

Canadian Unitarian Council eNews
May 2018

Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada Issue Call to Action on Racial Justice

The Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC) have issued a call to action on racial justice. At their annual meeting last year, UUMOC members held a conversation about the recent white supremacy teach-ins that had originated in the United States, and the idea of a call to action in Canada arose. A task force was created by UUMOC, and spent much of the past year gathering resources, deciding what points to emphasize, and seeking input from UUMOC as a whole. The resulting document calls on “all Canadian Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist congregations to pledge as member societies to initiate intentional actions of conscience around racial justice issues”. Congregations are encouraged to discern their own unique action and endorse or affirm it at their next business meeting.

As an accompanying resource, the task force has assembled a list of 10 actions for racial justice to take on both an individual level and as Canadian UU congregations. Congregants are invited to choose from the list or to pursue their own activity or initiative and to share news of their actions with the task force which is creating a resource list to share with congregations.

The complete document is available [here](#).

Register for the National Conference before it's too late!



It's coming up fast! The [National Conference](#) in Hamilton ON is a mere two weeks away, on May 18th, and online registration closes this weekend (psst, it'll stay open until midnight May 6th).

In case you're still deciding, here are eight excellent reasons to experience the conference in-person:

- Young adult gatherings and multigenerational events - the Conference is a place where young adults can find their place within the larger community and connect to their UU identity
 - Fun children's program, so that families can be together at the conference. Payment is on a sliding scale, starting at \$25 for the whole weekend!
- Meet up with friends from across the country, and make new one connections. Where else would a president from Halifax, a lay chaplain from Vancouver, a youth from Peterborough, and a religious educator from Hamilton share a Mexican fiesta together?
- To be challenged, in meetings, in the Confluence Lecture, in worship, and in workshops to new and different ways of thinking about our choices and possibilities.

- Sunday night sing! This is a favourite thing at the Conference - gathering around a piano to sing our favourites loud and proud
- Crafting resolutions towards the goal of living out our vital faith
- Thought-provoking programming, ranging from workshops about mental health, multi-racial families and a possible 8th principle, to a stirring Confluence Lecture by Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz, to a young adult gathering, and a Sunday service like no other
- A special surprise will be unveiled at the Annual General Meeting and Sunday Banquet!

Don't delay. Find the information you'll need about the conference and registering:

- Registration for children, youth, young adults and adults is [here](#)
 - Program information is [here](#)
 - Accommodation information is [here](#)
 - The full conference website is [here](#)
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Conference streams and workshops

Saturday streams and Sunday workshops are sure to be a highlight of the Conference. Here's a quick summary of what's on offer. Find full descriptions [here](#).

Saturday streams:

- Stream 1: From 110 Good Ideas to Three Action Projects: Members of the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton have lots of ideas for great social justice projects. Learn how they successfully turned ideas into focused congregational action.
- Stream 2: 1 + 7 = 8: Considering the 8th Principle in the Canadian Context: A possible 8th Principle has been proposed by Black Lives of UU (BIUU) in the US, which calls Unitarian Universalists to "accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." How might this impact Canadians?
- Stream 3: Truly Welcoming: Trans Folks and Gender Diversity in our Congregations: A Welcoming Congregation is one that engages intentionally to welcome individuals, families, and communities of all sexual orientations and gender identities. This workshop explores concepts and issues current in trans and gender-diverse communities in Canada.
- Stream 4: Communities of Belonging and Possibility: Dialogue Methods that Reawaken Congregational Life. This stream will introduce and model next-generation participatory dialogue practices and principles that could help reinvigorate your congregation, make better use of your meeting time, energize your outreach and social justice efforts, and create more of a culture of collaboration and play.
- Stream 5: Love and Justice in Support of Our Mental and Emotional Wellbeing: Dominant cultural narrative funnels an enormous range of human experience into a disease model of "mental illness," requiring medical and pharmacological treatments.

The typical social justice response is to call for more equitable access to these treatments, but what if there are different ways to respond that aren't being heard in the conversation?

- Stream 6: More than a Hymn Sandwich: Creating Sunday Services Differently: If we want people from a church-phobic culture to notice our brand of spirituality for the 21st century, we may need to recreate our Sunday Service, making it more user friendly and participatory. This workshop will practice story, use ritual and make music, offering ways to contextualize each of these differently and giving clear methods about how we might build them into our congregations.
- Stream 7: Indigenous Perspectives in a Modern World. **This stream is full.**

Sunday workshops

- Workshop 1: Education for Global Citizenship. In this interactive and engaging multigenerational workshop, learn about how Unitarian Universalists of all ages can be involved with establishing education for global citizenship, teaching compassion, empathy, and impulse control.
- Workshop 2: Seed Saving for Everyone. This USC Canada-led workshop will focus on how to save seeds as a means to preserve, protect and enhance agricultural biodiversity. Through presentations, games, discussions and hands-on activities, participants will learn about agricultural biodiversity, how seeds grow and how they are saved.
- Workshop 3: Interracial Families Resisting Oppression. Many Canadian families are racially mixed including families formed by transracial adoption. Using stories, media, humour and vignettes this intergenerational workshop will illustrate ways to both recognize and resist the exclusion of interracial and transracial couples and families.
- Workshop 4: Find the Quiet Centre: Spiritual Practices and Songs. **This workshop is full.**
- Workshop 5: Silent Football and Youth Con Games. Silent Football is neither silent, nor football - what more do you need to know? Traditionally played late at night at youth cons, this is "a game of verbal and arithmetical precision", that only requires a leader (or "dictator") and a circle of willing participants to make it fun.
- Workshop 6: Being UU: Questions of Faith. **This workshop is full.**
- Workshop 7: Join the Peace Train: A Journey of Love and Justice. Do we resolve our conflicts at home, at school, at work, or around the world with violence, or do we choose peace? This workshop will talk about what actions we can take in our own lives to cultivate peace.

2018 CUC ACM Plenary Meeting and AGM



Plenary Session – Thursday, 17 May

Atlantic 8–10 pm | Eastern 7-9pm | Central 6-8 pm | Mountain 5-7 pm | Pacific 4-6 pm

Although the CUC Board conducts much of its work behind the scenes, the input of Canadian UUs is still critical. Join an informal dialogue amongst delegates, leaders, board members, and CUC staff about financial matters and other plans in support of the CUC's vision, goals, and strategic priorities.

Come in person or connect online - details are [here](#).

Annual General Meeting - Friday, 18 May

Atlantic 2 pm – 5 pm | Eastern 1 pm – 4pm | Central 12pm – 3 pm | Mountain 11 am – 2 pm | Pacific 10 am – 1 pm

Whether delegates or observers, Canadian Unitarians are invited to help put the 5th principle of using democratic process into practice at the CUC's Annual General Meeting, where we will vote on the budget, accept annual reports, and formally welcome a new member congregation into the CUC.

Information for the plenary session and the AGM, including agendas and motions, is available [here](#).

AGM online orientation

Delegates who are attending online via Zoom and who are new to the online voting process, please sign up for the remaining online orientation sessions (delegates going to Hamilton need not do this):

Sign up [here](#) for the last online voting orientation: Sat, May 5/18 at 10:00am PDT | 11:00am MDT | 12:00pm CDT | 1:00pm EDT | 2:00pm ADT

CUC Office Hours May 11 – 24, 2018

CUC staff are focused on the national conference and annual general meeting taking place in Hamilton from May 18-20. Office hours will be reduced during this period, and staff will respond to queries after May 24.

- For matters related to the conference, please email conference@cuc.ca.
- For matters related to the annual general meeting, please email executivedirector@cuc.ca.
- Conference information can be found at <https://sites.google.com/cuc.ca/cuconference/home>
- Annual general meeting information can be found at <https://sites.google.com/cuc.ca/cuconference/annual-general-meeting>

“Explorations in Interdependence” Podcast



Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz of Saskatoon Unitarians is delivering this year’s Confluence Lecture at the national conference, reflecting on the CUC’s vision statement of “We envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice”. As part of her research for the lecture, she has held a series of Conversations about interdependence with artists, environmentalists, scientists, theologians, and activists. Episode 1 features a

conversation with Rev. Meg Roberts, a Unitarian Universalist minister, actor, and spirit artist, who was recently in a forum theatre production of *of šx“?amət: home*. The conversation, available [here](#), explores the forum theatre process as an expression of interconnectedness and belonging.

Summer Leadership Retreats - Save the Date!

The CUC’s two leadership retreats, “Serving with Spirit,” held over the summer of 2017, got enthusiastic reviews from participants. Two more leadership events are in the works for 2018: one in Mississauga Saturday, July 28 and one in Saskatoon (an August date to be confirmed). Programs designed to support the leadership development programs of Unitarian Universalist congregations will be offered. Full details will be available soon. Look for information in the next eNews, the CUC leaders group & the CUC Facebook page.