



CANADIAN
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**Canadian Unitarian Council
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
May 17 2013
Calgary, AB**

1. **Invocation and Chalice Lighting** by Rev. Jessica Purple Rodela
2. **Recognition of Staff and Visitors** Executive Director Vyda Ng gave recognition to CUC Staff, International Visitors and Other Guests.
3. **Notice of Meeting** Executive Director Vyda Ng reported that the Notice of Meeting had been sent out in the allotted time frame.
4. **Report of Credentials Committee** Credentials Committee Chair Brian Kiely reported that sufficient delegates were present to meet quorum requirements.
5. **Call to Order:** The 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council was called to order at 9:09 am by President Gary Groot.
6. **Rules of Procedure** were detailed by President Gary Groot.
7. **Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to adopt the agenda. *Peter Scales, Capital, duly seconded and CARRIED.*
8. **Introduction of Parliamentarian** Jaime Dunton
9. **Introduction of Timekeeper** Rev. Fiona Heath
10. **Approval of Minutes of 2012 Annual Meeting**
Motion to approve the Minutes of 2012 Annual Meeting. *Peter Scales, Capital, duly seconded and CARRIED.*
11. **Annual Report**
Motion to receive Annual Report. *John Marsh, Ottawa First, duly seconded and CARRIED*
12. **Youth Report**
Outgoing Youth Observer to the Board (YOB) Micaela Corcoran presented the Youth Report. She spoke about the irrepressible nature of youth and emphasized the importance of ensuring that congregations are accessible to youth. She suggested that it



is necessary to consider options and exceptions for youth, such as lower fees and considerations about youth delegates and youth membership on boards. Micaela expressed appreciation that the Annual General Meeting is now held on a Friday, which makes it possible for youth to attend without missing CanUUdle. She also expressed concerns that new federal legislation makes those under 18 ineligible to vote in organizations and asked for suggestions to find ways for youth participation. Ellen Campbell responded to these concerns.

Micaela introduced the new YOB, Elena Basford from Winnipeg, and announced that for the first time ever, the Youth Observer was elected in an online election.

CUC Board President Gary Groot thanked Micaela for her positive participation and insightful contributions to the Board during her two years as observer to the Board.

13. National Voice Resolution

Board trustee Roger Rochester presented the resolution on behalf of the Board.
Motion to approve the National Voice Resolution. CARRIED.

14. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of new Officers

Terms of office are for three years unless otherwise noted.

The following CUC Board members will continue their terms during 2013-2014:

Region	Name	Term
Eastern	Curtis Murphy (Montreal)	3 rd year of 1 st term
Central	Ellen Campbell (Toronto)	3 rd year of 1 st term
Western	Roger Rochester (Winnipeg)	2 nd year of 1 st term
Western	Gary Groot (Saskatoon)	2 nd year of 2 nd term
British Columbia	Kristina Stevens (Victoria)	3 rd year of 1 st term
British Columbia	Leslie Kemp (Vancouver)	2 nd year of 2 nd term

The following are Nominees for the CUC Board:

Region	Name	Term
Eastern	Glenda Butt (Halifax)	1 st year of 2 nd term
Central	Fiona Heath (Durham)	1 st year of 1 st term



The following CUC Nominating Committee members will continue their terms during 2013-2014:

Region	Name	Term
Eastern	Bunty Albert (Vernon Bridge, PEI)	2 nd year of 1 st term
East/Central at-large	Elizabeth Bowen (Ottawa)	2 nd year of 2 nd term
Central	Doug Campbell (Toronto)	3 rd year of 2 nd term
Western/BC at-large	Anna Isaacs (Victoria)	3 rd year of 1 st term
Western	Susan Ruttan (Edmonton)	2 nd year of 1 st term

The following is a Nominee for the CUC Nominating Committee:

Region	Name	Term
BC	Debra Thorne (New Westminster)	1 st year of 2 nd term

15. 2012 Financial Statements

Kristina Stevens described the contents of the financial statements; Vyda Ng stated that the CUC Staff is starting a process to ensure next year's Financial Statements have an unqualified opinion.

Discussion points included:

- Percentage of total operations covered by returns from investments
- Appreciation for the up-front focus on Social Responsibility.
- Question about possible use of Growth Project funds
- Request to reconcile cost of ACM
- Fee paid to Investment Advisor is 1% of assets annually.
- Part of the year's cost included a staff person allocated to Communications.
- Lay Chaplaincy revenue is shown in the Internal Restricted Funds.

Motion to Accept Financial Statements. *Forrest Smith, Victoria, duly seconded and CARRIED.*

16. Executive Director's Report, Vyda Ng,

- Introduction of CUC Staff:
 - Rev. Antonia Won, Congregational Development – BC & Western Regions
 - Linda Thomson, Congregational Development – Central Region
 - Kelly McDowell, Congregational Development – Eastern Region
 - Ariel Hunt-Brondwin, Youth & Young Adult Ministry Development
 - April Hope, Social Responsibility Coordinator
 - Jorge Moreira, Technical Services
 - Vidya Sudama, Financial Administrator
 - Karen Claney, Office Administrator



- Focus on financial systems and processes, and planning for zero deficit
- Programming and congregational areas:
 - Cancelled CUUL School and Goldmine 2013 due to low registration
 - Exploring leadership development needs of congregations
 - Lay chaplaincy training
 - Publicize trainings well in advance
 - Vyda described her priority on communication with congregations

Wendy McNiven expressed appreciation for Vyda's work and her communications skills.

Motion to receive Executive Director's report. *Carol Cumming Spears, Montreal, duly seconded and CARRIED.*

17. Approval of 2014 Budget in principle.

Executive Director Vyda Ng presented the Budget.

- Noted APC revenue has decreased about 4% every year for past several years.
- Projecting \$76,288 deficit for 2013.
- In 2014: Revenue \$725,499, Expenses \$729,564, Deficit \$4,065

Discussion included:

- Ways of supporting religious educators.
- Costs of implementing Active Democracy Study Group recommendations – some costs have been included in budget; fundraising will be needed for other recommendations, mainly the Communications platform.
- Since Annual Program Contribution depends on membership what work is being done to help congregations be “magnetic, attractive, resilient.”
- Investment fund makes up 17% of income.
- Appreciation for work of board and staff – there is a policy about fair compensation of CUC staff, but CUC is not in line with fair compensation guidelines.
- APC staying at \$93 for 2014.
- Some Staff Team reductions may considered in 2014.
- Decision was made to remove full-time communications person and fill this with contract staff. The part-time Social Responsibility position was not an additional position.
- There are few emerging groups and it is not expected that any funds will be received.
- Current congregational membership numbers are down year over year, which impacts the APC contributions.
- Need to move to other ways to communicate with the populace.
- Congregations need to encourage membership so that the CUC can be strong. So much more than just having to contribute \$93 per member.



- Membership is an affirmation of the value of having a national organization and of working in community with other congregations. For example, CUC is a member of International Council of UUs not because we expect services but because we want UUism to become stronger in the world, we want ICUU to help UU congregations across the world.
- Many small groups of passionate Unitarians are into social justice. There are challenges with burnout. There used to be 23 congregations in BC; now there are 11. How do we encourage large congregations to help smaller congregations?

Motion to approve the 2014 budget in principle. *Margaret Kohr, Toronto First, duly seconded and CARRIED*

18. Motion regarding appointment of Auditors

Motion to appoint Grant Thornton LLP auditor for 2014:

Discussion:

- There will be a change in the cost for auditing services, and consultation with the new firm has yielded improvements already

Motion to appoint Grant Thornton LLP auditor for 2014: *Margaret Kohr, Toronto First, duly seconded and CARRIED.*

21. Young Adult APC Resolution

Motion that the APC for Young Adults (those under 35) be set at \$35 for member congregations.

- **Motion to postpone the motion indefinitely:** *John Slattery, Beacon, duly seconded and DEFEATED*
- **Motion to postpone discussion to after lunch** *Corinna Nielson, Calgary, duly seconded and CARRIED.*

Lunch Break 12:30-1:30

19. Chalice Lighting by Rev. Jessica Rodela

20. **Report of Credentials Committee** The Credentials Committee reported that quorum is present.

21. Young Adult APC Resolution, continued

- **Amendment: that the APC be set at \$35 for those under 35 within congregations, to take effect in the 2013 fiscal year.** *Corinna Nielson, Calgary, duly seconded and CARRIED.*
- **Motion as amended CARRIED**



22. Bylaws Resolutions, Ellen Campbell.

Federal legislation is changing, requiring compliance by all not-for-profit organizations by October 2014. Proposed changes to the CUC by-laws were made for three reasons: (a) to meet new legal requirements; (b) to conform with practices recommended by Active Democracy Study Group; (c) to conform with present practice or improve current practice.

Motion to accept proposed revised articles CARRIED.

[The By-Law resolution being a motion of the CUC Board did not require a seconder]

Motion that the ruling that “Meg Roberts’ motion to include retired and community ministers was substantive” was incorrect. *Rev Brian Kiely, Edmonton, duly seconded and CARRIED.*

Amendment that “retired and community ministers” follow “Ministers of member congregations”. *Rev Brian Kiely, Edmonton, duly seconded and CARRIED.*

Amendment that 2.2.2 read “amount determined by the Board”. *Margaret Kohr, Toronto, duly seconded and CARRIED.*

Bylaw motion carried

Motion that the Canadian Unitarian Council be continued under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act in accordance with the Articles of Continuance as presented.

- Carried

Motion that the Executive Director be charged with providing a “fair copy” of the new by-laws. CARRIED.

23. Active Democracy Resolutions - Presented by Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz, Carol Cumming Spiers, and Rev. John Marsh for the Active Democracy Study Group.

Resolutions 1 to 4: Decision Making within the CUC

- *Amendment: Delete “all” in resolution 4 “consider all alternatives”*
Sue Sparlin, Beacon, duly seconded and CARRIED

Motion to approve resolutions 1 to 4 as amended CARRIED

Resolutions 5 and 6: Relationship between Individuals and the Council, Board and Staff.

Motion to approve resolutions 5 and 6 CARRIED

Resolutions 7 and 8: Delegates and Delegate Selection

- *Amendment: Remove “two” from the phrase “during those two years” in resolution 8.* *Julie Stoneberg, Peterborough duly seconded and CARRIED.*

Motion to approve resolutions 7 and 8 as amended CARRIED



Resolutions 9 through 11: Promoting Discussion Within and Among Member Congregations, on Matters Going to the Annual General Meeting

Motion to approve resolutions 9 through 11 CARRIED

Resolution 12 was omitted as the action it recommended had already been implemented.

Resolutions 13 through 15: Stakeholders and Associate Members

Motion to approve resolutions 13 through 15 DEFEATED

Resolution 16: Electronic Participation and Access to the Annual Meeting

- *Amendment: Remove the word “cluster” from the phrase “communication between cluster groups” Bunty Albert, PEI. Duly seconded and CARRIED*

Motion to approve resolution 16 as amended CARRIED

Resolutions 17 and 18: Transparency Around Board Officer Selection and the Nomination Process

- ***Motion: Consider resolutions 17 and 18 separately. Julie Stoneberg, Peterborough, duly seconded and CARRIED***

Motion to approve Resolution 17 DEFEATED

Motion to approve Resolution 18 CARRIED

24. Immigration & Refugee Protection Resolution

Margaret Rao (Criminal Justice Monitoring Group) presented the Resolution

- *Amendment John Slattery, North Shore Unitarian: “The background forms part of this resolution.” CARRIED*

Motion to approve the Immigration & Refugee Protection Resolution CARRIED

25. Climate Change Mitigation Resolution

Forrest Smith (Environment Monitoring Group) presented the resolution

Motion to approve the Climate Change Mitigation Resolution CARRIED

26. Opposition to Construction of the Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Resolution

Art Brewer presented the Resolution.

- *An amendment to add “Opposes the construction of any further oil export methods” to part 1 was rejected by President Gary Groot on the grounds that it was substantive.*
- *Motion: Rod Wilson, Ottawa to challenge that ruling was duly seconded and DEFEATED.*
- *Amendment: to add “and the export of bitumen through the Douglas Channel” to part 1. Alec Shumacher, Calgary duly seconded and CARRIED*

Motion to approve the Opposition to Pipeline Resolution CARRIED



27. Announcement of New Board Executive - This item was deleted from the agenda since resolution 17 of the Active Democracy Study Group had been defeated.

28. Motions of Thanks

The Board thanks Jessica Rodela for her enthusiastic and creative work on the board.

On behalf of the Board, Board Secretary Glenda Butt thanked the Calgary Host Committee, co-chaired by Mary Jane Hussey and Jeff Webber, all 13 volunteers listed in the program, the congregation of the Unitarian Church of Calgary, the Credentials Committee, the CUC Staff, the Program Planning Team, the CanUUdle Planning Team, and the 14 facilitators and speakers listed in the program.

29. Motion to Adjourn The meeting adjourned 4:47 pm

At the close of the meeting, the Board held an open meeting.

Fiona Heath presented the following slate as the new executive:

- Gary Groot, President
- Glenda Butt, Vice President
- Ellen Campbell, Secretary
- Kristina Stevens, Treasurer.

Carried.