



CANADIAN  
UNITARIAN  
COUNCIL

CONSEIL  
UNITARIEN  
DU CANADA

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**CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020**

**MINUTES – May 16, 2020**

**Conducted Canada Wide on Zoom | Hosted in Toronto ON**

1. **Invocation and Chalice Lighting** by Rev. Debra Thorne, Minister Observer to the CUC Board

2. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of First Nations Territory**

Chair Margaret Wanlin welcomed everyone and acknowledged that we are meeting across Canada on traditional territories of Indigenous peoples.

3. **Report of Credentials Committee**

The Credentials Committee, Mary Ella Keblusek and Margo Ellis, reported that quorum has been achieved, with a total of 87 delegates with all four regions represented. Quorum is at least 30 delegates from at least 8 congregations from at least 3 regions. The meeting is properly constituted.

4. **Recognition of Staff, Board, Official Representatives, & Other Guests**

Executive Director Vyda Ng announced how to access closed captioning and introduced the CUC Board of Trustees, staff, and special guests.

- Reverend Sara Asher -- Executive Director of the International Council of Unitarian Universalists
- Yvette Salinas -- Executive Director of Unicamp
- several people from the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

5. **Introduction to online meeting procedures, report on mailing of notice**

Executive Director Vyda Ng explained online meeting procedures using the Zoom platform.

- i) Executive Director Vyda Ng reported that in accordance with CUC by-laws, member societies were notified of the Annual General Meeting in timely and proper fashion. Two corrections were noted.



- ii) The Executive Director went over the online voting process using the polling systems within Zoom and how to use the participant buttons to participate in discussion. Chat was disabled.

## **6. Motion to adopt annual meeting procedures**

The Chair referenced meeting rules in the package and gave a brief run-down of Robert's Rules of Procedure to be used during this meeting.

The Chair introduced Dylan Fijal as the Parliamentarian, whose role is to advise the Chair on rules of procedure and points of order.

The timekeeper, Rev. Rodrigo Solano Quesnel, was introduced.

Motion to adopt the annual meeting procedures was moved by Carol Burrows from Kitchener. CARRIED

## **7. Motion to allow youth to participate in AGM**

Motion by the CUC Board: that the usual rules of procedures will include allowing any youth present at the 2020 Annual General Meeting the same privilege to speak to the assembly as currently exists for delegates, ministers, CUC board members, and official representatives. This allowance does not extend to voting privileges, unless the youth is a designated delegate from their congregation.

Discussion to include clarification that the CUC's definition of a youth between 14-19 years. There was a further question regarding putting youth participation into the bylaws rather than voting every year. The Board will take this into consideration moving forward.

CARRIED

## **8. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion: to adopt the revised agenda, sent electronically on May 15, and available on the CUC website under Annual General Meeting, by Brenda Stewart (Nanaimo). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

## **9. Review and approval of minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting**

Secretary Kiersten Moore drew attention to a correction on page 19, Nominating Committee report, noted by Susan White of Beacon Unitarian Congregation.

Further correction, under section 5, Margaret Rao was the president of the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice, not "Canadians for social justice."



Motion to approve the minutes as corrected moved by Heather Gatlin (Comox Valley)  
Duly seconded. CARRIED.

10. **Report of the Nominating Committee by Chair, Wendy Shusterman, page 30 of the AGM package.**

*(Terms of office are for 3 years unless otherwise stated)*

Nominating Committee Chair, Wendy Shusterman, gave information on the realignment of Board position terms to facilitate the proper staggering of terms. Terms of the Board of Trustees are staggered so that no more than three trustees should have their terms expire at the same time. This is important for the maintenance of corporate knowledge and effective mentoring of new trustees. The upcoming resolution to change the Bylaw 5.4 is intended to facilitate the proper staggering of terms.

**The following CUC Board members will continue their terms during 2020-21:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel (Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda)	Central	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Kiersten Moore (Unitarian Church of Vancouver)	BC	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Margaret Wanlin (Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship)	Western	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Joanne Green (Unitarian Fellowship of Regina)	Western	2nd Year of First 3-year term
Glenna Hanley (Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton)	Eastern	2nd Year of First 3-year term
Michael Scales (Beacon Unitarian Congregation)	BC	2nd Year of First 3-year term



**The nominees for the CUC Board are:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
Chuck Shields (First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa)	Eastern	1st Year of New 3-year term (realigning after completing the last two years of a 3-year term started in 2017 by Rev. Rod)
Margaret Kohr (First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto)	Central	1st Year of First 3-year term (replacing Tanya Cothran for Central, but starting a new term to facilitate staggering)

**The following Nominating Committee members will continue their terms during 2020-21:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
Molly Hurd (Halifax)	Eastern	3rd year of 3-year term
Maury Prevost (Ottawa First)	Central/Eastern	3rd year of 3-year term
John (Mich) Michell (Calgary)	Western	3rd year of 3-year term
Lynn Armstrong (Unitarian Church of Vancouver)	BC	2nd year of 3-year term

**As of this meeting there are no new nominations for two open positions on the CUC Nominating Committee.**

- 11. Motion to change Bylaw 5.4 Board of Trustees Term of Office and Election.**



The Chair invited Wendy Shusterman to speak to the proposed motion to change the term of office and election for the CUC Board of Trustees which is found on page 33 of the annual meeting package.

Wendy explained the reason for the Bylaw change and read out the proposed changes:

- Recent years have seen many people not completing full terms on the Board which has resulted in terms no longer being staggered. Without change to the Bylaws this would result in too many people leaving the Board together and not maintaining the corporate knowledge that is required.
- The Nominating Committee has adjusted term limits so that no more than two to three people leave at any one time.
- The current text reads: “At each Annual Meeting, the delegates shall elect Trustees for full terms as required. In addition, the delegates shall also elect Trustees for the full terms to replace any Trustees who may have, since the preceding Annual Meeting, vacated office before completion of their term.”
- The proposed change further clarifies full term limits with the change to 5.4.2 which currently reads: “The Term of Office for a Trustee shall be three years. A Trustee having completed the term of office will be eligible for reelection for one additional term of office. Having completed such term, a former Trustee shall not be eligible for election to the Board until the expiry of two complete years.”

**BE IT RESOLVED** that bylaw 5.4.1 shall now read (with changes underlined):

5.4.1 At each Annual Meeting, the delegates shall elect Trustees for full terms as required. In addition, the delegates shall also elect Trustees to hold office for the balance of the terms of any Trustees who have vacated office before completion of the term of office.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that bylaw 5.4.2 shall now read (with changes underlined):

5.4.2 The term of office for a Trustee shall be three years. A Trustee having completed a term of office may be eligible for re-election for one additional term of office. A Trustee who has completed two consecutive full terms shall not be eligible for election to the Board for two years. The maximum a board member may hold office consecutively is 8 years (up to 2 years to complete someone else’s term followed by two full terms of their own)

The Chair states that the motion has been presented by the Nominating Committee, which is a Committee of Council and does not require a seconder. CARRIED

## 12. Election of new CUC Board of Trustees & Nominating Committee members



The Nominating Committee had given previous notice of call for nominations and deadlines. In accordance with CUC by-laws, other nominations could be received up to 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting but none were received. Nominations are not accepted from the floor.

Therefore:

**The Chair declares the nominees to the Board of Trustees to be elected by acclamation.**

The Chair welcomed Linnea Granberg of Thunder Bay as Junior Youth Observer to the Board (Jr. YOB), she will join Fiona Butler (Saskatoon) who will serve as Senior Youth Observer for the second year of her two-year term.

#### **Election of the Nominating Committee:**

Terms on the Nominating Committee are for three years. The Nominating Committee gave notice more than 30 days prior to the meeting of this nomination of one person for each of the positions to be filled. In accordance with CUC by-laws, other nominations could be received up to 30 days prior to the annual meeting, but none were received. Nominations are not accepted from the floor.

**Therefore, the Chair declares the nominee to the Nominating Committee to be elected by acclamation.**

The Chair gives special thanks to Wendy Schusterman who served as Chair and has completed her term and to Reverend Helen McFadyen who has already finished her term.

#### **13. Executive Director's Report**

Vyda Ng spoke about the highlights and challenges of 2019 and what has been accomplished in 2020 up to the date of this meeting. She acknowledged that the Annual Report for 2019 was uploaded the morning of the AGM and apologized for the delay.

##### **Bookkeeping and records challenge**

- There have been challenges over the past three years with three bookkeepers having trouble providing accurate and timely information for accurate tracking and reporting to the Board
- A previous bookkeeper was hired and began in March 2020
- Congregational Engagement is the focus of much of CUC staff work:



- Congregations are the centre of UU faith communities. Rev. Linda Thomson and Joan Carolyn, Congregational Life Leads for the Central-Eastern and BC-Western Regions, engage with congregations around all that congregations need to stay vital, attractive, and resilient.
- In 2019, staff engaged with every single congregation of the CUC and tracked how much time was spent with each congregation in a general way. This time is one or two hours minimum up to 45 to 50 hours each.
- CUC assists with congregational matters like ministerial transitions, exit interviews, search committees for ministers, conflict resolution and management issues, as well as supporting congregations to sponsor refugees.
- Youth and Young Adult events
  - Asha Philar took a leave of absence and resigned from her position in mid-2019. Casey Stainsby, as youth and young adult programme and events coordinator, has been managing all the youth events.
  - Casey and her young adult staff teams moved the youth and young adult conferences, CanUUdle and Chorus, from in-person to online events this spring due to COVID cancellations.
- Social Justice and Refugee Support
  - The ongoing focus is on the Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation initiative. Amber Bellemare and Erin Horvath provided a separate report.
  - Samia Tecle handles the administration of refugee support for the CUC with 10 hours a week and is very efficient.
  - In 2019, seven congregations as well as the Capital Rainbow Refugee Association in Ottawa worked with CUC to sponsor refugees. CUC submitted 37 applications for 71 refugees, some under the Blended Visa Office Referred programme.
  - In 2019, 18 sponsored refugees arrived and resettled in Saskatoon, Vancouver, Victoria, Toronto, Guelph, Ottawa, Peterborough, and Halifax. The newcomers came from Syria, Eritrea, Burundi, and Egypt.
- COVID-19 Response



- The decision was made in early March to cancel the May conference in Halifax.
- Staff spent time assessing how best to provide resources and support to members and congregations without overload. Here is some of what was created in response:
  - Leaders' sessions: These are monthly check-in sessions on Saturdays to update each other, share resources, and discuss what has been learned about how to do faith community online.
  - Social connections: through the CUC Coffeehouse Connections, musical gatherings, two storytelling sessions, and a summer Sunday service series.
- Staff is looking ahead to what our lives might look like as a faith community and how to provide resources and some thoughts to congregations about what the summer, fall and winter might look like.
- Questions and Thoughts from the floor:
  - Rev. Meg Roberts (Beacon) asked if the International Council of Unitarian Universalists (ICUU) Council Meeting will be held in Montreal as scheduled in November. Rev. Sara Asher, ICUU Executive Director, responded. The planning committee is anticipating that the conference will happen at some point. There is not enough information for an informed decision but an October conference looks highly unlikely. There are legal contract issues to resolve, but all registration timelines will be moved forward accordingly as decisions are made. All options are on the table regarding a future date. Sara acknowledged the help of the CUC staff in planning for the ICUU in Montreal. CUC has a very high reputation in the global community, and Sara thanked the CUC for providing international support.
  - Rev. Meghann Robern (Winnipeg) affirmed that it was a relief in ministry and to the congregation to have such an immediate response from the CUC and CUC staff with packets and resources. Gratitude is extended for the choices that staff made and non-anxious presence in addition to staff's professional presence.

#### 14. **Motion to receive 2020 Annual Report**





Motion: to receive 2020 Annual Report as presented, moved by Guy (First Unitarian Church of Ottawa). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

15. **Report from Dismantling Racism Study Group** (Chairs, Rev. Julie Stoneberg & Beverly Horton)

Rev. Julie Stoneberg gave background and outlined the mandate of the [Dismantling Racism Study Group](#) and explained where the group is in its process.

- A resolution was unanimously approved at the 2019 AGM to set up a study group to examine dismantling racism in our congregations, institutions, and communities across Canada. The Study Group is very pleased to have this unanimous support for the work.
  - The original proposal earlier in 2019 was to form a study group around adopting the eighth principle but after study time for congregations the SG realized that Canadian UU's were not ready to look at the eighth principle specifically.
- The written report for the Dismantling Racism Study Group is on page 35 of the CUC 2019 Annual Report.
- A call was issued to invite interest in forming the SG. There were 11 applications for 6 available positions. The composition of the group addresses the mandate for membership and reflects a team with diversity across regions, race, and federations. One of the members has a Canadian UU Religious Educator background and brings that perspective to the group.
- The SG was tasked with the following:
  - identify and assess efforts made in Canadian UU congregations and communities to dismantle racism and
  - with those results, explore possible action plans that would engage allUUs in serious conversation and action around racism.
  - consider how a commitment to racial justice might better be woven into the CUC's founding documents whether by laws, principles, sources, or other means.
  - produce a report that names where racial justice is present and where it is lacking along with any accompanying resolutions.
- The work has encountered some unexpected challenges and the SG has had to recalculate the process.
- In 2019 the SG was able to:
  - form the SG of 8 members representing a diversity of regions, race, age, and federations.
  - come to some common understandings about who the SG and what they are working for



- by the end of 2019 the SG was very close to having a survey ready to go out to the congregations
- The survey went out at the end of March 2020 and there have been nearly 600 responses to the survey to date. The survey is still open as of the May 2020 AGM.
- The next task is to evaluate all of the input from the survey and figure out what our next steps should be.
- The SG will post a [report on the data from the survey](#) near the end of the summer or fall of 2020, then work on a report about what is next to present at the 2021 AGM.
- Collaboration is expected with the Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation group.

Gratitude for the work of the group was expressed from the floor and questions regarding how to access the survey, and whether there will be inclusion of incidents of anti-Asian and anti-Indigenous racism looked at as well.

- The survey went out with the CUC e-news, posted on the Facebook page, and out to ministers and leaders asking them to share the link in their congregations.
- Chair **Julie Stoneberg** stated that the group is very aware that racism is very present in Canadian society and therefore, it is also present in our congregations and in each of us, also.
- Part of the recommendations that the SG anticipates coming out of this is further training and work that needs to be done, from bystander training for people who witness something in society and in our congregations, to other kinds of work around dismantling racism.

#### 16. Report from Truth, Healing & Reconciliation Resource Team (Amber Bellemare & Erin Horvath)

Amber Bellemare, the THR Program Coordinator, and Erin, the CUC's Social Justice Lead, reported on the current status and working of the Truth, Healing & Reconciliation Initiative. The written report is on page 29 of the CUC 2019 Annual Report.

**Amber Bellemare** spoke to the foundations of the initiative:

- Beginning goal was to educate and weave reconciliation into the fabric of the CUC.
- Started by making a multitude of different educational resources.
- Have had to look at how to support the ongoing use of these resources

Erin Horvath spoke to what work that is currently underway:

- Staff explored next steps after completing the basic reflection guides.



- A workshop was piloted called Building Bridges for Reconciliation
- To guide decision making and planning, staff pose the question “how might we change the fabric of the CUC with the recognition that colonization is something that is ongoing--not only history.”
- Created a community of praxis groups to look at what internal needs to be done to align our collective action with Indigenous peoples and their values.
- Talking about decolonizing UU principles.
- There is a desire to use a reconciliation lens when addressing environmental action that has arisen from the grassroots of congregations.

Amber explained what has been happening with the reflection guides and their future:

- Plan to expand our reach into the community and nationally with the reconciliation reflection guides.
- Two presentations were done for the UUA, one with leadership and another coming up at the online General Assembly this year.
- The ongoing programming and support of the guides has been possible through grants that will be running out this year, so establishing ongoing revenue and support is crucial to continuing this work.

Erin highlighted an upcoming opportunity to participate in an online feature presentation by Dr. Niigann Sinclair on May 24th. Dr. Sinclair is a fabulous Indigenous speaker, son of Senator Murray Sinclair. He is going to focus on how to be in solidarity with Indigenous peoples who may not always be in unity about what they want to do, such as the pipeline. How do we look at hereditary chiefs within the Unitarian Universalist framework of the democratic process? Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

## 17. **Report from Polyamory Task Force**

Reverend Meghann Robern (Winnipeg) and Shoshanna Green (Montreal) summarized the findings of the Polyamory Task Force struck in 2018. The [full text of the report](#) is in the [CUC 2019 Annual Report](#). Definitions and background information for educational purposes is in section 2 and elsewhere. Details on the status of polyamorous unions under Canadian law can be found in Section 6. To summarize:

- ❑ **Recommendation One:** that the CUC formally and publicly state that affirming the validity of polyamory and welcoming polyamorous is a duty.
- ❑ **Recommendation Two:** at the time of writing, it is an offense under the criminal code of Canada to perform or take part in a multi-partner wedding or other ceremony of union. Therefore, the TF recommends that the Canadian Unitarian Council not endorse or



sanction the participation of individual Canadian Unitarian Universalist ministers and lay chaplains in such ceremonies.

- ❑ Recommendation Three: that the CUC prepare itself to speak out on polyamory including future legal cases if they arise and to support Canadian Unitarian Universalists who may find themselves for being polyamorous or performing the validity of it.
- ❑ Recommendation Four: that the CUC offer education and training to its staff to enhance their ability to, in turn, support congregations working to improve their understanding of polyamory and their affirmation of polyamorous people.
- ❑ Recommendations Five: that the CUC establish a committee and educational group to develop material both introductory and in depth suitable for Canadian Unitarian Universalists, including ministers, other relationship professionals, professional staff, lay leaders and congregations.
- ❑ Recommendation Six: that the CUC work with the UU Ministers of Canada, the Canadian religious educators and other relevant professional organizations to encourage education and dialogue.
- ❑ Recommendation Seven: it's not enough to merely state that we are welcoming and inclusive. Therefore, the TF recommends that these educational efforts offer religious professional staff, lay leaders and congregations specific ways to incorporate and normalize polyamory in everyday congregational life.
- ❑ Recommendation Eight: as Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations grow in their understanding and affirmation, the TF recommends that the CUC develop or obtain similar documents that highlights what the UU community offers to polyamorous people and their families.
- ❑ Recommendation Nine: a great deal of invaluable educational material has already been created by polyamorous peoples and communities including Unitarian Universalists for Polyamory Awareness (UUPA), a related organization of the UUA. Therefore, the TF recommends that the CUC take advantage of the work that's already been done by such groups and liaise where appropriate with them for mutual support and action on polyamory affirmation.

## 18. Report from the CUC QUUEst (Envisioning UU Future) Team (Katharine Childs)

Katharine Childs gave a verbal report from the group formed in 2019 to consider the future of UUism in Canada. The minutes (and closed caption notes) are the only record of this report.

The QUUEst Task Force was created following the 2018 Annual General Meeting. Initial



conversations about the future of Canadian Unitarian Universalism were held by the CUC Board of Directors with a small number of UU congregations and communities.

The task force was created with the mandate to facilitate engagement in the same conversations nationwide. The TF's mandate was to look toward how UUism in Canada will be in the year 2032, 200 years after the first Unitarian sermon was preached in Canada. The task force is made up of Katherine Childs, Liv Gardiner, Carter Mahoney, Chuck Shields, Debra Thorne, Margaret Wanlin, and Vyda Ng as staff liaison. The composition includes members of the CUC Board and staff and religious professionals.

The Task Force has spent the last year thinking deeply about how to approach the question of looking toward the future of Unitarian Universalism in Canada.

What can the TF do to facilitate an expansive conversation which taps into the dreams of Canadian UUs, but also into their creative solutions? How can a process be created which is enriching at the congregational or community level, but also informs how our leadership will help to shape Unitarian universalism in the next decade?

The QUUest Task Force hoped to launch their work with congregations at the conference in Halifax to ask all big questions about the future of UUism in Canada, and to gather answers. In this moment of the pandemic, however, the TF knows that UUs are asking different questions about what congregations need in the short term to survive and thrive through a time when so little is known. In the immediate term, the TF hopes to support the work of the CUC Board and staff and congregations as everyone wrestles with these questions.

Over the fall and winter of 2020-2021, the TF hopes to engage UUs, congregations and communities in a larger conversation about the future of Unitarian Universalism in Canada, who UUism is calling to, tools to share with each other, where UU congregations make a difference, and beloved community is built together.

**19. Review, and Motion to Approve Proposed Goals and Strategic Priorities for 2020 – 2021**  
(Vice President of the CUC Board, Chuck Shields)

The goals guide the work of CUC staff and Board in fulfilling its vision. Within those goals, a set of strategic priorities further refine the focus of staff work. Changes are proposed to B and C of the priorities, found on Page 34 of the Annual Meeting materials.



**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**The work of the CUC be guided in 2020 - 2021 by the following goals and strategic priorities:**

**Goals**

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

1. Enhance religious exploration and spiritual growth grounded in the vision, principles, sources, and aspirations of the Canadian Unitarian Universalist (UU) movement;
2. Advance socially responsible actions to live out our vision of interdependence, love, and justice to bring benefit to Canadian and global communities;
3. Build community resilience so our congregations and communities are connected to each other, and thrive organizationally, economically, and socially in a diverse, multi-generational context;
4. Strengthen local, regional, national, and global networks of collaborative and interdependent UU congregations and communities.



## Strategic Priorities

*Within these goals, the Board recommends the following strategic priorities for 2020-2021:*

- A. Ensure sustainable revenue generation to continue the work of building vital Unitarian communities;
- B. Optimize communications capabilities:
  - a. **Continue the development of the CUC website with an emphasis on Canadian resources; and,**
  - b. **Continue the development of online technologies to link UUs and UU congregations across the country;**
- C. Advance these social justice initiatives:
  - **Truth, Healing and Reconciliation amongst Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples**
  - **Dismantling racism**
  - **Refugee support**
  - **Climate justice**
- D. Encourage innovation and sustainability in the growth and development of UU communities, including on youth and young adults, as they strive to foster a just and sustainable world and to enrich the spiritual lives of their members

Discussion pertaining to social justice initiatives and COVID response, no disagreements or challenges. Question was called.

CARRIED

Break Time 1:52 (Eastern)

### 20. **Report of Credentials Committee**

Quorum was re-established after the break.

### 21. **Report from the Minister Observer to the Board** (Rev. Debra Thorne )

Minister Observer Rev. Debra Thorne spoke to the role of the Minister Observer in representing Ministers of Canada to the CUC Board and serving as the communication link between these two Canadian leadership groups. She laid out a number of issues brought to the attention of the Board over the past year:



1. Canadian ministers employed a professional facilitator to support the exploration of issues that concerned ministers in areas that transcend the many Canadian UU leadership groups. A similar concern voiced by the CUC Board prompted the formation of QUUest 2032 whose report you heard earlier.
2. The goal to create a covenant between the ministers of Canada and the CUC staff is in process.
3. UU Ministers of Canada have been raising the call for racial justice in our organizations, communities, and hearts. The call to action in 2018 suggested 10 actions of racial justice. This work has continued. The Ministers of Canada urge every Unitarian Universalist to wake up to the destructive power of white privilege and to do the work of eradicating it from our lives and our communities.

Transitions in ministry were recognized.

22. **Report from Youth Observer to the Board** (Fiona Butler)

Fiona Butler, Sr. YOB, and Linnea Granberg, Jr. YOB, presented the report from Canadian UU youth.

- ❑ The move in 2018-19 to two Youth Observers to the Board (Jr/Sr) has been welcomed and beneficial. It allowed for a much smoother transition for the new YOB and less overwhelm within the position.
- ❑ Linnea Branberg was welcomed as the new Jr. YOB. Linnea is a grade 12 student from Thunder Bay who has been very active in the national youth community.
- ❑ One of the biggest obstacles is staying in contact with youth between conferences. This year Instagram seemed to be the most useful tool for sending out questions and getting answers back and keeping youth informed.
- ❑ There was a Western Regional Fall Gathering in Edmonton in October 2019 that included a successful youth conference.
- ❑ The national youth conference, CanUUdle, which was planned for Halifax in May has been moved online and rebranded CaZUUm. The youth staff has worked hard to convert to an online format.
- ❑ Youth groups across Canada are varied. For most of the year, in-person meetings, sleepovers, social justice actions, and conference planning are the center of youth group life. With the pandemic shut-down of in-person meetings, some groups have increased with easier access and less busy lives, while others have been struggling without the in-person connection.





Thank you to Liv Gardiner (Winnipeg) who has completed her term of service to the Board as Youth Observer.

23. **Report from National Lay Chaplain Committee** (Ellen Newman, Chair)

Reverend Linda Thomson reported for the committee.

- Appreciation was expressed for Ann Steadman, past president of the Lay Chaplain Committee, who will finish her time on the committee in June.
- Ellen Newman (Mississauga) will be the new Chair.
- In 2019, Neighbourhood UU congregation in Toronto hosted a basic Lay Chaplain training.
- An issue with the province of Ontario was resolved in 2019. The CUC is both an ordaining tradition and an appointing tradition and that had to be worked out with the Province. The CUC is once again able to register lay chaplains as officiants in Ontario.
- The committee has done a thorough review of the programme manual and ongoing improvements to the website.
- In response to COVID, Rev. Anne Barker and Brenda Jackson were able to move the planned basics training to an online platform for the first weekend in April.
- The committee is thinking about ways to make lay chaplaincy training more accessible to more people.
- Rev. Anne Barker has been the ministerial representative on the Lay Chaplaincy Committee, and gratitude was expressed for her lovely, steady presence. She is moving on to a new role as President with the UU Ministers of Canada. Conversation is ongoing for the next ministerial representative for this committee.

Thanks was expressed for all the members of LC Committee: Ellen Newman, Reverend Anne Barker, Ann Steadman, Joy Silver, Mary Anna Louise Kovar, Peter Scales, Rob van Wycke, Reverend Linda Thomson.

24. **Review 2019 Financial Statements & Motion to Approve 2019 Year-End Figures**

- i. The Chair invited Treasurer Joanne Green to speak to the audited statements and figures for 2019, sent with the annual meeting package and found on page 36.

Joanne explained that two years of bookkeeping were completed in seven and a half months and two audits performed in even less time. The newly



formed finance and investment committee was crucial to the success of getting finances in order. With the audits complete and a trusted bookkeeper in place ,2020 looks to be in good shape. The finance committee will be paying close attention to income and expenses and investment policies during this time.

The Annual Programme Contribution for 2020 was increased by an amount equal to the CPI in November of the previous year as per Bylaw 2.4.3. The per member rate for 2020-21 is set at \$52.64. The Board proposes keeping the revenue sharing amount at the same percentage as 2019 for both 2020 and 2021. The finance committee and Board will create a process for congregations to seek relief if necessary.

- ii. The 2019 year-end figures and 2018 and 2019 audit were presented by Treasurer Joanne Green. There was discussion on new accounting standards by Grant Thornton, the qualified opinion of both audits and the new procedures in place as a result, reclassification of restricted and endowment funds to internally restricted funds.
- iii. Joanne highlighted some key differences between the audited statements and the operating budgets presented at the annual meetings and explained the differences in detail. Investment returns were presented.
- iv. Joanne noted that charities are often evaluated by the percentage spent for programmes. Most of our programmes are delivered by staff working directly with and for congregations as well as time on programme activities spent by the executive director. As such, good value is received for the amounts expended.

Moved by the CUC Board, no seconder required.

Motion: To receive the year-end figures for 2019 as presented. CARRIED.

## 25. **Update from Alan Harman, CUC Wealth Advisor**

The Chair invited Alan Harman, CUC's Wealth Advisor, to speak to the CUC's investments and performance. Alan briefly highlighted the investment gains of 2019; it was a record year on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSE) and our portfolio reflected that, up 15.98%

He then spoke in length about the volatility and crash brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic which brought the CUC's portfolio net down 5.06% for the year as of May



11. The investments overweight in equities and the balance needs to be brought back to 70%. The hope is that the year will end back at 0 or a very low single digit positive.

**26. Review, & Motion to Approve revised 2020 Budget**

The revised 2020 budget was recently circulated and is on page 38 of the annual meeting package; Vyda Ng spoke to the changes which were substantial due to COVID. Discussion on the amount budgeted to be drawn from the general endowment fund.

Moved by the CUC Board, no seconder required.

Motion: The adjusted 2020 budget be approved as presented. CARRIED.

**27. Review, and Motion to Approve 2021 Budget in Principle**

The proposed 2021 budget was presented by Vyda Ng, which is quite tentative given the changing realities of the pandemic. There was much discussion on the uncertainty of revenues and costs related to travel. The budget has been trimmed to the point that the only way to reduce further would be to reduce staffing.

Point of order by Calvin Drake (First Toronto) motion to extend discussion for 10 minutes on this item. FAILED

Moved by the CUC Board of Trustees, no seconder needed.

Motion: To approve the 2021 budget in principle, as presented. CARRIED.

**28. Motion to Approve Auditor**

Treasurer Joanne Green presented the motion to approve Grant Thornton as the CUC's auditor.

Moved by the CUC Board of Trustees, no second required.

Motion: be it resolved that Grant Thornton be appointed to continue as auditor for the CUC 2020 – 2021. CARRIED.

**29. Motion of thanks**

Kiersten Moore, Secretary of the CUC Board, offered thanks to CUC Board members who are departing from the Board:

- To departing central board member Tanya Cothran. Tanya served as Treasurer for a number of years and we will miss her diligence, perceptiveness and



insight. We thank Tanya for her service and the unique perspective she has brought to the board. We wish Tanya the best as she recuperates from her term and her ongoing journey.

- To Liv Gardiner who served as senior youth observer on the board. Liv brought a delightful energy and excitement to board work, represented the board and youth well to each other and was also the first to serve as a senior YOB. We will miss Liv's passion and verve and wish her well in her continuing studies and adventures.

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ALSO thanks those who serve on CUC task forces, study groups and committees, and those who make the AGM possible. We thank you all for your hard work:

- The National Lay Chaplaincy Committee
- The Nominating Committee
- The Theological Education Funds Committee
- The Northern Lights Committee
- The Shining Lights Committee
- Truth, Healing and Reconciliation team
- Dismantling Racism Study Group
- Polyamory Task Force

### **30. Motion to Adjourn Formal Part of Meeting**

Moved by Reverend Meghann Roburn (Winnipeg), duly seconded. CARRIED.

### **31. Announcement of New Board Executive (President Margaret Wanlin)**

- Margaret Wanlin -President
- Chuck Shields – Vice President
- Joanne Green – Treasurer
- Kiersten Moore – Secretary

### **32. Installation of 2020 – 2021 CUC Board of Trustees**

Vyda Ng expressed appreciation of outgoing board members and for the executive staying on. Vyda invited Reverend Anne Barker, incoming president of the UU Ministers of Canada, to do the installation of the new board together.

The CUC Board of Trustees for 2020 – 2021 was formally installed, witnessed by all those in attendance online.



### **33. Presentation of the Knight Award (Betty Donaldson and Knights)**

The Knight Award was a fund established by the family of Victor and Nancy Knight to honour the ideals exemplified by their lives and work of furthering the principles of Unitarian Universalism in Canada.

As an encouragement for others to follow their example, an award is made annually from the income of the fund to a living person who has made a notable contribution to the furthering of liberal religious principles in Canada.

This award is presented by former recipients.

The Chair invited Betty Donaldson to present this year's recipient.

Frances Deverell is the recipient of the 2020 award. Highlights include authorships of 'Finding Common Voice', the CUC handbook for social responsibility, and her leadership of the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice.

### **34. Announcement of Shining Lights winner (Rev. Linda Thomson, Joan Carolyn)**

Reverend Linda Thomson and Joan Carolyn of the Shining Lights Committee presented the award. Of five projects nominated for consideration in 2019 by the Shining Lights team, the award recipient is:

The First UU Church of Winnipeg for their *Inquiring Minds Initiative* which provided a model for congregational and community dialogue on death and grief.

### **35. Report on Theological Education Funds (Rev. Shana Lynngood)**

The Theological Education Fund provides grants to ministerial students to assist in their studies on the ministerial journey. The grants are funded by contributions to ministers' installations and ordinations, and by contributions from the Rouff-Mackie-Jenkins fund held by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

The committee submitted changes to guidelines to the Board this year which the Board accepted. The changes:

1. improve access to students at earlier points in their formation,
2. allow ministers with financial constraints to access continuing education funds and programmes
3. ensure that finances are directed to those in financial need
4. increase opportunity for Canadian congregations to offer internships to ministers in formation.



The recipients are selected by a panel from qualified applicants.

- Arran Lidell received \$5,000
- Fulgence Ndagijimana received \$5,000

### **36. Presentation of Sharing Our Faith Report (Michael Scales)**

Board member Michael Scales (BC) had reviewed the Sharing Our Faith applications. SOF provides funding to congregations for growth initiatives. The funds are contributions from congregations holding special collections for this purpose, and from the Foundation Fund held by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

In 2020, the following congregations were recipients:

- Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga: \$3500 to construct a large lighted sign for their building
- Unitarian Congregation of Guelph: \$4500 to assist their religious education director
- Unitarian Church of Edmonton: will reuse their previous 2019 award of \$5000 as they were unable to use that award this past year.

Total funds awarded were \$8,000 of \$19,000 in funds available. Michael encourages congregations to be less humble in the coming year and dream up some good uses and projects for Sharing Our Faith funds.

### **37. Update from Unicamp (Yvette Salinas, Executive Director)**

The Chair invited Yvette Salinas, Executive Director of Unicamp, to provide an update. Yvette expressed gratitude for the resources and support shared by the CUC since the two organizations became affiliates. She shared what Unicamp means to families and youth and the difficulties faced by remaining closed this coming summer. Virtual programming is planned to maintain connections and celebrate youth and nature and community.

**38. Closing Words** were shared by President Margaret Wanlin

**39. Closing Words** were shared by Minister Observer Debra Thorne