

Townhall Agenda for June 1st, 2025:

- **Welcome** Hugh and Corey.
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- **Present:** Corey Passons, Thad Curtz, Betty and Dick Hauser, Hugh O'Neill, Karen Ray, Alan Hardcastle, Karen Lohmann, Robert Walker, Pat Staryzk, Kathy Pruitt, Kathleen Peppard, Jaimie and Carol Rainwood, Katherine....., Penny Purkerson,
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- **Racial Justice Centering:** Betty Houser reflected on “The Warmth of Other Suns” by Isabelle Wilkerson
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- **Review of Town Hall Meeting Minutes from April 4th 2025;** Karen Lohmann, minutes approved
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- **Minister's Report: Corey Passons**
- Corey gave gratitude for folks showing up, keeping community going. We are approaching the end of Cic yr. Updates: Space use, projections for the fall. During summer Corey to talk with Kathy Pruitt re CIC planning. * *Action item.*
- We have struggled with consistent celebration planning; Kathleen Peppard had a cohort Corey to develop a celebration planning cohort that meets quarterly. Corey to meet with Cindy GA and Miriam re new families checking us out, how to engage new families with collaboration and affirmation of their presence, they will explore ways to give them opportunities to join in. *Action item.*
- It is a challenge with Aubry leaving. We need to hire 2 educators for the fall. Miriam and Cindy to help with this. Outreach to community to find new teachers. *Action item.*
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- CIC Survey is being filled in, seeking suggestions for themes, etc, once compiled Corey will recruit leaders for the fall. Corey to prep for winter celebrations as well as for fall.
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- **Discuss the draft proposal for Corey's sabbatical.**
- Copies of Draft proposal provided.

- Typical to ministerial professions. Kathleen P and Jo C had sabbaticals.
- Town Hall minutes reflect affirmation of sabbatical proposal. Karen Ray to draft CIC Sabbatical guidelines to be discussed in the fall.
- Corey proposed to lead CIC through, Christmas Eve Celebration, take January and February off with no responsibilities, no email nor texting, but with contact with Steering Circle should an emergency or death occur. Corey to return in March with light duties to re-integrate into role without leading celebration until Easter Sunday in April 2026.

Sabbatical plans include:

- Time with friends and fam, retreat and study, focus. Go to depth, related to next yrs theme. Sabbatical prep, using a small committee to make a booklet with details and plans for the re-integration month. Submitted Sept 25th and recruit for roles and responsibilities for sabbatical coverages.
- If approved, prep in next months. CP asking for this proposal to be approved tonight.
- Questions?** Steering Circle is a strong support role, managing emails, phones, etc. as an anchor while minister is gone. It was a nice model, worked well. Kathy Pruitt lends support,
- Jamie- concern for Corey, as he choose Jan and February to be gone, does it make sense to lock in these dates based on Corey's goals. CP has detailed ideas.
- Karen Ray: proposal needs to say CP getting full pay, (yes, it is in proposal.) CP assumed full salary, add to proposal for 3 months) Karen Ray- great idea to have re integration period. It was Thad's idea.
- Easter is a joy for CP to think about upon return.
- Kathy Pruitt- we do budget at that time. In fall SC also looks at budget. Corey will miss annual meeting, MLK day, and World Harmony week. Corey suggests that we have guests? Regional faith leaders, CP open to recruiting them. Plenty of time to tink of planning.
- Thad Curtz: we might read a book, or have a special themes. There will be 6 or 7 additional celebrations that the community will be responsible for. Mull over themes. Kathleen Peppard stated we have 3 months of "stone soup", this is an opportunity for others to lead.

•Betty: what's the structure to figure out what we are doing when CP gone ?

•A committee? Thad: 2 pieces: CP preparing and celebrations. Town Hall to make final decisions. Do we need a committee to oversee it all? Roles will be in booklet. Steering Circle to oversee Celebration planning ... Corey getting group that oversees. (booklet - Penny: K. Pruitt, SC and min of presence, when KP gone. Betty wants umbrella group. SC? Key roles by SC. Shepherd role Betty wants to see addressed. Carole , shepherding role, define? Betty:- community shepherding whole community. Put in booklet.

•Hugh- would we like to approve with full salary. **Unanimous consensus achieved via clapping to indicate approval!!**

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•Discussion of CIC discernment on signing the “Interfaith Works Covenant on the Sanctity of Sacred Spaces” copy attached.

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•Covenant- for 3 years or more, intimidation and enforcement regarding immigration incidents have gone up. This document to help support local groups ; immigrant led and going to communities to support and connect. Developing a Spanish version with Cielo. Folks that signed on IW sponsor the covenant as a functional document for outreach and for rapid response. It has multiple layers of community witnessing. The work continues, CP is hoping our community to sign on. Thad to stand aside if we want to go ahead. Concerns regarding language. Questions about what are we committing to? Actuary for murderers, thieves. Thad not comfortable about CIC signing. How are we going to follow through? Will we write reps or make calls, go through a process re 4th and 5th amendments rights? Who are the most vulnerable? Coordinate our efforts with other community members with UCC regarding policies. Thad is comfortable if we follow through, if we are going to educate ourselves re constitutional law. Thad self describes as picky. Hugh thanked Thad. Hugh is interested in the educational piece. Local collation of community congregational constitutional support. Rights re documenting if ICE comes into spaces. Theme for next year...constitutional law, humor about this.

•Jamie: did I sign this? Is there a place to sign this? Activision for the right people. K. Pruitt spoke regarding rapid response efforts, responding to bear witness. Email based rapid response. Define RR. Example story shared re child from Shelton. Kathy P appreciated what Thad is saying. K Pruitt part of Indivisible...wondering about speakers or ways to be involved to different degrees. Carol support covenant. Tripped over RR but wants to support concepts. Thad likes CIC signing letters to the editor, ie a public outcry and presence, we will not be silent. Betty asked is anyone else with any misgivings. Karen Ray wants celebration re this topic. Like ACLU or immigration atty or others....Katherine, wanting celebration to help educate the community. KL suggested Leslie Cushman. (Betty ed re TH is where decisions happen. Does Corey feel pressure or urgency to get it supported. K. Ray proposes we vote to sign it with stipulation that we have a celebration to educate the larger community about these issues, I think we are doing what the document says . KP letter writing after CIC. We are a charter member of IW, have various faith traditions are working with this covenant. Jamie- make a date for celebration. Let the record show all gathered supports Corey signing the document.

•**Deadline** for individual giving to the United Churches building renovation by the end of June.

•Pledging or giving now or fulfill pledges 2.5 yr cycle of pledging for bldg campaign. Cic to have a deadline for folks to give. Not after June. K. Ray wonders if Wave Links can list how much individuals as a whole have contributed.. Wants stats on shortage as a community, as individuals and how short is UCC budget at this time.

•Pat pledges over 3 yrs, ox a year. CarolW links how to have a link that would work better. Thad. One email with facts and situation, we don't want process to linger, if anyone wants to give, do it now. The end. June 30th. Will UCC have to borrow money.? CP to draft email to SC to filter. All agree. Carol. We paid \$10,000. where did it come from. (goes to budget) give \$ to CIC or Tuco? Proposal to stay at Fumco and ask UCC to help support our rent until we get back to Tuco.

•Discussion of celebration venue for the Fall

•Quaker mtg house a no go, Fumco or another space? Tuco offered to give CIC \$for rent while CIC is renting elsewhere. Group discussed this. Move to budget report

•we are spending \$875.00 more on rent for the rest of the year, might use special expenses fund. Not expecting us to go over budget given TUCO will reimburse us. Corey summarized :Thad's #'s don't go into OCT.

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•Children's Program Miriam and Cindy to work on this to hire new teachers. Thanks Miriam Kids working on decorating the pride booth.

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•Financial Report

•typical 1/3 of cp yr gone as expected, 1/4 of fica tax, 22% of professional expenses (report attached) cic rent might get refunded 1250.00 from \$4000. Nikka wrote checks for. Spent more on UCC scholarship dues. K. Pruitt proposes that UCC pay for fall full rent in fall . Approved by those gathered. Expecting a \$4, 600. deficit...

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•Call Shepherd Report None

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•Committee Updates (as needed):

•Audit committee wants to meet with Nikka. Wants to take the 2023 records back.

•Social Justice Committee- Pride coming up end of June, 10am to 6 pm on 6/28, needs 3 more for Pride festival and parade (Sunday)

•Community Kitchen- always staffed, prices going up.

•Community Support- Bethanie wants rotation with this committee looking for replacements for Sabra and Bethanie

•Connections Committee- 16 responses so far on survey, Link in Wave Links

•United Churches Renovation- BRT bldg renovation team is ending, now construction starting,...cutting hole in floor for elevator. IW out of office for now. Loud.

•Other

- Community process check-in-
- How”s the process.? Great. Process. Hugh great job, talk louder, consensus, raise hands.
- Closing around 8:00pm.