

Steering Circle May 28,2026

Present on zoom: Corey P., Thad C., Hugh O’N., Karen L (Cindy GA unavailable)

Hugh read poem form Patricia Del Rio (from “Wild Edge of Sorrow” by Weller

All checked-in

Agenda reviewed, all approved

Minister’s Update: Corey P:

This upcoming Sunday (5/31) Corey will reflect on insights from his sabbatical and “things moving” within Corey. CP has been in contact with potential new members for a gathering at Corey and Bethanie’s home in mid July to explore with 6-7 or more folks perhaps interested in joining CIC.

Children’s Program: Cindy and Katie GA hosted an evening with CIC parents. Corey and Miriam present and about 5 families attended, (10 kids) . All met for a meal, then the adults met with Emily McMason, a local child psychologist , as a resource to answer parents concerns and questions regarding challenges parents might be having. Emily gave great answers and has done a lot of research. CP to follow-up with families. One parent had a conversation with CP about just “what are the kids learning at CIC in class/kids time? Parent wants kids to have more exposure to Interfaith education. Miriam is providing this, parent wanted more specifics. Corey to be in dialog with Miriam so parents to see more curriculum . CP to support parents and check in with Miriam regarding continuation of programs and how to stay connected to families.

Celebration Planning Committee worked well, members plan to continue another year, everyone found it beneficial and Corey really appreciated the support. Group to develop a model with theme development for future planning. Jamie R. especially helped with outreach to new folks to CIC, she provided hospitality. A summer meeting will be held regarding CIC’s hospitality intentions.

Social Justice: IF Canoe journey with Nisqually Tribe will host a July 9 showing of the film “Fish Wars” with Q and A following. Encouragement for CiC ers to show up; serve together and engage with community.

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Pride (For Town Hall on 5/3)

Em Keller has offered to dance in the Pride parade. Jamie R. organizing the booth. CP hopes “concerned clergy” will be in a cluster in the parade of “progressive and affirming faith communities”.

How can SC support the Pride booth and shifts to be covered-? **ask for specific support at Town Hall**

Financial report: Thad

Thad shared his screen with tallies of 2026 Budget.

Original budget had \$3,800.00 more in pledges than in expected expenses. We might use some to strengthen kids program - Corey or Steering Circle to discuss ideas for that with Miriam. We might hire a second teacher again (\$2,000.00 would cover full teacher's salary with SSI and medicare), give Miriam a raise, or add to her hours for outreach and development. Corey Pemberton has outreach ideas; Karen Ray also has ideas regarding CIC ads in Olympia Family Theater playbills and C0-op news. As of end of April: Paid out ½ of Corey's professional expense budget; Miriam didn't spend any of hers. Celebrations used 61 % of budget (40% of year is done), Nika paid all of CIC's rent upfront (\$5,600.00) Half of the Special Programs budget spent (MLK cake, etc). Paid Liability insurance and \$200 out of \$800 budgeted for annual meeting. Paid UCC mission dues and for Pride booth. So far we had \$13,365 in expenses and received \$25,000 as income, including \$1,500 from the begging bowl). \$14,000.00 in checking account. Thanks Thad!

Town Hall- Corey to invite Nikka to report on Millersylvania retreat costs (Higher than in past) for Town Hall reports :

CP to contact: Soc. Justice, Community Kitchen, Alan, Community Support (Betty/ Sabra?)

Hugh to contact: Connections, United Churches renovation -Betty

Note: Penny Pledge shepherd in fall with SC and Town Hall

**Note: Late August or early September for next Steering Circle
Ended by 8:35**