

Community for Interfaith Celebration Townhall Minutes-Oct. 20, 2024

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

Attending: Mary Coacher, Thad Curtz, Cindy Guertin-Anderson, Betty & Dick Hauser, Hugh O'Neill, Corey Passons, Penny Purkerson, Carol & Jamie Rainwood, Pat Starzyk, and Karen Tvedt.

Racial Justice Centering: Dick Hauser played a very moving song, Dear America, by Eric Bibb about the murder of Emmett Till in Money, Mississippi.

Review of the Sept. 15 Townhall Notes: Karen Tvedt provided highlights from the Sept. 15 Townhall meeting minutes.

Minister's Report (Corey Passons):

- CIC's space agreement with United Churches continues into 2025.
- Corey has been meeting with newer folks in CIC. He is thinking about doing a new members class sometime after the first of the year.
- The 50th anniversary committee is actively planning events for the next few months with a special March event planned. This week's Wavelinks will include an article and link to a video featuring Jim Symons, the first CIC minister.
- Pledge drive is ongoing—with weekly announcements by Penny.
- Corey is beginning to explore the possibility of taking a sabbatical, perhaps early in 2026.

Children's Program-Report below was submitted in writing by Miriam Sterlin

Good news to report from the Children's Program! Our strongest programs right now are for elementary and middle school children, and we have a candidate interested in the middle school teaching position! Finding teachers for CIC has been an ongoing project, and I am thankful for the attention and unique perspective that each of our teachers have brought to the program during their time with CIC. I am hopeful for the coming year!

Aubrey is still going strong in the elementary room, with kids ranging in age from kindergarten to 5th grade. Meeting each child with genuine interest and curiosity, Aubrey fields complex questions from curious kiddos with grace and encourages independent and critical thinking. All while supporting artistic exploration and project assembly! Kids have created gratitude tabernacles, 3-D infinity cubes, t'shuvah tops, and books to tell their own stories. Reliable and creative, Aubrey creates a vibrant space for our elementary kiddos to rest and to grow! Thank you, Aubrey!

Having so many supplies at hand in the classroom has proven to be helpful, and we are settling into the new storage arrangement. The kids began the year with a resupply of markers and are very happy with the strong and vibrant colors. Thank you, materials budget!

High school service and meeting opportunities are not off of my radar, and I hope to connect our high schoolers with the Saturday cooking at the Salvation Army, and other opportunities.

Any ideas? Questions? Please get in touch! Miriam Sterlin

Discussion: there was discussion about ways we might nurture and bolster support for the children's program including "marketing." There was an inquiry about the possibility of combining programs with another faith community or communities. Corey meets with United Churches in a few weeks, and he'll once gain raise the question with them.

Financial Report (Thad Curtz). Thad provided the end of Sept. 2024 Budget Report. As in the past, salaries for Corey and Miriam are on target and teacher salaries are less than budgeted.

- Expenditures to Sept. 30 were \$47,976 and income \$47,248. \$957 had been received in begging bowl donations. With 73% of the year gone, we have spent 64% of our budget.
- Thad has been working on a 2025 budget proposal assuming 3% inflation increases.
- Thad's written 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.

Pledge Drive (Penny Purkerson). Penny has been reaching out to folks about completing their 2024 pledges. There'll be a concerted push next month to encourage 2025 pledges. Once Penny knows the total proposed budget for 2025, she'll do the thermometer that shows where we are in meeting the goal.

Call Shepherd Report (Cindy Guertin-Anderson). Cindy noted that the set-up crew can always use more volunteers and that someone is contemplating assuming the CIC clerk call.

Capital Campaign (Corey and Betty Hauser). Betty reported that meetings are happening around preconstruction issues. Construction expected to start after Easter. Issues being discussed include: getting rid of the ceiling tiles; exhaust fan for the bathroom downstairs; siting of the battery for energy storage; pull-out on 11th (permit needed?); electrical work (jointly with TVW?); and retaining the storage area off the fellowship hall (ok).

- CIC individual pledges so far total \$28,450; 11 pledges have been made.
- Once again, there was discussion about what's been raised through the Capital Campaign versus expected project costs. This is unclear given unknowns around what things will cost and the phasing of the overall project.

Decision: After discussion about questions and alternatives, Thad made the following as a tentative proposal, "CIC will contribute \$10,000 toward the Capital Campaign from reserves and CIC members will be asked to decide by June 1, 2025, whether they will donate to the campaign individually." There was a consensus about this serving as a starting point for assessing where members about donating to the campaign as a community and individuals.

Acoustic Tiles in Fellowship Hall (Penny Purkerson). As discussed during September Townhall, Penny would like to paint the acoustic tiles in the fellowship hall ceiling to help with the

resonance of music during celebrations. She reached-out to the United Churches facility person who is fine with painting the tiles but wants to check with Pastor Laura before giving approval.

Decision: There was consensus that if she gets approval from United Churches, Penny will proceed with painting the ceiling tiles using non-toxic, low VOC paint.

Retreats: Corey discussed the difficulties in getting space for a retreat during Labor Day weekend.

- Retreat leaders are proposing adding an additional day to our spring retreat.
- We'll continue exploring options for the fall retreat, e.g., a different weekend.

Committee Reports:

- **Social Justice Committee:** organized the great celebration with Meg Martin today.
- **50th Anniversary Celebration:** actively meeting and planning creative ways to acknowledge CIC's anniversary. Currently focused on CIC decades, e.g., 1973-1983.
- **Community Kitchen:** CIC serves 150-200 meals monthly (plus delivered meals) and has a dedicated group of volunteers. Food costs continue to increase.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Townhall to be determined.