

Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council General Membership Meeting

July 14, 2026, First Congregational Church of Bellevue

Present: 25 in the room, 15 online. The list of attendees who signed in appears at the end of the minutes.

The meeting opened with a prayer from Rev. Stevi Hammill, a land acknowledgement, and introductions from participants. The President thanked FCC Bellevue for hosting and providing technical support, as well as lunch.

Brief Reports

- **Treasurer**. Kevin Folkman reported for the Treasurer. The EISCC network year to date has had \$1093 in income and \$789 in expenses and holds \$10,873 in assets. A report from Congregations for Kids is still pending.
- **Secretary**. Susan Cozzens asked everyone present to sign in at the registration table and gave a reminder that nominations were open for the EISCC Board. Volunteers for other EISCC work are also welcome; see the volunteer form in the Ways to Help tab of eiscc.net.
- **Congregations for Kids**. Shauna Backus shared that the project is gearing up for its fall distribution of backpacks. The backpacks will be filled during the week of August 10. There are lots of opportunities to help during that week; contact Shauna to volunteer (shaunalbackus@gmail.com).

Program

MAIN PRESENTATION TOPIC: New Incentives for Faith -based Affordable Housing, presented by Scott Guter, Senior Planner, City of Kirkland, Planning and Building Development. Slides available [here](#).

Scott shared information on what the City of Kirkland is doing to help enable faith-based organizations to develop affordable housing on their properties. Housing in Kirkland has become increasingly unaffordable, and many residents are struggling to find and keep homes within their budget.

A new state law effective in June requires cities to provide a density bonus on religious organization-owned property if 50% of the units are reserved for household earning at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI), or 20% are reserved for households earning at or below 50% AMI. In Kirkland, the proposal is for development on faith-based property that meet this criteria in low-density zones to become medium-density zones; medium-density

zones to meet the high-density standards; and commercial and institutional zones to get a building height bonus.

Using property currently owned by faith communities provides fill-in housing without displacing anyone. The proposals thus help address the lack of affordable and diverse housing options by creating new opportunities for housing development on faith-owned land. They support the goal of ensuring that Kirkland remains a place where people of all income levels can live and thrive.

SPOTLIGHT: Eastside Renter's Bill of Rights, presented by Kraig Peck of the Transit Riders Union. Kraig is a Woodinville resident active in the Transit Riders Union, WA Housing Alliance, & 45th Democrats. He asked for support for the Redmond Renters Bill of Rights, which is summarized [here](#). Renters on the Eastside have little stability or fairness. Kraig argued that passing this Bill of Rights in Redmond (nearly 2 /3 renter households) would be the first step to other Eastside cities.

Announcements

Hero House Bellevue is having a block party on August 1, 12- 4 pm, 12838 SE 40th Place, Bellevue. There will be great food, fun games, resources, and community. They are inviting all friends and neighbors and anyone who would like to find out more about psychosocial rehabilitation for people who live with mental illness. Contact info@bellevueclubhouse.org for more information.

Plymouth Housing is excited to announce that their Kirkland Building, Sheila Stanton Place, is now open. They have welcomed four Kirkland residents to their new homes; the number will soon be 102. There are opportunities to volunteer and donate food. To volunteer, contact Ciarra Madden (cmadden@plymouthhousing.org) to connect you to people on the site. Sheila Stanton Place is part of the King County [Health through Housing](#) Initiative.

Hopelink Neighborhood Fair. Hopelink is proud to welcome the community back to Hopelink's Redmond Center for our fourth annual Hopelink Neighborhood Fair! Please join us Friday, July 24, 2026, from 11:00am – 3:00pm. This free event brings together family and friends of all ages to enjoy delicious local food, kid-friendly summertime activities and live music and dance performances. Staff from Hopelink's programs will be on hand to share about our work and answer questions. We are thrilled that other area community organizations such as Move Redmond, KidVantage and more will be joining us as well to share about their programs and community resources. More information can be found here: <https://www.hopelink.org/events/hopelink-neighborhood-fair/>

[Camp United We Stand](#) continues to seek volunteer Board members from the Eastside. Contact Ray Thomas if you are interested (rayt2015@gmail.com). The CUWS Needs List appears [here](#).

Day of Solidarity at the Northwest Detention Center. Quakers from the Northwest are partnering with La Resistencia in a solidarity event at the ICE Northwest Detention Center. Please join us to support the detainees and their families. The event will take place on Saturday, July 25, 1-3 pm, in front of the detention center at 1623 East J Street in Tacoma. Bring your own chair and water, plus hat, sunscreen, and snacks if needed, and a flower to add to the memorial and leave in the fence to show families that we care. RSVP to quakers.nwdc@npym.org.

Renters Rights. Kraig Peck of the Transit Riders Union urged those present to contact the Mayor and City Council of Redmond with support for the Renters Rights bill. Information on the bill is available at [this link](#). The coalition supporting the bill offers this letter, which can be sent to the City Council and Mayor: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/pass-the-redmond-renters-bill-of-rights>.

DISCLAIMER: Any statements or recommendations made by presenters or in announcements at EISCC meetings are those of the individual or the organization they represent and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council.

List of Attendees who signed in

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Arndt	Sarah	North Urban Human Services Alliance
Bachman	Destiny	
Backus	Shauna	Congregations for Kids
Barry	Tricia	Kidvantage
Cozzens	Susan	Eastside Friends Meeting & EISCC Board
Deberz	Jes	Nourishing Networks
Fellows	Debbie	Hopelink
Folkman	Kevin	LDS & EISCC Board
Folkman	Katie	LDS
Fong	Alice	Center for Ethical Leadership
Guter	Scott	City of Kirkland
Gutierrez	Cipriano	Porchlight

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Hamill	Stevi	First Congregational Bellevue
Harris	Jean	Aldersgate UMC
Kalisa	Isabelle	Hero House
Kidd-Miller	Joyce	Baha'is of King County North & EISCC Board
Kopazna	Sue	The Sophia Way
Mabbott	Art	All Saints Episcopal
Mackay	Anthony	The Sophia Way
Madden	Ciara	Plymouth Housing
Marquardson	Warren	LDS & EISCC
Mbaye	Amina	Essentials First
Nassif	Mary	First Congregational Bellevue (The Sophia Way)
Olin	Janet	First Congregational Bellevue
Peck	Kraig	Transit Riders Union
Perry	Charles	Unity of Bellevue
Peters-Mathew	Joseph	St. Margaret's Episcopal
Phelps	Ellen Weiss	Temple B'nai Torah & EISCC Board
Reed	Angel	Imagine Housing
Sareen	Indu	Essentials First
Sarnecki	Kim	East King County Human Services Collaborative
Siddiqi	Gul	MAPS
Spohn	Betty	Newport Presbyterian
Thomas	Ray	Camp United We Stand
Waddell	Tammy	Nourishing Networks