

THE CANADIAN  
**Unitarian** 

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN UNITARIAN  
COUNCIL

VOL. 41, NO. 3 • July 2000

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## The vote: a strong YES for autonomy

THERE WAS A TENSE HUSH in the air as Board member Barbara Bowmar of Vancouver rose to make the official motion about Canadian autonomy at the Saturday afternoon plenary of the CUC's annual meeting in May.

**Delegates approved the CUC Board's autonomy motion by a strong margin of 79 - 11.**

The delegates had already met in smaller groups earlier that day, to ask questions and voice concerns. Then following lunch, they'd listened to moderator Denny Davidoff of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), who pleaded with Canadian members to make an unequivocal statement about what they want to do.

Bowmar argued that Unitarians across the country had told the CUC they want more Canadian services and content, however, they want any organizational changes to be evolutionary. The motion bridged these two desires, she said, and gave the CUC Board of Trustees the mandate to negotiate a new relationship with the UUA.

Following her motion, 19 delegates rose to speak, both for and against the proposal (see summary on page three). The arguments were clear, concise and spoken from the heart. After almost an hour of debate, CUC President Kim Turner called the question.

"All those in favour, please raise your voting card," she instructed. Seventy-nine hands went up, and held firm while volunteers did a quick count. A TV camera from a Calgary station panned quickly across the seated delegates.

"All those opposed," she said. Eleven hands shot into the air.

"The motion passes," Kim announced.

(Over 200 people attended the annual meeting, but under the CUC's rules of proportional representation by congregation there were actually 90 voting delegates.)

Many delegates applauded, and you could feel a collective sigh of relief that the long process was finally over – or at least this stage of the journey. Composer and musician Joyce Poley of South Fraser led the group in singing "One More Step" and the meeting adjourned.

Afterwards, Kim Turner told the media, “Canadian Unitarians took a significant step today. The vote is *not* for separation from our U.S. denomination, but it *is* the first step down a different road, one where we determine more of our own future within Canada.” (Her message ran on CBC radio.)

Denny Davidoff, the highest ranking lay leader in the UUA, said, “This is the start of a journey. The most difficult part will be the financial implications and organizational restructuring. However, the vote did not surprise me, and we’re prepared to negotiate with the Canadian representatives.” •



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## executive director

ELLEN CAMPBELL

### **THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE IT EASY TO DO MY JOB!**

I’D LIKE TO acknowledge some of the people who have helped make things happen for all of us over the past decade.

CUC has been tremendously fortunate in its Board members. They’ve brought commitment, deep care and varied experience to bear on the work we do together.

An Executive Director has a special relationship with the President. I’ve been blessed to work with a remarkable set of individuals:

- Herman Boerma was President when I came on staff and has been a continuing presence. After the Board, he co-chaired our Endowment Campaign and became the UUA Trustee for Canada. I can hardly imagine the CUC without him.

- John Slattery was president twice, and then went on to chair the Commission on Services to Canadian Congregations. Now he serves a wider population as Treasurer of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists.
- Stan Calder was, I believe, the first openly gay presiding officer of any national religious community in Canada aside from the Metropolitan Community Church. Stan's advocacy of the Welcoming Congregation really introduced it to Canada.
- Rev. Beth Miller was never elected president, but twice, when illness prevented others from completing their tasks, Beth stepped in. We were sorry indeed when she left Canada.
- John Hopewell provided quiet and effective leadership to the Task Force on Growth and the Task Force on the Chaplaincy, as well as being president. He will continue on our team to develop a new relationship with the UUA.
- Kim Turner, a third generation Unitarian and a second generation member of the CUC Board, has brought an incredible level of energy and skill, and a keen social conscience to her work as president.

In 1990, Sandy Eddis Cramm "broke me in" to the CUC. Nine years ago, Carol Dahlquist joined the staff, and has been a mainstay ever since. She has kept track of our pennies and our dollars, she's arranged the logistics for eight annual meetings, countless other meetings, and she has kept the office running smoothly and efficiently.

Kevin Virtue, our Administrative Assistant started out taking care of all the boring things we didn't have time to do: photocopying, mailing, faxes. He's taken on more and more responsibility, and has become an integral part of our staff. During this time, the office staff has also included Celeste Erendrea and Sue McLeod, whose work we have appreciated.

Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins became our first part-time program staff member last year. She's brought energy and enthusiasm to this project and we're beginning to see concrete results from her work.

In 1990, Brian Kiely was editing *The Canadian Unitarian*, and looking forward to passing it on. We were delighted to find Liz Kind, who not only edited the newsletter, but oversaw it "from

package to plate.” Next we engaged Art Kilgour and Nichola Martin, who have brought their own lively approach, as well as, this year, taking on a public relations function for the CUC. Rev. Pat Webber and Barb Wallace have collaborated on producing CANUUE, a quarterly for Canadian religious educators.

One of the surprises for me has been how easy it has been to recruit people to carry out volunteer tasks for the CUC. It would take up much too much room to name all our volunteers, but you know who you are and I thank you all.

An unexpected consequence of this position is how it has changed my relationship with my own congregation, Toronto First Unitarian. Sometimes I feel I should take a green mug like a visitor, because I've been away so much; other times I feel as though I have done business all morning except, perhaps, during the silent meditation. I am grateful for the support given me by Donna and Mark Morrison-Reed, and look forward to returning to a simpler relationship with them.

And Doug. There have been lots of lonely dinners while I've been gallivanting around the countryside. Doug has been a supporter, a listener, an editor, a critic, and has been and always will be my best friend.

To Mary Bennett, I hand over this wonderful community of love and memory and hope, and wish you all the joy and satisfaction that it has brought to me. •



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## president's column

KIM TURNER

### **WHAT NEXT? WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?**

THE VOTE CAME on Saturday afternoon. Eighty-eight per cent of the voting delegates at our annual meeting supported the CUC Board's motion to move ahead with further Canadianization of services in the areas of RE, growth and communications. "What next?" everyone asked afterwards. "Where do we go from here?" The Calgary vote allows us to move our discussions with the UUA to the next level. Canadian Unitarians and Universalists have told us what's needed to make this a vital religion in Canada. Now that we have a clear mandate from our members, we need to make it happen. Our task won't be easy. The goal is to restructure money and services in a way that respects strong cross border associations, recognizes the needs of the UUA Districts and still provides the necessary resources to accomplish greater Canadian made and delivered services. This must be done in an economically viable way for all concerned. In some areas we will be building on present resources, in other areas, starting fresh. We aren't tearing down – we are building up. We're ready to think "outside the box" to make this happen. It's a daunting but exciting challenge. The first meeting of the negotiating teams will be during the Western Canada District Meetings in Regina in late September. Further meetings are set for January. The Calgary vote was a milestone in our history. Another milestone is the retirement of Ellen Campbell as Executive Director. For the past 10 years, Ellen has given us her steady guidance and clear perspective on long range plans, accords, international relationships and the day-to-day operations of this organization. It is not possible to adequately express how much she has contributed or how much her presence will be missed. *Thank you Ellen!* •



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cuc news

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### [WWW.CUC.CA](http://WWW.CUC.CA)

The CUC just acquired a new domain name. The web site is now located at the simple address [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) instead of the cryptic [www.web.net/~cuc](http://www.web.net/~cuc). The organization discovered in May that the name had been sitting unused since 1996 when Shaw Cable Systems took over CUC Broadcasting, an Ontario cable company. Shaw President Peter Bissonnette of Calgary agreed to release the

unique domain name (at no charge), which allowed the CUC to claim it. CUC staff e-mail addresses are now referenced to the new name, so please update your address books:

- [info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca) – for general inquiries or to reach Administrative Assistant Kevin Virtue (formerly [cuc@web.net](mailto:cuc@web.net))
- [carol@cuc.ca](mailto:carol@cuc.ca) – for Administrator Carol Dahlquist (formerly [cdcuc@web.net](mailto:cdcuc@web.net))
- [mary@cuc.ca](mailto:mary@cuc.ca) – for the new Executive Director, Mary Bennett (formerly [eccuc@web.net](mailto:eccuc@web.net))
- [canugrow@cuc.ca](mailto:canugrow@cuc.ca) – for the Growth Project Coordinator, Wendy Luella Perkins
- [webweaver@cuc.ca](mailto:webweaver@cuc.ca) – for web site manager Charlie Walker

#### SUCCESSFUL STEWARDSHIP

The CUC has just published *Endowments by Design: Creating a Legacy of Faith and Trust*, adapted from a UUA publication by Elaine Roberts. It was distributed at the annual meeting and then sent to all congregations. A companion piece on *Planned Giving* is now in the works, under the Successful Stewardship program, which is a branch of the CUC Growth Project, staffed by Wendy Luella Perkins. Contact the CUC if you haven't received your white "Successful Stewardship" binder, which includes *Endowments by Design*.

#### CUC NEW ETHICAL INVESTOR

The CUC has a new investment advisor, Alan Harmon of ScotiaMcLeod. He attends Neighbourhood Unitarian Church in east Toronto and is a founding member of the Social Investment Organization, formed in 1987. He's a skilled broker who manages \$500 million in investments for many non-profit organizations like the CUC. The organization decided to hire a new advisor after the previous broker declined to subscribe to ethical screening reports. Thanks to the Investment Advisory Committee made up of John Taylor, Lee Dickey, John Hopewell and Sydney Morris.

#### TOLL-FREE BOOKS

The Don't forget that *People's Co-op Bookstore* in Vancouver is now the Canadian supplier of CUC and UUA material. The bookstore is run by staff and volunteers. Its aim is to stimulate the circulation of books that are socially significant. To order books or join the Co-op, call **1-888-511-5556**.

#### SHARING OUR FAITH 2000

Six congregations are the lucky recipients of the \$9,600 raised

earlier this year for the *Sharing Our Faith* grants: Samia, Elora and Fergus, Westwood, Neighbourhood, Winnipeg and Fredericton. All received slightly less than the amount they applied for because of the increasing popularity of this annual grant. Has your congregation planned its 2001 Sharing Our Faith Sunday?



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unitarian people

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#### GETTING KNIGHTED

At the CUC annual meeting outgoing board member **Helen Backhouse** was presented with the Knight Award, given for outstanding contributions to Canadian Unitarianism. Helen was the first Canadian Member on the UUA's Commission of Appraisal, and she was known for carrying a Canadian flag to meetings and waving it when necessary.

#### INTERNAL ADVICE

**Frances Deverell** has completed her internship at North Shore Unitarian Church. While reflecting on the continued growth of North Shore, Frances gave a few tips on welcoming newcomers:

- park your car in the less visible spots, leaving the obvious ones for visitors
- move in and leave the edges of the aisle to newcomers
- don't leave newcomers standing alone at coffee-time

#### MINISTERIAL CHANGES

**Carol Martignacco** is just starting her ministerial internship with Lakeshore Unitarian Universalist Church in Quebec.

The UU Fellowship of Ottawa has called **Bonnie Lee** as their minister. **Rev. Fred Cappuccino** said, "She will thankfully be different from the old minister," referring to himself. Bonnie Lee is finishing her PhD in religious studies at the University of Ottawa.

Three small congregations, Elora and Fergus, Windsor and Quinte are all losing their quarter-time ministers due to financial

considerations. **Anne Treadwell**, who served Elora and Fergus, will simply increase her commitment to nearby Waterloo to full-time. **Conrad Dippel** will continue to work in the Windsor area, helping out at the church occasionally. **Wendy Luella Perkins** of Quinte is taking some time to consider her future as she continues her part-time position with the CUC Growth Project.

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver has called **Ann Buckmaster** as their new Minister of Religious Education.

#### SOCIAL ACTION AWARD

**Carole Berry** from the Unitarian Congregation of South Peel was the recipient of its 1999 Mark de Wolfe Social Action Award for her work with immigrants, refugees and youth in Malton.



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### CUC 2000 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

## Pros and cons in the autonomy debate

#### PRO

“I’m not sure all the dollar issues have been addressed, but I’m confident we’re going in the right direction with this motion.”

— Bernie Keeler, Edmonton

#### CON

“Our congregation is very worried about losing the support of our district. There is a great deal of support presently for small congregations. We feel well served by the UUA and don’t want to diminish services in [our district] in order to increase services elsewhere.”

— John Cox, North Vancouver

#### PRO

“Life is change. Principles are constant but we must adapt to change. This is an opportunity to direct change, not be overcome by it.”

— May Partridge, Victoria

PRO

“We are not the only ones talking about change right now. So is the UUA, and we don’t know where they’re going. So this is a risk; we’re taking a chance. But I’m confident that the discussions between our representatives and those of the UUA will be on the basis of good will.”

— John Slattery, Vancouver

CON

“My identity is articulated quite well by the principles of the UUA and the hymn book. I don’t think it’s realistic to suggest there’s a Canadian identity that can be better served by the CUC than by the UUA, given our lack of resources, time, energy, and our sparse population.”

— Kathryn McIntyre, Hamilton

PRO

“The motion is prudent and addresses issues we’ve discussed for years or perhaps decades. It addresses uniquely Canadian issues, and it makes sense.”

— Beth Jenkins, Edmonton

CON

“I cannot see the Western Canada District surviving this motion. If the CUC wants to act like a UUA district then it should become a UUA district. This would leave the UUA to restructuring and allow us to start becoming more independent.”

— Don McKinnon, Winnipeg

PRO

“We are growing up, and no longer fit the family. This is about growing from adolescence into adulthood. We don’t know exactly where we are going. But the status quo is out the window and this is our attempt to have a say in our future.”

— Brian Kiely, Edmonton

CON

“I couldn’t have produced my Unitarian music projects without funding from the UUA. So I feel that in Canada we are small in the grand scheme. I see that change is needed, but I’m uncertain about the direction. I think we have strength in numbers with the UUA.”

— Joyce Poley, Coquitlam

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CUC 2000 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

## People want religion to be demanding

*Christopher Levan of St. Stephen's Theological College in Edmonton was the rousing keynote speaker at this year's annual meeting. Here is the conclusion to his inspiring address on the future of religion in Canada.*

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TO SUMMARIZE, I have three conclusions about the future of religion.

- religion that is empowering will be welcome
- religion that works will be time-sensitive and family-oriented
- religion that lives will be high quality and costly

Let's take them one at a time, noting the promises and pitfalls in each.

### **The Hour of Power**

Religion that empowers will be welcomed and prosper. In conservative worlds this has meant a religious structure that gives clear direction, reinforces traditional family power structures and forms tight rules of community living. People feel like they are held tight, that their world hangs together and they sense purpose and direction in their daily lives. That's empowerment.

Now I don't suppose that many here want to construct this sort of evangelical bubble world – sanitized and segregated. Our tendency on the left spectrum of the religious world has been to do the reverse – to be open to all, to celebrate a boundary-less tradition. In many respects, the Unitarian Church has consistently tried to be hospitable to difference.

This openness is also empowering – it honours people's journey, allows folks to explore their own dreams, gives them back the capacity to discern the spirit of their times without having to recite a creed or adhere to a confessional formula. *Amen!*

But one must differentiate between openness and abandonment. Think of the kids going to college this year. Most have no religious

memory, no guideposts to mark the religious path. Anything goes: crystals, yogic flying, meditative bungee jumping, rave rage – what isn't spiritual? How do they know what is of quality and what is a passing fad, if we do not offer our best leadership?

And here we are weak and vulnerable. We're embarrassed by conviction. In deferential Canada it's almost an offence to have an unwavering belief. But people yearn to feel the belief we profess. That's part of the empowering equation. Not just an open door, people need to be given the tools to know which door to enter and why. And they yearn to come in contact with those who are convinced enough by their faith to express it openly.

### **Time Sensitive and Familial**

The promise here is, if you build it, they will come – in a way. The hunger is real. That we know. Many people are looking for substance and depth. Any religious tradition that takes seriously the constraints of modern lifestyles will do well.

Out here on the prairies, we've seen our share of small town death. First the bank goes, then the school and library. The John Deere dealership, grocery store and Chinese restaurant then close. The curling rink and the church are all that is left. Each dwindles along.

Why not combine them? I ask congregations why they don't use the curling rink. That's where the crowd (if there is one) is still gathered and eager. (Imagine the possibilities for fresh connections – “Upon this rock I will build my church!” or “Let he who is without sin throw the first stone!”)

We can't let the form of our dialogue become confused with the substance. How regularly have I been hugged in church – it was the fashion for a time – and felt at that very moment alone, unloved and manipulated. The timing and locale of religious activity – these are issues of form, the invitation card that says you're open for business.

### **High Quality and Costly**

If we are declining as a social phenomenon, maybe we can free ourselves to think beyond current boundaries. There's an Anglican Diocese north of Edmonton that is planning for its own bankruptcy. Because of litigation associated with residential schools they will lose all their assets, which include two-thirds of the church sanctuaries. What a disaster, but what a gift. Imagine the possibility to live a new life, to reshape the entire enterprise.

They could ask themselves questions like:

- why not hold a service only when we have something to say?
- why not build our tradition on something other than worship?

I believe we are living in a time of great promise, precisely because the religious project is dying. We have a chance to redefine our model of community, one shaped by deep and abiding servanthood. You see, in a strange paradox of psychology, I sense that people are hungry for the religious life that in spite of all their time constraints will demand more of them, not less.

They want this spiritual thing to count, to place a burden on their life. They may not quit their job or even step off the treadmill for good, but they want to make a break somehow, and make a difference.

Imagine what we could do if our daily prayer was: "So where do we start?" •

— Christopher Levan's full address is available at [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) (follow the AGM 2000 link).

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## CUC 2000 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

# Social action a focus at CUC annual meeting

### DELEGATES OPPOSE GLOBALIZATION

Delegates to the May 1998 annual meeting approved a resolution to study and explore globalization, its impact and consequences. The study committee was made up of Joop Schuyff, the co-ordinator, Mel Johnston, Alistair Mont, and Philip Symons, all of Victoria.

Their final report was sent to congregations in March and it was unanimously approved at the annual meeting in May. According to the committee, the report is only the first step in the process of raising awareness about the profound impacts of globalization on us, our societies, our culture and our environment.

The report envisions a world community of equal partners reflecting

a rich variety of economic, social and cultural relations – a community in which partners voluntarily exchange diverse values, commodities and services, ways of doing things and experiencing the world.

The committee hopes the report will stimulate action, such as making links with like-minded organizations, representations to government on the importance of sustaining the local and regional cultures and lifestyles that are threatened by global takeovers, and including in our religious rituals an acknowledgement of the relationship of globalization to our principles.

#### PRESERVE THE CRIMINAL COURT

UN representative Elaine Harvey initiated a special resolution, asking delegates to urge the Federal Government to oppose a proposal by the United States regarding the International Criminal Court.

The effect of the U.S. proposal is to exempt American officials from prosecution by the International Criminal Court, thereby decreasing its independence.

The resolution was passed and Kim Turner has followed up with a letter to the Prime Minister in which she explained, “This resolution does not arise from any antagonism toward the United States. In fact we are part of a continent-wide association of Unitarian Universalists, most of whom are Americans.”

#### MORE BALLISTIC MISSILES?

Rev. Jeff Brown of South Peel presented an emergency resolution on the U.S. Ballistic Missile Defence System. According to Project Ploughshares, the U.S. is scheduled to make a decision on the deployment of a limited National Missile Defence system by the end of this year. The Canadian government has not yet decided how it will respond to the pressure to join the U.S. in operating the system.

Both the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice and Ploughshares believe that this system will be a backwards step, undermining 40 years of nuclear arms control, and possibly leading to a new nuclear arms race. Canadian Unitarians passed the motion calling upon congregations and individuals to contact their MPs and members of the federal cabinet to voice their opposition. •



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**CUC 2000 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

## **AWARDING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY INITIATIVES**

THIS YEAR'S CUC Social Responsibility Recognition awards went to the Willowdale Unitarian Fellowship and to Mel and Christine Johnston of Victoria.

Willowdale has long supported the North York Women's Shelter. Last fall they learned that it urgently needed a new commercial-sized refrigerator. The Fellowship mounted a special fund-raising drive and within weeks the group raised the \$1,000 necessary for the new fridge.

Christine and Mel Johnston of Victoria were awarded for their years of social responsibility work. Both Mel and Christine were instrumental in getting Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice started. Mel is the editor of the CUSJ's *Justnews*, they have volunteered at Childhaven International, and Mel was most recently involved with the committee that wrote the CUC report on globalization.

Fred Cappuccino looked genuinely surprised when he accepted a special recognition award presented to him and to Bonnie Cappuccino by board member Elizabeth Bowen for their years of work founding and running Childhaven International. (Bonnie wasn't present because she was visiting their projects in India.) Over the last few years the Cappuccinos have won the UNESCO award, the Baha'i Racial Unity Award, and in 1996 they were awarded the Order of Canada for Volunteerism.

The annual meeting Sunday offering of \$3,070 was donated to Childhaven. •



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**CUC 2000 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT**

## **The other side of the AGM**

JUST OVER 200 PEOPLE attend the CUC meeting each year. That's only a tiny minority of the 5,000-plus Unitarians across the country. And if you read only the "official" reports of the meeting (like the previous three pages!), it might sound like a dry affair – a lot of talk, resolutions and heavy duty stuff like that.

In fact, almost half the events on the agenda are quite far removed from the plenary "business meetings." These include small group workshops on far-ranging topics. But they also include a lot of fun and spirituality: music, cultural events, worships, a banquet, and this year, a wonderful, original play. Here are some of the highlights. (*Several photos are printed here, with the following captions:*)

- The ubiquitous and gifted Joyce Poley led singing at every opportunity. At the opening plenary she had the big crowd harmonizing in less than 10 minutes
- Calgarians performed their new play "Are You My Mother?", by Jenny Paine
- Peter Boullata shows off his new CUC T-shirt.
- Calgary minister Rod Brown is a multi-talented singer, songwriter and musician.

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across the country

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#### WELCOMING CONGREGATIONS

*The Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon* became a Welcoming Congregation in May. They spent two years educating and having frank discussions on accepting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and openly welcoming them into congregational life. *First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo* has created a welcoming committee to help it in becoming a Welcoming Congregation.

#### SUPPORT FOR SEX OFFENDERS?

*Unitarian Church of Edmonton* members are discussing a proposal to have a team of Unitarians working with men convicted of sexual offences who have completed jail terms. According to Rev. Brian Kiely, "some members feel strongly that we should reach

out to these offenders. Other members are deeply fearful that the church is acting naively and setting itself up for tragedy.” The church is moving carefully on this controversial issue.

#### OTTAWA THIRD UNITARIAN

There’s a new emerging group (i.e. not yet a full-fledged congregation) in the west end of Ottawa called *The Unitarian Society of Ottawa* (as distinct from *First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa* and the *Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa*).

#### RENOVATIONS & NEW SPACES

In late May, the *Unitarian Fellowship of London* celebrated the completion of their renovations (their building was formerly a Croation dance hall). And in April, the *First Unitarian Church of Hamilton* held a dedication worship service for their new spiritual home (which was once a hardware store).



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## Meet Mary Bennett, the new CUC Executive Director

A NEW FACE takes over leadership of the Canadian Unitarian Council this month. The Board of Trustees has chosen Mary Bennett of Vancouver as the new Executive Director, to succeed Ellen Campbell as the day-to-day spokesperson and administrative head of the organization.



Mary comes to the post with a strong and varied background in teaching, group facilitation and writing, including nearly 20 years running a consulting business, *Mary Bennett's Learning Exchange*. She has been a member of the Board of Governors of the B.C. Institute of Technology and president of her housing co-op in Kitsilano. She has extensive experience in communication and is already working with the CUC Technology Committee to establish more effective systems on the web.

“Mary was chosen because she has an excellent understanding of the role of the Executive Director, as well as the necessary skills and experiences,” says Barbara Bowmar, chair of the search committee. “In addition, she will lead our new communications strategy, which is a top priority for the CUC Board.”

Mary says, “I’m looking forward to being able to use my denominational skills and my organizational skills.” And she adds, “this job will also allow me to really be who I am, with less separation between the ‘spiritual me’ and the ‘work me’!”

As a national organization Mary believes, “we have a vision, but small resources.” To compensate, she believes the CUC staff can be catalysts, “in tapping the talents of all the amazing people we have in our denomination.”

Mary has been an active member of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver since 1989. In 1995 she worked part-time for the congregation, helping restructure the office and staff systems. She was also Director of Religious Education at the Beacon Unitarian Congregation for a year and a half.

It was Mary's birthday in June and her "party" was an opening of her art show at the Vancouver church, where she sold four paintings. "I now feel like a 'real' artist," she says. She paints landscapes and flowers, mostly in watercolours.

Mary became the CUC's new Executive Director full-time on July 1. After a four-month stay in Toronto, and visits to congregations in other parts of the country, she will alternate six- to eight-week work periods in Toronto and Vancouver. Administrator Carol Dahlquist and Administrative Assistant Kevin Virtue will remain based in the Toronto office. As quickly as possible, the CUC will develop a communication system to allow a seamless connection with Mary through the Toronto office, no matter where she's working.

Mary Bennett is an energetic and lively person, whose infectious enthusiasm draws people into activity and participation. The Board is pleased to welcome her to the Canadian Unitarian Council. •

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is published quarterly by the Canadian Unitarian Council/Conseil unitarien du canada

ISSN 0527-9860

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**EDITORIAL POLICY** — The Canadian *Unitarian* is the quarterly newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council. It is mailed to all Canadian members for whom the CUC has a current address. The *Unitarian* reports on newsworthy events in the denomination, including the annual meeting each spring. It attempts to reflect all segments of Unitarianism and

## The Canadian Unitarian--July 2000

Universalism in Canada. We welcome submissions of articles, photos and news releases to the *Unitarian*; however, publication is at the editors' discretion based on the criteria of newsworthiness, relevance to readers, length and balance. The *Unitarian* attempts to publish all letters to the editor, although they may be edited for brevity and clarity.



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