



CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
COUNCIL

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ACTIVE DEMOCRACY STUDY GROUP RESOLUTIONS

PROPOSERS:

Active Democracy Study Group

Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz & John Hopewell (co-chairs),
Mary Anne Parker, Carol Cumming Speirs, Devin Murphy,
Rev. John Marsh, Gary Groot, Vyda Ng

CONTACT:

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DATE:

**Approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting,
May 17, 2013, as amended**

Background

At the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Active Democracy Study Group presented its recommendations for improving the CUC's ability to make effective and meaningful decisions. The wide-ranging recommendations included moving to an electronic platform for annual meetings, creating a category of "stakeholder" groups to ensure that youth, young adults, professional religious educators and other important groups are able to have a voice in the Annual Meeting. The recommendations also suggested that congregations elect delegates for two year terms and that the CUC Board bring the budget and strategic priorities to the membership more than once a year.

The details of these recommendations are available in the revised version of "[Strengthening our Voices](#)," the final report of the Active Democracy Study Group.

Amendments to Resolutions

Amendments as approved by delegates are in **bold text**.

Voting on the Resolutions in Groups

Because of the wide-ranging nature of the report and the resolutions, the resolutions have been divided into seven topic areas. Delegates to the Annual Meeting were asked to vote yes or no to each of the following seven groups of resolutions. As a result, when one resolution in a group was defeated, the whole group was struck down:

- I. Decision-Making within the CUC (Resolutions 1-4)
- II. Relationships between Individuals and the Council, Board and Staff (Resolutions 5-6)
- III. Delegates and Delegate Selection (Resolutions 7-8)
- IV. Promoting Discussion within and Among Member Congregations on Matters Going to the Annual General Meeting (Resolutions 9-11)



- V. Stakeholders and Associate Members (Resolutions 12-15)
- VI. Electronic Participation and Access to the Annual Meeting (Resolution 16)
- VII. Transparency Around Board Officer Selection, and the Nomination Process (Resolutions 17-18)

In place of the usual Action Plan that accompanies resolutions, a document titled “[**CUC Staff and Budget Implications of AD SG Recommendations**](#),” has been created to provide member congregations and delegates with an idea of the resources necessary to enact the resolutions, if approved.



Be it resolved:

I. Decision-making within the CUC: CARRIED

1. That an ongoing consultation process be developed to consider CUC strategic priorities so that the budget is not the only mechanism for commenting on priorities; and
2. That strategic priorities, the Annual Program Contribution (APC) and the overall thrust and bottom line of the budget for the following year be voted on at the Annual General Meeting; and
3. Approval of the APC and budget should be mandated by the by-laws; and
4. The CUC Board proceed with consultation regarding representation of our faith in the larger social and religious environments, and consider alternatives.

II. Relationships between Individuals and the Council, Board and Staff: CARRIED

5. That the development of a flexible, electronic communications platform be made a high priority; and
6. That the CUC Board and Staff develop and communicate an “issue process” that clearly and transparently articulates to whom an individual or congregation should go with a given issue, and the next steps should the issue not be dealt with to their satisfaction.

III. Delegates and Delegate Selection: CARRIED

7. That the CUC staff consult and develop Best Practices for Delegates/ Denominational Affairs Representative and their selection for use by congregations; and
8. That congregational delegates be encouraged to serve one to two year terms, that there would be expectation of ongoing communication between the delegates and the CUC Board and staff during those years, and that there would be suggested roles for the delegates to play in their congregations during those two years.

IV. Promoting Discussion Within and Among Member Congregations, on Matters Going to the Annual General Meeting: CARRIED

9. That the CUC Board and Staff make use of responsive mechanisms, such as straw polls in the eNews, to promote discussion; and
10. That CUC Board and Staff regularly advertise communications channels such as the cuc-leaders list serve, especially during times of conflict when people are most likely to want their voice heard; and
11. That ongoing education and publicity about the Resolutions Process be a priority for CUC Board and Staff, and specifically, that on-line communities and other groups be made aware that they can use this process to move ideas and issues onto the floor of the Annual Meeting.



V. Stakeholders and Associate Members: DEFEATED

12. [This recommendation was deleted as it has already occurred]
13. That we create a category of “Stakeholder Group” outside the bylaws to replace the current “Associate Member” category. Stakeholder groups would need to meet specific criteria and their status would need to be approved by a vote at the Annual Meeting; and
14. That recognized Stakeholder Groups have:
 - a. A voice at the Annual Meeting but not a vote. An elected spokesperson for a stakeholder group does not need to wait until all delegates have spoken – they can be in the lineup with the delegates.
 - b. The ability to put an item on the agenda, having demonstrated that they have met the criteria of the resolutions process; and
15. That CUC Board and Staff prioritize education about Stakeholder Group requirements and the use of the Resolutions Process as a way to move ideas and motions forward to the Annual Meeting.

VI. Electronic Participation and Access to the Annual Meeting: CARRIED

16. That the CUC invest in hardware/software for ongoing communication between groups spread geographically across the country to allow full participation in Council meetings.

VII. Transparency Around Board Officer Selection and the Nomination Process: Motion to consider Resolutions 17 and 18 separately: CARRIED

17. That the Board provide increased transparency in the appointment of Officers by voting on the appointments at an open Board Meeting and announcing the appointments at the Annual Meeting. **DEFEATED**
18. That the communication surrounding the process and opportunities to be nominated to the Nominating Committee and/or the Board be expanded and widely distributed. **CARRIED**