

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 19, 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, Kathy Gilliam,
Absent: Susan Strobel (hiatus)
Practitioner: None
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

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

Rev David provided an opening prayer.

Cherie shared a reading from the Joyous Living Journal for June 22nd.

Check In

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

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes for July 22nd had not been reviewed fully. The approval will occur on the next regular meeting.

There were technical problems with Zoom during set-up of the Aug. 5th meeting. Only the three Council members present at the Center were able to meet. Craig agreed to take minutes. These minutes will be presented at a future meeting

Approval of July 2025 financial report

The financial report for July 2025 was reviewed. The tithing for the year is at 81%, below the expected target.

The Center received a gift of \$10,000 from the Toy Kay estate

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia			7/31/2025
July Net Income from Operations	Year to Date Net Income from Operations	Investment Value	
\$-2,785.82	\$-28,130.60	\$446,423.69	

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

Resource Report (People & Money)

Finance proposal – Craig

The Finance Committee is concerned about the cash flow of the Center and presented the following for Council to consider: Finance Committee made the following recommendation to Council: While the Finance Committee is in agreement with the Budget Review’s recommendations, Council should prepare information to share at the upcoming Community Meeting to raise awareness of the financial situation and indicate that cuts in services may need to be made if income does not support the operation

Where can we make cuts?

Discussion about options in operations that could save money.

The Finance Committee and the Council will both be discussing this situation and bringing it to the Community for decisions.

Decision: Council will hold a special Zoom meeting on September 2nd to brainstorm cost saving options.

Online attendance question – Cherie

A question was posed about the attendance online and if it was tracked. Rev. David explained the Attendance report that Marlisa prepares has multiple tabs in the spreadsheet. Online Attendance is tracked.

Weekly attendance is about 51, and last year it was about 55 people. About 5-10 people attend online each week.

Mobilizing Our Mission

Community Meeting 9.14.2025

Topics:

- Budget
- Strategic planning, Our “Why” – our personal “Why” and the “Why” for the CSL Center.

Discussion on Healing the Community – There has been gossip about attendance, people leaving, reactions to changing the chair arrangements, a lack of loving. Kathy would like to address this at the next Community meeting and all agreed.

Suggestion: Send out an agenda to the Community Meeting, especially if we are spending time on our “Why.”

Decisions to be Made

Anniversary final report – Kathy

Kathy will contact Marlisa to get the final accounting.

Harvest Festival - All

Adrienne estimated that the budget for the event will be \$1250 with the food for the event costing about \$500 and the Band will be about \$500 and \$250 for supplies and marketing.

Larry Giliam offered to play Bluegrass music at the Harvest festival.

Kathy Gilliam is holding an upscale garage sale of her home staging décor items and donating from the sales. Kathy will also contribute \$500 to pay for the band.

A question was raised - Does Adrienne know that the funds raised will go to the general fund and not the youth fund? The kids are painting rocks to sell; these funds will go to the youth account.

Adrienne needs to have an answer from the Council regarding approval of the event so that planning can continue planning in earnest.

Cherie offered to contribute \$500 for the event food and Kathy will contribute \$500 of garage sale earnings for the band.

Kathy made the motion to approve the Harvest Festival in light of these donations. Rev. David seconded the motion. All members present approved of the event.

Summer picnic – Carrie

There was discussion that there needs to be more separation between the Annual Summer Picnic in August and the Harvest Festival in September. At this time, we don't know if the Harvest Festival will be an annual event but there is a Parking Lot item on the Council agenda (but there isn't) to set annual dates for recurring events.

Council Learning Opportunities

Values Process Sharing

Rev David

This will be covered at a future meeting.

Calendar Review

- 8/23 – NOC Making Earrings
- 8/24 – Teen Group Class
- 8/24 – Community Picnic
- 8/26 – Practitioner Meeting
- 8/31 – Teen Group Class
- 9/2 – Tune in Tuesday
- 9/2 – Core Council meeting

Special Council Meeting September 2, 2025 (no minutes will be taken, this is a brainstorming session regarding how to reduce costs)

Next Regular Council Meeting September 9, 2025 6:00-8:00pm

Rev. David provided a closing prayer.

Carrie adjourned the meeting at 8:00 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