



874 York Street, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 3R8 (506) 451-0919

Sunday Service 11 a.m.

Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca>

Email: tuff@nbnet.nb.ca

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to close out our time on the planet, and everyone spending more and more time doing less and less, where do we turn for hope? How do we keep going in the face of all these things? Rev. Mac Campbell, our Affiliate Minister (part-time) will explore these questions, and offer some possibilities for hope in a world gone mad.

October 26 *Working in Burundi: a Spiritual Journey* by John McKendy. A Quaker and sociology prof at St. Thomas, John McKendy has spent the last two summers at a Quaker project in Burundi helping to build a women's AIDS clinic. He plans to return to Africa in January to help organize workshops on active nonviolence in Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and the Congo.



Sunday Services

October 5 *Beyond the Awe-lite Life* by the reverend Ray Drennan. Awe has been described as the most fundamental of religious emotions; sometimes as the eleventh emotion. It is easier to settle for the feel-good part of awe and miss out on its full transformative potential. What would an "awe-full" life look like?

October 12 *Right Speech* by Anne Leslie. An element of right relationship is right speech. How do we, as a congregation and as individuals, communicate with one another? Is right speech a spiritual practice? Should it be an essential part of a happy life? The Buddha says it is.

October 19 *Finding Hope in a World Gone Mad* the reverend Mac Campbell. With ecological catastrophe closing in on us, economic fault lines opening up chasms all around us, climate change threatening



The Orchard



Conversations of the Spirit

As part of his quarter-time agreement with tUFF, Rev. Mac Campbell would welcome "conversations of the spirit" with any who would like them, on either a one-to-one or a small group (3 or 4 people) basis. The usual format for

such conversations is, for each person, one hour's conversation each month. If you are interested, please contact Mac directly at 366-3734 or 461-7984, or by email at mcampbel@nb.sympatico.ca.



Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck dinner is planned for Friday, October 24th at 6 PM. Sharon Van Abbema will host the gathering in her home at 130 Cortland Street, New Maryland. The show and tell topic is Music - what songs are special for you, why? What song brings back memories? Tell us about the memories. Sing us a chorus, play us a tune (Sharon's piano awaits your fingers). For more information contact Joan at jebrewer@rogers.com or 455-5169



Message from the President

What an exciting buzz around the Fellowship this month! Ray Drennan's heartfelt workshop on congregational health, committee chairs with new programs, Mac Campbell's first service as our affiliate minister, a meaningful religious education program for our youth, apple day and yard sale both on the same day, Joan and Paul's upcoming wedding-. The buzz goes on and on.

We are pleased and fortunate to have so many new people helping out on committee work. Danielle Albert brings her experience from the Waterloo Unitarian Church to chair the ministerial committee. Ella Henry is now chairing the social responsibility committee and Patricia des Champs is breathing new life into the public awareness and membership committees. Watch for her promos in the Gleaner in the coming weeks.

Last Sunday, there were more than 50 people in attendance, many returning after a long absence. We actually ran out of hymnbooks. What a mixed blessing! In fact, if anyone has a hymnbook at home, stashed away and forgotten, we are in desperate need to have these returned. Your cooperation would be very much appreciated.

October looks like another busy month. The second of Ray Drennan's workshops will take place October 3-5. We expect about 18 Unitarian youth from around the province to participate. Please call or write Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes if you can help with the potluck after service on Sunday.

Our next Board meeting, Oct 26, will concentrate on planning issues, as our financial and budgeting season will be upon us soon in November and December. Any and all suggestions about how we can do better, or do differently, for greater benefit to all would be welcome and will be

considered. Please write your comments by mail or email any board member or committee chair at any time.

Remember the words of Marcel Proust, "Let us be grateful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who makes our souls blossom." We look forward to seeing more of you this fall.

John van Abbema, President,
The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton



Position Available - Lay Chaplain

Lay Chaplains prepare for and officiate at rites of passage (weddings, funerals, memorial services and child dedications) for members of the congregation of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton and the general public of the Greater Fredericton area. Lay Chaplains follow the guidelines issued by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) and policies established by the UFF Board of Directors and Lay Chaplaincy Committee. These rites of passage mark some of the most important events in people's lives and the Lay Chaplain's role constitutes a significant outreach to the public by the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. The Fellowship currently wishes to have a second Lay Chaplain. The Lay Chaplain is not an employee of the Fellowship, however it is expected that he or she will charge fees for services performed.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, you are asked to read the information below about the Lay Chaplaincy Appointment Search, and to read the Lay Chaplain's Manual which is available on-line at <http://www.cuc.ca/ministry/LCCmanual.pdf> or in hard copy from the bulletin board at the kitchen entrance.

The UFF Lay Chaplaincy Committee will accept applications and a Selection Committee made up of two members of the LC Committee, two members of congregation at large and one member of the board will conduct interviews with selected applicants. The Lay Chaplaincy committee will recommend a candidate for appointment to the board. Once approved by the board, the selected candidate will be affirmed by the congregation,

The Board of Directors will submit the name of the appointed individual to the Canadian Unitarian Council, which in turn, will register the individual with the Government of the Province of New Brunswick as a CUC officiant who is legally entitled to solemnize wedding ceremonies in New Brunswick.

The successful applicant will sign a contract with the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Lay Chaplain, the Lay Chaplaincy Committee and the Congregation. Lay Chaplains are reconfirmed every year at the UFF annual general meeting or

other duly constituted congregational meeting. Lay Chaplains may serve up to a maximum of six years.

To apply, please submit your resume and a letter outlining how your background and skills would qualify you for consideration for this position. Applications addressed to Ms. Mei Huang may be left in the congregational office. Application deadline is November 2, 2008.

LAY CHAPLAIN Job Description

The appointment of Lay Chaplains is governed by procedures directed by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) office in Toronto and administered by the CUC Lay Chaplaincy Committee.

Lay Chaplains, appointed or elected, are responsible to the Board of Directors and the Lay Chaplaincy Committee in their local congregation, and are registered with their local provincial government by the Canadian Unitarian Council (except for Quebec and Nova Scotia).

Purpose of the Position

Lay Chaplains prepare for and officiate at Rites of Passage (weddings, services of union, funerals and memorial services, child dedication services) for the general public and in some instances, for members of the congregation, in keeping with the suggested guidelines issued by the CUC and established by the local Lay Chaplaincy Committee/Board of Directors.

Relationship to the Congregation

The lay chaplains' training and performance of services are under the supervision of the Lay Chaplaincy Committee, in consultation with the minister(s), if available, and other members, as appropriate, to maintain liaison and co-ordination of activities and events.

Qualifications

Applicants for the position of Lay Chaplain should have the following minimum qualifications:

1. be a member in good standing in our congregation for a minimum of 2 years or has equivalent experience;
2. be actively involved with the life of our congregation, prior to acceptance;
3. articulate why he/she wishes to become a Lay Chaplain;
4. be able to work flexible hours, which tend to be mainly evenings and weekends.
5. have access to transportation to conduct the duties of a Lay Chaplain.

Qualities

Because the Rites of Passage mark some of the most important events in people's lives, the lay chaplaincy program constitutes a significant outreach to the public. Therefore, a Lay Chaplain must have:

1. a working knowledge and commitment to the Principles of Unitarianism and the ability to articulate that philosophy;
2. maturity and the ability to cope in crisis situations;
3. the ability to communicate with people in a spirit of empathy, helpfulness and concern;
4. an effective public speaking voice and manner;
5. the ability to present and conduct in a manner which favourably represents the congregation and the denomination;
6. the ability to conduct Rites of Passage with sensitivity to, and acceptance of varied cultural, spiritual and religious traditions and be willing to adhere to the CUC standards of practice for Lay Chaplains;
7. have a sense of personal responsibility and commitment to the lay chaplaincy program and the capacity to work both independently and as a team member.

Initial and Enrichment Training

A Lay Chaplain is expected to:

1. attend and successfully complete a CUC sponsored training workshop prior to acceptance, if possible,
2. as a lay chaplain-in-training, be mentored by experienced Lay Chaplains and, if available, a minister;
3. attend regular enrichment training sessions within reasonable limits of time and cost, e.g. meetings of the Canadian Unitarian Universalist Lay Chaplains' Association (CUULCA) held prior to each CUC annual meeting;
4. attend and participate in local Chaplaincy Committee meetings and activities;
5. have an evaluation on a yearly basis by the local Chaplaincy Committee/ Board of Trustees.

Mei Huang
Chair, Lay Chaplaincy Committee



Wanted: Bottles and Jars

For the Pickles sold for Fund raising at TUFF, Sandra Fairweather is looking for the Bottle and Jars. Contact Barbara Fairweather @ 458-1435 or email ajthne@yahoo.ca



Picking Apples



Children's Apple Day

I want to report that our "Apple Day" was a big success. It was a beautiful sunny fall day. John van abbema and Sharon brought their van which was a big help to carry the boxes of apples that we picked. George DeMille and Stephanie went in John's van. Nafla Anderson and Mei and Mei's daughter Christine went in Haifa's car. Eric and Heidi brought their friend Lee Anne and their two daughters Emily and Sarah in their vehicle. We all headed out to the Johnny Appleseed Orchard in Keswick Ridge. We picked juicy, red, apples Macintosh and Cortlands enough to make enough apple crisp for the whole congregation, as well as, apples to sell on Sunday. Thanks to Steph, Nafla, Mei, Leanne for washing, peeling, and cutting apples for the apple crisp. Thanks to Eric for bagging the apples to sell on Sunday morning after the service. Thanks to Heidi for looking after the kids while the adults baked the apple crisp. We served over 60 bowls of apple crisp (cream optional) with coffee and tea Sunday morning. We made \$109.00 from the apple sales Sunday morning. There are 12 bags of apples that are left after the sale. They are selling for \$4.00 per bag. We left them at the Fellowship. If they don't sell by Oct. 4th, we can use them for apple snacks for the children. Youth are invited to a sleep over at the Fellowship Saturday, Oct. 4th, as part of the Healthy Congregations Weekend with Rev. Ray Drennan. They will be enjoying a pancake breakfast Sunday morning at the Fellowship but, Saturday night they can enjoy an apple snack.

Special thanks to all of you for making this wonderful family event a success. The children will present a donation to the Soup Kitchen and Food Bank. Steph, perhaps you can discuss this with them and we can arrange for them to take part in giving the donation to the appropriate person.

We can take the next couple of weeks and see if there are more sales to increase our \$109.00 current revenue.

Thanks everybody! Next outdoor family event will be a sleigh ride, as soon as, there is enough snow!

Haifa Miller
Chair, Children's Program Committee



Healthy Congregations

You've probably heard how wonderful the Healthy Congregations weekend was in September. We'd like to invite you to join us for the second workshop, October 3-5. You may attend the second workshop even if you missed the first one. Members and friends of the Fellowship are encouraged to attend as many sessions as they possibly can, since the workshops thrive on the trust we build, the stories we share, and all that we learn about communication and right relations through our interactions and mindful presence.

There is more information about the program in an article by Wilfrid Langmaid included in this newsletter.

If you are willing and able, please register online at <http://www.cuc.ca/calendar.htm>: *and* send me an e-mail. This is so we can make sure we have enough food and handouts. As you know, the Board has passed a motion to cover the cost for those attending the workshops. Questions? Please write to me at eldergomes@yahoo.com.

Thanks!

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes
Adult Programs

October 3-5, 2008 Healthy Congregations Workshops
with Rev. Raymond Drennan, Facilitator and
Province-wide Youth Gathering

Schedule

Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m. Healthy Congregation Session (in Library or Sanctuary) Tea and Desserts available
*We need volunteers throughout the weekend to make coffee and tea.

Saturday 9:00 a.m.-4:30 / 5:00 p.m. Healthy Congregations Sessions (in Library or Sanctuary) Coffee, Tea, Juice and Snacks available throughout the day Lunch provided

5:00 - 7:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner *Please bring contribution to potluck. All are welcome. Youth from around the province will be joining us.

Saturday 3:00 p.m. to Sunday 11:00 a.m. Youth Gathering Junior Youth and Youth Movie and Mall (with Steve and Carlos): 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Potluck, Pizza and Games for all ages, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
*We need one more adult to help with games Youth Sleepover 9:00 p.m. to Sunday, 10:00 a.m. (Heidi, Jo-Anne,?)

Sunday 9:00-10:00 a.m. Healthy Congregations Session (in Board Room)

9:30-10:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast for all

11:00-12:15 Sunday Service led by Rev. Raymond Drennan

12:15-1:45 p.m. Healthy Congregations Session (in Board Room)

Lunch for participants following afternoon session Lunch will be provided; we have lots of food!



Gleaner Reprint

Here is the text of an article published in The Daily Gleaner about our Healthy Congregations workshops. It is by Wilfrid Langmaid, with help from Patricia deSchamps (Public Awareness) and Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes (Adult Programs).

Unitarian Fellowship to hold Healthy Congregations workshops

The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, 874 York St., will be holding Healthy Congregations workshops this fall. Held over two weekends, Sept. 12-14 and Oct. 3-5, the workshops are offered by the Canadian Unitarian Council, the fellowship's national body.

What is a healthy congregation?

According to Peter Steinke, it is "one that actively and responsibly addresses or heals its disturbances, not one with an absence of troubles."

Steinke is the author of *How Your Church Family Works and Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach*, both published by the Alban Institute, an ecumenical, interfaith organization. His material was explored by 16 Unitarian Universalist participants in a three-day training program in 2006.

Rev. Raymond Drennan, a retired Unitarian minister, was one of the participants. He will be facilitating the six-part workshop in Fredericton.

"Rev. Drennan is an especially valuable facilitator," said Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes, chair of adult programs at the Uni-

tarian Fellowship and organizer of the Healthy Congregations program. "He's been very generous with us, leading worship services, facilitating workshops and organizing retreats every year. And he has a lot of insight into how we work as a group."

The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton is a lay-led congregation. Their regular 11 a.m. Sunday services may be led by their own members, sometimes with an invited speaker. They may be also led by visiting Unitarian Universalist ministers or leaders of other faith groups.

On Sunday, Sept. 14, Drennan will serve in the latter role. He will be leading a service with the intriguing title *I Wish Lao-Tzu Hadn't Said That*.

He explained that he will be talking about the words of the Tao Te Ching, noting, "They challenge me, so let's be challenged together."

Being challenged together could be good way to summarize the weekends that are planned. Elder-Gomes admits it might not be easy, but knows that it is important work.

"It is painful for us when there are disagreements or hurt feelings in our church communities," she said. "We'd like to think that a spiritual community was immune to this kind of thing. But, in fact, our feelings are strongest when things matter most to us. Perhaps that's especially true in Unitarian groups."

Elder-Gomes explained that members of the Unitarian Fellowship do not share a common creed or belief system. Rather, they affirm a set of principles that balance the acceptance of individual responsibility for living in a way consistent with their own understanding of spirituality, on one hand, and, on the other, the universal human need to share in community and to develop "right relations" with each other.

There are implications for this.

Because of the range of views and values, Elder-Gomes said, "We tend to really like to ask questions, to have long, broad and deep discussions. I think some of us get more anxious or defensive when the discussions become difficult, while others cherish openness and may accept differences more easily."

"We all want to make decisions that are fair and compassionate, but, as Steinke explains, health is a process and not a state, and it's something we all can learn to do better."

One of Steinke's premises is that the leader's role is to be less anxious than the system. Elder-Gomes explained the implications of this premise.

"This way, people can recognize and transform their feelings, and learn to respond rather than react to challenges. Instead of a quick, emotional reaction, which leads to blaming and hyper-vigilance, a more reasoned and helpful response can take form. Steinke uses research on the

human brain, as well as on people as parts of complex systems, to guide congregations towards holistic vitality and wellbeing, and to encourage them to 'choose health.'

Such a pursuit is a good fit for the Unitarian Universalist community.

Elder-Gomes quoted Linda Thomson, the Canadian Unitarian Council's director of regional services for eastern and central Canada, who states, "Systems thinking is interestingly enough expressed in our seventh Unitarian Universalist Principle - which call us to affirm and promote the web of all existence of which we are a part.

"Training and support for leaders and members is essential if we want to choose health and to support our congregations in becoming all that they can be."

The Fellowship also offers a number of programs of interest to the general public, such as The First Thursday Discussion Night, at which people share a potluck supper and then discuss current topics. For more information, contact Elder-Gomes at eldergomes@yahoo.com.



Yard Sale

The Unitarian Fellowship has increased its' "Treasury" by \$1,037.87!!!!

On September 20th, the UFF was a hub of activity. Yard Sale seekers arrived continuously between 8am - 1pm. (some even at 7:00 AM). Many happy faces drove, biked or walked away clutching the treasures you, the members and friends of the Fellowship gave so generously.

Thanks to each one of you who contributed items-for-sale, advice, time and encouragement. Special recognition to Kate and Gary Manual, Carol Wakeham and Dale Branscombe; they contributed much and took away the unsold items to a charity. George DeMille, Tony Fitzgerald, Allison Calvern and Betty Ponder for giving up their Saturday morning sleep-in to come and put up tables, move and remove until they were "just right". Margaret Fitzgerald performed admirably in taking, guarding and counting the money, even with gloves on until the sun came to the front of the building, we thank you. To Glenna Hanley and Tracy Walls we thank you for your time and willingness to do whatever was needed throughout the morning.

THANK YOU, ALL OF YOU

From
Nancy Beltrandi
Janet Crawford
Carol Ann Hanley

Personal Thanks to:

Nancy Beltrandi, who never knew when to stop; she is a

woman of organization, motion and commitment, all with a smile.

Janet Crawford, who gave time sorting, printing posters and UMMMMM the home baked muffins.

You are wonderful women to have shared time, planning, implementation and the excellent outcomes everyone at UFF will benefit from.

Thank you, Janet and Nancy

Carol Ann Hanley



Many Hands in the Kitchen



The Committee on Ministry (COM)

The COM met for the first time with Rev. Mac Campbell (366-3734) on September 15. Members include Danielle Albert (206-3340), George DeMille (459-1436), and Haifa Miller (472-1509).

Mac will be with us for a trial period of four months. Some exciting things will be taking place in this time. He will be doing the service on September 21st, October 19th, November 16th and December 21st. The COM wants to make sure that we are respectful of Mac's time. As he is only a quarter time minister, he cannot be expected to attend every event and every committee meeting, and cannot be everything to everybody. In fact, 40 hours a month can be used up quite quickly with sermon and workshop preparation alone.

A workshop will be held on Friday, October 17th from 7-9pm. The topic of this workshop is "Language: How We Use Words, and How They Use Us." The second workshop will be held Saturday, November 15th from 1-4pm. Look for the topic to be posted in upcoming announcements.

There will also be an Intergenerational Music night on December 13th.

We are pleased that Mac has offered to spend time with TUFF members to discuss their personal spiritual journeys. These can be booked with him one on one, or in groups no bigger than three or four. We ask that each member limit this "spiritual companion" time to one hour per month so that everyone gets to benefit from the experience.

Please contact any member of the COM if you have any questions regarding ministry over the next four months



More Corn, Less Hunger in Honduras

El Aguila is a small indigenous community, in the mountains of the Jesus de Otoro region of Honduras. Most farmers in the community grow a local corn called Matasaneño

Through USC Canada's partner in Honduras, the farmers in El Aguila formed a local research committee (a CIAL in Spanish). Due to chronically poor yields, the members of this CIAL decided to improve the Matasaneño corn. They worked together to improve the variety through selection processes to synchronize the flowering and more deliberate seed selection and conservation. In 2008, corn production in El Aguila was double that of 2005.

In Honduras, June and July are the 'hungry season'; the previous year's corn is finished and the harvest has not started. Food shortages are common. That wasn't the case for the people of El Aguila this year as a result of their collective work in the CIAL. Thanks to the improvement in the variety of corn and the new agricultural practices, the families didn't suffer a shortage of food. To learn more visit the USC Canada website www.usc-canada.org or contact Kgreen@usc-canada.org - please consider subscribing to the e-newsletter of USC for action, events and updates.

Kate Green,
Manager Public Engagement,
North/South Linkages USC Canada,
56 Sparks St. Ottawa, ON, K1P 5B1

Spread the solution! Challenge the system! Take action to fix our broken food system.

Visit www.seedsofsurvival.org



News about the Raging Grannies!

Your organization was recently put forward by Elizabeth Epperly as a nominee for the 2008 Logue Memorial Award.

This award is presented annually to a community organization that has made, for a number of years, a notable contribution to the improvement of the lives of older adults in the province. Nominations are evaluated according to outstanding work for seniors undertaken with dedication, commitment, innovation, and creativity. The members of the selection committee have now carefully reviewed all the nominations that were received. On behalf of the committee, I am pleased to congratulate you and your organization, The Fredericton Raging Grannies, for being this year's recipient.

We invite you, and representatives of your group, to join us as our guest at the annual International Day of Older Persons Breakfast when the presentation will be made. Organized by the Third Age Centre, the breakfast will take place on Thursday, October 2nd, at 8:00 am, in the church hall of Christ Church Parish Church, 245 Westmorland Street, Fredericton.



Cinema Politica

Editor's note: the following was received just after the deadline for the September issue, sorry.

Cinema Politica Fredericton has announced their fall schedule! To visit our schedule and find out more information about the documentaries to be screened, please visit: <http://www.cinemapolitica.org/fridaynightdocs>

Since the fall of 2007, Cinema Politica Fredericton has been screening a weekly documentary on Fridays to inform and engage audiences on important socio-political, cultural, environmental and economic issues. The films take us to places such as Afghanistan, Palestine, Haiti, Guatemala and indigenous territories in this country where Canadian policies are leaving an impact worthy of deeper critical examination, analysis and discussion.

The films are screened on Fridays at 7 PM and are followed by a discussion at approximately 8:30 PM with folks organizing locally on the issues presented in the films. The films are screened at Conserver House, 180 St. John St., Fredericton.

The films are free and so is the popcorn! Donations are encouraged and any funds raised will go towards local organizing efforts committed to positive social change. All are welcome.

For more info, contact: fredericton@cinemapolitica.org

Fall Schedule

Sept 5: The World According to Monsanto

Sept 12: Haiti: We Must Kill the Bandits!

Sept 19: The War on Democracy

Sept 26: The Water Front
 Oct 3: Is the Crown at War with Us?
 Oct 10: Between the Earth and Sun/The Man Who
 Planted Trees
 Oct 17: Forbidden Forest
 Oct 24: View from a Grain of Sand
 Oct 31: The Price of Sugar
 Nov 7: Made in L.A.
 Nov 14: Raised to be Heroes
 Nov 21: El Contrato
 Nov 28: Taxi to the Dark Side
 Dec 5: These Girls
 Dec 12: The Art of Resistance



Raging Granny Song

A song written by an American Raging Granny and published on the granny e-vine.

Oh, Obama
(to the tune of 'Oh Suzanna')

We wanted change in our dear land,
 The seeds of hope are planted.
 We want to vote for you, dear friend,
 But don't take us for granted.

Oh, Obama, oh, will you work for me?
 Or will you cave to Wall Street
 When you get down to DC?

We want to bring our soldiers home:
 We really want them back.
 We should respect the wishes of
 The people of Iraq.
 Bring back the soldiers from Iraq
 And from Afghanistan
 And no pe-emptive strikes against
 Iran or Pakistan

Oh, Obama, oh, will you work for me?
 Or will you cave to the Pentagon
 When you get down to DC?

The oil corporations
 By tax breaks and by stealth
 Have managed to accumulate
 Most of the planet's wealth.

Oh, Obama, oh will you work for me?
 Or will you cave to Exxon
 When you get down to DC?

We hope to save our precious earth
 From deathly exploitation.

The beasts, the birds, the fields so sweet
 Will need resuscitation.

Oh, Obama, oh, will you work for me
 Or will you cave to polluters
 When you get down to DC?



Building Houses in Honduras or Guatemala

Central America Construction Expeditions
 (in conjunction with the Unitarian Church of Toronto)

The campesino (peasant) farmers of west-central Honduras work hard to improve life for themselves and their families, and have seen firsthand the benefits of working together as a community. Over several years of working with these community groups and its Honduran partners, some ad-hoc construction projects by a group of dedicated World Accord volunteers has evolved into a regular program of Construction Expeditions.

Each Construction Expedition is a group of volunteers who pay their own way to go to Honduras and help build a local community with a construction project. The community leaders determine what they need and request assistance from World Accord through the local partner. The construction projects are planned and supervised by trained and experienced leaders from the local community.

The project usually involves building homes, a community center, a health clinic, or a school. One popular (and important) project is building local "kinders" (kindergarten schools). Having one of these local facilities for pre-schoolers enables the young girls in the community to go to school rather than having to stay home to care for the young children. And going to school is the only way most young girls will have any potential of escaping the cycle of teenage marriage.

What Can You Do? While these projects do make an important difference in the lives of the Honduran farmers in the community, perhaps a bigger difference is made in the lives of the participants. Construction Expeditions allow you to open your hands to hard work, open your mind to new ideas and open your heart in a way you never thought possible.

Join a team for an upcoming trip to build a school or rebuild a community.

If you can't go on a trip yourself, is there someone in your family or a friend that you can sponsor to go? You can also make an important contribution by providing general financial support or donating supplies. All financial donations will receive a tax receipt.

The website for information is worldaccord.org Look under "volunteers", "construction expeditions". There is also a

trip to Guatemala. Both trips are in March 2009.

Joan McFarland



Eastern Region Fall Gathering 2008
AT THE CONFLUENCE: RÉUNISSONS NOUS OÙ LES EAUX SE REJOIGNENT



November 7-9, 2008
 Kingston Unitarian Fellowship

Program brochures, with registration forms, pricing information and more information will at: <http://cuc.ca/programs/gatherings.htm>

Program Overview

Friday Nov. 7

- Social events and ingathering

Saturday Nov. 8

- Workshops include: The Hidden Curriculum: Cultivating a Community of Care (exploring the implicit curriculum in our children's programs), Going Forward (Short Term Goals and plans for the CUC), An Exploration of UU Sources, Dying with Dignity and others.
- Youth Con., Jr. Youth & Children's programs
- Child Care
- Evening Social events

Sunday Nov. 9

- More Social time and Sunday Service, led by Eastern Region Ministers.



This event is a coordinated effort of the Eastern Region Shared Ministry Team of the CUC and the Kingston Unitarian Fellowship.



CUC Board Highlights

HIGHLIGHTS From the CUC Board MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2008

The CUC Board met at the YMCA Geneva Park Conference Centre near Orillia, Ontario from September 18th to the 21st, 2008. The CUC is currently facing some significant challenges in terms of staffing (in light of recent staff departures), volunteering (we haven't identified enough volunteers to follow those who have completed several years' service) and revenue (given poor current and anticipated returns on our investments in what appears to be a faltering market). Our September meeting addressed all three of these challenges, and moved forward in several areas. The summary below reflects the highlights of those undertakings. We will be sending an expanded update to presidents and ministers shortly, and we will make this available on the CUC website.

1. Sustainability. The Board is committed to a CUC that operates with a sustainable staffing model, by which we mean that our paid staff are clear about what work they are being asked to do, that the amount of work being requested is reasonable, and that we treat our staff in accordance with our principles. In addition, we have to be realistic about the amount and kinds of work we can expect to accomplish through volunteer efforts. We are developing a budget proposal for 2009 that is part of a long-term commitment to balanced budgets. We do anticipate that this year's budget will need to carry a deficit, but we are striving to make sure that the amount of the deficit will be less than it had to be last year.

We are particularly pleased that Linda Thomson has

agreed to serve as our Acting Executive Director at least to the end of this calendar year, and perhaps beyond, to assist us in developing a model that takes into account the current realities. (While she serves in this capacity, we will contract for an assistant who will temporarily take on much of her work as DRS-East. A two-year interim Director of Lifespan Learning position is also currently being advertised, and we anticipate that it will be filled by the end of October. That job description also includes assisting in the development of our sustainable model.)

We will provide information along the way and offer opportunities for regular dialogue, so that our membership becomes an integral part of the directions we choose to follow. We recognize, of course, that any final decisions will have to be made at the annual meeting.

2. Staying Oriented Towards our Mission. It is this board's perception that we are in a necessary and predictable transition, not a crisis. For many months we have had a team working on reviewing our board policies to more directly relate them to the CUC's mission ("Growing vital religious communities in Canada"). In doing so, we can develop adequate monitoring systems to ensure we meet our goals on an on-going basis.

3. Going-4-ward. The Board continues to move forward with the short-term plan presented at the Annual Meeting in Ottawa. We will be offering opportunities for input through workshops at each of the regional fall gatherings. Highlights of where these initiatives stand are attached.

4. Covenantal Relationships. Within our CUC, we create religious communities wherever individual UUs come together to be nurtured, to grow, and to act. We are a "community of communities", and our communities include not only our congregations, but also our Youth, our Ministers, our Lay Chaplains, our Social Responsibility Groups, and other groups of UUs who gather for common purpose and shared values. By developing formal covenants between our communities we can have a clearer understanding of our relationships, how we work together towards our shared goals and our responsibilities to each other. For example, we are already well on the way to establishing a formal covenant with ministers through their professional organization, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (UUMOC). We are also delighted to report that, at our meeting, the Board committed to create a covenant with the Canadian youth community (struggling in the wake of major changes in continental programming by the UUA) through a revitalized and re-mandated Canadian Advisory Youth/Adult Committee ("CAYAC").

The Board re-affirms that there is no implied hierarchy in the relationship between the CUC and the member congregations. We are all in service together. The CUC is the creation of its member congregations, conceived as a way to act in concert to accomplish things that can't be accomplished alone. We understand our role as trustees to be that we ensure that the communities within our midst

coordinate, connect, and build coalitions.

The CUC Board is committed to dealing fairly and decisively with the current challenges facing the CUC. By acknowledging the covenantal relationships between the communities that make up the CUC, we see its continued success will hinge upon a sense of shared ministry that must pervade our movement. The Board came away from this meeting electrified by the possibilities.



CUC Chapbook

Dear Poets and Artists

The Chapbook Committee are seeking poetry for our third chapbook. Please read our call for submissions below.

For further information regarding the ACM visit <http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2009/>.

regards
Janet Vickers
Poetry Editor & Chair, Chapbook Committee
tojan@dowco.com
poetry@cuc.ca

CUC Seeks Poetry for Its Third Annual Chapbook

The editorial board of the CUC Poetry Chapbook 2009 project are seeking submissions of Unitarian poetry (maximum five poems per submission, each poem 45 lines or less including title and blank lines) from Canadian Unitarians or Unitarian residents of Canada, who are either CUC congregation members, CUC members-at-large or self-identified Unitarians, on themes of Answering the Call : Répondre à l'appel - to be considered for publication in our third professionally published chapbook, to be made available by the next CUC ACM. Please submit unpublished material to Jo-Anne Elder at eldergomes@yahoo.com or 180 Liverpool Street, Fredericton (NB) E3B 4V5, att'n: CUC Chapbook, by November 30, 2008.

Please also include a 100 word bio. Include an S.A.S.E. if you are submitting via land mail and wish to receive a reply. All work will receive notification of acceptance or not by March 21, 2009.



Weaving Our Worship Workshop

Friday Oct 17 through Sunday, Oct 19, at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Montréal. The material received was not suitable for inclusion in the newsletter without a lot of work, however, anyone who is interested should ask and I will make the material available to you.



Message from Mary

Make Me a Bed of Fond Memories

(Bruce Cockburn, Joy Will Find a Way)

This will be my last message to you as CUC Executive Director. And as I browse through the messages sent over the past eight years, I do indeed find an abundance of fond memories.

Since I resigned a month ago, my inbox has been filled with messages of appreciation and reminders of people and places I have visited during this time.

I plan to borrow an idea from Rev. Dr. Janet Newman who recently served Toronto First and Ottawa First as interim minister. She asks people to submit a page for a "Memory Book" from every congregation she serves. My Memory Book will likely be primarily printed email messages, and that seems entirely appropriate for this job - email has been a huge part of "connecting and empowering". If you feel inclined to share, send to my personal coordinates:

#4-2605 West 5th Avenue,
Vancouver BC V6K 1T2
or maryinvancouver@gmail.com

In fact, it was when I got a message from Janet herself that I had this idea. I got to know her fairly well over the past year as the minister of the ACM host congregation and saw the basket of pages when I was visiting Ottawa. Janet had sent me an email asking for my home address, and I remembered seeing the basket of pages for her memory book when I visited Ottawa. I would enjoy having a binder of "fond memories" to reminisce about this past eight years in the future.

Bunny Turner, a founding member of the CUC, even sent me a "gold medal" and it will definitely go in the book. As will the email from someone I never met, who expressed appreciation for being able to connect with other Unitarians through the many CUC email groups.

People have been asking how involved I'll be in Unitarian events. Well, for starters, I am looking forward to having more time in my home congregation in Vancouver. Folks there have not been shy about inviting my involvement in various activities including coordinating an event to celebrate our centenary in 2009. I'll also likely spend as much or more time as I had prior to 2000 visiting other BC congregations and attending camps and retreats around the province. I'll see some of you at the BC Regional Fall Gathering in October.

In terms of national events, however, I'll be stepping back at least for a time. The areas where you may see me active are around some of my personal interests in the arts, sacred circle dancing and labyrinth walking. When I next

attend a CUC ACM, look for me in those workshops! (I'll register for storytelling and poetry at the BC RFG.)

CUC is being left in excellent hands. I am so glad that Linda Thomson has been Associate E.D. for the past several years and that Phil Strapp has over the past five years as Financial Administrator continually taken on more and more responsibility. Our two days together in person to "pass the flame" were both productive and enjoyable. I'll miss those weekly teleconferences and the biannual staff retreats.

To say the number of actively involved volunteers has increased is the understatement of the decade. Many of the initiatives I had direct responsibility for - lay chaplaincy, social responsibility and the annual conference and meeting - have strong teams of volunteers to continue to move forward our role in this country.

When we next meet, whether in Vancouver or at a CUC event, let's discover shared interests and topics and get to know each other "post-CUC." Unitarians and UU's are such interesting people - I expect we can find lots to talk about when we cross paths. CUC will be moving forward in new directions, and I will as well.

The next time I attend the CUC ACM will likely be when it's close to home in 2010 in Victoria. And I look forward to the 50th anniversary celebration in Toronto in 2011. That may be the next time I see many of you - and while it may seem a ways off right now - it seems like only yesterday I was getting ready to go to my first Board Meeting as the "new" Executive Director.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Until we meet again...

Mary

Mary Bennett

PS - People have asked what I'll be doing next - and while that is still unfolding, I expect to continue being active in "cyberspace" - so any time you're curious, just google "Mary Bennett" and see what pops up!



The Proof of the Crumble

This space wants your material!