

Community for Interfaith Celebration Townhall Minutes-June 2, 2024

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

Attending: Corey Passons, Hugh O’Neill, Thad Curtz, Karen Tvedt, Hiliary Hauptman, Betty & Dick Hauser, Sarah Huntington, Nika Keller, Penny Purkerson, Carol & Jamie Rainwood, Pat Starzyk, and Leeann Tourtillott.

Racial Justice Centering: From White Supremacy Characteristics, Corey discussed “Worship of the Written Word” and shared a worksheet for reflecting on what this looks like. He provided some examples including treaties with indigenous communities and more recently, a screening tool used locally with homeless people that gave preference to white males. He shared some antidotes including more equitable sharing of information and being conscious about who writes and enforces policies. More information [here](#).

Review of the April 7 Townhall Notes: Karen Tvedt provided an overview of the April 7 Townhall meeting.

Minister’s Report (Corey Passons): Corey reported the following:

- The Grange is reserved for our Christmas Eve and Easter Celebrations. Squaxin Park is reserved all day for Labor Day Sunday 2024. Corey will reserve it for Labor Day next year as well.
- Relocation of CIC materials and equipment is scheduled for June 14. One or two more volunteers are needed. There will be a notice in Wavelinks.
- Preparation is underway for summer and next year activities including coordination with United Churches, CIC summer events, reaching out to new people about what it means to join CIC, and themes for next year.
- The UCC annual meeting was held at Plymouth Church in Seattle. Corey and Tara are talking about the possibility of bringing the annual meeting to Olympia during Procession of the Species.

Financial Report; (Thad Curtz). Thad provided the end of April Budget Report. Salaries for Corey and Miriam are on target; teacher salaries are less than expected. UCC fellowship dues were higher than anticipated.

- Expenditures to April 30 were \$24,462 and income \$22,752. \$630 had been received in begging bowl donations. With 35% of the year gone, we have spent 33% of our budget.
- Thad’s report included an overview of our various WSECU accounts as of 2/29/24: 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. As discussed during April Townhall, Thad (in consultation with Nika) will develop a proposal for these funds for Steering Circle review and Townhall approval.
- There was a question about the Special Programs Expense Fund (SPEF) which started the year with \$773. While additional clarification may be needed, people recalled it being intended to cover CIC expenses such as pizza as opposed to being covered by the Pastor’s Fund.

- Jamie Rainwood volunteered to do the CIC financial audit.

Retreat Reports (Jan Rocks). Jan reported on costs/receipts for the recent retreat as well as the retreat fund balance sheet.

- Total cost was \$2,582.23 (includes deposit paid last year plus \$1,487.12 balance due at the retreat). We received a total of \$1,646.86 from participants. We were \$935.37 short.
- Retreat fund balance sheet: after paying deposits to reserve Millersylvania in 2024 and 2025, we have a balance of \$387.79 which does not cover the amount needed for the 2026 deposit.
- The following alternatives were discussed: 1) Do nothing; 2) Transfer funds from the fundraising sub account to the retreat sub account to cover the anticipated 2026 retreat deposit (these funds were used in the past for the fruit sale-current balance \$4,833); 3) charge attendees more.
- To avoid shortages for future retreats, Leeann Tourtillott indicated that the retreat committee has discussed having a sliding fee scale with children being free, charging \$25-\$35 per person per night, charging \$20-\$30 a person per day, and making scholarships available.
- **Decision:** There was consensus that we should use funds from the fundraising sub account to cover what we need for the 2026 retreat deposit.

Committee Reports

- **Retreat Committee:** Leeann reported that feedback from the retreat was overwhelmingly positive. The committee is not proposing any big changes and the team is willing to coordinate CIC's next retreat. Carol Rainwood developed a binder with retreat instructions. Hiliary Hauptman created registration materials that can be used for future retreats.
 - Leeann noted that the fundraising group is unlikely to do a fundraiser this fall. The fish sale will happen, but we need to think long-term about raising funds for the Benevolence Fund.
- **Social Justice Committee (SJC):** Betty Hauser reported that the next SJC meeting will be June 8. She indicated that peace vigils are happening on Friday evenings from 5-6:00 pm
 - The Pride Celebration is June 29 and 30. At the CIC booth, we will encourage people to write about their spiritual practices. Miriam Sterlin is working with the children to make things to decorate our booth. Scott Bishop is coordinating our participation in the parade from 11-1:00 pm on Sunday.
- **United Churches Capital and Building Campaign:** Betty reported on the status of the campaign including the timeline for the renovation project. United Churches expects construction to begin in January 2025 and to be completed in December 2025. They are still applying for grants to help fund aspects of the project. Betty will follow-up to get a report of CIC contributions to the campaign and advocate for social hall renovations happening during the summer when CIC is not meeting. Betty is available to respond to questions.
- **Community Kitchen:** More volunteers are needed; we're spending about \$400 a month on meals.
- **Community Support:** Not much currently.
- **Connections Committee** (Hugh): The group is beginning to formulate questions for the annual CIC survey.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.