

INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE OF KAUAI
June 19, 2015
Lihue Hongwanji, 3-3530 Kuhio Hwy, Lihue
Minutes submitted by Sharon West

Present: Annaleah Atkinson Cynthia Moore, Jeffrey Pears, Lucky Wells, Rev. Patrick Feren, Rev Rita Andriello, Sally Wilson, Sharon West, Willie Garavito

Opening Prayer: Offered by Willie Garavito.

Welcoming and Call to order: Jeffrey Pears.

Minutes from Last Meeting: Summarized by Jeffrey and approved with one change: In the Programming Committee Report, "Rev. Michael Christensen was absent" was changed to "Rev. Michael Christensen was absent due to illness."

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of treasurer, Vel Alahan, Jeffrey Pears reported an IROK bank balance as of the May 31st bank statement, \$1273.80.

Expected disbursements: \$340 for food for the annual retreat. \$180.00 to Hanapepe UCC for the additional three people who have signed up to attend (\$60 each). \$10/person honorarium (included in registration donation) to the Hawaiian cultural practitioner who will present a short program at the retreat.

Message from Chairperson: Jeffrey opened with a message he titled, "How Are We Serving the Community, Culture, and Humanity?" and summarized key issues being addressed by URI.org like *Peacebuilding; Youth; Environment; Gender discrimination and inequality; Civic engagement; Indigenous voices; and Interfaith dialogue and action*. He pointed out that IROK is actively engaged in *Interfaith dialogue/action* and *Peacebuilding* through our monthly meetings and annual hosted events, and suggested IROK take steps to reach out and foster learning, service, and interfaith collaboration with *Indigenous Voices*, namely the Polynesian/Hawaiian culture, and the Native American culture here on Kaua'i.

Additionally, he spoke of his intent to attend the Celebration of the United Nation's 70th Anniversary along with the 15th anniversary of The United Religions Initiative to be held in San Francisco on June 27th at Grace Cathedral. The text of Jeffrey's message is posted on the website (link is on lower right-hand corner of homepage at www.interfaithroundtableofkauai.org).

In a discussion following the message, Sharon West, Cynthia Moore and Annaleah Atkinson brought to the table recent occurrences that point out the rising level of racial unrest in America, not only on the mainland but as close as the north shore of Kauai. Sharon West and Sally Wilson agreed to meet with Willie Garavito to discuss how IROK might address these issues and to plan a forum where the discussion can be opened up to the community. It was decided that this would happen after the IROK Retreat.

Committee Reports:

- a) **Membership:** John Moore was unable to attend the meeting due to job responsibilities. Jeffrey said our membership statistics are: 225 names on Kaua'i email list. Active membership is between 20-30.

- b) **Public Relations:** Al Albergate was unable to attend the meeting. Jeffrey passed around pictures that had been taken at the National Day of Prayer event in May.
- c) **Programming:** Cynthia, Moore reports the program calendar is filled for meetings through January of 2016. Sally Wilson will be presenting Judaism at the meeting in July.
- d) **Website:** Jeffrey added some pictures that progress in a slider on the homepage, along with short paragraphs about our Mission, Purpose, Values, and Guiding Principles. He also suggested we disable the *Submit an Event* feature and manually post relevant events that people email IROK about. There has been no utilization of the feature since it was implemented 7-8 months ago. The *Upcoming Events* page will stay.
- e) **Annual Retreat:** Sister Deborah was off island. She has done all the pre-arranging required for the retreat. She has asked Sharon West to be available to answer any questions that might come up in her absence. She will return to Kauai a few days before the retreat.
- f) **International Day of Peace:** Since no one has stepped up to chair this event, Jeffrey offered to again take it on. Rev. Patrick and Rev. Rita volunteered to serve on the committee. The IROK event will happen on Sunday, September 20th. The actual International Day of Peace is Monday, September 21st.

Monthly Donation: \$155 was received at the conclusion of our monthly meeting. Suggested donation is \$5 each meeting.

New Business: The call for nominations for IROK board members. The members discussed the need for nominations to fill the offices of Co-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. Sister Deborah has decided she needs to step down from her position as co-chair in order to handle other responsibilities. Vel Alahan is currently dealing with health issues and has asked to step down as treasurer.

Sally Wilson self nominated for the position of Secretary.

Annaleah nominated Al Albergate for the position of Treasurer.

Jeffrey Pears stated he wished to continue as Chairperson.

It was decided to mention the call for nominations at the retreat. Additionally, Jeffrey suggested that the Board members serve for one year with the option to renew for another 2 years at the end of the first year of service.

Old Business: Pros and cons of IROK filing for 501c3 status and whether IROK should consider it. The cost to hire a lawyer at this time is prohibitive, so most agreed the decision is on hold right now. Sally Wilson mentioned a lawyer who might work more closely within our budget. This will be pursued and reported on at the next meeting.

Program: William Garavito of Rhuah.org presented.

Next meeting: 12-2 p.m. on Friday, July 31, 2015 at Lihue Hongwanji.

Closing Prayer: Jeffrey.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned.