

Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia
Council Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 – 6:00 – 8:00 pm

In person and 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.

Present: Rev. David Robinson, Carrie Barrett, Craig Francis, Kathy Gilliam
Absent: Cherie Gordon
Practitioner: Buffie Finkel, RScP
Scribe: Rev. Carrie Masters

The meeting, held in person and on Zoom, was called to order by Carrie Barrett at 6:07 p.m.

Buffie Finkel, RScP provided the opening prayer.

Craig Francis shared a poem by Rumi.

Check In

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

Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 18th meeting were not reviewed by any of the council members, and it was decided to postpone approval of them until the December 16th meeting.

Staff Reviews

Kathy reported that she had received most of the reviews just today. She wasn't able to use the tracking sheets because they weren't updated to the current review forms. After some discussion, it was decided that the tracking sheets can be completed once all of the reviews are received.

2026 Budget Update

Craig reported that his budget meeting with Rev. David and Marlisa was productive, noting that the 2026 budget is running at a deficit of \$41,750. They are awaiting the salary figure for Buffie's role as Assistant Minister for finalization of the budget, and then it will be forwarded to the Finance Team and then to the Council for approval.

Newsletter content

Craig has spoken to Hillary and Kent who provide the sound bath, Tai Chi and Qigong. He is hearing that many people feel they are bringing a new vibe to the center that is attracting younger people. Craig suggests we support them in their endeavors and make sure we advertise these events.

Community Gathering on December 14

Carrie B. will be out of town that weekend. However, it was decided to talk with attendees about what they want to have at the center, including retreat ideas, classes, events, and youth activities. It was also suggested that we improve class and workshop descriptions to generate excitement. An invitation will be extended to everyone to think about being on the council. Also to be discussed is Rev. David's plan to do a standalone class beginning in January on the 4th Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. to encourage spiritual growth and learning.

Mobilizing Our Mission

Food drive

Carrie was concerned that a way to collect money for the food bank was not in place near the food box. It was decided to place a sign with a QR code or a link to the Thurston County food bank that could be used to take donations electronically, eliminating the worry of cash being removed from the box.

Action Item:

Rev. David will take the donation from the pledge celebration to the food bank.

Group activity at the food bank

Carrie indicated that there was little interest from the Women's Group. After some discussion, it was decided to set a date in January and have a sign-up sheet available for those who wish to participate in a group working at the food bank.

Action Item:

Rev. David will speak with Anna and Adam at the Food Bank about available dates for a group volunteering.

Strategic Plan:

A discussion regarding the non-violent communication workshop revealed that the facilitator for this event would be prohibitive due to the current budget deficit. Rev. David recommended that we use his three-month theme on the book, Revolutionary Agreements by Marian Head, and incorporate the twelve agreements from the book into lessons that will be about healthy, respectful and peaceful communication. There will be small group circles as well.

Carrie received a binder from Angelina containing copies of a timeline. She will share them with Rev. David and Craig. The strategic plan included a retreat for the new board, a donor appreciation event, new board orientation and binder, as well as board positions and officers.

It was suggested that the council personally invite people to help with the strategic plan, including emailing invitations and making announcements about this important event to be held in mid-January.

Other Items:

Rev. David suggested that we put on our January agenda the onboarding and welcoming of new council members.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the 2nd Sunday of March (March 8th). Three officers will be doing the presentations with a summary of 2025 and a vision for 2026.

Parking Lot items

Set annual events – The event team had the following ideas:

Summer picnic – Sunday, July 26
Pizza and Participation – Sunday, February 1
Easter potluck and egg hunt – Sunday, April 5

Potlucks for Thanksgiving or Christmas – No dates set
Prosperity launch – No date set

Action Item:

Rev. David will check with Adrienne regarding a date for the Harvest Festival.

Building rental helpers – The discussion revealed that opening and turning on the heat in the building can be done electronically. It was suggested that there be a team of 4 to 5 trusted individuals who can take care of this volunteer task.

Action Item:

Rev. David will check with Denny about this issue.

Buffie Finkel, RScP provided the closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Calendar

12/7 – Teen Group Class
12/7 – Rap with the Rev
12/9 – Women’s coffee
12/9 – Finance committee
12/10 – Principles follow-up
12/12 – Sound Bath
12/13 – Men’s group
12/14 – Teen Group Class
12/14 – Community Gathering
12/15 – Listening Circle
12/16 – Women’s coffee
12/16 – 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?