

RGCSL Town Hall
January 24, 2020
Notes

Attending:

Rev. Karen Lindsley

Board: Mark Ayer, Carol Helms, Liza Kerr, Doug Bowe, Tamara Williams, Maria Dion

Members: Gwenneth Welch, Kamatara Johnson, Greg Gardner, CJ, Kathy Mathiason, Jennifer Sanchez, Terranda, Teresa Grecco, Marilyn O'Leary, Susan Solari, Gaby Kressley, Jackie McGough, Annette Martinez, Lou Cimalore

1. Board Update & Transparency Commitment by Carol Helms

- Carol expressed excitement that Martha is on the world stage and bringing so many blessings back to us. The Transformation Team is resting right now but they will be back. Karen Lindley is our Interim Minister.
- Carol expressed a deep commitment to transparency. We do show up and we want to serve this community. We want input from all, and want to be accessible. Carol invited the congregation to text, call or email her at 505-977-1507; cshtainer1@gmail.com.
- A survey will be coming out – to learn what people would like to see more of in this interim, what we'd like to see in an interim minister. Today's SOM Magazine reading is Connections – engage in loving inclusion, which is perfect for today. Let's choose to think of ourselves in "connected beings living in shared wellbeing." RGCSL has great leadership model. We want all to feel connected. The telephone team has really helped with creating more connection.

2. Mark Ayers & more on the Board: Carol and Mark are working as co-chairs on the board; a model for the future. Mark welcomed Maria Dion to the Board. They would like to involve more of us in community. There will be opportunity for many to be involved. A poll is underway – working on this are Tamara and Carmella. Grief workshop is next Saturday – more about that from Rev. Karen. Mark acknowledged Annette Martinez and the fabulous work she does. Thank you, Annette!

3. Meet + Greet with Rev. Karen, who covered the following points:

- Rev. Karen expressed the desire to be available to all. She too works transparently. Rev. Karen invited all to contact her one on one on phone call or zoom. Gets to hear about our dreams for RGCSL. If we do have something you want to put forth, send it to Rev. Karen, Carol and Mark. They will bring it to the board for discussion.
- *Successfully Navigating Loss* – a 3-hour workshop will be held on January 30, given by Rev. Karen. She shared about a recent personal loss, and acknowledged all the loss and change that so many are going through right now.

- Classes: Kamatara Johnson, Marilyn O’Leary, Christine Duvall are co-teaching Roots of the Science of Mind. Rev. Karen is teaching Treatment & Meditation. Kamatara is also teaching “Reconnecting with your Compass.”
 - Why is Rev. Karen working as an interim minister: she decided to go into Interim Ministry upon graduating from Ministerial School. Her vision is to go into a community, where she is able to assess and guide/offer candid suggestions on how she thinks any given community could move to the next level. Because of the pandemic, we are learning new ways of doing church. Our RGCSL community is thriving: has a full-enough board, has 20 practitioners, a congregation of about 250, a budget in place, teams that are getting things done. There is nothing for her to fix here. There is facilitating grief, which we are doing, and going through the process of discovering the qualities we want in the Sr. Minister. We will also be going through the candidating process together.
4. Rev. Karen invited us into the conversation to share the following:
- What qualities are we looking for in our new Senior Minister?
 - If money were no object, what would your vision be for RGCSL?
 - Any suggestions/feedback on our Music Ministry?
 - Any other requests, suggestions or feedback?

Marilyn O’Leary led us into this with an invocation.

Vision for RGCSL Community:

- I want to be a member of a vibrant spiritual community where I feel I’m a part of it.
- LOVE. Realizing that Love shows up in many ways. I would most like to see authenticity and loving kindness.
- We can’t do it wrong! Mark is amazing; truly a steward of RGCSL Resources.
- Loving community, collective wisdom, looking forward to seeing how things go together. Happy that Rev. Karen is looking at bylaws, policies and procedures, so we are firing on all cylinders when the new minister shows up. Music ministry – is willing to do whatever the church needs.
- There is a lack of youth in the community. Attractive to younger people to grow the center and the creative energy.
- Community – more diverse age, race, income levels.
- Music ministry in the community would like to see this supported by our new minister. Singing as our community not just as a band.
- Multiple ministries – we’ve had many conversations over the last few years. Important to look at shifts to get out there and help, look at this as an opportunity to reach so many folks.
- Music Ministry!!!! This band is so awesome.

- We have amazing people with so much talent in this community! Take this opportunity to make the shift that many of us have been waiting for. Look at the whole picture.
- Diversity is important – esp. right now in this time in our country; to lead in love. Support outreach, looking at the needs our community has – poverty, homelessness, etc.
- A weekly book club that would also be a book of the month club, and generate revenue through the bookstore. Reach each the masses with a spiritual book store!
- There was a time when the youth were very strong. When they graduated from the youth program, there was no young adult group. That transition didn't go very well. The request is to reach out to these young adults now, to see if they are interested in creating a program. Idea is to reach back out to those individuals and see if they would be interested.
- Vision for the center going forward – there are a lot of people in ABQ who don't feel like they have a home. Everyone feels welcome, like the TV show Cheers. It would be wonderful if RGCSL could be that and participate with other centers in the area. Embrace those who need a home.
- We may be getting ahead of ourselves. Maybe we need to look at who we are and who we want to be. Need to figure some of that out.
- Community – diversity. We can't have unity without diversity. Reach out more too like some others spoke about this.
- Classes in Spanish. Also Youth ministry as well. If we want to attract young parents, we need a vibrant youth ministry.
- Music ministry – expanded possibilities and a selection process that involves the congregation for multiple choices in that area.

Vision for RGCSL Minister

- The embodiment of Unity, integrity, community and connectedness
- Compassion; Wisdom; Kindness; Good at Guidance; able to help us grow with active, engaged members
- Dynamic loving soul, a visionary more than tactical, we have so many strengths now. Can empower and pull others in. They all have someone they bring to our community the talents.
- Our new minister – listens with an open mind and heart and acts accordingly.
- Great leadership, vision, empathy, excellent listener, sense of humor, excellent public speaking skills; live or move to ABQ. We will know this is the right person for us.
- Our new minister is service-minded for the community, with an outward Ministry. There is a balance of Business and Ministry. We are a Doctorate level community- Let's take this OUT!
- We could really get this word out. Someone who takes time to learn where we are and leads from there.

- We are highly advanced in the spiritual realm, and we need someone who can keep us engaged while bringing others in.
- A minister who is a Leader (not by title). One who will take the time to get to know us and lead from where we are...not by what they think from past experiences.
- I want to see a minister who operates in unconditional love. The energy needs to come from our heart.
- A minister who reinforces diversity. For our growth – has to go beyond this group and to the next generation. Operating with a sense of compassion from the heart. And has no problem expressing that, and honesty.
- Someone who will see what we need to add. It's also important for a minister to come in and appreciate and nourish our strength. It's all based in vision. Our spiritual leader can help us realize that vision.
- We've hit a good point trying to recruit young people. Keep up the good work!
- Someone who understands the unique culture of NM., and what so many people in our culture represent.
- Vision for a minister – the most important thing is passion for SOM, and the possibilities, as applied to our community. And a great speaker. Would love that as well.
- We're in such a time of change – not only our community, but the country as well. We need a minister who is open to change.
- Four qualities in the minister – someone who lives the SOM principles, and applies them every day while serving the church; kind and compassionate; demonstrable commitment to spiritual growth for themselves and others; excellent speaker in a balanced between the head and heart – transparency and clarity. Need to include the principles and the ideals as well as the love/heart connection.

Rev. Karen commented – agreed with the need to wait to define the minister because loss changes us. And change changes us, and it takes us time to settle in first, deal with the loss and then figure out who the new “us” is, emerging from that loss. Who do we create ourselves to be after this loss? Rev. Martha's party was just last week, so there will be time needed to process. There are some things we need to do to find out who and what we are, and where we are going. Give ourselves time to discover what wants to be born. Who you are now is not who you will be after you complete this process.

5. Greg Gardner took us out with a great benediction.