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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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voices in our UU traditions, and the legacies we receive and give. If you would like to take part, please let me know.

**June 28** Installation of the new volunteers (Board and Committees). End of Fellowship Year picnic. Potluck style; please bring something of your choice to share. Depending on the weather, we will eat indoors or outdoors.

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## Annual General Meeting

The congregation is reminded that the AGM of the Fellowship will follow a short service on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June at 11am at 874 York Street, the Fellowship. It is critical that a quorum be present for this meeting. Please make every effort to attend.

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## Adult and Youth Calendar

Wednesday, June 24, 3:00-5:00 p.m. YAYAJ (Youth) Group. Co-led by Najat and Jo-Anne. Planning for summer and 2015-16.

Wednesday, June 24, 6:30-9:00 p.m. We will listen together to the CUC Confluence lecture, by Rev. Stephen Atkinson; dessert and discussion following.

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## Sunday Services

Child care is available and all are welcome.

### June Theme is Holding On and Letting Go

**June 7** Theme-based Ministry Service: "Holding On and Letting Go." Service Leader: Jo-Anne Elder Gomes. June is a transition time for us, the end of our church year and board term, for some the end of the school year, graduation, or bridging. We will be marking some of the changes we have experienced in the 2014-15 year, some of the relationships and activities we have lost, recommitted ourselves to, or continued to cherish, and celebrate the journeys we are about to begin. Those who wish to say a few words about an important event or passage in their lives, or share the name of a loved one, may take part in a candle-lighting ceremony.

**June 14** The UFF AGM follows a short service led by UFF President, Sylvia Hale

**June 21** Ancestors. To mark Father's Day and look back to Mother's Day, some members of the Fellowship will talk about the role ancestors and mentors have played in their lives, the founders and prophetic

"Spirit: The Necessary Foundation of Social Justice" by Reverend Stephen Atkinson

Stephen Atkinson, who was a member of our Fellowship when he heard the call to ministry, was the speaker at the 2015 Confluence lecture at the CUC's Annual Conference and Meeting. He spoke about the brain as our spiritual organ, virtue as our spiritual goal, and justice as our spiritual imperative. The Confluence lecturer is chosen every year by the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada, and the lectures are often instrumental in orienting our faith group in the following years. If you would like to listen or read Rev. Atkinson's talk, you can find it here: <http://cuc.ca/acm-2015/confluence-lecture/>

We will also take the opportunity to listen to it together on Wednesday evening, June 24. A discussion about the ideas in the lecture will begin at about 7:30; please join us to talk about how this vision of our movement may influence the future of our Fellowship. Other Confluence lectures from past ACMs can be found here: <http://cuc.ca/unitarian-universalist-ministers-of-canada/confluence-lectures/> I find the 2013 lecture by Reverend Shawn Newton particularly compelling.

For more information, please contact Jo-Anne at [elder-gomes@yahoo.com](mailto:elder-gomes@yahoo.com)

Thursday, June 25. 7:00-8:30 p.m. Theme Night: Holding

On and Letting Go. Spiritual reflection and exploration on our monthly theme.



## Women's Pot Luck

The next Unitarian Fellowship women's pot luck will be held Friday, June 26. Claudia Carter will host the gathering at her home, 41 Biggs St. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. The topic for discussion – share a happy or funny childhood memory, perhaps something that happened in the summer. For further information contact Joan Brewer at jebrewer@rogers.com



## President's Report

It has been a challenging year. We started out with a nine Board members, but over the year regular participation dropped to six, a reflection of time constraints, limited email access, other stressors, and illness. From the outset the Board set as its priority for the year the revitalization of relations between Board and membership through promoting congregational conversations, direct democracy, and broader communication. We organized Congregational Conversations or ConCons on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in September, with routine Board meetings on the third Sunday of each month. The goal was to provide a regular forum for members to share information about committee activities, to discuss issues and concerns with the Board, and sometimes to focus on specific topics around democratic structures, 'appreciative inquiry', and thematic ministry for Sunday Services. Eventually we held six Conversations. They were generally well attended with from 10 to 20 people coming. At the September meeting of the Board we discussed at length a presentation prepared by Rhonda Connell on the principles of direct democracy, and their fit with Unitarian principles. We concluded with a unanimous vote of the Board to support a set of policies around direct democracy, as amended in discussion at the meeting. These policies were discussed at length in the October Conversation. A number of fears and concerns were voiced at this meeting, particularly around issues of confidentiality and privacy. People also generally felt that any formal decision on changing decision-making structures in the Fellowship should be held in a duly-constituted membership meeting, as provided for under our current By-laws.

The Board continued to discuss the policy proposals at our subsequent meetings. We eventually agreed to modify the proposals to give greater leeway for the Board to control access to potentially sensitive information. We also agreed that holding Congregational Conversations every month, in addition to regular monthly Board meetings was too much. Formalizing five Conversations over the eight-month September-June period seemed reasonable. We

chose the Annual Budget meeting of January 2015 as the duly-constituted membership meeting under our current By-Laws, to bring the revised policy to the membership for a formal vote. The motion passed with 13 votes in favour (+1 proxy), 2 against (+ 2 proxies), and 2 abstentions.

The motion read as follows:

MOTION To Affirm the Principles of Direct Democracy in the Unitarian Fellowship Direct Democracy involves commitment to the following practices:

- Fully open Board meetings
- Open communications between Board and members
- Presentations by members to the Board are open to all members
- From time to time, presentations of a sensitive nature may be made to the Board. The Board will inform members that such a presentation was made, and it will be made available to members, by request, from the Board.
- Open disclosure of a conflict of interest
- Five regular congregational meetings/conversations will be scheduled across the year, normally in September, November, January, March, and June. These regular meetings will constitute
  - a) a forum for Committees of the Fellowship to make reports on Committee activities to the members, and
  - b) a forum to discuss issues under consideration by the Board and for members to vote on policy decisions proposed by the Board.
- A minimum of two volunteers will be elected to the Nominating Committee at the January meeting, and those elected will be declared 'appointed' by the Board, in accord with current By-Laws.

The third aspect of the Board's commitment to revitalization of relations in the Fellowship was enhanced communications. We set up a Facebook site for the Fellowship and a Youth-group site. We also made it a policy to circulate detailed summaries of discussion, opinions and concerns, raised in Board meetings, which go beyond the customary Minutes and Motions. We also circulated summaries of discussions and Committee reports given at Congregational Conversations. We were successful in our last-minute application to West Bequest for funding for a visiting Unitarian minister to assist us in working through continuing stress within the Fellowship. We had four visits by Rev. David Hutchinson from Houlton, Maine. Lengthy summaries of his services and related workshops were also circulated to the membership through our congregational email list.

In conclusion, I am fully committed to supporting and promoting the policies of direct democracy as approved by the membership on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Roughly these policies can be summarised as:

- A minimum of 5 scheduled congregational conversations
- Reports directly by Cttee Chairs *or their delegates*
- Board presentations to members of issues and concerns
- Proposals from Board ratified by vote of *all members present*
- Recommendations by Cttees/Members to the Board by vote of *all members present*

As I consider putting my name forward for a further one-year term as President I plan to make this commitment explicit and to ask the membership to vote with this understanding.

Sylvia Hale



## GFAW Meet & Greet

The Greater Fredericton Area Witches extends an invitation to members of the Unitarian Fellowship to join them at their Open Meet & Greet on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, at 874 York St, The Fellowship.

Why should you go? There will be food, of course.

Whether you've been waiting to jump into the GFAW community or simply want to test the waters first, this is your chance to see what it's all about! Meet the group, ask questions, have a good time & enjoy some friendly company.

Doors open at 6:30pm with a pot luck & finger foods.

What to bring:

- Food/Snack-style munchies for the pot luck, (bring ingredient list).
- A donation of \$3 - \$5 as able to help cover use of the space.

There will be multiple rooms available, so if you feel inclined to bring Tarot or Oracle cards to offer readings, or maybe an instrument to get some music going, feel free to do so!



## Lay Chaplain Position Available

**The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton  
Requires the Services of a Second Lay Chaplain**

To: The Congregation

From: Sheila Moore, Chair, Lay Chaplaincy Committee

Lay Chaplains prepare for and officiate at rites of passage (weddings, funerals, memorial services and child dedications) for members of our congregation and the general public. 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. The Fellowship currently has a vacancy for a second Lay Chaplain.

If you are interested in being considered for this position, you are asked to read the information in the Lay Chaplains Manual which may be found on-line. Either use your preferred web search, e.g. Google, to find "CUC congregational lay chaplain manual" which should give you a "PDF" file near the top of the search results or go to the UFF website "timely news" tab and use the link there.

Procedures for Lay Chaplaincy Appointment Search: The UFF Lay Chaplaincy Committee will accept applications and a Selection Committee will be appointed to conduct interviews with selected applicants. The Lay Chaplaincy Committee will recommend a candidate for appointment to the Board of the Fellowship. 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 which outlines the roles and responsibilities of the lay Chaplain, the LC Committee and the Congregation. Chaplains may serve 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.

Please mail applications to: Sheila Moore, 33 Ridgeway Dr., Keswick Ridge, N.B. E6L 1R1 or call 363-2480 to make arrangements to have the application picked up.

Deadline for applications is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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