



First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa

# The Parkway Spire

## Inside this issue

In Memoriam	1
Caring Contacts	1
Facing Windows - Rev. Eric	2
Religious Exploration	3
Musical Interludes	4
The UU Hysterical Society	4
FirstU AGM - Lessons Learned	5
Red Dress Day	6
Unitarian GoGos Plant Sale	7
SRC: Environmental Action	8-9
Thanks, Merci, Miigwetch	9
From the Right Relations Team	10
CUC AGM Report	11
FirstU Information	12

Deadline for next Spire submissions:  
August 15, 2022



## In Memoriam

**Bette Stern** ~ wife of the late Seymour, mother of Robert (predeceased), son Griffith (Thum) and daughter Julie ~ died 12 March, 2022

**Ronald (Ron) Anthony Williams**, father of Roy, Julie and David ~ died 14 March, 2022

**Patricia (Pat) Julia Wevrick**, wife of the late Leonard Wevrick, mother of Daniel (Sara Seager) and Rachel (Joe Casey), & Michael (predeceased) ~ died mid-April, 2022

**Donald (Don) McDiarmid**, husband of Louise, father of Heather and Andrew ~ died 2 May, 2022



## Caring Contacts

*"We respond to your phone calls and emails when you wish to alert us to a need or concern, or when you want to celebrate a joy"*

The Caring Network

### June

Paul McGinnis  
[paulmcginnis9@gmail.com](mailto:paulmcginnis9@gmail.com)  
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# Facing Windows

## ~ Rev. Eric Meter



Last month, I began one of my Sunday reflections (sermons, if you will) with a short quote that had been rambling around in my thinking for several weeks:

*“It’s hard to know when to respond to the seductiveness of the world and when to respond to its challenge. If the world were merely seductive, that would be easy. If it were merely challenging, that would be no problem. But I arise in the morning torn between the desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day.” - E.B. White*

Usually, when I preach a line that has been accompanying me like that one had, its hold on me dissipates. Not this time. E.B. White’s phrase remains with me.

The lingering pandemic. Mass shootings in the nation of my birth. The continuing war in Ukraine. And now a storm that swept much in its path from the Toronto area clear into Quebec. I can’t be the only one on edge. I simply don’t know how to start my day.

If all goes according to plan, before the end of June I’ll board a plane for the first time in over two years, heading out to the Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly. I haven’t been to GA in three or four years, and that simply feels too long.

The last time I flew, I did so with my wife Ann. We had a weekend-long trip, and over that weekend, the world changed dramatically.

The atmosphere was relaxed in the terminal awaiting our outbound flight. Not so on the flight home.

Many wore face masks, and the mood was tense.

By the end of that week, lockdowns had come to North America and beyond.

The world had changed. This was uncharted territory for many of us. My mother-in-law had been alive at the time of the so-called Spanish Flu, though she was too young then to remember anything about it.

As a species we’ve come through all manner of hardship. We are an adaptable, hearty bunch, us humans.

Still, while you and I are members of this species, I find little comfort in the abstraction that thinking in wider terms allows.

The one thing I keep coming back to that COVID has brought into focus is that life is a continual series of risk assessments.

All the more reason to take each moment for the gift that it can be.

Maybe I’ll board the plane to GA. Maybe I won’t. I did buy flight insurance, just in case. It seemed the prudent thing to do.

This congregation has decisions before it as well. Risks to be assessed. We’ve chosen to move forward on creating a development plan. This will be, as the expression goes, where the rubber meets the road. How can we best honour those currently on our campus (the residents of Unitarian House and the families of the children River Parkway cares for) at the same time as we look forward to the future of both our community and the neighborhood beyond Cleary Avenue?

I have heard the question, Why does a failing congregation want to delay

the inevitable? As FirstU’s membership numbers continue to decline, why would we choose to permanently disrupt the lives of those living on our campus with development that might keep the church’s lights on for the next X number of years?

I reject this thinking wholeheartedly. This congregation is not done. There is great vitality here that is still very much alive.

And yet, we may be missing a reason. A primary goal. A vision, if you will.

In other words, if we are to undergo the challenge, if not pain, of new construction, many are asking if the sacrifices will be worth it.

We need to be clear about this. What I’ve observed is that deeply affordable housing in the area means more to some than it does to others.

Even with that benefit, what of the congregation itself? What is it that we will set out to do in the decades to come?

Let’s risk a little dreaming. Join me, won’t you?

In shared faith,

~ Rev. Eric



# Religious Exploration ~ Neo Yaxley



## Hello everyone!

It is so good to finally be able to have a routine we can depend on in RE. This is so important for our families.

Our summer projects include joining forces with Ajashki and creating garden plots in the children's play area, and a bi-weekly food preparation project. More information to come.

This fall we are looking to have the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for children at the preschool level.

If you have not done so already, do sign up to receive the eUU, where you will find updated information on upcoming programming.

Please email [dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca) if you need help getting signed up.

~ submitted by Neo Yaxley  
[dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:dre@firstunitarianottawa.ca)

From one of our parents  
**RE at First Unitarian is a home away from home for me and my sons, George 5 and Teddy 2.**  
While there, staff are very welcoming and we all feel comfortable immediately. The activities for the kids are engaging. The outdoor and indoor area have so many different games and types of toys. The absolute best this is the company among adults.  
-Chantelle Russell

## O.W.L SUMMER CAMP ages 12-14

July 4 – 8th (9 am – 4 pm)

In 10 workshops, youth in Grades 7-9 will discuss:

- body image and gender stereotypes
- gender identity and sexual orientation
- sexually transmitted infections
- disability and sexuality
- pregnancy and parenting
- unintended pregnancy options
- contraception and safer sex
- consent education
- healthy relationships
- communication skills
- online dating and social media



### What is OWL?

"Our Whole Lives" is Sexuality Education for Grades 7-9.

OWL is a secular curriculum, appropriate in a variety of settings.

Location: 30 Cleary Avenue

(First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa)

Registration fee: \$75 (subsidy available upon request)

Parent orientation on Tuesday, June 28th at 6 pm on Zoom.



For more information, contact  
[OWL@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:OWL@firstunitarianottawa.ca)



## O.W.L SUMMER CAMP ages 10-11

July 4 – 8th (9 am – 4 pm)

In 10 workshops, children in Grades 4-6 will understand:

- the physical and emotional changes of puberty
- body image and gender identity
- feelings and attractions
- reproduction and staying healthy
- consent and peer pressure
- intro to healthy relationships



### What is OWL?

"Our Whole Lives" is Sexuality Education for Grades 4-6.

OWL is a secular curriculum, appropriate in a variety of settings.

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# Musical Interludes

~ Jenn Berntson



A lot has happened since the last update! When we moved from online rehearsals to begin practicing in person in March of 2022, we also were able to begin performing in services again. It has been very meaningful for our choristers to have the chance to share live music again and be a part of worship services.

Not only that, but in the two short months since we began meeting in-person again in March, our choirs were able to prepare a concert, *"The Road Home"*, music about community and hope. Performed on May 14, it was a beautiful afternoon of music and the singers performed with precision, focus, and musicality. Being able to celebrate with our three choirs and an appreciative audience was a wonderful way to wrap up a very unusual season of music-making.

Fusion, Three Rivers Singers, and Chalice Choir will all be taking a hiatus over the rest of the summer - enjoy your summer travels and time at cottages! I'll be taking some vacation in July, but for those still interested in singing over the summer, I am planning to have Summer Choir on Sundays in August. Come to the church at 9 a.m. before the 10 a.m. service, and learn a straightforward anthem and a hymn to be performed in the service. You'll also be sent recordings in advance to prepare with!

With the choir not performing in services over the summer, if you're interested in providing special music for a Sunday service - singing or other instruments - please reach out to me at: [music@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:music@firstunitarianottawa.ca).

With song,

Jenn  
[music@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:music@firstunitarianottawa.ca)



"Belly laughter is a powerfully transformative thing"  
- the UU Hysterical Society

"Religion isn't just about belief...or theology, or the principles we affirm and promote. Religion is also about culture. It's the song you sing to your kid when they cry, the story that everyone knows but still wants to hear retold, and the in-joke that makes us all exchange glances"

If you are not on Facebook you may not have heard about the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society. So here is some information from their [February 4, 2022 Annual Report](#):

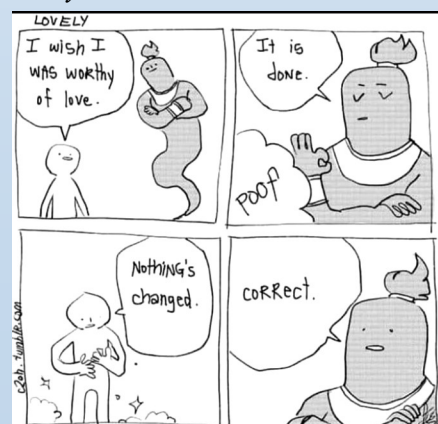
"We of Mirth and Dignity believe that humour can be a spiritual practice and a powerful force for good in the world. We also believe that Unitarian Universalism should not be limited to people in churches. Or people who are Unitarian Universalists. We believe in webs, not boxes.

...Part of the mission of Mirth and Dignity is to explore expressions of UUism that are sustainable in a changing world. As of the end of 2022 (sic), the Unitarian Universalist Hysterical Society is a group of 130,000 people that exists on a budget of less than fifty cents per person per year. Of this, we give nearly a quarter away to the Flaming Chalice International, a Unitarian Universalist charity that does refugee and aid work in Africa....

All of our metrics—website, mailing list, podcast, YouTube—show steady growth. Our biggest success is our Hysterical Society materials, now shared so widely by members that we reliably reach *one and a half million people per month*."

To sample their humour go to their Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10158233572851916&set=p.10158233572851916>

~ submitted by Jan Andrews



## Lessons Learned from the Annual General Meeting

This year, our Annual General Meeting (AGM) began on Sunday May 1st, 2022, and ended two weeks later, which is rather unusual. This article describes some of the lessons we learned along the way.

Firstly, the AGM was on Zoom, not in-person as some may have hoped. We realize that some congregants struggle with their own technology problems including Zoom, and that technology can hinder the free-flowing exchange of opinions. However, judging from our Sunday services, there are still many congregants who are not ready to attend large gatherings at church. Furthermore, in a cautious post-COVID world, the organization of a large in-person meeting runs the risk of being suddenly cancelled or significantly reorganized at the last minute if there was a sudden outbreak, or significant risk of outbreak, in our community. We hope that we can conduct safe in-person meetings in the near future.

We had a very full agenda, including financial statements, elections of directors, appointing a

new lay chaplain and enacting a new bylaw. We also had a Campus Development motion planned, the discussion of which we knew would be contentious and lengthy. In final preparation for the AGM, we decided to move the Campus Development motion to the end of the agenda, ensuring that the other agenda items were covered. Once we got to that last agenda item, most people had already been at the meeting for over three hours and were ready to disconnect. So, we voted as a group to adjourn the meeting (to Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>). Both meetings were predictably long. The lesson here is to plan for separate Special Meetings for complicated topics in the future.

At the original AGM, some members had problems with Zoom features that inhibited their right to vote or to voice their opinion. People have had different technology experiences during the pandemic; some have become Zoom wizards; others have had all sorts of problems. In the interval between the two meetings, we realized we could add some Zoom coaching and practice to our scrutineering

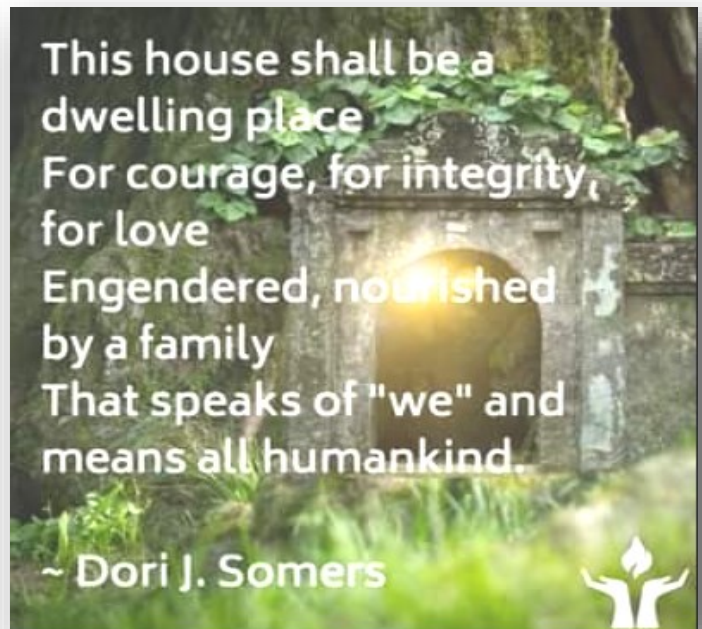
rooms to help people before the actual meeting. This idea improved people's confidence and voting efficiency in the AGM Continuation meeting.

Finally, in the first few days after the original meeting, various feedback emails were circulated regarding the Campus Development motion. Much of this feedback was collected, responded to and resulted in four amendments that were provided for the congregation to consider separately. To the credit of the Campus Planning Committee, the original motion was very good. The addition of the four amendments made it appealing to a broader set of interests within the congregation. The lesson here is to use collaboration to make good ideas better. This is a skill we as a congregation still need to sharpen.

Thanks to the many people who helped prepare, organize, scrutineer and speak at this year's AGM!

And thanks to all who attended!

*~ submitted by Brent Nicolle*



# Red Dress Day



Photo of Keith Yach's painting

The Inquiry's Final Report (2019) is comprised of the truths of more than 2,000 family members, survivors of violence, experts and Knowledge Keepers shared over two years of cross-country public hearings and evidence gathering. It delivers 231 individual Calls for Justice directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries, and all Canadians.

May 5<sup>th</sup> was the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S) and is also known as Red Dress Day. This year at FirstU we had a loosely organized observance of the day, managing at dawn on the day to hang some items of red clothing in the Mediation Gardens.

Later that morning photos were circulating, resulting in an impromptu healing circle in the Meditation Gardens that afternoon.

Thank you, Keith Yach for your art that awakened the awareness.

~ submitted by Susan Mellor

At the May 1<sup>st</sup> service a thought-provoking donation was presented to the congregation, illustrating how art can be a medium for societal change. The painting by congregation member Keith Yach, depicts a woodland scene of silver birch trees hosting a contrast of forlorn, empty red dresses. The sight of Keith's art triggered my memory of seeing an art gallery exhibition of lone red dresses and prompted me to enquire further into the significance.

The REDress Project was conceived more than ten years ago, by Winnipeg Métis artist Jaime Black, as an aesthetic response to what has been described as an epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls in Canada and the United States - known by the acronym MMIWG created by Indigenous journalist/leader Sheila North Wilson in 2012. It can be difficult to respond to statistics, but Black's REDress project gives those Indigenous women a voice and communicates the tragic losses symbolically. The colour red was chosen when an Indigenous friend explained that red is the only colour the spirits see. In that sense, the colour, Black says, is a "calling back of the spirits of these women".

In 2015 the federal government, responding to the gendered and racialized nature of violent crimes, launched a National Inquiry into MMIWG. The inquiry was also the Government of Canada's response to Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #41, which states:

*"We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls."*



Photo by Maryan O'Hagan

# Unitarian GoGos 12th Annual Garden Plant Sale

Unitarian GoGos were delighted to welcome shoppers to their Garden Plant Sale, Friday May 13 to Sunday May 15, 2022. A tremendous amount of work went on behind the scenes to make this fundraising event such a success.

Year after year, dedicated local donors share the perennial plants that multiply in their gardens. Thank you to all gardeners, and Mother Nature! The digging and potting of plants, and the ongoing watering and care required, took place at many local homes. Every donation of plants is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all donors!

In advance of the fundraiser there is the coordination of the volunteers who spread the word about the event, create signs and posters, set up, help with sales, share their plant knowledge, keep the plants watered, clean up at the end; and track and deposit the money

raised at the event. Thanks to all these volunteers! The expression of “many hands make light work” is so appropriate.

This year’s event also included a successful bake sale. The baked goods quite literally “flew” off the table, along with local honey and a wide variety of preserves. Thank you to all bakers and contributors, including Sandra of Project Tembo for the preserves!

Ecology Ottawa joined us on Friday with free saplings. On Saturday, GoGo Grannies of Aylmer, Quebec also sold, with proceeds going to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. And visitors coming to FirstU for “The Road Home” concert by the three choirs of First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, were able to shop before and after the concert.

This 3-day event resulted in the Unitarian GoGos raising \$4,500 to

send to the Toronto-based Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF). We raise funds in our communities to support the life-enhancing programs run by grandmothers in Africa and the community-based organizations who support them.

In the last Spire we wrote that “we won’t rest until the Grandmothers in Africa rest”. Unitarian GoGos certainly didn’t rest before and throughout the weekend. We came together to work as a strong team for a very worthwhile cause. To learn more about the SLF Grandmothers Campaign check out <https://grandmotherscampaign.org/>.

If you’d like more information about joining the Unitarian GoGos please e-mail:

[gogos@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:gogos@firstunitarianottawa.ca) or contact Linda at: [gogos.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:gogos.fundraising@gmail.com).

~ submitted by Linda McDonald



Wendy Doyle & Sheila Green with customer at Bake Table



Helen Mason, Joan Turner & Sheila Green at Bake Table



Lin Evans with a cheque to deposit



Jean McCabe and Sooky Dunton at Plant Table

## SRC News: Environmental Action Group Spring Free from Plastics – How'd it Go?

Not many congregants participated in our final weeks summing up of their “Plastics Experiences”, but we did have a number of verbal, written and email contributions to our **HOWZIT GOING BOARDS**. We also had some excellent sharings in “breakout rooms” at several Hospitality Hours.

### HOWZIT GOING? IT'S HARD!

The largest number of complaints focused on the abundance of unrecyclable plastic wrap, clam shells and Styrofoam surrounding both food and non-food items. Most produce could easily sell “naked”, but much is in wrap, shells or nets. Overdressed organic foods were a particular bugbear. Vast amounts of plastic were used in take-out foods and food kits. Few places recycle or reuse even their own containers.

Most grocery stores will once again allow the use of personal produce bags, cloth bags or bins; but very few (mostly bulk stores) will allow the use of one's own containers for bulk foods.

### HOWZIT GOING? ROCKIN' IT!

There were lots of ideas on how to decrease one's “Plastic Footprint”. I have grouped them under Six “R”s.

Feedback suggested we ultimately need to **RETHINK** the way we live, to eliminate plastic from our lives. This could involve making more of our own foods like yogurt or hummus to eliminate all the plastic containers. It could require us to change where we shop to support businesses with zero waste options; or to compel us to explore new concepts, using tooth pills instead of paste for example, or soap bars for shampoo and conditioner rather than liquid in a bottle.

Others submitted we must simply **REFUSE** to be part of plastic proliferation; to **REFUSE** to buy items wrapped in plastic, even if that includes taking the items, but leaving the plastic in the store. The final refusal would be to discontinue to shop at that store.

Yet other responses pointed out ways to **REPLACE** plastics: plastic bags with those of paper, cloth or compostable materials; containers with metal or glass; wrap with waxed cloth or stretchy silicone; or ziplocks with silicone bags.

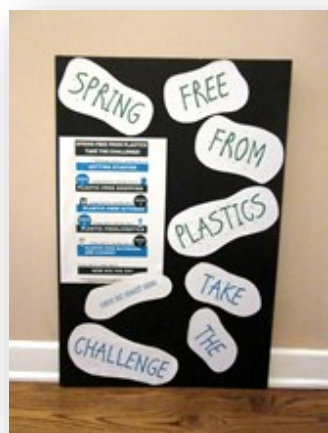
All three of these “R”s contribute to our ability to **REDUCE** our plastics use.

Many stressed the importance of **REUSING** the plastic we already have. Plastic bags, containers and bins of all kinds can be washed and reused for shopping; some zero waste stores allow refills of a number of products. Several contributors mentioned how well **Buy Nothing Ottawa** works.

**RECYCLING** requires energy and creates emissions, so should be kept as a last resort for keeping plastics out of the landfills. TerraCycle works with partners to find solutions to recycle the “unrecyclable”. But in the end, we must turn off the flow!

To read the expanded collation on the Climate Action Page, go to: <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/spring-free-from-plastic.html>

~ submitted by Donna Bowen-Willer





## Social Responsibility Council (SRC) News Environmental Action Group (EAG)

### Second Congregational Survey... What was the Feedback?

In February of 2022 the EAG sent out our second survey related to the congregational focus on the climate crisis. The first survey, issued in January 2020, was intended to measure awareness among congregational members about the ongoing climate crisis, and to get feedback on priorities which EAG could consider tackling as part of the congregational focus.

In this survey, the EAG wanted to measure our progress and get ideas about where to focus our efforts in the coming two years. While we received 79 responses to the 2020 survey, we received 44 responses to this second survey. This could be because it was more difficult for EAG to promote the survey in a hybrid environment.

Survey respondents let us know that most feel they have learned more about the climate crisis in the past two years. Almost all respondents were aware of EAG's work to have

our campus meet CUC's Green Sanctuary requirements, and almost all were aware of the work being done with an Indigenous partner on food security, namely the Ajashki Heart Garden. About half the respondents indicated that they have attended Earth Speaks presentations whenever possible, and some comments praised the quality of these presentations – feedback which we gratefully receive! Over half of the respondents sometimes or always read the Enviro-Actions/Advocacies/Bits items in the e-UU and Spire articles related to environmental issues.

Fewer respondents were aware that EAG has a dedicated page, the Climate Action Page, <https://www.firstunitarianottawa.ca/climate-action.html> on the First Unitarian website, or that EAG has both a recommended reading list on that page, as well as a [Unitarians for Climaction Facebook group](#). We invite you to check those out if you have not visited them!

We asked for suggestions of topics that you would like to learn about.

The top choice was how Indigenous traditional knowledge can teach us about living in harmony with nature. As well, several people commented that they wish to green their home, but since they are renters, they wonder what they can do.

Most respondents felt that First U has made some progress in tackling issues related to the climate crisis, but there is still a lot to do.

So how will EAG use the survey feedback? We received ideas for future presentation topics and setting priorities for what EAG can focus on. Responses will also help EAG with the action plan to obtain Green Sanctuary accreditation. We want to thank everyone who responded to EAG's congregational survey. If you have further comments or questions, don't hesitate to contact us at [survey@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:survey@firstunitarianottawa.ca).

*~ submitted by Suzanne Schaller*



### Thanks, Merci, Miigwetch



- ♥ We extend deep gratitude to our Music Director, **Jenn Berntson** and all the choir members of FirstU Ottawa for recently presenting us with a wonderful and very moving in-person choral concert, the first in a very long time! The thoughtful choice of music and beautiful blending of voices created a very enjoyable afternoon of live music for all who attended.
- ♥ Thank you to the **Unitarian GoGos** for many years of dedicated fund-raising for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The success of your most recent plant and bake sale testifies to the determination of this hard-working group to provide much needed support to grandmothers in Africa.
- ♥ A big shout out to **Larry Jones, the Men's Breakfast Group, Jane Lindsay and all the organizers and helpers** at our Congregational BBQ last weekend! It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with many friends in person. It was the first time some had met Rev Eric, his wife Ann De Leon, and Jenn Berntson, our new music director, in person!

## From the Right Relations Team

In the spirit of supporting our congregation in all the important work that we do both large and small in these uncertain times, the Right Relations Team (Marilen Gerber, Lena Jones, Jennifer Read, Lisa Boulay and Rev. Ellen ex-officio) would like to share with you this poem, written by Rev. Diane Rollert from the Montreal Unitarian Church. We hope that you enjoy it. ~ *submitted by Lisa Boulay*

### April

Spirit of Life,  
Ground of our being,  
the night is lonely and long,  
the waxing crescent of the moon  
hidden  
by the clouds of early April.

Spring arrives in name only,  
before the days soften  
into greater warmth.

In the depths of night  
we try to remember  
that hope still survives  
with the coming of change.

We are the promise makers  
and the promise breakers,  
the ones who can learn again and again  
to build what has yet to be built,  
to move as if we were the season of April,  
from chilly reserve to  
embracing warmth.

We may not have the power  
of prime ministers or popes,  
but we have the power  
of our many voices,  
our many hands.  
We have the power  
that can go beyond good intentions  
to effective action.

We can allow our perspectives  
to be changed,  
we can live into  
our commitments,  
filling them  
with deeper understanding  
of what it means  
to become beloved community.

We shoulder the burdens  
of a world in crisis,  
the bleakness of war,  
the uncertainties of a pandemic,  
the looming threat of the earth's climate  
forever changed by our own inaction,  
the long history of inhumanity  
hidden in silent,  
unnamed graves of Indigenous children,  
hidden in the racism maintained  
by the systems  
that form our lives  
while being cruelly denied.

We struggle to find the right words.

We struggle to fix what feels impossible,  
but here in the silence  
our hearts beat  
with the rhythm of the earth,  
the sun waits at the horizon,  
the seasons shift,  
green shoots rise  
along the muddy paths.

Our commitments are renewed  
through our relationships,  
through the willingness  
to hear others speak their truth,  
through our honest reflections,  
through the recognition  
that we are the creators of the future  
we have yet to live.

It all begins here,  
in the night waiting for day,  
in the affirmation of April turning into spring.

Here, in the way we choose  
to move  
together.

## Report on the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), of which our congregation is a member, took place on May 14. Guy Bellperche, Amy Bérube, Justine De Jaegher, Brent Nicolle, Rev. Eric Meter, and Lisa Sharp were FirstU's voting delegates at the meeting. Others present from our congregation were Rev. Linda Goonewardene and Maury Prevost as Observers and Chuck Shields as a member of the CUC Board of Trustees. Chuck got to announce at the end of the meeting that he will serve as CUC President for the next two years. Congratulations Chuck! And Maury Prevost will serve for another (third) year as Chair of the CUC Nominating Committee.

Delegates received reports from CUC staff, various committees, and working groups. Highlights included an update on the recommendations of the Dismantling Racism Study Group and reports from both the Decision-making Exploration Team and the Bylaw Review Committee.



The CUC's Treasurer, presented reports on the audited financial statements and an overview of the CUC's financial position. Our Executive Director presented a budget in principle for 2023, which was approved. Delegates also passed several motions, including one to add "enact the 8th Principle" to the CUC's strategic priorities for 2022-2023.

Although the total membership of Canadian congregations continues to steadily decline and the CUC budgets for 2022 and 2023 forecast a deficit, there are reasons to be hopeful about the future. The financial health of the CUC is good overall, in particular because of a sizeable investment portfolio. There was some concern expressed in the meeting about the deficits, but there was a

stronger expression of the need to invest in the future of the organization. The CUC is funding future focused initiatives such as the 8th Principle programming and targeted programming for youth and young adults. Other encouraging indicators are a youth and young adult led team exploring alternate forms of decision making and the great success of the Canadian-led UU Hysterical Society Facebook group, which now has over 155,000 members. (For more info about the Hysterical Society, see the article on page 4).

The CUC's Annual Report for 2021 and other AGM documents are publicly available at:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eEHmMU9XCJRwKa0JuwqepvuTk\\_0HDw4P](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eEHmMU9XCJRwKa0JuwqepvuTk_0HDw4P)

The detailed (2013 to 2021) membership numbers are at the end of the Annual Report, on pages 59 & 60.

*~ submitted by Maury Prevost with input from several of the delegates and the CUC eNews of May 19*

Published quarterly, **The Parkway Spire** welcomes unformatted articles (**maximum 450 words please**) along with photos\* (high resolution jpg format is preferred) that are of interest to the congregation. We also encourage the submission of one feature article for each issue of the Spire, **maximum 900 words**. Articles may be edited if necessary. Submissions should be sent to [spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca](mailto:spire@firstunitarianottawa.ca) no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication. Next submission deadline: **August 15, 2022**.



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**Next deadline for submissions: August 15, 2022**

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