

**Center for Spiritual Living - Olympia**  
Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 6, 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.

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

The meeting, held in person and on Zoom, was called to order by Carrie Barrett at 6:00 p.m.

Buffie Finkel, RScP, provided the opening prayer.

Carrie B provided a reading from the book Awareness by Anthony De Mello. The reading was titled "On Waking Up."

**Check In – All**

*What are you excited about for the year ahead: personal or center?*

**Consent Agenda**

***Approval of minutes***

Rev. David made the motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2025. Motion seconded by Carrie Barrett. All those in attendance approved.

***Approval of December Financial Report***

The report was sent out on December 16, 2025. Rev. David made the motion to approve the Financial Report. Carrie Barrett seconded the motion. All those in attendance approved the financial report.

## ***Minister's Report***

This report will be presented at the next meeting.

### *Action Item:*

Rev. David will provide a Minister's Report for the next meeting.

## **Decisions**

### ***Nominating Committee***

Kathy reported that she intends to remain on the council if needed.

The Nominating Committee will consist of two council members, two community members who are not seeking election, and the senior minister. Rev. David will talk with Christie about being a part of the Nominating Committee. Carrie B and Kathy will also serve on the committee.

It was decided that the Nominating Committee meet to learn who has been spoken with about serving on the council. Then they will brainstorm names and assign them to committee members so that those who said "yes" to running aren't overwhelmed with questions.

### *Action Item:*

Rev. David will speak with Christie about being on the Nominating Committee.  
Set a date for the initial Nominating Committee meeting.

## ***Calendar Events***

The council also discussed upcoming events, particularly the need to schedule the Harvest Festival and Prosperity Launch, with September 27th being a potential date for the Prosperity Launch. They considered adding a music-focused public event to their annual calendar, with suggestions to either bring in a band or potentially have Sugar and the Spitfires perform a spring concert.

### *Action Item:*

Kathy will contact Adrienne to set a date for the Festival.

At the Leadership meeting, the idea was raised to host four public events. These could include the Solstice celebration, the Harvest Festival, and a Springtime musical concert.

## **Business**

### ***Reorganize Staff reviews***

Rev. Carrie compiled the evaluations Kathy provided, but there were no self-evaluations included. Carrie B received Denny's evaluation.

David mentioned he hasn't received any self-evaluations from staff, and Rev. David will send out a reminder email requesting them.

#### ***Action Item:***

Rev. David will send out a reminder requesting self-evaluations from staff.

### ***Pizza and Participation planning***

Rev. David reported that this event will be held on February 1, following the service. Buffie agreed to coordinate the team leads who will order and pick up pizza, and to organize the fellowship hall with signup sheets and staff for the tables.

Craig mentioned that there is \$250 in the budget for this event.

### ***Review for onboarding new council members***

The idea was raised to hold a meeting with the slate of council candidates before the election in early March to help determine who might want to do which job.

## **Mobilizing Our Mission**

### ***Food Bank work days***

The council discussed plans for a food bank volunteer event in March, with the women's group potentially organizing it as a one-off community-wide activity.

## ***Nourishing Our Community***

There was discussion about re-energizing and expanding the "Nourishing Our Community" program, with Tiffany offering to step down as lead if someone else would like to take over. If Tiffany has a co-lead this year, that person could lead it the following year. The group agreed to hold an informational meeting on January 18th to explain the host sign-up process and discuss the importance of clearly communicating the program's value and activities to the wider community through testimonials and skits during announcements at Sunday services. Craig agreed to ask Jodie if she would give a testimonial on January 18th.

### ***Action Item:***

Craig is to ask Jodie to give a testimonial about NOC on Sunday, January 18th.

## ***Classes and stuff***

At the present time, there are 2 signups for the hybrid Prayer and Meditation Class.

On the last Sunday of each month for the next 4 months, there will be a two-hour basic class on spiritual practices after service.

The Spiritual Principles & Practices class is being moved to early February on Monday nights. This is a 6-week class facilitated by Rev. Carrie and Tim Robinson as TA.

### **Strategic Plan:**

## ***Revolutionary Agreements update***

This is the first step of our communication class. A Conversation Group (rather than a Sacred Circle) has begun, facilitated by Buffie. In the Fall, there may be empowerment groups or Sacred Circles.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Buffie Finkle, RScP, provided the closing prayer.

## Calendar

1/8 – Qigong  
1/9 – Sound Bath  
1/10 – Men’s Group  
1/11 – Teen Group Class  
1/11 – Kick the Sick  
1/11 – Conversation Forum  
1/13 – Women’s coffee  
1/13 – Finance Committee meeting  
1/14 – Prayer and Meditation class  
1/15 – Mail annual tax letters  
1/15 – Qigong  
1/17 – Women’s Circle  
1/18 – Teen Group Class  
1/18 – Dances of Universal Peace  
1/18 – Conversation Forum  
1/19 – Listening Circle  
1/20 – Women’s coffee  
1/20 – 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?
- Potential annual events
- Building rental helpers