



CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
COUNCIL

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May 8, 2024

TO: Congregational Presidents and Leaders, Canadian Unitarian Universalist Ministers, CUC Liaisons, CUC Leaders

RE: Report of the Canadian Unitarian Council Nominating Committee

From: CUC Nominating Committee

This report deals with the Board of Trustees first and the Nominating Committee second.

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Changes made in 2020 re-established proper staggering of Trustee terms. Three positions are up for (re-)election in 2024, three more in 2025, and two in 2026.

The following CUC Board members will continue their terms during 2024-25:

NAME	REGION	TERM
Yvette Salinas (Unitarian Church of Montreal)	Eastern	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Rev. Debra Faulk (Victoria First)	BC	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Margaret Kohr (Toronto First)	Central	2nd Year of Second 3-year term
Margo Ellis (Unitarian Church of Montreal)	Eastern	2nd Year of First 3-year term
Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet (Unitarian Church of Edmonton)	Western	3rd Year of First 3-year term

Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet was elected in 2023 and is completing a 3-year term started by Joanne Green in 2022.

The nominees for the CUC Board are:

There are three new Trustees to elect, as explained below.



NAME	REGION	TERM
James Garland (Durham)	Central	1st Year of First 3-year term
Alexandra Okrainetz (Vancouver Unitarians)	BC	1st Year of First 3-year term
Anna Isaacs (Victoria First)	BC	1st Year of First 3-year term

James Garland was appointed to the Board in the fall of 2023 to replace the late Rev. Rodrigo Solano-Quesnel, who was in his last year on the Board. Kiersten Moore (BC) and Margaret Wanlin (Western) are leaving the Board after six years of service. Margaret served as CUC President 2020-2022 and Kiersten served as President 2023-2024. We thank Margaret and Kiersten for their dedicated service!

The Nominating Committee worked hard to find a new Trustee from the Western Region to replace Margaret Wanlin, but in the end, was unable to identify a candidate who was in a position to serve at the national level at this time. On the other hand, during the second half of April, we found two strong candidates in the BC Region. In accordance with the provisions of paragraph 5.3.1 of the CUC's General By-Law, which allows some flexibility in representation, and in consultation with CUC leadership, the committee decided to nominate both candidates from BC rather than leaving the Board short-handed. The Board will ensure that, in spite of this gap, the views of the Western Region will continue to be heard, through the other Trustees.

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Changes made in 2021 re-established proper staggering of Nominating Committee terms. Two positions are up for (re-)election in 2024, two more in 2025, and two in 2026.

The following Nominating Committee members will continue their terms for 2024-2025:

NAME	REGION	TERM
Lesley Giroday (Comox Valley)	BC	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Jamie Struthers (Regina)	BC/Western	2nd Year of First 3-year term
Carey McDonald (Guelph)	Central	2nd Year of First 3-year term
Kim Turner (Halifax)	Eastern	3rd Year of First 3-year term



The following are the nominees for the CUC Nominating Committee:

There are two new Nominating Committee members to elect.

NAME	REGION	TERM
Cindy Dunning (Kingston)	Central/Eastern	1st Year of First 3-year term
Lillias Cowper (Calgary)	Western	1st Year of First 3-year term

Maury Prevost (Central/Eastern) is leaving the Nominating Committee after six years of service, including four years as Chair or Co-Chair. Alex Schumacher (Western) is leaving after serving one 3-year term and being Co-Chair with Maury in 2023-2024. We thank Maury and Alex for their dedicated service!

The Board of Trustees will name the new Chair or Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee subsequent to the CUC AGM.

PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATIONS BY PETITION

Further nominations for the CUC Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee could have been submitted to the Nominating Committee by petition signed by at least 25 members in good standing of CUC member congregations up to thirty days (April 25) prior to the Annual Meeting (May 25, 2024). No such nominations were received this year.

Please ensure that members of your board, congregation and committees are aware of this Nominating Committee report.

Maury Prevost & Alex Schumacher
Co-Chairs, CUC Nominating Committee



BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Board of Trustees

James Garland (Central Region)

James Garland is a civil engineer who has worked in consulting engineering and municipal government delivering infrastructure projects including roads, bridges, sewers and watermains in southern Ontario. He grew up attending the Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga and has been a member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Durham for 25 years. His fifteen years as a youth advisor and OWL facilitator have provided many opportunities to visit other UU congregations across Canada and attend many CUC national and regional events. He has also served on his congregation's Board and on ministerial search committees.



Alexandra Okrainetz (BC Region)

Alexandra Okrainetz (she/her) is a member of Vancouver Unitarians. She has been a Youth Advisor since 2019 and previously worked for the CUC as the National Youth Conference (CanUUdle) Coordinator in 2020 and 2024. She was an active youth leader at the North Shore Unitarian Church for many years participating in congregational, provincial, national, and international events.

She works in health care- predominantly in Long Term Care. She is passionate about social and environmental justice, decolonization, and building strong communities. In her spare time you can find her catching up with friends, seeing live music, or thrifting.





Anna Isaacs (she/her) (BC Region)

I'm currently in my third year as the Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria. Social justice, diversity and inclusion are aspirations of our UU faith movement that capture my heart. I grew up in a small mill town in central BC then moved to Victoria for university. I have been engaged in various paid and volunteer UU capacities since becoming UU in my mid-20s. I am middle-aged, white, a member of the queer community, and a proud bonus mom to my spouse's kiddo. Yoga has been an important part of my spiritual practice that helps me manage my mood, energy and physical wellbeing.



Nominating Committee

Cindy Dunning (Central/Eastern Region)

Cindy (she/her) has been an active member of the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship since 1989, where she has served in many roles, including RE coordinator, ministerial search committee, president (twice), nominating committee, and caring committee, although her continuing passion is with the youth group as co-advisor and as an OWL instructor.

Cindy has recently started her third career of being self-employed in a business with her daughter to connect people to nature. Her first career was as a chemical engineer, followed by 29 years as an elementary teacher (grade 8). As a new empty nester with her younger of two children recently moving out, Cindy can be found outside in her garden, reading, learning, but mainly being with her new grandson.





Lillias Cowper (Western Region)



I am a 71 year old woman, retired Interior Designer and Piano Teacher. I was brought up in the Unitarian Church of Calgary but brought my children up in the United Church as it was a middle ground for my Catholic raised husband. I was divorced in 2008 and joined the Unitarian Church of Edmonton as I was living there for work but retired in Calgary to be close to family and joined the Church here. I am on the Board at the church and am overseeing a renovation in the church presently.