

CUUWA 2015 AGM PRESIDENT'S REPORT Dr. Betty Donaldson

Our national women's organization is completing the 5th year – a milestone achievement. Thanks to all the members for their ongoing support – please make a cup of tea, then enjoy this summary of 2014 accomplishments.

As the attached Reports indicate, several projects also have completed a first phase of development. Perhaps the highlight is the revised CUC Resolution on Abortion that will be discussed at the ACM. Many hours of work were involved, therefore our thank you to the members of the Reproductive Justice Committee, Margaret Linton and Jane Fox, has a very deep resonance. Another highlight is internal to CUUWA: the Report on Male Membership prepared by Gillian Burton. That has been an ongoing item since the first year of CUUWA and the ratification will mark a shift in our evolving culture. Rev. Kathy Sage, who retires after 41 years of active ministry, proposes to initiate a third project: research into the “Stained Glass Ceiling and Cliff”. As well, a small group of women in the Comox Valley have been reviewing the revised Cakes for the Queen of Heaven curriculum with the hope to develop an online curriculum with Canadian content.

Also included in the 2015 AGM package is a brief one-page summary report of five March 8 International Women's Day services. They are an amazing read. Some day we will have a book of such innovative services that comprise an historical record of this cross-country commemoration of female values, issues and lives. If your congregation doesn't forward its activities, your contributions will be lost in time.

Two other celebratory milestones to include recognition of CUUWA by other organizations. The Prairie Women's Gathering, a beloved event that thrived during the Western Canada Regional phase of the Unitarian movement in Canada, dissolved during the past year but CUUWA was the fortunate recipient of some of the monies it held in trust. Therefore, we have an according responsibility to ensure that this donation is wisely invested and utilized. The outgoing Council thinks that matching grants probably will be the most effective long-term benefit; however, a policy is still in the planning stage. In addition, CUC invited CUUWA to participate in its Visioning Workshop. While we are an associate organization, it was the first time that CUUWA has been formally involved in the intellectual table of CUC offerings. So very nice to be included: We know that Vyda Ng has been a consistent and active supporter of our organization and we are delighted that Calgary Pink Tea lead organizer, Jane Ebborn, is nominated to the CUC Board. So very nice to have support from such competent women.

The success of the Calgary Pink Tea established a tradition. Every second year our AGM is held at the CUC ACM and on alternative years, we hold a teleconference AGM that links local cluster groups of members. Therefore, we will host an Aboriginal theme tea in Ottawa this year, thanks to Margaret Linton and her local team. Caroline Jondahl organized the symbolic tea table in Montreal last year and is a nominee for CUUWA Council this year. However, the 2016 CUC ACM will be in Vancouver; there will be no 2017 ACM and the location of 2018 is not known. Our new CUUWA Council has some decisions to make if we are to align!

To have necessary stability for building a firm foundation, we waived our own By Laws for the past several years with respect to Council membership. It now is time to make a transition to the rotating membership format we envisioned when preparing the By Laws.

Also, while we have an experienced leadership team, some of the original Council members have signaled they would like to step back from current responsibilities. As I write this report in mid-April, several possible nominees have been consulted but are not confirmed. If you, or a friend, would be interested, please contact me prior to the AGM.

Nominations from the floor also will be accepted. It is not an onerous volunteer workload: quarterly Council teleconference meetings and service on one committee. The next five years of development must be a combination of new and experienced leaders at both committee and Council levels if CUUWA is to thrive and to nurture Canadian Unitarian women as well as those who seek such support but who don't know where to turn to.

My personal gratitude to all 2014 Council members for their ongoing commitment of time and talent: you have been an exciting team. Martha Wilson (Halifax) resigned midterm because of family commitments; Gillian Burton and Janice Tait continuously reflect the strengths of Toronto First (which has the honour of organizing the first local CUUWA chapter); Kathy Sage lives up to her surname, providing professional Ministerial wisdom. Margaret Linton (Ottawa) has an array of skills that no other member displays and we all enjoy the results so very much on the web page, revisions to the Abortion Resolution and the Ottawa tea. Adina Lyon in Winnipeg uses her central location to build documentation through her capable secretarial work. From Vancouver Island, I fly throughout the country with the wings of a Canada goose because of their multiple contributions. We hope that our collective efforts will benefit, not only our current members, but also other women and Unitarian Universalists to heal Mother Earth, to make Canadian society more humane, and to honour our sisters as well as ourselves.

Blessed Be. To contact Betty: edonalds@ucalgary.ca or www.cuuwa.org