

Community for Interfaith Celebration Annual Meeting-January 30, 2022

Welcome and CIC Call: Sarah Huntington (facilitator)

Break out Rooms: Prompt: In what way has CIC contributed to your spiritual journey this year?

Welcome of our newest community member, Clara Joy Skeers

Transition Song-Love, Serve, Remember

Overview of Annual Meeting Procedures: Sarah provided an overview of the Steering Circle and its role in providing a sounding board for Corey and setting the agenda for Townhall, the decision-making body for CIC. CIC's decision-making process will be used this evening in adopting the 2022 CIC Budget. We do not rely on a vote of the majority, but rather discussion during which everyone may comment and raise questions. After discussion, the facilitator moves the group toward decision-making. Options include agreement (thumbs-up on zoom), disagreement (person has enough concern to block the decision) and standing aside (person doesn't love decision but can live with it). If someone is a "thumbs" down, the discussion continues.

Overview from the January 9 CIC Townhall: Karen Tvedt provided an overview of the January Townhall minutes including the minister's report, approval of the open and affirming statement, and consensus about forwarding the 2022 proposed budget to annual meeting for approval (complete minutes posted on the CIC website at [CIC: Documents \(oly-wa.us\)](https://oly-wa.us)).

Children and Youth Program: Miriam Sterlin. Each week, outreach is being done with 10 CIC families (which include children from newborn to 14 years). Miriam also leads a separate 30-minute story time during CIC Celebrations (others are encouraged to join the zoom room with Miriam).

Budget: Review of 2021 Budget, Proposed 2022 Budget review and approval: Jan Rocks.

- Jan provided the 2021 financial report which includes carry over of \$3,591 from 2021 to 2022.
- We have \$59,142 in 2022 pledges and a draft budget of \$62,733 which is a shortage of \$2,858 (slightly less than the carry-over amount).
- The excess carry-over is included in the unanticipated expenses category in the budget.
- Assets include \$45,165 including checking account balance (\$17, 178), one-month reserves (\$5,030), savings (\$12,176) and certificates of deposit (\$10,781).

Decision-the proposed budget was approved by consensus.

REPORTS

Interfaith Minister Report: Corey Passons

- We are approaching the two-year mark for our community ceasing in-person meetings with Covid. I have been reflecting on a word that sums up much of what we have been doing during the pandemic. We have been sustaining.
 - To sustain can mean to offer or receive support, and we have been doing this for each other by showing up, maintaining our celebrations, occasionally gathering, and fostering connection through individual visits, Zoom gatherings for book clubs and small groups.
 - To sustain can also mean to suffer something, like sustaining an injury or a loss...and we have sustained a great loss over these past two years with the absence of our physical circle
 - Deep breaths...we are in the midst of something extraordinary...it's okay to grieve, it's okay not to be struggling right now...but it helps us to remember what we are enduring AND that we are sustaining ourselves through this
 - Finally, as we move through this pandemic, please know I am available to you. In addition, CIC has Ministers of Presence who are willing to provide a safe listening space. Please reach out if you are wanting support as we journey through this. You are not alone.
- Yet in my remarks tonight I wanted to focus on the way we are supporting the ongoing and emerging vision and work of CIC. Last summer:
 - Racial Justice subcommittees began their work and will be coming back to our community with questions about how we engage racial justice; who are we? what do we read and sing? Who can we become?
 - Corey noted that he has been working with the subcommittee on Discernment of Community Privilege. Judy Olmstead, Leeann Tourtillott and has so far put together a comprehensive survey to give to members of the community. We hope to raise racial consciousness and to give an accurate picture of what our community looks like, racially, monetarily, educationally, etc. Leeann and I are now at the point of figuring how to gather the information without divulging who said what. The next steps after that remain to be decided.
 - This work is part of a wider transformation that is trying to happen in this country and in our state and city...it is work that intersectional with all expressions of the social justice work that many of us are already doing in different areas and offers us so much in our spiritual lives and our community
- Couple of updates on regathering...we don't have a date set for when we will begin to regather regularly, but we can hope for some drawdown in Omicron in the coming months and be reassessing safety as we go.
 - May 22nd - day long retreat at Millersylvania

- Easter is planned and scheduled at the Grange!
- Labor Day...we haven't heard back from Millersylvania about our request for reservations and are uncertain whether Flagler will be reopened by then although I heard from Hilarie who visited there in mid-January. "Yesterday, I approached two park staff and asked about the park dorm's future. I was pleasantly surprised to hear that the buildings were being worked on and engineers were involved with approving their condition. And that in the future it sounds like the dorms/kitchens will be reopening."
- I want to close my remarks with sharing gratitude for Steering Circle and share how lucky I feel to be working with you so closely to keep the community thriving (name). Jan Rocks is transitioning from her role as Finance Shepherd....and we are so grateful for you, Jan and the service you have offered CIC. AND...you are now going to be the Benevolence Fund Shepherd. Thank you, Jan! Also, thanks to Karen Ray who is supporting the work of SC by taking on some updating of bylaws and articles of incorporation.

Benevolence Fund and Salmon Sale: Jan Vleck provided a written report which is attached. After two decades as Benevolence Treasurer, Jan V will be transitioning out and Jan Rocks will take over. Jan V noted the following:

- We need a long-term plan (and guiding principles) for the Benevolence Fund which is now used to fund our Community Kitchen work. Unlike the fruit sale, which was built over decades by many people, we now have had a single, time-limited revenue source that is dependent on the generosity of a single individual (gratitude to Gene Maltzeff for all he has done to make recent salmon sales possible!).
- With increased food costs, we have enough money (\$4,520.63) to cover the meals we provide through the Community Kitchen for 18 months. This assumes average food costs of \$300 a month.
- For the Benevolence a/c #2120103,
 - Retain on Signature card & as owner: Corey Passons
 - Remove from Signature card: Jo Curtz & Jan Vleck
 - Add to signature card: Jan Rocks & Nika Keller
 - Change address to 110 11th Av SE, Olympia, WA 98501

CIC Donations Fund -Pat Starzyk. The CIC Donations Fund is separate from the Operating Budget and the Benevolence Fund. People make one-time donations to remember someone or to honor someone or just to help CIC or to pay for a special project approved by Town Hall. Here's the breakdown of activity for 2021:

Starting total: \$495.41

Donations received: \$698.37

Spent: \$800.00 (\$500.00 for setting up music online and \$300.00 for Interfaith Works Shelter lunches)

Year end total: 393.78

Some of these donations are made through PayPal, which takes a percentage of the total as a service fee and that's why we get dollars and cents numbers for donations received.

Mid-Meeting Song: Dayenu (2021-2022 lyrics by Penny Purkerson)

Connections Committee-Hugh O'Neill. Hugh reported for the Connections Committee noting that the committee includes Megan Parke, Katie Guertin-Anderson and himself. The committee carries-out the annual evaluation of CIC including the summary of results (which Megan has done in recent years). The committee also supports CIC hiring processes and deals with community conflicts and concerns.

Call Shepherd Report for Annual Meeting-Carol Rainwood. So many CIC members have taken Calls to serve our community either in the past or currently. Your contributions, whether large or small, are what weaves CIC together into this thriving Community!!

At this moment we have 55 CALLS and 57 VOLUNTEERS

Some of our Calls are on hold during the pandemic, (like the ones that support our in-person Celebrations), but many of them continue behind the scenes to make the celebrations happen. Other calls work in many other ways to support, & connect us as a community, & reach out to work with the larger community.

With the help of so many of you that I reached out to this past year, we now have a [list of Call Descriptions](#) which are posted on the website now. There will be a link in Wavelinks. The Descriptions can help folks understand what a Call is, what might inspire them to join a Call, or create a new one.

WITH DEEP BOWS OF GRATITUDE we recognize the following Volunteers:

- JAN VLECK is stepping down as our BENEVOLENCE SHEPHERD after 20 years of service.
- JAN ROCKS is stepping down as our FINANCE SHEPHERD after years of enthusiastic number crunching.
- RAMONA MARSHALL is stepping down as our COORDINATOR FOR CELEBRATION SET UP.

Stepping up into new roles:

- JAN ROCKS will be our new BENEVOLENCE SHEPHERD
- JULIE WATERS will be our new COORDINATOR FOR CELEBRATION SET UP
- PENNY PURKERSON will be our new PLEDGE SHEPHERD
- KAREN RAY will be updating our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.

Calls to fill

- PHONE LIST COMPILER to update our membership Directory and send the new info to Scott to publish
- Someone to UPDATE the CIC FACEBOOK PAGE

ONCE AGAIN, A BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER TAKEN A CALL!!

Social Justice Committee Report-Betty Hauser

- Meet monthly via Zoom. Betty convener.
- Organize a few lunches for the Interfaith Works shelters. Paid for by donations from CIC members.
- Scott Bishop's work building tiny houses and micro houses.
- Informal CIC Hunger Walk around Capitol Lake.
- Help in gathering supplies for Unity Commons, the new IW shelter.
- MLK celebration w/ Rev Dr. Castele
- Represent CIC on the Interfaith Works Program Council
- Pass on social justice info and issues from the wider community. You see them in Wavelinks. We are happy to be informed of efforts to make the world a better place. Email Betty at elizha@comcast.net.

Community Support Team-Sabra Hull. The Community Support Team's function is to coordinate community assistance for CIC members who find themselves in need of an extra pair of hands, providing rides when other means of transportation are not available, providing meals, or general help for families dealing with significant life challenges (such as illness, loss, NEW BABIES, the need to move a heavy piece of furniture, etc.).

The Community Support Team has a couple of changes to report:

- The team now consists of Bethanie Sand, Julie Baker, Sabra Hull, and Corey Passons (who supplies wisdom and support to the team as needed).
- The contact email address for the team has now changed from the previous gmail account to a google groups account: community-needs-team@googlegroups.com. This email goes to every team member, so that your request can be addressed rapidly by whomever is available. This email address can be found in the CIC Directory, under "C", of course, for Community.

Community Kitchen-Alan Hardcastle. CIC prepares food (enchiladas) for homeless, hungry people monthly. We use the kitchen at the Salvation Army and due to Covid changes, food is served in individual to go boxes. While costs have increased, we are now providing 240 individual servings, about half of which are given out at the Salvation Army. Currently new volunteers are welcome and need to be 18 and vaccinated to volunteer. Unity Commons is now the distribution site for meals going to other sites.

Brief evaluation-Sarah. Cudos were given to Sarah for her able facilitation and leadership and also to Corey for his amazing leadership in very challenging times.

Candlelighting

Benediction and Announcements

Parking Lot

Long term benevolence plans

Upcoming meetings

February: Steering Circle-2/23/22 at 7 pm; Townhall-2/27/22 after celebration

March/April: Steering Circle-3/30/22 at 7 pm; Townhall-4/3/22 after celebration

April/May: Steering Circle-4/27/22 at 7 pm; Townhall-5/1/22 after celebration

June: Steering Circle-6/1/22; Townhall-6/5/22 after celebration