



CANADIAN CONSEIL
UNITARIAN UNITARIEN
COUNCIL DU CANADA

**Canadian Unitarian Council
Minutes of the 53rd Annual General Meeting
May 16th, 2014
Montreal, QC**

- 1. Invocation and Chalice Lighting** by Rev. Fiona Heath
- 2. Recognition of Staff, International Visitors, and Other Guests**
Executive Director Vyda Ng recognized CUC staff, and the following international guests:
 - Rev. Meg Riley: Co-Minister, Church of the Larger Fellowship
 - Rev. Don Southworth: Executive Director, UU Ministers Association
 - Rev. Scott Tayler: Director of Congregational Life, Unitarian Universalist Association
 - Bruce Knotts: Director, UU – United Nations Office
- 3. Notice of Meeting**
In accordance with CUC By-laws, the notice of Meeting was mailed out in the required time frame.
- 4. Report of Credentials Committee**
Chair of the Credential Committee, Richard Kirsh reported that sufficient delegates were present to meet quorum requirements.
- 5. Call to Order**
The 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council was called to order at 9:08 am by Chair Gary Groot.
- 6. Rules of Procedure**
Rules of procedure were outlined by Chair Gary Groot.
- 7. Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to adopt the Agenda by Don Bailey (Winnipeg), duly seconded and **CARRIED**.
- 8. Introduction of Parliamentarian**
Jaime Dunton, Parliamentarian, was introduced by the Chair Gary Groot.
- 9. Introduction of Timekeeper**
Rev. Fiona Heath was introduced as timekeeper by the Chair Gary Groot.



10. Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting (2013 Calgary)

Jaime Dunton (North Hatley) noted that on page 16, “Motion to accept change in Articles” should read “change in By-Laws”. Change was noted.

Motion to adopt to approve the Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting, as amended, duly seconded and **CARRIED**.

11. Annual Report

Motion to receive Annual Report by Helen Iacovino (Toronto First), duly seconded and **CARRIED**.

12. Youth Report

Motion to delay Youth Report until Youth Observer arrives by Devin Murphy (Halifax), duly seconded and **CARRIED**.

13. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of new Board and Nominating Committee Members

The following CUC Board members will continue their terms during 2014-2015:

Name	Region	Term
Glenda Butt (Halifax)	Eastern	2 nd year of 2 nd term
Rev. Fiona Heath (Mississauga)	Central	2 nd year of 1 st term
Roger Rochester (Winnipeg)	Western	3 rd year of 1 st term
Gary Groot (Saskatoon)	Western	3 rd year of 2 nd term
Leslie Kemp (Vancouver)	British Columbia	3 rd year of 2 nd term

The following are Nominees for the CUC Board:

Name	Region	Term
Jaime Dunton (North Hatley)	Eastern	1 st year of 1 st term
Lorna Weigand (Don Heights)	Central	1 st year of 1 st term
Kristina Stevens (Victoria)	BC	1 st year of 2 nd term

The following CUC Nominating Committee members will continue their terms during 2014-2015:

Name	Region	Term
Bunty Albert (Vernon Bridge, PEI)	Eastern	3 rd year of 1 st term
Elizabeth Bowen (First Ottawa)	East/Central at-large	3 rd year of 2 nd term
Susan Ruttan (Edmonton)	Western	3 rd year of 1 st term
Rev. Debra Thorne (Beacon)	British Columbia	2 nd year of 1 st term



The following are nominees for the CUC Nominating Committee:

Name	Region	Term
Lynn Harrison (First Toronto)	Central	1 st year of 1 st term
Connie Wigmore (Vancouver)	BC/Western At Large	1 st year of 1 st term

No additional nominations for the Board of Trustees or Nominating Committee were received 30 days prior to the AGM. The Chair declared the nominees to the Board and the Nominating Committee to be elected by Acclamation.

14. Youth Report

Chair Gary Groot introduced Elena Basford, Youth Observer to the CUC Board. Elena spoke about her experiences with youth in Canada. Growing up in the UU community, she was surrounded by youth who were passionate and inspired her to join and take on this position. She has continued to be inspired this year.

At the 2013 regional fall gatherings youth conference, Elena asked what youth would want board to know, or staff to know. She heard a cry for Young Adult programming from older youth. Youth who transition to young adulthood recognize it is a huge transition and more programming is needed. They feel part of this community, but want to feel even more part of this young adult community. Elena will continue to work towards creating a young adult community and create things specifically for young adults. She pledges to continue to strengthen and nurture the community that has nurtured her.

15. CUC Board Priorities

Chair explained the responsibilities of the Board:

- 1) To understand the will of the membership.
- 2) To translate that into written policy, instructions to the ED and staff.
- 3) To monitor the work of the ED and staff

In 2013, the Active Democracy resolutions directed the Board to share priorities with the membership. This is the first time priorities will be voted upon. The new priorities are:

- I. Focus on networking and connecting, and developing a repository of resources for the benefit of our shared ministry;**
- II. Develop a flexible communications system (tools, platforms, strategies)**
- III. Foster innovation in the growth and development of UU communities**

Motion to approve the 3 new priorities of the Board, by Gary Groot, Board member.
Discussion included:



- Fostering growth includes thinking beyond congregations to on-line communities, pub nights, etc.
- Consider opening funding programs to new communities.
- Setting priorities includes reviewing where money and time are already being spent and looking at new directions
- Methods of measuring achievement of priorities need to be decided upon

Motion **CARRIED**.

Break 9:53 - 10:30.

16. Process for Review of our Mission and Vision Statement

Board Members Glenda Butt and Fiona Heath presented on proposed Mission and Vision Statement. Butt requested informal (non-motion) approval to give the Board the go ahead *to develop the process*. In the prior round of consultation, the main responses received were:

1. The Board did not provide congregations with enough time to digest and come up with something meaningful
2. Responses ranged from “maybe we don’t need a mission statement,” to “we need to develop something we can all live with”
3. Congregations wanted the Board as the Council leaders to lead and present something to them they could respond to.

Heath noted that the intent is to create a mission and vision that is in alignment with new priorities and reflects Canadian UUism and the role of the CUC. The hope is to move forward with consultation and come back for a vote next year. The initial plan is to contact congregations at fall gatherings and possibly through delegates.

Discussion points:

- Board needs to be more clear on process and ultimate goal.
- Is this a mission for the CUC or the wider movement?
- Expressed support for “increasing love and justice” and simply moving forward.
- Mission should be linked with priorities.
- Mission and vision should come from grassroots not board priorities.
- Board should consult with youth, young adults, religious educators and affiliate groups as well as congregations.

Chair thanked the room for input. The Board will proceed with developing a further process for dialogue with congregations and communities.



17. Urgent Resolution - Pervasive Surveillance

Chair Gary Groot reviewed the criteria for an Urgent Resolution.

Kalvin Drake (Toronto) presented resolution on Pervasive Surveillance on behalf of 25 Individuals who are members of at least 3 different member congregations located in at least 3 of the 4 CUC regions, in accordance with Category E of the CUC resolutions process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

that this 2014 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council recommends that each of its member congregations call on the government of Canada to:

- Provide to its citizens a comprehensive and forthright account of all the pervasive surveillance programs that have been carried out by government agencies over the past five years; and,
- Assign the authority to oversee surveillance activities undertaken by the government to an agency that is responsible directly to Parliament, not to the Cabinet; and,
- Bring forward legislation that would make it unlawful for the government to engage in pervasive surveillance, including the routine mass collection or storage of its citizens' communications, movements, or metadata; and,

Be it further resolved that this 2014 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council recommends that its member congregations invite their individual members to write their elected representatives to express concern about pervasive surveillance and their support for the changes outlined above.

Duly seconded.

Discussion points:

- While we may have limited influence on the government, it is important to stand up as a free, liberal religion.
- As an urgent resolution, this is limited to advising individual congregations to act.
- Motion speaks to UU values of freedom, reason and tolerance.
- CUC will issue a press release if approved.

Motion to extend discussion for 10 minutes by Margaret Kohr (Toronto), duly seconded and CARRIED.

Discussion continued.

Motion to amend by Dani Cooper (North Shore) to insert the highlighted text into the resolution:



Be it further resolved

that this 2014 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council recommends that its member congregations invite their individual members, the larger UU community, and the larger communities of Canada to write their elected representatives to express concern about pervasive surveillance, and encourage coordination and action at all levels to promote the transparency and limitation of government surveillance activities, and their support for the changes outlined above.

Motion to extend discussion for 5 minutes by Devin Murphy (Halifax), duly seconded and CARRIED.

Chair Gary Groot ruled that the amendment is substantive. The ruling of the Chair was Appealed by Brian Kiely (Edmonton), duly seconded.

Motion to defeat the ruling of the Chair by Brian Kiely (Edmonton), duly seconded and CARRIED.

Lunch Break 12:00pm-1:30pm

18. **Chalice Lighting** by Curtis Murphy

19. **Report of Credentials Committee**

Chair of the Credential Committee, Richard Kirsh reported that sufficient delegates were present to meet quorum requirements.

Discussion continued on the amendment to the Urgent Resolution.

Motion to approve the amendment, CARRIED.

Motion to approve the Pervasive Surveillance Urgent Resolution, as amended, duly seconded, CARRIED.

20. **2013 Financial Statements**

Kristina Stevens, CUC Board Treasurer, presented the information on the financial statements. Discussion points addressed the following:

- Increase in statement of financial position is due mostly to investments
- Some investment funds are restricted for grants etc.
- Decrease in amount of Annual Program Contributions collected from congregations by \$15,000 from 2012. An APC Task Force will examine options and provide recommendations. The full amount of expected APCs was budgeted but not received. Thanks were noted to congregations who contributed their APC.



- Revenue from Friends of the CUC is crucial.
- ACM 2013 generated a small amount of revenue.
- Staffing costs in 2013 were decreased due to some staffing changes.
- Some funds, like Sharing Our Faith and Lay Chaplain Training, are reflected in Internally Restricted Funds. The amounts in funds vary depending on income and disbursement cycles.
- Audit fee is more than previous years, but current auditor's work is thorough.

Motion to receive the Financial Statement by John Michell (Calgary), duly seconded a and **CARRIED**.

21. Executive Director's Report, Planning and Priorities: Vyda Ng

Chair Gary Groot called on Vyda Ng for the E.D's Report. Discussion included:

- More efficient and effective work by decreased staff group, with an emphasis on connecting and maximizing resources.
- The goals of regional and national events.
- The importance of the lay chaplaincy program, training fees and remittance.
- Progress and growth in Youth and Young Adult Ministry Development (Ariel Hunt-Brondwin).
- Challenge of fulfilling all Active Democracy resolutions with smaller staff group.
- Processes and information around delegate selection available on CUC website.
- Resolutions processes and the role of the Resolutions Advisory Committee.
- Increasing communications capabilities
- ED Interpretations of Board priorities: examples were provided.
- Survey on the future of the ACM demonstrated that:
 - Cost is a prohibiting factor
 - Most respondents would attend a conference on a weekend other than the May long weekend
 - There is a strong preference for campus locations
 - Most respondents agreed that a national conference every other year is more viable
 - Recommendation to have the next ACM in 2016, and then move to every other year. There are implications for CanUUdle (the youth conference), AGMs and voting, national connections.

Communications Fund: Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz gave a presentation about fundraising for the communications platform that has been identified as a Board priority, and was part of the Active Democracy resolutions. This, among other functionalities, will allow for on-line voting. The goal is to raise \$21,000 over 3 years.



Motion to receive Executive Director's report by Margaret Kohr (Toronto), duly seconded and **CARRIED**.

22. Approval of 2015 Budget in principle.

Chair Gary Groot invited Vyda Ng to present preliminary 2015 budget.

- Previous commitment to return to balanced budget by the end of 2014; the 2014 budget has been planned to achieve this
- APC in 2013 was budgeted at \$410,000 according to congregational numbers; a total of \$397,535 was received
- For 2015, projected: revenue \$762,500; expenses \$761,743.

Discussion included:

- National conferences, revenue and expenses
- Allocation of funds for growth
- Planned giving program
- Board and national expenditures
- Decreased APC amount for Young Adults

Motion to approve in principle the 2015 budget by Kristina Stevens, and **CARRIED**.

23. Appointment of Auditors

Motion to appoint Grant Thornton LLP to continue as auditor for 2015 by Kristina Stevens (CUC Board), and **CARRIED**.

Break 3:00 - 3:30

24. Report of Credentials Committee

Chair Gary Groot resumed the meeting at 3:38 pm. Chair of the Credential Committee, Richard Kirsh reported that sufficient delegates were present to meet quorum requirements.

25. Human Rights in Palestine and Israel Resolution

Chair Gary Groot called on Anita MacLean to present the resolution on Human Rights in Palestine and Israel, on behalf of on behalf of 25 Individuals who are members of at least 3 different member congregations located in at least 3 of the 4 CUC regions, in accordance with Category E of the CUC resolutions process:

Motion for Resolution on Human Rights in Palestine Israel by Anita MacLean (Ottawa), duly seconded.



Therefore be it resolved that:

- 1) The CUC establish a Study Group - Human Rights in Palestine and Israel - to assemble information and resources to enable congregational study of:
 - a. the history of the conflict in Palestine and Israel;
 - b. the present conditions which prevail in the state of Israel including the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank; and
 - c. various actions being undertaken or recommended around the world to bring peaceful resolution to the situation, including the ongoing BDS initiative.
- 2) Member congregations be encouraged to undertake this study during 2014 - 2015 about the conditions in Palestine and Israel;
- 3) The Study Group members shall be: Christine Johnston (First Victoria), Joy Johnston (Comox Valley), Anita MacLean (First Ottawa). Other people with different perspectives will be added;
- 4) The Study Group shall be prepared to propose a motion on the subject for the 2016 AGM.

Discussion Points:

- BDS movement is Border Divestment Sanctions.
- Any resolution will only be achieved by Israelis, Palestinians and International bodies. This motion takes focus away from Canadian social responsibility issues.
- Canadians are not keeping their obligations to international community, and congregations can work to help keep those obligations.
- Concern was voiced about treatment of Israel and Jewish people.
- A 2002 resolution has previously spoken to this issue.
- Support expressed for resolution as it stands.
- We should be courting controversy, we never know what influence we might have.

Motion to extend discussion for 20 minutes by Ellen Papenburg (Elora Fergus), duly seconded and CARRIED.

Discussion points:

- Support is important for both Palestine and Israel
- Effectiveness of Canadian UU movement in engaging with this issue
- Suggestions to align with similar and more knowledgeable organizations

Motion to postpone indefinitely by Sue Sparlin (Beacon) and duly seconded.



Chair Gary Groot reviewed the impact in Roberts Rules of Order for postponing indefinitely. A motion that is postponed indefinitely can be brought back to future AGMs. The rationale to postpone this motion indefinitely included lack of clarity in wording and expected outcome of the resolution, and concern about welfare of congregations should the resolution either pass or fail.

Motion to extend discussion for 10 minutes by Frances Deverell (Ottawa), duly seconded and CARRIED.

Discussion included opinions of congregations, intent of the proposers of the resolution, and impact of postponing indefinitely.

Motion to move the Previous Question to Postpone Indefinitely by Calvin Drake (Toronto), duly seconded and CARRIED.

Point of Privilege by Stephen Epperson (Vancouver) to thank those who put the motion together, and is grateful for the outcome.

Point of Privilege by Meg Roberts (Comox) to express hope for a way to poll UUs to help all come together to work towards issues of mutual concern.

26. Motion of Thanks

Chair Gary Groot thanked Curtis Murphy and Ellen Campbell, outgoing Board members, for their time on the board and their service to the national community. Both were given a standing ovation.

On behalf of the Board, Secretary Ellen Campbell thanked the Montreal Host Committee, the Program Planning Committee, ACM volunteers, the chair, the parliamentarian and all those who helped with the planning of the meeting. She also thanked those running CanUuddle, and the CUC Staff who have been through some difficult times. Final thanks were given to delegates. New delegates were asked to stand to be recognized.

27. Motion to adjourn

Chair Gary Groot adjourned the 53rd AGM at 4:36 pm.

Announcement of New Board Executive

After the adjournment of the meeting, the Board held an open meeting and Gary Groot announced the new CUC Board executive:

President: Glenda Butt
Secretary: Fiona Heath

Vice-President: Roger Rochester
Treasurer: Kristina Stevens