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Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Call for Nominations 2021 Board of Trustees & Nominating Committee

Would you like to make a difference to Unitarian Universalists in Canada? Do you have an enthusiasm for the Unitarian Universalist faith? Our Canadian Unitarian Council is an intentional community of Unitarian Universalist congregations that jointly work to create connections, to be inspired, and to have a national voice.

One of the ways to make a difference to the Canadian Unitarian Council is by serving on the CUC Board of Trustees or the CUC Nominating Committee. The CUC's Nominating Committee is inviting expressions of interest from or on behalf of individuals in congregations who are interested in serving on the CUC Board or Nominating Committee beginning in May 2021. By encouraging diversity on the Board and Nominating Committee, we are hoping to balance youthful perspectives with senior experience in leadership.

CUC Nominating Committee Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting in May for a three-year term. The committee meets monthly from August to June using electronic meeting platforms and in person (if possible) at the Annual General Meeting or National Conference. For May 2021, we are seeking three new Nominating Committee members, as follows:

- One from either the BC or Western Region to fill a BC/Western vacancy that has existed since the 2020 AGM.
- One from the Western Region
- One from the Eastern Region

In addition, two other positions are up for election or re-election:

- Julien LeBourdais was appointed to the Nominating Committee in September 2020 to fill a Central Region vacancy and will be standing for election.
- Maury Prevost, current Nominating Committee Chair, will be standing for reelection to a second three-year term as the Central/Eastern representative on the committee.

Notwithstanding the willingness and eligibility of the above two people to serve, it is the Nominating Committee's practice to consider other possible candidates.

Note that some of the nominations in 2021 may be for less than three years in order to properly stagger the terms of people serving on the Nominating Committee. Ideally there should be two positions open for election or reelection each year.

Submit expressions of interest no later than **January 26, 2021** to nominations@cuc.ca .



Nominating Committee nominees will be members in good standing of a CUC member congregation within the region they represent with the following skills and strengths:

- Ability to publicize opportunities and recruit applicants from their region when a vacancy occurs;
- Able to attend national conferences and regional gatherings to become acquainted with people in the region, or be willing to seek out interested people;
- Access to high-speed internet connections and comfort with on-line meeting platforms such as Zoom, using group and individual emails, and creating and accessing documents online using Google Drive, Docs, and Sheets;
- Have served on the Board or Denominational Affairs committee in one or more congregations in their region, or have demonstrated other relevant involvement;
- Be familiar with the structure of the CUC and the responsibilities of the CUC Board of Trustees.

CUC Board Members are elected at the Annual General Meeting in May for a three-year term, In May 2021, the following three current Trustees are eligible and willing to be reelected for another three-year term.

- Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel, Central Region
- Margaret Wanlin, Western Region
- Kiersten Moore, BC Region

Notwithstanding the willingness and eligibility of the above three people to serve for another three years, it is the Nominating Committee's practice to consider other possible candidates. Submit expressions of Interest no later than **January 26, 2021** to nominations@cuc.ca.

Note that either two or three of the eight Board of Trustee positions will be open for election or reelection on an annual basis.

A Board of Trustees nominee needs to be a member in good standing of a congregation within their region of representation. CUC Board members possess varying life skills and experience in order to make up an effective Board. Generally, here the expectations:

Characteristics and qualities for Board Members:

Required (not in order of importance):

- Enthusiasm for the Unitarian Universalist faith
- Knowledge of the CUC and understanding of its purposes
- Successful experience on a UU congregation board



- Experience with effective group process skills and demonstrated ability to work effectively with groups that have a diversity of working styles and personalities
- Ability to think strategically and focus on long term planning
- High level of confidence in using electronic and internet tools, preferably with platforms such as Google Drive, Microsoft Office and Zoom
- Ability to listen non-judgmentally with an attitude of openness and curiosity
- Honesty and transparency
- Effective written and verbal communications
- Commitment to learn about and understand by-laws and laws and policies governing operation of CUC as a national registered charity

Preferred:

- Experience at the executive level of a congregational board or other not-for-profit
- Knowledge of policy governance processes or willingness to learn
- Understanding of financial reports and budgets, or willingness to learn
- Understanding of human resource matters

Commitments:

- Participating in online monthly (except for July) Board meetings (currently on the 3rd Monday of the month) with ability to spend several hours or more monthly on the work of the Board
- Taking on at least one other, on-going task/assignment
- Engaging with the leadership of assigned congregations (usually 4-6) in their region. This would involve having contact a couple of times a year.
- Serving as an ambassador for the CUC
- Traveling to the National Conference and Annual General Meetings in the spring, traditionally over the Victoria Day weekend, and to the board's retreat held in late September or early October over a weekend. If possible, it is also helpful for the board member to travel to the fall gathering for their region. The National Conference and Annual General Meeting and retreat are usually 5 day commitments, including travel time. Travel and related expenses are covered by the CUC. (Issues like finances, Covid-19 or climate justice may lead to meetings being held via Zoom.)



Additional information on the **Board of Trustees** and **Nominating Committee** is available on the CUC website cuc.ca/board-of-trustees/ and from the Nominating Committee by sending an email to nominations@cuc.ca. We welcome enquiries or suggestions about the nominating process regardless of upcoming vacancies.

Interested persons are asked to provide **brief candidate statements** including a short biography of activities within your local faith community, other relevant appointments or experience, as well as occupation and/or background experiences, and two references within your congregation and community who can attest to your gifts. Please include your name, address, phone and email.

A Nominating Committee report will be sent to every member society in accordance with the by-law, which specifies **sixty days** prior to the Annual General Meeting. The report will include the slate of candidates recommended by the Committee.

Call for Nominations by Petition: In addition to regular nominations by the Nominating Committee, the Nominating Committee will accept nominations for either the Board of Trustees or the Nominating Committee by a petition signed by at least twenty-five members in good standing, up **to thirty days** prior to the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be forwarded to the Committee by sending an email care of nominations@cuc.ca. Indicate in the submission which region the person is being nominated in and whether the nomination is for the Board or the Nominating Committee. Submit Nominations by Petition no later than **April 8, 2021**.

Please ensure that this notice is widely distributed in your congregation.

Sincerely,
Maury Prevost, Chair, nominations@cuc.ca
Nominating Committee