

Community for Interfaith Celebration Annual Meeting Minutes January 31, 2021

Approximately 40 CIC members were present via Zoom.

Welcome and CIC Call: Corey Passons welcomed participants, affirming that every line in the budget and every committee report represents the interconnected spiritual work of our community. Corey welcomed Sarah Huntington, Townhall Facilitator.

Overview of Annual Meeting Procedures: Sarah did an overview of the consensus process for decision-making. This approach, to be used for adoption of the 2021 CIC Budget, does not rely on a vote of the majority. Rather it requires discussion during which everyone has an opportunity to comment and raise questions. When discussion is done, the facilitator moves the group toward decision. Options include agreement, disagreement (person has enough concern to block the decision) and standing aside (person doesn't love the decision but can live with it).

Minutes from January 10th Townhall: Karen Tvedt provided an overview of the last Townhall minutes (posted on the CIC website). Sarah noted a slight change in the funding source for the honorarium for Matthew Purkerson. Kathleen Peppard asked for more information about the honorarium. Karen explained that though not a CIC member, Matthew has contributed significantly to the CIC music program in the Zoom environment. After discussion, Townhall agreed to recognize his contributions with an honorarium.

Budget: Jan Rocks reviewed the 2020 budget and provided an overview of the proposed 2021 budget. She explained that we have \$54,079 in pledges and \$3,270 in carry over for a total of \$57,349 for 2021. Given unknowns this year, e.g., hiring for the children and youth program and whether we'll still be meeting via zoom this summer, this is a "best guess" budget with \$1,023 in the "unanticipated expenses" line. The budget was approved by full consensus.

Interfaith Minister Report: Corey started by acknowledging Jan's skill and care through the budget development process. Jan, in turn, acknowledged Nika Keller for her outstanding work as Treasurer.

- *Optimism about our Community:* Corey expressed gratitude to the CIC community which he sees as an incubator of transformation. He is honored and humbled to be a part of CIC and is working on accepting what is, giving himself grace. He finds our Zoom Celebrations a place of depth during which there is energetic exchange between Celebration leaders and the community.
- *Committees:* one of Corey's joys is hearing what is happening in committees which are living symbols of our community. The Steering Circle has three new members who have never met in person but who show up for each other and are doing good work. Corey finds the Steering Circle a safe place to reflect as things arise.

- *Racism and White Privilege*: Through Wavelinks, celebrations, and study and book groups, people in CIC have been exploring racism and white privilege over the past year. Corey is ready to pivot from internal work to looking outward and proposes that a group of people explore what that would look like. He sees the first step as developing a statement of intent to bring back to the community for discussion and affirmation. We will make mistakes...Corey will walk the path with this group. Appreciation was expressed for Corey's leadership on issues of racial equity.
- *Interfaith Works*: Toward the end of the meeting, Corey noted that he is finding interfaith connectivity in his role with Interfaith Works. He encouraged us to go to the Interfaith Works website to learn about events starting February 6th aimed at acknowledging and healing our experiences over the past year with the pandemic.

Benevolence Fund and Salmon Sale: Jan Vleck explained that the Benevolence Fund is distinct from the operating budget and is directly primarily outside our community. Our overall balance on 12/31/20 was \$14,307.30. Given our commitment to monthly meals at the Community Kitchen, Jan suggests that we be diligent about long-term fundraising. Specifics included:

- *Community Kitchen*-total food for 2020 was \$2737.79; average food expense has gone up and we are serving more people than in the past. Our available balance will cover 10 months at \$250/month. If we start running short, Jan will let Townhall know.
- *Retreats*-both 2020 retreats were canceled due to Covid-19; we received refunds and now have \$2,970.08 in this account.
- *Fruitless Fruit Sale*-current balance is \$6,398.25. Salmon sale yielded \$2,049 in 2020; these funds were transferred to the Benevolence Community Kitchen subaccount.
- *Pastor's Fund*-current balance \$1,557.96 which is spent at discretion of pastor (e.g., someone experiences a car breakdown or housing crisis and needs help). Jan raised a question about whether this is the right amount for this fund (it's easy to imagine a housing or other need that would seriously deplete the fund).
- *Unallocated*-balance-\$795.63; ad hoc donations (generosity) for Sanctuary shopping and meals for the Martin Way Shelter.

Children's Program-Corey

- Miriam Sterlin was welcomed by the community as our new Youth/Children's Program Coordinator (YCPC). Corey thanked the Connections Committee for overseeing the recruitment and hiring process. He noted that we have significant work ahead of us in figuring out what things will look like in the fall.
- Miriam expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to grow into the role and work with CIC. She indicated her appreciation for the support received from Karen Ray including resources. Miriam acknowledged that families are stretched thin and is thinking about ways to connect with children without asking more from families. She welcomes our ideas.

Connections Committee-Megan Parke reported that the committee is delighted that Miriam answered the YCPC call. This committee includes Megan, Hugh O'Neill and Katie Guertin-

Anderson. They oversee the hiring of staff, support conflict resolution within CIC, and do an evaluation each year.

Call Shepherd Report-Carol Rainwood started by thanking Hiliary Hauptman for her many years of service and mentorship. CIC has 83 calls and a total of 59 volunteers; some people as many as 10 calls. There are openings on the Community Support Team and Care Teams (to provide hands-on and other support to CIC members). Jan Vleck welcomes a trainee to be mentored for the Benevolence Shepherd role. The updated call list is on the CIC website under resources. All are invited to take on an existing call or develop a call that would benefit the community.

Social Justice Committee (SJC)-Betty Hauser reported that the committee is going well; it's a small group that has grown a bit over the past year or so. Members have ongoing participation in the Interfaith Works Program Council (and Lean-In Olympia), Strengthening Sanctuary Alliance (Jonnel Anderson), and tiny/micro house projects (Scott Bishop). Over the past years, group members (and other CICers) volunteered at the TBH sanctuary, led two celebrations, and organized shelter lunches.

CIC Community Exchange-Sade Gilliom reported that with the pandemic, not much has happened in the past year; plans are to dive back in the future.

Community Needs Committee (*now the Community Support Team*). Sabra Hull reported that the committee coordinates short-term support to CIC members/families with illnesses or other pressing life events. In some instances, Care Teams provide longer term support. Several members recently resigned. Sabra and Vonda Witley are ongoing, but they are looking for a couple more volunteers. Members in need of compassionate problem solving are encouraged to call Sabra.

Community Kitchen-Sarah reported that CIC has a robust team of regulars (and substitutes) who cook one meal a month at the Community Kitchen on the second Saturday. Each month, 250 people receive a hot nutritious meal through these efforts at the Community Kitchen, Drexel House, and the two Interfaith Works shelters.

Brief evaluation- comments were positive: would join if not already a member; appreciation that we didn't spend time on \$17 budget items; well-done meeting; gratitude to Sarah for her great facilitation; gratitude to Corey for his wonderful leadership. One person missed snacks.

Parking Lot

Plan for returning to in-person meetings

Review of Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, Open and Affirming Language

Long term benevolence plans

Auditing plans