

**Active Democracy Study Group
Worship Workshop Appendix
Winter 2012**

This material is designed as a supplement to the Instructions for Workshop Materials for Facilitators/Organizers which is available on the CUC website at <http://cuc.ca/active-democracy-study-group/>

In addition to the [Instructions for Workshop Materials for Facilitators/Organizers](#), you will also need the following materials from the CUC website:

- [CUC Active Democracy Resources](#) (PDF)
- Complete the [Active Democracy Survey](#) on SurveyMonkey.
(Please take the survey on-line if possible. This [PDF version](#) is provided for reference.)

We recommend taking a team approach to this service, with at least one person taking on the role of worship leader and at least one person facilitating the actual workshop.

Section 1, Order of Service, gives an example of a typical order of service. Feel free to adapt to follow your congregation's traditions. In Section 2, Materials for Building a Worship Service, we list some choices for readings, hymns and stories. You are by no means limited to these examples: we encourage you to choose words and songs which you think will work best in your congregation.

The final section, Suggestions for the Workshop, gives a brief outline of how to adapt the workshop materials for use during the sermon time on a Sunday morning. Our assumption is that the "workshop" part of the service will take about 20-30 minutes, slightly longer than the average sermon.

If you have any questions, or want to talk with a member of the Study Group as you work on the design of the service, please feel free to get in touch by emailing activedemocracy@cuc.ca

Thank you,
John Hopewell and Karen Fraser Gitlitz
Co-Chairs
Active Democracy Study Group

Section 1. Order of Service

This is only one possible way of laying out the order of service; feel free to adapt to suit your congregation.

Opening Words/Call to Worship

Chalice Lighting

Hymn

Story for All Ages

Responsive Reading

Candles of Joy and Concern

Hymn

Reading / Meditation

Active Democracy Workshop

Offering

Hymn

Closing Words

Section 2. Materials for Building a Worship Service

Chalice Lightings/Opening Words

From Singing the Living Tradition: #418, 420, 448, 458

By Heather K. Janules:

From the power of our memory and history,
With high hopes for the days that lie ahead,
We gather to craft the destiny we share with one another.

We gather with faith in the practice of democracy.
We gather with hearts and minds open
To the wisdom in every voice among us.”

Hymns

From Singing the Living Tradition:

119 Once to Every soul and Nation

121 We'll Build a Land

124 Be That Guide

168 One More Step

295 Sing Out Praises for the Journey

300 With Heart and Mind

From Singing the Journey:

1017 Building a new way

1028 Fire of commitment

Story for All Ages

- *Amelia Bedelia 4 Mayor* by Herman Parish
- *The Day Gogo Went To Vote* by Elinor Batezat Sisulu
- "Shirley's Story" in *Our Seven Principles in Story and Verse* by Kenneth Collier
- "Yertle the Turtle" in *Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories* by Dr. Seuss

Responsive readings

#461, 468

Readings / Meditations / Centering Thoughts:

The fundamental job of the imagination in ordinary life, then, is to produce, out of the society we have to live in, a vision of the society we want to live in.

-- *The Educated Imagination*, Northrup Frye

"The Courage to Belong"

There is no choice but to immerse oneself in the stream of history, accept one's time-location,

Breathe in—with shared memories and hopes—the contamination of tradition, become defined as the (person) of the cause, this party, this emergency.

Failure to accept responsibility, refusal to take a stand on vital issues, timid rejection—as one must reject false tags—of the ties of a true belonging, these are denials of life—in effect they are deeds of death.

To understand the times in which we live, to add our weight to the scales on the side of (solidarity) and equality within valid difference, this is 'life with shape and character'—the one eternity worth having.

-- William Ernest Hocking

Oh, Canada, ...Where you have failed, the fault is on my head. Where you are (too polite) or ignorant or blind or cruel, I made you so. In all your folly and strength I share, and all your beauty is my heritage.

--Gwen Ringwood 1940

“Councils”

In the dark we could propose and describe and suggest. In the dark we could not see who speaks and only the words would say what they say. No one would speak more than twice. No one would speak less than once. Thus saying what we feel and what we want, what we fear for ourselves and each other into the dark, perhaps we could begin to begin to listen. The women must learn to dare to speak. The men must learn to bother to listen. The women must learn to say “I think this is so.” The men must learn to stop dancing solos on the ceiling. After each speaks, she or he will say a ritual phrase: It is not I who speaks but the wind. Wind blows through me. Long after me, is the wind.

--Marge Piercy

Closing words

#693

Section 3. Suggestions for the Workshop

Begin by familiarizing yourself with the [Instructions for Workshop Materials for Facilitators/Organizers](#) and the [CUC Active Democracy Resources](#).

In a worship workshop, each person will have the opportunity to go deeper into one of four areas. Unless your group is less than 20 people, your hall or sanctuary needs to be set up so that congregants can move into smaller groups.

You have some important decisions to make before the day of the service:

Logistics to consider

- How will you set up your hall or sanctuary so that people can move easily into small groups?
- Decide in advance on a location (corner) for each of the four groups.
- How many copies of each handout will you need? If budget permits, it is helpful to have several copies at each table so that people can refer to it.
- How will you let groups know that their time is up? A bell or singing bowl can be very helpful. You may want to give a 2 minute warning before closing the session.
- How will you let people know about the individual survey? A piece of flip chart paper with the cuc website address is a great way to make sure that people have the web address.

How will people receive the material?

It can be helpful to publicize links to the resources in advance of the service. Send out the link to the electronic documents by email, or have a couple of copies available for loan in the weeks preceding the worship workshop.

How will you get the results to the Study Group?

You’ve put all this time and energy into the conversation—make sure that you have

a plan for capturing participants thoughts and ideas! In a worship workshop there may not enough time for the group to come to consensus. Two of the easiest ways to record the results are

- (i) invite the “recorder” in each of the small groups to be responsible for submitting their notes to the Study Group, either by filling out the appropriate questions in the online survey or by sending an email to activedemocracy@cuc.ca, or
- (ii) ask each person to fill out the questions from their section

Notes for Creating a Workshop Script

Introduction

Our fifth principle states that we are committed to the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

In 2005, the CUC passed a resolution that “the CUC Board ... be leaders in, and advocates for, adopting democratic and transparent procedures in CUC internal affairs ...”

In 2010, the CUC Annual Meeting mandated the creation of the Active Democracy Study Group, to engage Canadian UUs in a conversation about our democratic processes.

This morning we are taking our place in this conversation. But before we begin, let’s look at some basics about our national association of congregations -- Canadian Unitarian Council 101.

The CUC is composed of member societies and a few individual, associate and honorary members. The delegates of the member societies (and delegates acting on behalf of individual members) elect the Board of Trustees, which is charged with the management of the affairs of the CUC. The Board is responsible for the mission and vision of the CUC; it oversees the work of the Council as it is carried out by staff and volunteers.

In practice, the relationship between Board and Council needs to be reciprocal. Both Board and Council make decisions. For the relationship between the two to be healthy, there must be an underlying sense of trust, fostered by a clear understanding of roles and meaningful communication.

At times this sense of trust has worn a bit thin. Our task now is to look at how we can build a strong, healthy process.

In a moment, you will be invited to choose one of four conversation areas:

- (i) Stakeholders: how groups such as UU youth, young adults, ministers, religious educators, lay chaplains and social responsibility groups participate in our discussions and decision making
- (ii) Selection of Congregational delegates for the annual meeting
- (iii) Electronic Voting and Participation
- (iv) How do we make decisions, and who makes which decisions?

Each group of 7-10 people will pick a “facilitator,” a “recorder,” and one or more readers. The facilitator helps guide the group process, reminding everyone to pay attention to who hasn’t had a chance to speak. The recorder makes notes of ideas and decisions, giving a sense of the range of opinions. The readers begin by reading the background material. Each of the four areas has a page or two of background material to get you thinking (it will take about 5-7 minutes to read the background material). Then each group will have about 10-15 minutes for conversation.

Instructions

Invite each person to move to the designated location for each of the four conversations. If the conversation groups are large (more than 12-14 participants) invite them to divide into smaller groups.

Ask each group to choose a facilitator, a recorder and one or more readers.

Let the groups know how long they have, and when you will be giving them a warning about the approach of the closing time.

During the conversation

Check to make sure that the groups have a facilitator and recorder, and that they understand what they are doing.

Points to include in the closing

- Depending on the size of the group, and your timing, you may decide to invite the recorder to share one interesting point with the group as a whole at the end of the session.
- Let recorders know what they are to do with their material. (Invite them to enter it into the survey monkey at the appropriate question, or send it to the Study Group via email activedemocracy@cuc.ca)
- Make sure participants know that they can also go through the entire workshop online. The link is available on the cuc website.
- Thank everyone for taking time to think about how we do democracy!