so difficult but transformative. (handout)

Moment of silent prayer: Followed the Opening Focus

Guest Speakers:

Wendy Smith / Chico Food Project / Blue Bag collection: On the 2nd Saturday of alternate months, volunteer drivers pick up (exchange) Blue Bags filled with groceries from homes, taken to Chico Food Locker. (Forms disseminated) Wendy is available to speak to faith groups.

Time of Remembrance: Ted Sandberg: Remembrance of Father Mike Newman, longtime member and secretary of CAIC (see obituary). M/S Sandberg/Beeman to make a \$100 donation to Catholic Ladies' Relief Society. Recommended, a gathering/reception for Father Mike, invite community. M/S Sarsour/Lakshmi to fund up to \$150 for such a reception. Reception task force: Gail, Ali and Kristina

Approval of February Minutes: Minutes approved by consensus with one correction of name spelling.

Treasurer report: Current balance \$9,617.17. Dues paid by Faith Lutheran. Expenditures \$162 for 2-year website contract.

Reports:

- **Education and Event Committee: Jesse Kearns**
Members: Jesse Kearns, Kate McCarthy, Bruce Grelle, Bryan Plude, Lon Halley
Report: No change, still planning 3 May event. Approved \$100 donation to Trans*GNC week (in addition to sponsorship approved last week)
Next Meeting: TBA. Check Emails for dates and times if interested in attending. All are welcome.
- **Finance Committee: Rosie White**
Members: Rosie White, Loretta Ann Steinke, Thomas Kelem, Ted H. Sandberg
Report: No official meeting, see report above.
Next Meeting: TBA. Check Emails for dates and times if interested in attending. All are welcome.

○ **Interfaith Relations Committee: Kristina Carter**

Members: Kristina Carter, Jackie Leser, Jim Anderson, John Berger, Tommye-Jean McGuire

Report: Book club event was rescheduled to get greater attendance and the new date will be shared soon. Activity today at the end of the meeting facilitated by this committee.

Next Meeting: TBA. Check Emails for dates and times if interested in attending. All are welcome.

○ **Public Relations/Technology Committee: Crystal Trimble**

Members: Crystal Trimble, Lakshmi Ariaratnam, Alyssa Cozine, Pamela Beeman, Rabbi Sara Abrams, Barbara Mann

Report: Need volunteers for KZFR Pledge Drive, where we can have on-air time to describe CAIC. Pamela and Ali to cover shift on 9 April. Annual award to a graduating senior – recommended using CAIC’s theme for the year “Unity in Diversity” (possibly tapping in to students mobilized for safety from gun violence). \$200 to be awarded per committee judging.

Next Meeting: TBA. Check Emails for dates and times if interested in attending. All are welcome.

Nominating Committee: members are being contacted for new role

Old Business

- **Pastor Talk:** Enterprise-Record “Pastor Talk” column. E-R responded, positive about name change (“Voices of Faith”), question about opening it to any contributor. Discussion: could be anyone from a faith community designated by the leader (“lay appointee” / representative). Recommended: Task force to meet with E-R: task force volunteers: Jim, Kristina, Lon, Jackie
- **Laura’s Law:** Letter to County Supervisors re: “Laura’s Law” Leslie Johnson wrote letter (see attached), would like to add to it that 19 counties in California have approved it so far. To be sent on letterhead to each supervisor plus one to the clerk. Leslie to edit it (length) to submit to E-R Letters to the Editor.
- **Faith groups personal Invite:** (Re-)Inviting non-participating faith groups. Letter to be sent to various faith communities, those who have participated in the past plus other large congregations, and Chico Peace and Justice Center.

New Business

- **Web page can now include links to our faith communities.**
- **Tabled: Discussion of Restorative Justice**

Announcements and Reports:

- Tom Kelem: trans*GNC week coming this spring, see packet – many educational opportunities.
 - Lakshmi is moving.
 - Lon Halley: Possible panel on Perspectives on Afterlife.
 - Ted noted a suicide at CSUC this morning, prayers needed.
- Please contact the Secretaries if you have announcements to be added to the March agenda.

Volunteer to do the March Opening Focus: Jesse Kearns (First Christian Church)

Next Meeting: April 11th, 2018 at 11:45 a.m. at First Baptist Church, Chico