

# CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL ENEWS

JUNE 2018 | Issue 64



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## SUBMISSIONS TO ENEWS:

Due by 10<sup>th</sup> of each month

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**JUNE 2018**

## CUC HAS A NEW WEBSITE!

The [CUC's brand-new website](#) launched in mid-May, a week ahead of the National Conference. It offers a clean, updated look and many new features:

- Menus along the top begin on the left with areas of most interest to newcomers, moving to the right to areas of interest for congregational leaders and established Unitarians and Universalists
- Resources for congregations and leaders opens up in a drop-down menu – this section will continue to grow in response to leaders' needs
- An improved search engine makes information easy to locate
- Social media channels are easily accessible by clicking on the icons at the top right-hand corner of the page; a handy Donate button is there too!
- A new map of Canadian congregations makes it easy for visitors to locate the one nearest them
- A modified calendar makes it easy to find upcoming in-person and on-line events, as well as past events

[Check out the site](#) and let us know what you think (the site remains a work in progress) - please send questions or comments to [webweaver@cuc.ca](mailto:webweaver@cuc.ca).



## 2018 NATIONAL CONFERENCE & AGM UPDATE

Over the weekend of May 18, 2018, more than 280 Canadian Unitarian young adults and adults, and 75 youth and youth advisors gathered in Hamilton ON for the CUC's National Conference.

Together, they explored the conference theme of "Invitation to Love and Justice" through workshops, networking and worship. They also elected a new Board of Trustees, collected offerings for three charities, presented grants and awards, and enjoyed a parody of TV talent shows which was presented by multi-talented members of the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton titled "UUs Got Talent."



The congregations of the CUC thank the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton for their outstanding and stellar work in organizing and launching the 2018 National Conference. It was a memorable time!

Updates from the Conference and Annual General Meeting are contained in pages 2 – 7.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

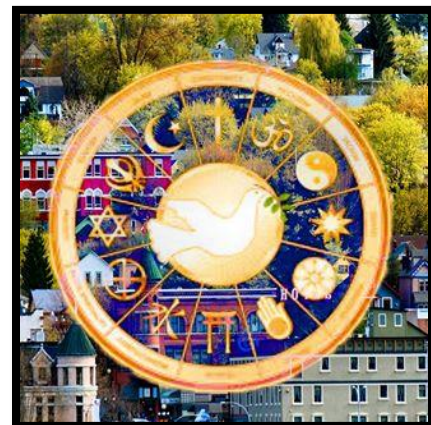
The Annual General Meeting, for the second year, had full online participation and voting capability. There were over 100 delegates, both onsite in Hamilton and online via Zoom web meeting platform. Twelve congregations participated online.

[Resolutions](#) on strategic priorities and goals, and the Annual Program Contribution rate for 2019 were passed. Minutes, financial statements and the annual report for 2017 can be found [here](#).

## NEW MEMBER CONGREGATION

A new member congregation was welcomed into the Canadian Unitarian Universalist community. Since 2015, CUC staff Joan Carolyn and Vyda Ng, with minister Rev. Debra Thorne and support from the Beacon Unitarian Church, have been working with a group in Nelson, BC on becoming a part of the national Unitarian Universalist community. This work was aided in part by a grant from the Pacific Northwest UU Growth Foundation.

At the 2018 AGM, the Nelson Unitarian Spiritual Centre (NUSC) in British Columbia was affirmed as a full member congregation of the Canadian Unitarian Council! Welcome, Nelson Unitarians!



The Nelson Unitarian Spiritual Centre is located in the Selkirk Mountains on the extreme West Arm of Kootenay Lake in the Southern Interior of British Columbia. Find them on Facebook [here](#).

### We are Canadian Unitarian Universalists

*We are called to love & justice through our interdependence on each other & the world around us. We aspire to be deeply connected, radically inclusive, actively engaged, theologically alive, & spiritually grounded.*

*We seek to welcome you: your whole self, with all your truths & your doubts, your worries & your hopes. Find out what it means to live your deepest values out loud. Join us on this extraordinary adventure of faith. [Find a congregation near you.](#)*

## NEW CUC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The 2018-2019 CUC Board of Trustees was elected at the Annual General Meeting. They are:

- President: Jane Ebborn (Calgary AB)
- Vice-President: Margaret Wanlin (Thunder Bay ON)
- Treasurer: Tanya Cothran (Toronto ON)
- Secretary: Kiersten Moore (Vancouver BC)
- Michael Riess (Victoria BC)
- Rev. Rodrigo Solano-Quesnel (Toronto ON)
- Carol Cumming Speirs (Montreal QC)
- Minister Observer: Rev. Debra Thorne BC)



Top L-R: Jane Ebborn, Kiersten Moore, Michael Riess, Rev. Debra Thorne  
Front L-R: Carol Cumming Speirs, Tanya Cothran, Margaret Wanlin, Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel

The Eastern Region position remains vacant. To express interest or to recommend a nominee for this position, please email [nominations@cuc.ca](mailto:nominations@cuc.ca).

*"My experience of being involved nationally has been very special. I know Unitarians across the country. My term on the national board ends in May, but I will never abandon my commitment to the national movement. We are connected. We are family. We need to nurture those bonds that keep us one national family." ~ Susan Ruttan, Edmonton, CUC Board 2015-2018*

## CANADIAN UNITARIAN AWARDS

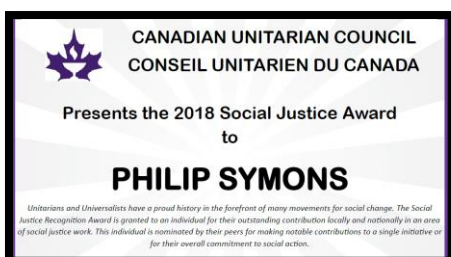
Canadian Unitarians also honoured other Unitarians with two awards:

The [Knight Award](#) recognizes a Unitarian who has made notable contributions to furthering liberal religious principles in Canada. In 2018, the Knight Award was presented to **Dr. E. Lisbeth Donaldson** for her pioneering work over many years in advancing women's rights.

The Social Justice Award pays tribute to a Unitarian who has made outstanding contributions to social justice work on local and national levels. In 2018, the SJ Award was presented to **Philip Symon** for his



unflagging commitment to working through domestic and global issues, and for being [the editor of JustNews](#), the newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice](#) for twelve years.



## SHARING OUR FAITH

[Sharing Our Faith](#) grants for growth and outreach initiatives are awarded annually to congregations which apply and meet the criteria. Funds are gathered by congregations holding Sharing Our Faith Sunday services, and from the Percy Simpson Bailey fund administered by the [First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto](#). Four congregations received grants in 2018:

- [Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Durham ON](#): \$4,500 towards part-time consulting ministry, and to grow family interactions and attract new families through enhanced programming
- [Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Kamloops BC](#): \$4,500 to rent a permanent space for more visibility and outreach
- [Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship BC](#): \$4,116 for support staff to increase the congregation's capacity for outreach and communication through quality engagement with children, youth and their families
- [Salt Spring Island Unitarian Fellowship BC](#): \$4,580 towards developing a children's religious exploration program; there are currently no other faith-based children's programs on the island

## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FUNDS

[Theological Education Funds](#) assist students on their path towards professional ministry. The funds are collected from ministers' ordinations and installations, and from the Rouff Mackie-Jenkins fund administered by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. Two students received \$10,000 each in 2018 – Christopher Wulff and Ben Robins.

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*"I am enormously grateful to the Theological Education Fund of the Canadian Unitarian Council as it provides support for myself and my family during the long process of ministerial formation. TEF is a vital symbol of the investment we've made and are still making to building an indigenous, Canadian Unitarian ministry and theology." ~ Former TEF recipient*

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## NORTHERN LIGHTS

[Northern Lights](#) is a unique fundraising program that enables Canadian UUs to directly support growth projects in UU congregations and communities across the country, by pledging to be "Chalice Lighters." The funds support innovative projects over \$10,000 in growth and outreach. In 2018, the recipient of Northern Lights is Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana to create an online Francophone ministry based in Saskatoon.

To become a Chalice Lighter, complete the [form here](#), and be part of building a Francophone ministry for UUs around the world.



*Rev. Fulgence w Rev. Samaya Oakley*



## SHINING LIGHTS

[Shining Lights](#) is a new award which celebrates innovation and sustainability in congregational initiative and programming. The winning congregation will share their successful processes with other congregations to imagine how they might do similar work in their own settings.

The SL award was given for the first time in 2018 to the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton. The award recognized the congregation's efforts in moving towards a more focused social justice effort with meaningful community impact in three areas: i) affordable housing; ii) sexual and gender justice; iii) empowering those living in poverty to fulfill their potential.

These three areas were selected from more than one hundred suggestions through a selection process created and led by Rev. Carly Gaylor, previous Assistant Minister.

The beautiful Shining Lights Chalice created by Jo'Anne Kelly of Winnipeg, with base (not in picture) by Flatland Carpentry, will be awarded to each winning community. For more information, contact [shininglights@cuc.ca](mailto:shininglights@cuc.ca).



*Rev. Carly Gaylor, framed by the SL Award*



*First UU Church of Hamilton ~ Winners of the first Shining Lights Award 2018*

## PROFESSIONAL MINISTRY UPDATES

### NEW UUMOC EXECUTIVE

The [Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada](#) (UUMOC) is the Canadian professional association of UU ministers, a chapter within the larger [Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association](#) (UUMA) in the US. UUMOC members covenant together to promote excellence in ministry through personal learning and growth and mutual support. In addition, the UUMOC President is a member of the CUC's National Voice Team, and UUMOC sends a Minister Observer to the CUC Board.

UUMOC's executive for 2018-19 is:

President: Rev. Samaya Oakley

Vice-President: Rev. Fiona Heath

Secretary: Rev. Brian Kiely

Treasurer: Rev. Nicoline Guerrier



### MINISTERIAL TRANSITIONS

Professional ministers are those who have deepened their relationship with our faith tradition and who serve it, and all of us. Each year we mark transitions in ministry. Since May 2017, these are the transitions in ministry:

#### Granted Preliminary Fellowship

- Christopher Wulff
- Rosemary Morrison
- John Adams

#### Granted Final Fellowship

- Rev. Fiona Heath

#### Leaving positions

- Rev. Fran Dearman from interim ministry in Olinda, ON
- Revs. Emily and Marcus Hartlief from ministry with North Shore Unitarian Congregation, BC
- Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel, from his developmental ministry position with the Ottawa Fellowship, ON
- Rev. Len DeRoche, from interim ministry with First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, ON
- Rev. Stephen Atkinson has completed his Pastoral Care ministry at St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton, ON
- Rev Carol Strecker completed interim ministry in Kingston, ON
- Pat Trudeau completed her internship in Hamilton, ON

#### Beginning Ministries

- Rev. Barbara Wells Ten Hove, will begin a one-year interim ministry at Northshore, BC
- Rev. Nicoline Guerrier will begin ministry in Vermont, US
- Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana is beginning an on-line Francophone ministry, based in Saskatoon
- Rev. Meghan Robernn has begun ministry in Winnipeg, MB



- Danielle Webber will begin ministry in Kelowna, BC
- Rev. Carly Gaylor has begun ministry with the UU Congregation of Durham, ON
- Rev. Rebecca 'Beckett' Coppola has been called and installed in Kingston, ON
- John Adams has begun Prison Chaplaincy in Penetanguishene, ON
- Rev. Samaya Oakley has been called to ministry and installed in South Fraser, BC
- Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel will begin ministry with the UU Church of Olinda ON
- Rev. Patricia Guthmann Haresch will begin developmental ministry at the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, ON

We also remember, with gratitude, the life and the ministry of [Rev. Phillip Hewett](#), who died on February 24, 2018 at the age of 93.

## A REFLECTION ON BRIDGING

*By Katherine Childs, Director of Religious Exploration, Unitarian Church of Montreal*

*The following reflection was delivered at the 2018 CUC National Conference, on the occasion of the Bridging Ceremony, a community ritual in which older youth are welcomed into the young adult community, and older young adults are blessed out into our wider UU faith community.*

*You've gotta sing when the spirit says sing  
You've gotta sing when the spirit says sing  
When the spirit says sing you've gotta sing  
Oh Lord You've gotta sing when the spirit says sing*

You've gotta bridge when the spirit says bridge.

I didn't grow up Unitarian Universalist - I grew up Anglican, but I still did all the same things that many UU youth do: circle worship, cons, and youth group. And bridging. Well, sort of. My theological conflicts with the denomination I grew up in meant that I didn't so much bridge out as just... leave. I came to Unitarian Universalism as a young adult, and I discovered that all of the things I thought were lost to me - sharing spiritual reflection with others, singing, CHURCH - could once again be part of my life. The community of UU young adults that I found, in my home congregation in Montreal and nationally with all of you, took on a huge importance in my life, and the role I took on, serving the Unitarian Church of Montreal as the Director of Religious Exploration, gave me back the call to ministry that I thought was lost to me, too.



Two years ago, our young adult community met following the National Conference in Vancouver BC. And because attempting to be in two places at once seems to be my lot in life, the Canadian UU

Religious Educators were meeting in the next room over at the same time. I loved British Columbia, but as a person with moderately severe asthma, the damp climate really didn't love me back. Our young adult gathering ended with a silent walk down some five hundred steps through the temperate rainforest to the beach, and I knew that even if my lungs made it all the way down, I really wasn't going to make it back up. We closed our gathering in the meeting room and were meant to exit in silence.



But our meeting room wasn't really cooperating. A self-locking, heavy, fire door that would not be propped open meant that our silent departure very quickly turned into cacophony of the door being heaved open over and over to a whispered chorus of "Sorry!" "Sorry!" "Sorry!" It was immediately clear to me what I was being called to do.

I held the door open as my peers filed out, silently snaking their way down through the building and down to the beach. To keep it from slamming and breaking the silence, I held onto the door and gently pulled it closed. I walked three steps to the room next door

where the Religious Educators were meeting, and sat down and burst into tears.

It's taken me most of the last two years to really accept that the universe handed me the perfect bridging moment, the chance to literally close the door on my time as a young adult. In those two years I've gotten to know the folks who serve our denomination as Religious Educators, and the relationships I've built with my community of religious professionals have reassured me that the support, joy, and indeed singing, that I loved about young adult community will continue to be present.

You've gotta sing when the spirit says sing.

## FAITH IN ACTION

### UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HALIFAX BECOMES SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT HOLDER

The [Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax](#) (UUCH) becomes the 4th Nova Scotia-based, federally-mandated refugee sponsorship organization, after being granted [Sponsorship Agreement Holder](#) (SAH) status by the federal government. They are the second Unitarian SAH in Canada, after the Canadian Unitarian Council.

"Unitarians and Universalists have a tradition of helping refugees," said minister Rev. Norm Horofker. "Because we hold true certain Principles, such as the '*Inherent worth and dignity of every person*,' '*Justice, equity and compassion in human relations*' and '*The goal of*





*world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all,' we aid those fleeing violence and persecution as a matter of putting our words into action."*

Starting as early as the Enlightenment in Europe, Unitarians and Universalists have a history of refugee protection. In North America, members of the denominations aided former slaves to reach



safety in Canada since at least the time of the Underground Railroad. In more modern times, UUCH has been involved in sponsoring families during successive refugee waves, such as Vietnamese families in the early 1980s, Kosovars in the late 1990s, and Afghans in the 2000s. A permanent Refugee Sponsorship Committee was formed in 2015, tasked to work with community groups to help settle Syrian and other refugee families in the region.

The new status will allow UUCH to work directly with local community groups to select and settle refugees into the region.

"We'll now be able to assist more people, more directly," noted UUCH Refugee Sponsorship Committee member Nawras Althiab, a newcomer from Syria himself, who is finishing a pre-med degree at Dalhousie University. "It was not that long ago that I arrived in Halifax, and I know what many of our clients are going through. It was through the efforts of Nova Scotians, like those I now work with, that I have an opportunity for a new life. I'm proud to be able to pay it forward as part of the new SAH."

Founded in 1837, the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax is a LGBTQI-positive, welcoming community that celebrates diversity of both theology and background. A dogma-free tradition that honours deeds, not creeds, it affirms the principles of an open-minded spiritual community, uses reason and conscience as primary guides, and is committed to justice in the world.

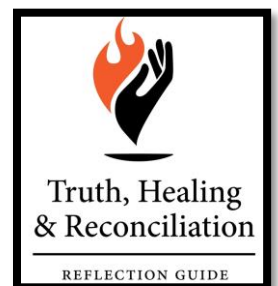
## TRUTH, HEALING AND RECONCILIATION RESOURCE TEAM

The CUC's *Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guides* program has drawn an incredible response over the last 2 years, and because of this, it is moving from being a task force to an ongoing resource team for the CUC. Accordingly, people are invited to apply to be part of the team.

For more information, please refer to our team's [mandate](#). To apply to be part of the team, please fill in this [application](#).

Application deadline is June 15.

Questions about the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation initiative? Please email [reconciliation@cuc.ca](mailto:reconciliation@cuc.ca)



## LEADERSHIP NEWS

### Serving with Spirit: Sustaining Practices for Volunteers.

**July 28, Mississauga**, 9:30- 3:30, Unitarian Cong. in [Mississauga, 84 S Service Rd](#)

**August 11, Saskatoon**, 9:30- 3:30, Saskatoon Unitarians, [213 2 St E., Saskatoon](#)

Explore strategies to increase your volunteer pool and sustain people in meaningful engagement with your congregation. The one-day workshop will be held in two locations:

- Mississauga [July 28], and
- Saskatoon [August 11]
- With options to attend either in-person or online.

Join this workshop created by Angela Klassen [Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Toronto First], CUC staff Rev. Linda Thomson and Joan Carolyn, and some local volunteer specialists.

[Registration: 1\) \\$55.00 in-person; 2\) \\$25.00 online](#)

**Deadline-** Mississauga Workshop- July 18

**Deadline-** Saskatoon Workshop- August 1

**Note:** On-line option will only occur if 5 or more are registered for zoom group discussions (register early to make sure the on-line option goes ahead!)

Congregations able to send 2 or more participants to both on-line and in-person events are likely to find this more useful.

**Refreshments:** Morning and afternoon snacks provided for on-site participants, please bring your own sack lunch.

**2019 Special CUC Lay Leader Training Alert!** Watch for 2019 Training Series announcements in the next eNews!

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

The CUC is hiring smart, innovative people for the following part-time and contract positions. Check the CUC website after June 12, 2018 under About the CUC - [Jobs & Volunteering](#), for full details.

- Website & Communications Manager
- Youth & Young Adult Co-Lead Staff
- Social Justice
- Administrative Support
- Financial Development



## A PICTORIAL STORY OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE

### CUC STAFF:

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**Rev. Linda Thomson** | [linda@cuc.ca](mailto:linda@cuc.ca)  
Central & Eastern Region Lead

**Vyda Ng** | [vyda@cuc.ca](mailto:vyda@cuc.ca)  
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