



FORT COLLINS
INTERFAITH COUNCIL

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wow! What a year it's been. In 2019, the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council celebrated 40 years of reaching across differences that have often kept us apart, in order to do something greater in our community. Congratulations, well done, and thank you for all you have done Interfaith Council members - past and present! And were we ever busy celebrating this year! Bear with me because seeing the whole of our year in one place is pretty powerful.

First off, we had some stellar programs. We had two great sessions building our multifaith literacy from the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition and the Friends (or Quaker) faith tradition that served as bookends to our year. In the middle we heard from powerful agencies and groups in our community supporting mental health, promoting equity in our schools, changing the narrative on aging, and supporting those struggling with homelessness to name some of the topics we covered.

One of our biggest celebration acts was to hire Mikeal Macbeth, a fantastic videographer, to create a 40th anniversary celebration video. He captured fantastic interviews with Rev. Don Lambert, Rev. Rich Thompson and me that add to the rich history videos that Rich captured in 2012 with Sr. Mary Alice Murhpy and Rev. Bob Geller. The video is on the website and the unedited interviews will be housed in the Archives at the Museum of Discovery. During the interview with IFC founding member Rev. Don Lambert, I was struck at the delight he described everyone having as they realized what was possible once everyone was able to work together. I hope that our work together always surprises us with what is possible.

Another way we celebrated turning 40 was by awarding our grants to organizations that we had directly helped found over the years. And we announced those grants at our Better Together Dinner in October; it was so fun to see the excitement on our nonprofit partners' faces. Thank you to all of you who donated to our grants fund this year, and check out our Grants Team Report for more!

Another 40th anniversary development was a new Membership Team effort, spearheaded by the Executive Team. And did it ever pay off! This year our membership grew to 25 faith communities and 24 nonprofit agencies. Thank you to everyone who helped with the reminders and to all of the representatives who made sure that their organizations are up to date. Let's go for 50 member organizations this year!

Our leadership saw some turnover as beloved members ended their time at Interfaith Council. Recording Secretary Michael Leonard moved to Utah to take a dream job position at BYU. He had been succeeded by Polly Tingey who is a great addition to the Executive Team. Elizabeth Sink handed the Program Team to John Case in anticipation of her travels with Semester at Sea in 2020. John's considerable relationships and connections in the community have led to some very exciting programs coming to us in 2020.

After some painful acts of religious-based hate on campus, Interfaith Council has increased its visible presence on campus in the Fall of 2019. We have been part of an effort to demonstrate that religious communities can be voices of love, welcome and acceptance through sharing a counter-presence when Westboro Baptist Church protested, and offering free coffee or hot chocolate to students once a month. It has been powerful to see how relieved students are to see a different message coming from religious people and religious leaders. I am glad we are there to demonstrate our truth of religious welcome, cooperation and relationship-building. I hope you will join us there as more opportunities arise.

Finally, on a personal note, my work with the Interfaith Council allowed for me to finally be ordained this year, after a winding journey. I continue to be honored and humbled by the support you have shown me throughout this experience. Thank you for all who were there on that Sunday in September and to all of you who helped me get there. I look forward to learning what new opportunities this creates for us together.

With all of that behind us now in 2019, we are poised for another powerful year in 2020. I sense in our community the energy for growth, for deepening relationships, for continually asking how we can best live our truth in this time. As a diverse network of faith communities, nonprofit agencies and individuals, we are Better Together. Our relationships enrich our lives and make our home a better, more equitable, more loving place, together.

Thank you all for what you do!
Laura Nelson
Interfaith Council President



GRANTS TEAM

In 2019 a grand total of \$10,000 was awarded in grants!

To celebrate Interfaith Council's rich 40 year history and to honor Interfaith Council's accomplishments, it was decided for the year 2019 that we would award grants only to those non-profits that IFC directly helped to start (programs underlined below). Thus, IFC grant money was awarded to the following organizations:

• **\$5,000 to Family Housing Network** which supports families experiencing homelessness to achieve sustainable self-sufficiency in a timely and dignified manner. Family Housing Network now includes Faith Family Hospitality.

• **\$1,000 to The Food Bank for Larimer County** which ensures that those in our community who are hungry have convenient access to healthy and nutritious food.

• **\$4,000 to Neighbor to Neighbor which** makes home more attainable, prevents and ends homelessness, and provides stable housing. Neighbor to Neighbor now includes Homelessness Prevention Initiative and the HomeShare Program.

A special "thank you!" goes to IFC's member faith communities and individual members for their voluntary donations that made these grants possible. We are better together and mighty too!

Sincerely,
The IFC Grants Team (Lynnette Thayer, lead)

TREASURER'S REPORT



\$3,454

ADMINISTRATIVE

2019 began with a balance of \$1,132. Income was \$2,322 from Faith Communities/individuals (dues and contributions.) This amounted to \$3,454 in Administrative assets for 2019.

Annual expenses were \$2,717. \$737 is being carried over to 2020.

\$10,000

GIVEN IN GRANT FUNDING

2019 began with \$1,690 carried over from 2018. Donations from Free Will offerings and Faith Communities amounted to \$9,048. Annual Recognition Dinner donations (\$593), as well as surplus admin funds (\$750) were applied to grants. The total amount available was \$12,081.

In October, a total of \$10,000 was disbursed to three service organizations.

\$2,081 is being carried over to 2020 grants.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Black
Treasurer



PROGRAM TEAM

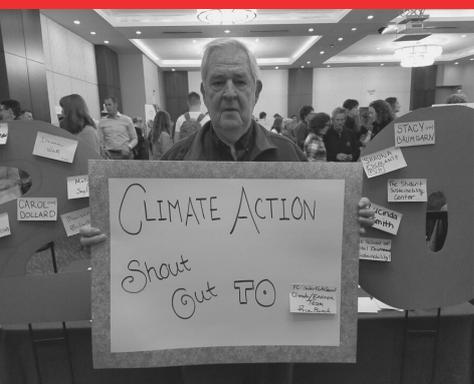
By way of introduction, my name is John Case. As a June 2019 Masters of Divinity graduate from Iliff School of Theology, it has been a busy year. The learning curve of program coordination and media has been steep. Thankfully Elizabeth left a fully populated calendar of events for which I am truly grateful. I started this year representing Northern Colorado New Thought Center for Spiritual Living as a part of my Iliff and Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) internship and am now also representing MCC Family in Christ, PFLAG Fort Collins, and Northern Colorado Equality. Since starting as the program chair I started a Clinical Pastoral Education extended credit internship, became a member of the MCC Mountains & Plains Network team, and accepted a board position with the Colorado Council of churches.

The 2019 Fort Collins Interfaith Council calendar was full. We had two spiritual practice programs; Foothills Unitarian Universalist church, and the Fort Collins Friends helped educate us of a wider approach to communing with our creator. Six non-profit partners gave programs which educated and updated our understanding of their services as well as the needs in this community which can often exist out of our consciousness.

The program by the Poudre School District helped us see how they are seeking to serve students facing additional challenges such as; language, culture, ethnicity, or self-perception. Their drive to make the student population a model of equality I found inspiring and encouraging. Our annual meeting and our annual dinner both celebrated our 40th year of working and serving together. Making our 2020 calendar of programs as inspiring is my goal and my challenge. Growing the program team will help attain that quality and make it a sustainable expectation.

I look forward to working with you all in 2020,

John Case, Program Team Chair



NEW! CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

A movement is afoot. The IFC is now sponsoring an Environment and Climate Issues Team to explore the issues, provide education and information, and determine appropriate actions to address these issues. There is room at the table so if you would care to join the team or receive information of progress please contact Rick Bunch at rickbunch@comcast.net