

**Center for Spiritual Living
Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 17, 2024
4:00 pm – 6:00pm
In person 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: Kathy Gilliam, Cherie Gordon, Buffie Finkel RScP, Angelina O'Connor RScP, Susan Strobel, Rev. David Robinson
Practitioner: Tim Robinson RScP
Absent: Lynn Elliott
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

The meeting, held on Zoom was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Angelina.

Tim provided an opening prayer.

Susan Strobel read a poem for the Council titled "Chatting with Fish" from the book *The Gift* by Hafiz.

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

Angelina made a correction to the minutes from the September 3rd meeting as follows:

Correction to ACTION ITEM: Angelina will discuss with Marlisa having the capability on the website to pay by check. This should be "by ACH" not "by check."

Rev David made a motion for approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting from September 3, 2024 as amended in version 4.2 with the additional change Angelina suggested to the action Item. Cherie seconded the motion. The Council members present approved the minutes with the exception of Kathy abstaining from the vote.

Approval of Financials

Rev David

At the last meeting, it was decided that the monthly financial report would be compressed and not be a line-by-line review. The Finance Committee does the line-by-line review prior to the Council review.

Giving is down a little over \$3,000 from our projected budget.
 The Investment income was not shown on the spreadsheet or discussed at this meeting.

Discussion of the income from the sale of art work from the Art show. This led to a discussion of insurance coverage at the Center and inclusion of Art in that coverage.

ACTION ITEM: Buffie will discuss insurance coverage with Marlisa.

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia 8/31/2024		
August Net Income from Operations	Year to Date Net Income from Operations	Ameritrade Investment Value
-\$1,603.77.	\$ -2,822.00	\$ 363,501

Buffie made a motion to approve the August Financial report. Susan seconded the motion. The Council members present approved the August Financial report.

Mobilizing our Mission

Report on Council's revised vision statement

Buffie shared that there had not been an official meeting of this committee since the last Council meeting. Buffie shared a handout that came from a packet of information that was received from Julia. The CSL language from the vision for CSL Kenya was revised by Buffie and read to the Council members.

The CSL Core Council's purpose is to ensure the Center's sustainability, growth and ability to fulfill its mission by effectively fundraising and supporting our community's programs and initiatives.

This is a good starting point and it was suggested that "use the spiritual principles" be inserted before the word "ensure" and that the word "stewardship" be added somewhere as well.

Buffie, Kathy and Rev David will continue working on this statement with the goal of finishing it for the next meeting.

Key Supporters Launch Party September 27th, 2024 from 5:00 – 6:30pm

Angelina asked what do we need to do to make this a successful event and make the attendees feel welcome.

There was a headcount projection of about 20 people to get an idea of how much food would be needed. There are about 10 top givers and Council members. Some of the top givers are couples and some are on Council or are Practitioners.

Buffie has received some RSVPs.

- Kathy offered to do beverages and one hors d'oeuvre.
- Carol has offered to bring an appetizer and help with set-up.
- Susan and Rev David also will bring appetizers.
- Kathy will coordinate the appetizers so that there are not duplications.
- No alcohol served as the event is prior to the dinner hour. Coffee, tea and sparkling water were suggested alternatives.

- Greeter – Angelina as President and Rev David will be the greeters.

- Rev David and Buffie will draw up the agenda.

Buffie provided a handout from the Board Chairs Academy on “Why we are a fundraising body.”

ACTION ITEM: Buffie will provide a copy of this document to Lynn and Tiffany.

A laptop will be there in case someone wants to pledge online.

ACTION ITEM: Marlisa should also attend as the bookkeeper.

- Make sure that attendees are not only asked for their pledges but also their input for what CSL does.

- What we want to learn from our donors on this evening:
 - What do we want to accomplish in 2025?
 - What the Center’s money is going for?

Rev David mentioned topics of importance:

- Staff pay increases, especially for the three staff members that have not received a raise in 4 years.
- Running the Center and being in the black financially.
- Build reserves to fund our cause as we decide what that is.

Buffie referred to an Item on the Board Chairs Academy document about having a cause and building relationships with donors around the cause. We have not identified the cause for the Center.

Rev David would like us to revisit our overall Vision statement for the Center and create a strategic plan. Council will work with Julia Mattis as part of this process and it may take 6-8 months. Julia is doing the work for free other than travel expenses.

This will set the tone for the next 3-5 years. The donors will be involved in developing the cause.

Developing a cause is part of growing the Center. People will be drawn to the cause and the mission of the Center.

Prosperity Campaign

- Denny has an idea of an animated tree on a slide that fills in the tree to show progress of our pledges. If that doesn't work out then Buffie has another idea
- Buffie will "train" our hosts Jennifer and Susan K.
- Cherie suggested a reminder about all the different options of giving, such as what Denny shared in his workshop.

Prosperity Campaign Tee shirts

- Rev David will coordinate ordering t-shirts.

ACTION ITEM: Rev David will research the pricing and what business to use.

- Design needs to be finalized -
- How many tee shirts to make? – have shirts on hand or on make on demand?
 - Suggested to have a few made such as for Council so that people can see them. Then we will take orders.
 - Pricing is better if we can provide a larger order.
 - Buffie offered to do Council shirts with a Cricut type machine from the craft store.
- Rules for receiving a tee shirt (i.e. the first X number of Pledgers receive a shirt or another criterion?)
 - Anyone that pledges by Oct 15th will receive a t-shirt.

Strategic Plan

- Meeting date for briefing by Julia Mattis.
 - Rev David and Angelina had a meeting with Julia. Julia is a successful Real Estate business person. She is a practitioner and a ministerial student. She is doing this work with Centers for free as part of her service.
 - Julia will attend the next Council meeting by Zoom and give a 15-minute presentation.
 - There will also be another meeting with Julia on Zoom later on to work with the Council for the work done with the community in 2025.
- January is probably the first opportunity for her to work with the Community. This will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

Interfaith Works - Tree donation from CSL

Kathy shared that the tree is ready for planting. The tree will not be taken to the Interfaith Works event but it will be mentioned that CSL Olympia donated it.

OneBody

Do we need to contact Jim to see where he is with his process?

ACTION ITEM: Angelina will call him to let him know we will need a couple months' notice to get the event on the calendar.

Calendar Review

9/18	Prosperity Plus 2 begins
9/20-21	Practitioner Retreat
9/22	Workshop: The Power and Joy of Authenticity
9/24	Practitioner meeting
9/27	Key Supporter's Launch Party
9/28	Women's Circle Jessica Rose - Kirtan
10/4	Brian Lottman "Healing the Body and Senses" workshop
10/6	Prosperity Campaign begins Rap with the Rev

Next meeting OCTOBER 8th, 2024 at CSL and Zoom.

Tim Robinson provided a closing prayer and the meeting ended at 5:50pm.

Parking Lot

Legacy Circle

Policy & Procedure changes/updates - Include an employee handbook

Retirement plan

Respectfully submitted,

Tiffany Merkel, Scribe