

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council

General Meeting, February 10, 2026

Present: 30 people in the room, 20 online. Full list of those who signed in appears at the end of the minutes.

The meeting began with introductions and an opening moment of silent reflection.

President Kevin Folkman shared an acknowledgment of Indigenous Lands and Peoples.

We acknowledge that we are on the Indigenous Land of Coast Salish peoples who have reserved treaty rights to this land, specifically the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe. We thank these caretakers of this land who have lived and continue to live here since time immemorial.

Kevin thanked St. Margaret's for hosting the space we were meeting in.

Brief Reports

- *Treasurer.* On behalf of the Treasurer, Susan Cozzens as Chair of the Legal and Financial Committee reported that as of the end of January, EISCC had \$249 in income and \$210 in expenses in this calendar year. Total assets were \$10,606. This report was the first to give the financial status of the network separately from its subagency, Congregations for Kids. Over the last months of 2025, the organization had separated the accounts of the EISCC network itself from those of Congregations for Kids. The end of year results are available on eiscc.net.
- *Secretary.* As co-secretary, Susan Cozzens noted that organizational and individual dues can be paid for 2026, using [the link](#) under the member tab on eiscc.org. A new volunteer form is also available online at [this link](#) on the Ways to Help tab at eiscc.net.
- *Congregations for Kids* was unable to report because of audio problems.
- *Eastside Human Services Forum* had no update from last month.
- *Member Survey.* Kevin Folkman drew attention to the member survey distributed on the tables. EISCC would like feedback on whether it is meeting the needs of its members.

Equipping Communities for Dementia Care

Bob Delf, Executive Director of [Old Friends Club](#), presented on their mission to equip communities to support families impacted by dementia. He explained that Old Friends Club provides respite care and social engagement for people with dementia, with programs run by staff and volunteers. Bob highlighted the need for affordable alternatives to in-home care and memory care, and introduced their affiliate program, which provides a comprehensive toolkit and support for organizations looking to start similar programs. The presentation concluded with information on [how to open your own Club](#) as part of their network and the benefits it offers to both caregivers and individuals with dementia. In response to a question, Bob indicated that the participants in the Old Friends Club do not yet reflect the cultural diversity of the Eastside.

Immigrant Safety and Community Response

Guillermo Rivera, Community Organizer with [Eastside for All](#), discussed the creation in 2019 of the Safe Haven Group. In the past year, it has joined with Indivisible Eastside to organize to protect immigrants and communities of color on the East Side, in a new group called East King Rise (Rapid Intervention for Safety and Equity). He highlighted recent incidents of ICE activity, including kidnappings in Bothell and Bellevue, and described the initiatives such as distributing 8,000 "whistle" packets to raise awareness and educate

businesses and churches about immigration enforcement. Guillermo emphasized the importance of community involvement and shared that East King Rise has over 100 volunteers, with events held bi-weekly to make bracelets and whistles. East King Rise has met with King County Executive and politicians to gain their support in addressing these issues.

Alicia Spinner, Executive Director of [The Circle](#), described its work supporting immigrants and their families in Issaquah. When a family member is detained by ICE, the detainee needs help inside detention, and the family faces a variety of difficult challenges at home. The Circle helps families prepare plans and necessary documents to be able to operate after detention and helps with costs inside detention and with reuniting families. They have had no cases in which family members have been released. Adam Dibba, Executive Director of Africans on the Eastside, shared similar stories.

The immigrant support organizations that are part of Safe Haven all need financial donations to be able to address family needs after detention: [Eastside for All](#), [The Circle](#) (Issaquah), [Africans on the Eastside](#), and [4Tomorrow](#) (Redmond).

[East King Rise](#) (eastkingrapidresponse@gmail.com) needs volunteers for its four programs: WAISN Rapid Response, NDLO Adopt a Day Labor Corner, WA Whistles, and WA Neighborhood Defense. Guillermo also mentioned a new program that is being developed, “Adopt a Gas Station.” There is room for everyone to help, depending on ability, interest, and risk tolerance.

There was not enough time for announcements.

The meeting closed with moment of reflection.

Attendees

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Agassiz	Sara	Unity of Bellevue
Arndt	Sarah	North Urban Human Services Alliance
Backus	Shauna	Congregations for Kids
Bakr	Mohamed	Muslim Community and Neighborhood Assoc
Baughman	Candice	One Parish One Prisoner
Bien	Alaric	City of Redmond Human Services
Bolen	Allen	St. Andrews Lutheran
Bowling	David	Eastside Foundation & EISCC Board
Brandt	Lois	Newport Presbyterian Safe Parking
Clacy	Jill	Kindering
Clark	Lisa Horst	First Congregational Bellevue
Cozzens	Susan	Eastside Friends Meeting & EISCC Board
Dibba	Adam	Africans on the Eastside
Eisma	CJ	The Sophia Way
Epp	Amy	Evergreen Mennonite (need email)

Fitzgerald	Amy	Lifewire
Floss	Hanna	Indivisible Eastside
Folkman	Kevin	LDS & EISCC Board
Folkman	Katie	LDS
Getzinger	Karen	St. Andrews Lutheran
Graham	Angelica	Eastside for All
Gutierrez	Cipriano	Porchlight
Hamill	Stevi	First Congregational Bellevue
Harris	Ellia	Old Friends Club
Harris	Jean	Aldersgate UMC
Haudenschild	Lynne	Unity of Bellevue
Hillesheim	Linda	Unity of Bellevue & EISCC Board
Hutchko	Candise	Catholic Community Services
Jacobs	Nancy	Congregations for Kids
Kelley	Heather	Indivisible Eastside
Kidd-Miller	Joyce	Baha'is of King County North & EISCC Board
Mabbott	Art	All Saints Episcopal
Maupin	Elizabeth	Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition
Mbaye	Amina	Essentials First
O'Hare	Pauline	First Congregational & EISCC Board
Perry	Charles	Unity of Bellevue
Phelps	Ellen Weiss	Temple B'nai Torah & EISCC Board
Reed	Angel	Imagine Housing
Richards	Diane	St. Margaret's
Rivera	Guillermo	guillermo@eastsideforall.org
Sheriff	Nicky	MCRC Muslim Community Resource Center
Spinner	Alicia	The Circle
Spohn	Betty	Newport Presbyterian
Sterling	Susan	Unity of Bellevue
Torres	Alondra	NAMI Eastside
Vermouth	Marc	The Sophia Way
Vlassidis	Maria Cristina	East Shore Unitarian
Waddell	Tammy	Nourishing Networks
Weinberg	Maple	Unity of Bellevue
	Prayer	Unity of Bellevue