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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Upcoming Services

June 11 *Memorable Moments: Reflections on the ACM*

With the participation of attendees at the Annual Conference and Meeting held May 19-22 in Saint John, the fellowship will be treated to a multi-person report on the ACM.

Come hear what moved us, what charged us with energy, what was most enjoyable — one short story from each person, both children and adult.

June 18 *Flower Communion Service: a Unitarian tradition*

Whereby each congregant brings a flower, whether picked from their own flower beds, plucked at the last moment from the side of the road, or from a bouquet from Trites.

At the beginning of the service, people place their flowers in a vase waiting for them, and when we leave at the end, we each take somebody else's flower, and so the communion happens, a statement of our community.

June 25 *Picnic* Installation of new officers and picnic.

Our traditional end of year picnic will be preceded by a short service at which the new board of directors and committee chairs will be inducted into office and a report on the annual CUC conference and meeting in Saint John will be given.

July 17 A very special Sunday in July involves Freeman Patterson, the brilliant scholar and photographer. The UFF congregation is invited to his garden at Shampers Bluff on the Kingston Peninsula, on July 16 (rain date of July 15), to spend the afternoon with Freeman Patterson, enjoying the beauty of the bluff and sharing a pot luck picnic lunch. This outing is limited to thirty people. Please let allison calvern know if you are interested. A sign-up sheet will be posted at some point, but you may want to reserve your spot before it appears.

July 23 *Joint Picnic* Mark your calendars. The Fellowship is going on an old fashioned Sunday school picnic with the Saint John church at Oak Point!! Like last year, people must pay \$2.50 at the gate.

We will all bring picnic lunches, and games galore!! Wheel-barrow races, three legged races and hide and go seek. Hot dogs, potato salad and lemonade!! Not to mention mosquitoes, overhead flare and that modern intruder, sunscreen.



Chalice lighting at ACM



AGM of the UFF

Everyone is reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton will be held at 7PM on Monday, June 19, 2006 at the Fellowship house, 874 York Street.

The items of business are as follows:

- Committee and Section reports.
- By-Law editorial revisions. At a working “con-con”, it was decided that a collection of minor editorial and technical changes were needed in the bylaws but that major revisions should be deferred for now. The proposed changes are shown in context on our web site from the “Administrivia” tab on the left of the home page:

<http://www.uff.ca/Administrivia.html>

- Addition to Fellowship bylaws preamble, a fourth whereas clause, immediately following the clause that states the “company” will hereinafter be referred to as “The Fellowship”.

AND WHEREAS by vote at the 2005 Annual General Meeting, the membership approved completion of the process to become a Welcoming Congregation, the Fellowship is recognized by the Canadian Unitarian Council as a Welcoming Congregation and affirms that the congregation welcomes and celebrates the presence and participation of those of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions, including lesbians, gay men, bisexual, trans-identified and inter-sex people.

The welcoming congregation sub-committee of the Social Responsibility Committee wishes this change so that the Fellowship may affirm its commitment to and pride in our status as a welcoming congregation.

- Report of the nominating committee and election of officers.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald

Women’s Potluck

The next women’s pot luck dinner will be held June 23rd., 6pm at the fellowship, 874 York Street. Hosts for the evening are Patricia des Champs and Nancy Cameron. The ‘show and tell’ topic centres on the idea of liberation. Consider: language, social structures, relationships, sexuality, autonomy, expectations, opportunities, accomplishments—What does women’s liberation mean for you? Join us for an evening of food, discussion, revelation, and laughter. For more details, contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169, or jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca

Fund-raiser

Fund-raising Project - Framed Photos of New Brunswick flowers and plants for sale



Nancy Beltrandi and Pat Mason have donated their photos of flowers. Nadine Ives has donated her photo of fiddleheads and Janet Crawford has donated her photos of our beloved Magnolia. Janet made the most fabulous labels for the back of the frames. Allan and Tracy Walls scoured stores many times to find frames.

Last week was the big bang! Sheila Moore, Allan Walls, Nancy Cameron, Pat Mason and I put them all together in a ‘photo framing work bee’ at the fellowship. We have seventy-five framed prints for sale. All of the volunteers have given so much love, care and lots of hard work to this worthy project

All the profit will go to the Building and Grounds Committee to help with the cost of providing disabled access and an accessible wash-room for our fellowship.

The framed prints are \$7 each or three for \$20. They would make great gifts for visitors or to take as gifts with you when you travel! Please support this worthy project. They will be for sale after church and at others times at the fellowship or by calling Patricia at 454 6019 or Tracy at 452 8080.

*Editor’s note: following receipt of this article, it was also announced that **Soup Sundays** would also be held as a*

fund raising effort. After the service, soup will be available at \$1.00/bowl (or as you are able) and volunteers to make soup are sought.

In fellowship
Patricia des Champs



When We Were Kids: Sixty Years Ago, More or Less

Sunday, January 22, 1989

When we were growing up, perhaps it was not always super, or swell, nor was it always ‘a bowl of cherries,’ but as I look back, it was always interesting. Then why did my diaries always say that I was bored and had ‘nothin’ to do?

Our meals were always eaten in the dining room. We all had our place at the table. Pup sat at the heat (north), the youngest, Roy, between Mum and Put, Marie on Mum’s left, me and then Edwin next to Pup. Perhaps that had something to do with my habit of picking table topics that were argumentative. A bid for attention? In any case, I remember Mum shushing me or just simply ending the topic lest it interfere with our digestion. We had a large pitcher of milk on the table as we drank milk right from the cow. Pup had a cow, a Jersey no doubt. Mum told me that when I was about three or four, she found me out in the barn talking to the cow saying, ‘Give me some milk. Ladies change.’ They had probably been to a dance in the Mill Hall where I picked up this square dance lingo. Suffice it to say, there were no baby-sitters in those days and when Mums and Dads went out, kids went too, regardless of age! If we were old enough, we sat along the front of the stage and kept time to the music with our feet. The babies were placed in a sort of shelved counter and slept. This is how it was in York Mills 60 to 65 years ago.

Monday, January 23, 1989

As kids we didn’t have a worry in the world about bodily comforts. Our parents looked after all that. We had warm clothes and good food and lots of loving care. As I sit here now listening to the oil furnace cutting in, I think about how it once was. We had a furnace that burned long (4 ft) hardwood stick, often birch. My Dad looked after the furnace and I can still recall the sound of the furnace door and the sounds as he filled up the place for water on the front which would keep our air moist. Pup also pumped up the water tank so that we could have running water. I remember that pump handle as being five or six feet long and he would pump until the pressure gauge read 20 or whatever.

Our cellar, come to think of it, was most interesting. We had no NB Power back in those days, but we did have

electric lights and had a large board on the cellar wall which had about 16 bulbs. Sometimes these were all on to store energy for our lights. We were hooked up to the mill for our electricity. Our parents were surely very smart, and we were indeed fortunate kids. There was always a mystery about that cellar, too. Pup really had a thing about it. Very often when we had company he would invite the man downstairs to see his furnace, and I thought that pretty funny. Didn’t everyone have a furnace? They always came up smiling, and I think a bit happier for it!

Tuesday, January 24, 1989

I am very warm as I sit to write because for no good reason I started to wash the wall in the hall. I did it all, and of course it needed it. Isn’t it almost 25 years since it was painted? As I washed and used my arthritic joints, I thought of house-cleaning time and all the other people who may have washed those wall. Mum always had someone to help with house-cleaning—Ina McCann, Mildred Wilson, Mina Lister, and Enola. For us kids, house-cleaning was just a time when our regular routing was interrupted and the cleaning, polishing, and waxing gave them sore muscles and lots of aches. We were glad when it was over and that is probably why, to this day, house-cleaning, Spring or Fall, has never been one of my things.

We had wood fires and sometimes when the fire was lit in the morning, or when a few sticks were added, smoke escaped in varying amounts. Pup always lit the ire before he went to the mill to ‘fire the boiler.’ This is when he would give his weather report. He would tell Mum if it was cold, or in any way unusual, so she would know how we should dress to go to school. On days when it was below zero F with a wind, it just wasn’t fit to be out. The temperature and the weather signs were always top priority on our area—and I guess it is so today with all of us from the old school.

Incidentally, we liked a bad storm. When Elmer would pick us up in his pung and drive us to school, we’d take our lunch and stay at school with the Browns and the Upper Mill kids who stayed every day. That was then. . .

Today it is mild and the fog has cleared. It is) Celsius, but it is going to get much colder (-15 to -20) so I am going to walk and enjoy today.

R.E.C



Budget implications for Charities

Editor’s note: This was received in correspondence on the CUC financial list and some may find it interesting.

The May 2006 federal budget contains a very valuable benefit that many will not be aware of or understand.

When someone decides to make a donation they sometimes do so by selling mutual funds and stocks. If they sell their property they will have to declare the increase in value from their cost as a Capital Gain and pay tax on 1/2 of that amount. Until yesterday people were allowed to instead donate the shares etc directly to the charity (transfer ownership to the charity) and as a result only had to pay tax on 1/4 of the gain. The 2006 federal budget allows them to make the transfer without including any of the gain for income for tax purposes.

This can be especially valuable when they have shares that have NO deemed cost. An example is shares received when a life insurance company 'demutualized'. If the owner were to cash in the shares they would have to pay tax on 1/2 the full value. If they give the shares they pay no tax - but they still get the tax refund for the donation. At a slightly more sophisticated level one can turn income into a asset with no tax by purchasing 'Flow Through' shares and then donate the shares to the charity. This is particularly attractive to High Income donors and also to those who would like to make a significant gift from an RRSP.

Without getting into the complex details here it is very worthwhile considering where substantial donations from either RRSP/RRIFs or high income earners are contemplated. I saw a case today where this type of donation resulted in the donor having over \$10,000 more disposable income than if they made no donation at all. About \$3500 of this is a direct result of the budget change. As well the charity got \$30,000.

Webster Webb
a Financial Advisor and former Treasurer of UU Winnipeg



Choir members at ACM

CUC Training

Hi all,

Two great training Lifespan Learning opportunities are coming your way at UNICAMP near Collingwood, ON this

summer, in August. Both of these trainings are guaranteed to inspire!

- Philosophy Renaissance Module August 18-20 - you make your own accommodation booking directly with UNICAMP
- Spirit Play Monday August 21, one day training, any overnight accommodation also arranged through UNICAMP.

UNICAMP is beautiful place to retreat for a day or two.

Please forward these forms, or take a look yourself and complete now before the "church year" ends for this spring cycle and summer draws people in many directions!

Deadline for registration is July 17.

Since what we choose is what we are
and what we love we yet shall be
the goal may ever shine afar
the will to reach it makes us free
William DeWitt Hyde

Editor's note: forms available upon request

Sylvia Bass West

CUC Call for Nominations

Once again it is time for the CUC Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of candidates for the Annual Meeting to be held in Vancouver on the May 2007 long weekend.

Nominations to the Board

CUC Board members are elected for three year terms, with a maximum term of six years. We expect to have the following vacancies to fill in May 2007:

- Nora Prosser (Central Region), is currently in the final year of a first term. Nora has indicated she is not prepared to stand for re-election for a second term.
- Vyda Ng-Cornish (Eastern region) is in her sixth and final year.

A board member must be a member in good standing of a congregation within the region they represent or a member of the Individual Members program in that region.

Editor's note: additional details will be made available to interested persons



Mary's June Report

Editor's note: some material has been removed due to space restrictions, the entire article can be made available upon request

Message from Mary Volume 7, Issue 11 June, 2006

Beachcombing after the Tide Goes Out

The tide came in—over 330 UUs spanning several generations arrived at the Delta Brunswick for this year's Annual Conference and Meeting in Saint John, New Brunswick.

It came in over a period of days, rather than hours, bringing religious educators to the annual Renaissance training program, the CUC board for 2 days of meetings; lay chaplains and CUSJ members and then on Friday afternoon and evening, the waves picked up strength and more people and banners and luggage flowed in.

And then, on Sunday evening, the tide started to ebb, as a few exhibitors packed up their wares; and after the closing ceremony the tide began to recede.

CUC Staff had a 2-day retreat (we called it an "advance"!) and then Linda Thomson and I headed to Bouctouche, NB, to join the UU Ministers of Canada for Wed. dinner and discussions.

And now, it's low tide in Saint John, but with some "flotsam and jetsam" left behind.

They were 43-strong when they offered to host the ACM; 49 at the start of the weekend, and 50 members by the end.

One volunteer who confessed, he'd done it out of duty, was surprised to enjoy himself so much, he's offered more volunteer time at the congregation. Kathleen Webster, chair of host committee, has agreed to stay on the national ACM program planning committee and, indeed, chair this group.

Saint John invested a lot of time, talent and treasure in ensuring this successful conference and it warms my heart to know that when the tide went out there were treasures left along the beach for them to enjoy for a long time to come.

Opportunities at the CUC

Administrative Coordinator

3-4 days per week to start September 1. Deadline for applications: June 30. Excellent written and spoken language skills; intermediate level MS Office; organized and detail-oriented. Inquire or apply to jobs@cuc.ca.

Canadian Unitarian Editor and/or Designer

Compile, select and edit material for 3 12-16 page newsletters per year.

Design, layout for same

Contract basis. Send resume and proposal to Mary Bennett at CUC.

Data Entry

Approximately 10-20 hours per month during regular office hours. Experience using

ACCESS database. Accurate, efficient.

Contact jobs@cuc.ca by August 15, 2006.

Riding the UU Tide — *keynote presentation excerpt*

The following is an excerpt from the Riding the UU Tide keynote address by Dr. Allan Sharp. The full text is on the web at www.cuc.ca/conference/2006.

These are the only photographs that I have on the walls of my office, so I can draw strength from them daily. It is a rare day when I don't spend some time contemplating, or even meditating, with these scenes.

The first shows the power, the constant struggle at the inter-face between the elements of earth, water and air.

It shows the fundamental elements interacting. It shows conflict, turmoil, chaos.

But it also shows the rich blues and greens of the deep water, the black stubbornness of the rocks refusing to succumb, and the beautiful effervescent foam where the air and water mix in the midst of it all. You can find such scenes at the foot of many of the headlands along the Bay.

But then you can lift up your eyes for a longer view, like in the second picture.

The elements remain - it is the same earth, air and water, the same interactions and the same interface.

But the struggle and the turmoil is replaced by the peace and tranquility of the dawn and the renewing, life giving tide.

And the same effervescent mixture of air and water that marks the breakers, now makes up the wispieness of the clouds which bring the life giving water to the land.

And to me, this is a metaphor for a lot of what life is like. The elements are constant, and so is the interaction of those elements. If we take too short a view - either in time or in space - we can see threats, violence, anger, conflict, noise, bustle, confusion.

But if we lift up our eyes and adjust our focus to a longer view, we see the constants, the peace and tranquility, the interdependence and cooperation of the elements, the cycles of nature, the pairing of the ebb and the flow.

And above all we see ourselves - that same mixture of earth in our bones, water in our cells and veins, air in our lungs.

And we see the interdependence of those interactions among the elements that have created something as won-

derful and with such awesome power as life itself.

And when you stand at Fundy it is easy to see that it was at these interfaces that life as we know it began. All the ingredients are there, along with the energy source of the sun. There is the constant mixing and wash of the tides to bring the components together, and to wash away the unsuccessful experiments.

What will we keep and what will we release?

This meditation was part of the Closing Ceremonies on Monday at the ACM. Karen Fraser Gitlitz has resigned from the board. She will be the first intern minister at First Hamilton for 2006-07 church year.

A century and a half ago, Matthew Arnold stood on the plain above Dover Beach and listened to the sound of the water retreating down the shingle beach. In those sounds, he heard the fading of a past way of being, and the faint glimmer of hope for the future.

On Saturday morning, Allan Sharpe offered us his vision of the lessons of the Fundy tides. He spoke of the potential of transformative resonance—the way that disparate actions can reinforce each other in surprising ways. The story of the Bay of Fundy is part of that larger story that Kitsy Winthrop named ‘the story of the universe’.

Now, having arrived here on the tide, it is time for each of us to read the waters, to discern in their voices the sounds of our past and our future. This is no small job. We will need poets, artists and activists, we will need to tell stories and we will need to listen to each other. Each of us must examine our commitments, to discern what it is we will keep and what we will release with the receding waters.

This is the work that we take back to our communities. This is the excitement that we can share with our congregations: that in the sounds of the waters we will hear a new way of being, a way of being UU, a way that draws on the best of our past to meet the needs of our planet and its people today. And in doing so, we may just find that we resonate like that surge of water going up and down the Bay of Fundy, and have an impact beyond our current imagining.

Environment Monitoring Group Supports Kyoto

The following letter was prepared by the CUC Environment Monitoring Group to send to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

As Canadians and as a country we need to do our part to address Global Warming and Climate Change. Furthermore, as this is a global issue, our efforts must be done in concert with the larger international community.

The Kyoto Protocol, whatever its faults, has the support of some 163 nations of which some are reported to be on target. Canada’s progress to date is less than satisfactory, and the target may indeed be difficult if not impossible. Nevertheless we urge that Canada stay the course, and de-

velop new programs including tax shifting and incentives that will see our performance moving in the correct direction. Our traditions, reputation, and the environment demand better; we should not withdraw just because the going is getting tough.

You promised a “made in Canada” program. We look forward to your initiatives and ideas that will have us:

- Meet our international commitments;
- Contribute to a healthy, sustainable world;
- Grow the nation’s economy through efficiency improvements; and
- Respect the interconnected web of life, one of the tenets of our religious community.

Lastly, we urge you to maintain the existing programs until replacements initiatives are announced and in place.

We look forward to your response and seeing the details of your government’s “made in Canada” program to address Global Warming and Climate Change in concert with the global community as part of the Kyoto Protocol.

Thank you,

Vyda Ng, President

Canadian Unitarian Council

Gender & Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group & Pride

June 2, 2006

TO: Congregational Presidents and/or Ministers

At the CUC’s annual meeting in May, delegates unanimously passed the following resolution:

“BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council communicate with its member societies, urging them to conduct an annual ceremony and/or worship service which affirms and promotes the equal rights of persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, and to initiate or participate in local “Pride” events.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council make available to its member societies material and resources to assist them in developing an annual ceremony and/or worship service which affirms and promotes the equal rights of persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.”

Most Gay/Lesbian Pride Celebrations in Canada occur during the months of June through September. If your congregation has material (readings, sermons, quotations, poems, lyrics to songs, etc.) it is willing to share, please forward it to the CUC Office Assistant, Janice Lincoln, preferably by email to info@cuc.ca and the CUC will post it for all to use at the CUC web site.

Many thanks for your help.

Art Brewer

Chair, CUC Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group

Congratulations!

At the CUC ACM, three congregations were recognized as Welcoming Congregations:

Don Heights Unitarian Congregation (Toronto): the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton and Avalon Unitarian Fellowship (St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador). WELCOME!

84% of Canadian UU's are members of congregations which have been certified as Welcoming.

Take care,
Mary

Mary Bennett, Executive Director
CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL
www.cuc.ca 1-888-568-5723 1-604-617-0142

PS - The CUC ACM 2006 was a wonderful success. Thank you to UU Church of Saint John and all the session leaders! Now to start planning Vancouver in 2007; Ottawa in 2008 and Thunder Bay in 2009! Let me know if you want to receive monthly updates on ACM planning.



Mary's Annual Report - 2005

Transition: the Neutral Zone Again

As our hymn book says, we are, indeed, a "Living Tradition."

The CUC is embarking on a new strategic plan for the movement and a thorough review of the Of Regions and RNGs Implementation plan-are we doing it and is it working?

Across the country, 18 of our 48 congregations are engaged in some stage of professional ministerial transition.

The Past

If you've been following along over the past 5-10 years, you know that CUC has made big changes in the past while. Consultation and negotiation over several years resulted in CUC becoming the primary service delivery organization (rather than UUA and UUA districts) for Canadian congregations. That change necessitated hiring three program staff (doubling our staff complement); setting up volunteer service consultants and communication structures in each of the four regions and re-inventing or inventing structures for youth and young adults, given the continuing link with the UUA. Simultaneously developments in electronic communications, an Executive Director who's based half-time

in Vancouver and half-time in Toronto (and "ubiquitous" in cyberspace) and a change in administrative staff and office location have meant a lot of change..

The Present

Elsewhere in the Annual Report, you'll see the impressive list of workshops and consultations delivered through the new structure under the capable leadership of Linda Thomson, Sylvia Bass West and Sara McEwan.

Each Annual Conference & Meeting attracts new participants and leaders-and up-and-coming leaders in the all ages programs coordinated by Sylvia Bass West. Children (and their parents) are very welcome and CanUdle, the youth conference, is now a tradition that's a keeper.

The Future.

As we head into a program evaluation of the Implementation Plan voted on in 2002 and at the same time carry on the Visioning work to a Strategic Plan, I have to wonder what lies ahead? And I hope you will ask this question, as well.

Starting from here and now, what do you want our religion to be? Does the "Go4It" framework of Go on! Go deep! Go out! Go big! provoke new thoughts about where we could go?

Letting Go

William Bridges, author of several books on Transitions, describes the transition process as starting with letting go of the old. We have, in large measure, "put paid to the Of Regions and RNG's document and its 42 "we will's". It occurred to me that this British expression fits very well, as this is our first surplus budget since the CUC-UUA transition, and we hope to continue on that path. Are we now ready to let go of what things were like pre-2002 along with the challenges and struggles that were involved in getting to 2006?

Another Neutral Zone?

The next phase Bridges describes is the "neutral zone" - a period that can feel like chaos or creativity; adrift or running the rapids. This period is sometimes likened to a trapeze artist who needs to let go of one handle before they're able to seize the other one.

My favourite Canadian joke goes like this: Why did the Canadian cross the road? To get to the middle! Whatever our nationality, most of us are not very comfortable in the middle. The past five years has been one big Neutral Zone for me in this role-an exercise in trusting the people and the plan and feeling a lot like flying "without a net".

Launching the New Beginning

More of us than ever are engaged in "Team CUC" as it was and is. With evaluation and planning processes brings another letting go and a neutral zone, and then we will be ready once again to launch (another) new beginning. Who

will lead the CUC that we who are currently engaged will be inventing over the next year or two? Will those potential leaders get inspired by a new plan? And will they then want to change it? I hope so. It's how we do things.

To be honest, and with the caveat that I've been wrong before, I don't expect the result of our upcoming Program Evaluation and Strategic Planning to mandate anything akin to the dramatic organizational changes over the past five years. However, in May, 2000, when delegates voted to have CUC provide "growth and religious education" services "providing resources could be found", even the most enthusiastic "yes" voters, did not predict where we are today.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Here are some of the accomplishments of the past year:

Communications

Canadian Unitarian newsletter: I'm sorry to say that Art Kilgour is moving on from editor of CanU after eight years. It has been wonderful to work with Art and while he continues to do the graphic design of CanU, I will miss our phone calls about story ideas and his presence at the CUC Annual Conference & Meeting. The proposed 2006 budget allows for a reduction from 4 to 3 CanUs, so we are shifting publication schedules.

Congregational Mailing: We did some "re-engineering" to get the mailing out to you easier and faster. Technical supports like a new photocopier and new software programs have improved the "look" of the mailing. I enjoy noticing more CUC materials posted on bulletin boards when I travel. Distribution within congregations via hard copy, email and website has increased.

Email Groups: Web site and email extends the reach of our hardcopy materials. Some email groups have blossomed to on-line communities. It's rewarding to see the exchange of information, support and encouragement on email lists such as "cuc-presidents" and "cuc-money." The "cuc-poetry" email group hit their stride this year and hived off a project group of 4 to produce the first (annual?) Poetry Chapbook. Regional lists in Central and Eastern, begun in 2002, have 90 members each and average 15-20 messages per month. And BC and Western are getting started as well. I think of these groups as similar to "Neighbourhood groups" in a large church.

The "announce-only" email lists continue to flourish. With a guarantee of no more than two messages per month, my "cuc-mary" monthly message now goes to over 700 subscribers. We now have (mini) email groups for the leadership of a congregation and their "CUC Team" to easily communicate. Most often, these are set up before a visit or consultation, provides an easy way to share thoughts following and then continue so we can "drop in" via email just to say "hello" and ask how things are going.

Website/Virtual Church: We finally hit the 100,000 hits

per month in March of 2006—a goal that had been coming for a long time. And webweaver Bert Christensen launched the Virtual Church Project.

Social Responsibility: 2005 was the year "we" won equal marriage rights in Canada. Unitarians and UU's across the country "stood up and were counted on this issue-by writing letters, signing petitions, setting up websites, attending rallies, sending news releases and being heard. How good it feels to make a difference!

International: A definite highlight of my year was representing all of you as one of the two delegates to the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists meeting in Montserrat, Spain. I hope you are feeling the connections even more strongly as we work to weave the interdependent web of international Unitarianism even stronger

Lay Chaplaincy: This year we celebrate 35 years of the "rite to a right" and have many new lay chaplains as a result of experienced lay chaplains passing the flame at the end of their terms. It's a pleasure to see the offers of support and mentoring from the retiring lay chaplains, even as there is sadness at leaving such a richly satisfying role.

THANK YOU TO THE CUC STAFF

Linda Thomson, Director of Regional Services - East, formally, diligently and delightfully took on the additional role of Associate Executive Director. More than just vacation relief (although that is indeed a relief!), Linda is a valued sounding board and colleague in determining needs and priorities in implementing the CUC board's direction and vision. In her continuing work as Director of Regional Services - East, she provides wise counsel and perspective to all who contact her and with strong teams initiates and develops new programs of value across the country.

Sylvia Bass West continues to open us to the possibilities for lifespan learning at local, regional and national events. She models her belief in "whole community" and shared ministry. I am passionately committed to opening up our CUC events and processes to all ages and no one could do the job Sylvia does to "make it so." You see the results at our Annual Conference and Meeting—safe, inspiring and age-appropriate programs for all ages. Over and over again, I hear how Sylvia can inspire and support our religious education lay and professional leaders to create lifespan learning at our congregations as well as at regional and national events.

Sara McEwan, Director of Regional Services - West, has developed two strong Regional Network Groups in her two regions of BC and Western. From joining them for their spring meetings, I can tell you how much they care about the health and growth of congregations in their area. Her empowered teams are taking on more and more responsibility for proposing budgets, recruiting volunteers, planning programs and communicating with individuals and groups within their region. Congregational leaders are de-

veloping direct relationships with congregational networkers and service consultants.

Phil Strapp has taken on a myriad of informal as well as regular responsibilities, including a much higher standard of reporting on financial matters. If you like information presented in a concise and understandable way, check out his Info Updates on the web. After nearly three years in the job, I cannot imagine what we did without him. Many of you will have received a quick, clear and informative response, often within minutes to your inquiries. I thank him on behalf of all of you for proactive distribution of information through sending out the directory several times a year via email and twice in hardcopy; timely registration lists and data for the Annual Meeting and, perhaps most importantly, reliable and timely financial information to help board and staff plan appropriately. Our new office assistant, Janice Lincoln, has expressed much gratitude for the way Phil has provided training “not just how to do it but also why we do it.”

In March, we said farewell to Paola Jani after two-and-a-half-years. Paola’s pleasant manner and poise created a positive first impression of the CUC to callers as well as at the Annual Conference and Meeting.

We say “hello” to Janice Lincoln who, with Phil’s patient, clear and complete explanations is quickly learning about the many aspects of her job, from registering lay chaplains; compiling the annual report; helping people with email groups and coordinating our congregational mailing. When you call on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, Janice will usually be the person picking up the phone.

It has been a great five years-I love being part of Team CUC! And you, dear reader, is what it makes such a great job.

Mary Bennett, Executive Director

Take care,

Mary Bennett, Executive Director CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL www.cuc.ca 1-888-568-5723

PS - There are over 300 people registered for the CUC Annual Conference & Meeting in Saint John - May long weekend. Hope to see you there—or in Vancouver for 2007 ACM.



Minutes of Board Meeting

April 26, 2006

Present: Ed Leslie, Allison Calvern, George DeMille, Patricia desChamps, Tony Fitzgerald, Don Flatt, Betty Ponder, Tracy Walls, and Barbara Fairweather (member).

1. Opening: Allison lit the chalice as Ed read an opening selection, after which . . .

2. Call to order: . . . he called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

3. Check-in: Those present were invited to check in - Patricia commenting on the assistance with building renovations provided by a number of members of the congregation.

4. Approval of agenda: MOVED (George & Patricia) that the agenda, with minor amendments under Other Business, be adopted. CARRIED

5. Minutes of meeting of March 15: MOVED (Don & Allison) that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted. CARRIED

6. Business arising: Ed noted that at a meeting on the by-laws held on March 16 and at a “con-con” after the April 16 service those attending had concurred that we should proceed with only editorial changes correcting errors, etc. at this time. These changes are indicated on a by-laws document posted on our website. MOVED (Allison & George) that the board of directors endorse these changes for submission to the next annual general meeting. CARRIED

Ed reported that Patricia, Haifa Miller and Sheila Moore have agreed to serve as the nominating committee.

7. Correspondence: On behalf of the board George has sent a card of condolence to Janet Crawford whose mother died recently.

8. Section and Financial reports

(i) Financial report: George distributed a report (attached to minutes) showing a year-to-date surplus of \$4800. The person who maintains our piano has estimated its value as only \$6000 (US) or \$10,000 if certain repairs are done.

MOVED (George & Tony) that the report be accepted. CARRIED

(ii) Programs & Ministry: Betty reported that the Caring Committee has been active and is planning a session on death and dying for next fall. A TUFF table has been reserved at the CUC ACM in Saint John at which merchandise from the fellowship arts store will be offered for sale.

Allison plans to have a P & M section meeting in May.

Don asked as to how he should deal with telephone messages received from non-members appealing for money or other assistance. Some of these he has been referring to the Caring Committee. It was suggested that such requests might better be referred to social agencies such as CHIMO.

(iii) Communications & Outreach: Don reported that congregations have been asked to provide photos and meaningful water samples to be used at the ingathering service at the ACM. He will look after these but invited sugges-

tions for suitable samples. The business card project is in limbo at the present time. The building use form is still being worked on.

Patricia reported that CHSR is broadcasting the public service announcements that she has been submitting.

Dave Warman had written regarding improper use of personal information from our directory. Future editions of this directory should include a disclaimer prohibiting inappropriate use of such information on those listed.

(iv) Finance & Facilities: Tracy is still waiting to receive quotes for the wheelchair ramp. There was also some discussion of converting the washroom at the back door to be handicapped accessible. We may be able to get a provincial government to assist with the cost of this. Patricia and Tracy have a number of fundraising ideas which might generate funds towards this project - such as selling framed photos, taken by members, of our magnolia blossoms, selling bowls of soup following Sunday service, etc.

The building renovations in the basement and elsewhere are proceeding well with the work being done mainly by Patricia's handyman and under her supervision.

9. Ad hoc committees: - nothing to report.

10. Nominating Committee: Patricia (chair), Haifa Miller and Sheila Moore are the Nominating Committee.

11. Other business:

(i) Annual General Meeting: It was agreed to call our AGM for 7 pm on Monday, June 19, and the joint meeting of the outgoing and incoming boards for 7:15 pm on Thursday, June 29 (avoiding the conflict with PFLAG on the fourth Wednesday).

(ii) Delegates to the CUC Annual General Meeting: Only Patricia and Barb Fairweather have expressed an interest in being delegates. MOVED (allison & Don) that Patricia desChamps and Barb Fairweather be TUFF's delegates to

the CUCAGM. CARRIED

(iii) Welcoming Congregation By-law: The Welcoming Congregation ad hoc committee had suggested revising Article 2 of our by-laws to include reference to our status as a CUC- recognized Welcoming Congregation. Board members felt that this article was not the right place. It was agreed to refer this back to the committee.

(iv) Other items: Patricia will investigate the possibility of the music festival using our facility.

Saturday, April 29, is yard cleanup day.

12. Closing words and adjournment: On motion by Don the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

George DeMille

Secretary-Treasurer

Attachments:

1. Year-to-date Financial Statement for 2006;

Printed May 31, 2006

George DeMille
Secretary Treasurer



Nasnan sings the Rainbow Song at ACM

This space wants your material!