

## CIC Townhall - February 21, 2021

- **Welcome and Agenda:** Sarah Huntington welcomed the group, inviting people to a moment of silence, and reviewing the agenda.
- **Attendance:** Sarah Huntington, Corey Passons, Carol and Jamie Rainwood, Jan Rocks, Karen Tvedt, Kathleen Pruitt, Jo and Thad Curtz, Dick and Betty Hauser, Leeann Tourtillott, Nika Keller, and Sabra Hull.
- **Minutes from January 10, 2021 Townhall and January 31, 2021 Annual Meeting:** Karen Tvedt provided a synopsis of the annual meeting minutes including:
  - We passed the proposed 2021 budget by consensus. With pledges and carry-over, the budget for the year is \$57,349. Given unknowns with Covid-19 and social distancing, we have \$1,023 in the “unanticipated expenses” line.
  - In his report, Corey expressed optimism about our community and its committees, and signaled his interest in working on issues of racism and white privilege.
  - Jan Vleck reported about the Benevolence Fund. It includes sufficient funds to cover cooking at the Community Kitchen for 10 months. If we start running short of money in that account, Jan will alert the Steering Committee about the need to move money from another line in the fund. The Pastor’s Fund currently has \$1,557.96; Jan questioned whether this is enough.
  - Corey and the community welcomed Miriam Sterlin as our new Youth/Children’s Program Coordinator.
  - Committee reports: Community Support team could use a couple of new members.

### Townhall Reports:

- **Interfaith minister update:** Corey Passons acknowledged the importance of Townhall to the life of the CIC community.
  - Leeann Tourtillott and Carol Rainwood agreed to a call that involves updating the photos on our website to tell the CIC story and demonstrate who we are. Corey also wants to revitalize our Facebook presence and would welcome a volunteer or volunteers to work with him on this.
  - Corey continues with his ordination process, has submitted his materials, and is waiting to hear when the committee wants to meet with him. Jo Curtz will represent CIC with Corey at this meeting. He will keep us posted about when the meeting gets scheduled.
  - Corey indicated that he is considering volunteering to participate with the UCC committee that deals with social justice/peacekeeping in Latin America and Lebanon. He sees this as a way to give back to the conference.
  - The UCC annual meeting will be in late April. Corey will keep us posted through Wavelinks.
- **Change to Corey’s Contract:** Sarah reported that to resolve an ongoing discontinuity between the starting date of Corey’s contract (January 1<sup>st</sup>) and when CIC approves its budget in late January, the SC has agreed to make Corey’s contract continuous until ended by him or CIC; there will be an annual review with the SC. The contract has been signed by Corey, Sarah and Nika Keller.
- **Finance and Budget:** Jan Rocks indicated that income to date is \$8,240 and expenses-\$4,745.
- **Call Shepherd:** Carol mentioned the website project that she and Leeann will be taking on.

They could use one or two more people to work with them.

- **Children's Programs:** Miriam Sterlin is working on themes for younger children and reaching out to families, anticipating the eventuality of CIC meeting in person. Sarah K has been dropping off materials for middlers. Sarah H is working with Miriam about the possibility of doing an egg dyeing event outdoor with masks. Kathy Pruitt said she would be willing to host such an event in her yard.
- **Social Justice Committee:** Betty Hauser shared that the Thurston League of Women Voters is doing a forum on immigration on February 25 from 6:30-8:30 pm; it will also do a meeting about redistricting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. See Wavelinks for registration information. Scott Bishop continues to participate in building tiny houses/micro-houses; the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan/Emergency Plan has been passed by local jurisdictions; two federal district courts say there is the need to rethink current approaches to geoduck farming; and the SJC is considering another round of contributions for shelter lunches. Sarah asked that the SJC coordinate with the SC/Community Kitchen efforts. The next SJC meeting is March 13 at noon.
- **Community Support Team:** Sabra Hull noted that she and Vonda are thrilled that Al Gilliom has joined the team on a trial basis. It would be great to have another person or two. They are looking for people who are good thinkers and problem solvers. Let Sabra know if you are interested in joining the team.

#### **Parking Lot Items**

- **Regathering Plans:** Corey is keeping track of what other congregations are doing and he and the Steering Circle are talking about this on an ongoing basis. The intention is that plans for regathering will become a community conversation. Jamie Rainwood asked for discussion about various iterations of getting together (masks? Social considerations? Hugging? Hybrid approach with some people in the circle and some people on-line?). Corey noted that even before that, we need to talk about the upcoming summer and the potential for outdoor gatherings.
- **Review of Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws:** Sarah indicated that she and Karen will be reviewing the CIC's articles of incorporation and bylaws and whether these need to be updated. Anyone wanting to be a part of this effort should get in touch with Sarah or Karen.
- **Open and Affirming Language:** CIC is an open and affirming congregation which is an optional designation for individual congregations in UCC. UCC was the first denomination to have that designation but it is not mandatory for local churches. Our language is not as inclusive as it might be. Corey proposes that the language be updated by a small group and brought back to the community for discussion. Suggestions included putting something in Wavelinks, making an announcement at the end of celebrations, doing a celebration in which we explore what it means to be open and affirming. Jamie indicated interest in participating.
- **Long-term plan for Benevolence Fund:** pended to April.
- **Audit Plans:** Sarah suggested that we put this off until May. Betty indicated that doing the actual audit will depend on when Pat and Betty get vaccines. This may be separate from questions about what we want to get out of an audit.

**Meeting ended at about 7:50 pm.**

#### **Upcoming meeting dates:**

March-Steering Circle 3/10 at 7 pm; Town Hall 3/14 at 6:45 pm

April-Steering Circle 4/7 at 4 pm; Town Hall 4/11 at 6:45 pm  
May-Steering Circle 5/5, 4:00 pm; Town Hall 5/9 at 6:45 pm  
June-Steering Circle 6/2, 4:00 pm; Town Hall 6/6 at 6:45 pm