



CANADIAN CONSEIL
UNITARIAN UNITARIEN
COUNCIL DU CANADA

**Canadian Unitarian Council
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
May 15th, 2015
Ottawa, ON**

- 1. Invocation and Chalice Lighting** by Rev. Carly Gaylor
- 2. Recognition of International Visitors**
Executive Director Vyda Ng recognized CUC staff, and the following honoured guests:
 - Bruce Knotts, Executive Director, UU-United Nations Office*
 - Allison Hess, Envoy Coordinator, UU-United Nations Office
 - Richard Nugent, UUA Compensation Consultant
 - Betsy Gabriel, UUA Compensation Consultant
 - David Pettee, UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee
 - Lara Fuchs, President, Unitarian Universalists of Basel Switzerland
 - David Rain, USC Canada
 - Steve Dick, Executive Director ICUU
- 3. Notice of Meeting**
In accordance with CUC by-laws, the notice of Meeting was mailed out in the required timeline. It did not include the financial statements, as despite the staff's best efforts, they were not ready. The annual report will be available at the end of day.
The correct Nomination report is in the call to meeting and a paper copy has been distributed.
- 4. Report of Credentials Committee**
The Chair of the committee reports 30 delegates from at least 8 societies and from 3 regions are registered. Quorum is present.
- 5. Traditional Territory**
A short statement was read acknowledging that we are meeting on land unceded by the Algonquin People to the Government of Canada.
- 6. Call to Order**
The 54th Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council was called to order at 9:16am by Chair Glenda Butt.
- 7. Rules of Procedure**
Roberts Rules of Order were outlined by the Chair Glenda Butt.
- 8. Youth Participation**
The CUC Board is committed to finding meaningful ways to engage our youth in our own democratic process. Gary Groot moved to suspend the rules to allow any youth present at this meeting the same privilege to speak to the assembly as currently exists for delegates, ministers and CUC board members. Duly Seconded. CARRIED
- 9. Adoption of Agenda**
Motion to adopt the Agenda by Ellen Campbell. Duly seconded. CARRIED.
- 10. Introduction of Parliamentarian**
Bill Fulton, Parliamentarian, was introduced by the Chair Glenda Butt.



11. Introduction of Timekeeper

Keith Wilkinson was introduced as timekeeper by Chair.

12. Approval of Minutes of Previous Annual Meeting (2014 Montreal)

No corrections. Chair Glenda Butt declares that the minutes are approved. CARRIED.

13. Motion to Suspend

A request is made to suspend the meeting and re-establish credentialing committee table to allow late delegates to register. Moved by Kristin Wilson, Grand River Unitarian. Duly seconded. CARRIED.

14. Report of Credentials Committee

The chair of the committee declared that there are 77 delegates present and quorum is achieved. Meeting reconvenes.

15. Motion to receive Annual Report

Deferred.

16. Youth Report

Elena Basford, Youth Observer to the Board (YOB) spoke about her experiences with youth in Canada. Basford has had the honour to be the YOB for the past two years. She noted that our movement is headed in some exciting and progressive directions. She was proud to implement Board visit to CanUUdle (the youth conference) last year, where Board members Gary Groot and Curtis Murphy invited youth into an excellent conversation about the future. She is glad to see this tradition continue and to foster good relations between Board and youth.

Basford noted that ACM will no longer be an annual conference and youth are hopeful their youth conference will continue in some way on an annual basis.

Basford noted some challenges, the biggest being youth engagement. There is a strong community of youth, but youth constantly age and bridge out, and integrate new, younger youth. She has tried to engage on-line but that can be difficult when not everyone really knows one another.

Basford had hoped to get a youth environmental justice action project across the country but wasn't able to implement it. Youth community needs building up.

Other challenges include communicating consistently with the CUC Board. Basford brought forward a youth delegate process with staff member Ariel Hunt-Bronwin (Youth and Young Adult Ministry Development) and previous board member Curtis Murphy, about chance for youth to speak at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This led to motion today to allow youth to speak.

Members asked "how can adults help youth reconnect?" Basford suggested always let youth know you are there for them and support them in their endeavours. Check in with Directors of Religious Exploration (DRE) and see what is happening in youth groups. Hunt-Bronwin suggested social justice work and resolutions are compelling to youth.

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

The following CUC Board members will continue their terms during 2015-16:

Name	Region	Term
Glenda Butt (Halifax)	Eastern	3 rd year of 2 nd term
Jaime Dunton (Ottawa)	Eastern	2 nd year of 1 st term
Rev. Fiona Heath (Mississauga)	Central	3 rd year of 1 st term



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

The following are Nominees for the CUC Board:

Name	Region	Term
Keith Wilkinson (Vancouver)	BC	1 st year of 1 st term
Susan Ruttan (Edmonton)	Western	1 st year of 1 st term
Jane Ebbern (Calgary)	Western	1 st year of 1 st term

The following CUC Nominating Committee members will continue their terms during 2015-16.

Name	Region	Term
Lynn Harrison (Neighbourhood)	Central	2 nd year of 1 st term
Connie Wigmore (Vancouver)	BC/Western at Large	2 nd year of 1 st term
Rev. Debra Thorne (Beacon)	British Columbia	3 rd year of 1 st term

The following are nominees for the CUC Nominating Committee:

Name	Region	Term
Ben Robins (First Toronto)	Eastern/Central At Large	1 st year of 1 st term
Joanne Green (Regina)	Western	1 st year of 1 st term
Bunty Albert (PEI)	Eastern	1 st year of 2 nd term

Nominating committee gave notice more than 60 days prior to the AGM, no additional nominations were received up to 30 days prior to the meeting.

Bunty Albert (PEI) moves to accept the report of the nominating committee. Duly second. CARRIED.

The Chair declared the nominees to the CUC Board and the Nominating Committee to be elected by Acclamation.

18. CUC Board Priorities

The priorities of the CUC Board were presented and accepted last year. The priorities must be voted on every year, as per the Active Democracy resolutions.

The board is maintaining the priorities without changes:

1. **Focus on networking and connecting, and developing a repository of resources for the benefit of our shared ministry.**
2. **Develop a flexible communications system (tool, platforms, strategies).**
3. **Foster innovation in the growth and development of UU communities.**

Motion to accept the CUC priorities for the coming year moved by Brian Kiely (Edmonton). Duly Seconded.

Discussion

Concern was expressed about lack of details around progress towards priorities. The Chair indicated more details would come in Executive Director Report.

Motion to postpone priorities motion until after the ED report by Calvin Drake (Toronto). Duly Seconded. Carried.



19. Vision for the Future Update

Rev. Fiona Heath presented a summary report of findings from the consultation carried out by the Vision Task Force for information (see attached).

A workshop outline and PowerPoint were created by the Vision Task Force. Workshops were conducted at Regional Fall Gatherings, at congregations, and with stakeholders such as UU Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) and Canadian UU Religious Educators (CUURE). Feedback was entered into an on-line form. Individuals were also invited to provide feedback. Heath analysed and summarized the results.

A strong desire for spiritual deepening and social and ecological justice was indicated by the results. Hope for increased awareness of Unitarian Universalism in Canada was also expressed.

Next steps are for the Vision Task Force to work with summary findings and refine vision and statements. The intent is to bring statement for approval to May 2016 AGM.

Task Force is requested to consult with youth.

Discussion:

The task force was thanked for the summary of results, helpful to see what is important to Canadian Unitarian Universalists.

Some workshop summaries had not been entered as feedback.

20. Executive Director's Report, Planning and Priorities

Vyda Ng presented her report and included a PowerPoint presentation.

Staff work in four areas of engagement:

- Building beloved community
- Lifespan religious exploration
- Spiritual growth
- Community resilience

Examples of their work by Board Priority

1st Priority: Focus on Networking and connecting

- Worked with three churches to identify areas of strength
- Linked six churches with resources and other congregations
- Two regional gatherings and by email
- Supported OPUS young adult con

2nd Priority: Develop a flexible communications system

- Draft communications strategy
- Selected web meeting tool Zoom for on-line meetings
- Limited use of facebook, twitter, e-lists
- Research into membership management software

3rd Priority: Foster innovation in the growth and development of UU communities

- Healthy youth ministry training
- Diversity and truth, healing and reconciliation
- Theme based ministry

Ng provided update on the status of the CRA Audit. The audit covers 2012-13 and considers all aspects of organizational life. The auditors are coming to the office May 25-27, 2015. The outcome timing is unknown, only that it will take months to hear back.

Carters Professional Corporation, experts in charity law, have been retained. A support team of Kristina Stevens (Board), Jaime Dunton (Board), Margaret Kohr (First Toronto) has been set up to help Executive Director Ng deal with the needs of the audit.



Comments:

- Appreciation for staff for how much they do with scant resources.
- Measurement of board priorities needs to happen

18A. Board Priorities

Motion to reaffirm the CUC Board priorities as set in 2014 by Ellen Campbell (First Toronto). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

Comments

- Not clear about connection between ED report and board priorities.
- Board sets priorities and they are revealed in the staff's work, because the board doesn't do the work, Board and ED still working on the alignment.
- Update on communications platform - the fundraising initiative has been stalled, but there is another fund that is appropriate to use for a communications platform.
- Working on how to use website more effectively.
- Board realized CUC, as an organization, couldn't do everything trying to do, so board needed to set priorities to give focus, the intention is that these are the areas the organization needs to move toward to achieve purpose. This will take time.

21. Motion to extend morning and change the order of the agenda, extend until 12:10pm. Moved by Forrest Smith (Victoria). Duly Seconded. CARRIED

22. Annual Program Contribution Task Force Update

Presented by Kristina Stevens, Treasurer.

The Annual Program Contributions are the biggest source of revenue for the CUC, the monies each member congregation transfers to the Council to support the work of the collective. The APC is currently calculated as dollar amount \$93 multiplied by number of members in each congregation.

There are reports of negative effects about this calculation, some resentment of increasing charges due to growth, some communities might discourage new attendees from becoming members to avoid increase. As well, overall the number of individual members have been slowly diminishing.

The UUA has moved to a new method of calculation.

The APC Task Force was struck by the board and consists of Kristina Stevens (Board), John Michell (Calgary), Joanne Green (Regina), Kathy Yach (First Ottawa), Andrea Reichert (Montreal), Marilyn Shinyei (Halifax).

Keith Wilkinson (Vancouver) and Vyda Ng members as observers.

The Task Force will present four options, with technical details at the Sunday meeting at 9:00am. One option will be selected and the intent is to bring for a vote at next AGM.

Lunch Break 12:15pm-1:30pm

23. Began with the song "We Give Thanks", lyrics and music by Rev. Wendy Louella Perkins.

24. Vision Update

Heath noted that an email will be sent to the leaders list with list of communities who sent in feedback. Additional feedback can be inputted in the form until the end of June. Individuals can also provide feedback. All materials are still online.

25. Report of Credentials Committee

The chair declares that there are sufficient delegates for quorum.



26. 2014 Financial Statements

Kristina Stevens, Treasurer of the CUC Board, presented the financial statements. The opinion of the independent auditor's is an unqualified opinion without reservations. Investments increased last year and some income is being re-invested. Staff expenses went down as we went through staff transition, with two positions vacant for a period of time.

Comments

- The general fund is large, from UUA when we separated, and we should be considering what to do with those funds, how to direct and use them.
- Not spelling Bailey in Bailey Simpson funds correctly.
- Money in communications has dropped significantly, perhaps we should be spending more in this area.

Motion to accept the Financial Statements by Kristina Stevens (board). CARRIED.

27. Presentation of 2016 Budget in principle.

Executive Director Vyda Ng presented the preliminary 2016 budget. The treasurer is in full agreement with numbers.

- Bulk of income comes from APC, in 2014 the APC went down by \$18,000. A 3% drop each year is being assumed.
- Attendance at ACMs is also dropping, not meeting revenue expectations. At the same time, ACM costs are increasing.
- The 2015 budget approved at last years did not have a deficit. The current 2015 does have a deficit. Expenses are up due to office move, CRA audit, and decrease in revenues.
- Increase in salaries allows for a merit increase which has not happened in several years.
- Communications spending less in 2015, funds will go up in 2016 as strategy is finalized.

Motion to approve in principle the 2016 budget by Kristina Stevens (board). CARRIED.

Comments

- Clarification around amount being transferred from unrestricted funds.
- Glad to see there is an merit increase for staff. Hard to be part of progressive community with a small staff doing good, amazing work but are not fairly compensated.

28. Appointment of Auditors

Motion to appoint Grant Thornton LLP as auditor for 2016 by Kristina Stevens (board). CARRIED.

29. Motion to Extend

Motion to extend meeting until break at 3:30pm by Jessica Bayne (Grand River). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

30. Action Plans

Parliamentarian Bill Fulton provided a written explanation of the shift in language around motions, resolutions and action plans. No questions were asked.

31. Abortion Rights

Motion to approve amendment to existing Abortion Rights Resolution by Betty Donaldson (Comox Valley). Duly seconded. CARRIED.



Discussion

- Donaldson acknowledges work of Margaret Linton and Jane Fox.
- When the 1980 resolution was reviewed, it was clear abortion rights still an issue, and still relevant to today.
- Hopes all women would feel supported in choices by our faith tradition. Going to vote against motion because asks us to lobby. Doesn't feel letters are effective.
- Any individual can lobby government, as long as we are supporting abortion rights and can speak to any government who is dealing with this.
- Monitoring in monitoring group refers to issue – what's happening to this issue in society, what needs to be done now.

32. Right to Clean, Air, Water and Soil CUC Environmental Monitoring Group Motion to support the proposed action plan by Forrest Smith (Victoria). Duly Seconded. 1 Opposed. CARRIED.

Discussion

- Hamilton has already passed recognizing environment as a basic right, and if they can, any city can.
- The quarry that threatens Unicamp (in Southern Ontario) is part of this crisis, important for us to support.
- Question about CUC urging member congregations – who is CUC? Isn't this what we can't do with CRA audit pending?
- Consider language used in motions, saying CUC urges is like saying we encourage ourselves, so why not just say we commit ourselves?
- What will happen with these action plans, how are they dealt with going forward?
- Action plans are new under new process, will figure out how to keep all together with resolutions and post as one document.
- 10% of all organizational resources including budget, staff, office space can be directed at non-partisan political activities. If some activities are under charitable purpose, then may be counted as charitable rather than political activity.

33. Fossil Fuel Divestment

Motion to support the action plan proposal on Fossil Fuel Divestment by Forrest Smith (Victoria). Duly seconded. 2 opposed. CARRIED.

Discussion

- Hamilton congregation is in support of this, has shifted investment counsellors
- Be more effective if we investigated companies and chose products from more ecologically sustainable ones.
- Clarification of Carbon Underground – organization that tracks carbon production of companies.
- This resolution allows us to engage with any companies we wish, we can make our own choices, and positive change is that when divest from these can put money into sustainable energy.
- UUA passed this resolution as a public statement to show support and demonstrate that we have already done this.
- No illusions that this is big solution, all pension funds invest in fossil fuel and most mutual funds. Modest step to support this.

34. Truth and Reconciliation

Motion to support the action plan on truth and reconciliation between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Canadians by Marlene Blake-Seale (Mississauga).

Marlene moved a friendly amendment to the title to change it to: "between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Peoples in Canada". Duly seconded. 1 Opposed. CARRIED.



Discussion

- Meg Roberts notes this is 20 year anniversary of original Resolution.
- Part of improving CUC democratic process, keeping congregations in directing the CUC board.
- Montreal congregation has voted unanimously for this resolution.

35. Motion of Thanks

President Glenda Butt thanked the departing board members for their service: Leslie Kemp (BC Region), Gary Groot and Roger Rochester (Western Region) and Elena Basford, Youth Observer.

On behalf of the board, Secretary Fiona Heath thanked the Ottawa Host Committee, the Program Planning Committee, ACM volunteers, the audio-visual technical staff, the chair, the parliamentarian and all those who helped with the meeting. Heath also thanked those running CanUUdle and to the CUC Staff for all their work. Final thanks were given to the delegates.

36. Motion to adjourn

Chair Glenda Butt adjourned the 54th Annual General Meeting adjourned at 3:26pm.

Announcement of the 2015-2016 Board Executive

At the close of the Annual meeting, the Board held an open meeting to elect officers for the coming year. Glenda Butt announced the executive:

- President - Glenda Butt
- Vice President - Keith Wilkinson
- Secretary - Fiona Heath
- Treasurer - Kristina Stevens

CARRIED.

***ABBREVIATIONS**

AGM	Annual General Meeting
APC	Annual Program Contribution
CUURE	Canadian Unitarian Universalist Religious Educators
DRE	Director of Religious Exploration
ED	Executive Director
ICUU	International Council of Unitarians and Universalists
UUA	Unitarian Universalist Association
UUMOC	Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada
UU-UNO	Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office