

# LA CROSSE INTERFAITH JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK

May 9, 2016    *St. Paul's Lutheran Church — Youth Room*  
*Noon –1:20 p.m.*

*Present:* Madeline Kepler, Lois Durall, Lori White, Kent Johnson, June Kjome, Bonnie Pickett, Beth Moore, John Medinger, and Vince Hatt

*Opening Prayer:* Bonnie offered the following prayer: **Prayer for Leadership**

*– written by Sister Joan Chittister, OSB*

Give us, O God,  
leaders whose hearts are large enough  
let us seek more than development  
for ourselves —  
though development we hope for —  
more than security for our own land —  
though security we need —  
more than satisfaction for our wants —  
though many things we desire.  
to match the breadth of our own souls  
and give us souls strong enough  
to follow leaders of vision and wisdom.

In seeking a leader,  
Give us the hearts to choose  
the leader who will work with other  
leaders to bring safety  
to the whole world.

Give us leaders  
who lead this nation to virtue  
without seeking to impose our kind of virtue  
on the virtue of others.

Give us a government  
that provides for the advancement  
of this country  
without taking resources from others  
to achieve it.

Give us insight enough ourselves  
to choose as leaders those who can tell  
strength from power,  
growth from greed,  
leadership from dominance,  
and real greatness from the trappings  
of grandiosity.

We trust you, Great God,  
to open our hearts to learn from those  
to whom you speak in different tongues  
and to respect the life and words  
of those to whom you entrusted  
the good of other parts of this globe.

We beg you, Great God,  
give us the vision as a people  
to know where global leadership truly lies,  
to pursue it diligently,  
to require it to protect human rights  
for everyone everywhere.

We ask these things, Great God,  
with minds open to your word  
and hearts that trust in your eternal care.  
Amen.

*Minutes:* There were two corrections in the minutes. One, that Kent “suggested” not “made a motion” that absent members be assessed \$5 for each meeting missed. John noted that “suggestions” were not part of parliamentary procedure. However, he promptly paid \$5. We will see if that has set a precedent when Harvey returns.

Secondly, the words Jew and Caucasian Muslim were deleted in the minutes. The intend was to show that the committee had grown to include other people but the naming was offensive to some.

*Financial Report:* We have a balance of 103.47 plus the money collected today. There was discussion about the \$2 fee for each cashier’s check. Kent volunteered to make a call with the banker about this.

***Old Business:*** The tipping point meeting on May 21 in Madison was discussed. This was based on the idea that the “tipping point” happens in the culture when 3.5% of the population agrees to

actively do something. The focus of the meeting is to train people to involve others working for racial justice. No one from our group can attend. Could we get someone who attends from our area to come to speak to us at our meeting? Kent volunteered to check with Curtis Miller about this possibility.

*Update on Supporting Muslims:* Vince and Wahhab met with Rusty Cunningham, the editor of the La Crosse Tribune, on May 6. Rusty wanted a photo with a name and an interview. Wahhab said no to this. The compromise was that Wahhab would let his name be used. The statement of the Muslim Community should be in the paper soon.

*Letters to the Editor:* Both Kent and Bridget Olson from our group were congratulated for their positive letters concerning Muslims. Margaret Bluske also had one about working with Muslims on Neighbors Day. We are encouraged to be alert for opportunities for all of us to write letters about the justice issues we support. There was a suggestion about putting these on our web page. We will discuss this with Harvey.

*New Business:* We discussed our mission statement. John commented that it seemed more like a vision statement. We have been trying to get a Muslim to join us without success. We discussed about “collaborating” with others. Beth commented the nature of our collaboration was for individuals from our group to bring to us concerns of other groups rather than our whole group collaborating with other groups. We will need to discuss “next steps” for us.

*Next Meeting;* July 11, 2016, noon—1:30 with Harvey as facilitator and Lois leading prayer.

Your quasi-humble servant,

Vince Hatt, leader by default