

CIC Townhall Meeting
June 11, 2023, 5:50 pm
Meeting Notes

Welcome and review of the agenda: Hugh O'Neill, facilitator.

Attending: Thad and Jo Curtz, Betty and Dick Hauser, Jan Rocks, Peggy Henry, Leeann Tourtillott, Nika Keller, Hugh O'Neill, Megan Parke, Corey Passons, Penny Purkerson, and Karen Tvedt.

Racial Justice Centering (RJC):

- Penny offered a thought-provoking presentation about white supremacy characteristics which included things like fear of open conflict, adherence to strict timing, and perfectionism (which differs from striving for excellence and mistakes being an opportunity for learning.)
- Corey initiated reflection about two years of these segments at Townhall. The group agreed they're valuable, but that it would be good to allow more time for presentations and reflection (up to 15 minutes). We'll review this after three Townhalls next fall. Penny advocated doing these as part of Celebration (to reach the larger community). Leeann said she will encourage the white privilege group to sign-up to do reflections.

Review of the April 23 Townhall Meeting Notes: Karen provided a brief overview of the April meeting notes; full minutes are posted on the CIC website.

Minister's Report: *Corey submitted the following in writing:*

We are suddenly at the end of the year for celebrations. This was a year of regathering, a year of adapting to new technology in our space, and a year of remembering what has not changed despite the pandemic. As we look ahead, we can assume we will continue to be a hybrid community (meaning we meet both in person and online). I think our community did a great job with this change and I support us moving ahead and improving upon both the online experience and the experience in the Social Hall, too.

This summer we will look to have the community explore ways we can stay connected, including soirees, dinners, outings, and meetings around various topics. I will be trying to encourage these types of efforts in the community and will be hosting a gathering at my house, too!

This upcoming year is the 50th anniversary of CIC and Steering Circle is planning on advertising this anniversary and recruiting a committee to help create ideas and plans to celebrate this anniversary. Possible annual theme based around the anniversary?

Recently I have become the Co-Chair of the Global Ministries Committee of the PNW Conference of the UCC. This is a joint, national office with the Disciples of Christ denomination

and our regional focus is supporting social justice orgs working in Colombia. There will be a delegation from Colombia visiting in the coming year (April 2024).

Finally, there are big plans for the United Churches of Olympia building that include the Social Hall. CIC will review some initial budget proposals and will be invited to participate in the campaign in the coming years. We will review a document in Townhall this evening about the process unfolding in the TUCO congregation.

Townhall Discussion:

- Corey noted that among the highest priorities for building renovation will be the HVAC system and installation of an elevator and drop-off zone.
- Betty suggested that we have a representative on the TUCO committee working on building renovations. Others noted that renovation of the social hall will impact our audio system and the labyrinth.

Children's Program: Miriam Sterlin submitted the following report:

As we wind down our CIC year, I'd like to look back on these last weeks and take a moment to acknowledge the strength of our grade school program! Aubrey Evolo has been an engaging, interested, consistent, and reliable presence for our kids. Aubrey is able to balance seeing and hearing each child with the needs of the group and stays flexible and calm through conflicts that can come up between children and when children explore boundaries. With any luck, Aubrey will return to be our classroom teacher in the fall!

Activities for the Grade School classroom have included: nature journaling in relationship to Douglas Fir, complete with drink made from fir needles (though no one adventured to try it!); pebble meditation rock painting as a gift for mothers (though children chose to play instead); lantern painting themed on the folk tale of light and working together; exploring energy sources and consumption through games and self-reflection; and weekly snack and story on theme. In the coming weeks students will be creating decorations for our Pride Festival Booth, July 1st. Students have included Aria, Piper, Lynn, Silas, Jude, Justine, Aubrey, Finley, and visitors Huckleberry and younger sibling (my apologies for forgetting her name!). Aria and Piper are participating in Sunday afternoon family frisbee golf for the remainder of this CIC year, but plan to be back in the fall!

We are on the precipice of a Middlers Group, and Penny Purkerson has provided me with contact information for Jody Rush's grandchildren, who are in their teens and early 20s and are interested in working with our youth. Soon to come is the scheduling with Corey and Connections Committee to begin the vetting process. Next fall Aria, Lynn, and Asher will all be middle schoolers, and it seems to be a fit that they would have their own classroom and teacher. Asher, in these past weeks, has chosen to pursue his own activities or spend time with the adults, though over the course of the year has participated in snack with other kids, and provided activities suited to his age and interest. I look forward to having an established cohort and teacher, as I believe these children all have an amazing capacity for depth and reflectivity, and look forward to the discussions and learning to come!

Please get in touch with any questions or ideas!

Townhall Discussion

- Aubrey wants to continue working with the children next year. It was suggested that we acknowledge her during the celebration next week.
- Corey and Miriam will be meeting to review how things have gone with the children's program this past year. We still hope to add another teacher (as noted in Miriam's report, there are a couple of leads...Corey will follow-up with Miriam).
- Plans to do the OWL curriculum for children/families are still underway but not settled.

Finance Report: Thad provided the CIC financial report.

- Our finances are fine. With 47% of the year gone (44% given that we pay Corey on a 12-month basis), we have 39% of our budget left.
- Income through May 30 is \$26,995 and expenses \$24,501.
- We have paid all or most of our annual commitment for the following: UCC Fellowship Dues, Liability Insurance, UCC Annual Meeting, UCC Mission, and Interfaith Works.
- We're underspent on teachers (haven't hired a second teacher) and overspent some on celebrations and Family Leave Act contributions.
- Thad noted that he's monitoring the \$10,000 we have in an inflation-protected bond. If CD interest rates continue to increase, there may be a time when it makes sense to move these funds to a CD (even with the three-month interest penalty for early withdrawal).

Benevolence Fund: Jan Rocks

- Jan indicated that she's tracking money in the Benevolence Fund through bank categories including:
 - Checking-\$1,300
 - TCK (Community Kitchen)-\$5,379
 - Retreats-\$1,878
 - Fundraiser-\$5,325
 - Pastor's Fund-\$393
 - Shelter Lunches-\$500
- Jan noted that the purpose of the Benevolence Fund is external needs rather than those internal to CIC, and that within the Benevolence Fund, the Pastor's Fund is for immediate, emergent needs (as opposed to paying for pizza, etc.) She suggested that the Special Programs Expense Fund (SPEF) be used for such purposes internal to CIC. By consensus, Townhall participants agreed that we should move \$500 for the Benevolence Fund (Fundraiser account) to the Pastor's Fund and move \$750 from surplus operating budget funds to SPEF.

Call Shepherd Report: *Submitted in writing by Cindy Guertin-Anderson*

We have several opportunities to support our community. Let Cindy know if you would like to volunteer for the following:

- We are looking for someone to help organize Summer Gatherings. This entails being a point person for folks to sign up with to host a gathering over the summer (like a dinner for 8 meal or potluck) and then sharing those opportunities with the community.
- We also have opportunities to join the Community Support Team, the Connections Committee, and cooking and serving meals at the Community Kitchen monthly.

Please call Cindy if you want to learn more and explore the possibility of connecting and serving in these ways!

Committee Reports

- **Connections Committee:** Hugh and Megan reported that the end of year CIC evaluation will be sent this week. People will have three weeks to respond. Need to be clear that this survey is distinct from the Community Support Team survey.
- **Community Support Team:** Team is beginning to collect and evaluate survey data. Jody Rush has joined the group.
- **Community Kitchen:** Richard Bigley is joining the team as a new coordinator. Corey noted that Styrofoam containers are being used for meals; we will explore biodegradable alternatives.
- **Social Justice Committee (SJC) Report:** Betty Hauser reported:
 - Our Pride booth will be at Port Plaza on July 1; we have volunteers for all our slots.
 - Nika Keller and Scott Bishop will coordinate our involvement in the parade. Betty noted that parade participants are not allowed to have banners or advertise brands.
- **Audit:** Hugh reported that the Audit Committee, Jamie Rainwood and Mark Collins, is nearly done with their review. They anticipate reporting to Townhall in September.
- **Fundraising:** Leeann reported that the committee is planning a movie at the barn in October (similar to last year). It is unclear whether we will have a fish sale this year. There was discussion about ways to do fundraising outreach beyond CIC (as we used to do with the fruit sale).
- **Retreats:**
 - Spring 2024: 5/17-5/18/24: we have space reserved at Millersylvania.
 - Labor Day 2023: one day retreat at either Squaxin (Shelter 1) or Burfoot Park (Meadow Shelter). Poll community?
 - Labor Day 2024: Corey will submit an application to Millersylvania for Labor Day 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. Thanks for your facilitation, Hugh!

Upcoming Dates

- **Solstice Potluck-6/18/23** at Burfoot Park