

CANADIAN UNITARIAN AND UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Inaugural Meeting

Saturday, May 21, 2011 – 89 Chestnut Ave., Toronto, Ontario

Present: Janice Tait (chair), Gerta Moray (minute taker), Helen Backhouse, Gillian Burton, Elizabeth Bowen, Barbara Bowmar, Ellen Campbell, Betty Donaldson, Celeste Erendrea, M. Elaine Harvey, Dorothy Keeler, Christine Johnston, Mary Lu MacDonald, , Katrin Nagelschmitz, Audrey O'Callagan, Ruth Patrick, Alison Patrick, Jean Pfleiderer, Kathleen Proust, Doreen Peever, Rev. Kathy Sage, Ruth Shoemaker, Rev. Katie Stein Sather, Tracy Szarka, Beate Ziegert, and others

Guests: Constance Baker (UU-UNO), Barbara Beach (ICUW).

1. Janice Tait welcomed the gathered members.
2. Opening words from Rev. Kathy Sage
3. The agenda was accepted.
4. The vision statement (see attached) was unanimously approved.
5. The statement of objectives (see attached) was unanimously approved.

6. Bylaw Approval

Betty Donaldson and Mary Lu MacDonald presented and explained the bylaws (second draft). Minor wording amendments were discussed; it was proposed and unanimously approved to allowing Betty Donaldson, Mary Lu MacDonald and Gillian Burton to refine the bylaws on behalf of those present.

Motion: That Betty Donaldson, Mary Lu MacDonald and Gillian Burton refine the bylaws on behalf of those present for approval by the executive committee.

Moved by Betty Donaldson, seconded Mary Lu MacDonald.

Carried unanimously.

Motion: That the organization be named the Canadian Unitarian and Universalist Women's Association.

Moved by Barbara Bowmar, seconded Gillian Burton.

Carried: 12 in favour, 5 opposed.

Break for lunch

During lunch the meeting was briefly addressed by visitor Constance Baker of the UU-UNO (Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office), who informed us of the work of her organization and the resolution passed by the UN creating "UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women" (known as "UN Women") to be headed by Dr. Michelle Bachelet.

During lunch Rev. Kathy Sage presented the newly published book of essays and curriculum "Invisible influence – Claiming Canadian Unitarian and Universalist Women's History"; some of these essays had been presented at earlier CUC conferences.

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7. Finances

Motion: That the membership fee of \$10 this year be raised to \$25 for the coming year and thereafter so as to generate working funds for the Association.

Moved by Ruth Patrick, seconded Doreen Peever.

Carried unanimously.

Motion : That a five-consecutive-year membership be available for \$100.

Moved by Dorothy Keeler, seconded Gillian Burton.

Carried unanimously.

8. Communications

An updated membership list was established.

The CUUWA blog, maintained by Lorna Weigand, can be accessed at <http://cuuwf2011.blogspot.com/2011/02/cuuwf-getting-started.html>

9. Appointment of Management Committee members

The following representatives volunteered their services:

Atlantic: Mary Lu MacDonald or Bunny Turner (TBD?)

Ontario: Margaret Linton

Prairies: Ruth Patrick

Pacific: Betty Donaldson

Quebec: There being no Quebec representative forthcoming, Gillian Burton was co-opted as a fifth management committee member.

10. Motion to apply to CUC for Associate Status

Motion: That the CUUWA apply to the CUC for associate status.

Moved by Janice Tait, seconded Betty Donaldson.

Carried unanimously.

11. Next year

There will be no Annual Conference of the CUC in 2012, but an AGM and Symposium on Spiritual Leadership in May 2012 (long weekend) in Montreal, with affiliate (and associate) groups invited to hold their events in conjunction.

Break for ICUUW Visitor

Barbara Beach, president of the ICUUW (International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women), congratulated the meeting on the formation of a Canadian UU Women's group. She encouraged Canadian women to take part in two international gatherings sponsored/managed by the ICUUW in 2012:

a) 'Philippines: Culture, History, Partnership, and Women's Livelihood' in January 30 to February 6, 2012, sponsored by UUPCC (UU Partner Church Council) and ICUUW

b) "Transylvanian Convocation' - A Second International Convocation is brewing for Marosvasarhely, Transylvania from October 4-8, 2012.

12. Closing words from Rev. Katie Stein Sather