



May 4, 2026

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

**RE:** Report of the Canadian Unitarian Council Nominating Committee 2026

**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 2026, two in 2027, and three in 2028.

**The following CUC Board members will continue their terms during 2026-27:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
James Garland (Durham)	Central	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Alexandra Okrainetz (Vancouver)	Western	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Debra Faulk (Victoria)	BC	2nd Year of Second 3-year term
Tessa Walsh (Fredericton)	Eastern	2nd Year of First 3-year term

**There are four Trustees to be (re-)elected, as explained below. The nominees for the CUC Board are:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
Margo Ellis (Unitarian Church of Montreal)	Eastern	1st Year of Second 3-year term
Quentin Dann LeDuc (Peterborough)	Central	1st Year of First 3-year term
Michael Leboldus (Calgary)	Western	1st Year of First 2-year term
Vacant	BC	



Margo Ellis is standing for re-election to begin her second 3-year term. Dan Leduc is being nominated for their first 3-year term. Michael Leboldus is being nominated for the first year of a 2-year term (completing the term started by Ilara). Unfortunately, the nominating committee was unable to fill the BC position.

Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet is leaving the Board after one year of her second term for personal reasons. Margaret Kohr is leaving the Board after fulfilling two full three year terms. Sylvia Krogh is completing a one year position after replacing Louise Charach completing a three year term. We thank Ilara, Margaret, and Sylvia for their dedicated service!

### CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Changes made in 2021 re-established proper staggering of Nominating Committee terms. Three positions are up for (re-)election in 2026, two in 2027, and one more in 2028.

**The following Nominating Committee members will continue their terms during 2024-25:**

NAME	REGION	TERM
Lillias Cowper (Calgary)	Western	3rd Year of First 3-year term
Pam Griffin-Hody (Halifax)	Eastern	2nd Year of First 3-year term
Cindy Dunning (Kingston)	Eastern/Central	3rd Year of First 3-year term

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

NAME	REGION	TERM
Carey McDonald (Guelph)	Central	1st Year of Second 3-year term
Vacant	Western/BC	1st Year of First 3-year term
Janet Pivanick (Beacon Hill)	BC	1st Year of First 3-year term

Carey McDonald is standing for re-election to begin his second 3-year term. Janet Pivanick is standing for her first 3-year term. The Nominating Committee worked hard to find and fill the Western/BC region position on the Nominating Committee without success. At this time, that position is vacant. We thank Jamie Struthers for his dedicated past service.



## **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 22) prior to the Annual Meeting (May 23, 2026). No such nominations were received this year.

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

Pam Griffin-Hody, Cindy Dunning, Carey McDonald, Lillias Cowper

CUC Nominating Committee



## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### Nominees - Board of Trustees

#### **Margo Ellis (Eastern Region)**

Born in the US, Margo has fond memories of growing up in the First Unitarian Church of Chicago and participating in its choir (that became the Chicago Children's Choir under Chris Moore). In the US, Margo graduated with a Ph.D. in exercise physiology. She was active in her local LGBT+ community and was one of the founders of a non-profit supporting women in the arts and music.

She also served on the board of an organization focused on supporting women in substance abuse recovery and their families. She moved to Canada twenty-seven years ago to join her spouse in Quebec City. She's worked in a variety of positions in Canada including product management and marketing, and communications for medical technology companies. Over the last few years, she contracted with the CUC and built the current website. Margo was then hired on staff in the position of communications and web manager. She served as the web manager until August 2022. Recently, she contracted with the CUC to create and manage the 2023 CUC Symposium website.



After moving to Montreal, she joined the Unitarian Church of Montreal where she has served on the board in various positions and currently serves as its secretary. She is an active member of the ongoing Beloved Conversations group working on issues of racial justice and inclusion. Margo has also added her musicianship to worship services.

Margo's pronouns are she/her and she identifies as Queer. As a member of the CUC board, Margo would like to see work on the long-term sustainability of the CUC in our challenging times, addressing the pressing issues of post-pandemic recovery, changing demographics, social justice, and outreach on congregational and national levels.

#### **Dan LeDuc (Central Region)**

Quentin Dann LeDuc, AKA Dan (she/they), is a 19 year old member of the Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough who wants to change the world for the better. They have attended Unitarian Universalist congregations their entire life, including multiple congregations in the States where she grew up, as well as two here in Canada. For the past two years they have served as a Youth Observer to the CUC Board (YOB). Quentin believes that youth engagement and outreach is the key to the future of our faith.

In addition to having been a YOB, Quentin has served on two different Sunday planning committees, first at the First Unitarian Church of Winnipeg and now in Peterborough as well. As a Youth Observer, she founded the FUTURE Zine project, a bi-monthly publication that aims to connect UU youth groups to each other, and



to the national-scale UU community.

Quentin is currently pursuing a dual major in History and Global Development from Trent University (with a minor and a few specializations), in hopes of someday becoming a linguist and/or working for a charitable organization. Her interests are many and varied, but her goals are simple; to foster community and belonging for every age group in UU circles and beyond!

### **Michael Leboldus (Western Region)**

Michael Leboldus is a semi-retired pharmacist residing in Calgary. Michael came into the Unitarian fold with the Calgary Unitarians over 20 years ago wanting a spiritual home that accepted his husband's Buddhist background and a place to provide a well-rounded journey for their daughter. The Unitarian's engagement on social issues resonated with him as political and social activism stretch back to his teen years and just won't let go.

Active with his local Calgary congregation and currently on the Committee on Shared Ministry, Michael also sits on the board of the Northwest Wilderness Society, a Unitarian based, remote campground on Kootenay Lake, British Columbia. He is also involved with his congregation's core team with the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation. He's looking forward to full retirement, seeing his daughter finish high school and travelling the world with his eventually retiring husband, Kitt.





## BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

### Nominees - Nominating Committee

#### Carey McDonald (Central Region)



Carey McDonald, is a member of the Unitarian Congregation of Guelph, serving on the Sunday Services team, Peer Spiritual Care team, and is a member of the board. He is married and has 3 children.

Carey is a Workforce Analyst and is grateful for the opportunity to help and support others within this role. When Carey isn't working, he enjoys the outdoors, being in nature, reading and spending time with loved ones.

As a Unitarian Universalist, Carey feels connected to the understanding of the inherent worth of each person and believes deeply in the idea of “calling in” rather than “calling out.”

“I felt the need to be in community and not necessarily part of a specific creed. Unitarian Universalism has given me the opportunity to be together with others and focus on deeds, not creeds. I see the value in the many paths and views that exist, there is a unity to diversity.”

#### Janet Pivnick (BC Region)

Janet Pivnick is a Unitarian ministerial candidate. She is completing her Master of Divinity at Vancouver School of Theology and is currently undertaking an internship with Vancouver Unitarians. Janet is a member of Beacon Unitarian Church where she has served as Worship Services Chair and has been a member of the Board of Trustees. She has a background in the environmental and education fields and has spent much of her career focused on ways to support people through large-scale culture change, including shifts towards sustainability, reconciliation and anti-racism.

