

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT, 2009

What is the best way to become unpopular and to arouse criticism? Propose CHANGE!

That is what we did last year when proposing to drop the Food Committee, the Housing Committee, the Health Committee, and the Social Concerns Committee. Then to attempt for a year a new structure consisting of (1) Communications and Membership Team, (2) Grants Team, and (3) Programs and Social Concerns Team. This was our own "Stimulus Plan" designed to improve the size and operations of the Council.

In my view, the members of the Council have worked with focus and efficiency trying to develop and implement guidelines to the new organizational scheme. The three Teams have been meeting regularly and are engaged in continued updating of their missions and their guidelines for achieving their goals.

I realize it is difficult to "prove" intangibles and levels of "success" in any demonstrable way. Obviously I can call it "better" or "improved" and the like. But, much as I dislike using "dollars" as a measure, those numbers indicate some HOPE in the direction we have taken: figures indicate that our "income" for (1) Program Grants and for (2) Membership Dues in the fiscal year ending in January 2008 was \$10,948, in January 2009 it was \$8,425, and in January 2010 it reached \$15,514. The "deterioration" I noted last year seems to have been halted. Perhaps we have "turned the corner" and are heading in a growth direction with both "new blood" and more assets to distribute.

One item, though, concerns me deeply: two long-time faith groups dropped their membership because of doctrinal dysfunction over a recipient of donations from the Grants activities. For an organization like ours, which focuses on developing our common strengths and transcending our differences, this is not good news. Dogma differentiation and workable accommodations, clearly, remain as a challenge to improve and uplift the Community we seek to serve.

To assist in these directions, the Executive Committee will move at the Annual Meeting:

- A. "Because we value the participation and contributions of all faith groups, we move that Interfaith Council will provide the OPTION to faith groups that wish to designate the non-profit agencies they are willing to support with their donations to IFC's outreach and the option will be included in future Covenant forms."
- B. The three-Team structure cited above shall be retained permanently.

Finally, we have continued to:

- Sponsor the Interfaith Dialogue on KRFC 88.9 radio.
- Co-sponsor with numerous religious and community organizations the International Hour for Peace, on Dec. 31.
- Expand the Internet Interfaith Bulletin to a weekly format
- Develop and update the website for more friendly and efficient use.
- Continue to hold an Awards Dinner in April.
- Make our Program slate available to a potentially broader attendance group by holding evening programs when possible.
- Focusing attention on finding holes in the “safety nets” of our Community and bringing them to the attention of the membership for potential action.

My deepest thanks to everyone for contributions made to IFC in 2009: A VERY GOOD YEAR!

Let's make 2010 an inspiring one!

Garth A. McCann, President

PROPOSED OFFICERS: 2010

President: Richard Thompson

President Emeritus: Garth McCann

Vice President: JoAn Hopkins (temporary)

Communications & Membership: Cathie Waugh

Treasurer: Carol Smith

Recording Secretary: Sandra Brown

Programs & Social Concerns: Jo Ann Hopkins and Sue Beck-Ferkiss

Grants: Carol Smith and Beth Hammer

Grants Team

The Grants Team met during the regular business meetings from Feb. 2009 through Jan. 2010 in compliance with the IFC by-laws. Due to the unpredictability of cash flow it was determined by the team with the approval of the Board that the grant requests would be honored on a Quarterly basis (April, July, October, and January). This has worked very well and will continue to be the practice for the fiscal year 2010. During the fiscal year 2009 a total of \$12,000.00 was awarded to 17 non-profit agencies which applied in the Fort Collins area.

In addition, the Team drew up guidelines designating activities of the Team which have been submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

We wish to thank the members of the Team for all of their hard work in making sure that applications were reviewed in an unbiased manner and distribution of available funds was made as equitably as possible.

Grace Fellowship: Mentoring following incarceration;
Elderhaus: Care of adults with special needs;
Lambda: Create inclusive environment/summer activity;
Care-a-Van/Saint: Provide transportation for those in need;
Rocky Mountain Resource Center: Confront extremist groups;
Geller Center: Religious diversity educational workshop;
Boys and Girls Club: Help children 6-18 develop full potential;
Homelessness Prevention Initiative: Provide rental assistance for those in need;
Neighbor to Neighbor: Providing affordable housing/counseling ;
Hand-up Cooperative: Long term employment for homeless;
Education & Life Training Center: Train individuals in life skills;
HART Center: Drug and alcohol youth recovery environment;
Catholic Charities: Motel vouchers for overflow of Mission;
Eracism: Film and discussion;
Women's Resource Center: Health Care Assistance;
Food Bank of Larimer County: Food distribution w. income guidelines;
Disabled Resource Center: Emergency response and aid to needy;

Carol A. Smith and Beth Hammer, Co-chairs.

Programs & Social Concerns Committee

The Programs and Social Concerns Committee was formed from members of former groups before reorganization of Interfaith last year. We were given the task of providing interesting programs and initiatives. Our charges were:

1. Present programs appropriate for providing information that would be beneficial for all members of the group.
2. Identify issues to represent the concerns that all groups had identified before the reorganization.
3. Recognize and voice the concern that all speakers have sufficient time to present their topic and other items of interest to the group presented after the speaker.
4. Communicate with each meeting site so that seating and audiovisual equipment is available.
5. Assist the other committees in planning special events.
6. Assist other committees in advocating for individuals and community issues that need special attention.
7. Attend executive meeting and participate in planning for the Interfaith Council.

JoAnn Hopkins, Chair

Communication & Membership Team

The Communication/membership Team in 2009 performed:

1. Created a new team
 - a. Clarified the team's guidelines
 - b. Defined specific job descriptions
2. Developed a system for keeping membership roster accurate and up to date.
3. Distributed handbooks and oriented 12 new member representatives.
4. Established and enhanced the sign-in table for meetings, with a greeter to welcome new members, new representatives, and visitors.
5. Distributed weekly #-bulletins with a new user friendly format.
6. Distributed 2010 covenant forms...electronically by email.
7. Completed the host sign-up for the 2010 meeting calendar.

Members included: Rich Thompson, Cathie Waugh, Sandra Brown, Nancy Boswell, Gordon Chavis, Sue Anderson, and Pat Wise—plus Bill Brown as consultant.

Team Goals for 2010:

1. Continue to enhance IFC's public presence
2. Develop an informative IFC display board and banner for use in community events
3. Recruit new members and retain existing members
4. Develop clear and user-friendly format for the 2011 covenant forms
5. Strengthen our network within IFC.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Wise, Chair

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE 2009 PROGRAMS – KRFC 88.9fm

01/01 UN Millennial Goals

01/08 Tom Sutherland & Burns Poetry

01/15 Gaza Demonstration

01/22 Progressive Christianity

01/29 Jazz & Faith: Mark Sloniker

02/05 Univercity Homeless Update

02/12 Christian Science Faith Tradition

02/19 The Slim Conspiracy

02/26 Mercy Housing

03/05 Shambhala Meditation Center

03/12 Peaceful Heart Sangha

03/19 Murphy Center & Clergy Day

03/26 Rerun

04/02 This I Believe: Local Voices

04/09 Pathways Hospice

04/16 Author Rick Dixon

04/23 Immigrant Stories

04/30 Bloodbonds

05/07 Anglola Mission

05/14 PresBuild

05/21 Sunrise Community Clinic

05/28 Day Shelter at Community of Christ Church

06/04 Homeless Prevention Initiative

06/11 The Phelps Organ of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

06/18 Northern Colorado AIDS Project

06/25 Legislature Aftermath: Human Services

07/02 Walking the Green Line in Israel

07/09 Changing Churches

07/16 FC Police Chaplaincy

07/23 Mercy Homes

07/30 New Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal

08/06 Spiritual Direction Movement

08/13 Northern Colorado AIDS Project

08/20 Yoga as a Spiritual Discipline

08/27 Author of Dying Judy Underwood

09/03 Christians in Pakistan

09/10 Read Fort Collins

09/17 Hospice Bereavement

09/24 New Music of the Spirit

10/01 Welcoming the New Rabbis

10/08 Northern Colorado Faith Library

10/15 Interfaith Light & Power

10/22 Winter Day Shelter & University

10/29 Faith Perspectives on Climate Change

11/05 Interviewing Krista Tippett

11/12 Reflections on Speaking of Faith

11/19 Thanksgiving Community Celebration

11/26 Climate Project

12/03 Sing-a-Long Messiah

12/10 Author Lauren Myracle

12/17 Las Posadas

12/24 Sister Mary Alice Murphy

12/31 Celebrations of Light