

Center for Spiritual Living  
Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 4:00pm – 6:00pm  
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.

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Present: Angelina O'Connor RSCP, Rev. David Robinson, Kathy Gilliam, Lynn Elliott, Susan Strobel, Cherie Gordon, Buffie Finkel RScP.

Practitioner: Susan Einhorn  
Absent: none  
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

The meeting was called to order at 4:15pm by Angelina.

Susan Einhorn gave the opening prayer.

No reading was done

No check in was done

## **Consent Agenda**

### ***Approval of Minutes***

Buffie made the motion to approve version 6 of the August 20, 2024 Council meeting minutes. Susan Strobel seconded the motion. The Council members approved the revised minutes.

Rev. David brought notice to two comments in the minutes that had a correction posted after the meeting. The Peace pole was not an unbudgeted expense for the Center because it was purchased by a private donor. The other point was that there were unbudgeted or overbudget expenses for musicians and speakers. The budget (was not exceeded) in this area because several private donors provided support for one of the more expense guest speakers/musicians.

## **Mobilizing Our Mission**

***Report from group on Council's revised MPV***

***David, Buffie & Kathy***

A small committee gathered to discuss the Council's revised Mission/Purpose/ Vision. Buffie's email to the committee was shared with Council.

The committee meeting generated these following ideas:

Kathy sees that we uphold our MVP and we are here to run the business of the Center in a spiritually aware way. We didn't need a separate Council mission but a purpose of Council members. It would be nice get this accomplished and to pass that on to the new Council members in the Spring.

An email from Buffie that was sent to Rev. David and Kathy with notes from their meeting was shared.

A key purpose was considered to be mindful stewardship, applying and using spiritual principles to grow the community in love and joy.

Then as Buffie reread this statement it occurred to her it is not the responsibility of the Council to nourish and grow the community, it is only responsible for Center operations and secular activities. It is the job of the community members to nourish each other and to promote and otherwise act as ambassadors to the greater community. It may be the other job of the Council to do the second point; the secular activities. From the bylaws: Secular activities, business, and affairs, the center shall be managed and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Core Council.

Other words spoken during the meeting: sacred duty to know our community members, joyful expansion and spiritual growth, representation through leadership. Reading from Peter Block's book "Stewardship," and replacing self-interest, dependency and control, with service, responsibility, and partnership.

Buffie made a note of moving from parent to partner.

This is the general direction of what the committee is playing with now.

Angelina asked if the committee wants to continue with this or do we fold this in to the bylaws. Buffie offered that this is policy not bylaws.

Rev David suggested the committee meet again to distill these thoughts into a few sentences. Kathy thinks we can get these thoughts into a purpose statement. And it is a sacred stewardship not just business.

Angelina likes this and thinks the sacred stewardship guides the behaviors Council does.

***Report from group on Prosperity Campaign***

***David/Angelina/Buffie***

Discussion ensued out of which the theme for our 2025 Prosperity Program was decided to be Growing Deeper-Rising Higher. This closely matches the 2025 Global Theme of Rising Higher, Growing Deeper, used in the weekly talks.

The image of a group of trees showing roots was decided upon. The intention is the group, instead of a single tree, speaks to community, with the roots and leaves representing the overall theme.

A logo is being designed for this graphic. We will use it in the campaign, including on t-shirts to be given to early pledgers.

Our goal for the Campaign is \$225,000 based on what it would take to operate in the black based on this year's expenses, while providing a little extra for staff raises.

Jennifer Howie and Susan Kibbey will be the hosts for this year's Program, with guidance and support from Buffie. We will also talk with Adrienne about possible youth involvement.

All of this will be presented at the Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> community meeting.

There will also be a "launch party" for top givers and Council on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. Buffie, Kathy, and Rev. David are working on this.

The Celebration Luncheon will be on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, following the service for all 2025 pledgers.

Buffie and Cherie volunteered to be on the Luncheon committee.

A request will be made at the Community meeting to request additional volunteers.

## **Community Meeting – September 8**

## **Angelina & All**

See draft agenda provided at the meeting -

**ACTION ITEM:** Angelina will contact Adrienne regarding speaking at the Community meeting.

Rev David's neighbor Steve will be installing the Peace Pole. Rev David suggested installing the Peace Pole by the "Three Sisters," a stand of trees north of the parking lot. Buffie suggested that near the Sisters is an area that we can create a garden and it has enough room for the Peace Pole and the prayer tree from Interfaith Works on the other end of the garden.

The International Day of Peace is September 21<sup>st</sup>. Since the Practitioner's retreat is that day, the Peace Pole will be planted this week and a dedication will be done during the Community meeting.

It was suggested that a couple of parking places near the Peace Pole be blocked off so that the Peace Pole could be dedicated during the Community Meeting.

*All of this would go with the Prosperity Campaign, not the Community Meeting.*

New members (since 2020) will be invited to attend and be acknowledged at the Service on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION ITEM:** Lynn will send an invite email to people who have become members since 2020. Also the three people that took classes will be recognized with a certificate.

**ACTION ITEM:** Susan Einhorn will need to connect with Marlisa to send names of the students who took the class she taught to Home Office to get those students' certificates.

### ***Prosperity Plus 2 Class***

***Rev David***

Rev David encouraged Council members to take the class. This is an opportunity for the entire community to take the class and raise the prosperity consciousness in four areas of your life.

Three people have asked about doing an online class. There are 8-10 people signed up at the moment for the in-person class.

**ACTION ITEM:** Angelina will connect with Marlisa regarding being able to pay for class with a check. Only the credit card option is currently available when paying for classes and events.

Rev David would like people to sign up by Sunday Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> so that supplies can be ordered.

### ***Dances for Universal Peace request***

***Angelina***

They want to be able to have time to sit and talk and have tea. Then it was mentioned that some of them would like to have lunch. They were informed that there was a fee to use the kitchen unless it was just to use the microwave.

Marti, (coordinator of the Dance Group,) will discuss this with their group.

The Council will revisit this in a month. The two issues are letting the group have lunch or just tea after the dances and the building security.

The Council decided that someone from CSLO will continue to be available for locking up after the Dances.

**ACTION ITEM:** Rev. David will continue to do lock-up after the dances for Universal Peace.

Buffie suggested purchasing another camera for the Sanctuary door.

**ACTION ITEM:** Buffie will discuss this with the partners.

### ***Community Directory***

***Tiffany***

There was a formatting issue that happened when the text was bumped up to a larger font. The template resized itself to a legal sized page. Tiffany rebuilt and resized the entire document and sent it to Rev David on Monday for a final review. As soon as that's done the document is ready for printing.

### ***Invite top givers to visioning/gathering***

***David/Buffie***

**ACTION ITEM:** Buffie and Rev. David will create an invitation and send it out this week. The top ten givers and the Council and possibly the Practitioners will be invited to this event.

### ***Succession Planning***

***Angelina & All***

Angelina would like to make sure we are doing succession planning for the three Council vacancies that will be coming up in March, particularly the position of President.

Buffie has termed out and will not be eligible for reelection. Angelina and Kathy's terms are also ending.

Angelina will stay on Council but not as President. Kathy is still undecided.

The nominating committee forms after the new year and the Council is approved at the Annual Meeting in March.

It was suggested that Council members give a testimonial to share why they agreed to be on Council and what they got from it.

### ***Sound/Tech team status***

***Rev. David***

No new information after the meeting with Angelina and Shani a couple of weeks ago.

### ***Art Show Policy and Procedures***

***Buffie***

Handout from Buffie.

*Sample Policy and Procedure for Art Show Projects (and connected sales.)*

*An Art Exhibit committee shall be comprised of a minimum of three members of the community. Two from Core Council, one (or more) from general membership. The duties of this committee are as follows:*

- as needed, evaluate proposals for an exhibit, recognizing that this type of art is meant to enrich the spiritual lives of church members and the community.*
- develop criteria that will allow for objective decision-making, while not limiting the possible expressions of artistic creativity. They will publish these criteria as is appropriate for the promotion of the project*
- oversee the contracting process with the artist, using the attached Contract. (No contract attached to this draft.)*
- ask the artist for an artist statement to be displayed with their art, as well as any information on the creation process they employ.*
- Costs of promotion, including “Meet the Artist” events, would be born equally between Artist and CSLO. (This will need to be discussed and there are limits to what CSLO will spend)*

*Policy questions:*

*How would “sales” be handled? Currently we get 20% of the cost of the art sold.*

*Where in our budget/income stream would this income be inserted? There is an unrelated business income that has a threshold that can’t be exceeded or else CSLO will be taxed on that income.*

The art exhibit committee will be able to flesh out this draft. For the first show Kathy, Buffie, and Rev. David served as the committee. Craig has volunteered to be on the committee and there are probably others that will be interested.

Susan mentioned that she would like to see the title of the piece and a price on a card next to the art pieces. Normally this would be the practice. The titles are shown, however this artist preferred not to list prices.

The question was raised if the building insurance would cover the paintings. Rev. David will ask Marlisa about this. This may raise our insurance and we would have to offset the cost by getting a higher percentage or some other method.

## ***OneBody Proposal***

***All***

Angelina had a conversation with Jim about CSLO hosting one show for two nights as a trial run. Jim has not provided a timeline yet. We are assuming that Jim will need to find people to play all the parts and train them.

Angelina will ask Jim again what the status is because our schedule for facility rentals are months out.

A question was raised if it is legal for the OneBody to operate under our 501c3 to make grant proposals for funding the production of the show.

Rev David shared that all the CSL Centers operate under the Home Office's 501c3.

A lengthy discussion was held about what CSLO's role is to be in this production and the comfort level of Council members with going ahead with a production that the Council does not have a clear picture of what the final product was going to be.

Conclusion: There is no financial risk to the center. We will advertise it just as we would a concert that we would hold. It could bring people in to the Center that are not familiar with CSL. The Production has a history of being produced at other CSL, Unity, and Agape centers.

### ***Approval of the Updated Budget for 2024***

It was pointed out that no motion had been made at the previous meeting to approve the mid-year revisions to the budget. A motion was made and seconded to approve the revised budget.

<b>Calendar Review</b>	
<b>9/8</b>	<b>Pot-luck and Community Meeting following Service</b>
<b>9/9</b>	<b>Self-Mastery Class begins</b>
<b>9/10</b>	<b>Finance Committee Meeting</b>
<b>9/14</b>	<b>Men's Group gathering Growing together parenting</b>
<b>9/17</b>	<b>Next Council Meeting</b>
<b>9/18</b>	<b>Prosperity Plus 2 begins</b>

### **Parking Lot**

Legacy Circle

Policy & Procedure changes/updates - Include an employee handbook

Retirement plan

### **Next meeting Sept. 17, 2024 from 4:00pm-6:00pm**

Susan Einhorn provided the closing prayer.

Angelina adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.