

Hermitage Committee Budget Request  
to CCA Board  
10/13/22

**The Big Picture**

The hermitage committee has been working together over the past four years to honor the vision and work by Daniel Baker and others, and add to that vision by taking steps to ensure that the program will last into the future. Most of the major pieces of that future plan are in place now.

- Water catchment at the Corbett Retreat and Research Center small group campground to replace the dry well. The catchment also provides a shaded cooking and gathering area for small groups.
- Safe wood heating at the Corbett Center Hermitage to extend the sojourning season into the winter
- Respectful retirement of the Francis Gonzales-Leitner Strawbale Hermitage and its designation as a walking destination
- A sturdy truck that will serve for many years transporting sojourners
- A visual (our prickly pear diagram) that allows us to periodically review our principles and direction
- A defined sojourner accompaniment position with a stipend
- A second hermitage with a unique and lasting low-maintenance design – The Caravan Hermitage

Taking these steps toward a sustainable hermitage program that can be passed on to the next generation has taken an investment of time, energy and funds. After much hard work last year by many people here in the valley, the Caravan Hermitage is almost ready for use. The Caravan itself is complete and furnished and we are now working on placing the hermitage on site. We expect it to be ready for sojourners by December of this year.

Finishing the Caravan marks the close of this current active phase of building and creating. We look forward to settling into a more contemplative phase, which is what drew us to the program in the first place: accompanying sojourners, tending our own relationship with the land, and cultivating on-the-land activities for others.

**Budget Request**

As of October 13, 2022 the hermitage program has a negative balance of -\$2424.14 There are several factors that contribute to this, including the (planned) delay of the newsletter from spring to fall, which delays CCA's annual fundraising; Caravan construction costing more than estimated; and the fact that we are now working on furnishing the Caravan and installing it on site, which was not part of the original Caravan construction budget.

We also have some outstanding and expected upcoming expenses, including:

- \$3840 Caravan construction labor hours for David Omick incurred in January and February 2022 that won't be billed until the end of the year (*NOTE: These hours were*

*already included in the Caravan update at the spring meeting and don't increase the cost of construction from our spring report.)*

- \$500 Caravan outfitting – propane stove, water containers, storage containers, first aid kit, etc
- \$500 General operating fund for emergencies, etc.
- \$125 Road repair
- \$125 Metal road signs for Caravan

These costs plus the current budget deficit come to a **round total of \$7500**. *We are requesting this amount from the CCA General Fund to allow the hermitage committee to finish projects and continue normal operations until we begin to receive sojourner donations this winter.*

Note that the committee has donated \$2850 in unused stipend for the hermitage committee co-chair back to the general fund in 2021 and 2022, which partly offsets the amount that we are requesting.

Also note that we have received around \$8000 in in-kind or monetary donations from all of the people involved in the Caravan project just since last spring. (This is in addition to the in-kind and monetary donations to actual Caravan construction that we reported at the last CCA meeting that total around \$6100.) Recent donations include things like:

- Part of labor and materials used in constructing the furniture
- Labor to transport and place the Caravan on site
- Labor to set up the water catchment system
- All materials for the composting toilet
- Furnishings such as bedding, mattress, and kitchenware.

We greatly appreciate all the contributions everyone has made to this project and to the long-term health of the hermitage program!