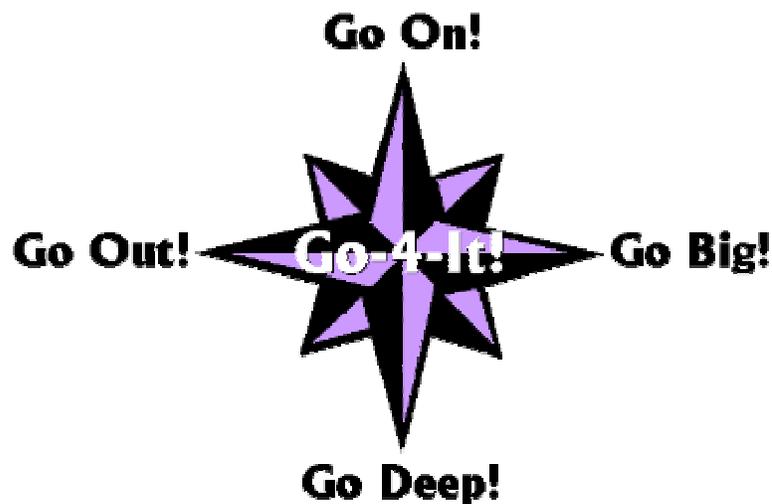


**SHARING OUR FAITH WORSHIP SERVICE PACKAGE  
2006-07**

**GO 4 IT!**



**References:**

More about the CUC Go-4-It Strategic Planning Framework  
<http://www.cuc.ca/strategy>

More about Sharing Our Faith including past grants and application forms for 2007 grants.  
[http://www.cuc.ca/worship\\_celebrations/sharing\\_our\\_faith/index.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/worship_celebrations/sharing_our_faith/index.htm)

## Sharing Our Faith

Every year the Canadian Unitarian Council offers your congregation worship materials to help you celebrate our faith in Canada. We hope that you will schedule a Sharing Our Faith worship service for this year. Many congregations do this in February, but it can be done at any time. You may want to consider planning this service around a special date in your congregation—your founding date—or on the anniversary of the founding of CUC on May 14, 1961. Indeed, if your congregation meets over the summer, it might also make a good "Canada Day" service.

We ask that your congregation take a special offering for the CUC at your Sharing Our Faith service. For further information, contact the CUC office or send email to [info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca).

## Planning the Service

### Special Guests

You may want to invite a CUC board member, staff or volunteer to attend the service and play a part, such as lighting the chalice or leading a question-and-answer "forum" following the service. See the who's who section of [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) to find the names of people in your area (possibly in your own congregation).

### Other suggestions:

Since Sharing Our Faith Sunday is meant to help congregations link with others in their region and across Canada, having a display of a map of Canada with the congregations marked; a listing of the congregations in your area or newsletters of other congregations would assist people in learning more about UU's across the country.

You may also want to contact the CUC Office to ask to have samples of CUC publications available for purchase before or after the service.

If you are getting new pamphlets or wallet cards or bookmarks (especially if they are customized for your congregation) this might be a good "gift" for those who come to the service.

If you have an interest in having a display, please contact your CUC staff through [info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca) or 1-888-568-5723 and we would like to help you with this.

## Advertising the Service

### Sample Newsletter Item

#### **"SHARING OUR FAITH SUNDAY" ~ (date) 2005**

This is a day when we extend our thinking and support beyond [our own congregation] outward toward Unitarian congregations in Canada that need financial help for special projects. We do this by joining other congregations in setting aside one Sunday a year to have a special collection.

All the money collected is sent to the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council) who distribute every penny of it among as many congregations as possible whose grant projects have been approved.

**Optional...**

Our congregation was one of the chosen congregations in 200\_\_ when we applied for, and received, a grant in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to "\_\_\_\_\_."

As funds applied for often exceed the actual amount available, congregations are asked to be as generous as possible; all identifiable donations are eligible for a tax receipt.

"Sharing Our Faith: a good way to link our Canadian congregations and to help all of us grow!"

**INTRODUCING THE SERVICE**

If your congregation regularly holds a Sharing Our Faith service, mention that at the beginning of the worship service. If this is your first time, but you intend to do it yearly, mention that, especially if you've decided on a regular date (many congregations do it on the first or second Sunday in February.)

**Sharing our Faith Offering**

1. Announce that there will be a special collection in advance of "Sharing Our Faith" Sunday, so that people are prepared. (see Sample Newsletter item)
2. Individuals contributing by cheque should make out cheques to the Canadian Unitarian Council, and mark them "Sharing Our Faith." We will send receipts out in February of the following year for all donations over \$25.
3. If you are contributing the loose offering to "Sharing Our Faith," please count it and send us a cheque, rather than sending cash. Provide receipts for identified contributions which are in cash. It is quite in order for you to send us money which has been receipted.
4. We are enclosing a printed envelope as a sample). Call Janice Lincoln 416-489-4121 or 1-888-568-5723 or send an email to Janice@cuc.ca and let us know how many you need.

**TAKING THE OFFERING**

In the service, mention some of the congregations and projects for which the donations were used in previous years. Ensure people know that all of the money collected is then given out directly to other Canadian congregations. If your congregation has received a grant in the past, mention that and how the money was used.

## Go-4-It! Worship Service

### Preface

Rev Katie Stein Sather's comment

An often-overlooked word in our Statement of Principles and Purposes is the verb *covenant*. “We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote...” What exactly do we mean by that word, covenant? And why is it there?

Covenant is the way in which we describe our relationship among Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist churches in North America. We practice congregational polity. It is neither a hierarchy, nor “rule by committee” –the Presbyterian style of church government. Each congregation is autonomous, but held in mutual support within a network of other congregations. Hopefully we tell each other about what works and what doesn't. At our best, we call out the finest in each other. Another kind of covenant is the one made in marriage. The best such covenants are flexible yet sturdy, made between peers.

The Canadian Unitarian Council is often the facilitator of our good communication. It can also be a model. The Go4It! framework for planning is an example of this. It is both a model and a calling forth of good practice within congregations.

The mental image I get when I visualize congregational polity—our theology of church—is that “interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” My picture is some kind of multi-dimensional spider web, for lack of a better word, with each of us and each of our congregations (as well as the rest of the world) as a node on it. So when something touches one, it affects the rest of us. Thinking about the CUC and long range planning, when one of us, whether the association or any of the congregations, does some good planning, the rest of us benefit in some way.

That's what the Go4It! Framework is about—a framework for planning, primarily for the CUC itself, but hopefully helpful for congregations as well.

Rev. Katie Stein Sather  
Minister, Beacon Unitarian Church  
Coquitlam, British Columbia  
[www.BeaconUnitarian.org](http://www.BeaconUnitarian.org)

## GO-4-IT! SERMON

This sermon is meant to be a template to which you would add your own stories, examples and references.

I'm here today to invite you to Go-4-It!

The Canadian Unitarian Council wants YOU – and this congregation – and, along with you, the other 49 congregations and the 5,400 Unitarians and Universalists across Canada to Go-4-It!

*[Hold up four fingers. Count out fingers 1 by 1 to a total of 4.]*

- Go ON
- Go DEEP
- Go OUT
- Go BIG.

This morning I'd like to tell you a little bit about what these "4 Go's" look like from the perspective of your national organization, the CUC. I'd also like to hear stories from this congregation - I know you already know a lot about "Going For It"!

*[Either]:*

I hope you'll share some of your responses to the 4 Go's with me after the service over coffee.

*[Or:]*

I hope you will join us after the service for our workshop where we will explore the 4 Go's in depth and then share our insights.

I invite you to articulate how belonging to this congregation helps *you*—in your own life—to Go-4-It!—to live a life of authenticity.

For this morning, let's start the process of discovery...

**First, Go On!...** *[Hold first finger up]*

For the CUC, this means continuing to develop and support our programs and services, in areas such as: Lifespan Learning; Leadership Development; Lay Chaplaincy training, coordinating regional fall gatherings and annual conferences; putting out the Canadian Unitarian magazine; and a myriad of other things.

Five years ago, transitioning services from the UUA to the CUC was just a report on paper. Now it's a reality. Of course, we'll strive to improve on what we currently do - and probably add new programs. Now the work is to "Keep on Keeping On" singer/songwriter Janis Ian says...

*"At the end of the day, all you can hope for is to go on. The older I get, the more I realize that just keeping on keeping on is what life's all about".*

I wonder what comes to your mind when you think about how this congregation has provided "a life support system" to both stretch and support you on your spiritual journey. How has it helped you to "Keep on Keeping On."?

A song by Pat Humphries includes these words:

*I am alone and I am searching  
Hungering for answers in my time  
I am balanced at the brink of wisdom  
I'm impatient to receive a sign.*

And this brings us to...

**Go #2 – Go Deep!** [*Hold 2 fingers up.*]

Rev. Dr. John Baros-Johnson in the first "Confluence Lecture" quotes Oliver Wendell Holmes "There is in each of us a thirst for the Absolute." John then goes on to say that, although initially it may sound like "lowered expectations", he believes this "thirst for something larger than ourselves, something that we can see ourselves as part of, is the search for meaning."

(The full text of this and other lectures can be found on the CUC website.)

His lecture, entitled *A Thoughtful Faith*, was delivered at the CUC ACM in Winnipeg in 2003 and was the first Confluence Lecture sponsored the UU Ministers of Canada association. This event in and of itself is a good example of "Going Deep".

A self-proclaimed Humanist, John explains faith this way:

*"When I say that faith is a concern for meaning in life, I indicate that people like meaning, they like meaningful things. They want their work to be meaningful, for their family relationships to be meaningful, for their lives to be meaningful. They*

*like participating in activities which affirm their humanity, and which celebrate truth and beauty; they like telling stories and hearing stories.*

*“People like living in a meaningful world. This doesn't mean that they can't live in meaninglessness. I imagine that people can live indefinitely without a sense of meaning in their lives. But my experience also shows me that folks live happier, healthier lives if they perceive of themselves as part of a meaningful world.*

*“People sometimes exhibit the lack of meaning in their lives by depression. When people are depressed, their motivation decreases, their social interactions decrease, their ability to network with others decreases and finally, their ability to physically cope with the world around them decreases.*

*“I believe that we humans have a basic orientation toward meaning and without it we are more likely to be confused and unhappy.”*

John suggests we check the Oxford English Dictionary, where we find that until the end of the 18th century the words "meaning" and "moaning" were used interchangeably in the English language.

*“Meaning is moaning. Moaning is often associated with pain but we moan also with joy and with ecstasy!*

*“By listening to the word "meaning" with the word "moaning" hovering in the background, however, we can hear again how our thinkings and our feelings are still intertwined.*

*“When you live your life in such a way as to increase the opportunities for meaningfulness for your life and for the lives of others around you, you are living the spiritual life whatever your tradition of worship or tradition of spirituality.”*

So, Going Deep... What does it look like in your life? When have your “thinkings and feelings” intertwined to create meaning? How has being involved this congregation deepened your life?

**Go #3 - Go Out!** [Hold 3 fingers up.]

In 2005, the Vancouver Courier newspaper did a series of 6 feature stories on various religions. They chose non-mainstream (read: small) groups and we were one of them. Vancouver's minister, the Rev. Steven Epperson, was on the cover of the paper that week, and Mary Bennett, the CUC's Executive Director, was among several others who got interviewed.

And at the end of the year, in their round-up of “quotable quotes” for the year, only one quote from the entire series was included. It was Mary’s response to the interviewer’s question about “How do Unitarians “recruit”?”

The response? *“You’re not at much risk of being recruited by a Unitarian. You’re more at risk of finding out your best friend is one and never told you!”*

It’s not uncommon that visitors find people they already knew from other areas of their life the very first time they show up at a Sunday service!

Between, on the one hand, cult behaviour of trying to trick someone to coming to church and, on the other, admitting you are a Unitarian—and enjoy coming here, there’s a lot of latitude to let people know about where you “make your meaning.”

For the CUC, “Going Out” is about “Coming Out”... It results in the kind of media coverage we’ve gotten in the past few years on our social responsibility statements, most notably on same-sex marriage.

Recently, Past President Elizabeth Bowen participated in a press conference on Parliament Hill and was quoted on CTV and in the Globe and Mail. As Rev. Allison Barrett said at our conference in Hamilton in 2005 (holding up a column by noted religion writer Tom Harper): *“PEOPLE, WE’VE HIT THE BIG TIME!”*

Which brings us to...

**Go #4 - GO Big!** *[Hold 4 fingers up.]*

The challenge for the CUC is to figure out: how do you GO Big when you are physically small?

You don’t have to be big to make a big difference! Kind of like Canada’s role in space exploration (the Canadarm)..

We Canadians seem to be able to show off our best in partnerships...

The so-called “split” from the UUA wasn’t a “split” at all. Now we are a valued partner in the international Unitarian and Universalist community along with the UUA, and we can participate in similar partnerships within Canada, especially in the areas of multi-faith and multi-culture.

For example, in the equal marriage debate, we partnered with the largest protestant denomination in Canada, the United Church. And the UUA Office of bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender concerns has proudly circulated all of our news releases on the issue.

While the United Church often provided staff and technical resources for teleconferences and research, they valued the fact that with every single UU minister and lay chaplain being ready and willing to perform marriages for all loving couples, our stance was “way out there!”

In our congregations, going from “Small is Beautiful” to “Going Big and making a real difference in the world” often requires something of an attitude shift. And, let’s be honest... that can be pretty scary.

The big challenge for Going Big is to find ways to maintain or even enhance the sense of intimacy that comes more naturally in a small group – for without that depth and intimacy we will not be equipped to serve a broader range of people and be able to do more in the community and the world.

These words from Marianne Williamson were quoted by Nelson Mandela (and often attributed to him). They say a lot about what it’s like to GO Big! as individuals.

*“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”*

Our Unitarian and Universalist communities can support us in moving past our deepest fears and breathe life into our wildest dreams, as we boldly Go-4-It!

May it be so...

*Adapted from a sermon presented by Mary Bennett at Beacon Unitarian Church, BC, November 2006. You can listen to Mary’s original presentation in MP3 format at [www.beaconunitarian.org/inspiration.html](http://www.beaconunitarian.org/inspiration.html).*



# GO-4-IT! UPDATE #2

December 2006

*A few questions have come up while discussing the Go-4-It! initiative...*

## WHAT IS "IT"?

*"We've talked about each of the '4 Go's'; but what is the 'It' at the centre of Go-4-It!?! What exactly are we going for?"*

Go-4-It! is designed as a framework to help the various constituencies that make up our movement in Canada (member congregations, the CUC, social action groups, etc.) to interact and co-ordinate planning efforts and resources - helping us to achieve our goals more effectively and efficiently.

While each of our individual constituent groups has its own specific mission and goals, the CUC Board has suggested that, as a Canadian UU movement, we might identify a **shared mission** - the "It" we could **collectively** strive for - stemming from our shared commitment to the Statement of Principles...

*"It" = A Shared Mission...*

*To employ our Unitarian & Universalist Principles in our daily lives and in the world at large.*

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## TOO LATE FOR A WORKSHOP?

Have you scheduled your Go-4-It! workshop yet? It's not too late! Complete workshop materials are available on-line. Please complete your workshop and send in the results by March 31, 2007.

Why not combine the workshop with a Sharing Our Faith Sunday? A template sermon, original poetry and readings are available on-line.

## GO-4-IT!'S THEOLOGY

*"What is the theology behind Go-4-It!?"*

There is no explicit theology behind Go-4-It!. It is purposefully silent on the matter of theology to allow each of us to engage our personal theologies as we undertake our shared mission.

Of course, since the Shared Mission stems from a shared commitment to the 7 Principles, one could look for elements of "shared theology" within the Principles... Clearly an engaging topic for further discussion!

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## WHO'S CO-ORDINATING IT?

There's a **Communications & Co-ordinating Committee** (the "Go-4-It! CCC"). Every congregation and group is asked to identify a **liaison** to be part of the CCC: the liaison feeds information from the congregation/group to the CUC Board and *vice versa*. Contact [go-4-it@cuc.ca](mailto:go-4-it@cuc.ca) if your group's not represented yet, or visit the website for more details.

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## WHAT'S NEXT?

After the Go-4-It! Workshops, we will compile all the feedback and present it at the ACM in Vancouver in May 2007. Following that, we'll start to identify common themes and objectives, and then start developing our strategies for the future.

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## MORE INFO?

*"Where do I find out more information?"*

Surf to: [www.cuc.ca/strategy](http://www.cuc.ca/strategy); or...  
E-mail: [go-4-it@cuc.ca](mailto:go-4-it@cuc.ca).

## **PAR QUATRE CHEMINS**

Un pas en avant. Un pas à la fois,  
un pas qui s'ajoute aux autres pas en avant.  
Quel chemin avons-nous parcouru?  
Où sommes-nous? Où allons-nous  
en poursuivant notre chemin ensemble?  
Comment pourrions-nous choisir la route, la destination?  
Chaque question nous apporte une autre  
et nous amène vers de nouveaux lieux.  
Un pied devant l'autre, nous allons en avant.

Un pas en profondeur. Un pas à la fois,  
un pas vers le centre de nous-mêmes.  
Par quels labyrinthes allons-nous passer?  
Où sommes-nous? Où allons-nous  
en poursuivant notre chemin vers l'intérieur?  
Comment dire nos désirs les plus profonds, articuler nos espoirs?  
Chaque question nous invite au voyage  
et nous amène vers des lieux intimes et inconnus.  
Un pied devant l'autre, nous découvrons les profondeurs.

Un pas vers l'autre. Un pas à la fois,  
un pas vers le monde qui nous entoure.  
Quelle est la portée de nos paroles et nos gestes?  
Où sommes-nous? Où allons-nous  
en poursuivant notre chemin vers les autres?  
Comment ouvrir nos bras, tendre notre main plus loin encore?  
Chaque question nous rend plus solidaires  
et nous amène vers des terrains communs et vastes.  
Un pied devant l'autre, nous arrivons près des autres.

Un pas de géant. Un pas à la fois,  
un pas qui s'ajoute aux pas des autres, aux nôtres.  
Quel chemin avons-nous parcouru ensemble?  
Où sommes-nous? Où allons-nous  
en poursuivant ce voyage humain et profond?  
Comment aller au bout de nous-mêmes, aux quatre coins du monde?  
Chaque question nous invite à grandir, à rêver en plus de couleurs.  
Avec nos pas de géant, nous parcourons les chemins multiples de la vie.

## seek the magic out

to find myself I have to go deep  
along the apple trails,  
among still standing waters,  
through cattails & head-high goldenrod,  
to find the never-ceasing breezes  
of the world's common breath,  
& the grass lying down  
by the altar of stones,  
to find myself I have to go deep.

go to seek the magic out, seek out  
the third eye floating on the water,  
among the reeds & dragonflies  
where twilight thickly hangs,  
& Coyote descended from the mountains  
brings a whisper, brings a diamond  
following the old paths, long etched  
into this terrain, where I can  
go seek the magic out, go seek.  
the water at the centre of the wheel,  
the star-channels & Coyote's surprises  
meeting in the centre of a star, meeting where  
the door suddenly opens, the landscape  
gathers new light, other worlds dovetail  
into each other, as the still point  
of the water slowly wears its way  
into the waiting mind, into recognition,  
the water at the centre of the wheel.

ever turning, ever over, ever under,  
never matter, always stirring,  
rolling & rolling, timelessly watching,  
earth turning over & seasons rolling,  
the star-march in the sky, among waving grasses,  
the spiraling stair & the seashell's pattern,  
ever turning, ever over, ever under.

the leap into the river, the bell  
in the tower, the bell in a cave,  
in the depths of the river, ringing with water,  
in the songs of the crickets & sparrows,  
sounding one note both over & under,  
sounding the note of a world come together,  
in the leap into the river, the bell.

ringing & ringing, sound across space,  
where Coyote walks I will follow,  
a flicker of flames, salamander's tail,  
a splash, & poplar leaves rustling silver,  
a stone on the path, as the earth shows its colours,  
& Coyote's ears both over & under  
ringing & ringing, sound across space.

to find myself I have to go deep,  
go to seek the magic out, seek out  
the water at the centre of the wheel,  
ever turning, ever over, ever under,  
the leap into the river, the bell  
ringing & ringing, sound across space -  
to find myself I have to go deep.

# Dear Listener

What I want from you  
is your spirit  
present

to encourage  
my own spirit  
to be present.

I want to believe  
in your depth  
to give me courage

to find my own depth  
and share with you  
what I discover there.

I want to trust you  
so I can trust  
myself

to give you  
everything I have  
of value.

Presence, depth, courage,  
trust: together these  
will set us free.