

CIC Town Hall Minutes - March 12, 2023

Attending - Hugh O'Neill, Nika Hauser, Corey Passons, Thad Curtz (on Zoom), Kathy Pruitt, Karen Ray, Jing Liu, Cindy Guertin-Anderson, Kristine Forbes, Hilarie Hauptman, Penny Purkerson

Minutes Review from Last Town Hall -

By Corey in place of Karen Tvedt -

Hugh has taken up call as new facilitator; Betty did racial justice centering on creation of Seattle canoe carving center after years of effort; we agreed on moving celebration from 5:00 to 4:00 during the rest of the year; discussed broadening outreach to schools and community centers and plans for Tara's ordination. Technology arrangements continue - five people had been trained to varying degrees. Financial report - looked as if we might have a small deficit due to spending on Zoom being larger than the Unanticipated Expenses budget, but over \$3,000 in pledges was still floating. Call list had been updated, Mark Collins and Jamie Rainwood had taken up call to do the audit, and were nearly finished; social justice - missed this!; adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Racial Justice Centering - Corey

- Need volunteers for doing this at next two town halls, last ones of the year.
- CIC is a member congregation in United Church of Christ; they have changed logo - was quote from John (Bible) and 3 traditional Christian symbols - now "God is still speaking," (with comma) and dynamic blue wave swirl; Board has affirmed first female president; a black woman - she would be first in this position, though there have been two black UCC presidents already. She's Rev. Karen Georgia - born in Jamaica; moved to Queens at 7 or 8; as teen became aware her mother was still practicing indigenous religion; but was hiding it. She has a heart for wide spirituality; she calls her background multi-faith and full of interlocking identities; has been serving in global ministries division. Article - she speaks of promoting spiritual diversity; expanding the table; describes the multiplicity of God as being revealed among us; decolonizing the church, being anti-racist; community open to all.
- Next all church UCC read - Being Anti-Racist, by Ibrahim X Kennedy

Minister's Update - Corey

- He did a recent survey about community vitality, interest in retreats. His general impulses - sense of confidence & strength in community. (Feedback is good for Corey since he's not always confident in his feeling about this.) Much interest in strengthening retreats; Corey has plans for reserving multiday Millersylvania retreat in May 2024. Hybrid Zoom community going along, though not perfect; Corey consulted with guy who provided the equipment and made some adjustments which seem to have improved the sound quality significantly.
- Easter will be at barn where movie night was held; owners have donated the barn to us. Discussion of Easter start time. Maybe 11:00 would be better as a time to start since there's more setup than at the Grange. Mixed comments; maybe some preference for 11:00...
- Only one day in May still open for celebration leadership.

Call Shepherd Report - Carol's last report - 70 calls; 55 Volunteers

- Thanks to Hugh for accepting Facilitator call and to Jamie and Mark for taking up audit call.
- Zoom volunteers still increasing; tech steadily improving.
- Could use more folks to coordinate at community kitchen; crew members for cooking and cleanup; a little more help with setup and takedown.
- Community support team could use more people too.
- Thanks to all from Carol for peoples' volunteering, and to all those who supported her in the job.
- Corey has draft of Easter help needs; will work with Leann about details.

Social Justice report - Betty

- Several CIC participants in MLK walk.
- Karen Tvedt updates the group on important bills, but they do not have a good way to get that information out.
- Maybe Hunger Walk in May again this year, but details aren't available now. (*NOTE- Hunger Walk will be May 7 at Huntamer Park in Lacey.*)
- Pride Day will be ??; not clear if there will be a parade.
- Still working on lunch for Shelter program - GRUB may be more interested when they have their own produce to use.
- Next SJC meeting on April 15 at 1:30 on Zoo.
- Kristine Forbes - anti-racism cohort meeting.
- You'll never guess what happened to Lacey - Here's my life as a black woman; recommending Me and White.

Children and Youth Program - Corey

- Miriam has a couple of leads on a potential second teacher. Aubrey has been here every week; she's doing very well.
- Youth group on pause - Interfaith Works is having Youth Sleepout for Homelessness with education - at Westminster Presbyterian; youth could do this if they wanted to. (Thad thought this was a kind of daunting first step toward attracting them back to getting together, but others liked the idea.)

Retreat planning -

- Spring retreat - will be Sunday May 21st; one day at Millersylvania, three campsites reserved by Tara.
- We're meeting at Burfoot Park June 18th, 3:00 PM for solstice potluck.
- Fall retreat?- Flagler probably won't be available for another couple of years; Corey will try for three days in May next year at Millersylvania ELC center - firepit with bleacher seats; large nice lodge with big main kitchen; AV equipment for slides; ADA cabins with bunks and shared bathrooms; boathouse with available boats and water toys. We'd need safety arrangements; Ping pong table would be nice.

- Corey didn't feel we were ready for overnight this fall yet. He's open to possible locations or ideas for Labor Day this year but isn't working on others now.
- Opinions about one day fall retreat - Betty thinks this would be awesome; others expressed interest too; maybe Monday (last day easier if people go away for weekend); maybe the next week?
- Discussion of Easter start time - mixed, maybe some preference for 11:00; 10:30 will be the compromise

Other

- Penny said somebody who isn't attending expressed concern that we're losing people because some people aren't wearing masks in the circle; Zoom is OK but they feel less connected. We might meet outdoors some this spring with Corey seeing if an upcoming celebration leader would be open to meeting outside. We could ask about mask options in the upcoming annual survey. Covid guidelines are loosening; we might send out a mask guideline update and repost them.
- Two more town halls before our summer break - April 23rd and June 11th.