



Conseil unitarien du Canada
Canadian Unitarian Council

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



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President's Statement

I ended last year's annual report by saying that the Board of Trustees was aware of several important tasks that lay before us for 2013. I begin this year's report by following up on those items that were lifted up for special consideration.

We committed to continuing the task of getting back to a balanced budget and by all measures we were successful in doing that. I refer you to the Treasurer's report for a more detailed accounting. A big thank you to Vyda Ng and her staff for this accomplishment.

The Board of Trustees is grateful for the stability that our Interim Executive Director and her staff have brought to the CUC in 2013—stability that has allowed the Board to move forward with its commitment to renewing the longer term visioning process for Canadian Unitarian Universalism. We began that process immediately following the ACM in Calgary when the Board met with the members of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) who were at the Calgary meeting. Coming out of that meeting was a clear understanding that leadership from the Board and UUMOC combined with congregational buy-in and engagement would be necessary for any significant change, and that this would necessitate an adequate process of consultation.

We began that consultation at the regional fall gatherings, and continued with a focused visioning face-to-face

Board meeting in November that included invited guests. This visioning weekend resulted in a discussion paper that was distributed to congregations in early 2014; discussion will continue at the 2014 AGM in Montreal when the new Board priorities will be voted on. The Board believes that the message of our liberal religious faith is as important and relevant today as ever, but that organizational change is urgently needed for Canadian Unitarian Universalism to deliver that message most effectively in our rapidly changing world. We believe that the proposed change in priorities will allow us to make those changes. Assuming that our member societies agree with the change in direction, the Board is proposing we will continue our consultation with the membership over the next year or two as staff clarify the details of implementation.

Once the Board had completed the visioning retreat in November 2013, it was evident that it would be premature to embark on a search for a new Executive Director. Not only had we not yet clarified what the role of this position should be into the future, we also felt that a search would undermine the stability that had been achieved and serve as a distraction at a point in time where we were moving forward with a slightly new direction. For these reasons, we decided to defer a search for at least the next three years while the process described above unfolds, and that during this time we would offer our current Interim Executive

Director a three year contract to complete the work that has begun—an offer that she has graciously accepted and that will begin immediately upon completion of her current Interim position in May of 2014.

As always there were some comings and goings on the Board in 2013. Rev. Jessica Purple Rodela's bounding energy and expansive spirit are attributes that will not easily be replaced but her vision of building a bigger boat has most certainly stuck. Also missed will be Micaela Corcoran, our Youth observer to the Board (YOB) of two years who never failed to remind us of the needs and aspirations of our younger members, all the while considering the needs of the organization as a whole. On behalf of the Board of Trustees I wish both of them well and I welcome the two new members that have joined us—Elena Basford our new YOB and Rev. Fiona Heath our new Central Region Board member.

As we look to 2014 and beyond, I personally feel optimistic. Like you, I am passionate about what Unitarian Universalism has to offer society and I believe that the key to how that message can be made accessible to the world lies in the hands of each and every one of us who makes up this sacred movement. I also believe that the change in priorities being proposed by your Board will position us as an organization to assist you in delivering that message today and into the future. I look forward with anticipation to seeing what that looks like.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Groot, *President*
CUC Board of Trustees

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The Board believes that the message of our liberal religious faith is as important and relevant today as ever, but that organizational change is urgently needed for Canadian Unitarian Universalism to deliver that message most effectively in our rapidly changing world.

Gary Groot
CUC President

Our Vision

The Canadian Unitarian Council is a strong, respected Canadian voice for a vibrant, liberal faith community, relevant to contemporary life in the twenty-first century. It takes a responsible role in the international community of Unitarians and Universalists and the interfaith community. It respects and affirms diversity both within and among its congregations, and within the Canadian mosaic. It connects, nurtures, and empowers Canadian Unitarians and Universalists and their congregations, and fosters the growth and outreach of the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada, particularly in the areas of:

- ◇ Lifespan religious education
- ◇ Effective professional and lay ministries, and
- ◇ Active participation in national social issues.

Treasurer's Report

In 2013 the Board and the Executive Director pursued the goal of continuing progress on our priorities while containing costs to match our income. The CUC made good progress towards achieving a sustainable annual budget, with operating expenditures exceeding operating revenue by only \$34,603 compared to the original budgeted over-expenditure of \$76,288. Our investments also did well, leaving the CUC's net worth higher at the end of the year than at the beginning.

Revenue

The largest source of revenue continued to be the Annual Program Contributions (APCs) from CUC congregations. However, even though the per-member amount was increased from \$91 to \$93, the amount received was lower than in 2012 by almost \$15,000. This was partly due to a decrease of 1.6% in the total

number of members across Canada, but also due to a few congregations not paying their Fair Share amount because of their own financial challenges.

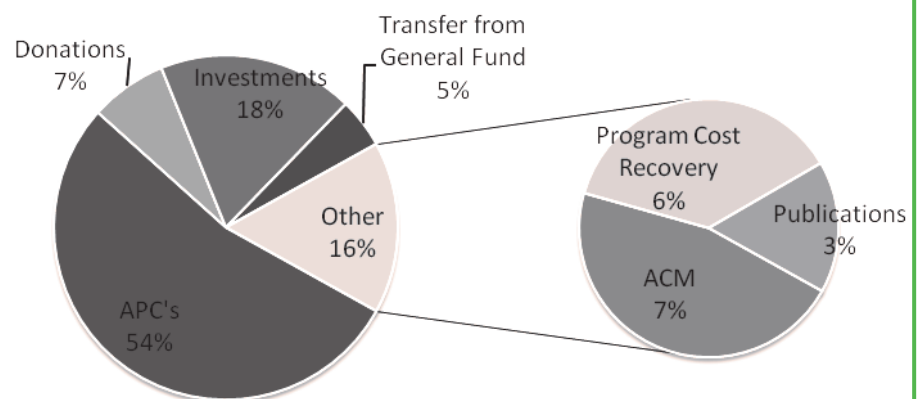
Donations received from the Friends of the CUC were increased over 2012. These donations are a key resource to enabling our move to a sustainable budget while continuing to provide quality support to Canadian UU congregations. Program Cost Recoveries and Publications revenue were also higher than in 2012.

Expenditures

CUC programs supported the following priorities during 2013:

- religious exploration and spiritual growth,
- nurturing leadership,
- social sustainability,

2013 REVENUE BY CATEGORY



- multi-generational appeal and relevant life-stage ministries, and
- resources for effective communication.

Most of the CUC's programs incurred lower expenditures in 2013 than in 2012, due to decreased staff positions and other efforts to use our resources more efficiently. The Congregational Resource program constitutes the largest program, including support for regional fall gatherings as well as for events such as workshops and consultations with specific congregations. The National program, which includes Board expenses, de-

creased both in dollar amount and in percentage of total expenditures. However, Social Responsibility expenditures more than doubled as a consequence of increasing staff resourcing, and expenditures increased for the ACM, held in Calgary in May.

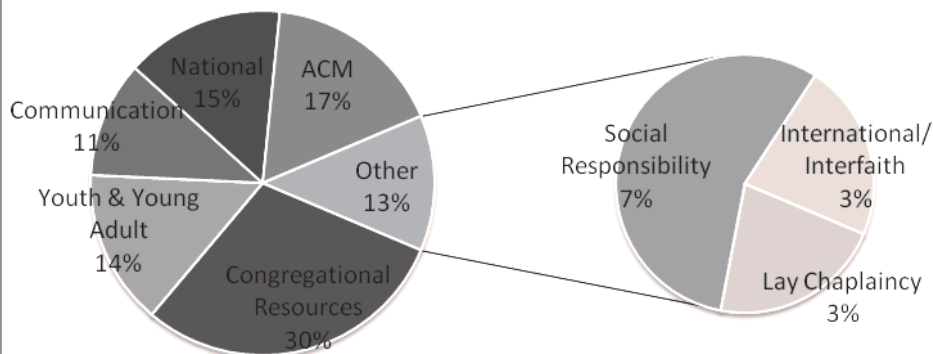
Kristina Stevens, *Treasurer*
CUC Board of Trustees

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...donations are a key resource to enabling our move to a sustainable budget while still providing quality support to Canadian UU congregations.

Kristina Stevens
CUC Treasurer

2013 EXPENSES BY PROGRAM



Our Mission

The Canadian Unitarian Council is an organization of Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist member congregations and individual members, acting to enhance, nurture, and promote Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist religion in Canada. The CUC provides tangible support for religious exploration, spiritual growth, and social responsibility. It represents our faith in the larger social and religious environments, which can be summarized as:

**GROWING VITAL
RELIGIOUS
COMMUNITIES
IN CANADA**

Executive Director's Report

2013 built on the work accomplished in 2012. The questions posed at the 2013 Annual Conference and Meeting in Calgary – “How do we challenge our assumptions about ourselves and practice radical inclusion?” “What are ways we can be relevant into the future?” – resonated throughout the year and influenced staff thinking and planning. Staff continued engaging with congregations, while exploring ways to be flexible and responsive in meaningful ways within the constraints of limited financial and human resources.

Financial Management

New auditors were appointed in 2013. Administrative staff spent considerable time with Grant Thornton, the new company, to ensure improved financial processes and increase accountability and transparency to our member congregations.

In line with the plan to achieve a sustainable budget, staff were extremely conservative with expenditures, and most expenses came in under budget. We ended 2013 with over \$40,000 less than the estimated amount of over-expenditure. However, an ever-present challenge is how the CUC (Board, staff, congregations and communities together) remains a vital religious presence in Canada with limited resources.

Programs and Congregational Engagement

In 2013, congregations, leaders and members had opportunities for face-to-face connecting in multiple ways - Regional Fall Gatherings, the Annual Conference and Meeting in Calgary, youth and Young Adult conferences, lay chaplain workshops, congregational retreats and ses-

sions, and staff consultations with congregations all took place.

The review of leadership development programming continues, taking into account feedback from leaders and participants. Staff are proceeding to plan leadership development opportunities beyond ‘one-size-fits-all’ programming.

The CUC's Lay Chaplaincy program provides a vital function in performing unique rites of passages for members and friends, but is facing challenges. The numbers of reported rites performed have dropped, and subsequently, revenue from these rites has decreased. The Lay Chaplaincy Committees are considering the issues, with a view to long-term sustainability.

Youth Ministry Development has seen success with an increasing number of youth attending youth cons (conferences) – in 2013, more youth than ever participated in all 3 Regional Fall Gatherings. There is an increasing awareness of Young Adult Ministry among congregational leaders, with YAs expressing desires to connect with each other and build community in relevant and meaningful ways.

There was continued activity in the areas of social responsibility and justice. Work was done on environment and climate change, affordable housing, diversity, assisted dying and refugee sponsorship, among others.

Communications and National Connections

One of the year's priorities has been continued enhancement of the CUC's communications capabilities. The eNews is well established and is published every even-numbered month. The *Canadian*

Unitarian is now a twice-yearly publication, with a mostly electronic form of distribution. The CUC's on-line presence is increasing, with a FaceBook page that connects individual UUs, youth, young adults, congregations and communities nationally as well as internationally. Work continues to ensure that the CUC website is vibrant, current and a good resource for Unitarian Universalists and visitors. Fundraising efforts are under way to support the need for enhanced communications capabilities.

As part of carrying out the Active Democracy (AD) resolutions approved in 2013, time and energy has been focused on finding and evaluating on-line tools that will allow Canadian UUs to connect easily with each other, to provide virtual gathering spaces, and to vote at Annual General Meetings. Other aspects of the AD resolutions have been put into effect regarding delegate and congregational representation, consultations with member congregations and leaders, inclusion of financial documents for vote at the Annual General Meeting, education about the Resolutions Process, and transparency around officer selection and the nominating process.

Associate and International Relationships

The CUC enjoys good relationships with Affiliates and partners. The CUC and Unitarian Universalist – United Nations Office (UU-UNO) agreement was renewed in the fall of 2013, and the Canadian UNO Advisory Council, which provides program and policy advice about UNO activities in Canada, has been in place since May 2013. We continue to have relationships with our other Affiliates – UU Ministers of Canada, USC-Canada, the Canadian UU Historical Society, the Canadian UU Women's Association, Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice, the International Association for Religious Freedom, and the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. In

June 2013, I attended the Unitarian Universalist Association's General Assembly, which has helped strengthen UUA-CUC relations.

Staff Team

In the fall of 2013, there was a staff transition. At the end of the year, your CUC staff consisted of six full-time and two part-time people. Among us, we provide support, programming and communications to 46 congregations with a total of over 4,600 members. Work has continued over the past year to enhance processes around communications, expectations, and administrative and human resource practices.

With the decrease in staffing complement, the challenge is on to continue providing timely responses, all office and administrative functions, as well as congregational development, youth and young adult ministry and social responsibility support. The staff group appreciates the understanding of congregations and members who realise that the workload has not diminished, but the ability of the current staff group to do the work has been reduced by a few hands and many hours.

A New Way Forward?

In November 2013, the CUC Board met with invited guests for a visioning weekend. The result of this is the Discussion Paper which was distributed in February 2014, and a new set of proposed priorities. If approved by delegates at the 2014 AGM, these priorities will set the direction for a new, creative way of thinking and working. Indeed, your CUC staff has already begun to focus more on networking and connecting UUs with each other, and nurturing leadership and growth in innovative ways. Exciting opportunities are ahead!

Vyda Ng

Executive Director

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One of the year's priorities has been the continued enhancement of the CUC's communications capabilities.... Indeed, your CUC staff has already begun to focus on more networking and connecting UUs with each other, & nurturing leadership & growth in innovative ways.

Board of Trustees

Gary Groot
President

Glenda Butt
Vice President

Ellen Campbell
Secretary

Kristina Stevens
Treasurer

Leslie Kemp
Social Responsibility Liaison

Curtis Murphy

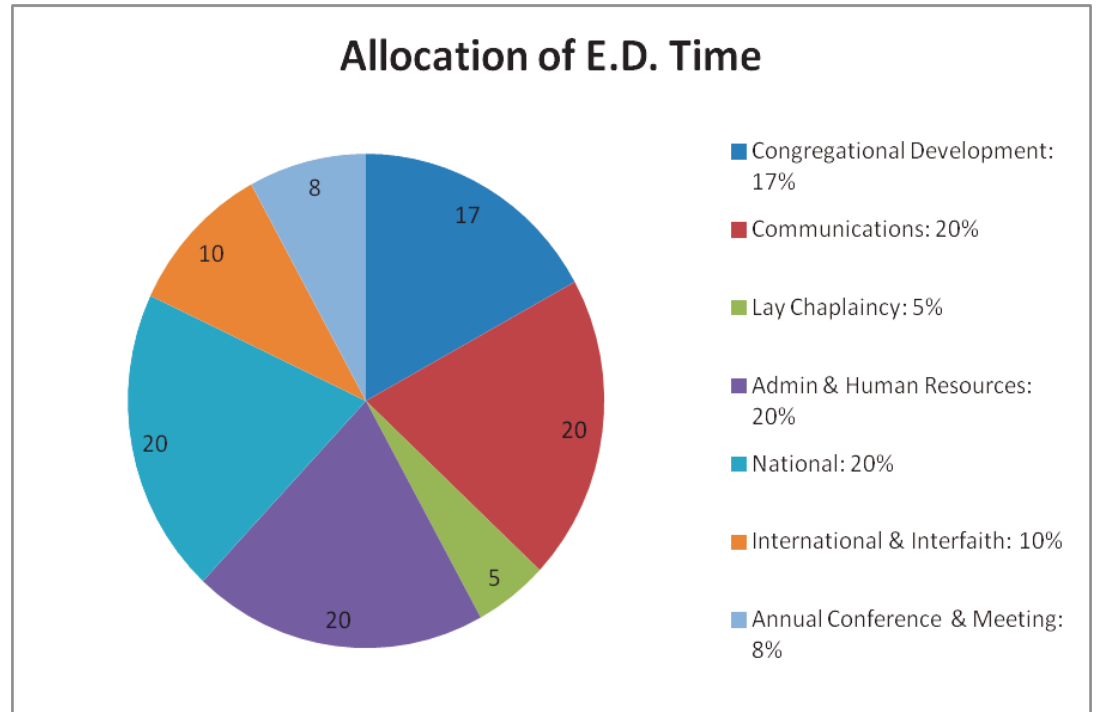
Rev. Fiona Heath

Roger Rochester

Rev. John Marsh
Minister Observer

Elena Basford
Youth Observer

Allocation of Executive Director's Time



Engaging Shared Passionate scenes
Thoughtful Inter-generational Coaching
Future-oriented Ministry Inspiring
Compassion Connected Enriching Networking Revealing Creative Supportive
Facilitative Information-sharing Youth-and-young-adult-focused Coordination Caring Humbling Hopeful Consultative
Supports-leaders Relational Essential Teaching Enlightening Empowerment Problem-solving Behind-the-Affirming Challenging
Grounding Adaptive-leadership Based-on-trust Spiritual Encouraging Diverse Unitarian-grounded

Staff

Vyda Ng
Executive Director

Rev. Antonia Won
Congregational
Development
BC & Western Region

Linda Thomsom
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

Karen Claney
Office Administrator

Vidya Sudama
Financial Administrator

Staff Reports

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Development

Ariel Hunt-Brondwin

During 2013, some of the themes and trends in youth and young adult ministry work have been:

Sustained and/or growing attendance at the Regional Fall youth Cons suggest that these are increasingly becoming an 'anchoring' event for youth and congregational youth ministries;

Growing awareness of the need for a holistic approach to support vital youth and young adults ministry with congregations;

Greater sense of belonging amongst young adults, as YA visibility has increased. There seems to be a rising awareness in congregational leaders who are trying to actively serve YAs in their midst;

Renewed Branching out – 2013 was a year of really renewing ties across the region in Ontario.

Support for Congregational Youth & Young Adult Ministry

- 1 day BC YAC Orientation (Jan, Vancouver)
- Met with lay leaders re: starting a campus ministry (Feb, Durham)
- Appeared on Horizons TV (Mar, Toronto)
- Met with Young Adult leaders re: their group and promoting Opus (Apr, Hamilton)
- Met with Neighbourhood re: youth ministry and hosting Central Regional Fall Gathering Con (Jun, Neighbourhood)
- Met with Amanda Henderson, DLL to prepare for the Central RFG Con (Dec, Neighbourhood)

Conferences and Trainings (weekend long event unless noted otherwise)

- Fundamentals of Youth Ministry Training (Jan, Buffalo, NY)
- "A Gathering" UU Young Adult event (Jan, Ottawa)
- Youth Chaplain Training (Mar, Toronto First)
- Maritime Religious Education Retreat (Mar, Halifax)
- fUUel, Young Adult social justice Con (Apr, Vancouver) – supported volunteer staff team, especially around registration *did not attend
- Goldmine, week long Youth Leadership School (Jul/Aug, New York)
- Opus, 5 day Young Adult spiritual retreat (Aug, Unicamp) - supported volunteer staff team, especially around registration and participant
- 6th Annual Young Adult Weekend (Sep, Unicamp)

Institutional & National Events

- Attended Carly Gaylor's Ordination (Apr, Toronto First)
- Attended Fiona Heath's Ordination (May, Grand River)
- 2 day Congregational Development staff meeting (May, Calgary)
- 2 day CUC Board meeting (May, Calgary)
- 3 day ACM/CanUudle XII (May, Calgary)
- 1 day Young Adult Mini-Con, post-ACM (May, Calgary)
- Attended Linda Thomson's Ordination (May, Hamilton)
- Attended UUA General Assembly (Jun, Louisville, KY)
- Attended CUUYAN ConCentric business meeting (Aug, online)
- BC RFG & Youth Con (Oct, North Shore)
- Attended Debra Thorne's Ordination (Oct, Beacon)
- Western RFG & Youth Con (Oct, Saskatoon)
- 3 day CUC Board meeting (Nov, Orangeville)
- 2 day CD Staff meeting (Nov, Orangeville)
- Central RFG & Central & Eastern Youth Con (Nov, Toronto First & Neighbourhood)

Professional Development

- 1 day LREDA Professional Day at GA (Jun, Louisville, KY)
- Youth Ministry Renaissance Module (Aug, Stony Point, NY)
- Retreat - Planting a Canadian Garden covenant group (Oct, Toronto)

Additionally, I have had numerous phone calls/teleconferences/in person meetings, with lay leaders, religious educators, youth advisors, youth and young adult leaders, UUA YaYA district staff, regarding:

- organization and coordination of CanUudle, as well as Young Adult programming at the ACM
- planning and registration processes for Opus
- coordination and programming of the three Regional Fall Gatherings and parallel Youth Conferences
- issues and challenges in Youth and Young Adult ministry (with UUA YaYA district staff)
- transition of the Continental UU YA Network into Faith Architects

Ariel Hunt-Brondwin
National Youth and Young Adult Ministry Development

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Growing attendance at Regional Fall Gathering youth cons suggests that these are increasingly becoming an 'anchoring' event for youth and congregational youth ministries

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Congregational Development staff engage with congregations in the areas of visioning, conflict management, youth & young adult ministry, transitions, supporting lay & professional ministry, financial stewardship, social responsibility, refugee sponsorship, worship, leadership development, religious lifespan learning—among other areas. All this is undertaken with the aim of building congregations and communities which are magnetic, vital, and resilient.

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Staff Reports

Congregational Development Staff – British Columbia & Western Regions, Rev. Antonia Won

The congregations in the BC and Western Regions of Canada represent a large range of sizes and are situated in a spectrum of geographies. In 2013, my time with congregations involved:

Congregational Leadership support:

Designed and facilitated leadership priority-setting workshops for:

- Kamloops (attendance 15)
- Regina (attendance 18)
- Victoria (attendance 12 – board and ministers only)
- Capital (attendance 14)
- Saskatoon (attendance 10 – theme-based ministry)

Designed and facilitated congregational workshops for:

- Saskatoon (attendance 30 – religious education)
- Nanaimo (attendance 35 – covenant of right relations)

Other consultation and support of leadership processes:

- ministerial transitions (3 congregations)
- sabbatical support (1 congregation)
- budgets and canvass (1 congregation)
- ministerial evaluation (1 congregation)
- religious education staff transitions (4 congregations)
- ‘Joy of Stewardship’ workshop with UUA consultant (attendance 22/6 congregations)
- Congregational dialogue session at CUC ACM (attendance 22 – multiple congregations)
- Administrative support for emergent group of ministers (approx. 9) serving small congregations for monthly conference calls.

Worship

Where possible, Staff provided support for Sunday services i.e. preaching, at Nanaimo, Capital, Saskatoon, Kamloops, South Fraser, Regina.

Regional Fall Gatherings – Western and BC

- Oversaw and collaborated with Host Congregation/Program teams throughout planning processes
- Collaborated with CUC Administrative Staff re: registration and protocols for related finances
- Created websites for team communications
- Promoted events via social media
- Planned and performed opening and closing ceremonies
- Facilitated a CUC ‘town hall’ session (BC Region)
- Began recruiting Host Congregation for following year’s event
- (Western Region attendance: 39 adults, 7 children, 31 youth inc. leaders = 77)
- (BC Region attendance: 53 adults, 6 children, 45 youth inc. leaders = 104)

CUC Leadership Development and Support

- Collaborated in biannual Congregational Staff planning meetings
- Presented to CUC Board re: congregations
- Achieved certification in Webinar production
- Attended leadership development trainings (UUMA’s The Institute: Power, UUMOC: Who Are Our Neighbours?)

Rev. Antonia Won

Congregational Development—BC and Western Regions



Working with congregations when they are thriving is exciting work... other congregations are struggling to determine how they can best meet the challenges they face... being asked to provide support at these times is very gratifying.

Staff Reports

Congregational Development Staff –

Central and Eastern Regions, Rev. Linda Thomson

2013 was a busy year, in both the Central and Eastern Regions. Some of our congregations have easily imagined ways to adapt to the circumstances in which they find themselves. It has been exciting to work with them as they consider how they can engage new members, foster effective shared ministry, actively connect with the larger community, and provide worship and programming which engages people across age and theological differences. It is gratifying that those same congregations have, on many occasions connected with the Canadian Unitarian Council, looking for support, guidance and resources. Working with congregations when they are thriving is exciting work. Other congregations are struggling to determine how they can best meet the challenges they face. These congregations struggle to how they can, when resources are stretched, provide soul enriching worship, maintain a building, engage meaningfully and productively with professional staff and ministers and how to help people build a grounding UU identity. Being asked to provide support at those times is very gratifying. Congregations that reach out to for support even when things are not going well, are demonstrating courage and a faith in the interdependent web of our collective association of congregations.

The chart on the next page offers a partial listing of the type of in-person consultations, visits and training that has occurred during 2013. This includes sermons, brief post-worship forums, full-day sessions and evening meetings. These estimates include the actual time spend in the congregation, but not preparation or travel. Nor does it include phone meetings or consultations. This outline offers some idea of the scope of work that is taking place in our congregations. It is my hope that a review of this list might encourage the leaders in congregations which were not directly supported in 2013 to consider how the CUC might help them foster congregational vitality in 2014. The tracking of 2013 activities is not as accurate as it might be because of the transition in staff that occurred in September. *[Note: Kelly McDowell left the Eastern position, and Linda Thomson assumed this region in addition to the Central Region]*

Highlights of Central Region In-Person Consultations and Visits 2013

| Service Delivery Area (number of occasions) | Approx. Hours | Partici- pants | Congrega- tions |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Vision, Mission and Planning (x3) | 20 | 28 | 3 |
| Congregational Wellness (x2) | 6 | 30 | 3 |
| Worship- lead, preach, participate (x4) in conjunction with other activities) | | | 4 |
| Leadership Development (x2) | 10 | 20 | 2 |
| Religious Education (x1) | 6 | 12 | 2 |
| Ministry (x1) | 3 | 10 | 1 |
| Healthy Congregations Workshop | 16 | 38 | 10 |
| Central Regional Fall Gathering (Hosted by First Unitarian Congrega- tion of Toronto) | | 60 (adult) | 14 |
| Total (* some duplication due to congregations being represented on different occasions) | 61 | 198 | 39* |

Finally, to all that have supported this work in 2013, I want to express my thanks. Kelly McDowell, after 3 years as the Eastern Region support staff, left for other work in the summer. I know that many of you appreciate the care and attention she put into her work, and that you join me in wishing her the best of luck in future endeavors. I am grateful for this opportunity to serve our living tradition, to engage with congregations in their transformative and world healing work. The congregational volunteers, Ministers and professional staff continue to inspire me.

Rev. Linda Thomson

Congregational Development - Central & Eastern Regions

Staff Reports

CUC Social Responsibility Co-ordinator—April Hope

It has been my pleasure continue assisting the CUC's Social Responsibility Monitoring Groups with their administrative and developmental needs. In 2013, we found renewed energy in the Diversity Monitoring Group, while the Environment Monitoring Group put forward and began implementing a resolution on Climate Change. The Economic Justice Group completed a comprehensive list of local, national and international groups whose values match our own, available on the website. Letters and/or petitions were sent from our Affordable Housing, Peace and Environment Groups which are also available on the website.

The activity of each Monitoring Group ebbs and flows both by the issue and volunteer capacity. Our faithful group of leaders is always looking for more volunteers with new and exciting ways of challenging the status quo to help make our world a better place.

Our activities as a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) continue and we were able to share all of our allocated spaces with other groups in need. A few congregations have shown interest in refugee sponsorship and hope to begin the sponsorship process in the coming year.

I also began in the role of Conference Coordinator for our Annual Conference and Meeting and am looking very forward to serving the national community in this role.

April Hope

CUC Social Responsibility and Conference Coordinator

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Our faithful group of leaders is always looking for more volunteers with new and exciting ways of challenging the status quo to help make our world a better place.

Social Responsibility Monitoring Group Reports

The CUC's Monitoring Groups continued this past year to act as a watchdog on critical issues facing Canada, both domestically and internationally. Key themes domestically this past year were Canada's role with indigenous peoples, pipelines and climate change. We also spoke out on issues that have broader implications in the world including Canada's role in the sale of weapons and military equipment to developing countries.

Social responsibility for the CUC has been and continues to have both a domestic and international focus. Social responsibility issues often transcend borders; while our work on climate change focuses on actions that Canadian UUs can take to alleviate affects of climate change, the impact of climate change is felt well beyond our borders. Similarly with other issues including peace, immigration and treatment of indigenous people here in Canada.

Our actions include writing letters to political leaders, mainly at the federal level, but can include letters to provincial and international leaders. However, we don't stop at letter-writing. Effective social change involves building mass movements and Canadian UUs are involved in various movements and are linked with other organizations working for change: anti-poverty, housing, peace, environment, and human rights. This year UUs walked in solidarity with First Nations and aboriginal people and other Canadians involved with the Truth and Reconciliation process and prepared for the CUC's involvement in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2014.

The changes to our resolutions process two years ago focus on actions that UUs take at many levels: individually, in their congregations, in their communities, and actions we can take collectively as the body which represents Canadian Unitarians and Universalists: the Canadian Unitarian Council. To be effective in our social responsibility work, we will need to work on all levels.

I invite you to become involved by participating on one of our Monitoring Groups. This is a tangible way of connecting with UUs across the country who are committed to building a just and sustainable world for all. I would like to thank those of you who are already involved and contributing to adding CUC's voice to many of the important issues of our time.

Leslie Kemp

Social Responsibility Liaison to the CUC Board

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Social responsibility for the CUC has been and continues to have both a domestic and international focus. Social responsibility issues often transcend borders.



The **Affordable Housing** Monitoring Group focused its efforts on advocating for passage in Parliament of Bill C-400 which would establish a national strategy for adequate, secure, accessible, affordable housing.

We encourage members of congregations to write their MPs & urge them to advocate for a national affordable housing strategy.

Social Responsibility Monitoring Group Reports

Social Responsibility Monitoring Groups are in place to monitor social justice events on a regional, national and international scale and to highlight issues pertinent to Canadian Unitarian and Universalist Principles and Resolutions. Members of these monitoring groups complete this work through policy review, resolutions, letter writing and educational development. If you are interested in getting involved with any of our social action efforts please contact us at social-responsibility@cuc.ca

Affordable Housing

The Affordable Housing Monitoring Group advocates for a National Housing Strategy that would ensure secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing for Canadians. The Group identifies Unitarians interested in working on this issue; coordinates tactical approaches to influencing public policy on housing; encourages congregations to engage in education and advocacy activities; and writes letters and/or statements to government and media. If you would like to serve on this monitoring group please contact us at affordable-housing@cuc.ca

This past year, the Monitoring Group initially focused its efforts on advocating for passage in Parliament of Bill C-400 which would establish a national affordable housing strategy. Unfortunately, advancing the Bill to successive readings/passage was defeated in a strictly party-line vote. Our efforts subsequently focused on the National Housing Day (November 22nd). Petitions to Candice Bergen, Minister of State, were signed and sent from numerous congregations (including a petition from the Unitarian Church of Vancouver with over 250 signatures), along with those of scores of housing advocacy groups.

Federal elections will take place in the Spring 2015. We encourage members of congregations to write to their MPs and urge them to advocate for a national affordable housing strategy as a central elections issue/need. Let us persist in our faithful perseverance in order to achieve our goals. For detailed information about Canada's affordable housing crisis and what we can do to address it, please see the publications and resources on housing on the Wellesley Institute's webpage: www.wellesleyinstitute.com

We urge UUs across Canada to become involved in housing education and advocacy activities.

Rev. Dr Steven Epperson, Chair
Unitarian Church of Vancouver

Choices in Dying

The principles of the Unitarian religion strongly support the right of individuals to make choices for themselves and of the need for the larger community to respect those choices. Our principles also lift up the inherent worth and dignity of human beings, which we consistently interpret as a call to improve and preserve the quality of life. A large majority of Unitarians hold that these principles guide us to a position of supporting the widespread calls in Canada for the legalization of assisted suicide or euthanasia.

Rev. Anne Treadwell and April Hope have been particularly supportive as we rebuilt this initiative during the past several years and on behalf of everyone, please accept our thank you. Foreground dynamics within this Group include the wonderful research and resource base list on the CUC web page. The associated Dying with Dignity organization is ably led by Unitarian Wanda Morris. Also, the Green Burial movement has gained momentum; a National organization has been formed. I urge all Unitarians to think more deeply about Cremation: it is a popular choice but a very polluting last act. Two Congregations have become leaders with respect to exploring various Choices in Dying: First Toronto and First Victoria. The CUC Board has taken the lead with respect to Assisted Dying interventions as legal challenges become more frequent. Any incoming Chair will appreciate that this monitoring group represents an important 21st Century dialogue. Best wishes for positioning our faith community appropriately.

This is my final report because I have resigned as Chair of this Monitoring Group.

Dr. E. L. (Betty) Donaldson, Chair
Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship

(The CUC Board and Staff thank Betty for her leadership of this Monitoring Group over the years; her commitment to ensuring that Canadians have end-of-life choices has been instrumental in raising the consciousness of Canadian UUs)

Diversity

The Diversity Monitoring Group was formed by the union of two groups, Anti-Racism and First Nations Justice. Its goals are to encourage diversity in Canadian Unitarian congregations, and encourage bridge building to other ethnic groups which form the mosaic of our communities. If you would like to serve on this monitoring group, please contact us at diversity@cuc.ca

Marlene Blake Seale, Chair

“

The **Choice in Dying** Monitoring Group is pleased the CUC had intervenor status, in the BC-based Supreme Court decision to support assisted dying.

The **Diversity** Monitoring Group encourages diversity in Canadian Unitarian congregations, and bridge building to other ethnic groups which form the mosaic of our communities.



The **Criminal Justice** Monitoring Group is following Bill C-10 (the omnibus crime bill).

The **Democracy** Monitoring Group monitors democratic processes in our congregations and in society at large.

Social Responsibility Monitoring Group Reports

Criminal Justice

This group's primary focus is to gather resources for a curriculum on criminal justice issues as outlined in the action plan of our 2012 resolution. If you would like to serve on this monitoring group please contact us at criminal-justice@cuc.ca

Rev. Frances Deverell, Chair and Susan Berry LLB

Democracy

The Democracy Monitoring Group holds to our fifth Principle of "The right of conscience and use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large." If you would like to serve on this monitoring group please contact us at democracy@cuc.ca

The Democracy Monitoring Group members have worked at improving democracy locally in congregations through their Social Responsibility Committees, and nationally through the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice.

Democracy issues that need attention include: the freedom of speech of government scientists and librarians, public access to scientific research and information, and dealing with dissent in our society. Information is available at Voices, (www.voices-voix.ca) a non-partisan coalition of Canadians and Canadian organizations committed to defending collective and individual rights to dissent, advocacy and democratic space.

Members of the Democracy Monitoring group are also helping to develop strategies for implementing proportional representation in our voting systems.

Philip Symons, Chair

Drug Policy

“In calling for a radical change in Canadian drug policy we are mindful of its victims. Addiction is a disease (and a disability according to Canadian human rights law) and consumption of drugs should not be a crime. Our Unitarian values also call us to reflect upon the spiritual crisis faced by people with addictions. .. Our values compel us to advocate for compassionate policies. We believe that Canadian society has the imagination and capability to better address the complex issues around the demand for drugs, both legal and illegal.”

This Monitoring Group continues to advocate for options other than criminalizing cannabis use and possession, and has kept an eye on developments in the following areas:

- The Canadian Associations of Chiefs of Police proposal to ticket and fine for simple cannabis possession as an alternative to criminal charges;
- The “Sensible BC – Campaign for a Marijuana Referendum”;
- The government’s proposed “Respect for Communities Act”;
- Washington and Colorado’s decisions to legalize cannabis, and the potential impact on the debate in Canada;

To advance substantial change at the national level, congregations are urged to approach their local governments to suggest that cannabis prohibition enforcement have low priority, and to write their members of Parliament to suggest their policies should be progressive and liberal.

J. McRee (Mac) Elrod, Chair

“

Popular opinion concerning cannabis legalization seems to be evolving in North America, as evidenced by the legalization votes in some US States. Attitudes in Canada seem to be moving in the same direction.

Drug Policy Monitoring Group



The **Economic Justice** Monitoring Group promotes the principles and practices of economic justice within local, national, and international communities.

The **Gender & Sexual Diversity** Monitoring Group seeks to uphold UU Principles in order to assist and support the safe and equitable representation and inclusion of sexual and gender minorities and their supporters in Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations

Economic Justice

As Canadian UU, we affirm and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. It is therefore incumbent upon us to promote the principles and practices of economic justice within local, national, and international communities. If you are interested in matters of economic justice, please contact us at economic-justice@cuc.ca

Gender & Sexual Diversity

The Gender & Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group seeks to uphold UU Principles in order to assist and support the safe and equitable representation and inclusion of sexual and gender minorities and their supporters in Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations by offering education, representation, political action, and historical preservation. The Monitoring Group envisions that all Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations concretely reach out to and support communities who may be experiencing oppression based on their gender and/or sexual identities.” If you would like to serve on this monitoring group, please contact us at queer@cuc.ca

Sean Neil-Barron, Chair

Environment

“Canadian Unitarian Universalists recognize that the ecological support systems upon which all life depends are threatened by industrial civilization. Population pressures, technologies and economic systems have, while pursuing human benefits, created an environmental crisis. This is a profoundly moral issue; as a religious community it is incumbent upon us to foster the ethics and values that will ensure the continued existence of a world as beautiful and productive as that which we know as our home.”

The Environment Monitoring Group membership includes representation from BC, Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec. The group focus, in addition to individual local efforts, has included: letter writing; and partnering with others who share our values.

The current focus and priority issues include Climate Change, and the Tar Sands (Northern Gateway, Kinder Morgan and Line 9 reversal). The very real threat of “Climate Change” is foreseen to be the focus with emphasis on the conservation of energy, the shift to renewables and proactively planning for change/adaptation. Appreciating the philosophy of “think global, act local” the key environmental activities are occurring at the community level.

In 2014, in addition to letter writing the group looks to focus on local action. We will be conducting two surveys with respect to action. First, a survey to follow up on the ACM 2013 Climate Change Resolution—has climate change training and/or awareness occurred or is it planned is the question. The second survey, modeled on the UUA Green Sanctuary Program, is designed to determine where congregations/ fellowships are at in their journey to sustainability. All congregations and communities are encouraged to respond to these surveys.

The bottom line: local effort is where the rubber really hits the road, so all are encouraged to just do it!

Forrest Smith, Chair

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

Canadian Unitarian Universalists recognize that the ecological support systems upon which all life depends are threatened by industrial civilization.

Environment Monitoring Group

The **Globalization** Monitoring Group encourages its members, individually as well as collectively in their respective areas, to study the consequences of globalization .

The **Peace** Monitoring Group drafted a letter calling on the Canadian government to support a strong and comprehensive Arms Trade Treaty,

Globalization

“The Canadian Unitarian Council agrees to encourage its members, individually as well as collectively in their respective areas, to study the consequences of globalization in our own lives and in the world at large in light of the UU principles, and articulate and act on ways and means to change the course of globalization to being ethically responsible, and to infuse into our world more democratic, just, sustainable and compassionate alternatives.”

If you would like to serve on this monitoring group, please contact us at globalization@cuc.ca

Peace

The Peace Monitoring Group has a very long history of activities. In 2004, the CUC reaffirmed its commitment to work for Global Peace in the form of adhering to four resolutions: 1. Building a Global Culture of Peace; 2. Arms and Disarmament; 3. Defending Canada and Keeping Peace; and 4. International Responsibility to Protect. If you would like to serve on this monitoring group, please contact us at peace@cuc.ca

Colin Read, Chair

Northern Lights—A joint growth initiative of the UU Ministers of Canada & the CUC

The Northern Lights Chalice Lighting Program nurtures and supports Unitarian Universalists in building healthy and sustainable communities within Canada. The Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada and the Canadian Unitarian Council created this program specifically as a joint initiative to support grassroots, transformative initiatives, moving from vision to reality.

Northern Lights recruits and maintains a pool of individual donors who pledge to provide twice annual donations toward selected projects. UU communities of any description may apply for a Northern Lights grant. Applications are reviewed for completeness by a Northern Lights Administration Team, then passed to the Northern Lights Grant Selection Panel.

Two annual awards are made, one in February, one in October. Each cycle, the selected project is explained in a letter of call sent to each Chalice Lighter. Individual Chalice Lighters then respond by sending their contribution directly to the grant recipient. All monies collected go toward the project; grant recipients provide tax receipts directly to individual donors.

For a further description of program, and the brochure, please visit the website at www.cuc.ca/northern-lights.

Discussions concerning the Northern Lights program as a joint project between UUMoC and the CUC Board began at CUC ACM at Thunder Bay in May 2009. Guidelines were agreed in 2011.

The first Northern Lights call (Spring 2012) was awarded to the Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon. This call helped Saskatoon move from 1/4 time ministry to a 3 year, 3/4 time Developmental Ministry. Saskatoon is now half way through the three year developmental ministry, and much is in progress: thematic ministry is helping bridge generations and strengthen congregational identity; the congregation is more visible in the city, partnering with likeminded local groups, supporting Unitarian values in the community.

Second call (Fall 2012): Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, towards the renewal of the Religious Education program through funding the position for Director of Religions Education.



Northern Lights

Admin Panel:

Rev. Fran Dearman

Rev. Karen Fraser
Gitlitz

Ellen Campbell

Sheila Laursen

Northern Lights

Grant Panel:

Rev. Victoria Ingram

Rev. Jane Bramadat

Kristina Stevens

Kelly McDowell

Staff Liaison:

Vyda Ng



... the project has been an unqualified success... we are deeply grateful to the Chalice Lighters who have enabled us to take this important step in our congregational life.

*Northern Lights
recipient*

Northern Lights (cont)

Spring 2013: Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga, towards the renovation of a barn on their campus used as class room space for youth. The Mississauga project was enhanced by some exciting technological innovation when three UU young adults kindly volunteered to pilot an on-line funding option. And a lot of sweat equity!

Fall 2013: UU Estrie at North Hatley in the Eastern Townships of Quebec Province, towards extra funding for ministry supporting a three year local outreach program.

The Northern Lights Team and the congregations who have experienced the generosity of Chalice Lighters thank all the individual UUs who have signed up to support innovative growth in Canadian Unitarian Universalism.

Rev. Frances Dearman
Lead, Admin Panel

Acronyms

| | |
|----------|---|
| ACM | Annual Conference and Meeting |
| AGM | Annual General Meeting |
| CanUUdle | Annual youth conference |
| CD | Congregational Development |
| DLL | Director of Lifespan Learning |
| DRE | Director of Religious Education |
| ED | Executive Director |
| GA | General Assembly of the UUA |
| IARF | International Association for Religious Freedom |
| ICUU | International Council of Unitarians and Universalists |
| MG | Monitoring Groups |
| OWL | Our Whole Lives (lifespan sexuality education curriculum) |
| RE | Religious Education |
| RFG | Regional Fall Gatherings |
| SR | Social Responsibility |
| UUA | Unitarian Universalist Association |
| UU-UNO | Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office |
| YA | Young Adult |
| YaYA | Youth and Young Adult |
| YAC | Youth Adult Committee |

Regions and Congregations of the CUC

British Columbia

Nanaimo
Capital
Victoria
Salt Spring
Comox Valley
Vancouver

Beacon
South Fraser
North Shore
Kelowna
Kamloops

Western

Edmonton
Westwood
Calgary
Winnipeg
Arborg
Saskatoon

Regina
Regina
Lethbridge
Red Deer
Lakehead

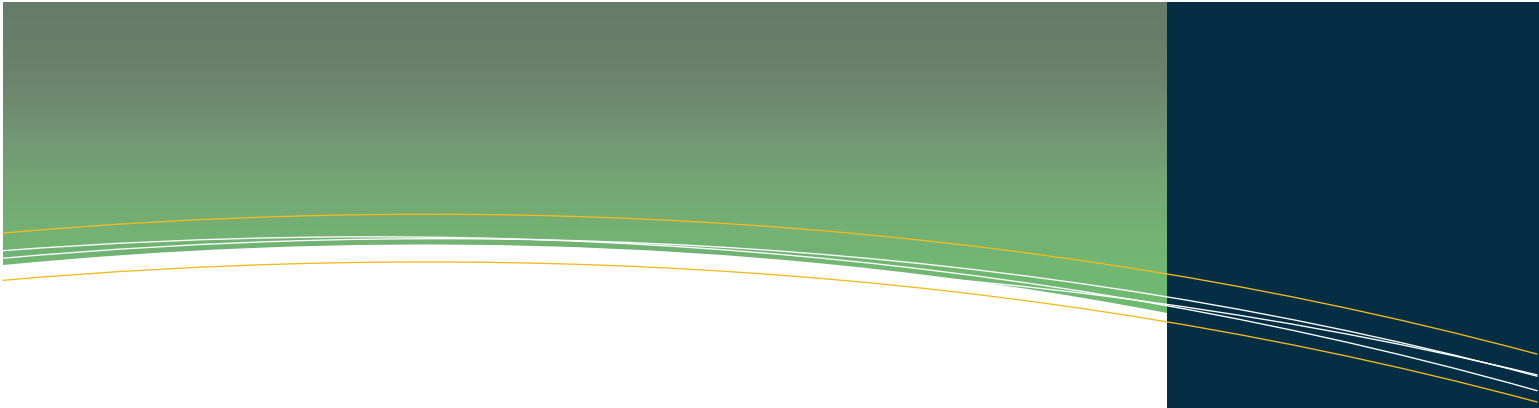
Central

Huron
Elora-Fergus
Guelph
Hamilton
London
Niagara

Olinda
Owen Sound
Peterborough
Sarnia – Port Huron
Stratford (emerging)
Durham
Don Heights
Neighbourhood
Northwest Toronto
Mississauga
Toronto First
Grand River

Eastern

Kingston
Ottawa First
Ottawa Fellowship
Montreal
Lakeshore
UUEstrie
(North Hatley
Fredericton
Saint John
Halifax
Prince Edward Island



The CUC is an association of congregations and inter-related communities. Our collective work together is only possible because of the dedication and commitment of our volunteers. We applaud and appreciate the engagement of all those who serve on committees, work to plan events and programs like lifespan learning programs, services, musical celebrations, workshops, fall gatherings, fundraisers, conferences, social justice initiatives, and who do the day-to-day work that keeps our congregations and our Council vital and growing.

Thank you!



Canadian Unitarian Council • Conseil unitarien du Canada

Growing Vital Liberal Religious Communities in Canada

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