

**Interfaith Action of Evanston
Delegates' Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2010
Fisher Memorial AME Zion Church**

Board Members present

Nancy Bashook, Diane Currano, Dave Denoon, Claire Fisher, Carolyn Gifford, Jessica Gregory, Jackie Grinvalds, Chris Isely, Suzie LaBelle, Sue Murphy, Ralph Starenko, Liz Stout

There were a total of 39 people present.

Business Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 3:20 pm.

Rev. Warren Smith, from Fisher Memorial, gave the welcome. Rev. Smith told us that he soon will be a graduate of Garrett Theological Seminary. After graduation he will have more time to participate in Interfaith Action activities.

Liz introduced Kenneth Wiley, who was called 'Mr. EACC'. He was the leader of EACC during the 80's and 90's. He is an elder at First Presbyterian Church, a Medill graduate, and a writer and journalist.

Nancy talked about the Vision Keepers Dinner and the new components of the dinner, including the stop auction and singing by Cantor Arik Luck. She called on Chris to explain the stop auction. Delegates were strongly encouraged to get involved and volunteer to help at the dinner. There were thirteen people who signed up.

Ralph reviewed the budget and noted that there was \$40,000 in the bank, the largest amount ever. This compares to last year's total of \$28,000 at this time.

Sue explained the direct services of Interfaith Action, including the Hospitality Center, warming centers, and soup kitchens every day of the week. Four of the soup kitchens are run by Interfaith Action volunteers. Other soup kitchens in Evanston operate independently. In 2009, 290 different people visited the Hospitality Center, and 8,328 breakfasts were served.

Suzie is chair of the Membership Committee, and explained that the committee was working to update its database of faith communities. At the next Delegates' Meeting, May 10, the program will be a delegates training session, with time to brainstorm ideas about how we can do more for the hungry and homeless. She encouraged everyone to attend this important session.

Jackie talked about our website and setting up a link to our member faith communities. She would like for the faith organizations to link to Interfaith Action. This will be discussed at the delegate training session.

The business meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

Program

The program was presented by the Infant Welfare Society of Evanston. Cass Wolfe, Executive Director; Kara Sokol, Vice President, External Relations; and Christina LePage, Program

Manager, were the speakers. The IWSE is another safety net committed to the care and early education of infants and toddlers and to supporting their families' efforts to be self sufficient providers and effective parents. Since 1913, the focus was on healthcare, home visits, and health clinics. In 1970, the focus changed from healthcare to childcare, when it recognized an urgent need for care for infants and toddlers whose single mothers needed to work. In 1971, IWSE opened its first building at 2200 Main St.

IWSE has a high quality daycare with three teachers to every eight children under two. It is not a babysitting service, but provides early childhood education. They are engaging children in an intentional way, and all children are screened before going to kindergarten. Family support services include prenatal groups, home visiting programs, parent training and support, developmental screening and assessment, therapeutic intervention and group sessions. Fifty-two families are receiving home visits in Evanston and Skokie.

Volunteer opportunities include the 'adopt a family program' at Christmas time, babysitting for evening programs, help in a classroom, help with events, and cleanup days. One organization runs a diaper drive. Spreading awareness of IWSE in Evanston and referring families who need childcare are other ways to help the organization.

The program concluded at 4:45 pm

Jessica thanked Fisher Memorial for their hospitality and fine refreshments.