



**CANADIAN
UNITARIAN
COUNCIL**

**CONSEIL
UNITARIEN
DU CANADA**

KALVIN DRAKE (CO-CHAIR)
REV. WENDY MCNIVEN (CO-CHAIR)
WILF INNERD
DENIS BARSALO
JOHN HOPEWELL
SAMANTHA MAGNUS
KAREN FRASER GITLITZ
MARY BENNETT

Statement of Principles Task Force

CUC ACM 2005 Plenary



WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kalvin Drake (Co-chair)

Rev. Wendy McNiven (Co-chair)

Wilf Innerd

Denis Barsalo

John Hopewell

Samantha Magnus

Karen Fraser Gitlitz

Mary Bennett





AGENDA

1. Historical overview
2. What we heard – what we learned
3. Responses to the First Draft
4. What's next?
5. Questions and comments



HISTORY – 2003 TO 2005

May 2002 – Interim statement adopted

January 2003 – Task Force formed

Fall 2003 – Values workshop created

Winter 2004 – Values workshops held

Summer 2004 – Matrix created



THE MATRIX!

1. What are our deepest yearnings?

	Principle #1 <i>The inherent worth and dignity of every person</i>	Principle #2 <i>Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations</i>	Principle #3 <i>Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations</i>	Principle #4 <i>A free and responsible search for truth and meaning</i>	Principle #5 <i>The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large</i>	Principle #6 <i>The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all</i>	Principle #7 <i>Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part</i>
Key Themes							
Peace for my Self			Low	Low			
Peace for my family		Med			Low		
Peace in my community		Med	Low		Low	Med	
Peace in the world		Med			Med	High	
Community/Connection with the Self							Med
Community/Connection with others			Low			Med	Med
Community/Connection with creation/Spirit/the divine							Med
To love and be loved			Low				
To find purpose and meaning			High	High			
To be of use / make a positive change in the world						Med	



THE MATRIX!

LOW

MEDIUM

HIGH

Key Themes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Peace		Medium			Medium		
Family		Medium	Medium		Medium		
Community							Medium
World		Medium			Medium	High	
Love			Medium				
Purpose			High	High			
Reverence							High
Generosity	Medium	High	Medium				



HISTORY – 2003 TO 2005

May 2002 – Interim statement adopted

January 2003 – Task Force formed

Fall 2003 – Values workshop created

Winter 2004 – Values workshops held

Summer 2004 – Matrix created

Fall 2004 – Draft statement created

Winter 2005 – Draft circulated / workshops held



FEEDBACK STATISTICS

- 168 responses using the web form
 - 81 e-mails, some with large attachments
- 16 hard copies
 - 256 total responses, several which represented more than one person



PHILLIP HEWETT, 2004

It is possible to idolize a text, and in recent years I have heard more than one accusation that this has happened to what have come to be called Our Seven Principles.

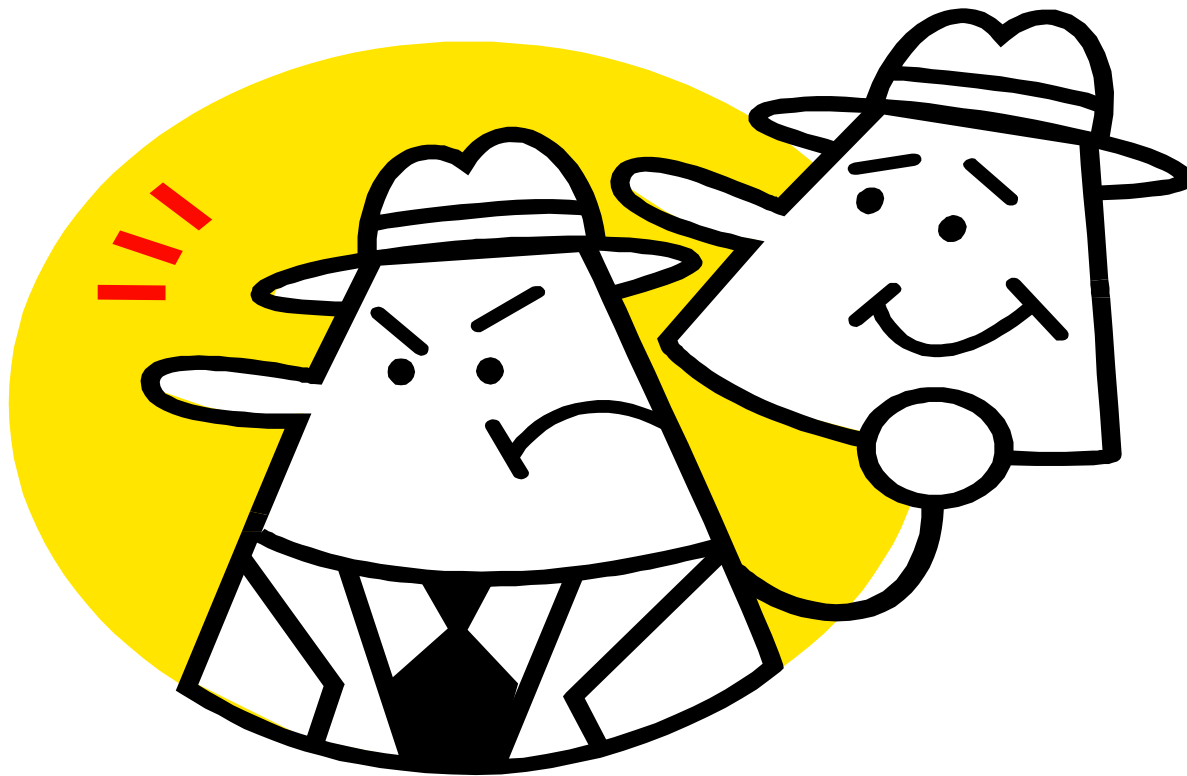


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AN EMOTIONAL PROCESS





TRUST IS ESSENTIAL!





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THE PROCESS HAS A MESSAGE



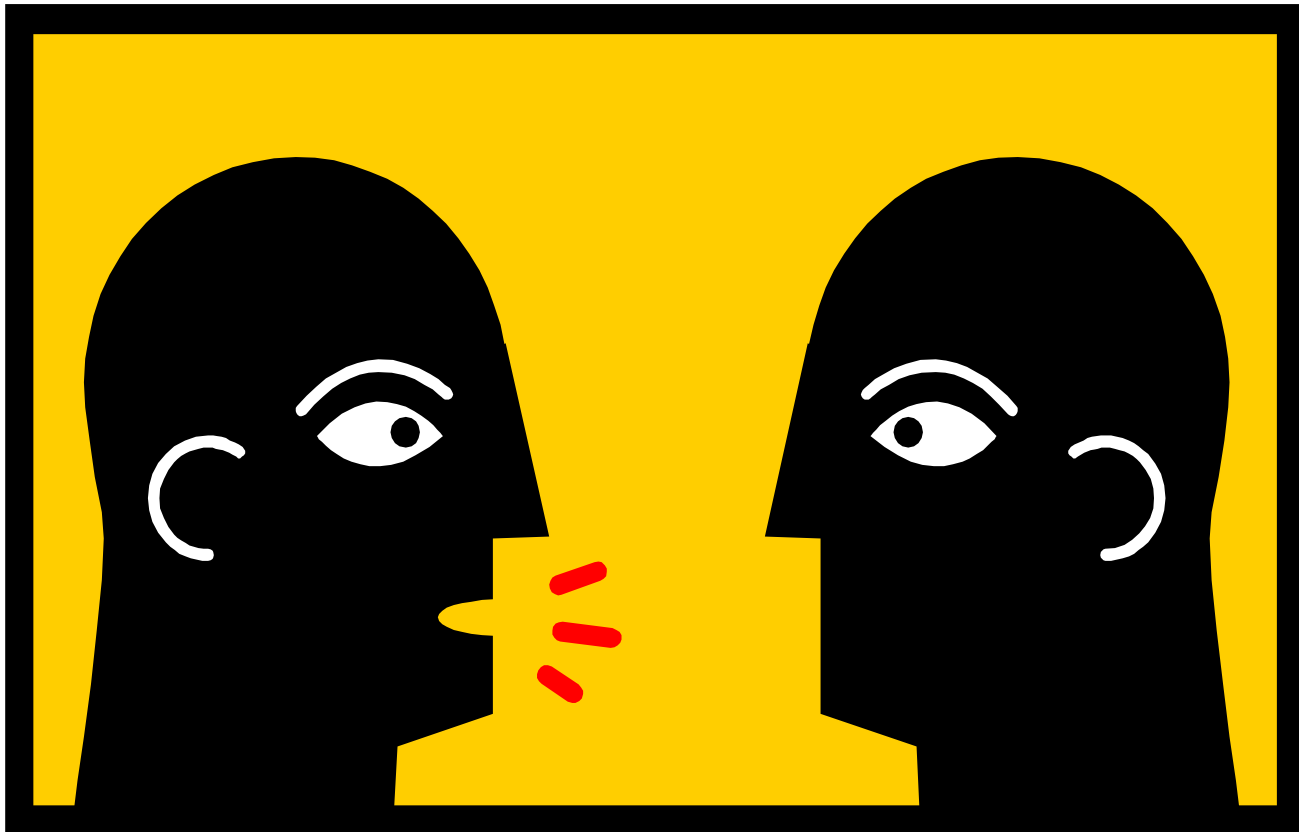


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LISTEN TO EVERYONE!



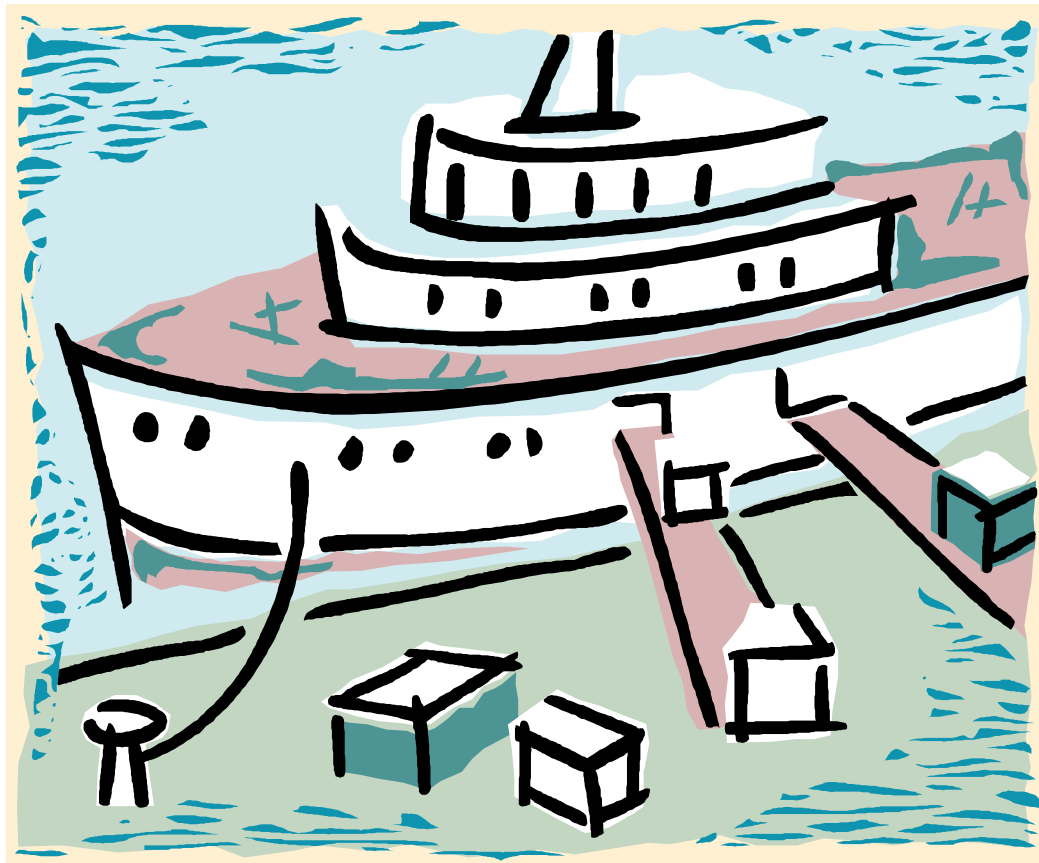


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GET EVERYONE ON BOARD!





RESPONSES TO...

Draft Statement of Shared Values and Aspirations

Irritates

Resonates



RESPONSES 1 / 15

“We the Congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council covenant to proclaim and promote the shared values and aspirations of their members as presented herein.”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 2 / 15

“Affirming the power of religious community, we come together in our congregations to:”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 3 / 15

“Celebrate the unity and interdependence of all existence within which we are called to be true to our own conscience and experience;”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 4 / 15

“Engage in our individual search for truth and meaning as part of a spiritual mosaic;”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 5 / 15

“Love and be loved, to support each other in our spiritual growth and to bring peace into our lives and the world;”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 6 / 15

“Giving life to our shared values, we strive to make a positive change in the world by:”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 7 / 15

“Honouring the
inherent worth and
dignity of every
person;”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 8 / 15

“Acting with compassion,
generosity and integrity in
all relations;”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 9 / 15

“Ensuring that all people have a voice and a role in matters that affect them;”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 10 / 15

“Fostering a fair,
diverse and sustainable
global community.”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 11 / 15

“From our historical roots within Protestant Christianity, we have drawn on the Unitarian challenge to church doctrine and the Universalist belief in unconditional divine love. Today we find inspiration from many and varied sources.”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 12 / 15

“Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder that moves us to renew our spirit and connect with the forces which create and uphold life,”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 13 / 15

“Wisdom from the world’s humanist and spiritual traditions which guides us with reason and teaches us to live in harmony with our neighbours and the rhythms of nature;”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 14 / 15

“Prophetic words and deeds that challenge us to confront injustice and cruelty with conviction and the transforming power of love;”

Irritates

Resonates





RESPONSES 15 / 15

“The legacy of those who have served, and will serve, this our living tradition.”

Irritates

Resonates





WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

- This is emotional work
- Trust is essential
- The process has a message
- Hear everyone non-defensively



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

- Take the appropriate time
- Work together
- Make it easy to respond



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Clarified mandate
 - Open ended timeline with annual reports
 - Keeping our current statement is an option
- Dovetail and coordinate with the Visioning Task Force



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Individually examine our current statement
 - User's kit for the matrix
- Future process to include
 - Ongoing dialogue about content and process
 - Engage ministers in process and dialogue
 - Task force members available to congregations
 - Simple process, accessible feedback mechanisms



WHAT'S NEXT?

- Revisit communication strategy
- There will be no final vote until there is broad agreement



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TAKE OUR TIME





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QUESTIONS?





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QUESTIONS?





RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

- Website and e-mail
www.cuc.ca/statement
statement@cuc.ca
- Regular mail c/o the CUC office



ALLELU, ALLELU...

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia

Sing and rejoice

Allelu, allelu, allelu, alleluia

Sing and rejoice

Sing and rejoice, alleluia

Sing and rejoice, alleluia

Sing and rejoice, alleluia

Sing and rejoice



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BE PART OF THE PROCESS!



Our workshop starts in 15 minutes
Next door in room 1309