



## CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

MINUTES – May 31, 2025

Conducted Canada Wide online on Zoom

1. **Welcome and Introduction** by Co-chair Rev. Debra Faulk, CUC Co-President.
2. **Land Acknowledgement** Trustee Yvette Salinas acknowledged that we are meeting across Canada on traditional territories of Indigenous peoples.
3. **Opening Words and Chalice Lighting** by Rev. Arran Morton, Minister Observer to the CUC Board
4. **Call to order** by Rev. Debra Faulk
5. **Report of Credentials Committee**  
Brigitte Twomey reported that a quorum was present with 59 delegates online from all regions. Quorum is at least 30 delegates from at least 8 member societies from at least 3 designated geographic areas. The meeting is properly constituted.
6. **Recognition of Staff, Board, Official Representatives, & Other Guests**  
Executive Director Vyda Ng introduced the CUC Board of Trustees, staff, volunteers, and representatives of CUC affiliates.
7. **Introduction to online meeting procedures, report on mailing of notice**  
Executive Director Vyda Ng explained online meeting procedures using the Zoom platform.
8. **Review of annual meeting procedures**  
Vyda Ng referenced meeting rules in the package and gave a brief run-down of Robert's Rules of Order 12th edition to be used during this meeting, with modifications.  
The Chair introduced Dylan Fijal, First UU Church of Winnipeg 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 Larry Boldt (Nanaimo). Duly seconded. CARRIED
9. **Adoption of Agenda**  
  
Motion: to adopt the agenda, by John Omielan (Vancouver). Duly seconded. CARRIED.
10. **Minutes from previous meetings**  
  
Motion to approve the 2024 minutes by Larry Boldt (Nanaimo). Duly seconded. CARRIED.
11. **Report of the Nominating Committee by Cindy Dunning, (Terms of office are for 3 years unless otherwise stated)**



**The following CUC Board members will continue their terms during 2025-26:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
Margaret Kohr (Toronto First)	Central	3rd Year of Second 3-year term
Margo Ellis (Unitarian Church of Montreal)	Eastern	3rd Year of First 3-year term
James Garland (Durham)	Central	2nd Year of First 3-year term
Alexandra Okrainetz (Vancouver Unitarians)	BC	2nd Year of First 3-year term

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

NAME	REGION	TERM
Rev. Debra Faulk (Victoria First)	BC	1st Year of Second 3-year term
Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet (Unitarian Church of Edmonton)	Western	1st Year of Second 3-year term
Tessa Walsh (Fredericton)	Eastern	1st Year of First 3-year term
Louise Charach (Unitarian Church of Edmonton)	Western	1st Year of First 3-year term

**The following Nominating Committee members will continue their terms during 2025-26:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
Jamie Struthers (Regina)	BC/Western	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Carey McDonald (Guelph)	Central	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Cindy Dunning (Kingston)	Central/Eastern	2nd Year of First 3-year term
Lillias Cowper (Calgary)	Western	2nd Year of First 3-year term



The following are the nominees for the CUC Nominating Committee:

NAME	REGION	TERM
Pam Griffin-Hody (Halifax)	Eastern	First year of First Three Year Term

Cindy Dunning thanked the departing board and nominating committee members for their service.

Co-President Debra Faulk declared the Board candidates elected by acclamation.

Debra Faulk thanked departing Sr. Youth Observer to the Board Lea Bomford-Moore and welcomed incoming Jr. YOB Lila Grierson. She also thanked outgoing Minister Observer to the Board Rev. Arran Morton and incoming Minister Observer to the Board Rev. Shaun Gauthier.

Co-President Debra Faulk declared the Nominating Committee candidates elected by acclamation.

### **12. Motion to receive 2024 Annual Report**

Motion: to receive 2024 Annual Report as presented, moved Wendy Martin (Grand River). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

Rev. Debra Faulk and Margaret Kohr reviewed: the CUC’s current goal and strategic priorities and how they’ve manifested over the past year and the transitional executive director position.

### **13. Report from the Minister Observer to the Board (Rev. Arran Morton)**

- Financial sustainability
- Connecting with each other
- Being the movement we aspire to be.
- Canadian UU Ecosystem proposal
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### **14. Report from the Youth Observers to the Board (Dan Leduc)**

- Connecting UU youth community



- MyceliUUm server
  - YOB Instagram account
  - Connections via email with UU youth groups
  - CanUUdle
  - New Jr. YOB Lila Grierson (North Shore)
  - The future Zine.
- Joy Silver (Salish Sea) wondered how easily adults can connect to the work youth are doing. Dan mentioned the Instagram account, the eNews and the Zine when it's published online.
- Meredith Hill (Peterborough) commented on how much of the information Dan shared was previously unknown to her, and she would like to know more.

### **15. Bylaw Review Committee**

Kim Turner reviewed the committee's report.

- The committee began with low hanging fruit: virtual AGM's, allowing for non-Board Treasurer, changes to Robert's Rules approved in 2023.
- Provided report to board in March outlining proposal for making changes to covenantal documents.
- Will come back to the next AGM with a proposal.
- Question from Susan Lynch (Edmonton) re sharing the report. Kim Turner said the report had been delivered to the board and wasn't ready to be shared publicly yet.

### **16. Lay Chaplaincy Committee**

Guy Belleperche presented the committee's report.

- 255 rites of passage, \$3185 to the training fund.
- Lay Chaplain Chats
- Seeking a Minister Observer
- Authorized new chaplains, one renewal.

### **17. Report on LIFES Crew**

Rev. Fiona Heath reported on the initiative's work and what the crew had accomplished before deciding to disband.

### **18. Canadian UU Ecosystem**

Rev. Samaya Oakley and Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz described the work underway on this initiative and called for participation by UUS across the country.

### **19. Report from the Executive Director**



Vyda Ng reviewed the past year.

- Focus on the organizational goal and strategic priorities.
- Outreach to youth and young adult communities.
- Congregational conversations initiative.
- Strengthening communities.
- Exploring and experimenting.
- Chaplaincy presence in the Canadian Forces.
- Conversations with the UUA.
- Staffing transitions.

- Anne Barker reported on the creation of the Transitional Executive Director role and the planning involved.

- Pat Trudeau (Northwest Toronto) expressed appreciation for Vyda and Anne and their sense of humour.

- Mara Shaw (Kingston) wondered about the possibility of Vyda shifting to a part-time role partway through the first year in the TED process. Anne explained that she would also be filling the Western/BC regions Congregational Life role during this time so this wouldn't be feasible.

- Susan Lynch (Edmonton) wondered about the financial implications of the TED process. Vyda explained that the CUC was under budget in some areas so this could be accomplished without undue strain on the budget.

- Astrid Trefzger (Kingston) wondered about the impact of the staffing transition on the organization. Anne replied that Linda and Vyda would be on hand to help with the transition.

**20.** Motion to recess by Mollie Twidale (Victoria). Duly seconded. CARRIED.

**21.** Brigitte Twomey confirmed the quorum with 62 delegates present.

**22. Report by Treasurer (Joanne Green)**

- Joanne stepped into the role when no one else came forward.
- Appreciation to past co-treasurers and finance committee members.
- Thanks to CUC staff Shirley Marquez, Jane Meng, and Ahna DiFelice.
- Shift to use of fractional controller services: working with Enkel Back Office Solutions.

**23. Motion by James Garland, Board of Trustees to approve 2024 Actuals vs. Budget as presented.**

- Victoria Vincent (Kingston) expressed concern about the size of the deficit. Joanne Green responded that the Board was aware of the unsustainability of the current model.



- Moira McDonald (Neighbourhood) wondered about the CUC's continued use of one of the big banks. Joanne Green responded that changing this would be a major shift and there were no specific steps planned to do so.
- Gary Spiller (Lakeshore) wondered about the amount budgeted for Justice and Equity. Vyda Ng replied that the CUC didn't generally provide direct services in this area.
- Cheryl Dendoff (Nanaimo) wondered about switching to a credit union. Joanne Green replied that this would be her personal preference but she couldn't speak further to this.

CARRIED.

**24. Motion to accept the 2024 financial statements as presented.**

CARRIED.

**25. Update from Alan Harmon, CUC Investment Portfolio Manager**

- The economy is in an exaggerated business cycle following Covid.
- Economic uncertainty following the Trump inauguration
- The CUC has the most stringent investment screen of any of his clients, and it hasn't hurt its investment performance at all.
- Divesting from the big banks would be difficult, and there are also ethical dilemmas around continued investment in sectors such as technology.
- The next few years will be volatile.

**26. Presentation of the revised 2025 budget (Joanne Green)**

- The CUC seeks to balance organizational priorities and vision with the economic climate over the next few years.
- No changes to APCs formula.
- Possibility of receiving an additional grant for Dismantling Barriers position if the CUC can match the funding on offer.
- Reduction in direct program costs.

**27. Motion to accept the revised 2025 budget as presented (James Garland, Board of Trustees)**

Comments from the floor:

- Astrid Trefzger (Kingston) wondered about the CUC hiring a professional fundraiser and about plans for increasing revenue. Vyda Ng replied that a professional fundraiser wasn't in this budget but was on the table for the future. Joanne Green also commented that there was action to unlock the Avalon Fund and encourage donations or bequests to the Legacy Fund.



CARRIED.

**28. Motion to adopt the the preliminary 2026 budget as presented (Vyda Ng)**

- Mara Shaw (Kingston) said she would be voting against the budget because she doesn't think it takes upcoming risks into account. Joanne Green responded that it was likely there would be a negative rate of return on investments for this year so the board was being very conservative.
- Norman Horofker (Halifax) wondered about the budgeting process. Vyda Ng replied that the budget operated according to the calendar year and the 2027 preliminary budget would be presented in 2026.

CARRIED.

**29. Motion to Approve Auditor (Joanne Green)**

Motion: be it resolved that Grant Thornton be appointed to continue as auditor for the CUC 2025 – 2026.

CARRIED.

**30. Motion of thanks (Margo Ellis, Board of Trustees)**

Margo Ellis, Secretary of the CUC Board, offered thanks to CUC Board members who are departing from the Board:

- Sr. Youth Observer Lea Bomford-Moore
- Yvette Salinas
- Joanne Green
- Liz Goodger

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 LIFES Crew
- The Bylaw Review Committee

**31. Motion to adjourn formal part of the meeting by Guy Belleperche. Duly seconded.**

CARRIED.

**32. Announcement of New Board Executive (Co-President Margaret Kohr)**



- Co-Presidents Debra and Margaret Kohr
- Secretary Margo Ellis
- Treasurer James Garland

### **33. Installation of 2025 – 2026 CUC Board of Trustees**

Rev. Shawn Gauthier installed the CUC Board of Trustees for 2025–2026 witnessed by all those in attendance online.

### **34. Sharing Our Faith (Liz Goodger, Board of Trustees)**

- Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga - modernizing website \$3500.
- Unitarian Church of North Hatley - publicity \$2500.

### **35. Theological Education Funds (Rev. Brian Kiely)**

\$8000 each was awarded to:

- Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet, St. Stephen's College, Edmonton
- Casey Stainsby, Vancouver School of Theology
- Rev. John Adams, Claremont College, California

### **36. Knight Award**

The award was presented to John Michell of Calgary Unitarians.

### **37. Chalice Extinguishing, Debra Faulk**

The Way of the Chalice, by Rev. Fiona Heath.

### **38. Benediction: Rev. Shawn Gauthier.**

**Minutes prepared by Kenzie Love, CUC Writer/Researcher.**