

**Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia**

Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
In person and on Zoom 647 238 9585, pw 761508

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: Tim Robinson, RScP  
Scribe: Rev. Carrie Masters

The meeting, held in person and on Zoom, was called to order by Carrie Barrett at 6:04 p.m.

Tim Robinson, RScP provided the opening prayer.

Kathy Gilliam shared a poem she wrote entitled "The Thin Divide".

**Check In**

What part of our mission, purpose, and vision is easiest for you?

**Consent Agenda**

**Approval of minutes**

Rev. David made the motion to approve the meeting minutes of 11-4-25 version 3.  
Craig seconded the motion. Approved by the council members in attendance.

## Approval of October financial report

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia		8/31/2025
October Net Income from Operations	Year to Date Net Income from Operations	Investment Value
\$24,263.92	\$-20,436.03	\$485,413.04

Craig reported that the pledge drive has garnered \$156,000 in pledges with a total of 35 people pledging. The goal is \$180,000 leaving us \$24,000 short at this time; however pledges will continue to come in.

The 2026 budget will be formulated based on the pledge drive totals. Craig, Marlisa, and Rev. David will forward the budget to the finance committee and then to the council for approval.

Rev. David motioned to accept the finance report and Craig seconded the motion. Approved by the council members present.

It was suggested that we convert some of the investments to income-generating products.

It was also suggested that we begin thinking about the Nourishing our Community event so that it can be planned well in advance of the rollout around Easter.

## Decisions

### Gratitude celebration recap

Cherie indicated there was good feedback about the celebration, and several expressed their happiness to be included even though they had not pledged (yet!). Food that was brought by community members was appreciated as well. The only cost for this event was for the tote bags given out to those who pledged. Cherie estimated the purchased food and beverage costs to be around \$90, and Rev. David recommended that she turn in the receipts so it could be budgeted for next year. Buffie and Rev. David have talked about doing a launch party for next year.

## **Parking expansion**

A discussion was held about expanding our parking by getting in touch with Sequoia School to be sure we have enough parking for this Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> when Rev. David Alexander will be our guest speaker and workshop facilitator. We will also want to have plenty of parking for Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, which is our Solstice service that includes a spiral walk and Dances for Peace.

Cherie suggested we have a shuttle especially for the December 21<sup>st</sup> event. Craig agreed to provide a shuttle and will also connect with Christie, Beth, and Laurie to assist with shuttling folks.

### *Action Items:*

Kathy will contact Sequoia School to make arrangements with them.  
Craig will connect with Christie about helping with shuttling folks.

## **Business**

### **Staff reviews**

Rev. David sent out the self-evaluation forms and job descriptions today with a note to have them returned by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. He also added 1 extra line for them to write their 2026 goals. Council members are to have theirs returned by November 25<sup>th</sup>. The groundskeeper self-evaluation was sent to Darshan.

The review process will be done by the council members. They will meet in person first and then meet with the individuals they are reviewing.

### Action Item:

Carrie B will send a fresh review summary sheet to Kathy.  
Rev. David will assist Kathy with scheduling the interviews.  
Sandy can set up a council back office through our website to hold the reviews so that only the council members can review them.

## **Community Holiday program**

### **Food Drive**

The Women's Circle has chosen to have a food drive for the food bank that will involve the whole CSL Olympia community

It was suggested that there be a box to collect food and a donation box to collect cash donations, and to have this available throughout the year. It will be advertised with Sunday announcements, the eNews, and the monthly newsletter. Mention was made to have a sign out front to invite our neighbors to contribute food.

A discussion about going as a group to the food bank to help pack food was made and was met with agreement.

Action Item:

Rev. David will coordinate the group going to the food bank together.

### **Strategic Plan**

Rev. David asked the council to share where we want to be as a community in 5 years.

Craig sees our facility being used for more than Sunday services. There is a full parking lot, and Tai Chi classes are offered.

Kathy would like to see the following:

- Drop the council's agenda parking lot due to inaction.
- Buy a manse for our minister.
- Buy portable building(s) for our youth, for day care, or for other activities.
- Have something going on every day and a volunteer here answering questions, and giving information.
- Partner with another nonprofit to perhaps have them meet in our building.
- To have our building be a popular event center with advertisement that includes pictures of our center set up for weddings and other events.
- Have our kitchen be County certified.
- Put hard-surfaced floors in the fellowship hall.
- Finish and use the space for a French Door with a deck outside. The doors would bring in more light.

- Give our investments a purpose and we name the things we want the investments to do.
- Increase our dues to Interfaith Works.
- Teach classes that appeal to non-Center for Spiritual Living people.
- Have a budget that allows for prosperity and having a thriving community.
- When people step into our space, she wants them to feel the love, aliveness and freshness.

Carrie B.

- Wants the feeling of freshness, vitality, feeling alive and moving with a vision of learning
- More variety of classes with different people teaching classes and options for people to delve into personal growth.
- Conversations and interactions with each other,
- Being vulnerable and supporting each other with lots of learning opportunities.
- Partnering with people who need a place to meet.
- She also wants there to be classes that agree with the Science of Mind philosophy but are not necessarily CSL classes.

Rev. David

- Wants there to be 2 services on Sunday, leading to considering a new, bigger space.
- He wants there to be various things to draw people to the center who aren't involved in Science of Mind.
- He wants to have relationships out in the community expanding our network. We are part of Thurston County Chamber of Commerce where we outreach into having more connections in the wider community.
- He wants there to be people who are passionate about personal growth, more small groups, sacred circles, open to all even those we don't know.
- He wants us to be less cloistered and closed in and really open to people we don't know yet.
- He wants us to have 14 Practitioners and eventually, he would like to have a guest speaker 1 Sunday a month so he can enjoy a Sunday off.

Cherie would like classes to be on Saturdays or Sunday afternoons for 2 hours.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Tim Robinson provided the closing prayer.

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## **Calendar**

- 11/23 – Teen Group Class
- 11/23 – Workshop: Liberation Consciousness
- 11/25 – Women’s coffee
- 11/25 – Practitioner meeting
- 11/28 – Movie night?
- 11/29 – Leadership Team meeting
- 11/30 – Teen Group Class
- 11/30 – Deadlines: budget for following year, employee & contractor agreements
- 12/2 – Tune in Tuesday
- 12/2 – Women’s coffee
- 12/2 – 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
- Pay for building rental helpers