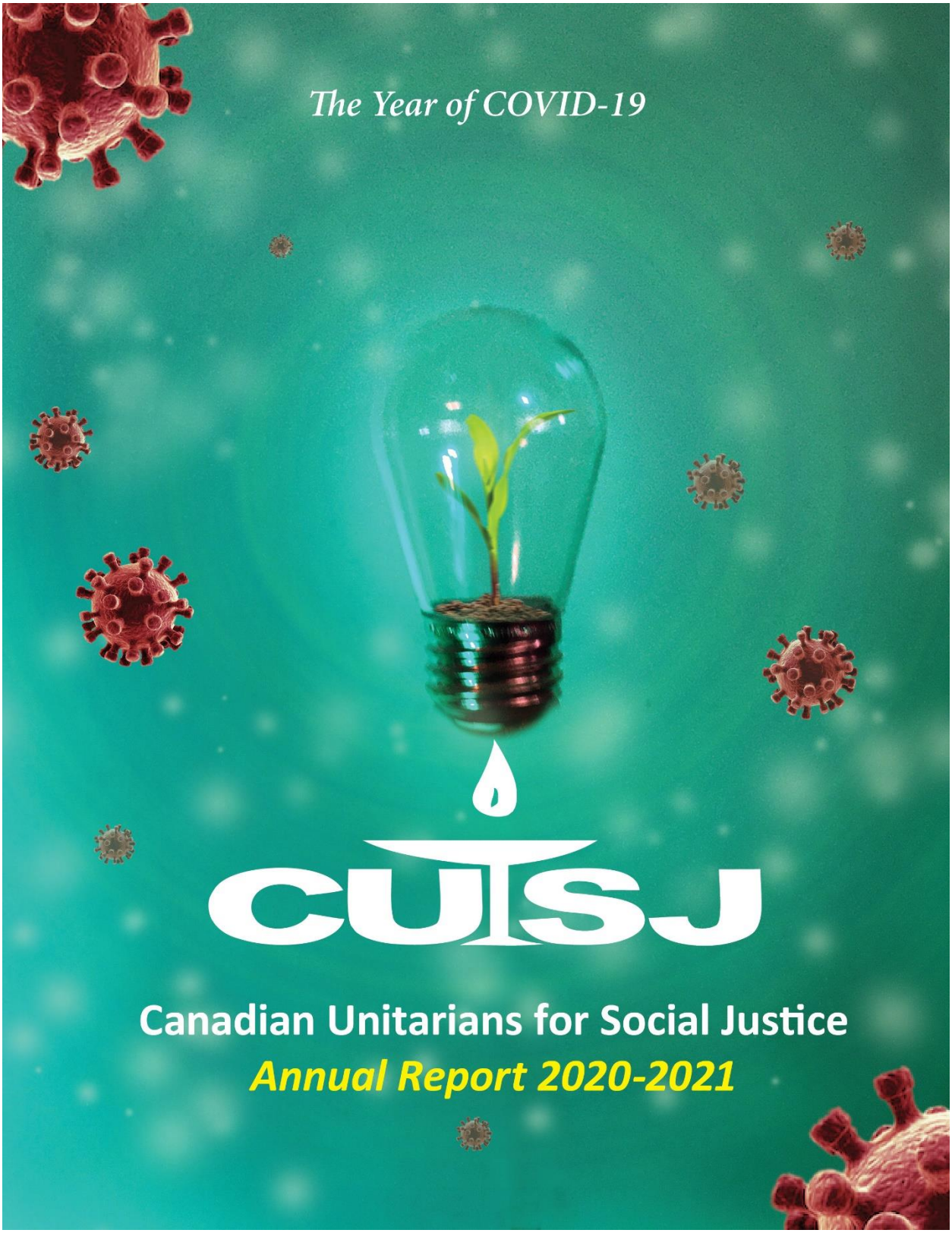
The Year of COVID-19
CUSJ
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
Annual Report 2020-2021

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Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 22, 2021 via Zoom

9:45am Pacific, 10:45am Mountain, 11:45 Central, 12:45 Eastern, 1:45 Atlantic

Note: times below refer to EDT

AGENDA

Keynote Address: The Green Transformation

12.45 EDT	Waiting room opens
1.00 pm	Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement (Lynn Armstrong)
	Introduction of Guest Speaker, Seth Klein (Leslie Kemp)
1.05 pm	Keynote Address: "The Green Transformation"
1.25 pm	Questions and discussion (Moderator, Frances Deverell)
1.50 pm	Break

2:00 pm **Business Meeting**

1. Call to order, welcome and introduction of special guests (spotlight)
2. Opening words/Invocation (Rev. Samaya Oakley)
3. Confirmation of quorum
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Approval of the June 20, 2020 minutes
6. President's Report (Lynn Armstrong)
7. Membership Report (Joy Silver)
8. Communications Report (Frances Deverell)
9. Treasurer's Report (Gary Campbell)
10. Nomination Committee Report
11. Election of Directors
12. Resolution - Accessible Housing - Kate Chung
13. Closing Reading
14. Adjournment

3.00 pm **25 years on…Visioning CUSJ's Future (Break Out Rooms)** Join this important discussion on the CUSJ's work in the coming years and importantly, what you will do to bring this vision into being.

MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM BUSINESS MEETING

Held on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 2pm EDT via Zoom

Members present: Lynn Armstrong, Andy Blair, Andrew Blaikie, Gary Campbell, Frances Deverell, Sharyn Devine, Jake Javanshir, Leslie Kemp, Marlene Koehler, Anita MacLean, Allan McKeown, Robyn Newton, Sally Palmer Woods (recording), Ellen Papenburg, Maury Prevost, Margaret Rao, Gail Rappolt, Lynn Sabourin, Jim Sannes, Joy Silver, Philip Symons, Margaret Wanlin, Lorna Weigand, Bill Woolverton (Chair), Ted Wood plus two unidentified people.

Non members: Amanda Patt

1. **Call to order, welcome and territorial acknowledgement:** Bill Woolverton

2. **Opening words:** (Frances Deverell) "A Time to Act" by Rev. Tet Gallardo

3. **Lighting of the chalice: (**Frances Deverell) "My heart is moved by all I cannot save" by Adrienne Rich - Hymnal #463

4. **Quorum:** there were 27 people present.

5. **Approval of the agenda:** proposed: Joy Silver; seconded: Andy Blair; carried.

6. **Approval of the May 12, 2019 AGM minutes:** proposed: Joy Silver; seconded: Frances Deverell; carried.

7. **Chapter and social justice groups reports:** motion to receive the Chapter and Social Justice Group Reports**:** proposed: Sally Palmer Woods; seconded: Andy Blair; carried.

8. **President's report:** (Bill Woolverton) Bill commented that requests for support from other organizations had been coming fast and furious during the past year. He and the incoming President, Lynn Armstrong, had agreed that we need to keep better track of them. The petition for Canada not to receive a UN Security Council seat was one of these. Motion to receive the President's Report**:** proposed: Andy Blair; seconded: Joy Silver; carried.

9. **Membership report**: (Lynn Armstrong) as of today, we have 80 members in good standing. There has been a flurry of renewals recently. All these people are eligible to vote. We are in the process of moving to a more modern database – Breeze – that is used by many congregations. It will be helpful in tracking and communicating with members. Motion to receive the Membership Report: proposed: Lynn Armstrong; seconded: Andy Blair; carried. Joy thanked Lynn for her dedication, moving us forward to where we are

and agreeing to become our President. Lynn commented that she is excited about the coming year.

10. **Web report:** (Frances Deverell) we experienced some gaps in available people in the last year. We thought we had someone to be our webmaster, but it did not work out. There has been a Board team of Frances and Leslie Kemp with Ellen Papenburg as back up. Cym Gomery our former webmaster has backed Frances up. Sally is also grateful to Cym for her guidance in preparing the 2020 Annual Report. It has been suggested that we pool our efforts and make our communication consistent across all platforms, and that we pay for technical support if necessary. Motion to receive the Web Report: proposed: Philip Symons; seconded: Sally Palmer Woods; carried.

11. **Financial report:** (Gary Campbell) **a**s Gary could not be heard, due to poor audio quality, Sally read his comments from the Annual Report. Bill commented that last year's surplus would be welcome in view of increased expenses for this year. Frances mentioned that our bank account was healthy, but our income stream was "iffy". She hoped that, with changes in our ways of communicating and our outreach to congregations, our income could be stabilized. Motion to receive the Financial Report**:** proposed Ellen Papenburg; seconded: Margaret Rao; carried.

12. **Nominating Committee report:** (Frances Deverell): the Nominating Committee was made up of Frances Deverell and Lynn Armstrong. Frances thanked everyone who served. Everyone is staying on the Board and some are moving positions. She is grateful to Gail Rappolt for agreeing to be on the Board and to Lynn for stepping up to be President. Lynn has lots of ideas and has energized the Board. We still have seats available in Western and Atlantic Canada. Frances would appreciate someone who knows people in other congregations across the country joining the Nominating Committee. Joy Silver agreed to serve. Following this, nominations from the floor were called for. Several people were nominated, but declined. Ellen Papenburg agreed to rejoin the Board. Motion to receive the Nomination Committee Report: proposed: Frances Deverell; seconded: Joy Silver; carried.

13. **Election of the Executive:** The slate of Directors for the coming 2020-21 year was acclaimed with the addition of Ellen Papenburg and is as follows:

    Lynn Armstrong – President; Andy Blair – Vice-President; Bill Woolverton – Past President; Sally Palmer Woods – Secretary; Gary Campbell – Treasurer; Joy Silver – Membership and Listserv Manager;
    At large members: Leslie Kemp, Ellen Papenburg, Margaret Rao, Gail Rappolt, Jim Sannes.

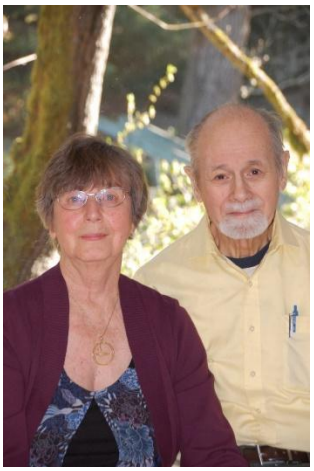
14. **Closing reading:** (Frances Deverell) Hymnal #579 – "The Limits of Tyrants" by Frederick Douglas.

15. **Extinguishing of the chalice:** (Frances Deverell) "As we extinguish this chalice, we honour those who speak truth to power." By Derek McCullough.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.01 pm EDT.

OBITUARY – BOB VAN ALSTYNE

First President of CUSJ



Bob and his life partner, Bert McBain, also a CUSJ activist

We are sad to report the death of the first official president of CUSJ, Bob Van Alstyne, on November 22, 2020. Bob was a critical part of the executive team for the newly-formed CUSJ. He also led the way in connecting UU social activists across the country to build a national voice. Bob continued to be involved with CUSJ for the rest of his life until dementia made it no longer possible.

A full obituary is on the CUSJ website: https://cusj.org/news/cusj-remembers-bob-van-alstyne/

CUSJ PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020-21

Lynn speaking about CUSJ at the 2021 CUC AGM

This has been a challenging year for all. Despite that, CUSJ has continued its work mobilizing Canadian Unitarian values through social actions you'll see in this report and the other Board reports.

We are glad to be an affiliate organization of the CUC. A few months ago, some of our Board members met together with the CUC Executive Director, Vyda Ng, and their Social Justice Lead, Erin Horvath, to review and renew our Covenant that clarifies our relationship. One of our significant differences is that the CUC is a charitable organization able to issue tax receipts whereas CUSJ is not. We are a registered non-profit but most of our work is considered political activity by the Canada Revenue Agency.

Our newsletter, *JUSTnews,* has been our main connection with the congregations. In recent years, we've been printing and mailing around 650 copies of each issue directly to congregations for pick up by anyone interested. Often in foyers. It's a great outreach tool for newcomers. But not this year when all the congregations had to close their doors. We sent copies to a few congregations that asked for a small number for their own distribution. Most of our members choose to receive the newsletter by email, a small number by post. Is there still a future for printed newsletters? We'll see.

Strategic planning

In the autumn, we engaged in two sessions of strategic planning to provide a framework of planning for our next three years. We looked, in particular, at our priorities, our outreach strategies, our communication processes and our allies - the groups with which we are in relationship. Overarching goals with identified actions and next steps include:

1) CUSJ will amplify its voice in support of its priorities for change

2) CUSJ will work to strengthen the base of support for CUSJ work among Canadian UUs.

We have five areas of focus for our social justice work: Indigenous Peoples, Environment, Economic Justice, Democracy and Human Rights, and Peace. These areas are connected, as suggested by our seventh principle, "the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." Thus, we look to systemic approaches to addressing issues in any of these areas.

Letters and petitions

We have continued to add our name to letters and petitions. The decision-making on which to support is on a consensus model and not all requests are agreed. The following were supported by CUSJ since our last annual meeting.

Date initiated	Name of campaign and person/organization initiating
19/4/21	Supply side options to increase zero emission vehicles/Caroline Broulette/CAN-RAC
8/4/2021	Petition for Violence Prevention/Frances Deverell
24/3/2021	Open letter on federal on-line hate legislation IJV/BDS
17/3/2021	Stop Gull Island Megadam/Climate Action Network/Gretchen Fitzgerald/Sierra Club of Canada
9/3/2021	Comment on SC Ruling on Carbon Pricing/Climate Action Network/Caroline Brouillette
2/23/2021	Subsidies for Enhanced Oil Recovery/Environmental Defence/Julia Levin
1/21/2020	Cancel Trans-Mountain Pipeline Letter/Stand Earth
1/14/2021	Letter in Hill Times asking Canada to sign ban on Nuclear Weapons. Organized by Canadian Foreign Policy Institute.
10/11/2020	Nomination of Cuban Medical Teams for Nobel Peace Prize/Council of Canadians
24/10/2020	Statement of Concern about IHRA definition of antisemitism/Just Peace Advocates
18/10/2020	World Beyond War Declaration of Peace
9/9/2020	Climate in Throne Speech/Climate Fast
8/20/2020	Reassessment of Foreign Policy/CFPI
8/3/2020	Petition Opposing Annexation of West Bank/CJPME
7/6/2020	Vista Coal Mine/Climate Action Network

Representatives of CUSJ:

- Campaign to Stop Killer Robots: Andy Blair
- Canada-wide Peace and Justice Network: Margaret Rao
- Climate Action Network Canada (CAN/RAC): Margaret Rao, Frances Deverell
- International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group: Gary Campbell
- Observer to the UN International Conference on Climate Change: Ahti Tolvanen
- Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry: Jim Sannes

And, we are a proud sponsor of the World Beyond War global conference, #NoWar2021, that was to have taken place in Ottawa June 4-6, 2021 and will be held online. Delegates include Joy Silver, Lynn Armstrong and Margaret Rao.

25th anniversary this year

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice was born in March 1996. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions about how we can acknowledge and celebrate our 25th anniversary year. We would love to see your photographs showing the actions of your congregations doing work in social justice, particularly those done under the CUSJ banner. We also welcome short stories/remembrances of this work. Other ideas are welcome!

Thank you to all our wonderful Board members and to all the members and friends who have supported CUSJ this year in so many different ways.

Submitted by Lynn Armstrong, President

BOARD REPORTS

Membership Report

On April 1, 2020 following completion of our fiscal year 2020 to 2021, we had 60 members in good standing and eligible to vote at our Annual General Meeting. Anyone not on this list who wishes to be a member and makes a financial contribution of record before the start of the May 22, 2021 AGM, may also vote at this meeting.

Submitted by Joy Silver, Membership Chair

Communications Report

2020-21 was another challenging year for communications. We decided as a board not to have one person acting as editor but to try to produce *JUSTnews* with a communications team. There was good energy for this. Leslie Kemp, Lynn Armstrong, Frances Deverell, Margaret Rao, Ellen Papenburg, Bill Woolverton, and Joy Silver joined the team, and Gail Rappolt joined us for a few meetings. We set a goal to produce two in-depth issues of *JUSTnews,* one on Basic Income and one on the current state of the Peace Movement. We were very fortunate to be working with Jan Andrews from First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa for layout. Thank you, Jan, for your wonderful work. Part of the challenge was to set up our systems and get them working. In the end we were only able to produce one *JUSTnews* magazine, in Winter 2021 on Basic Income.

We were very pleased to have many contributions from both congregations and individual Unitarians for this issue on Basic Income. First Victoria, South Fraser, Nanaimo, London, First

Hamilton, and Mississauga all reported their news. We were pleased to welcome Joan MacNeil, Leslie Kemp, Chava Finkler and Nancy Vander Plaats, Frances Deverell, Margaret Rao, Sally Palmer Woods and Lynn Armstrong as feature writers or book reviewers.

We were very happy to have Ellen Papenburg return to the board to take care of the technical aspects of running a website. Frances Deverell and Leslie Kemp have made the effort to keep our posts up to date and we are working to use the website as a place to inform our membership of all the actions are board is taking through coalitions – petitions or letters we have added our name to. It is also the place where members can access the latest issue of *JUSTnews*, renew their membership, and find information on our annual meeting. This year, after our board strategic planning retreat, we updated the CUSJ list of priorities to better reflect where we are actually putting our attention.

Our Listserv Manager, Joy Silver, reports that We currently have 82 members on our Listserv. To alter your status on the listserv contact Joy at listserv@cusj.org.

Members have respectfully adhered to the post guidelines and have exchanged informative, insightful posts that include:

- A continued ongoing concern for the lack of international intervention of the Palestine-Israeli conflict;
- Supports for Coalition for Violence Prevention Supports for non-re-extradition of Hassan Diab for retrial in France
- Supports for COALITION TO CANCEL TMX CUSJ Remembers Bob Van Alstyne 2021-01-07
- Supports Cuban Medical Teams
- Opposition to IHRA definition of Antisemitism
- Supports for CANRAC for Green New Deal
- Supports for BIPOC Justice (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour)

Frances Deverell animated our Facebook Page for the past year. We have 425 current members of our public Facebook group on May 10, 2021. Topics of posts from a wide variety of posters include Human Rights issues, Climate Change, Pipelines and Energy, Housing, Indigenous rights and campaigns to support murdered and missing women, and many more.

We welcome volunteer writers or people who feel they have skills to support us on either our website, our Facebook group, or our newsletter. Perhaps we need to be in some of the newer platforms where younger people live such as Instagram or TikTok. If you know anything about those platforms, please contact us and offer your support. Everything is on the table right now as we try to imagine what communications for CUSJ will look like in the coming year.

Thank you to everyone who keeps us informed and supports us to take action for peace and justice.

Submitted by Frances Deverell, Communications team chair

Treasurer's Report

For the Year ending March 31, 2021

Total income remained similar to the previous fiscal year increasing by a few hundreds to $7,051.03. Members' contributions remained stable at $4,387, while 28 congregations increased contributions to reach $2,315. Expenses remained low that left CUSJ with a surplus of $4,142.73. With the reduced expenses, our Total Assets last year grew to $18,948 from $13,781 of the fiscal year.

Submitted by Gary Campbell – Treasurer

Balance Sheet

	2020/2021	2019/2020
Assets		
Cash in Bank - chequing	$10,178.78	$5,105.57
- Saving	$3,103.15	$3,101.60
Term deposit - Maturity July 10, 2021	$2,249.71	$2,213.31
- Maturity Nov. 02, 2021	$3,386.82	$3,330.05
Share account	$30.00	$30.00
Total Assets	$18,948.46	$13,780.53
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	$1,025.20	$0.00
Equity		
Initial Equity	$9,666.97	$9,666.97
Accumulated retained earnings	$8,256.29	$4,113.56
Net Worth	$18,948.46	$13,780.53

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues	Year 2020/2021		Year 2019/2020	
Individual Members	$4,387.04	(51 members)	$4,343.49	(59 members)
Congregation payments	2,315.00	(28 congregations)	1,135.55	(6 congregations)
T-shirt & Banner misc. sales	0.00		50.00	
Credit Union Interest – Chequing	4.27		4.15	
- Savings	1.55		3.68	
- Certificates	93.17		83.75	
Book Sales	0.00		605.00	
Gifts	250.00		0.00	
TOTAL REVENUES	**$7,051.03**		**$6,225.62**	

EXPENDITURES				
JUSTnews – Printing	$0.00		$0.00	
- Mailing	0.00	**Tot. JUSTnews**	277.27	**Tot. JUSTnews**
- Canada Post Returns	0.00	$0.00	58.64	$335.91
Donations – Justice Org.	705.03		500.00	
Admin & General Exp.	101.98		72.71	
Corporation Canada	13.25		20.00	
AGM – Room Rental &	0.00		110.00	
- Dinner cost	0.00		151.80	
- Coffee etc. (included)	0.00		0.00	
- Travel for President	0.00		0.00	
- Speaker honorarium	300.00		250.00	
- Printing -annual rep.	0.00		19.53	
- Livestream	0.00		0.00	
-Speaker travel	0.00	**Total AGM**	0.00	**Total AGM**
Conferences	0.00	$300.00	0.00	$531.33
Credit Union service charge	7.50		2.00	
Web Site Maintenance	272.79		326.56	
Membership Service (Breeze)	532.55		0.00	
Zoom charges for 1 year	0.00		0.00	
Board Consulting	250.00		0.00	
CUSJ banners & books	0.00		323.55	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	**$2,183.10**		**$2,112.06**	
NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	**$4,867.93**		**$4,113.56**	

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee was made up of Joy Silver and Frances Deverell. We want to thank this year's Board members for ensuring that CUSJ was well represented in the wider community on the issues of the past year and for agreeing to continue in that work in 2021-22. Our bylaws allow for up to 13 Directors at Large in addition to the Executive.

We are pleased to be presenting a new Director at Large from Thunder Bay, Ontario, Ruth Westcott, and a Student Observer from the North Shore, BC, Sian Raya. Please see their bios below. Nominations from the floor are welcome for the Quebec or Prairies or Atlantic Regions. We are pleased to recommend 13 board members and a student observer this year. Each term is two years with an option of renewal.

Atlantic 1 (1 Exec); Quebec 0; Ontario 7 (2 Exec); Prairies 0; BC 5 (3 Exec)

Executive

Name	**Region**	**Term**
Bill Woolverton, Past President	BC	First year of fifth term
Lynn Armstrong, President	BC	First year of third term
Andy Blair, Vice President	Atlantic	Second year of fourth term
Sally Palmer-Woods, Secretary	Ontario	First year of third term
Joy Silver, Membership Chair	BC	Second year of sixth term
Gary Campbell, Treasurer	Ontario	First year of third term

Directors at Large

Frances Deverell	BC	First year of seventh term
Leslie Kemp	BC	Second year of third term
Margaret Rao	Ontario	First year of ninth term
Ellen Papenburg	Ontario	Second year of first term *
Jim Sannes	Ontario	First year of fifth term
Gail Rappolt	Ontario	Second year of first term
Ruth Westcott	Ontario	First year of first term

Student Observer

Sian Raya	BC	First year of first term

* Ellen Papenburg stepped off the Board in May 2019 after many years of service and rejoined in 2020 for a new first term.

NEW NOMINEES TO THE BOARD

Ruth Westcott – Nominee for Director at Large

Ruth has been immersed in the "servant leadership" model taught in 12 step rooms, since the 80s. She was taught how to be an activist with Mohawk warriors at OKA vigils, with the Embarrass Harris Coalition facing riot cops, and from "Canada's most famous advocate for poverty issues," Pat Capponi, while serving on the board of Gerstein. Gerstein was ahead of its time, as a non-medical psychiatric crisis centre that employed people with lived experience (PWLE) of disenfranchisement.

Ruth specialized in political organizing with PWLE at OCAP, the Northwestern Ontario Patient Council, Thunder Bay Economic Justice Committee and recently in a project she created called Basic Income Speaker School. She was employed as a research assistant on a basic income study being done by four universities.

Ruth was appointed to the board of directors of ACTO, the Toronto legal clinic doing systemic advocacy for tenants in Ontario, for her work in tenant rights in Thunder Bay. More recently she was appointed to Centre for Addiction and Mental Health's Constituency Council, a group that formerly included Canadian Minister of Health, Thunder Bay's Patty Hajdu.

Ruth owns a home in Thunder Bay, and attends Lakehead Unitarian.

Sian Raya – Nominee for Student Observer

Sian Raya has been a member of the North Shore Unitarian Church in BC since she was a small child. She has been very active in her congregation over the years and has an important leadership role in her youth group. Sian has also taken on multiple leadership roles in the National Unitarian Universalist Youth community, such as staff roles at conferences, youth service leading, and chaplaincy.

She has always been very passionate about social justice and equity and has been in a constant process of educating herself, becoming a voice, and being an ally from a very young age. With a background in theatre arts, Sian has an attentive grace but also a strong voice to use when she knows her opinion is needed. She has been interviewed in *The Globe and Mail* about a program she was a part of regarding respectful relationships and sexual assault in high schools and post secondary institutions. Sian is also the writer and publisher of her own *Riot Grrrl* zine, where she spotlights young artists, writes about social justice and feminism, and spreads awareness to issues not often discussed. She created this as a passion project and is currently working on the zone's second issue.

She is graduating from high school this June and will be furthering her education in social sciences and humanities in a post secondary institution in the fall. Sian wants to make social and environmental justice advocacy her life work. She looks forward to observing and serving as a member-at-large on our CUSJ Board.

RESOLUTION: ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

Proposed by Kate Chung

Whereas:

- 22% of people in Canada have a disability, including thousands of children;
- people of all ages have many types of disabilities;
- for decades, housing policy has not considered accessibility, effectively discriminating against people with disabilities from being able to live in any housing;
- the Ontario Building Code only requires that 15% of newly built apartments to be "visitable;" other provinces' laws are similar;
- "visitable" only allows a person with a disability to visit other residents, but is not accessible enough for a person with a disability to live there;
- universal design will accommodate almost anyone of any age or ability to live in the apartment - going beyond mere accessibility;
- universal design, when applied to housing, demonstrates an underlying commitment to including as wide a range of residents as possible;
- thousands are forced out of their homes at the most vulnerable time in their lives, simply because their homes are not built to be accessible;
- this increases "bed blockers" and "hallway medicine" in hospitals;
- the result is long waiting lists for nursing homes;
- millions of healthcare dollars could be saved by enabling people to remain in their own accessible homes;
- the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and the *Human Rights Code* forbid discrimination on the basis of disability;
- the ongoing practice of permitting **in**accessible housing to be approved and financed is in direct contravention of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and the *Human Rights Code*;
- the ongoing practice of permitting inaccessible housing to be approved and financed perpetuates decades of barriers erected against people with disabilities, who have the same right to access housing as any other person in Canada; and
- it is urgent that 100% of all new multi-unit housing units be universal design, in order to make up for the decades of having no housing made accessible;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

CUSJ urges the governments of Canada and all provinces to:

- comply with the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* by ensuring all new housing will be accessible using universal design principles/standards,
- immediately amend all housing laws and regulations to make universal design mandatory for all multi-unit housing units funded directly or indirectly by the Government of Canada and/or a province; and
- require that any public funds or concessions conferred on municipalities, provinces, developers, or any other organization for housing be exclusively for universally designed housing units.

APPENDIX A - GROUP REPORT

Global Justice Working Group – Ottawa First

We had the following events during 2020:

On January 29 we had a person from **Elizabeth Fry Society** talk about The **Injustices in our Prison** at a Breakfast Forum.

On February 9 Anita MacLean spoke about the **Plight of the Palestinian Children**, also at a Breakfast Forum.

In March **Gustavo Frederico** talked about his experiences working for 7 months **at a UN Refugee Center in Brazil** at the border to Venezuela where 8,000 refugees lived.

Sharen Bowen also talked about the **Indigenous Offenders Initiative**. She also mentioned that many prisoners are suffering from Fetal Alcohol Disorder.

Cindy Blackstock, ED of The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society was our speaker on the last Sunday of June. The topic was Child of "The First Protestors."

On September 15 our event was called **Home Grown Racism Indefinite Detention.** It was a big success where Moe Harkat's lawyer Barbara Jackman, Matthew Behrenz and Tim McSorley and Azeezah Kanji spoke.

On September we had a Holtom Lecture to celebrate the **75th Anniversary of the United Nations**.

On November 17 we had a Webinar called **Annexation** with 2 speakers: The Jewish Professor Mira Zucharov and the Palestinian Human Rights Lawyer Jafa Jarrar. 90 people participated.

Sharen Bowen talked about **Food Security for Indigenous People** and that program is still going on in at our congregation and we now have an Indigenous man Kayoki Whiteduck leading it.

Submitted by Anita McLean

APPENDIX B – CLIMATE SUMMIT DELEGATE REPORT

I was pleased to represent the CUSJ, the UU-UNO and LUF as the only Canadian Unitarian at events of UN International Conference on Climate Change during 2019-2021.

The most effective network we have to influence climate issues at the UN is the Canadian Chapter of Climate Action Network, a coalition of NGOs active in climate issues and particularly the UN climate negotiations, The CUSJ is a member of the Climate Action Network (CAN-RAC) and has been represented on its board.

The Climate Action Network as well as the UU-UNO have observer status at the UN climate conferences which allows them to send a number of observers to participate in the UN climate meetings.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic has prevented personal attendance at public meetings as of March 2020, participation has mainly taken the form of online conferences, of which there have been many.

Canadian domestic developments such as the Federal Trans-Mountain Pipeline and announcements by the Alberta government of new coal mines and Ontario's cutbacks of support to wind energy have led Canadian NGOs to direct most of their energies to the home front. Although progress on reducing CO_2 and other greenhouse gases now depends mainly on national climate policies (NDCs), the main political impetus is international, deriving from the 2015 Paris Treaty where a consensus was reached that global warming should be stopped at 2 degrees celsius above preindustrial levels, preferably at 1.5 degrees.

The destruction of the Amazon and Indonesian rainforests at the rate of several football fields a minute and increasing mining and burning of fossil fuels in China, Poland and Australia etc. can easily be a cause for despair. This is compounded by unprecedented melting of arctic ice and the rise of atmospheric carbon from 400 to 410 ppm since Paris 2015 and the investment of 2 trillion dollars in fossil fuels by major banks in the same period.

There are hopeful signs that the crises may yet be turned around following President Biden's climate summit where a new accord with China to cap emissions seemed possible. The leadership being taken by the UK to divert financial flows from fossil fuels leading up to the 2021 Glasgow's COP 26 is another extremely important signal. This will play out, for instance, in how Article 6 of the Paris Treaty is articulated there. The litmus test in the long run as to whether these measures are working will be a drop in the level of atmospheric carbon, which the pandemic has only slowed slightly. This would also require a halt to the melting of arctic ice and permafrost. The best scientific projections (IPCCC) now seem to indicate that these cannot be accomplished without huge investments in geoengineering.

The importance of NGOs as the voice of public opinion inside the COP process and as mobilizers of public opinion in communities, particularly as we come out of pandemic hibernation, can hardly be overstated.

In Canada the CUSJ can hardly do better to build momentum to stem climate collapse than continuing to work with CAN-RAC, including its First Nations members, which has the national

government's attention more than ever. The UU-UNO also plays a valuable role internationally and can do even more if congregations continue to support it.

The struggle against global climate collapse may seem desperate at the moment but this is certainly not the moment to quit. Looking forward to working further together to yet overcome this historic peril.

Submitted by Ahti Tolvanen, MSc. - *CUSJ Observer to the UN International Conference on Climate Change*