



CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
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**CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017
MINUTES – May 13, 2017
First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto**

Present: Using Zoom meeting technology and Google forms, more than 50 delegates from 24 congregations signed in on-line to discuss, vote and participation. Thirty plus delegates from mostly Ontario congregations were on-site in Toronto.

- 1. Invocation and Chalice Lighting** by Rev. Debra Faulk, Minister Observer to the CUC Board

- 2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of First Nations Territory**
President Keith Wilkinson welcomed everyone and acknowledged that we are meeting on traditional land of Indigenous peoples.

- 3. Introduction to meeting procedures**
President Keith Wilkinson explained meeting procedures, including those for online delegates. Wilkinson welcomed the online delegates and participants, noting that this is the first CUC AGM with online participation and voting.
 - i) The Credentials Committee reported that quorum is present, with twenty online delegates and twenty nine onsite delegates from at least eight societies, from all four regions. The meeting is properly constituted.
 - ii) In accordance with CUC by-laws, member societies were notified of the Annual General Meeting in timely and proper fashion.
 - iii) The Chair introduced Bill Fulton as the Parliamentarian, whose role is to advise the Chair on rules of procedure and points of order.
 - iv) The timekeeper was introduced.

- 4. Recognition of International Visitors**
Executive Director Vyda Ng introduced CUC staff, board, official representatives and other guests.



5. Motion to allow youth to participate in AGM

Motion by the CUC Board: that the usual rules of procedures will include allowing any youth present at the 2017 Annual General Meeting the same privilege to speak to the assembly as currently exists for delegates, ministers, CUC board members, and official representatives. This allowance does not extend to voting privileges, unless the youth is a designated delegate from their congregation. CARRIED

6. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: to adopt the agenda by Joan Hill (Mississauga). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

7. Review and approval of minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting

Moved by Janis Collins (Grand River, Kitchener). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

8. Report from Neal Cameron, Youth Observer to the Board

Cameron gave an update on the last year's youth activities, and reported that Maya James (Winnipeg) is the next youth observer.

9. Report from Rev. Debra Faulk, Minister Observer to the Board

Rev. Faulk reported on the deepening relationships among ministers, CUC Board and staff, which is enhanced by regularly held meetings. The role of the minister observer has been refined to include more communications and spiritual grounding at CUC Board meetings. UUMOC has also taken on additional responsibility by coordinating the Theological Education Fund distributions in order to aid CUC staff.

UUMOC has the unique situation of being a Chapter of our professional organization the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association as well as a national organization. UUMOC is working on a long range plan of our vision and purpose that will include how we serve and support the denomination nationally. This includes such things as the Confluence Lecture, the UUMOC stream at the ACM as well as populating various CUC committees and initiatives.

10. Report of the Nominating Committee by Ben Robins

The following CUC Board members will continue their terms during 2017-18:
(Terms of office are for 3 years unless otherwise stated)



| NAME | REGION | TERM |
|---------------------------------|---------|--|
| Susan Ruttan (Edmonton) | Western | 3 rd year of 1 st term |
| Jane Ebborn (Calgary) | Western | 3 rd year of 1 st term |
| Keith Wilkinson (Vancouver) | BC | 3 rd year of 1 st term |
| Tanya Cothran (First Toronto) | Central | 2 nd year of 1 st term |
| Carol Cumming Speirs (Montreal) | Eastern | 2 nd year of 1 st term |

The following are nominees for the CUC Board:

| NAME | REGION | TERM |
|--|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel (Ottawa Fellowship) | Eastern | 1 st year of 3 year term |
| Milton Orris (Kelowna) | BC | 1 st year of 3 year term |
| Danielle Webber (Toronto First) | Central | 1 st year of 3 year term |

The following Nominating Committee members will continue their terms during 2017-18:

| NAME | REGION | TERM |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Bunty Albert (PEI) | Eastern | 3 rd year of 2 nd term |
| Ben Robins (Toronto First) | Eastern/Central | 3 rd year of 1 st term |
| Joanne Green (Regina) | Western | 3 rd year of 1 st term |
| Rev. Debra Thorne (Beacon) | BC | 2 nd year of 2 nd term |

The following are nominees for the CUC Nominating Committee:

| NAME | REGION | TERM |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Rev. Helen McFadyen (Kamloops) | BC/Western | 1 st year of 3 year term |
| Wendy Shusterman (Mississauga) | Central | 1 st year of 3 year term |



11. Election of new Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee

The Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee members as proposed by the Nominating Committee were accepted by acclamation by the delegates.

12. 2016 Annual Reports

- i) **Update on Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) agreement:** Executive Director Vyda Ng stated that the compliance letter with CRA had been finalized in the fall of 2016, and that CUC has the required processes in place to comply with the terms of the agreement.
- ii) **Staff accomplishments:** Ng provided a review of staff engagement with congregations in 2016, and shared some highlights.
- iii) **Board activities and accomplishments:** Board President Keith Wilkinson described the role of the Board and some of the accomplishments of the previous year. This included policies developed by the Board in 2016, and the seven statements made by the National Voice Team (consisting of CUC Board President, Executive Director and UU Ministers of Canada President).
- iv) **Discussion ensued** after these reports.

13. Motion to receive 2016 annual reports

Motion: to receive 2016 annual reports as presented moved by Margaret Kohr (Toronto). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

BREAK

14. Report of Credentials Committee

There being a quorum consisting of online and onsite delegates, the meeting resumed.

15. Report of the Vision Implementation Team

The team co-chairs, Lorna Weigand (Don Heights, Toronto) and Susan Ruttan (Edmonton), reported that two new contests have been initiated to support the new vision: *“As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we envision a world where our interdependence calls us to love and justice.”* There will be a sermon contest and an art contest, both centred on the vision.



16. Review of revised goals (formerly “Global Ends”)

President Keith Wilkinson presented the updated goals for 2017-2018 for review:

The CUC ensures that it has resources to maintain its own sustainability in order to advance the cost-effective achievement of the following four primary goals:

1. Enhance religious exploration and spiritual growth grounded in the vision, principles, sources, and aspirations of the Canadian Unitarian Universalist movement;
2. Advance socially responsible actions to live out our vision of interdependence, love and justice to bring benefit to Canadian and global communities;
3. Build community resilience so our congregations and communities are connected to each other, and thrive organizationally, economically, and socially in a diverse, multi-generational context;
4. Strengthen local, regional, national, and global networks of collaborative and interdependent UU congregations and communities.

17. Review of proposed strategic priorities for 2017-2018:

Wilkinson presented the proposed strategic priorities for review and discussion:

Within the four goals, the following are identified as strategic priorities:

- a) Ensure sustainable revenue generation to continue the work of building vital Unitarian communities;
- b) Improve communications capabilities so that they are flexible, robust and effective, with an early focus on the CUC website to make it a useful and appealing communications toll for both members and visitors;
- c) Advance social justice initiatives, including truth, healing and reconciliation amongst Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians;
- d) Encourage innovation and sustainability in the growth and development of UU communities, with an emphasis on youth and young adults.

18. Motion to approve goals and strategic priorities for 2017-2018: CARRIED



19. 2016 audited financial statements

Treasurer Kristina Stevens presented the audited financial statements

Motion: to approve 2016 audited financial statements as presented moved by Karen Miller (Oilinda). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

20. 2017 Adjusted Budget

Executive Director Vyda Ng presented the revised budget for 2017, which was previously approved in principle at the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

Motion: to approve the revised 2017 budget as presented moved by the CUC Board. CARRIED.

21. Report of Compensation Task Force for CUC staff

Tanya Cothran and Neal Cameron presented the report of the Compensation Task Force. The report stated that CUC staff salaries are below fair compensation ranges, and recommended that CUC budgets include fair compensation targets, to bring staff salaries up to fair compensation levels by the end of 2018.

BREAK

22. Report of Credentials Committee

There being a quorum consisting of online and onsite delegates, the meeting resumed.

23. Proposed 2018 budget – presentation and discussion

Treasurer Kristina Stevens presented the proposed budget for 2017

- A. **Motion: to approve the Annual Program Contribution rate for 2018 to be set at \$100 per member**, moved by the CUC Board. CARRIED.
- B. **Motion: to approve in principle the 2018 budget as presented**, moved by CUC Board. CARRIED

24. Motion: to appoint Grant Thornton as the CUC's auditors for 2017, moved by the CUC Board. CARRIED.



25. Annual Program Contribution (APC): alternate method of calculation

Treasurer Kristina Stevens has been leading a task force to explore alternate methods of calculating the annual program contribution by congregations to the CUC. The current method is based on a specific rate for each member. The task force looked at several methods, and presented results based on calculating APC based on a percentage of each congregation's operating budget.

Discussion ensued, with concerns and questions being raised by delegates and participants. No decision was made, with a further report to be presented at the 2018 Annual General Meeting.

26. Sharing Our Faith awards for 2017

Secretary Carol Cumming Speirs presented the applications from six congregations and announced the awards:

- **First Unitarian Church of Victoria:** \$2500 to commission a setting to music of a Latin Vespers, *Vesperae pro Serveto*, with text based on Unitarian Universalist Principles.
- **Unitarian Church of Calgary:** \$2,500 for rebranding and promotion - brand development, marketing templates, signs and banners and Facebook advertising
- **Unitarian Fellowship of London:** \$1,000 to provide a one week summer day camp as an adjunct to the religious exploration program and as a benefit to the surrounding community
- **Unitarian Congregation of Guelph:** \$6,000 to assist in funding a Director of Congregational Life and Learning position as the congregation transitions to a part-time minister-led congregation
- **Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough:** \$3,000 for a gathering of local faith groups on an autumn weekend focused on the theme of gratitude
- **Unitarian Universalist Church of North Hatley (UUEstrie):** \$2,000 for two purposes – i) to pay the salary of the consulting Minister or “Spirit Circle” small group ministry furthering work already in progress, and: ii) to the fees of area resident trainers in a series of Non-violent Communications workshops.



27. Theological Education Funds awards for 2017

Rev. Debra Faulk announced the awards to ministerial students for 2017. Ben Robins and Rosemary Morrison each received \$8,500 to support their ministerial studies.

28. Motion of thanks

- President Keith Wilkinson expressed gratitude to departing board members Kristina Stevens (Victor), Lorna Weigand (Toronto), and Jaime Dunton (Montreal); and to departing Nominating Committee members
- Secretary Carol Cumming Speirs thanked those who helped with the details of coordinating this AGM
- Kristina Stevens presented a bouquet of flowers to departing CUC bookkeeper Vidya Sudama and thanked her for her commitment and attention to detail.

29. The 2017 AGM was adjourned at 4:05 pm

30. Announcement of 2018 CUC Board Executive

President: Keith Wilkinson (Vancouver)

Vice-president: Jane Ebborn (Calgary)

Treasurer: Tanya Cothran (Toronto)

Secretary: Carol Cumming Speirs (Montreal)

31. Installation of CUC Board of Trustees for 2017-2018

The installation ceremony was conducted for the new Board of Trustees.

32. Closing words were shared by Rev. Debra Faulk and Rev. Shawn Newton