

Interfaith Council Meeting

Date: November 18th, 2025

Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

Location: The Thinking Space

Facilitator: Dr. Jeff Lidke

Note Taker: Zoe Seaver

Attendees

Zoe Seaver, Dr. Lidke, Dr. McConkey, Quanah, Dr. Conn, Dr. Huggins, and Dr. Heidelberg,

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from October 2025 have been approved.

Reports

- Discussion of Programming
 - An Interfaith Program on Christianity, Sex and Gender with two featured, outside speakers
 - The event will not happen this semester
 - The timing for the liberal voice was not right. Currently still finding a more liberal voice for the event.
 - Dr. McConkey will reach out to more people for the event.
 - Maybe it will not take place depending on the people and the setting for the event. It will still be worked on.
 - A Panel and Berry Circles Interfaith follow-up program on Sex and Gender
 - Take place on January 20th with Berry Circles
 - Faculty are interested in participating.
 - A Program on Spirituality and Music

- Will maybe happen depending on circumstances
 - Reaching out to student groups and hoping to have it in March or April.
- A Program on Jewish Meditation
 - Need to set up a space and date for the event
- Our annual labyrinth program
 - Happens in April
- Discussion of Reading:
 - Identifying a Theology or Ethic of Interfaith Cooperation
 - Lidke: As a Buddhist, one of the core stories is the realization that Buddha had was this deep understanding of interconnectedness. Recognizing this connect is what the Buddhist path is about and its value of compassion. That story is deeply motivating.
 - Heidelberg: As a Christian, Jesus' command to love thy neighbor. This was the main motivation for my first interfaith Chaplin job and the importance of treating others respectfully and lovingly. To follow this command and how Jesus connects with people is a big motivator to love and learn from others.
 - Huggins: The story about the Good Samaritan as an ethic, but also an interfaith element to it. In systematic theology, interfaith work under the holy spirit since it is mysterious and revealing.
 - McConkey: My thoughts are similar. The stories are examples of how to live lovingly. Sometimes people forget about being kind to others who are different.
 - Huggins: Connections with Greek philosophy, Muslim, and Christian theology build the understanding of love and understanding.
 - Quanah: I am a Christian. My first thought is also loving thy neighbor. I am willing to listen to people out and hope they will do the same for me. Conversations are helpful for learning and growing one's faith. Dialogue from other religions is interesting and helpful, showing connections to messages in Christianity.
 - Conn: It comes from my early school years at a fundamentalist school. It was very strict in interpretation and beliefs. If you tried to be inclusive, you would be shut down. Because of this experience, I want to understand the other side and be more inclusive.

- Zoe: My understanding of interconnectedness is more practical though I use philosophy to understand it more deeply. I have always been interested in and wanted to love people that are different. I never understood why we let our differences divide us for it is not practical in working towards a peaceful society
- Lidke: Love and ethics could be a good idea for an event.