



CANADIAN CONSEIL
UNITARIAN UNITARIEN
COUNCIL DU CANADA

**CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | MAY 11, 2019**

“DISMANTLING RACISM” STUDY GROUP

BACKGROUND

1. Unitarian Universalists are covenanted to affirm and promote:
 - The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
 - Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
 - Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
 - Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
2. Both personal and institutional racism continue to persist in Canada as confirmed by multiple recent reports, and *evident in repeated incidents of violence*.
3. White Supremacy and Colonialist Culture function as the social, political, and institutional glue that connects the racialized historical experience and lived realities of Indigenous Peoples and People of Colour in Canada.
4. Membership in our faith tradition is primarily white/European, and we are embedded in white colonialist culture and we benefit from this inheritance. We (painfully) acknowledge we participate in and perpetuate racism and other oppressions.
5. The CUC in its 2003 anti-racism resolution called on all its congregations to be active witnesses for racial justice in our communities and encouraged congregations to engage in racial justice education and work.
6. The CUC “Resolution on Racial, Religious, and First Nations Equity” of 2007 resulted in training and production of materials focused explicitly on reconciliation and healing with Indigenous Peoples.
7. While these previous resolutions have called CUC member congregations to racial equity, it is unclear how much progress has been made in this regard.
8. An 8th Principle calling for its member congregations to build diverse, multicultural Beloved Community through actions that “accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions” has been proposed within the UUA.



Be it resolved that that a study group be struck to:

1. Through research, conversations with experts, and dialogue with Canadian Unitarians and Universalists, identify and assess efforts made in our congregations and communities to dismantle racism and other oppressions; and,
2. Explore possible action plans that will engage Canadian Unitarians and Universalists in serious conversation and action about racism. This may include continuing collaboration with the Beloved Conversations project at Meadville Lombard Theological School (a dialogue which has already begun), and recommending further trainings and actions for congregations and individuals to engage in; and,
3. Consider how and where a commitment to racial justice might be better woven into our founding documents: our principles and sources, our vision statement, and our aspirations. and,
4. Produce a report that names where racial justice is present in our Canadian Unitarian and Universalist institutions and gathering places, along with any accompanying resolutions arising from this work, to be considered at the CUC's 2020 Annual General Meeting.

The initial study group members will be Rev. Julie Stoneberg (Peterborough) and Beverly Horton (Hamilton) as co-chairs. Constitution of the remainder of the study group (5-7 members) will reflect racial, regional and generational diversity, and engage lay and professional Unitarian Universalists.

Approved by delegates at the Annual General Meeting | May 11, 2019