

**Minutes of UCGT Annual General Meeting**  
June 23, 2007 at 9:30am  
First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto  
175 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto

**Attendees**

Allan Anderson, Durham  
Carl Baar, Toronto First  
Carolyn Prentice, Toronto First  
Cynthia Nidd, Durham  
Donna Halliday, Huronia  
Elizabeth Michnick, Toronto First  
Eryl Court, Toronto First  
Germaine Kovbay, Don Heights  
Jane Affleck, Toronto First

Kalvin Drake, Toronto First  
Karyn Burney, South Peel  
Kay Cook, Northwest  
Ken Noble, South Peel  
Larry Rawlinson, South Peel  
Mary Noble, South Peel  
Ronnie Rusk, Toronto First  
Sharyn Devine, Don Heights

**Opening Remarks**

Kalvin Drake, Acting President, called the meeting to order. Each of the participants introduced themselves, mentioning any specific role that they filled within their respective congregations, or on the UCGT Executive.

The proposed Agenda was approved.

**Minutes of 2005 AGM**

Jane Affleck pointed out that the date in point #2 should be changed to 2004.

The question was asked: what was the Close Encounters Project? Calvin explained that this was the project that introduced the new colourful design for promotional materials, and said that he would add an explanation to point #3 of the 2005 minutes.

J. Affleck asked if we needed a quorum to amend the constitution. Calvin responded that there was no specific requirement for a quorum under the current UCGT constitution. (It was noted that there was no representation from the Neighbourhood Congregation.)

The minutes were accepted as amended.

## **Acting President's Report**

K. Drake presented his report. He spoke of how the role of the UCGT has shifted, and how with the advent of informal meetings via email, there was less need and/or desire for formal in-person meetings. Also there was now less interest in "Council" type meetings (which happened through the CUC regional structure). There was more interest on the part of the GTA congregations in participation in meetings concerning such matters as publicity and real estate. There had been several informal meetings among the members of the GTA congregations on these and other issues. Due to a lack of interest in formal meetings, the 2006 AGM had been cancelled. Therefore, some minor adjustments to the UCGT Constitution would be needed to ensure that the operation of the UCGT was consistent with the expectations of its members.

Kalvin then thanked the former Executive members, Karyn Burney, Treasurer, Donna Halliday, Vice President and Robert Knight, Secretary for their support.

J. Affleck asked about interaction with the CUC regarding the UCGT Close Encounters publicity materials. Calvin replied that congregations across the country have been made aware of the availability of materials, but little ordering has taken place. The new strategic planning process under CUC is "Go-4-It!"... "Go On!, Go Deep!, Go Out! & Go Deep!"... and the UCGT publicity material with "ever moving, ever still" fits well with this new CUC strategy. Now that the print materials can be printed on line, cheaper than before, the use of them may increase. Calvin will circulate an updated price list, which may also increase demand.

## **Midwinter Retreat**

J. Affleck presented her report on Midwinter Retreat, a self-financing affiliate group of UCGT. She said there was great enthusiasm for the Roots and Wings theme of this year's retreat, which explored "the roots that hold us close and the wings that set us free".

The Lay Chaplains committee was included in the retreat for the first time, but planned its own separate agenda.

Next year's dates will be February 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, and Ellen Jamal from Don Heights will be joining the planning committee. The theme hasn't been finalized yet, but they are thinking of "Process Theology" – "say 'yes' to life as a whole, rather than as a hierarchical structure". Karen Fraser Gitlitz, summer minister at First, has done workshops on this in many congregations. Jane is hoping she will accept the role of Keynote Speaker.

K. Drake moved to thank Jane for all her efforts. Motion was enthusiastically carried.

## **UU TV**

Germaine Kovary presented this report on behalf of Yvonne Greig. (UU-TV is a committee of UCGT, rather than an affiliate group like Midwinter Retreat). Membership in Horizon Interfaith Council entitles UCGT to produce two half-hour TV shows per year, each of which is aired six times on Rogers' Community Channel.

C. Nidd requested to be informed of the UU-TV schedule. Calvin said that Yvonne notifies the congregations of the airing times of the shows. The shows are available in DVD format and one set is available free to each congregation. The media cost is paid out of UCGT's budget. There was a motion to congratulate Yvonne Greig on an award that was presented to her at Horizon Interfaith's 29<sup>th</sup> annual banquet.

## **Publicity, Property, Social Action**

No reports presented.

## **News from the CUC Board**

After a five-year adjustment re. taking over the delivery of services previously offered by the UUA, attention is now being focused on "how we go out into the world with our message". The challenge is to be more dynamic, and all-inclusive (not to claim turf.). Eryl Court said she found that CUC meetings were becoming more lively and productive and she congratulated Calvin and his colleagues.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Karyn Burney presented the financial statements covering the periods from May 1, 2005 to April 30, 2006 and May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007, along with the Budget for the current year, May 1, 2007 to April 30, 2008.

There was a question from the floor re. the decrease in membership fees from 2005 to 2007. Karyn explained that this was largely due to changes in Toronto First's membership.

## **Amendments to the UCGT Constitution**

Calvin explained why it was no longer possible to continue operating with the present Constitution given the current and anticipated functioning of UCGT. He then presented some proposed amendments to the Constitution that, he suggested, would better serve current and near future needs. Carl Baar moved the motion to accept the amendments to the Constitution and Larry Rawlinson seconded.

A lengthy discussion followed concerning the proposed wording of the Purpose section of the Constitution. As no agreement could be reached, K. Burney moved, and Alan Anderson seconded, a motion to take the main motion in parts, taking the Purpose section separate from the rest. A motion was called (and passed) to postpone further discussion on the Purpose until later in the meeting. K. Drake then called for a motion to accept the remaining part of the original main motion as proposed. K. Burney so moved, C. Nidd seconded, motion carried.

When discussion on the Purpose resumed later in the meeting, C. Nidd moved that the Executive look into UCGT "Purpose" before the next annual meeting. This motion was seconded and carried.

### **2007-08 Activities**

- Publicity: a table of materials was set up for the 2007 Pride Parade, which is currently the event in which UUs are most publicly visible.
- Toronto Area Interfaith Council ("TAIC"): officially launched March 20, 2007; 35 faith groups in attendance; Mayor and city counselors present; starting to establish formal Council.

MOTION (Moved by G.Kovary, D. Halliday seconded, motion carried.): The Executive be authorized to apply for membership of TAIC on behalf of UCGT; and The Executive may appoint representatives of UCGT to TAIC from time-to-time as the Executive may determine.

- Regional CUC Fall gathering (UCSP-South Peel) is scheduled for November 11-13.
- CUC ACM 2011 (GTA) – golden celebration of the creation of the CUC in 1961.

### **2007-08 Budget**

D. Halliday tabled a motion to increase the amount provided for Meeting Expenses from \$100 to \$200, in order to provide for a greater number of informal meetings. Mary Noble seconded, carried.

Larry Rawlinson moved to accept the budget with this single amendment, seconded and carried.

K. Drake called for an adjournment. J. Affleck so moved, E. Court seconded, carried.

K. Burney moved to defer discussion on the Role and Purpose of UCGT to another meeting. E. Court seconded. Lively discussion followed, with Donna Halliday saying how disappointed she would be with this, as she had driven in from Barrie with the express intention of discussing the role of the UCGT. She was promoting the idea of informal "passion" groups, each operating as a "heterarchy" (where authority is determined by knowledge and function). The motion was

defeated. Donna then moved to extend the meeting to 1:00 o'clock; motion seconded and carried.

A discussion arose as to whether the UCGT was necessary and/or productive, or whether we were duplicating the work of the regional CUC body. D. Halliday spoke at length on how her fellowship had suffered a dearth of volunteers, but had discovered that by clumping people into groups that felt passionately about a particular subject, a great deal could be accomplished without the need for a committee executive. K. Drake said a covenant must be created between these groups and the UCGT Executive, as Executive approval would have to be obtained before monies were spent or action taken. But he also stated that he believed we should be working towards networking and empowerment.

J. Affleck moved that we proceed to election of the Executive, E. Mitchnik seconded. Technically there has been no Executive for the past year as everyone's term had ended, and this interregnum provides for re-election of some or all of the same people.

New Executive:

President: Calvin Drake – chairs meetings; responsible for inter-congregational communiqués

Vice President: Donna Halliday – replaces President in his absence

Treasurer: Carolyn Prentice – responsible for bookkeeping, signs cheques

Secretary: TBD

**Other Business**

Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by Carolyn Prentice