

**Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia**

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 07, 2025 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm

On 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: Rev. David Robinson, Carrie Barrett, Cherie Gordon, Craig Francis, Kathy Gilliam

Absent: None

Practitioner: Buffie Finkle, RScP

Scribe: Rev. Carrie Masters

The meeting, held on Zoom, was called to order by Carrie Barrett.

Buffie Finkle, RScP, provided an opening prayer.

Rev. David shared a reading from Richard Rohr, “Money and Soul”.

**Check In**

*What does it mean to you to reveal our connection with all that is?*

**Consent Agenda**

***Approval of Minutes***

Minutes from the meeting on 9/23/2025, were reviewed. Rev. David motioned for the minutes v.3 to be approved. Kathy seconded the motion. Approved by the Council members present.

**Resource Report (People & Money)**

***Admin Role Change***

Rev. David reported on the recent Admin role change. Rev. Carrie offered to assist Tiffany and Sandy. A meeting was held, including Rev. David, Rev. Carrie, Tiffany, and Sandy,

where Tiffany requested that Rev. Carrie assist by taking over the Council minutes. Everyone agreed.

### ***Building Rental Information***

Tiffany has been handling the building rentals, including meeting the renters at the Center, assisting them as necessary, and closing the building. She hasn't been paid for her time for this service, and she drives from outside the area to be here for the rentals. The HOA organization that rented the building on Monday night realized they wanted to have microphones and slides. Rev. David attempted to help them, but they moved into the Fellowship Hall and used the TV instead. They paid an additional \$40 for the extra trouble.

Rev. David stated that there needs to be a conversation about building rentals, how they are to be handled, and by whom. With Tiffany living outside the area, it would be best to have someone closer to handle building rentals, as well as providing some % of the rental income to that person.

### ***Housekeeping:***

With Darshon having health issues, Denny and Craig are the temporary housekeepers in Darshon's absence. Others have been helping as much as possible. We know people whom we could hire temporarily, if necessary. However, we are going to continue to pay Darshon since finances are a concern for him. Craig is going to contact Denny to arrange a day to clean the Center. All are welcome to help.

### **CSL Delegates**

Rev. David reported that he needed two more delegates for the CSL meeting coming up in February. Carrie B. agreed to be one of the delegates.

### **November newsletter article**

Cherie requested confirmation on the article she is to write for the November newsletter. Suggestions she received:

- Explain that future events should be submitted for approval 6 months in advance of the date.
- Advertising for another Council member
- Mention that Susan Strobel was on hiatus for much of the year and decided to step away from her Council position. We will honor her at the Annual Meeting.
- Mention that it is time for pledges
- Incorporate it with Rev. David's message title
- On the second Sunday of November, a guest speaker will be presenting, followed by an appreciation luncheon.

## **Number of Council Members**

According to our current bylaws, the Council is to consist of 6 members plus the Spiritual Leader

## **2026 Pledge Campaign**

Sunday was a soft rollout. Pledge cards are available, and the weekly e-news will explain that doing a pledge online will be far more helpful to Marlisa.

Discussion was held regarding Sunday congregant testimonials. Craig is coordinating these, and Rev. David has coordinated with the Investment Team to give their investment presentation after Rev. David's message on October 19th, entitled 'Being Accountable.'

A question was asked regarding changing one's pledge online.

**ACTION ITEM:** Rev. David will check with Marlisa for clarification (about what?) about changing one's pledge amount online.

## **Offering Cards**

The distribution of Offering cards was discussed, and Rev. David's preference is that they be handed out before the service rather than placed in the seatback pockets beforehand or left in a tray near the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

## **Peak Credit Union Update**

Due to the merger of Twin Star Credit Union with Northwest Credit Union to form the Peak Credit Union, business accounts do not have access to auto bill pay. The conversation between Rev. David and Marlisa included the thought of changing banks.

Rev. David updated the Council regarding the situation created by the credit union's policy of attaching social security numbers to accounts, which connected the Center's account to Rev. David's name and account. After discussion with the Finance Committee and realizing that this situation had already existed and would as long as Rev. David is the "owner" of the account, it was determined that current checks and balances – the reporting of the check register and cash flow – were sufficient to prevent either the potential for or actual fraud.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

### ***Compassionate Communication Workshop***

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This was recommended as part of the Strategic Planning process.  
ACTION ITEM: Carrie B. will contact someone to facilitate this for us.

### ***Strategic Planning***

Those who are interested in strategic planning will be invited to attend meetings to co-create the plan for the Center. This is in lieu of trying to get all attendees to participate, as some may not view this as a priority for themselves.

Updating Bylaws: Julia stated her concern about our bylaws being out of date. Rev. David explained that the bylaws were updated in 2019, using the template from CSL Home Office.

ACTION ITEM: Rev. David will contact Julia for clarification and will send her a copy of the current bylaws.

### ***Marketing Team***

After a year-long hiatus, this team will be meeting at the end of October to discuss future events. Once the Strategic plan is in place, the Marketing Team will receive direction for further planning.

### ***Holiday community project – Rev David***

The Women's Circle traditionally does a holiday season project to support the larger community. Rev. David reported that the food bank has a project at the end of November and beginning of December, inviting people to help pack already donated food at their warehouse for distribution to the larger community. This might be a good service opportunity for our Center. Discussion explored ideas for this outreach and being a support to the Women's Circle's project.

ACTION ITEM: Rev. David will follow up with Carol and the Women's Group, as well as the food bank.

### ***Promotional Ideas***

Rev. David presented the idea of ordering tote bags with our logo for \$1.99 each to be used as gifts to those who submit their pledge. The idea was well received.

ACTION ITEM: Rev. David will submit an order for 50 bags. The cost should fit easily into the pledge campaign budget.

There was discussion regarding having music events, staging the Center for weddings, and having photos taken to distribute to wedding planners and the wider community. Rev. David presented the idea of having someone to coordinate events.

Kathy suggested giving a gift certificate for a Sound Bath to friends so they could attend.

***Budgeting only from pledges received***

Kathy brought the idea she was given about only budgeting from pledges received. Then, as additional money is provided, this amount could be used for unexpected expenses. It was explained that income from pledges is significantly smaller than current costs. This would mean cutting expenses like music, technical staff, and other staff members. It was agreed to communicate this to the congregation at future meetings.

***Harvest Festival Recap***

Craig reported the following:

Income: \$2,816.30.

Expenses: \$866.

Total net income: \$1,949.39.

**Council Learning Opportunities**

none

**Next Council Meeting October 21st, 2025 6:00-8:00pm**

Buffie provided a closing prayer.

Carrie B. adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

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**Calendar**

10/1 – Financial Freedom cont.

10/2 – Change your Thinking begins

10/3&4 – Arts Walk

10/4 – Leadership Team meeting  
10/4 – Helping Hands Team meeting  
10/5 – Teen Group Class  
10/5 – Rap with the Rev  
10/6 – Prayer Shawl group  
10/7 – Tune in Tuesday  
10/7 – Women’s coffee  
10/7 – Core Council meeting

### **Parking Lot**

- Benevolence fund - some movement beginning
- Policy & Procedure changes/updates - Include an employee handbook
- Retirement plan
- Quarterly event to invite neighbors- Easter, summer potluck, Christmas bazaar?
- Set annual events
- “We miss you” list