

Center for Spiritual Living - Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
6:30pm – 8:30pm  
CSL Olympia, Libby Road  
And 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: Angelina O'Connor, Laura Farris, Buffie Finkel, RScP, Rev. David Robinson, Kathy  
Gilliam, Teri Echterling  
Practitioner: Susan Einhorn  
Absent: none  
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

The meeting, held on Zoom and in-person, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Teri.

Susan gave the opening prayer.

Rev. David did readings from Richard Rohr and a website called Spiritual Passages.

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***

Buffie made the motion to approve the November 21, 2023 version 5, Council meeting minutes. Teri seconded the motion. The Council members present approved the minutes.

## **Mobilizing Our Mission**

### ***2024 Budget***

***Rev. David/Buffie***

The 2024 budget was roughed out by Rev David, Marlisa and Buffie.

The pledge goal for 2024 was \$200,000 and the current level is \$180,000. At the previous meeting the total was listed as \$174,000 but that was due to not all pledges having been received yet.

Although the Center is currently about \$23,000 in the red, it is anticipated that at the end of 2024 the Center will be \$4,000 in the black. We are not making up the difference from 2023 but our operational costs are not expected to exceed income next year.??? but our operational costs are not expected to exceed income next year.

Rev. David cut his education budget in half for 2024, from \$2,000 to \$1,000.

Discussion that pledgers get quarterly updates for the status of their pledges.

Discussion on Staff raises. Only the Bookkeeper was given a raise due to this position having gone the longest without having a raise.

The Finance committee will go over the 2024 budget at their next meeting. Then the budget will be brought to the next Council meeting for review and approval.

### ***Community Meeting topics/agenda***

***All***

The January Community meeting was discussed during the last meeting. The question was raised, were there additional ideas that need to be discussed? The Visioning planned for the meeting, in addition to the regular reports will be enough for this community meeting.

### ***Bring a Friend to Church planning***

***Angelina***

Discussion on the “Bring a Friend to Church” day. Some people have difficulty in articulating what CSL is. It would be good to have a brochure for people to have to give others when they invite them to church. This may help people feel more comfortable in extending an invitation to others.

Last meeting the book “How to Speak Religious Science” was discussed. The book has been renamed to “How to Speak Science of Mind.” Teri has ordered a few copies to circulate and made a suggestion to make a two-sided wallet card, that can be used to give people. We might have a laminated copy for ourselves.

Council discussed the CSL Seattle information that was emailed to the Council by Angelina. We have not yet asked for permission to use this text on our own promotional materials. We are still in the process of working out what we need.

Kathy mentioned that in talking to couples about inviting people to the Center, we may impact the youth program since couples may bring their children when they visit the Center. We should keep this in mind when we have our “Invite a Friend to Church” weeks.

It was mentioned that Adrienne has a Youth & Family brochure.

Discussion of creating the marketing avatar representing 30-40 year-old women that have young children and are searching for a spiritual community. Many women are now waiting until their 30’s to have children. We need to be prepared for having additional youth and have additional volunteers.

Kathy will if some folding screens are available to provide some sectioning off for use by the different youth age groups. We have also discussed a portable building placed behind the Center to use for expanding the youth program capacity.

### ***Marketing Team update***

***Angelina***

Angelina would like to get started on the talking points brochure and asked if the Council was in agreement. Also, if anyone was interested in working on it, Angelina would like to invite other Council members to work with her on this.

Discussion of other places to look for inspiration for the brochure, Mile High CSL, Gregg Braden, etc.

Rev. David mentioned the following points:

- Information that is posted on the website
- We can discuss with others how SOM has changed their life
- There is also a book called “What Religious Science Teaches” by Ernest Holmes that breaks down things into four points which is easier than the list of thirteen things (“What We Believe”.) We should buy some of these.
- Invite people to listen to a podcast or watch a YouTube service.

The marketing team will meet one more time, then not again until January. The Dec 26<sup>th</sup> meeting is cancelled.

### ***Groundskeeper Position***

***Rev. David/Teri***

The groundskeeper has resigned due to health issues. Discussion of possible solutions to the situation of finding a new groundskeeper.

Action Item: Teri will move forward with approaching someone to do groundskeeping on a trial basis.

### ***Nominating Committee***

***Angelina***

Nominating committee will be Rev. David, Kathy (council member), Laura (member), Teri (council member). Discussion of people that could be able to fill in as the other member for the Nominating committee.

. We will start making announcements asking for candidates in January.

Tiffany sent out the Council application and Rev. David made some changes. They will continue working on this version.

Discussion of requirements for being on Council.

There are six positions on council. We will have three returning members and will be seeking three new members.

Angelina has had 3 people ask about membership and when the next foundation level course will be taught.

Suggestion that Laura’s leaving Council and Teri transitioning out of the presidency should be put in the announcements. This was decided against, because the announcements are already too long.

### ***Laura’s departure/Onboarding***

***Laura***

Laura is leaving Council and we need to onboard the person replacing her. Jenn is taking Laura's place and the timing of onboarding her was discussed. Jenn is taking some trips early in 2024. Angelina as the new president will contact Jenn about this. Jenn will also be scheduled for an orientation.

### **Calendaring**

**Buffie/All**

- *Pizza & Participation –*
  - Jan 28th
- *"Cocktail Parties, by any other name"*
  - Let's discuss this with the Finance committee (Jan /Feb)
- *Spring Cleaning*
  - Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30am-3:30pm lunch and deep cleaning
  - Another deep cleaning will be scheduled for September for carpet cleaning
  - The shed will also need to be cleaned out.

### **Calendar Review**

12/9 Deepening with the Divine

12/11 Prayer Shawl

12/16 Women's Circle

12/17 Dances of Universal Peace

12/24 Christmas Eve Candlelighting

12/26 & 27 Rev. David on vacation

### **Parking Lot**

Legacy Circle

Policy & Procedure changes/updates

Employee handbook

Retirement plan

### **Next meeting December 19, 2023, from 6:30pm-8:30pm**

Susan Einhorn provided the closing prayer.

Teri adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.