



## Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto Unitarian Commons Cohousing Corporation

[northwestuchousing@gmail.com](mailto:northwestuchousing@gmail.com)

August 24, 2020

### **Re: The Eleanor Gill Ratcliffe and Dr. Phillip Hewett Northern Lights Chalice Lighter Award Request**

Dear Northern Lights Chalice Lighter,

Thank you so much for your commitment to support the growth of the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada through the Northern Lights Chalice Lighter program. The Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto (UFNWT) and Unitarian Commons Cohousing (UU Commons) are pleased to have received the support of Northern Lights, which is coordinated by the Canadian Unitarian Council.

This year's project is the Unitarian Commons Cohousing initiative (details below) and involves members from five congregations in the greater Toronto area working together. The Northern Lights' funds will be used for Phase One of the project. We invite you to fulfill your pledge to Northern Lights in support of this project.

Phase One involves the formal Pre-Application Meeting with the city and related preparations including further development of the planning drawings, consultations with our planning consultant, heritage architect, obtaining legal advice concerning the cohousing budget and ownership structure. We are hoping to raise \$18,000 for this phase of the project.

The project has the potential to be a model for a cohousing community partnering with a Unitarian congregation.



We would like to share our history with you as well as tell you about the cohousing initiative.

### **Unitarian Commons**

Unitarian Commons Cohousing Corporation <https://unitariancommons.ca/> is an incorporated non-profit organization (2017) founded by seven members of five Unitarian congregations in the Toronto Area. Our goals are to create affordable, accessible, environmentally responsible homes open for everyone and to cultivate community by including shared common areas. We are committed to building housing centred on Unitarian principles in neighbourhoods to support each other and foster friendships among ourselves and with our neighbours.

### **Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto**

UFNWT is located at 55 St. Phillips Road in the Etobicoke area of west end Toronto

[www.ufnwt.com/](http://www.ufnwt.com/). It was formed in 1959 and chartered as a Unitarian Fellowship in 1960. The building is approximately 95 years old and for 45 of those years it has been the home of the congregation. UFNWT is the sole owner of the title to the building/property. In 2009 the building was designated as a Toronto Heritage site. The congregation has been challenged over the past several years in sustaining membership and also having to maintain an older building. The UFNWT board felt that this initiative would help stabilize their membership and also relieve them of the responsibility of maintaining their building and site on their own.



### **Proposed Cohousing Project**

Over a year ago, UFNWT approached Unitarian Commons Co-Housing Corporation about the possibility of adding cohousing to their heritage building and site. UFNWT then retained Unitarian Commons to prepare a Feasibility Study. The project envisions the renovation of the existing stone house and an addition of nine residential units. The front half of the



house would be retained as the sanctuary and meeting spaces. The three-storey addition on the back will have balconies that overlook the Humber River Valley. The cohousing and the Fellowship would share the sanctuary for weekly meals and community activities.

### **Fundraising**

The Fellowship owns the property without any mortgages or loans on it and has spent \$4,500 to date for the initial work of the planning, heritage and architectural consultants. We have received positive feedback from the City of Toronto Planning and Heritage Departments. The support from the Northern Lights Chalice Lighters will assist us in taking the project through the next stage of the City planning process.

### **Thank you**

Thank you for your support of the Northern Lights program that supports the growth of Unitarian Universalism in Canada. UU Commons and UFNWT thank you in advance for enabling us to move closer to bringing Unitarian cohousing to the Greater Toronto Area.

Sincerely,

#### **UFNWT Board of Trustees**

**Melanie Walters, Board President**  
**Barbara Euler, Treasurer**  
**Marilyn Harris, Secretary**  
**Daphne Walters, Member**

#### **UU Commons Board Members:**

**Rev. Wayne Walder, Board President**  
Minister, Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
**Lorna Weigand, Treasurer**  
Don Heights Unitarian Congregation  
**Sharyn Devine, Secretary**  
Don Heights Unitarian Congregation  
**Cathy Tafler, Member**  
Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga  
**Doug Rylett, Member**  
Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga  
**Kate Chung, Member**  
First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto  
**Wilburn Hayden, Member**  
Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation and associated with Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto through wife Rev. Patricia Trudeau, Minister of Northwest



## **Here are three ways to complete your pledge:**

(An increase to the amount of your pledge will be appreciated)

### **1. Cheque via mail:**

Please make cheque payable to:

Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto  
55 St. Phillips Road,  
Etobicoke, ON, M9P 2N8

Put **Northern Lights Chalice Lighter** on the memo line.

**Complete the Personal Info section below and mail it with your cheque.**

### **2. Bank Transfer:** Use Northwest's email address: [ufnwt@bellnet.ca](mailto:ufnwt@bellnet.ca)

Please include your name and contact information in the memo section of the transfer.

### **3. UFNWT website:** <http://www.ufnwt.com/>

Using the link <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/14576>

Your donation can be made through credit card, PayPal or Gift card.

There is a place for completing the Personal Info on the donation website.

A \$4.00 onetime fee is charged as well as 3.75 % of pledge amount.

## **PERSONAL INFORMATION SECTION**

**Please include the following information with your cheque donation:**

I am Proud to be a Northern Lights Chalice Lighter

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# **Thank you!**

**Tax receipts for 2020 donations will be issued in 2021**

