



The purpose of the Carbondale Interfaith Council is to make God's love visible in our community by fostering interfaith cooperation, sharing religious experiences, engaging in service, discovering unity while respecting our differences, and speaking with courage and strength for justice

Meeting Minutes for May 1, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm at Gaia House Interfaith Center by Maurine Pyle, President of the Council. Scott Martin provided a brief introduction to the Baha'i tradition. This was part of our ongoing series of introductions to the history, beliefs, and practices of our member faith communities.

Terry Fulk from the Jackson County Health Department and Peter Lemish from Imagined Geographies at SIU spoke to the Council about emergency preparedness. Terry Fulk's work as the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator includes preparing the JCHD for emergencies and working with community members to prepare for emergencies. Faith-based disaster preparedness is important because it takes advantage of social networks that are already in place. Once they are prepared, faith communities will also be better able to assist others. Terry has resources that can assist your faith community in preparing for disasters. Peter also mentioned other regional organizations such as the Shawnee Preparedness Response Coalition and the Healthy Southern Illinois Delta Network that facilitate communication and networking for preparedness. Terry Fulk can be reached at terryf@jchdonline.org or 618-684-3143 Ext 176.

Kathy Renfro from the Carbondale Park District spoke to the Council about the Super Splash Park. The park arose out of the Study Circles conversations where a public pool was identified as an important resource that Carbondale is currently lacking. Kathy discussed how water creates a different sense of community and opens up new forms of recreation and exercise for people of different abilities. The Super Splash Park is close to completing its construction but is currently on hold due to proposed changes in the Illinois state budget. For more information on how to support the Super Splash Park, visit www.savesplashpark.com.

Marleen Shepherd from the Sparrow Coalition spoke to the Council about the history and progress of the Sparrow Coalition. This project originally started when Marleen was developing a hypothetical ministry project for her seminary studies. When she approached the Council with her ideas, the resulting fruitful conversation led to the creation of the Sparrow Coalition. The Sparrow Coalition's mission is to respond compassionately to those on the margins of our community by helping those in need and the people who help them. There was a strategic visioning session earlier this year and there will be a celebration in May to celebrate the first 90 days of action toward achieving the group's vision. Action teams of the Sparrow Coalition include a team exploring the met and unmet needs of the community; a sustainable funding team; an institutional partners team; an infrastructure and transportation team; and a public advocacy team. Together, these teams will help to support existing resources that are under duress and encourage the development of new resources that are needed to fill gaps in service.



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Mike Heath from Good Samaritan Ministries shared the Good Sam reports from the past two months because the Council didn't have a business meeting in March. Demand for services continues to increase. Support from area faith communities and the public at large is greatly appreciated. If you want any brochures about Good Sam, contact Mike Heath. Treesong will also send out a link to the brochures in the Council's next email newsletter.

The next Parliament of the World's Religions is coming up on October 15-19 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Having the Parliament in the U.S. is a rare opportunity for people from the U.S. to attend for relatively little cost. Over a dozen local people are attending and will share more news as it develops. In the meantime, the Council discussed the idea of having a local equivalent of the Parliament in Carbondale this fall. This would be similar to the Houses of Faith tour and could involve additional events such as a bus tour, campus events, a "living book library" where participants "rent" or "borrow" a person in order to learn about their faith, etc.

Scott Martin from the Baha'i community spoke about the Faith and Environment program. Faith and Environment recently had a brainstorming session where participants discussed new ideas for the coming year. Ideas included movie showings related to environmental issues, inviting local faith leaders to speak about how their faith tradition relates with the environment, and possibly alternating between these two types of events.

Pastor Sonja Ingebritsen from Church of the Good Shepherd spoke about the recent visit from Father Didace Kamana. His visit involved several talks and events related to restorative justice. There was discussion among the Council about how to bring the restorative justice approach into our local community through future events and programs.

Pastor Sonja also presented a letter for discussion. This letter was her proposal for a Council response to recent demonstrations in Baltimore and elsewhere regarding the state of race relations in the United States. The Council did not reach a consensus about this letter. It was decided that any individual or faith community who wished to sign the letter could do so, but the Council as a whole would not sign it. It was also proposed that the Council have a special session dedicated to discussing questions of racial justice among ourselves in order to foster dialogue and see if we may be able to reach consensus on a future statement about racial justice.

Maurine Pyle discussed plans for the Council during the several summer months when there are no business meetings. These plans included formation of a committee to review the Council's bylaws and 501(c)(3) status and possibly other committees such as a preparation committee for the local equivalent of the Parliament of the World's Religions.

The next gathering of the Carbondale Interfaith Council will be at the Sparrow Coalition celebration on Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30 pm at Carbondale Public Library. The event will start with an indoor program offered by the Sparrow Coalition followed by a picnic outside. Meeting minutes submitted by Treesong, Secretary of the Carbondale Interfaith Council.



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CARBONDALE INTERFAITH COUNCIL
Members And Guests In Attendance
April 28, 2015

Name	Faith Community or Organization
Maurine Pyle	Southern Illinois Quaker Meeting
Tisha Petty	Church of the Good Shepherd UCC
Scott Martin	Southern Illinois Baha'i
Al Crim	Southern Illinois Baha'i
Sara Faye Marten	Congregation Beth Jacob
Treesong	Gaia House Interfaith Center & SIPA
Sarah Richards	Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship
Samuel Cox	First United Methodist Church
Mazhar Butt	Islamic Center of Carbondale
Abdus Sami	Islamic Center of Carbondale
Ross Bauer	Southern Illinois Pagan Alliance (SIPA)
Tina Logan	Epiphany Lutheran Church
Kelsey Logan	Epiphany Lutheran Church
Joy Nur	Dayemi Tariqat
Mike Heath	Good Samaritan Ministries
Kathy Renfro	Carbondale Park District
Peter Lemish	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Terry Fulk	Jackson County Health Department
Marleen Shepherd	Sparrow Coalition
Sonja Ingebritsen	Church of the Good Shepherd UCC