

CIC Townhall Meeting  
June 5, 2022, at 6:40 pm  
Zoom Meeting Notes

**Welcome and Agenda Review:** Karen Tvedt, facilitator for Sarah Huntington. Sabra Hull took notes.

**Attending:** Karen Tvedt, Karen Ray, Corey Passons, Jamie Rainwood, Carol Rainwood, Betty Hauser, Dick Hauser, Thad Curtz, Jo Curtz, Jan Rocks, Ted Ryle, Julie Baker, Sabra Hull

Decisions are **highlighted**

**Racial Justice Centering (RJC):**

- Betty read an article in Yes Magazine by Melanie M. Kirby
- Discussion on whether CIC should continue the practice of RJC in the new season.  
**Consensus is that it is useful, and we should continue. Corey will schedule speakers; the reading and discussion will be limited to 10 minutes or less.**

**Review of May Townhall Meeting Notes:** Karen provided a brief overview of the May meeting notes; full minutes posted on the CIC website.

**Minister's Report:** Corey's written report with Townhall discussion in italics

- **Pride:** I was so delighted yesterday to see our community at Pride. We met so many people and families with children who seem hungry for spiritual connection. Our community will likely be meeting some of these people in the coming weeks and I hope we create some kind of connection that endures as we enter a summer hiatus.
  - *It's unfortunate that Pride happens one week before we take a break for the summer, so there's a lag between inviting someone to come, and them actually making it.*
  - *It would be useful to think about how to do outreach at other times of the year-other festivals.*
  - *Thad mentioned that perhaps it would be good to offer Wavelinks for some interested people that may be reticent/uncertain about receiving a phone call.*
- **Regathering:** This topic is front of mind for me as the year begins to conclude. Looking at the policies that have recently been drafted by Temple Beth Hatfiloh and United Churches, I am of the opinion that we will regather in the Fall. Even if CDC Community health levels for Thurston reach High, we could still gather in a smaller number and establish a video feed from the Social Hall. Our community has asked for hybrid celebrations, and I would like to consider the Social Hall the hub for that offering even if leaders (other than me) are not in the room.
- **Children's Program:** I will be meeting with Miriam this Tuesday to discuss the needs and vision of the program. My assumption is that we will need three teachers for the program beginning in September.

- **Retreat:** Leeann has secured a reservation at Camp Lyle McLeod (a Girl Scout camp in Belfair, WA) for one night on the weekend after Labor Day. We can likely secure one additional night, too. This would represent a change in date and location for our Fall retreat, but I am hoping Flagler will reopen for Labor Day weekend reservations in the coming years.
  - *The rental includes three different sleeping accommodations and the use of a lodge with a big open space, a commercial kitchen, bathroom, an indoor fireplace, an outdoor firepit with seating. Cost of these facilities is \$950/ night (a little more expensive than Flagler, about \$45 per person/per night).*
  - *The combined sleeping areas will accommodate 42 people. In addition, there is an area for campervans/trailers/RVs that can be used free of charge(!)*
  - *Sleeping facilities include: 5 platform tents/yurts with platform mattresses and a fire pit with seating; "Ulali" - a 3-bedroom building with capacity for 8; a good possibility for families with kids; Lower Tilicum, sleeps 14 in bunks. Includes bathrooms with showers.*
  - *Other:*
    - *Use of kitchen requires someone with a food-handler's permit.*
    - *Leeann is looking into whether there is a place for tent-camping, and if there would be a charge.*
    - *There's swimming, and boats and kayaks available, and 7 miles of trails.*
    - *It has long been a CIC value that children should attend at a lower price.*
    - *For discussion, we need to do some thinking and calculation to decide how to pay. Should scholarships be made available? Maybe have people pay the same amount regardless of accommodation?*
    - *There is \$2900 in the Benevolence fund currently, to help fund the retreat.*
- **Finances:** I am happy that our finances are maintaining support and the budget is healthy. We may encounter unknown expenses as we regather related to technology, accessibility, teachers, etc.

**Children's Program:** Miriam's written report with Townhall discussion in italics

- Thank you for your support of the Youth Program! We have had our successes and our struggles this year: Play Packs and Storytime are big hits, but the Youth Group has struggled to find common scheduling and shared activity. Families of youngers have given wonderful feedback for the materials received, and this has been a joy. Recruitment has also been a challenge, as many interested parties have not been willing to tackle the difficulty of remote groupwork.
- In direct answer to your questions, Corey, here are my responses:
  - I am fairly current with submitted expenses. My hours are set and worked per week and not continually submitted to Nika but have been fulfilled each week. I did submit an email for material reimbursement this past week and am waiting to hear back. Every week incurs new expenses, so I won't be up-to-date until the CIC year has concluded.

- I would be very interested to review and expand my role and the various budgeted allotments for it. Next year will be different, as my time will not be spent driving around making Play Pack deliveries, and I have been functioning as both Coordinator for Youth Group and youngers, and Teacher for the youngers. It will look very different to have classroom teachers that I can hand lessons to; I will be able to focus more of my allotted time on lesson development and crafting associated projects!! Very exciting!! The more time and resource I have, the more I can do. I will also be happy to fill in as a classroom teacher if, for some reason, we have not established the teachers...that being said, I would like it to be clearly defined that I am assuming the job of Teacher and would very much appreciate being compensated for fulfilling that role in addition to my stated responsibilities.
- Thank you for your support! I would love any support in the area of recruitment and am happy the program is ongoing and growing!
- *Townhall Discussion:*
  - *It has been a really hard year!*
  - *Primary outreach has been play packs that Miriam has created, organized, and delivered to each family, then she has stayed in touch with each family about how it is working.*
  - *A very difficult year for the youth group. Perhaps we should find out what other congregations have been doing for their programs?*
  - *Corey told the folks at Pride that we DO have a youth program, so we must have one.*
  - *Corey suggests additional discussion in Steering Circle about the possibility of Miriam having up to 40 more hours to do outreach. What's the needed commitment to create a program and curriculum? Town Hall can be reconvened as necessary. This was agreed to.*
  - *Karen Ray volunteered to spend 30-40 hours with Miriam to hire and develop curricula.*

**Financial Report:** Thad Curtz

- We are on budget except that we have spent more on celebrations than is typical, due to facility rentals (Squaxin shelter, Burfoot shelter).
- Everything else is where it is supposed to be-expenses and revenues are balanced.
- Given that we haven't had a full complement of teachers for the children's program, funds are available should we decide to provide additional hours for Miriam this summer.
- There is a \$10K CD in CDs, growing very slowly. Government dollars are currently a very good deal-interest rates change every six months; they are tied to inflation. Currently they are making 9+ %. Thad will investigate this further and pass the information onto the Steering Circle for a decision.

**Call Shepherd Report:** Carol Rainwood's written report

- There is an opportunity to take a Call to serve on the **Welcome Committee**. The committee has been mostly dormant and would benefit from some new energy and ideas! Let me know if this appeals to you!! Members would be a welcoming presence who would:
  - help keep an eye out for newcomers
  - be available to chat with a new person
  - perhaps offer to sit next to them
  - ask if the person has any questions
  - They could introduce the new person to Corey, if Corey happens to be available.

**Note:** There has been some confusion about what the Welcome Committee does and what the Greeters do: Our dedicated Greeters welcome every person as they come in the door and give them their name badge, ask new folks if they want to sign the guest book, and see if Corey is available to talk to the new person. On the other hand, The Welcome Committee would focus on new people who come to Celebration.

- **Fall Retreat Coordinators needed!** We will be having a 1-2 day retreat the weekend of September 9th-11th at a new venue. We will need leaders for getting info. out to CIC and organizing the event. Whether or not you have been a Retreat Coordinator in the past, if this sounds like fun to you and you want to get involved, please let me know. There are several very experienced folks in our community who will be able to guide new leaders and answer questions--no one does this alone!

**Community Support Report:** Sabra Hull

- Sabra and Bethanie are still looking for another co-coordinator or two.
- Community support is fairly quiet at the moment, thankfully.

**Social Justice Committee Report:** Betty Hauser

- Pride: Reimbursements in the amount of \$150 for the booth are on their way to Betty from Nika.
- While it's been challenging given that GRUB staff are mostly working remotely, we continue to work toward providing shelter meals (we have \$400 which will fund one meal for shelter residents through GRUB).
- Scott has been working on the Tiny House project- the houses will be moved to the site of the burned hotel on Plum
- Community Commons is housing folks that get out of the hospital, who have nowhere to go.

**Reprise of Regathering Discussion:** Corey

- Corey will be developing some asks related to regathering in a hybrid manner.
- Technology is a likely need, there may be expenses associated. Corey will need support and brainstorming about how we make this work. Dick Hauser offered to help.
- A description of the space and safety layers may be important for some to feel comfortable returning in-person.

- There is full Town Hall Support for Corey in planning for September 4th Hybrid Reunion Sunday with the Social Hall being the hub for the celebration.

**Benevolence Fund Update:** Jan Rocks

- Jan has the WSECU account organized to report by sector: Retreats, Community Kitchen, etc. Looks great!

**Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.**

**Upcoming In-Person Celebrations:**

June 12-Transition Sunday, Squaxin Park, Shelter #1 5pm

June 19-Solstice Potluck, Burfoot Park, Meadow Shelter, 5pm

**Steering Circle Meetings:**

July 19, 7:00 pm (at Sarah Huntington's house)

August 31, 7:00 pm (at Sarah Huntington's house)