

CIC Town Hall September 20, 2020

- **Welcome and Agenda:** Sarah Huntington called the virtual meeting to order. Sarah reviewed the agenda posted in the Zoom chat box.
- **Overview of the May 31st Meeting Minutes:** Karen Tvedt provided an overview of the minutes from May 31, highlighting still relevant action items.
 - *Budget*-need to look more closely at our budget and finances this fall.
 - *Children's Program*-Karen Ray is reaching out to parents and exploring options.
 - *Social Justice Committee*-CIC endorsed a proposal to provide monthly lunches for one of the Interfaith Works shelters for six months (funded by ear-marked donations).
 - *Community Kitchen*-ongoing work around ensuring worker safety.
 - *Summer Staffing*: celebrations will continue during the summer with Corey's involvement supported financially through the operating budget.
 - Sarah welcomed as new *Town Hall Facilitator*; gratitude to Kathy Pruitt for her years of excellent services.
 - *Parking Lot*: funding for the Community Kitchen; audit results and suggestions; pledge drive.
- **Interfaith Minister's Report:** Corey recognized the Steering Committee for being attentive and available through the summer. Nika Keller will be taking over as treasurer from Jo Curtz (Jo recognized for all she has contributed).
 - *Prayer and Energetic Support Group*: group is exploring what this looks like...as well as some things it's not.
 - *Personal*: With assuming the half-time position as Interfaith Relations Director with Interfaith Works, Corey notices an uptick in busyness and is finding the need to watch what he takes on. He is noticing some rhythm and balance developing.
- **Budget:** Jan Rocks reported that our budget still looks great with 37% of our budget and 30% of the year remaining. We are ahead of projections by over \$3,000 and have close to \$41,000 in the bank. She shared a proposed 2021 budget that assumes "business as usual" and includes 3% wage increases for employees and health/dental costs as shown on the United Churches website. The only change in space rentals is assuming we will not have an Easter Service at the Grange.

Action/Decisions: 1) Jan will start putting articles in Wavelinks about the Pledge Drive (Megan noted that with the state budget shortfall, we should encourage those who have the ability to do so to increase their pledges); 2) We will do a virtual Pledge Drive Potluck on October 18; and 3) After the first of the year, Jacob Skeers will start mentoring as Pledge Shepherd.

- **Call Shepherd Report:** Hilarie Hauptman welcomed Carol Rainwood who has agreed to take on the Call Shepherd role. Hilarie will continue to track birthdays for Wavelinks, do the

CIC directory and send greeting cards. Gratitude for all Hilarie has brought to the Call Shepherd role and the Steering Circle!

- **Children's Program:** Karen Ray summarized the goals of the Children's Program: to connect kids to each other and the CIC community; and support the spiritual growth of children. The middlers continue to have a wonderful time on Zoom, however Zoom doesn't work well for the younger groups.
 - Karen shared two ideas she and Corey discussed: 1) having a once-a-month project for the kids to do and share with the larger community (something not time intensive for parents); 2) giving one child the mike for 5 minutes to talk about something during a celebration.
 - Parents have mentioned: at-home spiritual curriculum (although parent isn't sure they have the capacity to do); social connections (socially distanced play time); another parent said their "Covid bubble is as big as they want it to be."
 - Townhall attendees suggested: individualize to the needs of each family (a family plan?); an activity each month parents could do with kids, e.g., a cooking project; resource list of CIC adults willing to spend time/do an activity with kids; coop model such as how United Methodists are working collaboratively across congregations; doing a pre-recorded talent show; pair one adult with a family.

Action/Decisions: 1) Corey and Karen will continue exploring options about serving CIC families with children; 2) teachers will be informed that we'll let them know our plans in a week or so.

- **Community Kitchen Update:** Sarah Huntington reported that we have a solid group of facilitators (three groups that do four months each). Additional volunteers could be used for cooking and serving. Sarah and Constance are exploring the possibility of expanding the number of meals CIC cooks so another group doesn't need to be in the kitchen at the same time as CIC. This has cost implications and possibly implications to displaced restaurant workers who are paid to do this work.

Action/Decisions: 1) Sarah and Constance will continue to explore the possibility of expanding the number of meals CIC cooks and report back to Steering Circle and Town Hall. 2) Carol Rainwood is looking for a few more volunteers to help with cooking and serving.

- **Community Needs-**Sarah provided an update from Sabra. All community members got a call at the beginning of Covid distancing. The committee is planning another round of calls this fall as we move into darker, wetter days.

- **Connections Committee-**Hugh and Megan reported on the survey of CIC members done this spring. Themes that emerged were: CIC is nourishing, a lifeline; folks are struggling; people appreciate the music, time for meditation, candle lighting, opportunities for human contact, and seeing the children. Corey is appreciated for his bravery, love, heart, deep

preparation, and rising to meet the challenge of Covid. Suggestions included more small group work; need for more voices in celebration, and space to dialogue and interact with each other; need to follow-up with visitors.

Actions/Decisions: follow-up with written summary in Wavelinks.

- **Social Justice Committee (SJC)**-Karen reported that CIC has been providing lunches monthly for one of the Interfaith Works shelters. She expressed gratitude to Jo Curtz, Pat Starzyk and Jan Vleck for working out the details for paying the restaurant that provides the meals. From the Interfaith Works Program Council meeting, IW needs to move the Martin Way Shelter to make way for construction of a new building. If anyone has suggestions about alternative commercial space, recommendations are welcomed.
- **Upcoming Town Halls:** October 25th, November 22nd, December 20th (if needed). If we don't do a December Town Hall, we will need one early in January, possibly January 5th.

Meeting adjourned!