

CIC Townhall Meeting  
 December 3, 2023, 5:50 pm  
 Meeting Notes

**Welcome:** Hugh O'Neill, facilitator

**Attending:** Corey Passons, Hugh O'Neill, Thad Curtz, Karen Tvedt, Jamie Rainwood, Betty and Dick Hauser, Tara Young-Brown, Pat Starzyk, Mary Coacher, Kathy Pruitt, Bev Withrow, Kristine Forbes, and Penny Purkerson.

**Racial Justice Centering (RJC):** Betty Hauser discussed an article in Yes! Magazine by Gabes Torres, *Good Care for Good Trouble*, which speaks to the importance of care in organizing and social change movements. The author encourages: bringing good humor and play (deescalates fear); revisiting revolutionary stories; and reclaiming the commons (using own resources to sustain others). Thad noted a book he finds relevant, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* by Timothy Snyder about the rise of authoritarianism.

**Review of the November Townhall Meeting Notes:** Karen Tvedt provided a brief overview of the Nov. 5 meeting notes; full minutes are posted on the CIC website which will be noted in a Wavelinks article.

**Minister's Report:** Corey Passons submitted the following written report; discussion in italics.

- Right now the focus is on building some community engagement with the Xmas eve service that offers a space for the kids with the Xmas eve pageant. I am hosting a meeting this week to start brainstorming with others for that and we will be looking at scripts from past years. I will also be meeting with CIC musicians soon to begin selecting and practicing music for that service. *Corey noted that planning is underway for a Hanukkah celebration as well and that we have the Barn reserved for Easter.*
- Am continuing my work with the PNW Conference Global Ministries committee. Our work is compressing because we are planning a person to person pilgrimage to Colombia to visit our partners there in February 19th - 28th AND welcoming mission partners to the PNW in April to attend the Annual Meetings of the UCC and the Disciples of Christ, both of which are in Wenatchee.
- We will be reviewing a community feedback form from a recent survey about retreats in CIC. From that feedback, and Townhall's analysis, I will then either begin outreach to suggested venues or begin working with a sub-committee in CIC depending. *Corey shared a summary of the CIC Retreats Interest & Survey. The results aren't obvious, e.g., responses to probability of staying overnight at the retreat center show equal number of responses to 1, 2, 3, and 5 (with 5 being highest likelihood). Similarly, 41.2% of respondents desire one weekend-long retreat and one day-long retreat per year while 35.3% prefer returning to a two-retreat per year schedule. Corey will explore possible sites for Labor Day in 2025 (and possibly 2024). The Steering Circle will discuss these options and return to Townhall with suggestions.*

- Finalizing lease details with TUCO this week and there should not be any change in the space usage, but I will report back what is being proposed. There will be no appreciable impact on CIC with renovations in TUCO for a long time, even years.

**Children’s Program (Corey):** Corey reported that Miriam Sterlin attended the Steering Circle (SC) meeting. During SC, Miriam indicated her appreciation for the three teachers working with the children and outlined her approach (pillars) in planning the children’s program curriculum. Corey expressed appreciation for the tone and culture Miriam cultivates.

- We just learned that Sage will be doing a study abroad program after the first of the year. Corey will talk with Miriam about whether she thinks we should go with two teachers or begin recruitment for a third teacher.
- We generally have four to five kids at celebration each week, not always the same kids which calls for flexibility. Doing more outreach to families would be good to discuss further.

**Finance Report, Pledge Drive and 2024 Proposed Budget:** Thad Curtz walked us through the November Budget Report noting areas of under- and more-than-expected expenditures.

- Even with unanticipated expenditures for 2023 (a third teacher, \$750 to SPEF and more than expected amounts for the Family Leave Act and WA Cares), Thad and Penny Purkerson think we’re likely to have \$2,336 (or more) in carry-over going into 2024. In addition, we haven’t spent \$1,740 in carry-over from 2022 to 2023.
- The estimated \$67,339 in income for 2023 includes a \$2,600 anonymous donation, begging bowl contributions (\$1,491), and \$1,998 from larger payments by 2023 pledgers or new pledges (in addition to pledges initially made for 2023).
- Our 2024 pledge amount is likely to be between \$69,240 and \$70,450.
- Thad outlined three versions of the 2024 budget: plus 3% in compensation; plus 3% overall; and plus 5% for compensation. These scenarios do not include additional funds for travel costs associated with the UCC Annual Meeting.
- Townhall participants agreed to defer further discussion about the 2024 Budget until next meeting when we will have firmer expenditure and pledge numbers.
- We need to make it clearer that pledge payments should be sent to Nika Keller.

### Committee Reports

- *Connections Committee (Hugh):* Kathy Pruitt has joined this committee.
- *Social Justice Committee (SJC):* Betty Hauser provided an overview of topics discussed during the last SJC meeting including that she is hoping to have someone else from within the committee assume the convenor role. Betty would like to turn her attention to maintaining the CIC website calendar (a recent recommendation of the SJC). Betty noted signature gathering for six petitions to the legislature; Sergio’s daytime resource center; a box for collection of warm clothes during upcoming celebrations; and Dr. Thelma Jackson’s book talk at United Churches Dec. 9 at 2 pm. *More details about these (and more) included in the Dec. 4 Wavelinks.*
- *Fundraiser Committee:* Kathy Pruitt
  - The final report on the Oct. 21 Barn Movie Fundraiser indicates that total proceeds were \$1,980.

- The fish sale fundraiser raised an estimated \$3,500.
- Kathy indicated in Feb. or Mar. the committee will come to Townhall to discuss possible next steps.
- Pat Starzyk noted that we have \$880 in the donations fund.

**Call Shepherd report (Cindy Guertin-Anderson)**

- Need more Community Kitchen and set-up crew volunteers.
- Possible Wavelinks updaters (Kathy and Penny).
- Karen wonders if someone would be interested in assuming the call of CIC clerk. They would be welcome to shadow her to check it out.

**Follow-Up on the CIC evaluation (Hugh)**

- Hugh initiated discussion about greeters and hospitality. This would be to make sure that someone reaches-out to new and newer people after celebrations. Jamie Rainwood will follow-up with Betty (who is part of the greeter crew). Corey noted that more clearly defined roles would be helpful, i.e., greeters vs. welcomers).
- There were comments in the evaluation about zoom celebration participants and challenges encountered with the technology. We agreed it's a continuous improvement issue and that it helps when people in the circle make sure to use the microphone. It also helps to engage zoom participants through chat and breakout rooms.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm****Townhall and Annual Meeting Dates:**

- Jan. 7 Townhall
- Annual Meeting-January 28, 2024