

Community for Interfaith Celebration Townhall Minutes-Sept. 15, 2024

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

Attending: Mary Coacher, Thad Curtz, Cindy Guertin-Anderson, Betty & Dick Hauser, Patty Logan, Gene Maltzeff, Hugh O'Neill, Corey Passons, Penny Purkerson, Carol & Jamie Rainwood, Jan Rocks, Pat Starzyk, Leeann Tourtillott, Karen Tvedt, and Tara Young-Brown.

Racial Justice Centering: Thad Curtz shared an article about the rich but overlooked heritage of Black cowboys. Dick Hauser and Karen Tvedt volunteered to do racial justice centering for upcoming townhall meetings with Dick doing October.

Review of the June 2 Townhall Notes: Karen Tvedt provided an overview of the June 2 Townhall meeting.

Minister's Report (Corey Passons):

- Corey and Betty Hauser have been discussing the United Churches capital campaign and possible approaches to CIC involvement (more about this later in the meeting).
- We have the same space agreement with United Churches this year. Our storage spaces have changed somewhat; CIC materials and equipment have been reorganized (and pared down some).
- Interfaith Works will not be taking donations at their offices. Donations will be taken to Sergios.
- Celebration support is in good shape with volunteers through December. A couple of people are scheduled for Spring 2025 celebrations.
- Corey tried unsuccessfully to reserve Millersylvania for Labor Day 2025. His sense is that the CIC community needs to decide what it wants to do in terms of locations, alternative weekends, etc. We will reserve time for additional discussion during October Townhall.
- Corey has reached out to people who indicated interest in CIC at our Pride booth but hasn't heard back from folks. Before next year's Pride celebration, it would be good to explore alternatives.

Children's Program (Corey for Miriam Sterlin)

- We currently have one educator, Aubrey, who is continuing. Miriam is looking for someone to work with middle-aged kids. If people have suggestions, they should let Miriam know.
- Miriam is still strongly engaged in the program and keeping in touch with families with kids. She will draw on CIC volunteers for help as needed.

Financial Report; (Thad Curtz). Thad provided the end of Aug. 2024 Budget Report. Salaries for Corey and Miriam are on target; teacher salaries are less than expected.

- Expenditures to Aug. 30 were \$43,803 and income \$42,549. \$824 had been received in begging bowl donations. With 58% of the year gone, we have spent 58% of our budget.

- Thad and Penny Purkerson will begin working on the draft budget for next year. Thad said they will assume 3% inflation increases. Penny will coordinate with Corey about finding a date for pledge Sunday.
- Thad's report included an overview of our various WSECU accounts as of 9/3/24: Checking-\$24,427; One-Month Savings-\$6,247; Liquid Savings-\$12,219; Long-Term Savings-\$2,436 plus Series I Savings Bonds of \$8,858; technology equipment fund-\$1,000.

Call Shepherd Report (Cindy Guertin-Anderson). Cindy reported that calls are generally covered with people self-recruiting for needs that arise.

- Karen would like to end her call as CIC clerk by the annual meeting in January. She is willing to orient/mentor someone to the call which involves participating on the CIC Steering Circle (SC) and taking notes for SC and townhall meetings.
- Jamie Rainwood reported that Mark Collins has agreed to do the CIC financial audit.
- Jamie wants someone to assume her call as altar tender. She would like to join the greeter team. Hugh noted that Annie Hankins is willing to do set-up but has not been scheduled.

Committee Reports

- **Social Justice Committee (SJC):** Betty Hauser reported that the SJC met on Sept. 14 and is focused on getting ready for the Oct. 20 celebration with Meg Martin. They will reintroduce the box for collecting warm clothes to donate to Sergios.
- **50th Anniversary Celebration Group:** The subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on Sept. 26. Activities being discussed are a graphic way to show the CIC timeline and activities; collecting photos (Carol would like some "old timers" to go through them with her); and reviewing old Wavelinks.
- **Community Kitchen:** Volunteer support is solid; food costs continue to increase.
- **Benevolence Report and Fundraising:** Jan Rocks reported that we have a total of about \$17,000 in the Benevolence Fund. This includes close to \$9,000 for community kitchen.
 - Leeann Tourtillot and Gene Maltzeff reported that planning for the fish sale is underway...the price will be slightly higher this year but still less than retail.
 - Peg Henry discovered that nonprofit organizations may apply to sell tickets for Harlequin Theater rehearsals. There was consensus that this is a great idea. Jan will send a letter of request to Harlequin indicating who we are, the number of tickets we want, and what we will do with the funds raised. While all of the upcoming plays sound good, Holmes & Watson is our first choice.
- **Community Support:** Quiet at the moment.
- **Connections Committee** (Hugh): Results of the annual CIC evaluation were posted in Wavelinks. Steering Circle will review the results to determine if there are issues we should address.
- **United Churches Capital Campaign Update** (Betty Hauser). Betty reported that the Building Renovation Team met Sept. 5.
 - The contractor selection is in process with six companies having submitted bids. A subcommittee will narrow this list to three companies and then conduct interviews of the three. They hope to make a recommendation to the church council by Oct. 12.

- Plans include making a pullout in front of the church where people can be dropped off or picked up. The elevator will be 48” by 54”, big enough for a wheelchair and one person. It will be upstairs in the hall, intruding into the library.
- United Churches will have an Oct. 20 Townhall from 9:30-10:30 am to give people an opportunity to ask questions (we’re invited).
- Schedule:
 - Early Jan. 2025-permits in place
 - Jan. 25-target for solar installation; battery to follow
 - Feb./Mar.-negotiate construction contract
 - April/May 2025-work starts
- As of mid-Aug., there had been 10 pledges from CIC members for a total of \$27,950.
- Thad asked how much was received from the Department of Commerce in grant funds. This led to discussion about how much money has been raised by United Churches and how this compares to estimated total renovation costs.
- Corey raised questions about whether CIC should establish a timeline and/or financial goal for its contributions to the campaign. After some discussion, we agreed to schedule time during the Oct. Townhall to discuss what makes sense for CIC.
 - Prior to the Oct. Townhall, Corey will seek more clarity about overall project costs and how much money has been raised so far.
 - Hugh noted that he’d like information about the campaign to be more concise and agreed to work with Betty on a revised version for Wavelinks.

Acoustic Tiles in Fellowship Hall (Penny Purkerson). Penny would like to paint the acoustic tiles in the fellowship hall ceiling to help with the resonance of music during celebrations. She was encouraged to reach out to Rentals at United Churches to see what would be involved in getting permission to paint the tiles.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next townhall is Oct. 20, 2024.