

**Center for Spiritual Living
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, Jan 23, 2023
6:30pm – 8:30pm
At CSL Olympia and on Zoom**

***Our Mission** is to be an open, expanding, and welcoming community that learns, lives, and shares spiritual principles.*

***Our Purpose** is to reveal our wholeness and connection with all that is.*

***Our Vision** is to live as Love in a world of Love.*

Present: Rev. David Robinson, Lorrie Chase, Laura Farris, Beth Thompson, Teri Echterling, Marlisa Johnson (Ex officio), Buffie Finkel, RScP
Practitioner: Teresa Bielenberg
Absent: none
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

The meeting, held at CSL Olympia and on Zoom was called to order at 6:30 p.m., by Buffie Finkel, Council President.

An opening prayer was given by Teresa Bielenberg.

Rev. David Robinson did a reading by Ralph Waldo Emerson titled "Circles."

A roundtable check-in followed, answering the question, "How have I been applying and living our Mission, Purpose & Vision Statement?"

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Teri provided changes to the January 9th, 2023 Minutes.

Laura motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Lorrie seconded the motion, and it was carried by the council. Rev David abstained.

Approval of financials

David & Marlisa

The end of the year financial report was presented by Rev. David.

The stock market has dropped and devalued our investment account by about \$9,000 this month. We were reminded that the investment account is still higher than what we started with.

Pledges are at 98% of the total pledged amount, and the non-pledged income is 123% of the budget projection for the year.

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia		12/31/2022
December Net Income from Operations	Year to Date Net Income from Operations	Ameritrade Investment Value
-\$474.23	\$2011.58	\$56,290

The Net income for December is -\$474.23. The year finished with a Net income of \$2011.58, which is much better than the -\$23,745.00 that was projected in the budget. This savings came primarily from not moving in to the new location until September. The budget was created with expectation of having rent and utilities and additional staffing required for the Libby Road location for the year. A profit sharing of 1/3 of the YTD Net will be paid to Rev. David.

Teri made the motion to approve the December 2022 financial report. Rev David seconded the motion, and it was passed by the council.

Resource Report (People & Money)

*Finance committee recommendations

Buffie provided the handout of the Financial committee recommendations.

Discussion by council.

Regarding the Finance Committee's recommendation for Adrienne's raise, Laura stated she supported a raise for Adrienne and all staff but was concerned that the proper procedure was not followed here. The Vice President, who is in charge of the evaluation process and lead on staff issues, and the council members who were not on the Finance Committee should not be surprised with a Finance Committee's recommendation for a raise. Rather, the proper procedure is for the council as a whole to determine which staff should get raises. The Finance Committee's role is limited to responding to the council's raise request in terms of whether the church can afford the requested raise

- Finance Committee recommends to Core Council approval of a pay increase of \$25/week for Adrienne Cherry, effective retroactively to January 1, 2023

Laura made the motion to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation for a pay increase of \$25/week for Adrienne Cherry. Beth seconded the motion, and it was passed by the council.

- Finance Committee recommends to Core Council approval of a transfer of \$10,000 from Money Market into an 18-mo. CD at WSECUCU which is currently earning 4.25% APY.

Lorrie made the motion to approve the transfer of \$10,000 from Money Market into an 18-mo. CD at WSECUCU. Rev David seconded the motion, and it was passed by the council.

ACTION ITEM: Buffie will let the Financial Committee know that the money is approved to move and she will let Adrienne know about the approval of the raise.

Discussion about writing to the CSL Home Office regarding supporting Youth and Family ministry curriculum. Not every CSL location has a Youth and Family program. We are fortunate to have Adrienne at CSL Olympia. We would like to see CSL Home Office take a larger interest in Youth and Family Ministry to support the next generation of members.

Rev David shared that there will be a meeting in March for Family and Youth programs. There is a search currently being conducted for an executive director for the home office.

ACTION ITEM: Beth will contact Adrienne to write a letter to the home office and the Council will co-sign the letter.

Update on Fire protection

Buffie

There was an alarm that went off this fall, due to a malfunction and it has been corrected. Due to the way the paperwork was categorized by the alarm company, the fire station was not contacted, this has also been corrected.

There has been a change from a national monitoring company to a more local company.

Discussion of where the codes are located if we need to provide them to the monitoring company. The codes are on the alarm box in the furnace room.

There is an easy way to do a fire drill and Buffie was informed on how to do this. We would need to let the company know when we did it.

Update on Leasing agreement

Rev David

Rev. David shared information on the progress of creating a leasing agreement. Our first two events at the center are on January 28th and 29th. There is a Celebration of Life and fellowship afterward on Saturday afternoon. Rev David could not find the Redding CA, rental agreement but was able to come up with a contract that can be used until the rental agreement is drawn up.

ACTION ITEM: Rev David will contact Unity to see if they have an agreement that we could use as a boilerplate.

Tiffany shared ideas for what could be included in a packet of materials to provide to prospective renters of the space for events.

ACTION ITEM: Tiffany will gather information to create a packet to provide to people interested in room rentals.

ACTION ITEM: Rental contracts need to be brought to the next Council meeting.

Mobilizing Our Mission

Detailed plans for Kirtan concert

There will be a meeting on Friday at 3pm with the event volunteers to plan out the flow and placement of merchandise and ticket tables. Parking will be an issue so we will need to have a plan in place. Jennifer Howie is providing leadership for organizing the volunteers and assessing the needs of the event.

Tiffany mentioned that Johanna Beekman's website has the Center's address listed on her event in Longview on the 28th. Also, 12:00 am is the time listed for the event at the center on Sunday. Rev. David will contact Johanna to change this.

NOC update

Nourishing Our Community events for 2023 now has a chairperson; Lynne Edele. Jennifer Howie will also provide assistance.

****Membership process proposal***

Buffie provided a handout of proposed changes to the membership process. Caroline Fenn provided the proposal of changes. Council discussed the current requirements and the proposed changes. Council agrees that we need to encourage participation on service teams but not let it be a barrier to membership.

Jennifer Howie has accepted responsibility for getting people signed on to service committees. The membership chairperson would be the point of contact for people that want to become members.

Covid restrictions stopped our normal membership and recognition process. We are able to go back to recognition of new members at services.

Angelina may have additional ideas for the process. Rev. David suggests that a meeting be arranged with Angelina, Buffie, Rev. David, Marlisa and possibly Tiffany to discuss refining the process and who is responsible for each step.

ACTION ITEM: Rev. David will talk to Angelina.

Decisions to be Made

****Forming Nominating Committee***

Discussion of how many people will be needed for filling the council positions. The Nominating committee will be composed of Rev. David, Laura, Teri and two people from the CSL membership. The people that are from the membership cannot be running for council seats.

Donation box

Discussion of having a locked donation box available in the Center. People attending events, or meeting with a practitioner for a prayer blast may want to give a donation. Council discussed where the box could be placed in the Center. The practitioners' table was chosen as the location for a locked box for donations.

Council Learning Opportunity

none

Calendar review

1/28 Center rented for Unity Celebration of Life
1/29 Johanna Beekman Kirtan
1/30 Practitioner meeting
2/4 SMT class at CSL
2/5 Spiritual Principles and Practices class begins

Parking Lot

Connecting Pledgers event
Legacy Circle, Benevolence Fund
Policy & Procedure changes/updates
 Include an employee handbook
Retirement benefits

Next meeting – February 6, 2023, 6:30pm-8:30 pm in person at the Center and by Zoom

Teresa gave the closing prayer.

Buffie adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Merkel, Scribe