

CIC Townhall Meeting
September 17, 2023, 5:50 pm
Meeting Notes

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

Attending: Corey Passons, Meg O’Leary, Hugh O’Neill, Jo & Thad Curtz, Peg Henry, Nika Keller, Dick & Betty Hauser, Penny Purkerson, Wendy Eklund, Sarah Huntington, Shelly Bentley, Karen Tvedt, Tara Young Brown.

Racial Justice Centering (RJC):

- Referencing Kevin Nadal who was featured in an [NPR](#) story, Corey discussed the concept of microaggressions as “thinly veiled, everyday instances of racism, homophobia, sexism (and more).” Corey led the group in an exercise to help us experience what it means to confront subtle bias on an ongoing basis.
- Hugh volunteered to do RJC for our next Townhall meeting.

Review of the June 11 Townhall Meeting Notes: Karen provided a brief overview of the June meeting notes; full minutes are posted on the CIC website.

Minister’s Report: Corey

- *TUCO Capital Campaign:* United Churches is moving forward with designs and financial feasibility for a major renovation of their facility. Anticipated features include replacing the boiler with a heat pump; updating the electrical system; installing solar panels; renovating the social hall including removing the storage closet; renovating the sanctuary; renovating the kitchen and bathrooms; and installing an elevator.
- *New spiritual community using United Churches building on Sunday evenings.* Wildwood Gathering, Church of the Brethren, will be meeting in the chapel upstairs starting in October. Wildwood is oriented toward serving the queer and trans communities. The minister, Liz Swenson will be ordained on October 15. Potential for collaboration between Wildwood and CIC on children’s education.
- *Retreats/Celebrations update:*
 - We didn’t get Millersylvania for Labor Day 2024 (although we have it for Memorial Day 2024). Corey asked whether there’s still the desire to do two residential retreats each year. Corey will do a one or two question survey to discern interest in having two overnight retreats annually within a 50 mile radius of Olympia (Tara suggested that we make a special effort to reach-out to families that participated in our retreats prior to Covid.)
 - Christmas Eve: Corey explained that since Christmas Eve is on Sunday, TUCO is not an option. The Grange is available from 10-3 on Christmas Eve Day. There was consensus about doing an 11 am celebration at the Grange, possibly followed by lunch.
 - CIC 50th Anniversary Celebration: Corey will begin talking about this during celebrations. We might include a series of reflections, a dinner with a collection of old

photos, using it as an opportunity for outreach about CIC (video, newspaper), multi-generational interviews, etc.

Finance Report: Thad reviewed the August Budget Report highlighting expenditure patterns.

- We now have three teachers in the children’s program. This is one more teacher than was budgeted but we have unspent funds that can be used to cover the additional costs. (We will need to anticipate this issue in budget-building for 2024.)
- As agreed during the June Townhall meeting, \$750 has been moved to the SPEF budget category and \$500 from the Benevolence Fund to the Pastor’s Fund.
- As of the August Budget Report, we had \$37,452 in expenses and \$42,237 in income.

Children’s Program: Corey reviewed highlights from the Children’s Program Report submitted by Miriam Sterlin as follows:

Good news to start the new year! We’ve got three teachers starting strong in our preschool, gradeschool, and middlers program: Sage (preschool), Aubrey (gradeschool), and Jaina (middlers). Reunion Sunday the Youth Program had 5 children attending from 4 families; 4 grade-schoolers and 1 middler. Sage was flexible with the planned activities and changed plans to support Aubrey in the grade-school room. Activities included creating Connection Mind Map in color coding so kids could see similarities across differences (e.g., all schools were “blue” so even if schools were different, everyone was in school). After Connection Maps were created, kids made stress balls: the stress balls were a hit!

Tonight, in our celebration and learning about Rosh Hashanah, kids ate apples and honey for a sweet new year. Preschoolers made “Bee Kind” hanging crafts to help them remember to be kind and lend a helping hand. Grade schoolers discussed intention setting, heard a story about new year traditions from cultures around the world, and created their own Hebrew-Gregorian spiral calendars, giving a visual overlap of the solar and soli-lunar calendar.

I have put in a call to Jody Rush’s grandson, Joseph, about spending time with the Youth Group. We rescheduled a time to talk, and I will give him a call back soon!

I’d like to note that as the school year starts there are numerous cases of Covid in our community, and currently two different CIC families have kiddos at home sick with Covid. I will encourage teachers to open windows, run air filters, and have everyone wash hands!

- Call Shepherd report (Cindy)
 - Zoe Dailey is ready to step away from her long-standing altar tender call so that she can take on a set-up call.

Committee Reports

- *Community Support:* Corey reported that Jody Rush has joined the group. Needs have generally been slow in recent months.
- *Social Justice Committee (SJC):*

- Betty reported that the SJC recently debriefed our successful Pride Day booth. SJC is concerned that the lag between Pride Day and CIC's next celebration in September is problematic (interested people must wait too long to check CIC out). The SJC (and Townhall participants) brainstormed some possible options, e.g., doing another celebration after Pride Day, participating in a local cultural celebration, doing an outdoor event in the summer, and/or encouraging interested parties to view a zoom recording of a celebration.
- The anti-racism group meets in October and November. They are discussing leading a celebration, possibly the MLK celebration.
- Other topics discussed included Interfaith Works' Setting the Sacred Table event (in December); the closure of Sidewalk (alternative resource hub at the courthouse).
- *Community Kitchen:*
 - Richard Bigley is transitioning into a coordinator role (he'll be one of four coordinators).
 - Staffing support at Community Kitchen has changed which means we need a full complement of volunteers to handle the workload. Costs are ticking up and we're now preparing nine trays of enchiladas.
 - The Community Kitchen team is discussing the need for community reflection about our monthly commitment at Community Kitchen. (When this happened a few years ago, it was reenergizing, building commitment (and volunteers) for our involvement.)
 - Sarah suggested the possibility of finding another small faith community to join us (perhaps Wildwood?).
- *Audit Committee:* Jamie talked with Hugh; there's been a minor delay but she and Mark are close to completing the 2022 CIC Audit.

Other (in response to questions):

- Corey noted that we agreed to continue 4:00 pm celebrations for the coming CIC year.
- Wavelinks-Scott Bishop and Corey coordinate on producing the weekly newsletter. If questions arise, they can be directed to one or both of them.
- It's time to begin the budget-building process for 2024.
 - Penny just sent an email reminder about outstanding pledges.
 - A Pledge Sunday should be scheduled in October. Corey will check the schedule and get back to Penny.
 - Thad will begin developing a proposed budget for 2024.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Townhall and Annual Meeting Dates: We agreed on the following dates for meetings:

- Nov 5 Townhall (with Nov 1 Steering Circle)
- Dec 3 Townhall (with Nov 29 Steering Circle)
- Annual Meeting-January 21, 2024