

CIC Townhall Minutes
Sunday, June 6th, at 6:45 pm

- **Welcome:** Kathy Pruitt opened the meeting for Sarah Huntington (Sarah took over facilitation part-way through the meeting).
- **Attendance:** Corey Passons, Kathy Pruitt, Jamie/Carol Rainwood, Jan Rocks, Jo/Thad Curtz, Leeann Tourtillott, Sarah Huntington, Karen Tvedt.
- **Review of Minutes from May Townhall:** Karen Tvedt did a quick overview of the minutes from last Townhall:
 - Corey indicated that we are entering a time of regathering with other faith communities beginning services with social distancing. CIC is hoping for outdoor Solstice (June 20th) and Labor Day (September 6th) events and other small gatherings this summer. A group has begun meeting to update CIC's "open and affirming" statement to more fully reflect who we are.
 - Our finances were in good shape: 69% of our funds were available with 66% of the year remaining.
 - Carol Rainwood reported that Sophia Rychener has volunteered to take on updating CIC's Facebook page. Carol and Leeann are gathering photos and putting them in a google file. The Community Care Committee is looking for an additional member.
 - Children's Program: hiring of teachers is moving forward and will be publicized initially within the extended CIC community.
 - Betty Hauser reported on upcoming events for the Social Justice Committee.
 - Connections Committee is beginning work on the annual CIC evaluation.
 - Pat Starcyk and Betty Hauser were nearly finished with the CIC audit.
 - Land Acknowledgement: Townhall participants reached consensus about posting the statement on our website with recognition of authorship and endorsement.
 - Racial Justice Initiative Statement/Process: Corey reported that the period of formal review is over; we will work with the statement during the next few celebrations he leads and it will be brought to June Townhall for approval.
 - Regathering: this will be ongoing discussion through the next Steering Committee and Townhall meetings.
- **Corey's Update:**
 - Corey recognized this as the final Townhall of the CIC year and expressed gratitude to the Steering Circle (SC) for their work and support. From his conversations with colleagues in Concerned Clergy, he is aware that faith communities are approaching regathering using a variety of approaches.
 - Typically, Corey would initiate a discussion about next year's theme(s) at Fort Flagler. He invites ideas and will be scheduling a celebration planning meeting soon.
 - Ordination: Corey expressed gratitude to Jamie, Karen Lohmann and Leeann for their help in preparations for his ordination. He is hoping for a joyous, in-person celebration that reflects his journey and CIC's part in it.
- **Finance report:** Jan Rocks reported income of \$25,187 and our expenses of \$22,687. With 57% of the year remaining, 60% of our budget remains.

- **Call Shepherd report:** Carol reported:
 - Jamie is coordinating logistical planning for Corey’s ordination. Leeann is working on food and arrangements have been made to use the Friend’s Meeting House parking lot.
 - Efforts are underway to streamline the permission process for use of CIC photos, e.g., include an opt out on Fort Flagler registrations.
 - Community Support Team: the committee is still looking for another member to replace Vonda Witley.
 - Carol is compiling/developing descriptions for CIC calls.
- **Children’s Program:** Miriam Sterlin reported that the middlers are going strong and are planning an acknowledgement for Sarah K at the June 20th gathering. Regarding hiring, Miriam is working with the Connections Committee and is convening a parent committee to be involved with interviewing candidates. She is developing summer play packs for CIC families with children.
- **Land Acknowledgment for CIC Website:** Statement was approved during the May Townhall and is now posted on the CIC website.
- **Racial Justice Initiative Draft Statement/Process:**
 - Corey provided an overview of the process to this point. Six people were involved in the drafting process and the draft was presented to CIC in April for comment and edit. The review process ended in May and Corey began working with the statement in celebrations he led in late May and early June. During May Townhall, we agreed to bring the statement to this Townhall for approval. He hopes to have a large copy of the statement for people to sign during our June 20th gathering.
 - The statement was read out-loud during Townhall. Thad noted that the language seems aspirational; Sarah wondered if “United States” should be replaced with “United States of America;” and Jo asked if saying “we see and hear the pain and struggle” oversteps and falls into the category of microaggression. Corey noted that the statement intentionally includes a date, is aspirational and is expected to need revision in the future.
 - After extensive discussion, Townhall attendees approved the statement as presented. Others within CIC may have comments and questions as we operationalize the statement, which may require a context statement (preamble) and process for receiving and tracking comments.
- **Regathering:** Starting with a table created by Sarah, we discussed regathering options (the table revised to reflect the Townhall discussion is included below). Comments included that:
 - A mixed schedule with some zoom and some in-person celebrations would be confusing.
 - A hybrid approach with some people in person and others on zoom would be difficult logistically and could be uncomfortable in terms of sharing what is sensitive during candle lighting and at other times (audio streaming may be more doable).
 - We assume that we would follow CDC guidelines, i.e., if things close down again.
 - Not everyone may be vaccinated and/or comfortable with meeting in person which may mean some ongoing distancing and masking.

- Zoom has had some advantages, e.g., for people who have difficulty driving at night or have hearing issues. Kathy raised the possibility that we might provide other options for people who can't meet in person, for instance, on-line meditation.
- Steering Circle will meet on July 14th to continue discussions about regathering options and will meet as needed this summer.

Plans for In-Person Outdoor Gatherings: Planning is ongoing for the following events:
Summer Solstice Picnic, June 20th at Burfoot Park; Leeann is coordinating.
Corey's Ordination, August 22nd at Priest Point Park; Jamie is providing logistical coordination.
Labor Day Retreat, September 6th at Millersylvania Park; Leeann is coordinating.

Parking Lot:

Benevolence Fund plans
Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation
Audit report

Upcoming Meetings

July 14, 2021, Steering Circle meeting at 7:00 pm
August: Steering Circle, TBD; Townhall, TBD

6/6/21 Version

Format	Pros for remote participants	Pros for inperson participants	Cons for remote participants	Cons for in-person participants	Technical challenges
Continue in Zoom only	Continue to have convenience, ability to participate from a distance, when out of town; might stop paying rent at TUCO; would continue to have ~\$17 /mo in Zoom fees	N/A	No in-person time; hard for families with young children to participate; loss of the ritual of gathering	No in-person time	Continue to need music recorded/produced; Corey does not want CIC to go this direction
Mixed schedule-2 celebrations per month in person, 2 on Zoom	Continue to have convenience, ability to participate from a distance, when out of town for some weeks; less driving, especially in winter; easier to hear on Zoom than with hearing aid set-up currently in the social hall	The best of both worlds-flexibility	Might be hard to remember which week it is Some weeks not able to participate at all; loss of the ritual of gathering	Might be hard to remember which week it is The worst of both worlds-lack of continuity, fewer in-person celebrations; for all in-person options: how to integrate COVID protection-vaccination status, social distancing, masks, hand sanitizing, contact tracing?	Need to announce in Wavelinks; keep consistent, lay leaders would need to choose a format, scheduling might be tricky; suggestion of one celebration per month on Zoom, especially in winter; con to this is disruption in the rhythm of weekly meetings and that we already take the summer hiatus and the week after winter holidays off
All celebrations in person-audio	Able to listen whenever convenient,	Ability to meet in person, can relisten to	Cannot participate concurrently	Some fussing with the technology	Corey had this worked out prior to

recording (as before COVID)	once produced; Corey edits sharing, makes for about 25-30 minute listening time when edited	a celebration			COVID
All celebrations in person, with Zoom (or another livestreaming platform)	Ability to participate in real time, livestream is possible as well as audio available for listening later;	Ability to choose format they prefer; with limitations to our current audio system at TUCO, people could listen via Zoom on headphones while in person	Might be hard to hear at times, able to see?; livestreaming with visual takes a lot of bandwidth; so much interaction is related to the circle, might be hard to recreate that; how to include remote participants-how to share, light candles, etc.; creates two levels of participation	Feeling self-conscious or not wanting to be broadcast; people may feel need to self-censor what they share when they know they are being livestreamed; need someone in tech role before and during celebration (not Corey or other celebration facilitator)	Need someone to monitor/attend to the streaming during celebration; celebration leaders will have challenges/need to be mindful of remote participants and in person; inform in-person participants of livestream at start of celebration?