

Center for Spiritual Living  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday, January 6, 2020

Present: Rev. David Robinson, Scott Kissel, Rob Coleman, Jean Hill-Miller, Laura Farris, and Larry Gilliam  
Practitioner: Buffie Finkel  
Scribe: Teri Echterling

The meeting was held at Rev. David's home. Scott opened the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and Buffie led us in an opening prayer. This was followed by a roundtable check in.

Approval of minutes from 12/09 - Rob moved to approve minutes as amended, and Rev. David seconded. Minutes were approved with five in favor and one abstention.

**Old Business:**

Errors & Omissions Insurance – Laura reported that the new E&O insurance is a better deal. It increases coverage to include Council members. There was a question if the Youth program employees and Practitioners are also covered, and Laura affirmed that they were. Laura made a motion that we obtain the new E&O and liability insurance at the cost of \$1250 per year. Rev. David seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

- **Laura will arrange with Barbara to obtain the policy. She will also let Marlisa know that payment should be made.**

Mission and Vision Statement Team – Rev David reported that a team meeting is planned for this month. They plan to craft two to four statements to present at the annual meeting in March for the congregation to consider. Rob brought up that some people feel left out that they are not involved in the process and there is a feeling of lack of transparency. There is some sensitivity around this, and Rev. David asked that Rob direct people to him if they have a concern. There followed conversation about avoiding triangulated conversations, and directing complaints to the source. The mission and vision statement team was formed by those who asked to be involved. The rest of the congregation will have opportunity to be involved during the presentation at the annual meeting.

**New Business:**

Council Member Search Committee – We will be searching for candidates to serve on Core Council as three current terms are expiring. Scott and Rob are leaning toward not running for re-election. Laura is also leaning toward stepping down. Jean and Larry are continuing on council.

Rev. David consulted the bylaws to verify the makeup of the nominating committee. It is to be five people: The senior minister, two core council members who are staying on and not up for reelection (Larry, and Jean), and two members who are not on Council or running for Council.

- **Rev. David, Larry, and Jean will meet to identify the other two members of the nomination committee.**

Laura mentioned Christi Johnson is interested in running for Council. All agreed she would be a good choice. There was conversation regarding the change in bylaws two years ago, shortening council terms from three to two years and whether this was causing too much upheaval for the Council. Rev. David said once we get all on a two year rotation it will run more smoothly. There ensued conversation regarding council rotation and the possibility of allowing some positions to serve one year this coming year to facilitate the transition.

Schedule annual meeting - Sunday, March 15, has been chosen as the date for the annual meeting as that would normally be a community meeting time. Rev. David has asked Kelly to organize a potluck for that day. Rev. David made a motion to set the annual meeting for March 15 after service. Larry seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

2020 Budget Review and Vote – Jean asked if we were going to review the November 30 financials. Rev. David said it is in good shape and Rob assured Council that we actually gained in the checking account, were at 112% of pledged and 131% of budgeted non-pledged donations. Rev. David mentioned we received a couple of large gifts unexpectedly as well as people catching up with their pledges during the first week of December. Rob voiced that it was nice to see gains and the prosperity showing up for us. Jean also asked about the end of year attendance report. It came out today and last month's data can be seen on the next tab in the workbook. We will be finishing the year in the black. Scott asked about repaying the new home account. Rev. David, Larry and Rob said that the Finance Committee had extensive discussion about this and the plan is to repay it on an ongoing basis.

Council reviewed the 2020 budget details. The bottom line shows CSL \$52 in the black. There was discussion around using the upward trend in pledged activity to project an additional \$5000 in the budget. While there are some concerns, we are reminded that the budget is a best guess estimate using past numbers and projections. There is optimism that we will meet the additional \$5000. There will also be opportunity to do a mid-year budget assessment modification if needed.

There was further discussion of line items in the budget. Some categories are projected to realize cash infusions as the year progresses (classes, both accredited and non-accredited are examples.)

There was a question as to why we do contracts before the budget is done, as that seems backward. There was a short discussion of the possibility of moving pushing the contracts to a March through February term, though they are already done for this year.

Scott brought up line 6171 in the budget. This shows extra musicians 12 times at \$75 each. This conflicts with the budget decision to cut extra musicians to two times per year, and causes surplus funds. Larry advocated for keeping the cuts to allow more leeway in the

budget. We could also book the musicians as needed, and the 15 year CSL anniversary party would be a good time to do so. There was a short conversation about guest speakers six times per year. This number carried over from last year and covers times Rev. David will be gone. Scott suggested having Gypsy Soul to do a benefit for CSL. **Rev. David knows them and can ask if they have any upcoming performances in the Northwest.**

General line item review continued, including contract amounts.

- **Laura will send all contracts to Marlisa.**

Rob made a motion to adopt the budget proposal for 2020 as submitted. Larry seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

Marketing – Preparatory review for Community Meeting – Scott asked not to create the community meeting agenda, but just discuss the marketing meeting topics. Rob brought two topics for discussion. Camille Fastle, while not technically part of the marketing committee would like to be involved in marketing for the Holistic Fair. Also, there is interest in participating in the Lacey Fun Fair this year. The cost is \$25 for a booth there. Rob asked for Council support for participation in the event, absent an approved marketing committee plan. As the money is available in the budget, the marketing committee can go forward with this. Rev. David suggested they work with Adrienne and the youth program for this community event happening May 16 & 17.

Scott reiterated Council support for the marketing committee and suggested it just needs more management. Rob has taken the lead on this and the marketing committee has evolved. There was conversation about planning the work before going out into the community. Rev. David asked that energy be focused and not scattered, and offered to bring back marketing information from the upcoming CSL Leadership Conference.

CSL Olympia 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party – Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The Council will turn this over to the party planners and committees, and table discussion for the next meeting.

### **Calendar review**

- 1/7 – New Home Meeting
- 1/10 – New Budget Info to Team Leads
- 1/11 – Intentions Retreat – 11 sign-ups
- 1/13 - Finance Team Meeting
- 1/15 – Treatment & Meditation 10% off for members!
- 1/19 – CSL Olympia Community Meeting
- 1/19 – Sacred Sunday Evening
- 1/20 – CSL Olympia Council Meeting
- 2/3 – CSL Olympia Council Meeting
- 2/17 – 21 - CSL Leadership Convention (Denver) – Rev. David will be attending. Scott will also be gone for council meeting during this time. Laura suggested rescheduling the council meeting to 2/24. The 3/2 meeting will be the last one before the annual meeting.

**Please send agenda items for the upcoming community meeting to Scott via email.**

**Parking Lot**

- Update on Tech Soup Software Upgrade – Rev David & Teri

The next Council meeting is scheduled for January 20 at Rev. David's house. Scott thanked all for a productive meeting, and Buffie led us in a closing prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Echterling