

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council – November 2018



November 2018, Issue 69

- [Update from the Board President](#)
- [New Youth Observer](#)
- [Annual General Meeting](#)
- [Planning for the AGM](#)
- [CUC Liaison Role](#)
- [Canada and Cannabis](#)
- [Gathered Here: New Young Adult Online Check-in](#)
- [International News](#)
- [News From Our Congregations](#)
- [Shining Lights Deadline and Nominee](#)
- [Grants and Subsidies](#)
- [Job and Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [Organizational Tip](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Submissions to the CUC eNews:

Due by the 14th of each month

Send to: communications@cuc.ca

CUC on Facebook

The CUC is on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianUnitarianCouncil/>

If you haven't already visited and liked our Facebook page, please do!

If there is a post you particularly like, please share it and help us get the word out about Canadian Unitarian Universalists.

Council Matters

Update from the President of the CUC, Jane Ebborn

The CUC board and staff met in Guelph for a 3 night/3 day retreat at the end of September. It was a time for all of us to get to know each other better, particularly the new staff and board members.

As part of this retreat, Rev. Debra Thorne led us in a [Six Thinking Hats](#) exercise. This is a system designed by Edward de Bono to help us be more creative and to counter negativity in our thinking. We then used this technique in brainstorming various ways to implement our CUC vision statement.



L to R: Michael Riess (BC region), Rev. Debra Thorne (Minister Observer), Carol Cumming Speirs (Eastern region), Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano Quesnel (Central region), Chuck Shields (Eastern region), Tanya Cothran (Treasurer, Central region), Kiersten Moore (Secretary, BC region), Jane Ebborn (President, Western region), Margaret Wanlin (VP, Western region)

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council – November 2018



Update from the President of the CUC, Jane Ebborn (continued)

The CUC staff brought the board up to date on their latest accomplishments and their plans. Rev. Meg Roberts and Amber Dawn Bellemare conducted a Truth, Healing and Reconciliation (THR) session with the board and we looked at the tremendous amount that THR has achieved these last 4 years and where they want to go in future. We have been awarded a \$26,000 Unitarian Universalist Funding Panel's Social Responsibility grant to help embed reconciliation into the DNA of Canadian Unitarian Universalist communities. The THR team has started planning on these next steps.

The board spent considerable time bringing their policy manual up to date and in reviewing the CUC's new communication strategy. This also included how youth at the CUC should be involved and heard.

Between the many sessions indoors, we also found time for some walks in the beautiful countryside and good conversations over meals and a campfire.

Spotlight

Liv Gardiner: New Youth Observer to the Board (YOB)

Introducing your new Youth Observer to the Board (YOB) of the Canadian Unitarian Council, [Liv Gardiner!](#) The Youth Observer shares a youth perspective with the CUC Board. Got thoughts about youth input nationally? Email Liv at yob@cuc.ca.

Liv writes: "I'm 19 years old, and am from Winnipeg, where I attended the First UU Church of Winnipeg for 14 years. I'm in my first year of University at Dalhousie in Halifax. I have been to more cons than I can count, meeting many amazing UU youth, young adults and adults across Canada. I have also had the pleasure of being on (youth con) staff, mainly as a chaplain, on multiple occasions. The UU community has always been such an important part of who I am. It has helped me to understand and appreciate the diversity within the community around me. It has also taught me to be open minded and always loving with myself and others; for which I am incredibly grateful.



My hope with this position is that I can get in touch and connect with the youth across Canada. I want to know what they've been up to and how they're doing and to be able to bring this back to the Board. I also hope to inform them on what is being discussed on the national level. It's also important to me that youth are recognized as an equally important part of our community as the adults are. **I am super excited to be serving as YOB this year!"**

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – November 2018



Save the Date for the 2019 Annual General Meeting!

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for May 11, 2019 from 1:00 - 4:30 pm ET / 10:00 am - 1:00 pm PT. Our host will be the [Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga](#). As with the past two AGMs, there will be full capability for on-line virtual participation, as well as in-person participation.

Congregations are encouraged to select their online and in-person delegates early - [delegates need to be registered by April 1](#). Congregations should plan to schedule at least one discussion and information sharing session in February each year with their delegates and congregational members so that all are aware of matters going to the CUC AGM.

What's in a motion? Each year, motions (motions don't become resolutions until after they are approved) are proposed for the AGM. Find out how to submit a motion and by when, who can submit motions, why a new motion may not be necessary, and a summary of previously approved motions on the [CUC's Resolutions page](#).

If your congregation or group is considering submitting a motion, consult with the Executive Director **BEFORE** you submit a resolution. This will save you time!

Email executivedirector@cuc.ca. Submit a motion only if: a) there is no previous resolution AND it addresses a completely new issue; b) is of national importance; and c) is timely. **Motions are due by December 15.**

Planning for the AGM - Tips About the Delegate Selection Process

As part of the preparation for the Annual General Meeting, congregations are encouraged to select their online and in-person delegates early - [delegates need to be registered by April 1](#).

It is recommended that congregational delegates be asked to serve one to two year terms for continuity. There would be the expectation that the delegates would stay informed about AGM-related matters during those years and share that information with their congregations

Find out how many delegates your congregation is entitled to [here](#) under Representation.

Already know who your 2019 delegates are? Register them [here](#).



The CUC eNews

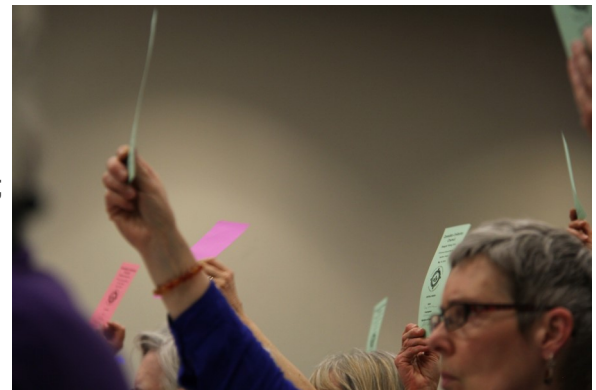
Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – November 2018



Planning for the AGM - Tips about the delegate selection process (continued)

To assist with the delegate selection process, here are some suggestions (*with thanks to the [Unitarian Congregation of Niagara](#) for sharing their process*):

- Congregations are encouraged to **budget for delegate expenses to the CUC AGM** to make this more financially accessible for those interested in associational matters.
- To provide some continuity of experience, the **delegate terms should be staggered**, eg, one or some delegates serving for one year, and the other one or more serving for two years. Subsequently, each year a new delegate or delegates would be chosen to serve for two years.
- Selection of delegates needs to be **fair and democratic, and beneficial to the congregation** in the immediate and longer term. Those interested in being delegates can be asked to submit expressions of interest to the congregation's board, with some of the following suggested criteria:
 - Demonstration of a keen interest in and familiarity with congregational and associational matters;
 - Willingness to become familiar with proposed resolutions for the CUC AGM, other matters pertaining to the AGM, and [Annual Meeting Rules of Procedure](#);
 - Ability to facilitate discussion with congregation about matters for the CUC AGM;
 - Preparation to report to the congregational membership on the status of resolutions, the CUC's financial situation, and other matters of interest and relevance;
 - Previous/current involvement with the congregation and/or CUC;
 - Ability to travel and attend the resolutions plenary and CUC AGM.



Please contact executivedirector@cuc.ca with any questions..

Thank You for Your Annual Program Contributions (APC)

Thank you to you, Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations, for sending in your [Annual Program Contributions \(APC\)](#) generously and on time.

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!

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council – November 2018



CUC Liaison Role Revived

Does your congregation have a person who is the link to the CUC with all its news and events? This role was also known as the Denominational Affairs rep. It's time to freshen up this role, now called the CUC Liaison. This person will be the bridge between your congregation and the CUC. Their responsibilities include:

- Subscribing to the CUC monthly eNews, CUC-Leaders and CUC-Delegates lists (links) 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 online or in-person
- Updating the CUC (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.

Canada and Cannabis

Canada took a momentous step, and cannabis for personal use was legalized on October 17th.

Did you know that the **CUC advocated for the legalization of marijuana as early as 1968**? Two of the [early resolutions](#) called for the removal of marijuana from the provisions of the Narcotics Control Act and provide for its control under Food & Drug regulations; and to encourage research into the question of marijuana with a view to establishing reasonable and just laws.

In 2003, an [Alternative to Drug Prohibition](#) Monitoring Group was established to further explore de-criminalization of personal use, and harm reduction. The group was led by the late Rev. J MacRee Elrod, who campaigned hard for the legalization of marijuana. Mac would have been very proud on October 17th.

With the [legalization of Cannabis](#), the government has released the [Top 10 Things You Need to Know About Cannabis in Canada](#), [Federal, Provincial and Territorial Roles and Responsibilities](#), [Cannabis Public Education Activities](#), and more [facts about the Cannabis Act](#). (Source: [Imagine Canada](#))



TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF

A weeklong look at how the new cannabis law affects Canadians

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – November 2018



Gathered Here

A new monthly online check-in for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults - starting November 12

Join other UU 18-35 year-olds on Zoom (a video-conferencing platform) for sharing of joys and concerns, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process current events with a spiritually grounded community.

Young adulthood can be a time of upheaval and transition and many of us struggle to maintain and build connections in the places we find ourselves physically.

While there is no substitute for in-person community, we hope that the opportunity to connect online with other young UUs will be a reminder to you that you're not alone. It's also a chance to reconnect with friends who live far away, and witness and celebrate the ups and downs of our lives alongside each other.

These are drop-in style gatherings, so you don't need to sign up in advance. On the days you want to attend, just get comfy with your internet box, sign in at the scheduled time, and bring your whole self for the hour and a quarter.

***Gathered Here* will generally take place on the second Monday evening of each month** at 5 pm PT/ 6 pm MT/ 7pm CT/ 8pm ET/ 9pm AT

Dates for 2018 are: November 12 and December 10

In 2019, we'll meet on:

Winter: January 14, February 11 and March 11

Spring: April 8, May 6 and June 10

Summer: July 8 and August 12.

Fall 2019 dates are to be confirmed.



All dates are on the [CUC Events Calendar](#) - you'll find the [November check-in here](#).

Gathered Here is hosted by Asha Philar and/or Casey Stainsby, CUC Youth & Young Adult Ministry staff. Got questions? Email youth@cuc.ca

International News

The [International Women's Convocation Fall 2018 newsletter](#) is available now. Three Canadian UUs, Betty Donaldson, Reverend Diane Rollert, and Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes are included in the Torda collection mentioned in the newsletter

The Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women's Association (CUUWA) International Women's Day package, featuring Canadian writers and artists, will be available early in January 2019.

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – November 2018



UU Community News

News from our Congregations

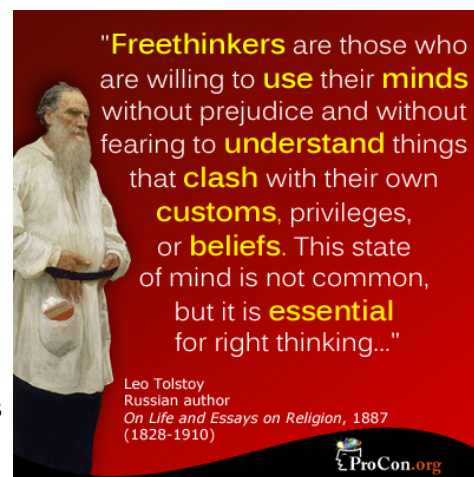
Do you have news from your congregation to share? Send it to communications@cuc.ca.

Canada's First FreeThinker Friendly UU Congregation

By Terry Anderson, Westwood Unitarian Congregation

Isn't every Unitarian Universalist a FreeThinker? This was one of the many questions we considered as Edmonton's [Westwood Unitarian Congregation](#) debated making the effort to be designated Canada's first FreeThinker Friendly Congregation.

In her extensive history "[FreeThinkers, A History of American Secularism](#)," Susan Jacoby traces the development (and the continuing harassment) of atheists, humanists and agnostics as they strive to be welcomed and affirmed as Freethinkers - in churches, public office and as teachers.



As Unitarian Universalists, we have a long tradition of opening ourselves to those with no spiritual or supernatural beliefs and thus have both history and opportunity to reach out to the now majority of Canadians who classify themselves as "Nons"- unaffiliated with any spiritual tradition or belief system.

In 2016, the [UU Humanist Association](#) developed a program (modeled after the successful [Welcoming Congregation](#) program for the inclusion of the LGBTQ community) to help churches affirm, welcome and support FreeThinkers. A FreeThinker Friendly congregation "Includes language published welcome statements that clearly includes atheists, agnostics, humanists, and other non-theists. Discusses, as a congregation, ways to be more inclusive and welcoming in your language and rituals. Provides times and spaces that celebrate the humanist worldview and reaches out to the wider non-theistic community".

At Westwood Congregation we have met these conditions by establishing a monthly FreeThinker Friendly book club, participated in local secular, humanist and atheist gatherings, invited speakers (including our Minister) to address FreeThinker personal, social and political issues and altered our greetings to be inclusive of Freethinkers. For those interested in an example, you may wish to view the text of a 2017 sermon I presented at Westwood "[Atheists, Humanists and FreeThinkers in our Unitarian Closets](#)."

The first year of the FreeThinker Book club focused on so called "new atheists" including a rebuttal text from a Christian apologist. The 2nd year we focused on Unitarian FreeThinker history including the recently published *Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism* (Gibbons and Murry 2016). This coming year we focus on enlightenment and assorted other relevant books recommended by our members. More information about our Freethinker program including the titles of our monthly selections can be viewed [here](#).

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council – November 2018



Canada's First FreeThinker Friendly UU Congregation (cont.)

And no, we have not been inundated and overwhelmed by angry atheists and we still celebrate Earth Centered and some theist traditions in our services. But we have strengthened our commitment to being an open and inclusive congregation by welcoming those of all faiths - including those with none.

Faith in Action



The Shining Lights Award grew out of the CUC staff team's desire to recognize and showcase congregations' good news stories and best work. The award celebrates innovation and sustainability in congregational initiatives and programming. The winning congregation and nominees will share their successful processes with other congregations to imagine how they might do similar work in their own settings.

The deadline for the 2019 nominations is December 15, 2018.
Nominations can be submitted to shininglights@cuc.ca.

Stories from the Nominees for the 2018 Shining Lights Award Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough, ON

Community Conversations are shifting the culture of the Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough, Ontario. Led by a team of congregants who have been trained in a dialogue process based on Peter Block's work around "Conversations That Matter", participants have been invited to take part with questions such as:

- What do we, as the Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough, dream of being?
- What if this were a community to which you truly belonged?
- What if there were a place where our children and youth knew their lives mattered and that they have a contribution to make in the world?
- What if we remove all barriers to inclusion at UFP?



The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – November 2018

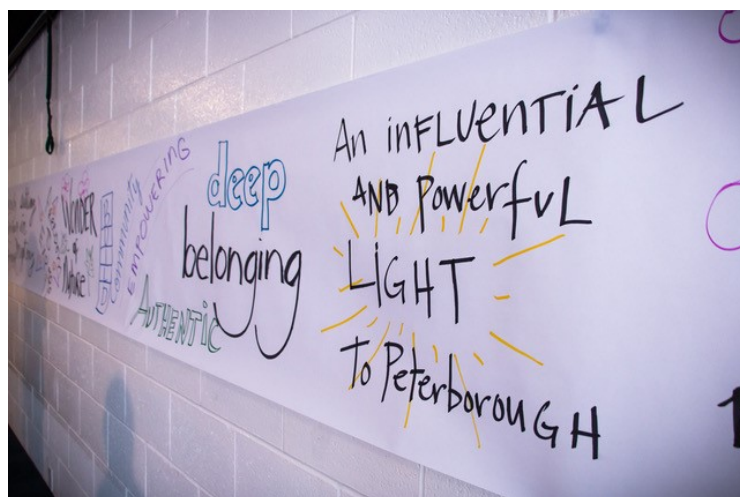


Stories from the Nominees for the 2018 Shining Lights Award (continued)

These calling questions set the tone and act as a guide for each conversation with essential aspects including: a carefully crafted invitation in the form of a possibility-oriented question rather than a decision or problem, a sense of sacred space in opening and closing circles, listening-circle time in triads, where everyone in the room has a voice, a principle of grouping people who know each other the least, other small-group processes and solo work and commitments that we choose not spend this time together on 'blaming and complaining' or on generating ideas people other than we ourselves should act on.

Over time we have added additional process tools, many from the Art of Hosting toolkit: World Café, Open Space Technology, Design Lab, dot-mocracy, and others.

The processes in our Community Conversations have invigorated Board of Director retreats, Annual General Meetings, the budgeting process, ministerial evaluations and community events that we've hosted.



Because this new way of coming together in community has been so successful and transformative for us, in May 2018 we took a step in sharing this with other Unitarian congregations by leading a workshop at the CUC ACM in Hamilton entitled, "Communities of Belonging and Possibility: Dialogue Methods that Reawaken Congregational Life" with the calling question "What if we could transform the way we gather as congregations and committees to discuss and decide what matters?"

When faced with unknowns and complex decisions, we now turn more readily to the wisdom of the collective. Because of these meaningful conversations we as a congregation collaborate more widely, listen more carefully, ask better questions, and know one another more deeply.

Jovanna Soligo, Ben Wolfe, Aukje Byker and Todd Barr
Contact: info@peterboroughunitarian.ca



The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – November 2018



Grants and Subsidies

The CUC manages a variety of grants to support congregational outreach, innovation and seminarians. Descriptions and application information for each fund are below.



Sharing Our Faith

The [Sharing Our Faith](#) program provides funds for congregational initiatives which enhance ministry, aid congregational projects and outreach, and enhance the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada. Once a year, congregations are encouraged to hold a “[Sharing Our Faith](#)” [worship service](#) focused on the UU faith in Canada, with a special collection for the Sharing Our Faith fund. The fund consists of these monies, supplemented by a Foundation Fund administered by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto. The funds are allocated in the form of grants to congregations for growth projects and initiatives.

Grant applications are due by March 31 of each year with all required documents. Completed applications can be e-mailed to sharing-our-faith@cuc.ca. Please note that Sharing Our Faith grants are normally under \$5,000. For a larger grant, your congregation may want to consider applying for the [Northern Lights](#) award (see below).

Theological Education Funds

CUC [Theological Education Funds \(TEF\)](#) bursaries are intended to assist Canadian Unitarian Universalists with expenses incurred while studying for the ministry. In special circumstances, applicants who have achieved only aspirant status may be approved. Disbursements are made by the CUC Board on the recommendation of the Board’s Theological Education Committee.

[Application form and more information](#)

Northern Lights

The CUC’s [Northern Lights](#) team is looking for ambitious, innovative projects that can make a real difference. The most recent successful project is Communauté Sans Frontières, Unitarienne-Universaliste (CSF- UU), headed by Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana. It aims to reach out to francophones around the world with the good news of our UU movement.

The Northern Lights Team welcomes applications for project worth \$5,000 or greater. For smaller projects, there are the [Sharing Our Faith](#) grants.

Please **alert us by February 1, 2019** at northernlights@cuc.ca that you intend to apply for Northern Lights support. **The full application is due by March 31.** To qualify for Northern Lights support, a congregation must have at least 20% of its members registered as Chalice Lighters.

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council – November 2018



Grants and Subsidies (continued)

One or two projects will be chosen and will receive a list of willing donors, called Chalice Lighters. These Chalice Lighters have pledged to support the winning projects with their donations, and will be contacted directly by the successful projects. [Sign up as a Chalice Lighter.](#)

Send your project proposals to northernlights@cuc.ca. For more info, check out the [CUC website here.](#)

The Northern Lights Grant Selection Panel is Rev. Julie Stoneberg (chair - Peterborough ON), Chuck Shields (Ottawa ON), Rev. Norm Horofker (Halifax NS), and Susan Ruttan (Edmonton AB)

Jobs and Volunteer Opportunities

Cannudle Staff

CanUUdle XIX is scheduled for May 17-20th in Calgary, but we need YOU to make it happen!

CanUUdle is our national annual UU Youth Con and it is planned and run by a volunteer staff team of youth and adults.

Positions on the staff team generally include two Co-Deans, two Worship Coordinators, two Activities Coordinators, a Touch Group Coordinator, a Community Captain, a Memory Keeper/Publicity Coordinator, a Youth and an Adult Chaplain, and a Lead Advisor. [Applications are open now until November 12th.](#)



Unicamp Executive Director



As a respected member-based not-for-profit organization, [Unicamp](#) is looking for an Executive Director who will work closely with the Board of Directors in the advancement of the Unicamp mission and ensure fair and sound implementation and upholding of our policies and principles. The Executive Director will ensure that staff and volunteers work in partnership to successfully achieve the strategic objectives of the organization.

Our organization has a close-knit culture in which we place a high priority on communication, recognition and collaboration. We are in search of an Executive Director who is aligned with our culture and will continue to enhance it through positive leadership.

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – November 2018



First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo Ministerial Search

The First Unitarian Fellowship of Nanaimo (FUFON) is looking for a half-time consulting minister to lead us into the future. We are located on beautiful Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada in a region with a population of 160,942. As an affordable harbour town, Nanaimo offers residents the west coast lifestyle with breathtaking scenery, a mild climate, outdoor recreational activities, a vibrant arts scene, and a burgeoning local food culture.

More information is [available on the CUC website](#).

Upcoming Events

November

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.

[Learn more and register.](#) **Deadline: November 5**

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. [Learn more and register!](#) **Deadline: November 6**

November 12, 8:00 - 9:15 pm, ET

Gathered Here ([Read more on p 6](#))

Join other UU 18-35 year old's on Zoom (a video-conferencing platform) for sharing of joys and concerns, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process current events with a spiritually grounded community.

[More information](#)



Eastern Region Fall Gathering

Creating Theology Together

Saturday, November 17, 2018 - Kingston, ON

'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

[Learn more and register!](#) **Deadline: November 12**

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – November 2018



November (continued)

Financial Webinars with Clyde Harris, CUC Bookkeeper – Part 2

November 21: Financial Records

All webinars from 7:30 - 8:30 pm ET, Cost: \$10 each 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. [Learn more and register](#). **Deadline November 15.**



December

Webinar: Church Social Media and Membership Growth

December 8. 12:30 - 2:00 pm ET

Presentation by Peter Bowden, a Unitarian Universalist consultant specializing in congregational growth, outreach, and media. Peter has trained thousands of leaders across the United States and globally through his online programs.

[More information and registration](#).

January, 2019

Roundtable: Board Legal Considerations 101

January 26, 2019 - 12:30 pm ET

In this roundtable we'll discuss insights, and questions arising from the "Serving on a UU board in Canada: legal and practical perspectives" video; prepared for UU congregations. Learn more about what Board members need to know. [Learn more and register](#).

Financial Webinars with Clyde Harris, CUC Bookkeeper – Part 3

January 23: Financial Records

All webinars from 7:30 - 8:30 pm ET, Cost: \$10 each

This session covers whether charities should rent out their property, and why this should or should not happen.

[Learn more and register](#). **Deadline November 15.**

February, 2019

30th Annual Southern Ontario Midwinter Retreat

February 1 - 3, 2019

Theme: Connecting Our Stories

Keynote speaker: Jessica Purple Rodela

All UU's are welcome to this retreat at the YMCA Cedar Glen Retreat Centre in Bolton, ON (just north of Toronto).

[Learn more and register](#).



The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the [Canadian Unitarian Council](#) – November 2018



Save the Date!

UU United Nations Office Intergenerational Seminar

April 10-13, 2019

The UU-UNO's annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar will take place in New York City, April 10-13, 2019 with a focus on the theme of gender equity. Registration will open in December and additional details, including applications for youth and adult leadership positions, can be found at www.uua.org/unspringseminar. NB: This year there are special rates for Young Adult attendees!

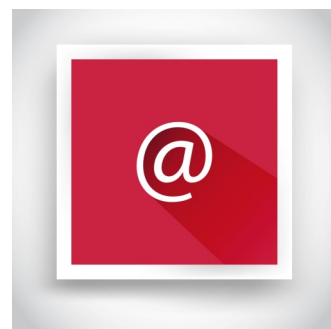
Organizational Tip

Role-specific Email Addresses for Your Leaders

Some congregations have transitioned to role-specific emails for their leaders, like the [Westwood Unitarian Congregation](#) in Edmonton. In other congregations, some or all of the emails for leaders may be personal email addresses; if so, we would like to suggest that you consider role-specific emails, eg president-beacon@gmail.com or laychaplain-kingston@cogeco.ca

The advantages of doing this are:

- You **control the email transfer** to new leaders, so when a new president is confirmed, the president email goes to that person, with the requisite password etc.
- The **new person will also then have access** to previous role-related correspondence. It saves time for the congregation, the leadership, and the CUC, and simplifies the process.
- The **email stays the same**, regardless of the person in the role, so there is no need to send update notifications each time a new person assumes a role, or risk important communications going to an old email address.
- For the person leaving a leadership role, they know that **congregation-related matters will be directed** to the appropriate person.



If you would like help setting up the role-specific email addresses, please email info@cuc.ca.

The CUC eNews

Newsletter of the Canadian Unitarian Council – November 2018



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Minister Observer

Liv Gardiner | yob@cuc.ca

Youth Observer



L to R: [Michael Riess](mailto:michael@cuc.ca) (BC region), Rev. [Debra Thorne](mailto:minister@cuc.ca) (Minister Observer), [Carol Speirs](mailto:carol@cuc.ca) (Eastern region), Rev. [Rodrigo Emilio Solano Quesnel](mailto:rod@cuc.ca) (Central region), [Chuck Shields](mailto:chuck@cuc.ca) (Eastern region), [Tanya Cothran](mailto:tanya@cuc.ca) (Treasurer, Central region), [Kiersten Moore](mailto:kiersten@cuc.ca) (Secretary, BC region), [Jane Ebbert](mailto:president-board@cuc.ca) (President, Western region), [Margaret Wanlin](mailto:margaret@cuc.ca) (VP, Western region)
Not pictured: [Liv Gardiner](mailto:yob@cuc.ca) (Youth Observer.)

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