

# The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council – September 2018



September 2018, Issue 67

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## Submissions to the CUC eNews:

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

Send to: [communications@cuc.ca](mailto:communications@cuc.ca)

More learning and sharing opportunities and gatherings are planned for the fall and winter. The topics are gathered through feedback and requests from you. Check the [Upcoming Events](#) section in this newsletter and on the [CUC website](#). To suggest a topic for a webinar or roundtable, email [congregationalife@cuc.ca](mailto:congregationalife@cuc.ca).

All of the CUC staff are excited about what is coming up this fall and into the coming year! We're looking forward to seeing you in person and online. Love and community are always at the heart of our engagements with you.

## Welcome to the 2018 – 2019 Congregational Year!

While summer is ideally a time for slowing down, relaxing and rejuvenating for most congregations and ministers, it is also a time for planning and thinking ahead to the coming congregational year.

This has been true for your CUC staff. Four skilled folks joined the CUC staff team: Caitlyn Seale – Administrative Assistant (Mississauga ON), Casey Stainsby – Youth & Young Adults Program & Events Coordinator (Victoria, BC), Erin Horvath – Social Justice Lead (Huntsville ON), and Margo Ellis – Communications & Web Manager (Montreal QC). Find out more about them [here](#).

Over the summer, two leadership workshops were held – *Serving with Spirit: Sustaining Practices for Volunteers*. The format was a new venture for the CUC. There were two locations in Mississauga and in Saskatoon, which accommodated both in-person and online participation together. Staff came away with new insights, and participants offered positive feedback. Participants shared:

- *"It was a great opportunity for congregational leaders to get together and share in professional development. We will be able to share some of the learning as we continue our board/committee work."*
- *"Connecting with other UU's with the same issues! Practical suggestions re writing of job descriptions & terms of reference for teams. Links to good resources. Reflecting on this webinar energized me for this fall's challenges!"*
- *"Thanks for making this available to online participants. This is the way of the future."*



Vyda Ng, CUC Executive Director

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## Thank You for Your Annual Program Contributions (APC)

Thank you to all the congregations that have [sent in their APC to the CUC](#). APCs provide 70% of the CUC's operating expenses contributing significantly to keeping us up and running, and working toward our mission of "acting to enhance, nurture, and promote the Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist religion in Canada."

As staff, we know that fulfilling your pledge to the CUC takes a huge commitment from your membership and is a significant portion of your budgets. We very much appreciate your timeliness and willingness in sending your APCs, as it helps with national financial planning and stability, and lets us know that you value our national faith community.

Thank you!

## CUC Liaison Role

It's time to revive the role formerly known as Denominational Affairs liaison! This role, which will be called CUC Liaison, will be the bridge between your congregation and the CUC, and will include:

- Subscribing to the CUC [monthly eNews](#), [CUC-Leaders and CUC-Delegates lists](#) and staying informed about national and regional news and events
- Sharing relevant information with your newsletter editor, webweaver, communications coordinator etc to ensure that your congregation is informed and aware of national matters and news of interest
- Attending, where possible, CUC gatherings, events, conferences and Annual General Meetings, either on-line and in-person
- Updating the CUC ([info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca)) with congregational contact information (in collaboration with your congregation's administrator) so that information about your board and leadership is current
- Orienting the next CUC Liaison from your congregation

We suggest that your CUC Liaison remain in the position for at least two years to maximize learning and connections. Let us know who your CUC Liaison is by emailing [info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca).

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## Ontario Sex Education Curriculum Repeal - CUC Responds with Our Whole Lives (OWL)

In response to the recent decision by the Ontario government to repeal the 2015 sex education curriculum and bring back the 1998 curriculum, the CUC has issued a statement.

It urges the Ontario Premier to reconsider, and also introduces the availability of the Our Whole Lives (OWL) to the public. Read the entire statement below:

***The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) announces the availability of the sex education program, Our Whole Lives (OWL), to Ontario schools and parents.***



**Toronto, Ontario, Canada – August 29, 2018** – The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) advocates for fact-based sexuality education, which is provided in many Unitarian congregations through its progressive Our Whole Lives (OWL) program.

The CUC believes that the Ontario government's decision to repeal the comprehensive 2015 Health and Sex Education curriculum and reinstate the curriculum from 1998 will leave children at risk and adversely impact schools' ability to create cultures of inclusion, safety and consent. Neither does it prepare students of all genders and sexual orientations to develop healthy, consensual relationships.

To fill the gap of the important information and content that is missing from the 1998 curriculum the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) supports and promotes [Our Whole Lives \(OWL\)](#). OWL is an extensive lifespan sexuality education program created almost 20 years ago by the [Unitarian Universalist Association](#) and the [United Church of Christ](#) in the US. The curricula includes age ranges from kindergarten to adulthood, and has been updated regularly to stay current. The 2018 OWL program provides honest, accurate, and developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality.

OWL supports and encourages family conversations about sexual values and healthy decision making. The curriculum is based on the principles of self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice, and inclusivity, and helps people of all ages make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behaviour. The program dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and has the potential to save lives.

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## Ontario Sex Education Curriculum Repeal - CUC Responds with Our Whole Lives (OWL) (continued)

Through our experience offering Our Whole Lives, we understand the profound effect that inclusive, respectful, fact-based sex education can have on young people,” says Vyda Ng, Executive Director of the CUC. She adds “Our Whole Lives empowers children, teens and others across age lifespans to understand not only their bodies but also their relationships and the importance of consent and respect in building healthy relationships.”

The Canadian Unitarian Council is deeply concerned that the loss of comprehensive sexuality education in Ontario schools will leave children and youth vulnerable at a time when they most need accurate information and empowerment to make good decisions. Asha Philar, OWL Coordinator for the CUC states, “The Our Whole Lives program gives youth the tools to make healthy and age-appropriate choices and helps LGBTQ youth find self-acceptance and support. Without access to accurate information and learning opportunities, Ontario students are put at risk and we fear that LGBTQ youth will face even more barriers to acceptance.”

**OWL programs are available through many Unitarian congregations from September to May. To find out more about the OWL program and where workshops for ages kindergarten to adult are available, contact [owl@cuc.ca](mailto:owl@cuc.ca).**

More information about the CUC’s Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education program can be found on the CUC website: <https://cuc.ca/congregations-leaders/religious-exploration/our-whole-lives-owl/> or email [owl@cuc.ca](mailto:owl@cuc.ca).

### Additional information and calls to action:

Members of the CUC and its congregations are invited to **sign the following petition** calling on Premier Ford to keep Ontario’s 2015 sex-ed curriculum: <https://you.leadnow.ca/petitions/doug-ford-keep-ontario-s-sex-ed-curriculum>

Please phone **Education Minister Lisa Thompson** to reinstate the 2015 Ontario Health and Sex Education curriculum: <https://www.leadnow.ca/call-to-save-sex-ed/>

### Media Contact:

Vyda Ng, Executive Director  
[executivedirector@cuc.ca](mailto:executivedirector@cuc.ca)

**Download the [Canadian Unitarian Council’s Our Whole Lives \(OWL\) brochure](#)**

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## We're Moving ...again!

The CUC is housed in a building managed by the [Center of Social Innovation \(CSI\)](#) in Toronto. The owner of the current building at 215 Spadina has raised the rent. Rather than pass on those increased costs, the CSI has purchased its own building right across the street from the current location. The CUC office will move, together with all the CSI tenants, on September 21, 2018 and thus will be closed Wednesday, September 19 to Monday, September 24.

The new address effective September 15, 2018 is (please make this change in your databases):

***Canadian Unitarian Council***

**@Centre for Social Innovation | #302 192 Spadina Avenue | Toronto ON | M5T 2C2**

## CUC Staff Team

With four new members joining the CUC staff team, we thought it might be timely to list for you the Who's Who of CUC staff. Job descriptions are linked to [each person's bio](#).

- Administrative Assistant: [Caitlyn Seale](#)
- Communications & Web Manager: [Margo Ellis](#)
- Congregational Life Lead – BC & Western: [Joan Carolyn](#)  
Congregational Life Lead – Central & Eastern: [Rev. Linda Thomson](#)
- Executive Director: [Vyda Ng](#)
- Organizational Administrator: [Ahna DiFelice](#)
- Social Justice Lead: [Erin Horvath](#)
- Youth & Young Adult Ministry Specialist: [Asha Philar](#)
- Youth & Young Adult Program & Events Coordinator: [Casey Stainsby](#)

All CUC staff can be reached at [firstname@cuc.ca](mailto:firstname@cuc.ca).



## Salvos Prelorenzios Peace Award

The Salvos Prelorenzios Peace Awards honour Edmontonians committed to peace and non-violence who have not yet been previously honoured for their work. The Salvos Prelorenzios Peace Awards are organized annually by Project Ploughshares Edmonton, a group dedicated to peace.

This year's award goes to **Rev. Audrey Brooks**, founder of the Genocide Memorial Garden, which just celebrated its 10th anniversary. She is also an active member of Edmonton's Raging Grannies, who will be performing at their celebration.

The keynote speaker at the celebration will be Rev. Brian Kiely of the [Unitarian Church of Edmonton](#), where Audrey is also a minister. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/200700083933909/> (photo credit to Paula Kirman)



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## Social Justice and Refugee Sponsorship Staff Roles

Social justice and refugee sponsorship go hand in hand for the CUC. The CUC is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) with Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada, which means that the CUC is able to partner with congregations and organizations to sponsor refugees.



Samia Tecle

Previously, the social justice and refugee sponsorship responsibilities resided within one staff role - that of the Social Justice Lead position.

With the new staff configurations, refugee sponsorship is now located within a separate contract position held by Samia Tecle. Samia has been in this position since June, and can be reached at [samia@cuc.ca](mailto:samia@cuc.ca) and [refugee@cuc.ca](mailto:refugee@cuc.ca) for refugee-related matters.

While April Lilley (previously in the Social Justice Lead role) is on long-term leave, the Social Justice Lead position now held by Erin Horvath will encompass national social justice matters, working with the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation initiative, and connecting with congregations and the Love and Justice teams. Erin can be reached at [erin@cuc.ca](mailto:erin@cuc.ca).



Erin Horvath

## Fully Funded Blended Visa Office Referred Refugee Sponsorships – Time-limited

The University of Ottawa Refugee Hub and the Shapiro Foundation, together with Jewish Family Services Ottawa, have announced the creation of a new fund aimed at facilitating the sponsorship of up to 1,000 refugees identified by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR).

For a limited time, qualifying Canadian groups will have the cost of sponsoring a refugee through the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program fully covered by the fund.

Through the BVOR Program, the UNHCR identifies refugees to come to Canada, and the Government of Canada and sponsor groups share resettlement costs. As a result of this new fund, the sponsors' portion of the financial commitment will be fully subsidized by private donors.

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## Fully Funded Blended Visa Office Referred Refugee Sponsorships – Time-limited (continued)

Funding for both start-up costs and settlement costs associated with BVOR sponsorship will be available to groups that submit applications before **September 17, 2018**, or until the fund is exhausted, whichever comes first.

Refugees sponsored with the support of this fund will arrive in Canada before December 31, 2018.

Some Canadian UU congregations have already applied for these fully funded sponsorships.

## Court Ruling Strikes Down Restrictions for Charities

The Canadian Unitarian Council is among the many Canadian charities which may have cause to be optimistic about [a recent court ruling](#) striking down provisions in the Income Tax Act that restricted charities seeking to engage in “political” activities.

Justice Edward Morgan of the Ontario Superior Court issued his ruling on July 16, 2018 in a case involving [Canada Without Poverty](#), a small Ottawa-based charity that been at risk of losing its charitable status for devoting more than the maximum 10 percent of its total resources to “political” activities. The lack of a clear definition of the term “political activities” from Canada Revenue Agency had caused confusion for many charities, and had a chilling effect on charities concerned that going above the limit risked ensnaring them in an audit.

[McCarthy Tetrault LLP](#), the Toronto law firm which argued the case pro bono for Canada Without Poverty, had suggested Morgan’s ruling give the federal government a year to update its charitable laws. However, Justice Morgan ruled that the 10 percent rule violated the Charter of Rights and Freedoms’ guarantee of freedom of expression and found it “of no force and effect”, meaning it has ceased to exist. However, the federal government announced August 16, 2018 [it would appeal the decision](#) because Morgan’s ruling contained “significant errors of law” touching on constitutional questions, though it also stated it would [repeal the 10 percent rule in legislation](#) this fall.

“This is a step towards fulfilling the recommendations made by the Consultation panel of Political Activities,” said Vyda Ng, the CUC’s Executive Director, although she cautioned Canadian UU congregations might want to be careful regarding political activity, given the somewhat contradictory indication of an appeal and repealing the 10% limit.

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## Court Ruling Strikes Down Restrictions for Charities (continued)

Over a period of more than two years, the Consultation Panel on the Political Activities of Charities met with representatives of the charitable sector from all over the country, receiving more than 20,000 written submissions. The CUC was involved in the consultation sessions, and our recommendations are part of the report. In response to feedback from charities, the panel made several recommendations, among them that the federal government amend the Income Tax Act to allow charities to “fully engage without limitation in non-partisan public policy dialogue and development”.

The panel recommended that the prohibition on “partisan” political activities — those supporting a particular party or candidate — remain in effect, something Morgan’s ruling left in place as the charities involved didn’t challenge this section of the Act.

*Carter Charity Law has written an opinion of the ON court ruling. Read the opinion of Terrance Carter and Jennifer Leddy [here](#).*

The Trudeau government had promised during the 2015 election campaign to end “political harassment of charities”. [Environmental Defence](#), another charity that had come under scrutiny for their political activity, joined Canada Without Poverty in applauding the ruling, and praised the government for announcing it will repeal the 10 percent rule.

“We are looking forward to the government introducing and passing a new law and in doing so, fulfilling the [Prime Minister’s promise](#) to “allow charities to do their work on behalf of Canadians free from political harassment, and modernize the rules governing the charitable and not-for-profit sectors,” the organization said in [a statement](#).

Bruce MacDonald, President and CEO of the non-profit and charitable umbrella organization [Imagine Canada](#), agreed the government’s announcement represents “real progress”.

“The announcement of the government’s willingness to broaden the environment in which charities can engage in the public policy process was a significant component of the recommendations of the Consultation Panel on the Political Activities of Charities,” he said. “We look forward to a more substantial response related to the government’s commitment to modernize the legislative framework for charities and nonprofits, as contained in their mandate letters, and to the other items contained in the panel’s report.”



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## International News



### United Nations Sunday in October

Unitarian Universalism's sixth principle affirms the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. One of the ways to work towards this goal is by supporting the [Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office \(UU-UNO\)](#), an organization that works to affirm and promote every person's human rights on the international stage. The UU-UNO [works alongside other non-government organizations](#) at the UN,

advocating on issues of human rights, climate change, disarmament, peace, and security.

Each year, congregations are encouraged to celebrate the work of the UU-UNO by hosting a [UN Sunday](#) around the time of UN Day, October 24. Congregations are invited to hold this service on October 21, or any other Sunday. The [UN Sunday Resource Packet](#) highlights this year's suggested theme — When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All — and provides readings, a Religious Education curriculum, planning timeline and checklist, order of service (including hymns) and more.

In addition, congregations are encouraged to donate their offering from UN Sunday to the UU-UNO, and to encourage their members to become supporters. These collections go towards advancing the CUC's charitable purposes through the UU-UNO and supports work done in Ghana with the [Every Child is Our Child](#) (ECOC) Program.

ECOC provides school supplies and [National Health Insurance Scheme](#) (NHIS) health care cards to children made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS in Ghana. ECOC and the [Queen Mothers](#) work to further the United Nations Millennium Development Goals of increasing access to primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, improving maternal health, and combating HIV/AIDS.

**Through giving both time and money, UN Sunday is a chance to recognize the values shared by Unitarian Universalists and the United Nations.**

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## Parliament of the World's Religions Canadian Registration

The [Parliament of World's Religions](#) is taking place in Toronto, ON from November 1 - 8, 2018 at [The Metro Toronto Convention Centre \(MTCC\)](#) located at 222 Bremner Blvd, Toronto, ON M5V 3L9, Canada.

This year's theme is *The Promise of Inclusion, the Power of Love: Pursuing Global Understanding, Reconciliation, and Change*. The 7th Parliament of the World's Religions will feature more than 500 programs and events and is a BIG DEAL for Toronto. An estimated 10,000 participants are expected from interfaith communities from around the world.

The CUC will present three workshops, selected from more than 1,500 submissions:

1. Truth, Healing and Reconciliation: Rev. Samaya Oakley and Stephen Paquette
2. Our Whole Lives: Asha Philar and TBD
3. Welcoming Congregations: Art Brewer and Vyda Ng

The PoWR has many areas of interest for many people:

- Earn your certificate in [Indigenous Cultural Awareness](#) and participate in the [Indigenous Peoples' Program](#).



- PoWR needs volunteers! Volunteers at the Parliament also get access to all events for about \$85, the total cost of volunteering. Find out more information about volunteering [here](#).
- Interfaith family and all-ages activities at the [Interfaith Family Festival](#)
- [Programs in 12 areas of focus](#), including Climate Action, The Next Generation, Countering War, Hate and Violence, and Women's Task Force
- Become a [PoWR Partner](#)! PoWR Partners the most eager attendees who will be given their own personal discount codes to share in their network, and find out first about extra opportunities at this year's Parliament. The PoWR Partner who brings the most friends, family, and colleagues to the 2018 PoWR will be able to select a worthy organization to receive a donation of \$5,000 USD from the Parliament of the World's Religions!

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## Parliament of the World's Religions Canadian Registration (continued)

Book your hotel room through the PoWR block at [parliamentofreligions.org/hotels](http://parliamentofreligions.org/hotels).

Use PoWR discount codes for your flight through these airlines at [parliamentofreligions.org/travel](http://parliamentofreligions.org/travel).

Explore all PoWR offerings, programs, resources and registration options at the [Parliament of World Religions](http://ParliamentofWorldReligions) website.

**Unitarians who are interested in volunteering for the CUC, please contact Vyda Ng at [executivedirector@cuc.ca](mailto:executivedirector@cuc.ca).**

## Make a Difference: Volunteer on Construction Trips to Honduras, Winter 2019

Canadian Unitarians interested in the Central American Community Development Project will soon have a chance to participate, with three two-week trips in January, February and March, 2019, and a one week trip in November 2019. The project, sponsored by the [First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto](#) in partnership since 2000 with the non-government organization [World Accord](#), has been working on development projects in Central America since 1997. The project aims to build understanding between people and improve the social, economic, and living conditions in the poorest areas of Guatemala and Honduras.



The project has helped build schools, houses, and training and community centres over its 20 years. During this time, over 500 Canadians — including over 100 Unitarians from 22 congregations across the country — have contributed over 1,000-person weeks of volunteer labour and many hundreds of thousands of dollars for construction materials. In return, they've gained rewarding firsthand experience working with local people.

World Accord works with local NGOs to determine which communities most need the facilities being built and have the capacity to take care of them afterwards. This season, groups will travel to four communities in the mountains of west-central Honduras, building primary and kindergarten schools.



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## Make a Difference: Volunteer on Construction Trips to Honduras, Winter 2018 - 2019 (continued)

Teams consisting of up to 12 people drawn from across Canada will work together with local volunteers to build the schools, performing physical labour for about seven hours a day. While construction experience and Spanish language skills are welcomed, neither is required, and participants of any or no faith are welcome. Each 2-week trip costs \$2,240/person for room, board and transportation in Central America, and a contribution for construction materials, while the one-week trip costs \$1,175. Participants are encouraged to fundraise to help cover the costs.



Richard Kirsh from the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto and the project's chair, was inspired to participate in the project after he and his wife, Margaret Kohr, adopted a boy from Guatemala, and has made the trip almost every year since 1997.

*"It's a way for me of connecting with my son's roots and showing him that I value who he is", Kirsh says.*

But Kirsh believes the experience is valuable even for those without personal connections to Central America. It's a chance, he says, to make a concrete difference and meet local people and other volunteers from faith communities across Canada, as well as a spur to reflect on one's circumstances.

"It can be a real life-changing opportunity, particularly for young people", he says, "we sometimes don't appreciate the privileged place we have just by nature of where we were born and this is a real opportunity. Most people have a little culture shock when they go down, but they have an even bigger shock when they come back and it becomes much more real how good we have it".

Ariel, a 13 year old volunteer says, "I thought I was going to hate it, but now we're like a big family. I'd rather be here than at home now. The kids are unbelievable here, they take the trowel away from me and work harder than all of us. The kids are a lot happier here, and appreciate life. Here the kids want to be close to you and it's nice talking to them, getting to know them."

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## Upcoming Events

### September

#### Fill Your Tank for Fall at the Unicamp Young Adult Retreat

**September 14- 17**

Has the end of summer got you down? Overwhelmed by all the startup energy of fall? How about one more weekend to touch base with your community and fill up your tank before school and work and programs and all the rest really get going? Can I get an amen?!

Join other UU young adults (18-35 year old) September 14-17th for a weekend of community building, spiritual grounding, and basking in the glory of the changing seasons at Unicamp. We aim for this retreat to be as accessible as possible - registration is sliding scale, childcare is available upon request, and programming is light and mostly determined by those who show up. Hiking the Bruce Trail, exploring nearby caves, swimming in the pond, stargazing and campfires are all possible. There will be a group worship each evening, and plenty of opportunities to grow and deepen new and old friendships over crafts, shared meals, games and workshops.

Unicamp is near Honeywood, Ontario, about a two hour drive from Toronto. Carpooling is an option - just indicate whether you need or can provide a ride when you complete the registration form. Staying for an extra night (Sunday night) is a new option this year, so we can spend one more day soaking in all the beauty before heading back into our busy lives.

Visit [the event page on the CUC's website](#) for more info and a link to the registration form.

I hope you'll join us if you can!

Casey Stainsby

Youth and Young Adult Ministry Program and Events Coordinator



### October

#### Roundtable: Sustaining Practices for Volunteers: Sharing Our Wisdom

**October 20, 2018, 12:30 - 2 pm ET**

Welcome to this opportunity to share your congregation's wisdom regarding supportive environments for volunteers. In addition to resources shared within this roundtable, ideas and resources from the two 2018 summer workshops, Serving With Spirit: Sustaining Practices for Volunteers, will be sent out prior to the meeting. There is no cost to participate.

[Learn more and register!](#)



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## Financial Webinars with Clyde Harris, CUC Bookkeeper

All webinars from 7:30-8:30 pm ET. Cost: \$10 each. [Register online.](#)

**October 24: Receipting for Income Tax Purposes** – Information will be shared as to why tax receipts are issued, what is required by the Canada Revenue Agency, and some special situations where the receipting process is different. There will also be comments about not accepting gifts and why this may be the right thing to do under certain circumstances.

Of interest to congregational treasurers, administrators, bookkeepers and presidents.

**November 21: Financial Records** – This session delves into the necessity of financial records, what is acceptable to Canada Revenue Agency, and some of the uniqueness of records for charities. Record retention will also be discussed. Beyond financial records, other records must also be kept; Clyde will explore how these records fit together for a complete picture of the charity.

Of interest to congregational treasurers, administrators, bookkeepers and presidents.

**January 23: Charitable Property Rentals** – In this session, the discussion will include whether charities should rent out their property, and why this should or should not happen. How do charities gain the most from property rentals, and still protect the charity? The discussion will include insurance requirements and a property rental policy.

Of interest to congregational treasurers, property managers, administrators, bookkeepers and presidents.

## [Sponsored Book Reading with Edefe Okpura](#)

**Oct 26, 2018, 7 pm**

**Centre for Social Innovation**

**192 Spadina Ave, Toronto, ON M5T 2C2**

Edefe Okporo is a compelling storyteller and writer. A Nigerian refugee who now lives in New York, Okporo's *BED 26: A Memoir of an African Man's Asylum in United States*, narrates the experiences of Nigerian and West African gay, bisexual men and the reason they are forced to flee from their home country. The book is based on a true life story, and also explores the experiences of immigrants in an immigration detention centre, and the gap between the perceived American dream and its reality of racism, discrimination and phobia for people of color in America.

Edefe Okporo is also an award-winning human right activist, and is the youth representative to the executive committee of United Nations Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organizations (UN DPI/NGO). He is the Executive Director of [RDJ Refugee Shelter](#).

The book reading is sponsored by the CUC, and takes place in its new office location.

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## Western Region Fall Gathering *Building Better Community*

**October 26 - 28, 2018**

### First Unitarian Church of Winnipeg

#### Weekend highlights include:

- “Building Communities of Joyful Resilience” with Rev. Jason Shelton
  - “Growing Solidarity Together” with Asha Philar
  - A “Two-Line Exercise” led by Jenna Wirch of Aboriginal Youth Opportunities
- And much more...

[Learn more and register here!](#)

## Building Beloved Community

Western Regional Fall Gathering Oct 26-28, 2018

### Explore Sessions On:

Building Communities of Joyful Resilience  
Food for all, Justice for All  
Growing Solidarity Together

Our Children's Program welcomes you to meet Tibert, le Voyageur  
All Youth are invited to exciting Youth Con!

Join other Unitarian Universalists for worship, learning, fellowship, and fun!

#### Guests Include:

Rev. Jason Shelton  
Asha Philar, CUC  
Jenna Wirch of Aboriginal Youth Opportunities

Hosted by the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg  
603 Wellington Crescent, and the Canadian Unitarian Council

To register, go to [cuc.ca](#) Calendar of Events and click on Oct. 26 WRFG event



## Western Region Youth Con

### *mUUgles and Magic Con*

**October 26 - 28, 2018**

Share your love for Harry Potter and, more importantly, your love for the UU youth community! It will be an amazing weekend filled with fun activities, worship, games, and multigenerational workshops and meals. Join youth and advisors from across the Western Region for this annual youth con, which is part of the large-

er multigenerational Western Regional Fall Gathering.

[Learn more and register here!](#)

## Central Region Fall Gathering

### *Creating Theology Together*

**Saturday, October 27, 2018 - Guelph, ON**

This ‘Creating Theology Together’ program provides an opportunity to explore questions that humans have always asked. The program will draw on the work of Dr. Michael Hogue, of Meadville Lombard Theological School and will introduce participants to the practice of creating theology together.



[Learn more and register!](#)

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## November

### Parliament of the World's Religions

Nov 1 - 8, 2018 ([read the article on p.8](#))

### Peer Chaplain Training – For Youth, Young Adults and Advisors

November 9, 7:00 pm - 11, 12:30 pm ET

Youth, young adults and adult advisors are invited to a Peer Chaplain Training, sponsored by the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Pacific Western Region of the UUA. Chaplain training provides youth and adults with skills to support covenantal youth and young adult communities. These trainings support invaluable life skills, such as deep listening, affirming and emotionally supporting others, helping manage a crisis, ensuring a healthy, respectful, and safe environment, and bringing spiritual resources and support to the various communities in which they participate.

[Learn more](#), registration will be online soon.

### Webinar: Fostering Congregational Stewardship

November 10, 12:30 - 2 pm ET

Elizabeth Ann Terry, UUA Congregational Giving Specialist, will offer some ideas on cultivating generosity to help congregations sustain and support themselves financially. Participants will learn about options for raising and securing funds for their budgets and expenses, within a culture of generosity.

Elizabeth is fascinated by the power of religious institutions to have meaningful impacts on their communities. She has been a witness to congregations who apply the principles of Asset-Based Community Development and Appreciative Inquiry and move their congregations and communities into bright and purposeful futures.

[Learn more and register!](#)

### Eastern Region Fall Gathering - more information will be available soon!

November 17, 2018 - Kingston, ON

## Job Posting

### Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) - Bookkeeper position

The [Liberal Religious Educators Association \(LREDA\)](#) is looking to hire an experienced bookkeeper to deal with all financial aspects of our organization. The position is available to anyone within the United States or Canada as most of the work can be done remotely. More information is available on the [CUC website](#).

# The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council – September 2018



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Minister Observer



**Back row**, left to right: Jane Ebbert, Kiersten Moore, Michael Riess, Rev. Debra Thorne

**Front row**, left to right: Carol Cumming-Speirs, Tanya Cothran, Margaret Wanlin, Rev. Rodrigo Solano-Quesnel

**Not shown:** Chuck Shields

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