



CANADIAN  
UNITARIAN  
COUNCIL

CONSEIL  
UNITARIEN  
DU CANADA

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**CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022**  
**MINUTES – May 14, 2022**  
**Conducted Canada Wide online on Zoom**

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

**2. Call to Order** by Chair Margaret Wanlin

**3. Land Acknowledgement** Senior Youth Observer Linnea Granberg acknowledged that we are meeting across Canada on traditional territories of Indigenous peoples.

**4. Report of Credentials Committee**

Joan Carolyn reported that a quorum was present, with 76 delegates from 36 congregations from all 4 regions. Quorum is at least 30 delegates from at least 8 congregations from at least 3 regions. The meeting is properly constituted.

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

Executive Director Vyda Ng introduced the CUC Board of Trustees, staff, and representatives of CUC affiliates.

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

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

**7. 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 Order 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.

Motion to adopt the annual meeting procedures was moved by Rebecca Mellet (Victoria). Duly seconded. CARRIED

**8. Adoption of Agenda**

Motion: to adopt the agenda, by Forrest Smith (Guelph). Duly seconded. CARRIED.



**9. Update on minutes from 2021 AGM and Special Meeting** Executive Director Vyda Ng apologized that minutes from the past two meetings weren't yet available and said they'd be provided in advance of the 2023 AGM.

**10. Report of the Nominating Committee by Chair, Maury Prevost** (*Terms of office are for 3 years unless otherwise stated*)

**The following CUC Board members will continue their terms during 2022-23:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
Chuck Shields (Ottawa First)	Eastern	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Margaret Kohr (Toronto First)	Central	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel (Olinda)	Central	2nd Year of Second 3-year term
Kiersten Moore (Unitarian Church of Vancouver)	BC	2nd Year of Second 3-year term
Margaret Wanlin (Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship)	Western	2nd Year of Second 3-year term

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

NAME	REGION	TERM
Joanne Green (Unitarian Fellowship of Regina)	Western	1st Year of Second 3-year term
Yvette Salinas (Unitarian Church of Montreal)	Eastern	1st Year of First 3-year term
Rev. Debra Faulk (Victoria First)	BC	1st Year of First 3-year term



**The following Nominating Committee members will continue their terms during 2022-23:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
Michael Dailly (Nelson)	BC/Western	3rd Year of First 3-year term (Note 1)
Alex Schumacher (Calgary)	Western	2nd Year of First 3-year term
Maury Prevost (Ottawa First)	Central/Eastern	2nd Year of Second 3-year term

**The following are the nominees for the CUC Nominating Committee:**

Kim Turner has completed an initial 1-year term, is eligible for re-election, and has agreed to serve again if elected. We thank her for that. There are also two new Nominating Committee members to elect.

NAME	REGION	TERM
Kim Turner (Halifax)	Eastern	For a full 3-year term (Note 2)
Carey McDonald (Guelph)	Central	For an initial 1-year term (Note 3)
Lesley Giroday (Comox Valley)	BC	1st Year of First 3-year term

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

Thanks were extended to departing Board members Glenna Hanley and Michael Scales, and departing Nominating Committee member Lynn Armstrong

**11. Executive Director's Report**

Vyda Ng spoke about the highlights and challenges of 2021 and what has been accomplished in 2022 up to the date of this meeting:

- Online national Sunday services.



- Virtual national Conference in May, 2022.
- Approval of the eighth principle.
- Commemoration of CUC's 60th anniversary.
- Additions to the staff team.
- Thanks to all the members of the Dismantling Racism Study Group.

### **Motion to receive 2021 Annual Report**

Motion: to receive 2021 Annual Report as presented, moved by Sandra McIver (Lakehead).  
Duly seconded. CARRIED.

### **12. Report from Decision Making Exploration Team (Chair, Robbie Brydon)**

Robbie Brydon gave background and outlined the mandate of the Decision Making Exploration Team and explained where the group is in its process. The team is a group of youth and young adults. A survey will be coming out shortly, in addition to other forms of consultation, and the team intends to bring a proposal to the 2024 AGM.

Questions from the floor:

- Gilbert Salgado from First Toronto asked about the inclusion of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour) members in the team's work. Robbie responded that the team had deliberately recruited BIPOC members to the committee and also planned to reach out to a number of groups, BIPOC among them, whose voices are not always heard.
- Mich Michell from Calgary wondered about what was being learned from other organizations who'd gone through a similar process. Robbie mentioned that a couple had experience with it.
- John Slattery from North Shore expressed concern about the team being composed solely of youth and young adults. Vyda Ng replied that this had been her decision, with the intent was that this team would consult with and learn from the wisdom of those more senior, but that the membership of the team would be made up of young adults.
- Joy Silver from North Shore wondered about a preamble to the survey explaining current decision-making procedures. Vyda Ng replied that this would be included.
- Susan Shacter from Saskatoon wondered about leaving out elders from the team. Vyda Ng replied the team is putting a very strong focus on getting the voice of elders and their feedback through surveys and consultations and an advisory group who the team is consulting with regularly.



### **13. Report from the Bylaw Committee (Margaret Wanlin)**

The committee is charged with reviewing the current bylaws and recommending a process for amending the principles, and will be working with the Decision Making Exploration Team. The committee anticipates being able to bring the first set of bylaw amendments to the AGM next year, with the more substantive ones around the principles taking two years.

### **14. Report from the Minister Observer to the Board (Rev. Shana Lynngood)**

The first year involved getting to know the members of the board and also watching the eighth principle process, offering insights as asked. Was also part of the Widening the Circle team, which was part of the larger conversation about what it means to be a fully inclusive community. Feels like as the Minister Observer to the Board, it was her job to be one of those voices, and one of those mirrors helping the Board to look at itself both individually and as a collective as it does the very important and very challenging work of dismantling racism and oppression. Serving as the MOB has been a wonderful journey and is going to serve another year in this role.

### **15. Report from the Youth Observers to the Board (Eric James and Linnea Granberg)**

YOBS represent the board to the youth and the youth back to the board. Also do a lot of community building and programming. Highlights of the past year include:

- Election of new junior YOB, Artemisia Frolic Smart from Hamilton.
- Participated in UUA podcast focused on youth and young adult ministry.
- Hybrid CanUUdle coming up later this month.
- Creation of Fairy Ring executive within MyceliUUm network.

Questions from the floor on all four of the past reports:

- Gilbert Salgado from First Toronto expressed support for youth taking the lead in anti-racism work.
- Arthur Berman from North Shore expressed concern over speakers not providing their full name and congregation. Margaret Wanlin replied she would enforce this and hoped people had taken the reminder to heart.
- Michael Scales from Beacon expressed the desire to see statistical evidence of how the CUC is accountably dismantling racism.
- Lisa Sharp from First Ottawa expressed support for youth and young adults having the ability to



be mentors to older people.

- Brian Jones from Niagara said he hopes adults can be collaborators with youth instead of just advisors.
- Pam Griffin-Hody from Halifax said that we will know racism has been dismantled when BIPOC people say it's been dismantled and also trusts the younger generation to take a leadership role.
- John Slattery from North Shore stated that older Unitarians have ideas to share regarding strengths and weaknesses of the current decision making system. Also expressed that inclusion goes beyond dismantling racism.
- Amy Bérubé from First Ottawa thanked the CUC for the trust it has given youth and young adults.

Process observation from Rev. Danielle Webber that comments are allowed, as long as they are limited to two minutes.

**16. Review, and Motion to Approve Proposed Goals and Strategic Priorities for 2022 – 2023**  
(Rev. Rod Emilio Solano-Quesnel, Board of Trustees))

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.

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

**The work of the CUC be guided in 2022 - 2023 by the following goals and strategic priorities:**

**OVERARCHING GOALS:**

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

1. Strengthen and nurture community resilience so our Unitarian Universalist congregations and communities are connected to each other, and thrive spiritually, theologically, organizationally, economically, and socially in a diverse, multi-generational context;
2. Enhance religious exploration and spiritual growth grounded in the vision, principles, sources, and aspirations of the Canadian Unitarian Universalist (UU) movement;



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 local, regional, national, and global networks of collaborative and interdependent UU congregations and communities.

#### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Within these goals, the following strategic priorities are recommended for 2022-2023:

- A. Ensure sound financial management, including sustainable revenue generation, to continue the work of building vital Unitarian communities;
- B. Strengthen the national fabric of our UU community by:
  - 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 positioned to welcome and embrace those who seek Unitarian Universalism.
- C. Advance these social justice initiatives:
  - a. Truth, Healing and Reconciliation
  - b. ***Enact the 8th Principle: Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions***
  - c. Environmental justice
  - d. Refugee support
- D. Develop, curate and focus on Canadian resources to advance religious exploration and spiritual growth in a multigenerational context.

#### Questions from the floor:

- Carol Burrows from Grand River Congregation asked how the board determines the priorities and if anyone could speak further to the environmental justice priority. Margaret Wanlin replied that the priorities are determined by a process of discernment by the board at their two annual retreats, for which they draw upon experiences within their own congregations and communication directly from congregations during the



year. Speaking to the environmental justice question, Vyda Ng replied that the CUC’s Social Justice team of Amber Bellemare and Erin Horvath has taken the lead on environmental justice and has created a website called Uncolonizing Climate Justice, and will be holding a roundtable on this issue at the end of June.

- Joy Silver from North Shore wondered about the CUC’s work on lifespan learning following the departure of Sylvia Bass West. Vyda Ng replied that lifespan learning now falls under the mandate of the two congregational life leads as the CUC doesn’t have the resources for a full-time position for this issue. Joan Carolyn added that in addition to the work by the congregational life leads, they meet periodically with the youth and young adult programming team and also the Canadian UU Religious Educators executive.
- Rev. Shana Lynngood, in her role as Minister Observer, noted that many of the comments and questions she’d heard during the meeting reflected an either/or style of thinking about priorities and she encouraged adopting a both/and approach instead.
- Yvette Salinas from Montreal wondered about the absence of any mention of the pandemic’s ongoing impact in the goals and priorities. Margaret Wanlin agreed this was a good point.
- Leslie Kemp from Vancouver wondered about maintaining national engagement on social justice issues beyond holding webinars. Margaret Wanlin agreed this was a good point.
- Motion to approve the goals and strategic priorities for 2022-23, as presented. CARRIED.

Break: 2:40-2:50 pm ET

### **Report of Credentials Committee**

Quorum was re-established after the break.

### **17. Congregational Investment Fund**

Treasurer Joanne Green spoke about the Congregational Investment Fund. She noted that it exists to provide an opportunity for congregations to participate in a professionally managed portfolio with lower fees than they might be able to access with a smaller account on their own. The investment policy ensures that investments follow motions approved by the members to refrain from investing in specific areas, and that it follows ESG investing guidelines. She noted several congregations had recently expressed interest in joining the fund, and that due to recent downturns in the market, that their delay in joining was beneficial.

Questions from the floor:





- Helen Graham from Mississauga wondered why Joanne Green had stated a delay in joining the fund would be beneficial for congregations. Joanne replied that a congregation that had joined the fund in, for instance, January of 2022 would've lost 5-6% of their portfolio's value.
- Brian Jones from Niagara wondered about new documents for congregations participating in the fund to sign. Joanne Green replied that these would be available soon.
- Heather Stefanek from Capital in Victoria wondered about the meaning of ESG guidelines. Joanne Green replied this stands for Environmental and Social Governance and is similar to ethical investing.
- Dianne Dilts from South Fraser asked if the CUC has any restricted funds. Joanne Green replied there are a number of restricted funds where the donor has restricted the use, either endowment funds, or externally restricted funds.

## 18. Audited financial statements

Joanne Green presented the audited financial statements for 2021. Highlights included:

- An increase in assets of over 1.6 million dollars. The primary driver of this increase is \$1.3 million in unrealized gains in the investment account, and the second is funds held in trust for refugees not yet arrived in Canada.
- An excess of revenue over expenditures in the general fund of \$960,000.
- The auditor gave an unqualified opinion, indicating they had no concerns about the statement.

Questions from the floor:

- Heather Lonergan from Fredericton wondered about the CUC's refugee sponsorship funds. Joanne Green confirmed there's only one refugee sponsorship fund for congregations to donate to.

Moved by the CUC Board, no seconder required.

Motion: To receive the year-end figures for 2021 as presented. CARRIED.

## 19. Presentation of 2021 actuals compared to budget.

Joanne Green noted that although it looks like the CUC has a deficit of \$68,000, it's primarily because it didn't use all of the transfers from the investment fund.



Moved by the CUC Board, no seconder required.

Motion: To receive the 2021 actuals compared to the budget as presented. CARRIED.

Questions from the floor:

- Cynthia Lam from Vancouver asked about whether the CUC could provide financial support to congregations for specific projects. Vyda Ng replied that there are various funds, such as the Sharing Our Faith fund, which congregations can apply to, but there aren't pools of money for general programming.

## **20. Presentation of revised 2022 budget**

Vyda Ng presented the revised 2022 budget. She noted there had been an increase in staffing expenditures due to the eighth principle work, and also that the CUC is looking for alternative revenue sources as many congregations are finding it harder to make their annual programming contributions.

Questions from the floor:

- Roberta Claire from Victoria asked whether the CUC had used money from the Congregational Investment Fund to pay for these expenditures. Joanne Green replied that the CUC would never use this money.

Moved by the CUC Board, no seconder required.

Motion: To receive the 2022 revised budget as presented. CARRIED.

## **21. Annual Program Contributions**

Joanne Green stated that after reviewing the last two years of data from individual congregations, several congregations had increases in the revenue sharing amount that were in excess of 10 percent, so the Board determined that it would be appropriate to extend the cap on the increase and leave it in place for 2023.

Questions from the floor:

- Carol Burrows from Grand River asked whether the board had considered lowering the cap and why the board had found it concerning that some congregations faced increases



in the revenue sharing amount in excess of 10 percent. Joanne Green replied that the board hadn't considered lowering the cap. Also that it was mostly smaller congregations facing these increases and the CUC didn't want to burden them.

Moved by the CUC Board, no seconder required.

Motion: be it resolved that the cap of 10% in increases to the revenue sharing amount of the annual program contribution be retained for the 2023 APC. CARRIED.

## 22. 2023 budget

Vyda Ng presented the 2023 budget, with expenses just over \$1 million to fund the dismantling racism work and a multiplatform national Conference in 2023, with a budgeted deficit of just over \$55,000.

Questions from the floor:

- Jane Ebborn from Calgary expressed concern over the size of the projected deficit and suggested a \$5000-\$10000 deficit would be more prudent.
- A delegate asked if the board was constrained in the amount of its transfer by the financial advisor. Joanne Green replied that the board has restricted the amount of transfer to ensure the investment fund is earning income for the CUC each year.
- Margaret Wanlin added that sustainability is one of the lenses through which the board looks at the CUC's operations.
- Rev. Julie Stoneberg of Peterborough spoke in favour of investing in the future rather than saving for the future.
- Roberta Claire from Victoria asked about the expenses for next year's (2023) Conference. Vyda Ng replied that the CUC had budgeted about \$72,000 for this event.
- Lisa Sharp from First Ottawa also spoke in favour of investing in the future.
- Carl Ulrich from Westwood said he thought the projected deficit was actually quite low given the budget's overall scale and that he wasn't concerned about it.
- Winnie McDonald from First Toronto expressed support for the CUC investing in the future.

Moved by the CUC Board, no seconder required.

Motion: to approve the 2023 budget in principle. CARRIED.



### 23. 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 2022 – 2023. CARRIED.

- Helen Graham from Mississauga expressed support for the change in auditor at Grant Thornton, as doing this regularly is a best practice.
- Joanne Green added the CUC would be looking at expressions of interest from other auditors in the future.
- Yvette Salinas from Montreal expressed interest in the CUC hiring an IBPOC auditor. Vyda Ng replied that the auditors from Grant Thornton the CUC used this past year were IBPOC people.
- Winnie McDonald from First Toronto stated that using a larger firm as auditor is more cost effective.

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.

### 24. Motion of thanks

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

- Youth Observer Linnea Granberg
- Michael Scales
- Glenna Hanley

She also extended thanks on behalf of the board to the CUC’s task forces, study groups, and committees:

- The National Lay Chaplaincy Committee
- The Nominating Committee
- The Theological Education Funds Committee
- The Shining Lights Committee
- Dismantling Racism Study Group
- Decision Making Exploration Team

Motion to adjourn formal part of the meeting by John Slattery from North Shore, duly seconded.



CARRIED.

## **25. Announcement of New Board Executive (President Chuck Shields)**

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

## **26. Installation of 2022 – 2023 CUC Board of Trustees**

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

The CUC Board of Trustees for 2022 – 2023 was formally installed, witnessed by all those in attendance online.

## **27. 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 four projects nominated for consideration in 2021 by the Shining Lights team, the award recipient is:

The First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto for their You've Got Mail project.

### **Report on Theological Education Funds (Rev. Debra Thorne)**

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 recipients are selected by a panel from qualified applicants.

Rouff-Mackie-Jenkins fund held by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

The recipients are selected by a panel from qualified applicants.

- Arran Morton received \$12,500
- Lori Turner-Ott received \$12,500



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

Board member Glenn Hanley presented on behalf of the Sharing Our Faith committee. 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 of Guelph – \$4,500**

- To acquire the equipment necessary to make services available to all when the congregation returns to in-person services in its sanctuary.
- To be able to implement live streamed services using Zoom to enable those attending services remotely to integrate into the service as fully as possible.

### **Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship – \$4,600**

- To engage excellent ministers and speakers; and to hire a visiting minister, consultant, or facilitator to help the congregation find a new direction.

### **Westwood Unitarian Congregation – \$5,000**

- To maintain and develop the online connections we have made over the past two years while returning to in-person multi-platform services.

### **Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton – \$3,000**

- To reduce our carbon footprint and reduce rising heating costs with an energy retrofit.

### **UU Ministers of Canada – \$5,000 for Project**

The UU Ministers of Canada also submitted an application to produce two videos on Unitarian Universalism that could be used by congregations and national UU organizations. This is a worthwhile and valuable project, which is supported by the CUC Board. However, UUMOC is not a charity, thus the CUC is not able to grant funds (Canadian charities are not allowed to send funds to non-charities). CUC staff will work out an agreement with UUMOC to implement this project.



## **29. Update from Canadian Unitarian Universalist Women’s Association**

**Joanne Elder-Gomes**

CUUWA has worked towards our vision of having a national and international profile with respect to the personal, public, professional and political aspects of women's lives, and reflecting our now 8 core denominational principles. Invites new members to join. Their work is that of honoring and engaging feminists in our congregations, in our lives, dismantling patriarchy, racism, and all oppressions, and creating a compassionate, radically inclusive world for all.

## **30. Update from Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice**

**Lynn Armstrong**

CUSJ is tasked with mobilizing Canadian Unitarian values through social justice. Lynn Armstrong reported that CUSJ had concluded it might have to fold as it had been unable to find anyone willing to serve on its executive. A final decision on this will be made May 28.

## **31. Update from Mirth and Dignity**

**Liz James**

Liz James reported that Mirth and Dignity’s UU Hysterical Society Facebook group now has 150,000 members and also offers a series of podcasts.

**32. Closing Words** were shared by Minister Observer Shana Lynngood.