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## Contents for April 2006

Upcoming Services .....	1
Children's Religious Education .....	1
Women's Potluck .....	2
Caring Committee - Library Resource .....	2
Mission Statement .....	2
Room to Let .....	2
Fredericton Chamber Orchestra .....	3
Wine Country Excursions .....	3
ICUU Symposium .....	3
Open Letter to Prime Minister .....	5
Message from Linda Thomson .....	6
A Message From Mary .....	7
Terminator Technology .....	8
Minutes of December Board Meeting .....	8



## Upcoming Services

**April 2** Service Leader and Presenter Rev Kitsy Winthrop No Jewel Stands Alone: A reflection on community.

**April 9** Service Leader and Presenter Rev Ray Drennan The Courage to Leap: The 21st Century is well under way and yet it seems that Unitarians and Universalists are stuck in a 20th paradigm and some, it seems to me, are wanting to push us back into a 19th century paradigm. What might be a 21st century paradigm for us? Do we have the courage to leap into it?

**April 16** Linda Sprague and Tony Fitzgerald: The theme will be the "Music and Poetry through Poetry and Music". We have done this before, believe it or not.

Do you have a favourite piece of music you want to share? A poem that gave inspiration or comfort? Are you willing to say a few words to introduce the work? Would you like to read the poem? Perform the music, or loan us a CD?

Bring your suggestions to either Linda or me and we will do our best to organize everything and wrap it in an order of service.

**April 23** Presenters Sharon and Don Flatt

**April 30** Presenter Rev Anne Treadwell Inward Gardens: Let a Thousand Varied Flowers Bloom! —U\*Us claim to be at least tolerant, and at best accepting, of diversity both within and outside our congregations. Yet we may have an inclination to feel a bit superior to members of other faiths who rely less on a rational and scientific approach to belief and more, perhaps, on tradition and authority. Anne will suggest that just as a dahlia can never be a daffodil, our religious outlook is largely determined by our personality. Rather than trampling on others' beliefs, working to understand and respect them, beyond lip-service to multifaith holidays and customs, may be the best way to nurture that Eden we yearn for.

**June 4** Spirituality of Wine "Water saw its creator and blushed," said Lord Byron, explaining wine to his Sunday school teacher after hearing about Jesus' miracle at Cana. Wine is found in most writings of organized religions and is considered by some as the life giving essence prescribed by God. Italians have a saying, "One barrel of wine can work more miracles than a church full of saints," but of course, wine is also called the Devil's tool. Ed Leslie will present on the spiritual and physical attributes and benefits of this ancient liquid. Following the service, Ed will provide small samples of a variety of his wines, sharing his passion for this divine hobby. Benjamin Franklin said, "God gave us wine because he wanted us to be happy."

*In faith*  
allison calvern



## Children's Religious Education

This month the children talked and sang about Spring! We looked at the globe, acted out a seed sprouting and shared readings about Ostara and the Spring Equinox! We also learned about our Universalist heritage hero, Dr. George

de Benneville. Here is the kids version of one of his most famous thoughts.

“The Spirit of Love will be big in us when that Love is shared with everyone. That Love is the Love of respect for all no matter how different we are. When we are thankful for that Love we see that we are all the same inside. Our differences don’t stop our Love.”

We looked at the comic style story of Dr. de Benneville from our UU Kids Book. It is really neat! If you’d like a copy, just ask and I will run one off for you.

Thanks to Molly for facilitating a week for us this month. If you would like to have a go at it yourself, you would be more than welcome! I’d be happy to do up a program for you or you could use our format and do one up yourself. We would also like a piano player to help Don now and then so that he can catch the service downstairs. In the meantime, hope you are all having a joyous Spring!

Love  
Sharon Flatt



## Women’s Potluck

The women’s pot luck dinner for April will be April 28th. at 6pm. Barbara Fairweather will host the gathering in her home at 394 Union Street (parking available behind the house). Come and enjoy an evening of good food and good conversation. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca



## Caring Committee - Library Resource

A new resource section is being planned for our library under the auspices of The Caring Committee. It has been dubbed the ‘Hotline to Hell’ but a new more appropriate name is being considered! The word ‘hotline’ is very important - there is no counseling available with this resource section in the library, only resource material.

It will include current information about services available for persons with chronic illness, disabilities, addictions services, seniors etc. It will also include the new Chimo directory, and a section on living wills, power of attorney, and planning for death (including information from local cemeteries). It will be important to keep the material ‘up to date’.

Information has been obtained from the Province of New Brunswick, DECH Palliative Care department, The Premier’s Council on Persons with a Disability, the Queen’s Printer, The Neptune Society, Dying with Dignity, and

Chimo etc.

Here is one example of what will be available. ‘Vial for Life’ is a program that started in Oromocto about 10 years ago. We have ordered ten Vial kits. The Vial is a personal capsule stored in a person’s refrigerator providing paramedics with information on existing medical conditions or medical history that requires patients to take medication. Stickers placed on exterior doors will direct paramedics to the Vial for Life. The Vial is to be stored in the fridge as almost all homes have one and are easily found should the paramedics have to enter your home, in case of emergency. Sometimes during a time of crisis, people involved have a tendency to forget certain information that could be useful. The Vial should relieve any stress that this may happen in time of crisis.

In fellowship  
Patricia des Champs



## Mission Statement

On Saturday, about a dozen different people over the course of three hours Saturday morning and just over an hour Saturday afternoon met in a workshop facilitated by the reverend Kitsy Winthrop on drafting a mission statement and a covenant. The result should be regarded as a draft document and a committee will polish the wording while retaining the intent. At the end of the morning, the draft mission statement was as follows although by the end of lunch, several changes had already been proposed.

*The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton is an open, safe and respectful [liberal] religious community of learners, seekers and doers, dedicated to spiritual growth and honest and sensitive engagement with each other and the wider world.*

The covenant as it stood at the end of the session was not as polished but we had a good feeling as to how we should proceed. It was explained to us that the covenant should be a more concrete set of guidelines which will help us to achieve our mission. People agree to abide by the covenant and when it appears that tensions are growing, the covenant may be used to gently and respectfully address the sources of tension. (*editorial note, my own wording*)

In fellowship  
Tony Fitzgerald



## Room to Let

Room for Rent in private home. Lights, heat, cable, and phone included, as well as the affection of 3 cats. Furnished

optional. Walking distance to Save Easy, St. Mary's Supermarket, Tim Horton's... On 11N bus route and within 4 blocks of other Northside bus routes. Close to Westmorland St Bridge. \$275/month. Contact Barbara Fairweather at 458-1435



## Fredericton Chamber Orchestra

The Fredericton Chamber Orchestra, conducted by David Adams, will present "Good Friday Meditations", a program of music suitable for this reflective season. The orchestra will be joined by guest soloists Lisa Roy, soprano, and Paul Bustin, baritone, who will perform selections from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Handel's *Messiah* and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*. The program will also feature works by Albinoni, Bach, Bruckner, Faure, Gabrieli, and Humperdinck. Special guests will be Antique Brass. The concert will be presented on Friday, April 14, 8:00 p.m., at Wilmot United Church, Fredericton. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students/seniors and will be available from Mazzuca's, orchestra members or at the door.



## Wine Country Excursions

"Far exceeded our expectations... We would love to do it again!"

Valerie & Larry Foley, Wellesley, MA

UU's of Napa, California, announce the second season of our UU Wine Country Excursions, a delightful way to tour the scenic Napa and Sonoma Valleys.

These small tours are customized to your interests, e.g. wine tasting, art, history, gourmet dining, or exploring the beauty of our hills and valleys. The tour includes private room/bath and breakfast in the homes of congregation members.

Special places include COPIA (the American Center for Food, Wine and the Arts),

Jack London's home, the Francis Ford Coppola winery and movie museum, fine restaurants, many museums and galleries, miles of bicycling and hiking trails, etc.

We offer Excursions from April through October. Plan for two days of touring and two or three overnight stays. Home hospitality without tour is available. All proceeds benefit our small fellowship. We have limited openings, so contact us now for details. Tom Wilson (707) 254-7443 or [twilson9@sbcglobal.net](mailto:twilson9@sbcglobal.net).



## ICUU Symposium

FROM ICUU.NET

Symposium material, Youth conference

"Unitarian/Universalism: Liberal Religion for a Changing Global Society"

An International Unitarian/Universalist Theological Symposium July 3 - 8, 2006 At the Historic Unitarian College, Kolozsvár, Transylvania

Accommodations and Fees

Travel to Kolozsvár by air, from Budapest, Hungary, or Bucharest, Romania, or by train from anywhere in Europe. Participants make their own travel arrangements.

Accommodations will be in the newly renovated and expanded college dormitory (single and double rooms, air-conditioned), and at local hotels within easy walking distance. Meals will be served at a restaurant next door to the college.

Symposium Fees cover room, meals, (including daily refreshments) and program costs from dinner on July 3 to breakfast on July 8.

Costs: Housing and Meals Unitarian College Dormitory "Pilgrim House" (air-conditioned): Double Room: 50 euro/day (no single dormitory rooms available)

Hotel (2 minutes walking from the College—air-conditioned) Single Room: 85 euro/day Double Room: 65 euro/day

Symposium Registration Fee: 195 euro/person

Optional Tour and Conference following the symposium Open to symposium participants and non-participants

3-day Tour of Transylvania—July 8-11. Single Room: 340 euro/person Double Room: 310 euro /person Visit a variety of cultural and historical sites of interest, beginning and ending in Kolozsvár.

"A Taste of Transylvania" Conference July 12-16 Single room: 450 euro/person Double room: 390 euro/person A five-day conference in the style of an Elderhostel, featuring presentations of Transylvanian history and culture, local food specialties and wine tasting, traditional crafts, music, dance and Hungarian language lessons.

How to register: Registration for the Symposium, and optional tour and conference, will be online.

For more information contact: Rev. David Gyer Unitarian Church of Transylvania [dgyero@unitarius.com](mailto:dgyero@unitarius.com)

John Clifford, ICUU Administrator [clifford@universalist.ednet.co.uk](mailto:clifford@universalist.ednet.co.uk)

"Unitarian / Universalism: Liberal Religion for a Chang-

ing Global Society”

You are Invited!

You are invited to attend the 2nd International Unitarian/Universalist Theological Symposium, sponsored by the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. Our focus will be the theological challenges and opportunities facing our liberal religious movement in this time of increased economic and social globalization and increased global environmental degradation. How do we respond as religious liberals? What are the theological foundations for our responses, and how are these theological foundations shifting? Speakers and participants will address questions about religious diversity, worship and congregational life, social justice, and outreach in this era in which all communities and organizations are impacted by globalization.

Join other U-U's from Around the World

The symposium will include presentation of papers from leading Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist theologians and writers from ICUU member groups and emerging groups around the world, plus panel discussions, theological seminars, daily worship and sharing from all groups represented. Representatives from new UU groups in Latin America and Africa will be present, as well as from established groups in Europe, North America, Australia /New Zealand, and Asia. The symposium is open to all interested individuals.

Historic Kolozsvar, Transylvania

The symposium will be hosted by the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, the oldest living Unitarian movement in the world, and housed at the conference center of the Unitarian College in Kolozsvar, Transylvania, (Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

Program and Schedule

Arrivals and registration will take place on Monday, July 3. The symposium will begin Monday evening with a reception, dinner, opening ceremony and worship. Tuesday through Friday the schedule will include daily worship, presentation of papers plus discussion, panel discussions and seminars on a variety of theological topics. A special presentation on modern Transylvanian Unitarianism will also be included.

The Symposium concludes Friday evening, July 7. Optional sightseeing and cultural tours of Transylvania will be offered to participants, following the symposium.

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## ICUU SUNDAY

As you will probably know, every year ICUU urges member groups' congregations to have an annual celebration of our international community and its importance to local and regional identity as religious liberals. This year, Unitarians and Universalists around the world are being

urged to celebrate ICUU Sunday on 26 March.

Jill McAllister is currently producing new materials for this year and these will be sent as an attachment and put on the website (icuu.net) as soon as they are available.

John Clifford

Executive Secretary, ICUU

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NOTE: See attachment from John Slattery and Joy Silver of Beacon who were willing to share their service materials with any who wish to use them

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[HTTP://WWW.UUA.ORG/PRESIDENT/060227\\_INTERNATIONAL.HTML](http://www.uua.org/president/060227_international.html)

## UUA PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS STRUCTURE

February 27, 2006

Friends,

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association has described its vision for international engagement with these words:

“Mindful of both the brokenness and the potential for reconciliation in the world, the Board of the UUA commits to strengthen and energize UUA member congregations by facilitating their connection to the transforming power of international engagement and partnership.”

To actualize the Board of Trustee's vision for international engagement, the UUA is introducing changes to its International Programs work. Two new staff members will join the Association to fulfill this vision.

First, a new Acting Director for International Programs will serve on a short-term basis in order to provide an in-depth assessment of how our congregations are currently engaged in transformative international engagement and how this engagement might be strengthened. The assessment will include personal interviews with UUs involved in international work, focus groups, and surveys.

Cathy Cordes, who has served our movement for a number of years as Executive Director of the UU Partner Church Council (UUPCC), will serve as Acting Director for International Programs Email Link on a halftime basis from April 1, 2006, through June, 2007; Cathy will continue her work with the UUPCC on a reduced basis. The UUA is deeply grateful to the Partner Church Council for facilitating Cathy's ability to take on this responsibility.

Second, in order to increase staff involvement in key policy areas, a Legislative Assistant for International Issues will join the Washington Office for Advocacy's Social Justice Internship Program. This new position, which will include a special focus on global HIV/ AIDS, is in the process of being filled; applications are due by noon on Tuesday, February 28. For more information about this position

and how to apply, please see [www.uua.org/uuawo](http://www.uua.org/uuawo) External Site: link will open a new window or call Jeannette Jackson at 202-296-4672, ext. 10.

The UU Holdeen India Program (UUHIP), housed in the UUA's Washington Office, will collaborate in overseeing this internship position, connecting U.S. domestic policy with UUHIP's work in India on such international issues as human trafficking and women's rights. For more information, see [www.uua.org/international/holdeen](http://www.uua.org/international/holdeen).

The UUA is firmly committed to international engagement as a means of fostering justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. We are confident that these changes to our International Programs structure will enhance our support for the significant international work already being accomplished by our congregations.

In faith,

William G. Sinkford President Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

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Two activities proposed by the Unitarian Universalists of Barcelona

(Spain) have been included in the program of the upcoming 2nd Catalan Parliament of Religions, that will take place in the city of Manresa (near the mountain of Montserrat, where the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists held its latest biannual meeting). The Catalan Parliament of Religions is an annual event started as an offshoot of the World Parliament of Religions that took place in Barcelona in 2004 to continue its work on the regional level.

The leader of the Barcelona UUs, Jaume de Marcos, will talk on the subject "We can love in many ways: the commitment of the Unitarian Churches with homosexual individuals and couples". The Spanish Unitarian Universalists will also participate in a workshop as founding members of a new interfaith group, "Tradition and Progress", that also includes progressive Christians, Jews, and Muslims.

In last year's edition of the Catalan Parliament, the UUs of Barcelona celebrated the first Flower Communion in Spain. Many people from different faiths felt welcome and moved by this ceremony, that celebrates the beauty and diversity of humankind beyond races, gender, and religious persuasions.

Saludos/Regards

Jaume de Marcos

<http://www.uuhispano.net>



## Open Letter to Prime Minister

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, ON. K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Harper,

Before the January election Unitarians and Universalists in Canada may have had reason to be pleased with your promise to increase the accountability of government. We have since, however, been appalled by your acceptance of Mr. Emerson into your Party and Cabinet. Mr. Emerson, as a Liberal, vehemently opposed your policies. How is he now to be held accountable for them?

This flagrant breach of democracy particularly concerns us because of our covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process in our congregations and in society at large.

Mr. Emerson clearly did not cross the floor on a matter of principle (as Ms. Stronach at least gave the appearance of doing) but for pure political expediency, which provided him with considerable personal perks, power and prestige. The conflict of interest code requires MPs to "fulfil their public duties with honesty and uphold the highest standards so as to avoid real or apparent conflicts of interest, and maintain and enhance public confidence and trust in the integrity of each member and in the House of Commons." Both you-the Prime Minister of Canada-and Mr. Emerson certainly appear to have broken this code.

You and Mr. Emerson both claim that Mr. Emerson can serve his constituency better as Minister of Trade than as a member of the opposition. This shows a disregard for democracy: the electorate in Vancouver-Kingsway did not elect a member who promoted Conservative policies. For better or for worse a plurality of voters wanted Liberal policies. In a democracy that wishes this, this must be respected.

Mr. Emerson has two honourable courses of action: he must either resign from the Conservative Party and sit as an independent, or he must resign as the elected member in Vancouver-Kingsway, and run in a by-election as a Conservative. The people, not you, will then choose who will represent them.

Your claim that the Ethics Commissioner cannot rule in this case because Mr. Emerson crossed the floor between the election and the first sitting of Parliament-as if ethics takes a break while the House is not in session-further displays your lack of understanding of and respect for democracy and ethical behaviour. That you have said you will not cooperate with him is a disgrace to your office.

Unitarians and Universalists urge you to persuade Mr. Emerson to act honourably, thereby restoring the respect that both Parliament and your Office deserves.

Brian Kiely, President Canadian Unitarian Council



## Message from Linda Thomson

Some food for thought from the Alban Institute.

[www.alban.org](http://www.alban.org)

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL - CONSEIL UNITARIEN DU CANADA

Growing Vital Religious Communities in Canada

[www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca)

Did you know that the Early Bird registration deadline for the Annual Conference and Meeting is April 1st. Learn more , plan your participation and register on-line at: <http://www.cuc.ca/conference/2006/index.htm>.

\_\_\_\_\_ a From the Alban Weekly - Week of 3/27/2006

Worship in the Small Church

Peter Bush and Christine O'Reilly

Worship is the most important and most consistent element of congregational life. It is the practice of worship that defines a church as a church and not a social club or service organization. The size of a church has a direct impact on worship. While some believe that small congregations cannot meet the needs of current and future generations with sufficient "programming options," we contend that programs are secondary to faithful, effective congregational ministry. Although small faith communities cannot pack the church building 24/7 with small groups, classes, music rehearsals, and the like, they can provide vibrant worship that honors God and reminds worshippers of their identity and calling in Jesus Christ. God is present with and empowers the faithful in worship, as the scriptures testify: "But You are holy, O You who dwell in the praises of Israel" (Ps. 22:3 AMP).

Vibrant worship undergirds church life beyond weekly gatherings, providing a strong sense of community and deeply personal pastoral care. It is our belief that small congregations can remind the wider church that the very purpose of any church, regardless of size, is to be a people who worship God.

Small congregations take on many forms. They may be single-point, solo-pastor ministries; yoked congregations served by the same minister; or congregations "clustered" with a ministry team. Congregations may receive full or partial denominational financial assistance, and congregations in any of these configurations may be led entirely

by laypeople or clergy, either full- or part-time. The form of organization is often defined by economics rather than by mission or ministry needs and can itself influence how the congregation functions. Judicatory bodies also play a role in these settings. Such factors affect congregational self-esteem, leadership style, and autonomy.

Most clergy in small churches come from urban or suburban backgrounds and are recent seminary graduates, steeped in city and university life. Small congregations—particularly those in rural or remote communities, with their strong traditions, unwritten codes of conduct, and weariness at "breaking in" another pastor—can leave clergy in a state of culture shock, learning to speak a new language and to navigate a new life. Clergy may find themselves echoing the psalmist's lament: "How can we sing the songs of the Lord while in a foreign land?" (Ps. 137:4 NIV). In preparing for worship, clergy probably face an indigenous liturgy that may bear little or no resemblance to the careful teachings of seminary professors, while members assume that the way they worship is the pattern used by all congregations.

Worshippers may be familiar with a small, select repertoire of music. The hymnals in use may be from another time or tradition. Prayer books and other worship guides may not be the most recent editions promoted by the denomination. Practices around communion, baptism, prayer, and seasonal celebrations are steeped in the traditions of that particular congregation. Weddings and funerals bring another set of expectations. Clergy must learn the ways of worship in this congregation, and honor those practices as they seek to renew worship.

At the same time clergy are learning the customs of the small church, they must discover their place as worship planners and leaders. With a small number of people to work with, clergy are often tempted to take on too many responsibilities and roles in worship. They plan and lead every aspect of the service alone, from reading Scripture to selecting hymns. Some musically gifted clergy may even accompany the singing to the exclusion of other instrumentalists. Production of the weekly order of service and announcements may be theirs, too—accompanied by complaints that they receive little or no help from the congregation.

Preparation for ministry and personal gratification may contribute to this pattern. As students, clergy are often taught in, and thus emulate, a "lone ranger" style, as opposed to a more collegial approach to ministry. Clergy and church members alike may accept the tradition that "the minister" is "the expert" in worship and the professional at the task of worship leadership. Members who have endured yet another period without a pastor gladly breathe a sigh of relief, grateful that someone else can now assume the tasks they have borne for so long. However, the wisest course for the long-term health of both minister and church is to work as a team, partners in worship

preparation and leadership. Scripture teaches that all of God's people have gifts to be used in the work of the ministry (see Eph. 4:11-13). Clergy self-care demands that the tasks of ministry be shared. A servant-leader model of ministry avoids the potential of a "worship expert" being elevated above the worshipers.

Small congregations, like all churches, look for excellence in worship leaders. In the search for a new minister, they long for a skilled leader who will value the understanding and traditions of their faith community. Laity may feel fatigued after a time without a called minister, either having assumed many responsibilities themselves, or having endured a new worship leader each week. When a new minister arrives, a mixture of curiosity and cautious optimism abounds. People hope the relationship with this pastor will be a good and long one; yet they wonder if this minister will stay long enough to be trusted. If the relationship between the congregation and the minister proves to be difficult, the question becomes, "How much longer will he be here?" If the relationship with the minister becomes one of respect, trust, and deep affection, and if the minister is perceived as skilled and gifted, the question takes on another nuance: "How much longer will she be here? She is too good to stay in a small church like ours for very long." Questions about "how long the minister will stay" form an undercurrent in the congregation, even as members brace themselves for the usual round of changes and new ideas that doubtless will surface.

Clergy serving small churches would be wise to keep in mind that those who are part of a small church have a deep commitment to their congregation and to its worship life. While these faith communities may appear resistant to change, they are in fact very much aware of the benefits and pitfalls of change. The need for change is recognized; how and why change happens are critical factors both clergy and laity must consider as they seek worship renewal. Articulated or not, a theology of worship resides deep in the ethos of the congregation. People have their own beliefs and understanding of worship and how worship "ought to be." Discovering and developing a working theology of worship in a faith community is a task for both pastor and people. From this foundation, solid worship renewal is possible and even desired by those in the pulpit and the pew.

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## A Message From Mary

Why not go for it?

The CUC board and members of the Visioning Task Force formed last year are working on a presentation of a proposed Strategic Planning framework, based on the four-part model discussed at the board meeting in February.

Meanwhile, I am finding it a useful lens through which to examine many of our programs and to discuss with others.

Here are some thoughts and examples on the 4 Go's.

Go on!

Nationally, we feel the Regions and RNGs (Regional Network Group) is on track and though we'll continue to tweak, complete and evaluate, we're committed to working the plan. When I met recently with a Social Responsibility Committee, I explained that similarly, while two resolutions are coming to this year's Annual Meeting they add to rather than substantially change the resolution and monitoring group process that was first decided upon at the 1997 Annual Meeting.

In your congregation, there is probably much that you want to keep on with even while you may be considering changes elsewhere. I sometimes find I have to remind myself how important it is to affirm and promote what we're already doing.

Go deep!

A recent initiative to encourage "deepening" from CUC has come from the Shared Ministry Task Force encouraging all of us to think about our contributions as "ministry" not just "tasks to be done." Over the past couple of years, we've been developing enrichment training for experienced lay chaplains. Along with service to our congregations and outreach to the community, one of the three stated purposes of the program is providing spiritual development for those serving in this role. In our congregations, small group ministry often provides the opportunity to "go deep". At the Social Responsibility Committee meeting, people shared that they experienced depth by talking with children about their memories of the environment and through interfaith dialogue. We talked about the possibility of developing worship service and small group ministry materials that bring social responsibility and spirituality together-within the congregation and within each of us.

Go out!

Our website which receives 70,000 hits per month and the extensive email groups (or as I'm beginning to think of them: on-line communities) are key ways that CUC "goes out" to meet the world. Recently setting up a special visitors area at [www.unitarian.ca](http://www.unitarian.ca) with a new look to complement the parts of our website which are designed for

those already involved. We've sent out more news releases and had a fair bit of coverage over the past few years and I think there's a lot more that CUC and our congregations can do to get the word out. Preparing for the Social Responsibility committee meeting, I just kept thinking about Unitarians in peace marches and pride marches carrying banners.

Go big!

We're small. 47 congregations. 5400 members. People are often very surprised to hear that we're this small, so we seem already to know some things about going big. I'm proud that in the fight for equal marriage, we were a valued partner in a religious coalition that included the United Church of Canada, one of the largest religious groups in the country. We were the only group who could say that all of our ministers were in favour of marriage for all regardless of sexual orientation and gender expression. Knowing where we have strong agreement and resources can help us make partnerships that benefit all partners-and our world. In our congregations, I see even small congregations find ways to go big. It might be one annual event for a small congregation-like Westwood doing three winter solstice services in one day-or the myriad ways we invite people and groups to join us for concerts, lectures, workshops, ceremonies and worship.

I'd enjoy hearing examples from you or your congregation about how you "go 4 it".

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Mary Bennett

Executive Director

## SHORT SNIPPETS

### LAY CHAPLAINCY TRAINING

Designing and Leading Rites of Passage ("the Basics") - Hamilton, ON - April 28-30/06

Heart Communication ("Voice work") for experienced lay chaplains - Hamilton, ON April 28-29/06

The Challenging Memorial Service - London, ON - October 13-15/06

More at [www.cuc.ca/lay\\_chaplaincy](http://www.cuc.ca/lay_chaplaincy)

### WORKSHOP BEING FIELD-TESTED BY PRINCIPLES & SOURCES TASK FORCE

The Statement of Principles (and Sources) task force is currently working with three congregations to field-test a workshop – a vehicle for Canadian U\*U's to give us their thoughtful consideration and feedback about the current Statement of Principles and Sources. The task force expects the new workshop will be finalized and ready to send out by June, in time for congregational fall planning.

COME TO AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND MEETING - ON ONE COAST OR THE OTHER!

The Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council will be in Saint John, New Brunswick, this year and in Vancouver, BC in 2007. Always on the May long weekend. Details at [www.cuc.ca/conference](http://www.cuc.ca/conference)

Take care,

Mary Bennett, Executive Director

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

[www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) 1-888-568-5723

Mary's in Vancouver till end of April - 604-617-0142



## Terminator Technology

The Canadian Unitarian Council through the recommendation of the Environment Monitoring Group has endorsed the following statement:

"We oppose all forms of Terminator technology (Genetic Use Restriction Technologies or GURTs).

We ask all national governments and international bodies to ban Terminator in order to ensure that the technology is never field tested or commercialized."

Alison Hall, a member of the Environment Monitoring Group, added this statement on behalf of the CUC:

As Unitarian Universalists, "we covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Furthermore, the Environmental Policy of the Canadian Unitarian Council consists of 8 principles which we aim to uphold. Included in these is the Principle of Biodiversity and the Precautionary Principle and Principle of Ethical Action. The Terminator seed technology flies in the face of all of these and is a clear threat to the planet's well-being. We strongly support a BAN on terminator seed technology.

We encourage our congregations to consider this action. Info available at [www.banterminator.org](http://www.banterminator.org)

To see the CUC policy as passed at the Annual Meeting in 1999, information about the monitoring group and previous statements, go to:

[http://www.cuc.ca/social\\_responsibility/environment/index.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/social_responsibility/environment/index.htm)



## Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting

February 23, 2006

Present: Ed Leslie, Allison Calvern, George DeMille, Patricia desChamps, Tony Fitzgerald, Don Flatt, Betty Ponder,



and Danny Mathias (Buildings & Grounds chair).

1. Opening: Don 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.
4. Approval of agenda: MOVED (George & Don) that the agenda, as circulated, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Minutes of meeting of January 18: MOVED (George & Betty) that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted. CARRIED

6. Section and Financial reports

(i) Financial report: George distributed a report (attached to minutes) showing a year-to-date surplus of \$8200. The large surplus reflects the fact that some of our donors have already given their full contribution for 2006. Projected contributions for the year are already about \$4000 over the budget figure. George is proposing to transfer some of our funds into our savings account as a temporary measure.

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

(ii) Programs & Ministry: Betty reported that the Adult Program Committee has some good programs lined up for the coming months. She suggests that "crisis management" group be set up which could assemble information that might be of use to members experiencing a death, or other crisis situation, in the family. This might be done by the Caring Committee or by a separate group. Betty, Patricia and Anne Leslie are interested in this project.

(iii) Communications & Outreach: Don reported things are going well in this section. A new camera has been provided for the RE room.

(iv) Finance & Facilities: Ed reported that the first ventilation contractor approached turned out not to be suitable; another is to be consulted

Patricia has dealt with Aberdeen Service Centre who has recommended that we not attempt to repair our dishwasher because of its age. They recommend a new Whirlpool machine which is available under a Sears brand name.

MOVED (Betty & Don) that Danny and Patricia be au-

thorized to spend up to \$800 for the purchase and installation of a new dishwasher. CARRIED

7. Painting of Sanctuary: Leo Dionne's daughter, Wendy, has offered to have the meeting room redecorated at no cost to the Fellowship. Her colleague, Len Legere, would do the actual work and is prepared to start immediately. He estimates that the job would be done in three days.

MOVED (Tony & allison) that we accept, with gratitude, this generous offer. CARRIED

8. Ad hoc committees: No action

9. Other business:

(i) Ed read a letter from Lay-chaplain, Anne Leslie, (attached to minutes) expressing concern that we live up to our status as a Welcoming Congregation. She feels that allowing groups that may hold to values that are incompatible with that status to use our facility may show us in the wrong light. It was felt that our building usage form, when it is prepared, should explain our Welcoming Congregation status and that appropriate symbols of that status be displayed.

MOVED (Tony & Don) that the board encourage a proactive stance with respect to our visibility as a Welcoming Congregation. CARRIED

(ii) Patricia undertook to contact our insurance agent, Shelly Pye, with regard to the coverage for directors' liability in our existing insurance policy.

(iii) There was discussion concerning a possible smudging activity at the upcoming Sunday service with Gwen Bear in view of our scent-free policy for the building. It was suggested that any smudging might occur outside before the start of the service.

10. Closing words and adjournment: On motion by Patricia the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

George DeMille

Secretary-Treasurer

Attachments:

1. Year-to-date Financial Statement for 2006;
2. Letter from Anne Leslie to Board.

Printed March 31, 2006

George DeMille  
Secretary Treasurer

This space wants your material!