

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2025 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm
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, Rev. David Robinson, Cherie Gordon, Carrie Barrett, Craig Francis
Absent: Susan Strobel (Hiatus)
Practitioner: Sandy Dell, RScP
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

Carrie Barrett called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.

Sandy Dell, RScP provided an opening prayer.

Carrie shared a reading from *365 Days of Richer Living* by Ernest Holmes and Raymond Charles Barker

Check In

How are you expressing CSLO's Vision in your life right now?

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Rev David made a motion to approve the minutes from May 6, Version 2 and Craig seconded the motion and the motion was carried by the Council members present.

Approval of Financial Report for April 2025

Rev. David

The financial report for April 2025 was reviewed.

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia		4/30/2025
April Net Income from Operations	Year to Date Net Income from Operations	Investment Value
\$4,045.91	\$-15841.88	\$316,086.61

Motion to approve the Financials was by made by Carrie, seconded by Cherie and approved by all Council members present.

Resource Report (People & Money)

Finance Committee update

Craig

The Finance Committee feel that things are going in the right direction. Following the special meeting with the community, YTD giving moved from 71% at the end of March to 85% at the end of April.

The numbers are not finalized but the anniversary party tickets and donations covered the cost of the event and may have exceeded the costs. The costs are close to \$4500. The original estimate for the event was \$2400. However, musicians and food cost more that was predicted. The plan was to make sure that the event was budget neutral or to gain a little income and it successfully did that.

The second item that was discussed was the staff raises that were given at the start of the year. Some of the raises may have been a bit generous but it was two particular raises that were not planned in the original budget process that the Finance Committee would like to have had advance information about. The Finance Committee would like better communication with the Council and the need for more notice in future raises.

Investment group request

Craig

The Finance Committee also discussed how funds should flow back to investments when the center is able to.

Council agreed that investments should align with our values. Council discussed the Investment Committee's role in managing investments and the need for clear guidelines. The Investment and Finance Committees will be responsible for creating a list of possible investments when the time comes.

Council discussed that there needs to be a structure in place to determine values that drive investments. The values will emerge from our work on the strategic plan and "Developing our Why."

When there is a surplus amount in the Checking account, funds can be moved into the Schwab account to gain higher interest. Then these funds will be invested.

Committee teams list progress

Craig

Rev David and Craig met to go over the distribution of Service Teams and responsibilities to the Council officer positions. They shared a proposed new set of flow charts with the Council.

Council selected Cherie as the liaison to the Leadership Team. Cherie will attend the Leadership Team meeting May 31st, 10:00am-12:00pm.

Mobilizing Our Mission

Review of Anniversary Celebration

Kathy

Kathy does not have the final numbers for the Anniversary party but it did not lose money. Kathy will follow up with Marlisa on the financial details of the anniversary party. Kathy wrote an article about the Anniversary party for the Monthly Newsletter.

The Council reviewed the committee's feedback from the event.

Community Gathering

Carrie

The Council built the agenda for the Community Gathering held on May 25th. There will be a potluck prior to the meeting. The meeting will include an opening prayer, financial report, Youth and Family report, Minister's report and a listening circle.

Prosperity card roll-out

Craig

The prosperity card plan will be rolled out at the Community Gathering. The Enews will mention the process the following week. The Prosperity cards will be implemented at the Sunday service on June 1st.

Decisions to be Made

Lawn mower update

Craig

Discussion on the current lawnmower, safety of mowing the ditch, pricing of lawn services. Decision: Carrie called for a vote and all Council members present agreed to the purchase a new lawnmower for the Center's grounds maintenance, with a budget of \$250, to come from the building supply budget. Craig will oversee that purchase, with input from Darshan.

Exit Interview

Carrie

Discussion about how to reach out to people that have not attended in a while. What information do we hope to gain from this process. How do we identify these people other than pledgers that do not pledge again. Community directories many be helpful

Decision: Reach out to members who have been absent for a while with a friendly check-in card.

Honor those who have passed on?

Rev. David

Due to the meeting running late this topic will be held for a future agenda.

Council Learning Opportunities

Values process

Rev David

It was suggested that the values assessment be done in stages, starting with the Council and then moving to other groups. Council discussed the importance of community engagement and values assessment and emphasizes communication about the assessment and its purpose.

Calendar

5/21 – Visioning class begins
5/25 – Potluck and Community Gathering
5/25 – Sound Bath and Meditation
5/27 – Women’s coffee
5/27 – Practitioner meeting
5/28 – Visioning class continues
6/1 – Rap with the Rev
6/3 – Women’s coffee
6/3 – Core Council meeting

The Next Council meeting is on June 3, 2025 6:00-8-00pm

Sandy Dell, RScP provided the closing prayer

Meeting adjourned by Carrie at 6:20pm.

Parking Lot

- Benevolence fund
- Policy & Procedure changes/updates - Include an employee handbook
- Retirement plan