

## Interfaith Council Meeting

Date: February 26, 2026

Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: The Good Neighbor Center

Facilitator: Dr. Jeffrey Lidke

Note Taker: Izzac Rumble

### **Attendees**

Dr. Lidke, Dr. Heidelberger, Dr. Hershey, Dr. Parker, Dr. Vespa, Dr. Shin, Devon Smyth, Daphne Tremps, Quanah Martin, Izzac Rumble

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from January 2026 have been approved

### **Reports**

#### *Discussion of Programming*

Christian Dialogue on Faith and Sexuality with Pieter Valk and Sally Gary

- Very successful program with student attendance with a full MAC auditorium
- Went well in a sense that it was a clear model of a loving relationship showcasing their genuine love and respect for each other
- Possibility of having more time for future programs for more depth in conversation
- Suggest that we do more sessions on faith, sex, and gender to further this discussion and exposure for students

- Dr. Shin
  - Describes how she navigated conversation with her gay brother, growing up in South Korea surrounded by Buddhist culture, then moving to the US shifted her perspective living with a traditional conservative Christian household
  - This program relieved her sense that her view on sexuality wasn't too radical, and helped her to better communicate with her brother on topics like this
- Campus outreach
  - How to encourage conversation in a respectful way across different beliefs, amid the problematic situation that occurred between students after the event
- Increasing conservative student body?
  - Moral religious values and the political climate are going hand in hand more so now than ever in the changing demographic of America
  - Becomes difficult navigating conversations on such heavy topics when students aren't open to other worldviews
  - We've seen so much public disrespect in the US as of late, how can we continue to show ways at Berry that help foster respectful conversation amongst difference?
- Student group dialogue
  - Could be beneficial to encourage different student groups and ministries to have conversation among each other on these topics

## Faith and AI?

- Possible program on AI and moral/ethical beliefs regarding how different faiths navigate the world of artificial intelligence

## Heidelberger

- Suggest reaching out to Muslim students and host a listening session sponsored by the IFC, educating on Ramadan, or Eid party/listening session

## CE program Jewish Contemplative Practices

- April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Interfaith Center
- Honorarium for Oriya Pollak from Buddhist group/other group support