

Community for Interfaith Celebration Annual Meeting-1/28/2024

Welcome, Call and Candles: Corey Passons welcomed participants and guided us through our opening rituals. We sang a CIC version of Dayenu and then the children went to their classrooms.

Overview of Annual Meeting Procedures: Hugh O'Neill offered an overview of the CIC Annual Meeting including its relationship to Steering Circle and Townhall.

- The main purposes of the annual meeting are to consider the state of CIC and approve our budget for the upcoming year. Those attending annual meeting function like a non-profit board of directors; Steering Circle serves as an executive committee.
- Decision-making is by consensus which Hugh described as "above and below the line." Above the line goes from "great, I fully endorse" to "can accept" "can live with" and "will stand aside." Below the line is characterized by "what can we do to reach agreement?"
- A "parking lot" is used for issues we'll deal with later.
- Snacking is encouraged as are noisemakers to celebrate successes.

January 3, 2024, Townhall: Karen Tvedt reviewed notes from last townhall.

REPORTS

Interfaith Minister's Report – Corey Passons

- Corey acknowledged his appreciation for Steering Circle. He thanked Penny Purkerson for her work as Pledge Shepherd and Miriam Sterlin for leading our children's program.
- Corey recently did a solo retreat during which he reflected on key aspects of his life and ministry. In his eighth year with CIC, and with almost four years with Interfaith Works, he finds deep affirmation and resonance as he meets the challenges of his dual roles.
- United Churches has initiated an ongoing capital campaign to raise funds to renovate the church facility over a three to five-year period. About \$1.4 million needs to be raised after the sale of the parking lot to TVW. Among updates are major renovations to the social hall where CIC meets, an elevator, solar panels, new heating system, and electrical upgrades. Pastor Lara Crutsinger-Perry will meet with CIC townhall to discuss plans and ways we can support these upgrades to our "home." Jo Curtz asked about whether the new social hall floor will include a labyrinth.
- CIC 50th Anniversary Celebration: please let Corey know if you're interested in helping develop plans for CIC's 50th Anniversary (events will happen spring through fall 2024).
- Hospitality: we're sitting with "What does it feel like to be new somewhere? What is the work of incorporating new people into the community? What does it mean to offer generosity, to be fully seen?" Corey is hosting a meeting at his house, Fri. Feb. 2 at 10 am.
- Our first post-Covid overnight retreat will be May 17-19 at Millersylvania State Park. Retreat coordinators are needed.

- The celebration next week will honor Black History Month by focusing on the Black experience in Thurston County via Dr. Thelma Jackson’s book. Corey noted CIC’s antiracism work and that “actions change our beliefs.”

Youth and Children Program Report: Miriam Sterlin

- Miriam recognized the wonderful teachers who are working with CIC’s children this year: Aubrey, Sage (currently traveling), Jaina, and now Reed filling in with the preschoolers.
- She provided an overview of how the program is structured each week: 1) a story similar to the theme for the adults; 2) a hands-on activity; and 3) meditation/breath practice. The groups come together for cross-age candle lighting.
- Katie noted that their kids want to attend and enjoy the snacks. Gratitude to the people who contribute snacks!

Budget: 2023 Budget Summary; Proposed 2024 Budget review and approval: Thad Curtz

- **2023 Budget Summary**
 - Thad reviewed areas of under and over expenditures. Total expenses were \$62,058 and income was \$68,384 leaving a 2023 surplus of \$6,326. Income was higher than anticipated due to a \$2,600 anonymous donation, \$1,666 from the begging bowl, and new pledge funds. In addition, we still have \$1,740 in carry-over funds from 2022.
- **2024 Budget Proposal**
 - *Pledges for 2024 total \$70,500.*
 - *Proposed Budget:* Thad presented a budget proposal totaling \$72,054. This proposal assumes 5% salary increases; what we spent for celebrations and celebration space rental plus 3% increases; and 3% increases for other line items. It also includes \$800 for UCC Annual Meeting travel and \$1,500 for outreach. This assumes \$1,554 in carry-over to cover the gap between pledges and expenses.
 - *Carry-Over:* With \$1,740 in carry-over from 2022 and \$6,326 from 2023 (minus \$1,554 assumed in the budget) there was extensive discussion about how we should deal with the carry-over. Options suggested by Thad and others included:
 - Save it
 - Use it for community kitchen in lieu of some fundraising
 - Add to UCC Annual Meeting travel costs
 - Contribute to the United Churches Capital Campaign
 - Add a line in the budget for electronics (only one camera is currently working)
 - Donate to other missions (like we used to do with the fruit sale)

There was a suggestion that we continue current fundraising and look at past expenses before we use carry-over to fund other things. We are allowed to modify the budget throughout the year based on consensus at townhall. Townhall participants agreed to proceed with approving the budget as submitted by Thad with the inclusion of \$1,500 for outreach as decided at last townhall. Steering Circle will discuss options for the carry-over funds and bring some alternatives for townhall decision.

- **By consensus, the 2024 CIC Budget was approved with agreement that at a future townhall meeting, we will decide on how the remaining 2022 and 2023 carry-over funds**

will be used. There were no abstentions. It is agreed that a portion of the minister's compensation may be designated for housing.

Signing of the CIC Minister's Contract with Blessing by Meg O'Leary: Corey and Hugh signed Corey's contract for 2024. Meg offered a blessing. Nika Keller, treasurer, was unable to attend; we will get her signature later.

Mid-Meeting Five Minute Free-for-All Dance Party

Committee Reports

Fundraising Committee: Kathy Pruitt and LeeAnn Tourtillott

- Kathy reported that a total of \$2,204.02 was raised from the Oct. 21 Barn Movie Fundraiser. Most of the donations were made by CIC members.
- LeeAnn reported that we raised a total of \$4,655 for the Community Kitchen through the 2023 fish sale. This includes \$845 in donations (no fish provided). She recognized the importance of Gene Maltzeff's contributions and connections. We had a better tracking system this year and more people helped.

Benevolence Fund Report: Jan Rocks as of 1/23/24-Total WSECU

Money Mover	\$ 1,208.69
Community Kitchen	12,053.51
Retreats	1,880.70
Fundraiser	4,830.13
Pastor's Fund	843.99
Shelter Lunches	400.92
Misc.	0.33

Total benevolence fund-\$21,218.27

Community Kitchen: yearly total-\$4,418.27; monthly average-\$368.19

Movie and Fish Fundraisers-\$9,255.75

CIC Donations Fund 2022: submitted by Pat Starzyk

- The CIC Donations Fund is where people can make non-pledge contributions to CIC, often in honor or memory of someone or for a special project such as buying lunches for the Interfaith Works homeless shelter.
- In 2024, we had donations in honor of Genne Beach, Arlene Buchanan, and Roy Short. We had no expenses and ended the year with \$886.02 in the account.
- In addition to cash and checks payments, you can now make a donation via PayPal using the CIC email address, CICOLympia@comcast.net.

Call Shepherd Report for Annual Meeting- Cindy Guertin-Anderson

- Cindy offered guided meditation about feeling seen, feeling needed, and being part of the circle.
- Upcoming community needs include people to work on the 50th Anniversary Celebration; retreat coordinators for the spring Millersylvania overnight retreat; and hospitality (being present to the wider community).

Social Justice Committee (SJC)-Betty Hauser

- Betty reported that the SJC had a strong year including representing CIC on the Interfaith Works (IW) Program Council, facilitating CIC's Martin Luther King Celebration, coordinating CIC's Pride Booth, and participating in the IW Eye to Eye fundraiser and the local Hunger Walk.
- We are now collecting warm clothes for Sergios; Betty and Scott are monitoring and updating the CIC calendar; and a new webpage is envisioned to feature events in the wider community.

Community Support Team-Sabra Hull

- Team consists of Sabra, Bethanie Sand and Jody Rush with support from Corey.
- The past year has been mostly quiet with activities consisting of organizing meals and rides related to surgeries.

Community Kitchen-Corey Passons

- Coordination provided by Bethanie Sand, Corey, Alan Hardcastle, and Richard Bigley.
- We are serving between 150-200 people each month at a cost of about \$400 per month.
- Paid staff are no longer available so we need more volunteers each month.
(Coordinators contact people on the volunteer roster.)

Connections Committee-Hugh O'Neill

- This team consists of Katie Guertin-Anderson, Kathy Pruitt and Hugh. They are responsible for dealing with community conflicts, assisting with hiring and coordinating the annual CIC evaluation.
- Hugh recognized Megan Parke who did the annual CIC evaluation for years; a challenging task completed by Hugh this year.

Corey thanked Hugh for his facilitation and lit a candle for all our wishes, blessings, and prayers. He noted a study he came across recently that indicated that faith communities with 75 or fewer people demonstrated more involvement than larger faith communities. And, further, this collective ethic reached out to the broader community and world.

Buddhist Blessing

Announcements and Benediction

Meeting adjourned.