



August 7, 2009

To Unitarians all across Canada...

Good summer day folks...

We're inviting you to dream. We want to learn about what you see as important topics Canadian Unitarians and Universalists want to talk about, want to stay active in and want to become more involved in. We're asking for the broadest possible dialogue and therefore encourage group and congregational in addition to individual responses. All are welcome.

As you know, the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) is a democratic body that exists to help Unitarian Universalist communities thrive spiritually, socially and economically. And as you may have heard, the CUC is actively engaged in considering the evolving organization, service delivery and support, budget and especially, priorities for the Council. This letter is to invite you to participate in this vital process for your national organization.

We are all familiar with the comfort we derive from our local congregations - like-minded people engaged in spiritual and socially responsible activities. Let's ask ourselves how these comforts and relationships relate to bigger, broader national and global issues. Do the economic and political pressures we face have anything to do with the global recession and political unrest elsewhere? If so, what, if any, are our responsibilities?

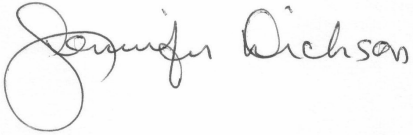
Please engage in this conversation in whatever creative, reasonable and practical way works best for you and your congregation, and thereby ensure your voice is heard as together we plan the future CUC structure and focus.

Included with this letter is a document with topics to think about and discuss over the rest of the summer and early in the fall. The idea is that this will become a long-term conversation, one that will evolve the ongoing CUC priorities as issues emerge and change. In the shorter term, we will glean ideas that we'll use to develop the 2010 budget.

Let's evolve and develop national priorities together... We'll gather your ideas until mid-October, then the staff and board, informed by your input, will discuss them and plan activities for next year. Together we'll strengthen the Unitarian voice as a proponent of encouraging dialogue, bearing witness, and working tirelessly for social justice and peace in Canada and all parts of the world.

Thank you!

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Dickson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jennifer Dickson
Executive Director