

CIC Townhall Meeting
Jan. 7, 2024, 5:50 pm
Meeting Notes

Welcome: Corey Passons, facilitator

Attending: Corey Passons, Thad Curtz, Cindy Guertin-Anderson, Betty and Dick Hauser, Judy Olmstead, Kathy Pruitt, Jamie and Carol Rainwood, Leeann Tourtillott, Pat Starzyk, Karen Tvedt, and Tara Young-Brown.

Racial Justice Centering (RJC): Kathy Pruitt talked about the teachings of Ijeoma Oluo, author of *So You Want to Talk about Race*, including privilege, micro aggressions, and fear of the police. Ijeoma Oluo encourages us to acknowledge and learn from our mistakes, to apologize, and to stop and listen to feedback. Cindy will do RJC for our next Townhall meeting.

Review of the November Townhall Meeting Notes: Karen Tvedt provided a brief overview of the Dec. 3 meeting notes; full minutes are posted on the CIC website.

Minister's Report: Corey Passons offered the following report.

- Fish sale: Corey, LeeAnn and Gene will meet to discuss the recent fish sale.
- Corey noted the distinction between “integration” vs. “welcoming” in helping new members find touchpoints within CIC. This led to a rich conversation about outreach and our website, goggle searches, calendar, and social media presence: how do people know to come to CIC? We agreed that a consultant would be helpful in analyzing our current systems (web analytics?) and making recommendations about what might be helpful in improving outreach.
- Retreats: Corey is making inquiries about places for Labor Day 2025. In 2024, we have a weekend before Memorial Day at Millersylvania (Fri-Sat nights); on Labor Day we'll do a day retreat.
- CIC 50th Anniversary: We're beginning to talk about this at celebrations; an ad hoc committee will be formed to lead this effort; what will our anniversary celebrations look like? Can include offerings this summer and fall.
- Global Ministries Work: Feb. trip to Columbia is postponed; welcoming mission partners in April; want to raise awareness of this event. Corey will share more information over the next few weeks.
- Corey has been working with United Churches around our lease and space use. The space we have will not change this year but longer-term, it may shift as United Churches responds to the needs of the new congregation meeting in the building on Sunday evenings.
- Children's Program: Miriam Sterlin continues to do a great job. Sage is on her study abroad program. Reed has volunteered to work with the preschool children. Miriam is working with Corey on space issues recognizing that the middlers group is likely to grow as children age. Some Children's Program materials need to be moved; Corey will call for a work party to help with this.
- Recruitment for celebration leadership; quite a few openings this spring.

- Tech update: Corey met with Alex, tech consultant. Alex generously donated to CIC to increase our capacity; this will give us greater control over audio.

Finance Report, Pledge Drive and 2024 Proposed Budget: Thad Curtz discussed the Dec. 2023 Budget Report and proposed 2024 Budget.

- *The Dec. 2023 financial report* presented includes some guesses. Expenditures are \$60,690 and income \$66,132 (including a \$2,600 anonymous donation and \$1,666 from the Begging Bowl). Thad anticipates that we'll have roughly \$5,000 in carry-over from 2023 to 2024 and \$1,740 in carry-over from 2022 to 2023.
- *2024 Proposed budget.* With \$70,260 in pledges for 2024, Thad shared a possible budget with \$69,940 in expenses. This budget assumes 5% salary increases with 3% increases for other line items except that \$800 is proposed for UCC Annual Meeting travel costs.
 - Townhall participants agreed to add \$800 to UCC Annual Meeting travel (for a total of \$1,600 including Thad's proposal) and \$1,500 for outreach starting with hiring a consultant.
 - These increases add \$2,300 in expenditures to the proposed 2024 Budget leaving approximately \$4,400 in total carry-over to 2024. The Steering Circle will discuss these funds during its next meeting, e.g., add to our reserves, etc.

Call Shepherd report (Cindy Guertin-Anderson). While there are no emergent needs, Cindy reported the following:

- Need more Community Kitchen and set-up crew volunteers.
- Create a call for people who coordinate the after-Celebration potlucks?
- We will celebrate our calls and all that people do during Annual Meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Social Justice Committee:** Betty Hauser outlined the following recommendations from the SJC. Townhall participants encouraged the committee to move forward, reporting back to Townhall on progress.
 - PRIDE- do more to engage people who sign-up for more information at the Pride Festival, e.g., special Pride Celebration in the fall; summer activities; Celebration recordings on our website.
 - Website-information about ways we can be more involved in the community.
 - CIC Calendar-Betty willing to take this on.
 - Outreach committee for CIC.
- **Community Needs:** things generally quiet.
- **Community Kitchen-**Richard Bigley coordinating our involvement this month; need more volunteers.
- **Fundraising Committee:** will report at Annual Meeting

January 28 Annual Meeting: will include (with music throughout)

- Minister's Report
- Children's Program Report
- Call Shepherd Report-Celebrating our calls

- Budget-2023 Financial Report; Proposed 2024 Budget
- Committee Reports

Meeting adjourned at about 7:45 pm

Annual Meeting-January 28, 2024