

Community for Interfaith Celebration Townhall Minutes-April 7, 2024

Welcome and Review of the Agenda: Hugh O'Neill, facilitator

Attending: Corey Passons, Hugh O'Neill, Thad Curtz, Karen Tvedt, Wendy Ekland, Kristine Forbes, Ben Guss, Alan Hardcastle, Betty & Dick Hauser, Nika Keller, Jing Lui, Gene Maltzeff, Penny Purkerson, Carol & Jamie Rainwood, Pat Starzyk, Leeann Tourtillott, and Tara Young-Brown.

Review of the Feb. 25 Townhall Notes: Karen Tvedt did an overview of the Feb. 25 Townhall meeting notes.

Minister's Report (Corey Passons): Corey submitted the following written report (additions in italics).

- At this time, we are gearing up for the first overnight CIC retreat since before the pandemic. The team that is holding this up has been amazing and we looking to see if Millersylvania can be a space of reconnecting to the rhythm of retreats in our community. We know we will be operating at a loss for this retreat and will be learning about this space and our processed method for registration as we restart retreats!
- CIC is going to be relocating some things from the storage area off the kitchen into the storage area in the Social Hall and in the preschool room. We will need some CIC support through a work party for cleaning out the Social Hall storage area to allow for the bookcase relocation. Likely happening this month in coordination with Miriam.
- Capital campaign - CIC continues to discern its sense of support for the UNITED capital campaign. We are learning more about the campaign and people are beginning to see how they could or might want to support the effort. It also seems that there will be a longer sense of ingraining this into our attention as we are not really sure what are our goals at this point.
- Hosting Colombian peace workers - CIC is co-sponsoring an event on April 23rd with United Churches of Olympia as we welcome visiting peace workers from Colombia. The PNW Conference of the UCC is in covenant with two peace organizations in Colombia through the office of Global Ministries, and this event will be a chance to welcome our guests, learn about their work, and explore how we can deepen and grow in this relationship. *One of the delegates needs a place to stay on Monday and Tuesday nights.*
- Evan Ferber Peacemaker award - I will be receiving this award on May 5th from 1-3 p.m. and am wanting to extend an invitation to the CIC community to attend. I will be doing this via Wavelinks and look forward to being in community on that day.

Youth and Children Program Report: Miriam Sterlin submitted the following report (reviewed by Corey during Townhall).

- Spring is here! With the change of season comes changes in the Children's Program: Jaina Nehm, our Middler's Teacher, has accepted a TA position at Evergreen that is suited for Jaina's field of study. This an important opportunity for Jaina, and though there is some flexibility in the timeline it is clear that the best path forward is to find a replacement teacher. I will be posting the job...we have one full and two partial months of employment

to offer before we break for summer. In the interim, I will ask the community if there are folks who have a skill to share with the Middler's Program for an evening, or folks who would like to sit in as teacher for an evening with the activities provided. Ideas are welcome for teacher candidates and interim ideas!

- In other news, Kate and Aubrey are planning to stay on through June. My hope is that they will both return in the fall, and if Sage returns perhaps one of them would consider a move to the Middler's Program. They both continue to be an engaging and attentive fit for CIC Kids, and we have seen an uptick in attendance in our Preschool class! I've begun inquiry into availability for the Spring Retreat and will report back when I know more. *Reed serves as an alternate.*
- Activities and lessons in the Children's Program in the past month have included mindfulness writing, papercraft homebuilding and discussion of what makes a home and community, a discussion about courage in the light of Passover stories, learning and practicing working together and turn-taking for the youngest kids, breathing practices, spring garlands, and play! Candlelighting continues to be a time where all ages gather and share, and is an opportunity to practice both speaking and listening.
- Please do get in touch with any questions, comments, or ideas!

Financial Report; (Thad Curtz)

- Thad offered the February 2024 Budget Report. Not much has been spent other than for salaries and rent; these expenditures are consistent with what was budgeted. Expenditures to date are \$9,587 and income is \$14,678 including \$244 from the begging bowl.
- The budget report included what we have in WSECU Accounts on 2/29/24 as follows: Checking-\$32,178; One-Month Savings-\$5,043; Liquid Savings-\$12,209; Donation Savings-\$2,326. In addition, we have \$8,858 in a Series I Savings Bond.
 - Thad noted that he's not comfortable doing monthly updates for these accounts. Karen asked about the history behind having so many accounts, and the possibility of combining some of them into an interest-bearing account. Nika explained that there are historical reasons behind some of the accounts, e.g., the one-month savings account was created to ensure CIC has funds to cover short-term expenses in the event of an emergency.
 - Townhall participants agreed that in consultation with Nika, Thad will develop a proposal for these funds for Steering Circle review and Townhall approval.

Committee Reports

- **Community Kitchen:** Interfaith Works is purchasing the Olympia Inn to provide additional permanent supportive housing. Once operating, we may want to extend our meal provision to include residents at the Olympia Inn.
- **Community Support:** Bev Witherow could use both food and social support at this time.
- **Connections Committee (Hugh):** Group stands ready to support Miram with the hiring process and is beginning to think about the annual CIC survey.
- **Social Justice Committee (SJC) (Betty Hauser).** Betty reported on the SJC including work being done on the CIC calendar and specifically which community activities are appropriate to include. We agreed that activities should align with CIC's call and be nonpartisan. Betty noted that Scott is helping to create gardens at Quince Street Village and that our application for a Pride booth was approved. We discussed proposals to acknowledge the

conflict in Gaza being considered by the Interfaith Works Program Council (Corey noted that this is not a religious conflict).

- **Retreat Committee** (Leeann and Carol): as Corey noted in his report, this is our first overnight retreat since Covid and we'll be in "trial and error" mode including around costs. Information about registration and costs will be in Wavelinks.
- **United Churches Capital Campaign:** Betty has agreed to be our liaison with the United Churches committee. Feel free to email Betty with questions. Hugh has compiled the issues/questions raised by CIC members during Celebration a few weeks ago.
 - Whether or not CIC will contribute to the campaign is a longer discussion we need to have (Corey and Betty will discuss approach to this conversation).

Easter Celebration Location: Corey noted that our Easter Celebration location (The Barn) was not ADA accessible and that some people were unable to attend because of it. We agreed that this is a problem and that we should explore whether the Grange is available for Christmas Eve and next Easter. *(NOTE-Corey contacted the Grange and it is reserved for CIC both dates.)*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 pm.

Next Townhall meeting will be June 2, 2024.