

## **Community for Interfaith Celebration Townhall Minutes-2-25-24**

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

**Racial Justice Centering (RJC):** Cindy Guertin-Anderson led the RJC segment of Townhall reading passages from the book *Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in an Unequal World*, by Amu Taranath.

**Presentation from United Churches of Olympia:** Pastor Lara Crutsinger-Perry and two members of United Churches told us about the capital campaign to renovate the United Churches building, including remodel of the social hall. The highest priority projects are a new HVAC system; an elevator; solar panels on the church roof; and electrical upgrades. Also planned are renovations to the downstairs kitchen and social hall, sanctuary, and curb area on Eleventh Avenue. This remodel is intended to make the church building more accessible, environmentally sustainable, and welcoming.

Corey noted that he will compile the questions we have. Two basic issues are on the table: determining how CIC as a community can financially support this effort (and have input to the process) and how we as individuals might financially support this effort.

**Review of the January 28 Annual Meeting Notes:** Karen Tvedt provided a brief overview of the Jan. 28 annual meeting notes; full minutes are posted on the CIC website.

### **Minister's Report (Corey Passons)**

- Corey spoke positively about how a remodeled United Churches building can further progressive and social justice activities within our community. He will put out a call for people to participate in a CIC subcommittee to process and determine CIC's role.
- Our first post-Covid overnight retreat will be May 17-19 at Millersylvania State Park. Carol Rainwood and LeeAnn Tourtillott will serve as retreat coordinators. A tour of the facility is planned for March 7.
- Corey suggested that we spend time at the retreat discussing ways we might celebrate CIC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Covid Protocol:** Kathleen Peppard noted that many of us are older and have preexisting conditions. She proposed that if someone tests positive for Covid after attending Celebration, we should let Corey know and CIC should be informed. After discussion about options, we agreed to the following:

If someone experiences symptoms within 24 hours of attending Celebration and tests positive for Covid, that person should notify Corey, letting Corey know if it's ok to disclose their name. If that person does not want to be identified, they should let Corey know where they sat in the circle. Corey will notify CIC.

Other suggestions included making sure the air purifiers are operating during celebrations and staying home when we don't feel well.

### **Youth and Children Program Report: Miriam Sterlin submitted the following report.**

Good news from the Youth and Children's Program! With Sage overseas and Reed off to work the remainder of ski season, we have secured a preschool teacher through June! Reed's help with the Children's Program was a benefit to grade schoolers and to Aubrey, as he stayed and assisted when there were no preschoolers present. A big thanks to Reed, and to Annie Hankins for communication support regarding Reed's schedule!

Our new hire is Kate Hebdon and on her very first night she was able to meet and spend time with the Skeers family. What luck! Kate is finishing her TEFL certificate, and immediately picked up on Drew's reading and supported his interest and engagement in literacy. Also, Kate attended deeply to the topic of the evening: building emotional awareness (and getting to know you). With a deep interest in teaching born of relationship, Kate both attended to the needs of the children and ushered them into engagement with the topic! And on the first night! What a wonderful fit!

In other program news, children have been learning about Brigid, Lunar New Year, Spring Traditions from Around the World, and following lessons on Courage and Respect from the Kindness Curriculum. Crafts have included Courage Catchers, Bubble Paint Respect Affirmations, a picture calendar of the Chinese Zodiac, and Brigid's cross along with Imbolc Oil for the Middlers.

Aubrey continues to be an engaging, creative, and reliable presence for the grade schoolers. We are so lucky to have Aubrey as a teacher! Jaina, though out sick for a couple Sundays, shows up ready to help, ready to take leadership, and even coordinated the middlers giving each other presentations on their Spring Traditions study when we had more than one middler for the evening! Jaina is interested in and working toward developing curriculum for an evening. We are lucky to have Jaina with us!

Coming up, we will be moving the storage for the Children's Program from one corner of the large storage area to multiple spaces, some of which need preparation. **I would greatly appreciate any help from the community and will try my best to make time available for a group effort.** It is important to me that I continue to have my finger on the pulse of what materials are located where; scheduling can be a bit sporadic on my end given my multiple job obligations. I'm sure I can find some time, and hopefully it will be in conjunction with others!

### **Financial Report; Carry-Over Decisions (Thad Curtz)**

- Thad provided the January 2024 Budget Report. He noted that not much has been spent other than for salaries. \$238 from the Special Programs Expense Fund (SPEF) was used to replace one of our cameras.
- As requested at the Annual Meeting, Steering Circle explored options for the use of carry-over funds from 2022 and 2023 and proposes as follows:
  - We have \$1,740 (2022) plus \$6,326 (2023) in carry-over. If we use \$1,554 to cover the Projected 2024 Deficit (gap between pledges and anticipated expenditures) that leaves \$6,512 in carry-over.
  - Steering Circle proposes we use the \$6,512 in carry-over (plus the Donation Fund) as follows: \$2,000 to the 2024 Budget for unanticipated expenses; \$1,000 to

create a new standing equipment fund (money from Donation Fund plus carry-over); and remaining funds to savings.

- Discussion included: is there something we need to do now to bring our technology up to speed and is \$1,000 enough? Should we assess options and future IT needs (such as a large monitor)? Should we use some of these funds to contribute to the United Churches renovation campaign?
- We agreed to go with the Steering Circle proposal understanding that if technology improvements are more than \$1,000, we can take funds from savings to cover what is needed.
- Penny Purkerson requested that the monthly financial reports show what we have in savings.

**Call Shepherd Report** (Cindy Guertin-Anderson). Cindy noted that a couple of people have indicated interest in work on connecting with the broader community.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Community Kitchen** (Alan Hardcastle): Alan noted that we're spending about \$5,000 for meals, approximately \$400 per month. This amounts to approximately 288 meals each month, about half are delivered off-site. Total per meal is \$1.40. (We currently have \$11,400 in the Benevolence Fund for community kitchen.)
- **Social Justice Committee (SJC)** (Betty Hauser). Betty reported on SJC activities. She will attend a Steering Circle meeting to discuss what is appropriate to include on the CIC calendar.
- **Connections Committee** (Hugh). Things have been smooth. Kathy Pruitt is a good addition to the committee.
- **Community Support Team** (Corey). The past year has been mostly quiet.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm.