

Town Hall Minutes September 24, 2017

Kathy Pruitt opened the meeting as Town Hall Facilitator

In Attendance were Corey P, Carol and Jamie Rainwood, Karen R, Jo C, Nika K, Jan R, Leeann T, Hilarie H, Kathy P and Penny P.

Minutes were read and accepted from the last town hall by Penny.

Ministers report by Corey:

*On this first Town Hall of the year I am feeling excitement for the community and the ongoing responsibilities of the job. This last summer was one in which there were ongoing new member gatherings toward the goal of joining as a group on October 8th. This class formed a sense of community with these new attenders of CIC and evoked numerous discussions about what is interfaith. These open honest inquiries help me to keep processing what we are attempting in our community and prompt me to reflect on these inquiries via a celebration this fall. This summer also featured an interfaith book club that raised numerous, genuine reflections of interfaith discovery and inquiry.*

*As the new CIC year begins I am involved with a group of clergy in Olympia who are planning a show of support for staff workers in the Planned Parenthood clinic this coming fall. We will show up, bring snacks, and remind them that we are here in the greater Olympia community and available to them. This show of support will not seek to engage or contest the ongoing protestors that gather at the clinic, rather it is a direct show of support.*

*Professionally I am still adjusting to the work of interfaith ministry. The tension is to sense and learn what is needed in the community and bringing forth what is spiritually imperative for me. Specifically I am seeing a gap in the training I received in graduate school with the ritual and spiritual practice offerings that I might be able to foster for CIC. I am looking for resources to help me with this and also grateful for the retreat that I just attended by Michael Meade which was funded by CIC.*

*Finally, one of my goals in this coming year is to deepen my understanding of the music library of CIC and attempt to more deeply integrate that library, the dances, and poetry into the celebrations. I am also interested to explore topics of beautifying the space in which we meet, though I am not*

*sure how quite yet...perhaps guest artists hanging work?*

*Am looking forward to this coming year and the ongoing growth and integration that will certainly be present in our shared work.*

Budget Report by Jan R. (See attached)

Proposed 2018 budget

We discussed giving our staff their individual 3% raises at their hiring anniversary rather than all of them being in January. Maizy, who started in 2016, won't get a raise until January of 2018, but will get a prorated bonus that would be equal to a 3% raise on the hiring anniversary. Nika and Trina will stay on the January date for raises. All other employees (Karen R and Mandy R and Corey P) will now be paid raises after they have completed a/each year.

Pastor's fund is not in this budget as it has upwards of \$1000 already in it. We don't need to add to it this year so nothing is budgeted.

We decided to add \$200 to a new line item for Professional expenses for teachers.

The final amount budgeted for is approximately \$54,035. We agreed to that as the proposed budget for 2018!

Call Shepherd Report by Hilarie:

An updated Call List is being circulated at CIC to get corrections/additions. A link will be added to Wavelinks as well. A new call: Town hall Regulars is being added to the list to have some CIC attendees who would be willing to attend these meetings perhaps on a seasonal or year long basis (e.g.Fall, Winter, Spring).

Karen R report on Fruit Sale

*We quizzed last year's fruit sale leaders to see if and how they are willing to participate this year. Lori W. is working more and can only provide peripheral assistance this year. Nika is in the process of moving, so can't host the warehouse and doesn't have much time to help in other capacities. She'd like to pass on the accounting piece to someone else, but doesn't want the lack of a fruit sale treasurer to be a road block to the fruit sale. Kathy K. is willing to do more this year, including hosting the warehouse, communicating with Charlie's, monitoring fruit sale email, and writing the fruit sale letter. I, (Karen) am willing to do as much work as last year, but can't do more. Since Kathy is willing to take on the letter, Karen is willing to learn how to do the spreadsheet and also to learn how to*

*set up the on-line ordering system.*

*I feel we need at least one more member of the fruit sale team to keep the work from becoming burdensome to any of us. We also need to investigate whether the price and availability of citrus will be greatly affected by the hurricanes in Florida. We have notes from our sale last year which should help us be more efficient and improve our systems.*

We discussed if we should take proposals and requests for the fruit sale monies, before or after the sale. We decided to stay with the way we've done it in the past and take proposals at Town Hall on Oct 22, 2017. We have a new procedure that proposals be presented once and that no additional bargaining happen after the presentation.

Karen Ray reported as YCPC

*The children & youth program is off to a good start. All three teachers have returned for this year. Looking at attendance, I notice our numbers were low in the first part of last year, from 4-8 kids per week—until Mandy started in late March. We've also had a few families with children join since spring. In June, we reached attendance of 15 on one occasion, and the first two weeks of this year, we've had 14 and 13 total youth and children.*

*This is mostly great, but the growth in the grade school classroom has been a bit challenging for Trina. For most of last year, she had 2-3 kids per week; now she has 5-7. Some of the new kids are more active and make it harder for Trina to teach a lesson without assistance. Betty has volunteered to assist Trina once a month, and I'm going to solicit volunteers to help her the other three weeks a month. These volunteers will be "on call." If the group on a particular night is small and manageable, then the volunteer may not be needed. I'll also be looking for volunteers to replace the three classroom teachers and myself when one of us is unavailable for an evening.*

*We are being more deliberate this year about teaching kids in the grade school program about various faiths, in response to parent requests. Kathleen Peppard's files from 15-17 years ago, along with the CIC library, have been invaluable helps. We did an overview of four faiths last week (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Buddhism) and are focusing on Judaism the next few weeks in recognition of the High Holy Days. We are also trying to communicate a little more frequently with the parents, especially those in the grade school program, so that they know what the topic is each Sunday and can discuss it with their kids.*

Corey responded about the Children and Youth leaflet which has been updated and will continue to be used.

Penny proposed we send the minutes out with wave links. We'll try it and see if people like that.

Karen R spoke about **Fall 2017 Fort Flagler**

*Jan V. reckons we had 150 camper-nights, but we don't know about the adult/kid distribution. This was the second time we used a new payment system. Instead of a fixed price (the cost of the retreat divided by the number of camper-nights), we offered a sliding scale of \$15-\$20/night/person, with a separate charge for the salmon dinner. Using this system, there was a \$306 net this fall (income was \$\$2294; expenses were \$2654).*

We reviewed that scholarships are assigned at the discretion of the minister.

Corey and Leeann are working on a flow chart about how different accounts function and how money comes in and how it goes out. It will be an information graphic for all our accounts.

Audio concerns about hearing problems were touched upon. It will need more research. Hilarie will reach out for those interested in working on this.

A notice will go into wave links about attention to fragrance sensitivities.

The next TH would be Nov 19, 2017.