

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia
Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 22, 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: Rev. David Robinson, Carrie Barrett, Cherie Gordon, Craig Francis

Absent: Kathy Gilliam, Susan Strobel (hiatus)

Practitioner: Tim Robinson, RScP

Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

The meeting, held in-person and on Zoom, was called to order by Carrie.

Tim Robinson provided an opening prayer.

Craig shared a reading from Thomas Keating.

Check In

What does it mean to you to be a community that learns?

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Rev. David made a motion to approve the minutes from 07/08/2025 V 2. Craig seconded the motion. The Council members present approved the minutes. Cherie abstained as she was absent from that meeting.

Approval of June 2025 financial report

The financial report for June 2025 was reviewed. The tithing for the year is at 81%, below the expected target. There was a 10% increase in savings and checking from May to June due to a well-performing financial portfolio.

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia 6/30/2025		
June Net Income from Operations	Year to Date Net Income from Operations	Investment Value
\$-633.91	\$-25,339.29	\$418,732.25

The motion to approve the June Financials was by made by Craig. Cherie seconded the motion and the June 2025 financial report was approved by all Council members present.

Resource Report (People & Money)

CSL computers & sunseting Windows 10

Craig

Windows 10 will sunset and no longer be supported by Microsoft after October 2025. We have two computers that would need to be upgraded to run Windows 11. These are the administrative assistant's computer and the Sunday slides computer.

Linda Bremer donated a computer that can be used for one of these purposes.

Tiffany uses her personal computer due to the computer supplied from the church being slow and not able to handle newer versions of the programs used to do her job. Tiffany shared she purchased the versions of the programs needed to do her job and Windows 11, plus she pays for additional cloud storage, a VPN and virus protection. Tiffany suggested that the donated computer be used for Sunday slides so that the Center would not have an expense for a new computer for the admin. assistant until the job transfers to someone else.

DECISION: The donated computer will be used for Sunday slides and if it needs Windows 11 and other program updates those can be attained. Denny has used Stack Social previously for purchasing software.

Closet cleanout: music, AV

Craig

There are quite a few things stored in the closet in the corner by the Practitioners' area. This is making it difficult to facilitate maintenance on the furnace and water system. The old keyboard, and AV equipment are also in there.

ACTION ITEM: Rev. David has already contacted Shani and Brent to go through the items in the closet and decide what to sell or dump.

Update on new sign

Rev David

The Libby Road partners are erecting a sign for the Center that can be seen easily by travelers on Libby Road.

The Center will provide the letters, logo and content for the sign. This will be a future expense for the Center.

Benevolence fund

Rev David

Marlisa has been working on the development of a Benevolence fund. This item has been in our "Parking Lot" of future items to complete.

A Benevolence Fund is a fund that people can make tax deductible donations to, and which purpose is to help community members with financial emergencies. This fund will have an established process and Committee to review applications to the fund. The fund will be administered separately from the operating budget and pledges.

Questions we might have while Rev. David is gone

Rev David

Discussion of how to get into the building for the next Council meeting and how we will do Zoom for that meeting since Rev. David's Zoom account is usually the one that is used.

Kathy and any Libby Road partner has the ability to get into the building as well as some staff. Sandy can also use the Center's Sunday service Zoom account.

Mobilizing Our Mission

How to handle disruptive energies/people in the community

Rev David

Discussion: Don't have triangulated conversations or gossip, check the facts, and don't feed rumors, supporting people in bringing concerns to the Council for a broader perspective.

Strategic Planning thoughts

Rev David

Rev. David distributed a document when the meeting agenda went out. The document is called "The Consciousness of a Spiritual Community."

Decisions to be Made

Harvest Festival details

Carrie

Carrie and Adrienne discussed the Harvest festival proposal. Adrienne was originally thinking that Sunday would be the day because everyone will be at the Center for the service. However, Saturday may be a good day especially if we are involving our neighbors.

The proposal that Adrienne provided included ideas about how the festival could be grown to provide community program information. There will be a meeting of the people planning the Harvest Festival to discuss what is feasible to arrange for this year considering the short planning time period.

“We miss you” interviews

Carrie

Lynn and Denny provided information to Carrie. They have gathered a list of people that have stopped attending in the last 18 months and some prior to 2024.

Discussion on what types of contacts people may be receptive to and would be most likely to provide useful information.

The list of names was read and there was discussion about the people that have moved or already provided information on why they stopped attending.

Decision: Kathy, Carrie and Rev. David will go through this list and make notes of the people that they know have moved from the area.

Dances of Peace

Craig

A couple weeks ago, the Sunday service incorporated a short Dances of Universal Peace during the Sunday service. Discussion of having a quarterly Dances of Universal Peace during the Sunday Service.

Conclusion: The minister has responsibility for the Sunday service content and is experimenting with different service formats to engage the community.

Discussion and comparison of other churches in the style and energy of services and music.

Halloween party

Rev David

. Rev. David and Jenn (Events Team Lead) have discussed the event and made the decision to not host a Halloween party this year. If others want to organize it, they are free to do so.

Council Learning Opportunities

Values Process Sharing

Rev David

Members present discussed the results of doing their Values process.

Calendar Review

7/23 – Budget Planning
7/26 – Game Night
7/27 – Teen Group Class
7/29 – Practitioner Meeting
8/3 – Teen Group Class
8/3 – Prosperity Workshop with Rev Abigail
8/5 – Core Council meeting

Next Council Meeting August 5, 2025 6:00-8:00pm

Tim provided a closing prayer.

Carrie adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Parking Lot

- Benevolence fund
- Policy & Procedure changes/updates - Include an employee handbook
- Retirement plan
- Quarterly event to invite neighbors- Easter, summer potluck, Christmas bazaar?

Respectfully submitted, Tiffany Merkel, Admin Assistant.