

**CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
(Held in Saint John, New Brunswick, May 20 – 22, 2006.)**

FOUR RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE DELEGATES at this meeting.

(Note: The Resolution appear here in their final form and include Amendments as passed. See list of Motions to Amend at foot. Details of defeated Amendments/Special Resolutions will be posted by June 19⁰⁶ in the full Minutes of the Annual Meeting)

On behalf of the CUC Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group, Art Brewer presented the following RESOLUTION :

The Resolution, as amended was carried.

WHEREAS the Canadian Unitarian Council affirms and promotes the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and seeks to promote inclusivity in our congregations and society at large; and

WHEREAS at its 1984 Annual Meeting the Canadian Unitarian Council adopted a resolution concerning sexual diversity; and

WHEREAS after more than two decades it is appropriate to clarify and expand the thrust of that resolution in the light of subsequent events and understandings;

1) BE IT RESOLVED that the policy adopted by the 1984 resolution be amended by:

- a) changing the words “lesbian and gay people” to “lesbians and gay persons, bisexual, trans-identified and intersex persons”; and
- b) adding the words “gender identity or gender expression” after the words “sexual orientation”; and
- c) replacing the words “lesbian and gay partnership services” with the words “rites of passage for persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression”; and
- d) adding a new clause “d) to provide ongoing educational programs *such as* the Unitarian Universalist Association’s:
 - Welcoming Congregation (second edition)
 - Our Whole Lives, and
 - Living the Welcoming Congregation.”

2) BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council amend the preamble to its Personnel Policies to include this statement “That CUC will adhere to a policy of non-discrimination in its hiring policies, ensuring that there is no discrimination on the basis of race, ancestry, place of origin, age, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex or sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, marital or family status, disability or political affiliation”

FURTHER RESOLVED that the words “gender identity or gender expression” be added after the words “sexual orientation”;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council’s Abuse Prevention Policy be amended by replacing the words “based on colour, ethnicity, religion, national origin, age, disability, gender or sexual orientation” with the words “as outlined in the preamble to our Personnel Policies”;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council communicate with its member societies, encouraging them to apply policies and practices of non-discrimination in accordance with the amended Personnel Policy.

3) BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council communicate with federal, provincial and territorial governmental Ministers who carry responsibility for the Human Rights Codes of their respective jurisdictions, requesting that prompt steps be taken, where required, to ensure that their Human Rights Codes include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council enlist the support of appropriate organizations and individuals to promote, where required, the inclusion of gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination in federal, provincial and territorial human rights codes.

4) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Unitarian Council communicate with its member societies, urging them to conduct an annual ceremony and/or worship service which affirms and promotes the equal rights of persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, and to initiate or participate in local "Pride" events.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Unitarian Council make available to its member societies material and resources to assist them in developing an annual ceremony and/or worship service which affirms and promotes the equal rights of persons regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

5) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canadian Unitarian Council, as a member of the International Council of Unitarian Universalists communicate with the ICUU, recommending that it adopt a policy which affirms that all persons have equal rights regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, and that the ICUU advise its member organizations, should it adopt this policy, to encourage similar action at national and congregational levels.

AMENDMENTS TO THIS RESOLUTION (All these approved changes are included above).
MOTION #1 Moved by Katie Stein Sather, duly seconded and carried: 'That from #5 'BE IT RESOLVED', the word 'Conference' be deleted and replaced with the accurate term 'Council (of Unitarian Universalists)'

MOTION #2 Moved by Aukje Byker, duly seconded and carried: 'That Line #1a be changed to read 'Lesbian and Gay Persons.'

MOTION #3 Moved by Kim Turner, duly seconded and carried: 'That #2 be replaced with the following statement: "The CUC Board be directed to a policy of non-discrimination in its hiring policies

CUC STUDY RESOLUTION ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING

This Resolution was prepared and proposed by:

Ahti Tolvanen, Julie Stoneberg, Pyteke Blauuw, Mary Ann Higgs, Margaret Wanlin, Bruce Hyer, Bob Manson, Jean Morrison

Ahti Tolvanen presented it on behalf of the group.

The Resolution was duly carried.

Whereas the Canadian Unitarian Council adopted a Socially Responsible Investment Policy at its Annual Meeting in Thunder Bay in 1998, and Whereas it was further resolved by the CUC to recommend to the Board of Trustees that in

investing the funds of the CUC they make all reasonable efforts to avoid the holding of securities by corporations and agencies involved in nuclear power, military weapons, tobacco, gambling, human rights violations or non-sustainable environmental practices, and Whereas it was also resolved to make arrangements to inform the membership of our societies regarding such investment practices and that our denomination be in attendance at shareholder meeting and vote in a knowledgeable manner, and

Whereas the increasing globalization of economic interrelationships and activities of businesses based in Canada and abroad creates new potential for both beneficial and harmful impacts; there is a more significant role now than ever for an active Socially Responsible Investment Policy, and

Whereas the said Policy needs to be more effectively supported at the level of local congregations and made know to individual Unitarians to be effective, and

Whereas the implementation of the Socially Responsible Investment Policy could only benefit from improved liaison with other faiths and like-minded citizens' organizations, and Whereas the recently

achieved autonomy of the CUC from the UUA has led to a significant increase in the CUC investment portfolio and created a need to further develop our socially responsible investment practices, and **Whereas** an effective and committed Socially Responsible Investment Policy is supported by the seventh Principle (Respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we are all a part); the second Principle (Justice, equity and compassion in human relations) and the third Principle (Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations), therefore

BE IT RESOLVED

That this AGM direct the formation of a Study Group to begin a two-year Study, which shall be in the format of an action study, to propose and develop Socially Responsible Investment Practices among the member congregations and in the community contexts where congregations and individual members live and interact, the membership of which Study Group may be augmented or altered by majority decision of said Study Group in consultation with the Board. The purposes of which Study, in which all congregations are invited to participate, are

a. to develop a Canadian network of Unitarians and like-minded groups and individuals to enable effective Socially Responsible Investment practices,

b. to seek the support and expertise of other faith groups and like-minded groups and individuals with valuable experience in Socially Responsible Investing in Canada the USA and further abroad,

c. to raise awareness in our congregations and among our members and friends of the ways and means in which Unitarians and those who support us can more effectively witness to the principles of our faith through dialogue with corporate leaders, the voting of our proxies as responsible shareholders, the presentation and support of shareholder initiatives at shareholder meetings, the convening of public events and the distribution of media communications,

d. to engage member congregations in the development of policies and actions that will strengthen the practices of Socially Responsible Investing as an integral part of denominational wealth management and as an effective form of denominational witness and interaction with our communities for the good of all,

e. and to propose a resolution at the CUC AGM in 2008 that will establish a monitoring group to implement and recommend actions resulting from this the Study Canadian Unitarian Council – Conseil Unitarien du Canada Assembled at its Annual General Meeting in Saint John, New Brunswick, May 19th to 22nd, 2006.

CUC BOARD MOTIONS re Social Responsibility Task Force 2006

FIRST RESOLUTION

Brian Kiely, President, introduced this Resolution, which was duly carried.

Whereas Social Responsibility Special Resolutions are for topics which are not suitable for the multi-year General Resolution process (usually as a consequence of time constraint or the nature of the issue), and

Whereas, in some cases, it is possible to draft a Special Resolution early enough to give proper notice of motion to congregations, allowing for congregational discussion and debate, and

Whereas only Social responsibility resolutions adopted with proper notice can be adopted as CUC policy, and

Whereas heretofore Special Resolutions have not been circulated as notice and have only reflected the views of the Annual Meeting delegates, ,

therefore **BE IT RESOLVED that beginning with the 2007 CUC Annual Meeting there be two categories of Special Resolution, namely**

Special Resolutions Without Notice, and Special Resolutions With Notice,

where 'Without Notice' resolutions must satisfy the current criteria* for Special Resolutions or any revision of same and 'With Notice' resolutions must satisfy these criteria plus the further requirement that they must be circulated as notice to congregations in the same way as General Resolutions must be.

SECOND RESOLUTION

Brian Kiely, President, presented this Resolution, which was duly carried as amended (see foot for Amendment).

Whereas Special Resolutions are intended to represent the viewpoint of Canadian Unitarian Universalists or of a specific CUC Annual meeting,

Whereas the CUC board and President communicate on behalf of Canadian Unitarian Universalists to the Canadian general public and to our governments on the basis of the policy set via these resolutions, and

Whereas a simple majority vote of the delegates present and voting at CUC Annual Meetings does not give the CUC very solid ground on which speak on behalf of Canadian Unitarian Universalists,

Therefore **BE IT RESOLVED that a 2/3 vote of the delegates present and voting at CUC Annual Meetings be required to approve Special Social Responsibility Resolutions and amendments thereof, to be effective in 2007.**

AMENDMENT:

Motion: Moved by John Hopewell, duly seconded and carried: ‘That the words *General and* be deleted from Paragraph 1 and Paragraph 4’.

Footnote:

*Criteria for a Special Resolution may be found in the SR Handbook on the CUC web site or in the SR Task Force report recently distributed (Resolutions section) pages 9 to 11; and in Appendix III, the Flow Chart. They include the following:

- 1) This resolution is usually specific, action oriented and timely,
- 2) The action is related to a past resolution or principle, but cannot be carried out by a Monitoring Group or the President without a further resolution. (Thus consultation with the above, the Executive Director and the local President is advisable before submitting.)
- 3) A special resolution cannot be used to short circuit a General Resolution and is used therefore only a last resort.

END OF RESOLUTIONS as passed at the Annual Meeting May 20 – 22, 2006.

(Prepared for posting to CUC web site by Nora Prosser, Board Secretary, June 1, 2006).