

## Community Meeting Nov. 2, 2014

- **Discussion on status of a permanent retreat committee**
  - Should there be one? What should be its role?
  - Susan has already provided a list of items for retreat management
  - Tom, Joy Dawn & Terri volunteered to manage the last retreat and Tom, Joy and Terri have agreed to manage the next.
  - General consensus for a "rolling committee" to be recruited to manage future retreats. Current managers will be asked to continue for a second retreat and replacements looked for when necessary.
- **Needs for class space**
  - Space at Calvary Methodist Church working well but we should keep our eyes open for other possibilities
  - In order to more comfortably suit our needs several items are desirable for CMC space. Susan has provided a rug and some cushions which we are able to store between classes. We would still like a couple of floor lamps and are open to suitable donations. Tom has a couple and has offered to send a picture to Susan to see if they meet the need. By next meeting, if nothing suitable turns up, we will revisit and authorize purchase.
- **Financial reporting**
  - Tom and Richard are working on a format to provide regular financial reporting
  - Judy provided a status report showing that the sangha is meeting all expenses with a comfortable balance.
  - Brief discussion of necessity of setting a minimum desired balance - but the consensus was that our focus should be on serving each other and the Dharma and that the money will follow.
- **Availability of means to make donation by credit card**
  - People have requested the ability to make a retreat donation by credit card and group felt this is a reasonable request in view of the way most people currently handle financial transactions.
  - Suggestions made to have PayPal available on website or Square Reader type card processor available.
  - Major concern is that we don't want any suggestion on the website that we are soliciting donations. If we do utilize PayPal, it needs to be done in a subtle way that recognizes it is only for the convenience of those who would be otherwise making their donations in another way.
  - This topic will be taken up again at the next meeting.
- **Affiliation with other groups**
  - Discussion of desirability of some kind of interface with the Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice, particularly with their focus on Food & Justice.
  - The group consensus was that ICPJ is too religious in its orientation for our

group to be comfortable having any kind of formal affiliation.

- We are open to exploring ways, as a sangha, to become involved with other groups on a case by case basis (for example, the Hunger Walk that our group participated in in September, along with other sanghas.)

- **Member-to-member communication within the sangha**

- Broad discussion of ways in which members can connect with each other directly to foster friendship and support.
- Various suggestions such as email lists, facebook or google groups, website or actual bulletin boards.
- A simple clip-board at the front table at community sittings was the group consensus for the easiest, most direct, and simplest way for people within the group to make personal announcements and requests. People will be encouraged to check the clip-board regularly. Mary G. will provide clipboard.
- The question of how to help and encourage relationships within the group is an important, but more complicated issue. There was agreement that we should do more to make newcomers to the sangha feel welcome and included. How that can and should be accomplished will be taken up at the next meeting.