



CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

NAME OF RESOLUTION: CUC Goals and Strategic Priorities

SPONSORS OF RESOLUTION: CUC Board of Trustees

This motion was postponed indefinitely*. During the discussion of this motion at the Annual General Meeting, some delegates expressed concern about the CUC’s omission of anti-Black racism as a systemic barrier to full inclusion, a concern echoed by several ministers. There was a suggestion that this wording could be added to the strategic priorities; however, the Parliamentarian advised this would be out of order as it would be a substantive amendment.

After a brief recess, the meeting resumed and President Chuck Shields affirmed the Board’s ongoing commitment to taking action against anti-Black racism. Accordingly, the Board proposed, on the advice of the Parliamentarian, a motion to postpone indefinitely* the approval of the strategic priorities and goals to a future meeting, as more time was needed. This motion passed.

**Postpone indefinitely according to Robert’s Rules of Order is a motion that has the effect of dropping the main motion without taking a definite position on the main motion. This motion must be seconded and is not in order when another has the floor. The original motion cannot be brought up again at the same session (meeting) but can be moved again (in the same or modified form) at a later session. A motion to postpone indefinitely is debatable and requires a majority vote. As well, debate on the motion to postpone indefinitely can go fully into the merits of the main question. In the event the motion to postpone indefinitely is defeated, the motion to postpone indefinitely cannot be moved in regards to the same main question again.*



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BACKGROUND FOR PROPOSAL OF MOTION

- A. Each year, the Canadian Unitarian Council Board reviews and updates the goals and strategic priorities for the organization. The goals are larger, bigger picture imaginings of who we want to be as a national Unitarian Universalist faith community, and the strategic priorities point towards more focused actions within those larger goals.
- B. Member congregations, through their delegates, discuss and vote on the goals and strategic priorities which determine the direction and plan for the CUC for the next two years. It is the job of the Executive Director and staff team to plan and implement programming in fulfillment of the strategic priorities.
- C. The CUC Board monitors the progress of the plans through regular reporting from the Executive Director and staff, and through the presentation of data and evaluation information.
- D. CUC Bylaws 3.5.2 and 3.5.3 state:
 - a. 3.5.2. Notice of any meeting where special business will be transacted shall contain sufficient information to permit the member congregations to form a reasoned judgment on the decision to be taken. All business transacted at a special meeting of members, and all business transacted at an annual meeting of members except consideration of the financial statements, public accountant's report, election of directors and reappointment of the incumbent public accountant, is special business.
 - b. 3.5.3. The Notice of the Annual Meeting shall include the following:
 - i. 3.5.3.1. The budget and actual results for the budget year just ended;
 - ii. 3.5.3.2. The budget and projected results for the budget year in process, including the Annual Program Contribution (APC);
 - iii. 3.5.3.3. The proposed budget for the succeeding year, including the proposed Annual Program Contribution;
 - iv. 3.5.3.4. The strategic priorities for the current and the next succeeding year;
 - v. 3.5.3.5. The report of the Nominating Committee.



BE IT RESOLVED

That the following Goals and Strategic Priorities for the Canadian Unitarian Council for 2023 - 2024 be approved as presented

CUC Goals

The CUC ensures that it has resources to maintain its own sustainability in order to advance the cost-effective achievement of the following primary goals:

1. Strengthen our Unitarian Universalist member congregations and communities in order to thrive spiritually, theologically, organizationally, economically, and socially in a diverse, multi-generational context.
2. Enhance community resilience through exploration, education and sharing of diverse and inclusive spiritual and organizational practices, including those from our own faith tradition;
3. Advance socially responsible actions to live out our vision of interdependence, love, and justice to bring benefit to Canadian and global communities;
4. Strengthen collaborative and interdependent UU networks of congregations and communities.

CUC Strategic Priorities

Within these goals, the following strategic priorities are recommended for 2023-2024:

- A. Strengthen the national fabric of our Unitarian Universalist¹ congregations and communities by:**
 - a. Nurturing and enhancing innovation and sustainability;
 - b. Strengthening ministry and shared ministry;
 - c. Developing, curating and focusing on Canadian resources to advance religious exploration, spiritual growth, and congregational resilience in a multigenerational context; and

¹ Includes Unitarian, Universalist, Unitarian Universalist and Universalist Unitarian



- d. Ensuring that the CUC and its member congregations and communities are well positioned to welcome and embrace those who seek Unitarian Universalism.

B. Social Justice and equity:

I. Live into the 8th Principle of individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions, through:

- a. Truth, Healing and Reconciliation
 - i) Uncolonizing ourselves and our processes;
 - ii) Supporting First Nations / Indigenous self-determination and initiatives;
 - iii) Acting on repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery
- b. Identifying systemic barriers to full inclusion and acting on dismantling these in ourselves and our institutions;

II. Undertake the following social environmental justice initiatives:

- a. Enacting environmental justice through respectful stewardship practices, which include:
 - i) Consulting and collaborating with Indigenous communities in order to advance policies and practices which end environmental racism; and
 - ii) Effective environmental actions and climate initiatives which minimize and mitigate the effects of climate change.

III. Refugee support

C. Sound financial management

All these goals and strategic priorities shall be achieved with sound financial management, including sustainable revenue sources, to continue the work of building vital Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities.



Reading background for B (I):

- I. *Assembly of First Nations: [Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery](#)*. (2022, January 18).
- II. *Association of First Nations: [Environmental Issues Update 2022](#)*.
- III. *[High time to pass environmental racism bill, advocates say](#)*. David Suzuki Foundation. (n.d.)
- IV. *Private member's Bill C-226 (44-1) - [National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act](#)* - Parliament of Canada. (n.d.).
- V. *[A reflection on decolonizing ourselves: Land and the spirit of treaty](#)*. KAIROS Canada. (2021, September 7).
- VI. Yesno, Riley (2022, November 10). *[Decolonize How? Land back](#)*. New Internationalist.
- VII. Tuck, Eve and Yang, K. Wayne - *[Decolonization is not a metaphor](#)*. (2012).



Appendix A

Comparison of current & proposed strategic priorities.

2022 – 2023 Strategic Priorities	2023 – 2024 Proposed Strategic Priorities
<p>A. Ensure sound financial management, including sustainable revenue generation, to continue the work of building vital Unitarian communities;</p>	<p>A. Strengthen the national fabric of our Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nurturing and enhancing innovation and sustainability; b. Strengthening ministry and shared ministry; c. Developing, curating and focusing on Canadian resources to advance religious exploration, spiritual growth, and congregational resilience in a multigenerational context; and d. Ensuring that the CUC and its member congregations and communities are well positioned to welcome and embrace those who seek Unitarian Universalism.
<p>B. Strengthen the national fabric of our UU community by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nurturing and enhancing innovation and sustainability; b. Enhancing and optimizing connections and relationships among UU communities in intentionally inclusive ways; and, c. Ensuring that the CUC and its congregations and communities are well 	<p>B. Social justice and equity:</p> <p>I. Live into the 8th Principle of individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Truth, Healing and Reconciliation 1. Uncolonizing ourselves and our processes;



2022 – 2023 Strategic Priorities	2023 – 2024 Proposed Strategic Priorities
<p>positioned to welcome and embrace those who seek Unitarian Universalism.</p>	<p>2. Supporting First Nations / Indigenous self-determination and initiatives;</p> <p>3. Acting on repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery</p> <p>b. Identifying systemic barriers to full inclusion and acting on dismantling these in ourselves and our institutions;</p> <p>II. Undertake the following social justice initiatives:</p> <p>a. Enacting environmental justice through respectful stewardship practices, which include:</p> <p>a. Consulting and collaborating with Indigenous communities in order to advance policies and practices which end environmental racism; and</p> <p>b. Effective environmental actions and climate initiatives which minimize and mitigate the effects of climate change.</p> <p>b. Refugee support</p>
<p>C. Advance these social justice initiatives:</p> <p>d. Truth, Healing and Reconciliation</p> <p>e. <i>Enact the 8th Principle: Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions</i></p> <p>f. Environmental justice</p> <p>g. Refugee support</p>	<p>C. All these goals and strategic priorities shall be achieved with sound financial management, including sustainable revenue sources, to continue the work of building vital Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities;</p>



2022 – 2023 Strategic Priorities	2023 – 2024 Proposed Strategic Priorities
D. Develop, curate and focus on Canadian resources to advance religious exploration and spiritual growth in a multigenerational context.	