

Town Hall Minutes for: Dec. 14, 2025

Present: Thad, Jo, Hugh, Dick, Betty, Christine, Carol, Jamie, Pat Staryzk, Nikka, Jan Rocks, Meg O'Leary, Cindy GA., Robert Walker, Karen Lohmann.

Racial justice centering, Kristine Forbes- proposed for MLK Birthday celebration. Gotti's bakery, a local, Black run bakery. \$200. estimate for a big cake- Serves 48-52. We can use funds from special programs expense fund? Thad so moves, Nikka Seconds. (Cindy GA offered to make a small GF cake. Thanks Cindy!) Consensus occurred.

- Review of October 26 Town Hall Minutes-Karen L. no questions/ comments.
- Agenda Review** (Hugh) short, no Ministers report. (Corey is absent)
- Children's Program**- Cindy GA 15 people came to the Oct. 14th dinner/discussion with parents of kids. Adults conversed, Miriam and Elise stayed and answered questions re curriculum, etc. .Folks said it's hard for families to come consistently. Families to try to come one Sunday a month. Suggestion for a youth group, there was a feeling of more connection following this meeting; texting now happening within the group. Cindy made a post about CIC to the "Progressive Parents Group "on FB- and a new mom came to CIC as a result. (Great responses from lots of community members.)
- How do we share about CIC in community? Corey (mom of Lark) also interested in promoting CIC on social media.. Photos?
- Kudos to Cindy and Katie for hosting. Ages of kids range from Aurora to Hugh...
- Minister's Report - none** (Corey in Spokane for family)
 - Sabbatical
 - Celebrations (Interfaith Guest Speaker Series)
 - Children's Program
- Financial Report** (Thad Curtz)
Budget sheet handed out - attached in Minutes binder. 40% of prof. Expenses spent. Miriam not spent any of prof. Expenses. Spent 45% to Aubry. Elise 1/3 spent as she started later in yr. Workers comp etc. as expected
We overspent budget by \$1300.00 to TUCO on rent. (Not charged for the months we were not at United Churches, but no reimbursement for CIC FUMCO rent from TUCO. Process was unclear.) A few minor costs higher than anticipated. Special Programs fund under-spent. Nothing spent out of outreach budget. For the Sake of the Whole World as budgeted. \$2,140.00 from Begging bowl. And \$10,000.00 to TUCO for remodel. Not all 2025 pledges in yet, but money in bank to pay for short fall if it did occur.

We looked at proposed 2026 Budget from Steering Circle. Includes 3% increase for Corey, Miriam & one teacher. Thad gave history of our unique budget. SC wants to do a more realistic budget, reducing the regularly unused

Special Programs Expenses Fund to \$1,000 and redirecting second teacher funding to add support for existing children's program, since two teachers will very probably not be needed in 2026. (Adding support could be done by increasing Miriam's hours or salary and perhaps increasing Elise's salary.) Proposed 2026 budget more than 2025, but pledges are also larger than pledges for 2025. More people are pledging. This proposal would make budgeted expenditures pledges approximately equal at roughly \$75,000 each. Questions: Betty asked about having two classes, so babies and middlers were not in same class, why wasn't there a discussion of that option?

Clarification given: Toddlers are actually already separate from elementary kids. Elise takes older kids, Miriam takes toddlers. (Email Thad with other budget suggestions or questions.)

•Pat - Are Ted and Katie getting compensated, yes per their hours, not shown in this proposal. Pat Staryzk is now a check signer with the combined benevolence fund.

•**Benevolence Fund** proposal - Jan Rocks : Sheet passed out and attached. Two accounts vs three proposed as it is confusing with PayPal and our new "Square" account. Jan spoke of Sub accounts. Eliminate one account, have Pat Starzyk join in so two people can manage acct and write checks. Kristine? Makes sense to have the fundraising account and \$ we give away. (that is the Pastor's fund)

•Discussion occurred about our historical accounts. We have a benevolence fund. The Square will allow us to designate which accounts monies come out of or go into and we can track funds more accurately via square transactions.. Thad proposal, Nikka seconded. Approved. Square also costs money. Pat-S "we have had some issues with PayPal."

•**Call Shepherd Report** (Cindy Guertin Anderson)

•Thanks to Robert for taking on fish sale. Melanie Asher to join Community Support Committee.

•**Committee Reports**

•**Black Ally-ship** (in coordination with Celebration Planning?) -- Kristine has a proposal which was given at beginning of TH.

•**Social Justice Committee** - Betty: Meeting canceled in Dec.

Kristine showed mock up of bulletin board. Now a link needed on website. So anyone can see it. Links to make Wavelinks shorter.

Discussion about privacy within links. Personal phone #'s issue. No real resolution.

Celebration Planning, - Jamie - All celebrations filled but Feb 21st and a June date needed to be filled. This committee very supportive for Corey, Kudos and thanks!

•**Community Kitchen** - Hugh updated - need for meals growing, had to scramble to get extra food : 40 meals to Drexel House, 135 community kitchen. Thanks to Suzanne who made over 150 cookies, Richard, Alan and Bethanie continue do manage this.

•**Community Support** - Hugh update, requests for support on the lighter side, lately,. Team asked Melanie if she would join- so now Sabra, Melanie and Bethanie on this committee.

•**Connections Committee** - Annual Evaluation Summary - Kathy Pruitt not here, this will wait till January meeting.

•**Retreat Committee** - Nikka? Carol? Nothing to report

•**Fundraising Committee** - Robert spoke about the Fish Sale- results very good; Leanne put together great group of helpers this year. We raised about \$19,500.00 total, then after Gene Maltzoff bills for his costs, we should have a profit of about \$7000.00 - (also some donations given which will go in benevolence fund.)

•**Community Kitchen continued** - Jan Rocks said there will be about \$15,000.00 for Community Kitchen in 2026 budget. Jan - proposed : buy more food, spend more, do another night. Kitchen need appliances, like a *meat grinder*. Jan to get a proposal together.

United Churches Renovation - Betty - Approved for solar panel installation to begin 12/15/25, TUCO will get rebate from Commerce Dept. battery back up on a separate plan. Elevator in - no buttons yet, have not completed emergency call system, so elevator not operable. Two new heat-pumps replaced already...

•**Fund Raisers** - Kristine F.-Harlequin play, "Foreigner" for fundraising in 2026,. Kristine gives synopsis of play. Noting that KKK is in play, which may be triggering, a heads-up. This CIC fundraiser date is: *Thursday March 5th Save the date*.

Next TH is Annual Meeting on January 25, 202 -Sarah Huntington presiding

•(dates needed for next Steering Circle meeting in January)

•Adjourned at 6:53 pm