

## CIC Town Hall April 26, 2020

- **Welcome and agenda:** Kathy Pruitt called the virtual meeting together, welcoming people as they joined the Zoom meeting.
- **Overview of 3/22/20 meeting minutes:** Karen Tvedt provided an overview of the minutes taken by Penny Purkerson during the last meeting (thanks Penny!). Betty Hauser reminded us that she and Pat Starzyk had collaborated on the audit. It was also noted that although up to \$200 was authorized for the final sanctuary grocery shopping trip, only \$75 was needed.
- **Interfaith Minister's Report:** Corey Passons reported that with leadership from Community Needs Team (thank you Ted Ryle, Gene Maltzef and Sabra Hull), all of the names on the CIC list were assigned to volunteers who are making weekly phone calls as desired, extending support and identifying ways CIC might reach out. Betty noted that the phone tree identified at least one person who would like contact with Corey.

Corey noted that he would have been attending the annual meeting of the United Church of Christ, but that the meeting was canceled in lieu of electronic sessions. He indicated that more than 200 individuals are attending, mostly people in active ministry. It has been a meaningful and helpful resource for Corey, allowing him to learn new ways to be in community and to connect electronically to important mentors from his past. Jo Curtz asked about the workshop on the Beatitudes that had been proposed by Corey and Ted. Corey reported that with all that has been happening with Covid-19, they assume that it was canceled along with the face-to-face meeting.

- **Extended Zoom celebrations and CIC summer ideas:** Corey noted that he is reflecting about what is likely for the summer and whether we need contingency plans. None of us know what the future holds, or what a gradual return will mean in terms of group sizes and ages of people. CIC will want to put safety first. And if we continue Zoom meetings through June, there will be a period of acculturation when we return to face-to-face community.

Comments and suggestions: Jo asked if we might want to add an additional day to the Labor Day Fort Flagler retreat. Betty noted the likelihood of restrictions on social interactions until inoculations are available and asked about keeping Zoom celebrations going through summer with leadership from Corey and/or others.

**Action:** Kathy suggested that we spend time during the May Town Hall meeting discussing alternatives, e.g., ongoing celebrations (with Corey and volunteers); picnics for eight; walks for four, etc.

- **Community Needs Calls:** See Interfaith Minister's Report

- **Budget:** Jan Rocks indicated that our budget seems to be fine for the time-being (we have spent \$148 less than we have taken in). She proposed that we remind people at celebration about our commitment to continue paying staff and the need to remember our pledges and contributions.

**Action:** We will remind participants about CIC's dependence on their pledges and contributions at celebration.

- **Call Shepherd report:** Hilarie Hauptman reported on the "duos" who have agreed to provide leadership in providing meals at Community Kitchen one Saturday evening a month: Constance Frey Lavalee and Sarah Huntington are covering April, May and June; Corey and Bethanie Sand are doing July, August and September. Jamie and Carol Rainwood are willing to do shopping. Carol suggested a meeting of the "duos" in the next month or so. Kathy expressed her appreciation to Hilarie for her work including in anticipating future needs.

**Action:** 1) Hilarie will check with Alan Hardcastle and Gene to see if they will cover October, November and December. 2) Hilarie will check with Gene and Ryan Stephens (and perhaps a third person) about their willingness to coordinate the fall Fort Flagler retreat (given uncertainties, State Parks has implemented a lenient cancellation policy).

- **Children's Program Update and Staff Involvement:** Karen Ray's April 26<sup>th</sup> report is included as Addendum 1. Karen provided an overview of her report including that she reached out to teachers and parents once it became apparent that we would not be meeting in person for a while. Most parents responded positively to possibility of weekly check-ins via Zoom (a few declined saying they were trying to limit screen time). Karen has kept all four teachers connected via Wavelinks and email list serves; all agreed to participate in the first 30 minutes of the Sunday evening celebrations so the children can see them. Rather than instruction, the focus has been on providing consistency for children, and engagement has varied across age groups. Townhall participants weighed-in with thoughts and suggestions including: looking into alternative formats for families avoiding screen time; Penny will text Karen with some thoughts about involving children who are uncomfortable with computers; Corey spoke to the importance of providing continuity for children and supporting retention of teachers.

**Actions:** 1) Karen R will check in with parents to see how they think things are going. 2) Karen has started to think about next fall and wants to explore the Unitarian Universalist children's curriculum as a possibility. 3) Townhall participants agreed that CIC should continue to pay teachers for the hours agreed to (see Addendum for summary of hours).

- **Social Justice Committee-Hunger Walk:** Karen T noted that this is the final week for the Hunger (Non) Walk which is raising funds that will go to the Community Kitchen, Senior Services (meals on wheels) and the Food Bank. The SJC will submit another notice for the weekly Wavelinks that includes the CIC-specific link (with directions for contributing

through the website). During their May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the SJC will discuss information just received from Interfaith Works about shelter needs.

**Action:** Wavelinks reminder.

- **Community Kitchen Safety Recommendations:** Sarah and Constance are coordinating our involvement with the Community Kitchen this quarter. Operating changes have been instituted due to the virus including food is pre-packaged for guests and served in a covered area outside and volunteers must be 65 or under (60 if they have underlying conditions). While Sarah and Constance had planned for social distancing during the last shift, additional non-CIC volunteers and staff were on site, and many were not wearing masks.

**Actions:** 1) Constance will discuss our concerns with Peter who oversees the Community Kitchen. 2) Sarah will make masks for volunteers and staff who lack them. 3) We approved the expenditure of approximately \$100 for food service containers (avoid petroleum-based, recyclable if possible).

- **CIC Facebook Request and Recommendation** (Corey and the Steering Circle): Corey indicated that a community member suggested the creation of a Facebook group. At the present, while CIC has a Facebook account, our social media presence is dormant.

**Action:** Town Hall participants agreed that CIC does not currently have the personnel to moderate and oversee such a group at this time.

- **Next Town Hall: May 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**Meeting adjourned!**

## **ADDENDUM 1**

### **YCPC Town Hall Report: Karen Ray April 26, 2020**

The adaptations of the youth and children's programs since we stopped meeting in person have varied from group to group and week to week. We did not attempt to implement children's programming the first week of the stay-at-home order, but I put out email inquiries to teachers and parents once it became apparent that we would not be meeting in person for some time. I reached out by phone to those parents who didn't respond via email.

Most parents expressed interest in trying weekly check ins via Zoom. A few said that they were trying to limit screen time and wouldn't be inclined to participate.

I also made sure all four teachers were on the CIC Wavelinks and email listserves so they were kept informed while we meet remotely. All teachers agreed to participate in the first 30 minutes of Sunday evening Zoom celebrations, so that the children could see them.

### **Remote Connections between Teachers and Youth & Children**

Sarah and the middlers have been holding weekly Zoom meetings on Sunday evenings for about four weeks now. The kids either have their own devices or use their parents'. Some of the kids are quite tech-savvy. The meetings last about an hour, and typically are attended by Jackson, Rayna, Reed, and Cassius. Sarah and the kids do a check in, a COVID update (led by Jackson), and candle-lighting every week. Additional activities they've done are: pet show and tell, playing Kahoot and Catch Phrase, highs and lows, learning how to employ virtual backgrounds on Zoom, and Zoom hangman.

Zoom sessions for the preschoolers and grade schoolers have been more sporadic and less successful. We had one preschooler Zoom a few weeks back, attended by Chloe, Kyra, Justine, Jasmine, Katie, Cindy, Silas, Jude, and myself. This lasted about 30 minutes and was mostly a chance for the kids to connect, show their artwork, show their pets, and talk about what they had been doing.

We had one grade school Zoom that same morning. Attending that were Diana, Kyra, Jasmine, Leivan, and myself. We used this as an opportunity to ask Jasmine what she would like from these sessions. She is interested in opportunities for the kids to socialize, and would appreciate some religious/spiritual content, if possible.

This past Sunday we tried a joint preschool/grade school Zoom from 4:30-5pm on Sunday, just before CIC. Initially that was attended by Kyra, Diana, Chloe and myself. About midway through, Lynn (Finnie) joined us and seemed completely unconcerned that she was the only child present! We had a very nice conversation.

I will set up another joint preschool/grade school Zooms from 4:30-5pm this Sunday, and ask parents for feedback when I send out the announcement. I am open to changing the format and timing of the Zoom if parents have suggestions, and if there is little interest in Zoom sessions, we may discontinue them.

The youth and children's Zoom meetings have been used primarily for social engagement, although the middlers are retaining their candle-lighting practice. I have not created any curriculum for the grade school or middlers to use in their remote meetings, and I'm not currently planning to do so. My sense is that our main focus for the kids at this time should be to maintain social connections with them, and provide opportunities for them to talk about their lives and concerns. I am hesitant to create religious content that is removed from the lived experience we are sharing at this time. I can envision creating some discussion topics that might help kids connect their current experience with historically or spiritually relevant content (for example, discussions about living through plagues in the past, or living through WW2). If there

is interest among kids and parents in this type of discussion, and a commitment to participation, I am willing to put the time into creating content.

I plan to reach out by phone to as many families as possible in this next week and query them as to how they would like us to engage with their children during this time.

### **Teacher Hours and Compensation**

Here are my estimates of how much time teachers are currently working. In parentheses are the number of hours they are being paid for:

- Karen is currently working about 2-3 hours/week (4.5)
- Kyra (2), Diana (2.15) and Chloe (2) are working about 1.5 hours/week.
- Sarah (2.5) is working about 2 hours/week.

My hours are being spent setting up and participating in Zoom meetings, checking in with teachers and parents, corresponding with Corey, and preparing for and attending Town Hall. Kyra, Diana, and Chloe participate in class-specific Zoom meetings and in the first half hour of CIC Sunday Zooms. Sarah sets up and participates in weekly hour-long middler Zoom meetings and attends the first half hour of CIC Sunday Zooms. If we decide to try having thematic discussions in the grade school and/or middle classrooms, I would spend time creating that content and teachers (Diana and Sarah) would implement it. I do not see a clear way to extend Kyra's or Chloe's participation, as their typical jobs are associated with caring for children/classes when we meet in person.