

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia
Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 23, 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.

Present: Rev. David Robinson, Carrie Barrett, Cherie Gordon, Craig Francis, Kathy Gilliam,
Absent: None
Practitioner: Tim Robinson, RScP
Scribe: Tiffany Merkel

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

Tim Robinson, RScP provided an opening prayer.

Craig shared a poem, “The Wild Rose,” by Wendell Berry.

Check In

What does it mean to you to reveal our wholeness

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the Meeting on 8/5/2025, which was attended by Carrie, Craig and Kathy, were reviewed. Rev. David motioned for the minutes v.3 to be approved. Kathy seconded the motion. Approved by the Council members that attended the meeting. Rev. David and Cherie abstained as they did not attend the meeting.

Kathy made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from 9/9/2025 version 3. Craig seconded the motion. Council members approved the minutes.

Approval of August 2025 financial report

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia		8/31/2025
August Net Income from Operations	Year to Date Net Income from Operations	Investment Value
\$5,112.30	\$-22,799.94	\$432,797.98

Twin Star Credit Union and NW Credit Union have merged. The new name is Peak Credit Union.

Due to the credit union’s policy of attaching social security numbers to accounts the Center’s account was attached to Rev. David’s name and account. David is working with the Finance Committee to address these issues and ensure proper financial integrity.

Discussion: perhaps the Credit Union can use the EIN number for the Center’s account.

The Council discussed the transition from Twin Star to Peak Credit Union, confirming that existing checks and credit cards remain valid for now, with gradual changes expected over the next year.

The merger did cause access problems for electronic bill payers. Marlisa is working on solving this issue.

Discussion: How many people watch on YouTube each week and how can we encourage them to donate? David noted that YouTube viewership averages 8-10 live viewers per Sunday service, with an additional 25-100 views in the following week, though there's no way to track individual viewers or if they donate.

Rev David made the motion to approve the August financial report. Carrie seconded the motion and the August 2025 financial report was approved by all Council members present.

Resource Report (People & Money)

Legacy donor places – Craig

The meeting discussed the financial legacy of Toy Kay, who donated \$10,000 to the general fund. The Finance Committee recommended acknowledging her contribution with a memorial or donor recognition, such as a plaque with her picture and a brief description of her life. David mentioned ongoing work to update the donor recognition area in the sanctuary, including creating a more prominent display for Toy Kay and other significant donors.

This work will be added to the Parking Lot of Council work.

Advanced notice of event planning – Craig

The Council discussed a recommendation from the Finance Committee to require 6 months' notice for planning large events, particularly to allow time for financial planning and approval processes. The Council agreed to create a procedure requiring complete event plans with budgets to be submitted to Council 6 months before the event date, though they noted this would build on existing policies rather than requiring complete policy manual revisions.

Rev David made a motion to adopt the 6 months planning time as discussed. Craig seconded the motion. The Council approved this policy.

Susan Strobel resigning – Carrie

The Council discussed Susan Strobel's departure from the Council due to health challenges, noting that her absence did not affect quorum at the 8/5/2025 meeting, since she was on hiatus.

Anniversary final report? – Kathy

Kathy provided the final report for the anniversary party, which resulted in a \$164.69 deficit after all expenses and donations were taken into account.

2026 Pledge campaign – Rev David

The Global theme for 2026 is "Open at the Top."

The group agreed on the theme "Beyond Our Wildest Dreams" for the upcoming CSL Olympia pledge campaign, which will include monthly reflections and a time capsule project. The time capsule would be for people to write down their dreams for next year and place these in self-addressed envelopes. The letters would be placed on the altar for prayer. Next year the letters will be mailed and people will be able to see how their dreams developed over the year.

Upcoming Special Sunday Services

Rev. David announced plans for a guest speaker for the Sunday service the second week in November. A Solstice service on December 21st will replace the traditional Christmas service.

Rev. David is working with Marti Dimock from the Dances of Universal Peace to assist in creating a spiral walk for the service.

Decisions to be Made

Procedures: community meeting – Carrie

The group discussed feedback about the community meeting potluck, where some attendees were unaware it was a potluck despite clear announcements. They agreed to improve communication by having Carrie provide Jenn with the list of upcoming community meeting dates for the next year, which are already on the calendar and occur quarterly.

ACTION ITEM: Carrie will provide the quarterly community meeting dates to Jenn.

Mobilizing Our Mission

Harvest Festival Update – Kathy

The Council discussed preparations for the upcoming Harvest Festival, including setting up concert seating in the sanctuary for a bluegrass concert and rearranging chairs after Thursday evening. Kathy noted that the event would help attract new attendees by allowing them to preview the space.

ACTION ITEM: Kathy will contact Sequoia to use overflow parking.

The Council also discussed the need for a dedicated parking attendant and Kathy agreed that Larry would be available to assist with parking on Saturday.

Kathy discussed the need for sign stakes for the event, exploring options to borrow or purchase them. They also discussed the potential use of the stakes for future events. Craig ordered sign stakes online. The group discussed placing directional signs around the area. Craig agreed to help set up the signs on Friday afternoon.

Council Learning Opportunities

none

Next Council Meeting October 7th, 2025 6:00-8:00pm

Tim provided a closing prayer.

Carrie adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Calendar

9/24 – Financial Freedom cont.
9/25 – Interfaith Works meeting
9/25 – Request budgets from teams
9/27 – Harvest Festival
9/27 – NOC Making earrings
9/28 – Teen Group Class
9/30 – Women’s coffee
9/30 – Practitioner meeting
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