

CIC TOWN HALL MINUTES FROM APRIL 6TH, 2025

Present : Corey P., Hugh O'Neil, Jo and Thad Curtz, Cindy and Katie (Jude and Silas) Guertin-Anderson, Betty and Dick Hauser, Rob, Pat Starzyk, Karen Ray and Alan Hardcastle, Kristine Forbes, Robert Walker, Jing, Kathy Pruitt, Penny Perkersion, Nikka Keller, Katheryn, Karen Lohmann, Wendy.

Reflection: Hugh gave a reflection on "Elements" from the book "Down to Earth Dharma" by Rebecca Bradshaw.

Minutes from 3/2/25 Town Hall -Karen Lohmann read minutes. No corrections nor discussion.

Minister's Report Part A: Corey began with what will *not be on the agenda*: Corey's sabbatical leave, Celebration planning, Interfaith Works Covenant Letter to be discussed in a month or two.

Notes: Some Upcoming Celebrations: 4/13 CIC Seder dinner , 4/20 Easter at the S.Bay Grange;
Solstice, June ? at Burfoot Park, Spring Retreat May 16-18- Millersylvania State Park.

Children's Program Report (Miriam via Corey) How will CIC celebrate Aubry and thank them for their service?
Corey and Cindy G-A to meet following Easter to look at and plan how we welcome and support new and on-going families with children. Kids are learning social/emotional practices of empathy. We celebrate Miriam's leadership.

Finance Report: Thad gave report, handout attached. Our rent is approximately \$415 per month or \$5,000. Per year.
Combined accounts equal \$58,000.
Kristine Forbes asked- is there money for the CIC Pride Booth and what category will it come from?
It will come from Promotional Materials. Kristine expressed interest in creating printed or other materials for Pride handouts.
Hugh asked about the rotation of our CD's maturation...Nikka replied:

about every 3 months.

Call Shepherd Report: Cindy G-A stated nothing new to report.

Thad commented on Corey's sabbatical and using some of our budget to hire people to fill leadership gaps while Corey is gone.
Hugh mentioned CIC's pledge to UCC of \$10,000 for the capital improvements/remodel.

Minister's Report continued: Corey passed around The Construction and Cost Update for United Churches Building Renovation/April 2025 (attached)

Merit Construction to begin using the Social Hall starting April 28th, proposed finish date October 8, 2025.

Scope of work: (no improvements to lower floor. Old Boiler to be removed, registers and pipes to remain for the time being,) Improvements: HVAC, Elevator and upgrades to electrical systems and new Solar Panels.

Important to note: CIC will not be at UCC until Mid October, at the very earliest !!

Lengthy conversation ensued regarding where CIC might land for the interim. Corey spoke with First United Methodist Church of Olympia, (FUMCO), Pastor Heather Spark regarding a short term lease of space. (FUMCO is where we held our 50th anniversary celebration.) Corey hopes to know more later this week regarding pending approval from FUMCO's Board of Trustees. Lease would be for the Great Hall, Kitchen, and a classroom or two. There are many unknowns. CIC is a resilient congregation with our recent use of Zoom during Covid. We do not yet know if CIC will need to pay rent to UCC during construction and our absence from the Social Hall.

Kathy Pruitt suggested CIC might join with the Wildwood congregation during construction as an option.

Alan Hardcastle asked how long before we can come back and affirmed that FUMCO is a good idea.

Corey stated there is one conflicting date, if we remain at FUMCO into Nov., when FUMCO has a Bazar.

Rob asked about sharing space with Merit construction team.

Betty stated that the "construction lead" gives a 3 week projection of progress each week during construction.

Kristine F. Asked if CIC can leave equipment in Social Hall closet, Corey said that is an unknown at this point.

Betty stated all storage on the Left side of closet (chair storage) will be turned into electrical/mechanical area.

Corey stated that our: rug, bolsters, candles and boxes, nametags, etc. (items for celebrations) will go with us wherever we land.

Wendy asked about the possibility of Temple Beth Hatfiloh.

Corey spoke of the benefits of moving to FUMCO as they are aligned with CIC values of being open and affirming, we've done a big event there, Corey has a strong relationship with FUMCO pastor, we are respected and known there.

Penny added that FUMCO is not beholden to a "Creed".

Rob asked about future space for chairs (unknown at this time)

Pat S. Stated the FUMCO doors are locked, an issue: CIC will need a type of Door Monitor or team of door monitors for our celebrations there.

Corey offered we might meet at FUMCO's library or other space there, options to be explored.

Carol R. Stated there is room for our circle and rug and it can be stored on site at FUMCO.

Kathy P suggested a "Transition Committee"

Hugh said we don't know the process yet.

Corey said the "Safe space policy" exists at FUMCO, -even if just one child in class room. In this policy those caretakers/teachers aged 16 yrs and older, are required to take a background check and do a brief on-line training to work with kids; two "adults" required in room at all times.

Hugh asked group to check in re: feelings...

Carol asked about background check, it is a short form, Nikka stated it costs \$11. Apiece with a quick turnaround.

Tara- temp check, thumbs up for at least 2/3rd of those gathered.

Corey, things are going fast, Steering Circle is vetted to make decisions and empowered with details to make a decision as

Corey learns more (implied, we need to have a lease or a place to go to very soon)

Katheryn stated- I'm new to CIC, not a member yet, but I don't want to meet on zoom, as a new person I might disappear.

Kristine- asked about the end of the pandemic, and didn't we meet in parks?

Corey stated that our Spring retreat was at Millersylvania as we can't meet at Ft. Flagler, our previous traditional spot for spring/fall retreats.

Jing stated a short term lease is ideal, what about alternatives like meeting

on a Saturday- explore options at UCC?

Discussion regarding using the UCC Chapel or Sanctuary..spaces are smaller than required and meeting in a circle not an option in Sanctuary.

Rob- said need a paper bag, take deep breaths, lots of details we need to hear back from FUMCO.

Corey to hear more this coming week and may know estimated cost of rents at FUMCO by Wednesday.

Cindy G-A: I looked on internet re other spaces to explore- options such as: UU, The Temple, for example: the Friends Meeting house is \$99.00 per 4 hour period, though not on Sundays, perhaps they might make an exception for CIC?

Thad: There are lots of churches.

Tara: Reiterated looking at UU. Friends, Center for Spiritual Living.

Karen L: Let's support Corey and his FUMCO connection for now and rest in uncertainty.

Karen R. What about a small committee for Corey to work with.

Alan: Ditto. “.

Carol R.: Could we use a park if needed?

Penny: Weather is a problem, especially for musicians.

Hugh: A small group/ Steering Circle to take up this work of assisting Corey with decisions and details.

Jo C. Asked about cost for our 50th Anniversary celebration: about \$600 for a one-time use.

Corey- a short term lease will be different at FUMCO, they have a copy of our UCC lease agreement as a model.

Karen L. Suggested Steering Circle be Corey's guide for quick decisions as needed for this time sensitive issue.

Hugh will be gone parts of May.

? Asked is there a Plan B? (Plan A being FUMCO)

Leeann- Proposed redefine sm group as Steering Circle with “carte blanche” to support Corey and time frame is so short, yes, we trust Steering Circle.

Tara: Ditto and asked is Zoom off the table?

Hugh: No it is not.

Betty: Steering Circle, Yes and please do email the community to keep informed as things unfold.

Corey: one to two concessions being: UU and Friends meeting house as backups

Leeann- encouraged explore with us.

Hugh asked for consensus Yes- all in agreement.

Corey- discernment with steering circle, then with wider community to transition, look at spaces.

Kathy P- Proposed volunteers for this. Tara, Robert, Rob, Karen R, Alan and Dick all volunteered.

(A special email to go into WaveLinks regarding all of this new information.)

Carol R. We need volunteers to move things/logistically- Robert W. Volunteered.

Betty said before moving we need to gather kids classroom supplies, closet stuff etc.

Hugh said: we need a chop wood, carry water celebration.

Corey, Betty, Robert, Rob, Carol, Jo C. Offered to volunteer to deal with moving stuff.

Hugh- conversation on CIC pledge to UCC, we need to discern regarding Capital Campaign...very long discussion unfolded.

We discussed how much CIC might contribute as an organization to United Churches renovation at some length. We learned CIC members have individually pledged a total of roughly \$28,000 as of the end of October last year, though no one knew how much CIC members have pledged to the project as individuals since that time. We also learned that following the October 2024 Town Hall meeting, Corey notified United Churches that CIC would donate \$10,000 from our reserves, with a deadline of June 1st, 2025 for any additional, individual contributions from our community. Given that notification to United Churches of an amount from our reserves had already occurred, there was consensus to distribute that contribution to United Churches.

Hugh and others gave gratitude to Corey on moving fast to look into securing our space.

Leeann spoke of UCC being an incredible asset to our community as a progressive congregation, our years as renters and that we raised our own rent to feel equitable about 4 years ago.

Next Town Hall Meetings are set for: May 4th and June 1st

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.