

CIC Townhall Meeting
October 23, 2022, 6:45 pm
Meeting Notes

Welcome and Agenda Review: Sarah Huntington, facilitator.

Attending (in person and via zoom): Corey Passons, Sarah Huntington, Nika Keller, Carol & Jamie Rainwood, Dick & Betty Hauser, Thad & Jo Curtz, Kathy Pruitt, and Karen Tvedt.

Racial Justice Centering (RJC): Corey shared a current situation with local press and its coverage of a recent appointment of a person of color to the Olympia School Board. The press coverage was very one sided and negative, failing to note positives including the appointee's civic engagement work. Corey talked with the assistant editor at the Olympian who said that they had no power over coverage directed by the parent organization (McClatchy). Townhall participants discussed possible responses including from the school board, letters to the editor and reaching out to alternative media.

Review of September 18 Townhall Meeting Notes: Karen provided an overview of the meeting notes as published in Wavelinks; full minutes posted on the CIC website.

Sarah's Update: Sarah announced that she will step away from being Townhall coordinator after annual meeting. The process has begun to find a new coordinator. Deep bows of gratitude to Sarah for her able leadership as Townhall coordinator.

Minister's Report (including YCPC report):

- Regathering. We continue to deal with the new normal as we move forward with hybrid services. Attendance is down among families with children and outreach is ongoing. Children's program hires have not materialized. Miriam is maintaining the program with support from volunteers. The youth program remains in limbo.
- We do have good support for celebrations through the end of the year and are initiating CIC's 2023 budget process.
- Kathy asked Corey whether he is getting the support he needs. Corey responded that hybrid technology has been challenging but it will help when the tech team is trained and in place.

Finance Report: Thad Curtz

- As of September 30, we've spent less than budgeted in many of our budget line items; in particular, we haven't spent money for teachers for the children's program.
- Generally, we're in good shape with 80% of the year gone and 73% of the annual budget spent. Total income to September 30 is \$43,555 and total expenses \$45,575.
- We are overspent in unanticipated expenses (\$3,560 on technology for hybrid services). We can cover this with under-expenditures in the children's program.

- According to Nika, 35-50% of pledges are being paid through electronic fund transfers. Pledge reminders will be sent by the pledge shepherd to members who are still submitting their pledges directly.

Call Shepherd Report-Carol Rainwood

- Carol provided summaries that were created with Jan Rocks with the division of responsibilities between Finance Shepherd and Pledge Shepherd.
- We still need folks to join the Community Support and Community Kitchen Teams.
- We have seven volunteers in training or ready to be trained as Zoom Techs for our hybrid celebrations.
- Carol will begin to contact our Volunteers to ask them if they plan to renew their calls, and to update the Call List. She'll send emails and pass around a call list sheet at Celebration. (This will be the first time she'll be doing this since her tenure as Call Shepherd has been entirely during Covid!)

Connections Committee: nothing other than ongoing consultation about the proposed CIC sex offender policy.

Community Support Report: Sarah for Sabra Hull. This team could use another co-coordinator or two (sabrawhull@gmail.com). A celebration is planned to explore service in the context of community. Like our discussion about a sex offender policy, this discussion challenges us to explore need versus capacity as a community. It may be useful to examine how other faith communities address this issue.

Social Justice Committee Report: Betty Hauser. The Social Justice Committee met on October 15 and had an invigorating discussion. Candidate forums are available on the League of Women Voters website; Sidewalk has a new executive director; Scott Bishop continues to work on building tiny houses for the Quince Street site which will be operated by Catholic Community Services; and Indigenous Peoples Day on October 10 featured a presentation by Sarah Augustine Booth, *This Land is Not Empty*, sponsored by Interfaith Works.

First Draft-2023 CIC Budget: Thad Curtz.

- While we have historically increased costs by three percent each year, this proposal includes a five percent increase reflecting the inflation we're experiencing. This adds approximately \$3,000 to the 2023 budget.
- Thad suggested that this could largely be covered by not including funds in the unanticipated line item. There was general support for this suggestion although Karen and Nika noted that this was the line Jan Rocks used to make the budget balance after accounting for pledges and carry-over from 2021.
- Thad estimates that after paying the 2022 expenses, assuming all pledges are paid, we would have approximately \$1,000 to carry forward from 2022 to 2023. Kathy noted that this is less than the past couple of years.
- We will have a pledge Sunday led by Penny Purkerson and Corey on November 6.

Discussion: Sex Offender Policy Background and Proposal: Kathy Pruitt

Kathy provided an overview of the proposed sex offender policy and how this issue has unfolded. Corey noted that he has received only a couple of comments about the policy, mostly positive, but also some questions about designated groups. The following edits were made to the draft:

- Under the heading “CIC Sex Offender Policy,” the second sentence now reads, “The physical touch and intimate emotional contact in our practices, include meetings at people’s homes, and at retreats that include children, teens, and adults.”
- We decided to add the word “known” to the first sentence of the policy, i.e., “Known registered sex offenders will not be invited or allowed into the Community for Interfaith Celebration’s spiritual activities...” and to create a new paragraph with the discussion of designated groups.
- The last paragraph is changed to read, “This policy is a means of sharing our discernment....” With these changes, the policy was adopted by Townhall participants.

Corey will revise the document as noted for posting on the CIC website.

Fundraiser Update: Kathy Pruitt. The film event was a great success in terms of community building and raising money for Community Kitchen. With a goal of \$1,200, the event raised \$2,448. A total of 40 people attended and 49 contributed. Another event will be contemplated later in the year.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.

Upcoming Dates

- Pledge Sunday: November 6, 2022
- December: Steering Circle-12/7/22 at 7:00 pm; Townhall-12/11/22 after celebration
- January: Steering Circle-1/4/2023 at 7:00 pm; Townhall date-1/8/2023 after celebration.
- Annual Meeting: 1/29/2023