

Town Hall Minutes: December 2, 2018

Kathy Pruitt lead as our Town Hall facilitator.

In attendance were Dale Smith, Peg Henry, Karen Ray, Jan rocks, Megan Parke, Corey Passons, Dick and Betty Hauser, Jamie and Carol Rainwood, Jo Curtz, Jody Bernstein and Penny Purkerson.

Minutes were read by Penny and accepted

Corey's Minister's report: (See addendum 1)

He reported on a retreat he attended on Sexuality in the church as a very full spectrum experience where they were looking at real issues around treatment of women in the world and gender issues. He was proud to be able to get to know and work with many amazing people including Mike Denton, the lead person in our UCC Conference and many other clergy.

Corey is also looking at contacting people that are not members and see if they have interest in joining at annual meeting.

The CIC Dec 24 Celebration: Leeann has actually written a great play for our Christmas eve at OFT. Vonda is making a flyer about it, that will be available next week and could be distributed to friends and family.

Jan R gave the budget report:

19% of budget is remaining and 8% of 2018 year is remaining. We still have to pay Nov and Dec payroll. Last January, in the 2018 budget, we allotted 4K to use from surplus monies (which has accrued partly because of staff absences in previous years,) but we have not yet touched that money. Our checking balance will cover a good bit of Nov. and Dec. expenses but we'll likely need some of that to cover the rest of December. We're basically in good shape for 2018!

For 2019, we are using Karen Ray's staff cost projections and the total budget is now \$59,828 for the year. We are 10K short of that, at this point in the pledge drive. We will likely have \$1500 come in through the begging bowl in 2019, which would reduce the short fall to \$8500.

Having added a staff person, raising our rent payment and giving 3% raises to other staff is why our costs are higher this year. We cannot know for sure what the final numbers will be until January. We have 12K set aside in a savings acct, and over 10K in CD's, but this money is not earmarked for any specific items except the 4K that was tagged in Jan. of 2018, to use in the 2018 budget. Beyond that, there is \$4,319 in a rainy day fund which would cover a month's payroll/expenses if we were short on cash.

Leeann T. is overseeing monies that have come in as memorial donations for items outside of our budget and that money is not considered here. How to manage those monies is an ongoing process with Jan Vleck and Corey overseeing it with Leeann.

As per the short fall, we decided to make more announcements at celebrations and send out an email, letting everyone know where we are with meeting the new goal for our 2019 budget. A 7% increase in pledges would make up the short fall! Jamie will join Jan in an announcement next Sunday. We'll make the final decisions on Jan 13, 2019. All pledging will need to be finalized then.

Karen Ray's YCPC report: (See Addendum 2)

Overall great. Youth attendance is very light. Middlers group is challenging and attendance has also been light. We have 5 staff positions for 16 kids and 13 hours of pay a week. She'll need better back up on days she's not able to attend and is considering asking Mandy to fill in if the youth are not meeting. (Mandy is paid regardless of whether the youth meet on any given Sunday as she makes her own curriculum and sometimes meets outside of CIC Sunday evenings with the Youth.) Maybe she could back up in other classrooms as well. Karen will talk to Mandy about those ideas and other adults about getting more support from the adult community. Jody B offered support for working on middlers curriculum.

Salvation Army Kitchen report by Karen: The volunteer list for the community kitchen is getting bigger and stronger and we are still exploring how to replace Kathy Kinard as the leader/organizer.

Fruit sale report by Karen: It is going well. Citrus is sold out! Coffee and dates are still available. We ordered slightly less fruit and chocolate than last year, which means we should net slightly less profit than last year. We perhaps under-ordered a bit, as we have already sold out of many items. The new on-line system is a big improvement over the old system but still requires a fair amount of work to calculate all orders. Karen is not planning on working the fruit sale next year but would be willing to mentor someone.

Betty cleaned out the CIC storage cabinet and will label the shelves. Yeah and Thank You!
There is a box of books from there that will be given away.

Betty reported that IW doesn't have specific info about staffing needs for code blue, (hazardous weather) times for an extra overflow shelter for homeless people. The Community Care Center is one place where we could cover one shift per month and more will be shared as we learn about it. Betty will follow up.

As per building security and making sure doors are not left ajar or unlocked, we discussed having set up folks check all doors and Karen R will be checking too, before and after celebrations. Corey is following up with Ramona and the set up crew.

Next Town Hall: Jan 13, 2019

Final budget will be set at that meeting.

Meeting was adjourned!

Submitted by Penny Purkerson, Town Hall clerk

Addendum 1: Interfaith Minister Report -12.2.18

There have been some recent expressions of innovation and support in the community recently that are inspiring to me. The first is the way that Townhall has been assessing the involvement with the Community Kitchen during a period

of transition. The frank conversation and intention to continue speak to the way in which the community is committed to ongoing expressions of compassion while balancing the logistical support from our members. Secondly, it has been inspiring to watch the ongoing work of the CIC Community Resource Team. This team has been constantly adapting to the work and actively discerning and defining their role in our community. They have already navigated some complicated areas of need and are establishing a model of “cohort care” that can be gleaned from and adapted to other areas of our community expression (e.g. our leadership for the Community Kitchen when Kathy K leaves her post in July).

Per our budget...I am curious to watch our community respond to the presence of a projected budget deficit at the end of this year. I have yet to be present to such a circumstance and will be interested to see how the petition for additional pledges is met. I think that in the years to come I would like to be more involved in the exploration of pledging as a spiritual practice. This exploration could be via a celebration or post in WL or both.

Finally, I want the community to know what a fine job our YCPC is doing. Her lesson plans are consistently rich with interfaith resources and reflection for each of the classes. CIC offers a caring and robust religious education opportunity and I think this aspect could be a foundation for families to share with other families when considering a spiritual community.

Addendum 2: YCPC Town Hall Report 12/02/18

Overall, the program is plugging along just fine, with some continuing challenges, as follows.

Youth attendance is very light, presently. There are only 3 regular youth to begin with, and Emelyn is busy with The Nutcracker, and Skye with homework. Kaia doesn't come when Skye doesn't come, because he is usually her driver. I have been trying to set a time to talk with Mandy about this and other things.

The Middlers group still has its challenges because the age range is still rather large, even though it is tighter than it was. There are 6 regular kids, one in grade 4, 2 in 5th, one in 6th, and 2 in 7th. I have spoken with four of the six families in the past ten days. All conversations (3 initiated by parents) have to do with some unwelcome “immature” behavior that keeps discussions from being as fruitful as they could be. After these discussions, we decided to try moving Noah to the grade school classroom, where his energy is more appropriate. The hope is that Reed will be able to “rise up” to the level of the other kids if Noah isn't there distracting him. I'll monitor this and see if it makes a difference. I have also encouraged Cathy to ask Tre to give the program a chance. I have been specifically creating curriculum that I think will appeal to him but he hasn't always shown up when he's had the opportunity to. So we are still finding our way.

The grade school program has just increased to four kids with the addition of Noah: two 1st graders, a 3rd grader, and a 4th grader. Also, sometimes Harper. This class seems to be running smoothly.

The preschool classroom is generally 4 kids, which is really the max that should be cared for by one adult. We once had 2 young siblings come and they were in this class but luckily Silas and Jude were absent that day (otherwise we would have had to call in extra help). We are using the beepers and I will have one as well, in case there is an emergency that doesn't have to do with a fussy baby.

Recent reflections on the program:

- CIC provides a commendable amount of resources in support of our families: five staff positions totaling 13 hours a week, for 16 kids. And the programs still feel under-resourced.
- I spend too much time creating middler curriculum (not a lot of resources available for this age group) and it is a little disappointing to then have only two kids show up.
- We need better support for “emergency” situations, like when a teacher gets sick at the last minute or we have visitors in the preschool classroom

Potential Solutions

- have Mandy fill in for teachers (and me) when she doesn't have youth attending
- identify some community members who are willing to step in at the last minute to lead a class or fill in for me when we have teaching staff absent
- identify some pre-made curriculum that is appropriate for our middlers classroom
- promote our Christmas Eve celebration within the Olympia community to introduce CIC to new families (in the hopes that increased membership would lead to more financial support and volunteer support for the kids' programs—I'm not sure this is true, though)
- have guest teachers on a regular basis—CIC members sharing a passion that has some spiritual component

I am excited that Amy Alison Taylor has taken participation in the youth and children's program on as a regular call, and we are planning to have a joint middler-youth improv night in January.

Fruit Sale Update

We ordered slightly less fruit and chocolate than last year, which means we should net slightly less profit than last year. I perhaps under-ordered a bit, as we have already sold out of many items. The new on-line system is a big improvement over the old system but still requires a fair amount of work to calculate all orders. I am not planning on working the fruit sale next year but would be willing to mentor someone.