

## Minutes

**EISCC GENERAL MEETING: TUESDAY, Dec. 10, 2024, Noon to 1:30 PM**

### Welcome

### Opening Prayer

### Acknowledgment of Indigenous Lands and Peoples

#### Present:

*Officers:* Past President: Linda Hillesheim (Unity of Bellevue); President: Kevin Folkman (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Sammamish Valley); Co-secretary: Pauline O'Hare (Bellevue First Congregational) Treasurer: Warren Marquardson (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Bellevue South). Members at large: David Bowling (Eastside Community Development Fund); Ellen Weiss Phelps (Temple B'nai Torah); Joyce Kidd-Miller (Bahá'is of King County North).

*Enthusiasts:* Jean Harris (Aldersgate United Methodist), Nancy Jacobs (Congregations for Kids, St. Margaret's), Jan Starrs (Backpack Meals), Amy Epp (Evergreen Mennonite), Rev. Mele T. Aho (Aldersgate UMC), Isabelle Kalisa (Hero House), Sophie Conyer (Hero House), Shauna McKee (Hero House), Katie Folkman (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Sammamish Valley), Elizabeth Dickinson (Faith Action Network), Diane Richards (St. Margaret's), Rogina Lypeter (Renewal Foodbank), Philip Peter (Renewal Food Bank), Elizabeth Maupin (Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition), Rev. Charles Perry (Unity of Bellevue), Pastor Lara Forbes (St. Andrew's Lutheran Church), Amina Mbaye (Essentials First), Barb de Michele (past chair of Eastside Human Services Forum, Issaquah City Councilmember), Tony Machacha (Emergency Operations Manager, King County Regional Homelessness Authority), Nico Quijano (City of Bellevue), Brenda Parker (Issaquah Outreach Team), Brooke Buckingham (City of Redmond).

#### Brief Reports:

**Secretary & Treasurer** (see [www.eiscc.net](http://www.eiscc.net) for [minutes](#) and [financial report](#)).

**Congregations for Kids.** Congregations for Kids is in a semi-pause right now. Thank-you letters with donation totals have been mailed to all individual donors, congregations and organizations. Copies of letters to congregations/organizations have been emailed to those donor contacts. C4K hopes to order most of the cases of backpacks for next summer's project by mid-January before the expected cost increase due to tariffs on China.

**SPOTLIGHT:** Tony Machacha, Emergency Operations Manager, King County Regional Homelessness Authority reviewed the County's plans to provide additional shelter space during times of extreme heat, cold, or smoke. They work with an extensive network of partners, including cities, hospitals, and libraries, to expand indoor capacity both during the day and overnight as needed. In an 8-day cold snap during 2024, 317 individuals were sheltered in emergency locations and 56 families sheltered over 8 days in hotels. Tony's slides are posted [here](#). Find overnight and daytime shelter information for severe weather events for Seattle and King County [here](#).

Tony offered ways that EISCC members could help. First was outreach, especially during the evenings, on weekends, and holidays, when the KCHRA staff are not available. Churches could open emergency overnight shelters, open parking lots for parking and access to warming indoors, providing volunteers to staff existing shelters, and after-hours transportation. For the cities of Redmond and Issaquah, Tony gave

us two contact emails, [trutherford@redmond.gov](mailto:trutherford@redmond.gov) and [behavioralhealth@issaquahwa.gov](mailto:behavioralhealth@issaquahwa.gov). KCHRA has a 24- hour duty officer available at 206-640-5369 or 206-930-8846.

**MAIN PRESENTATION: Annual Legislative Report**

Elizabeth Dickinson, Faith Action Network ([fanwa.org](http://fanwa.org)), shared its value statement: “We ensure that people, communities, and the earth may flourish. We change policies and systems that harm people.”

Elizabeth shared that the State of Washington faces a \$12 Billion budget shortfall over the next four years. Under such circumstances, budget cuts disproportionately affect the most disadvantaged. Washington also suffers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> most regressive state tax structure after Florida.

For the upcoming legislative session, FAN will focus on taxing Wall Street wealth, a payroll tax on employers, and an affordable homes act. In addition, they are pushing to pass a rent stabilization bill that would probably cap annual rent increases to 7%.

Elizabeth pointed out that municipal laws on homelessness tend to punish rather than help the homeless. Three broad areas of focus for FAN on helping immigrants would be providing health equity, unemployment insurance, and protecting the undocumented as far as the state can.

**No announcements were submitted in the chat or through [eastsideinterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:eastsideinterfaith@gmail.com).**

**Closing Prayer**

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**NEXT GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, January 14th, at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, Bellevue.**

**Next EISCC Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 21st.** Suggestions and questions are always welcome.

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