

TOWARD COMMUNITY: UNITY IN DIVERSITY  
MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 18,2006

PRESENT: Kathy Flores, Jeff Kuepper, Terry Dawson, Carol Bloemer, Barbara Chambers, Tony Awofeso, Ellie Olson

I. Diversity Sharing The MLK service last Monday evening went very well and was well received by the community. Around 700 people attended. Press coverage from the Post-Crescent and other media was also excellent.

II. Treasurer's Report Carol presented the Annual Budget used in 2005, and a report of Itemized Categories, 1/1/2005-12/31/2005. Both were reviewed. The plaque for the Jane LaChapelle McCarty Unity in Diversity Award still needs to be paid.

III. Membership At the close of 2005, there were 103 TC members. Ninety-one were renewals, 12 were new, and 12 organizations belonged. Thirty-six memberships lapsed. Memberships come in all year. This year, Barbara will add a clarification to the membership renewal letter stating that our fiscal year and thus our membership year runs from January 1-December 31. She already has 3 renewals for 2006.

IV. Reports and Updates

A. Martin Luther King Interfaith Service Expectations for this event from the community are high. The MLK committee will be meeting shortly to evaluate this year's event and begin the planning for next year's service. The speaker and music especially need to be secured early. The offering from the event amounted to \$1734.03. It will be used for programs and events sponsored or otherwise supported by TC.

B. Holiday Party The party was cancelled in December due to stormy weather. The group decided not to hold a post-holiday party, especially in light of the opportunity to celebrate diversity at the MLK event Monday. Barbara is storing the gifts purchased for the party. They can be used for the picnic.

V. Meeting Date Change Motion was made and passed to change the TC meeting date from the 3rd Wednesday to the 4th Wednesday of the month. It will continue to be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center.

VI. Bylaws Update Terry copied the TC Bylaws for our review. The group decided that they needed to be rewritten in order to be functional for our organization. They are too detailed and too restrictive. An ad hoc committee will work on this. Terry, Jeff, and Barbara volunteered. They will ask Scott Peebles to join them when he returns from India. All actions taken at the meeting were deemed to be provisional because we did not have the quorum to take official action.

VII. Nominating Committee The slate of officers for 2006 was presented as follows:

Chairperson: Terry Dawson  
Vice Chair (Membership): Barbara Chambers  
Vice Chair (Public Relations): Badri Varma  
Recording Secretary: Ellie Olson  
Corresponding Secretary: Connie Raether  
Treasurer: Carol Bloemer

Members at Large: Ram Shet, Jeff Kuepper, Tony Golzales, Kathy Flores, Henry Golde, Julie Heidemann

The slate was provisionally approved by members present at the meeting. Shirley Awofeso has been asked to be the 7th member at large. She has not yet responded. The group thanked Kathy Flores for her excellent work as chairperson in 2005.

#### VIII. New Business

A. TC will be one of the organizations supporting the "Start Now: Building Marriage Equality Conference" which will be hosted by the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Saturday, February 25. The conference will inform and encourage participants in working toward marriage equality for gay and lesbian families.

B. Keys for the mailbox, MCC, and filing cabinet along with the photocopy code were ceremonially passed on from Kathy to Terry.

C. The 2006 TC organizational membership fee to the Fox Cities Rotary Multicultural Center is \$100. Terry will be the TC delegate to that board

D. Mail and Telephone -- Since we have membership in the FCRMCC, our mail can now be delivered to that address. Carol will, therefore, not renew the post office mailbox when it comes due at the end of March.

The

TC phone number at the FCRMCC is 882-4056. The voice mail messages will be checked by Terry.

E. Brochure Carol completed work on the revised brochure in time to have

them inserted in the programs at the MLK event. We now have hundreds of brochures ready for distribution to the community. The meeting date, however, now needs to be changed to the 4th Wed. of the month. The bill for the brochures is \$142.

#### IX. Community Events

A. February 25 African Heritage group sponsors an event for Black History Month

B. February 25 Conference on Building Marriage Equality

C. March 16 Harbor House annual fundraiser, "A Time to Laugh."

D. March 4 Women's History Month event at the Girl Scout Center

REMINDER NEXT TC MEETING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:30 p.m. FCRMCC

X. Adjourn