

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ)

Annual Report 2022-23

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Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice Annual General Meeting

Saturday, May 13, 2023 **via Zoom:** 10am Pacific, 11am Mountain, 1pm Eastern, 2pm Atlantic

AGENDA

Note: Waiting room opens 15 minutes early to get acquainted and to iron out problems.

Please register at <https://cusj.org/register-for-the-agm/>

Welcome and Introduction of special guest: **Yves Engler**

Keynote Address: **The Ugly Canadian: Justin Trudeau's foreign policy**

Questions and discussion

Break

2pm Business Meeting

Call to order, welcome and territorial acknowledgement

Chalice Lighting

Confirmation of quorum

Approval of the agenda

Approval of the May 28, 2022 minutes and (?) the November 26, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes

President's Report (Jim Sannes)

Board Reports

- Membership Report (Joy Silver)
- Communications / Website Report (Ellen Papenburg)

Motion to receive the above Reports

Treasurer's Report (Gary Campbell) - and approve

Nomination Committee Report

Election of the Executive and Directors at Large (ratifying Irene Kaye)

Extinguishing the Chalice

Adjournment

Register here: <https://cusj.org/cusj-agm>

Minutes of the 2021-22 AGM Business Meeting – Sally Palmer Woods

Held on Saturday, May 28, 2022 via Zoom

At 11.00 am Pacific, 12.00pm Mountain, 1.00pm Central, 2.00pm Eastern, 3.00pm Atlantic

Members present: Lynn Armstrong (Chair), Gary Campbell, Kate Chung, Frances Deverell, Betty Donaldson, Margaret Friesen, John Hagen, Jake Javanshir, Christine Johnson, Leslie Kemp, Carol Kergon, Sylvia Krogh, Debbie Lake, Adina Lyon, Sally Palmer Woods (recording), Ellen Papenburg, Margaret Rao, Elaine Roberts, Lynn Sabourin, Jim Sannes, Ruth Sherwood, Joy Silver, Philip Symons, Ahti Tolvanen, Sharon Wickman, Ted Wood.

1. **Call to order and welcome:** Lynn Armstrong (Chair)
2. **Opening words/invocation:** “We light this chalice to honour...” – Frances Deverell

Confirmation of quorum: Joy Silver (Membership Chair) confirmed that we have 62 members eligible to vote and therefore have a quorum.

4. **Approval of the agenda:** proposed: Kate Chung; seconded: Margaret Rao; carried.
5. **Approval of the May 22, 2021 minutes:** proposed Joy Silver; seconded: Ellen Papenburg; carried.
6. **President’s Report:** (Lynn Armstrong) Lynn stated that we had a reasonably active year. We sponsored the World Beyond War conference with Margaret Rao being our delegate. Ahti Tolvanen was our official delegate to COP 26. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing pandemic, we were not able to produce an issue of *JUSTnews*. We ran several webinars, signed letters and petitions and sponsored campaigns in conjunction with our partners. Our membership has declined, begging the question of whether we speak for Canadian Unitarian Universalists. The crunch has come in that we have no nominations for the Board and this model of functioning does not appeal to next generations. Thus, it appears that it is time to fold, but the decision has not been taken yet. We shall wind down in the best way possible but it will not happen overnight. There are many possibilities and we could become more informal. Lynn thanked the Boards past and present for their service.
7. **Membership report:** (Joy Silver) we have 62 members counting from January 2021.

8. Treasurer's Report: (Gary Campbell) this is our second pandemic year. We did not send out invoices to congregations this year and received money from only four totalling \$650 – down from \$2,000. Our expenses were down since we did not publish *JUSTnews* and did everything on Zoom rather than in person, so we were able to put \$1,000 into savings. Our services such as Zoom and our website are paid up so we are doing well in maintaining our expenses. We have \$19,000 in assets so we have money with which to do things. Our 2019-20 and 2020-21 accounts have been checked by a member of the Ottawa congregation. Gary will send a copy if requested.

9. Communications Report (Frances Deverell) we started asking what we could do successfully during a pandemic and decided to offer some webinars calling them Let's Connect Calls. In the Fall of 2021 Ahti Tolvanen told us why he was going to COP26 and what happens at such meetings. In February 2022, Kate Chung, Tracy Odell and Thea Kurdi presented on Accessible Housing issues and it was organized by Lynn Armstrong. In March, Jim Sannes facilitated a session on Climate Healing presented by Dr. Sailesh Rao, and in April Leslie Kemp organized a talk entitled "Banking for a Better Future" given by youth activist Naisha Khan. These webinars provided the opportunity to chat in real time. We also have active participation on our listserv with Gustavo Federico providing updates on South American issues, Christine and Jake keeping us informed on Palestine and Penney Kome correcting us when we use unreliable sources. We have 444 members in our Facebook group and we continue to maintain our website.

10. Youth Engagement Report: (Leslie Kemp) this year we discussed renewal since most of our members are aging and we reached out to the Canadian Unitarian Council via Casey Stainsby. She connected us to MyceliUUM and we had several meetings with youth representatives Eric James and Linnea Granberg and others, and we attended one of their gatherings. They seemed excited at the possibility of some joint ventures. Linnea facilitated a workshop for us on how to set up an Instagram account and we were planning a quick video contest but have not yet brought that project to a conclusion. Joy Silver added that Linnea came up to her at church recently and encouraged her to keep on with the video contest. We would like to thank Eric James for his help in editing our webinar videos.

11. Motion to receive the above reports: proposed: Sylvia Krogh; seconded: Margaret Rao; carried.

12. Nomination Committee Report: (Joy Silver) many efforts have been made to find people for the Executive positions. Four Board members are willing to stay on, but we do not have nominations for President, Vice-President and Secretary.

13. Circle discussion on the future of CUSJ with a possible motion to wind up the organization: members were asked to speak briefly on what they celebrated or appreciated about CUSJ or what were their hopes for future Unitarians and social justice. Many positive things were said about CUSJ including that our work is important and that we are still needed. Suggestions were made such as networking with other groups, becoming a more informal network and making ourselves known more with congregations. Following this discussion, two questions were asked: Question 1) are there people willing to serve on a Board to move forward in the current form? Joy, Gary, Ellen, Jim and Ahti replied in the affirmative. That number of people is less than would be required for CUSJ to continue to function. Question 2) are there people who would be willing to serve on the Board of CUSJ that moves toward a different form or maybe toward dissolution? Joy, Gary, Ellen, Jim, Ahti, Frances, Leslie, Lynn and Adina Lyon were prepared to stand for election. **Motion: to elect the Board that is instructed to move forward with finding a different form for CUSJ that may mean dissolution of the current form:** proposed: Leslie Kemp; seconded: Jim Sannes; carried with Ahti Tolvanen abstaining. This Board will be required to come back to the membership with proposals in the Fall.

14. Election of the Executive and Directors at Large: motion to elect Jim Sannes - President, Adina Lyon – Secretary, Gary Campbell – Treasurer, Joy Silver – Membership Chair, Ellen Papenburg – Webmaster, Frances Deverell – Web Editor, and Lynn Armstrong, Leslie Kemp, and Ahti Tolvanen as members at large: proposed: Kate Chung; seconded: Margaret Rao; seconded.

15. Closing words: (Frances Deverell) “If here you have found community, friends and companions” adapted from “If here you have found freedom” by Rev. Lauralyn Bellamy.

16. Adjournment: the meeting ended at 1.12 pm Pacific, 4.12 pm Eastern.

**Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
Incorporated September 20, 2000 under
Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (S. 221)**

**Minutes of Special Meeting via Zoom by Adina Lyon
Saturday, November 26, 2022 at 10AM PST / 1PM EST**

Purpose of Meeting:

To consider a special resolution to proceed with the liquidation and dissolution of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) per the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (S. 221).

Transition Board present (9): Jim Sannes, President; Gary Campbell, Treasurer; Adina Lyon, Secretary; Lynn Armstrong; Frances Deverell; Leslie Kemp; Ellen Papenburg; Joy Silver; Ahti Tolvanen.

Voting members present (32):

1. Bill Wolverton	15. Margaret Rao
2. Christina Duvander	16. Marilyn Meden
3. Christine Johnston	17. Marya Nijland
4. Debby Lake	18. Michael Clague
5. Doug Buck	19. Philip Symons
6. Elaine Roberts	20. Sally Palmer Woods
7. Elinor Mueller	21. Sharyn Devine
8. Gail Rappolt	22. Sylvia Andrews
9. Irvin Waller	23. Sylvia Krogh
10. Jake Javanshir	24. to 32. – 9 members from Transition Board
11. John Hegen	Non-members present:
12. Kate Chung	Kim Turner – Moderator
13. Lorna Weigand	Rev. Brian Kiely – Opening and Closing words
14. Lynn Sabourin	John Slattery – Parliamentarian and Timekeeper

1. Call to Order at 10:02 AM PST / 1:02 PM EST (Jim Sannes)
2. Territorial Acknowledgement (Leslie Kemp)
3. Confirmation of Quorum (Ellen Papenburg) – (28 at present, quorum satisfied)
4. Chalice Lighting and Opening Words (Rev. Brian Kiely) – *“Unitarian Universalism must be lived in the world – not just in our hearts and minds”.*
5. Jim Sannes – Introduced Kim Turner as Moderator and John Slattery as Parliamentarian, both of whom have served as President of the CUC.
6. Moderator Kim Turner expressed a desire to honour our founders and past members in our deliberations today. She outlined the process we will use and advised that John Slattery will take the role of timekeeper as well as parliamentarian.
 - **Frances Deverell moved that we proceed with the liquidation and dissolution of Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ) per the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (S. 221)**
 - **Seconded by Lynn Armstrong**
 - (1) Frances Deverell spoke in favour of the motion (up to 7 minutes);

- (2) Jim Sannes spoke in opposition to the motion (up to 7 minutes).
7. Kim Turner opened the floor to discussion, either in favour or opposed to motion (3 minutes allotted to each speaker).
 - a) Eight members spoke (some more than once) in favour of motion to dissolve;
 - b) Eight members spoke (some more than once) in opposition to motion to dissolve.
 8. Kim Turner advised regarding the voting:
 - a) Of the cast votes, a two-thirds majority in favour is required as per Bylaw 1.13;
 - b) Abstentions are counted as part of the total cast votes and thus influence the outcome;
 - c) Kim will call for all in favour (yes), all opposed (no) and abstentions. To allow for those with two members on one screen, she will call for each vote twice. The electronic hand in Zoom will be used – Gary Campbell and Lynn Armstrong will count the hands.
 9. Voting Results:
 - a) Gary and Lynn confirmed that 32 members voted with 16 in favour, 14 against and 2 abstentions. As two-thirds of votes was required for the motion to pass, the motion was defeated. An election was then held to elect a new continuing Board of Directors to continue the organization in its current form.
 10. Results of election for new Board:
 - a) Kim called for candidates and hearing none, announced that **the continuing Board will consist of: Ahti Tolvanen, Ellen Papenburg, Gary Campbell, Jim Sannes and Joy Silver.**
 - b) **Bill Wolverton moved, seconded by Margaret Rao that the above slate be accepted. Carried by members present.**
 11. On behalf of continuing board, Jim Sannes thanked everyone for the important discussions today.
 12. Motion to adjourn at 11:55 PM PST / 2:55 PM EST by Joy Silver.

Kim Turner thanked all present and especially John Slattery and Brian Kiely for a thoughtful and orderly meeting.

Brian Kiely extinguished the chalice with encouraging words that CUSJ continue with fresh passion and renewed commitment.

Jim Sannes, President, Transition Board

Adina Lyon, Secretary, Transition Board

Presidents Report 2022-2023 by Jim Sannes (president@cusj.org)

Last year 2022 was a tumultuous experience. I was shocked out of my complacency by a board motion that CUSJ should fold. I could not believe it at first. Meanwhile Gary Campbell (our treasurer) nominated me as President at the AGM of May 28, 2022 and I took up the reigns. The Pandemic had exhausted us all and there seemed to be no way out. Yes we are all aging too. For some of us that was not a good enough reason for the CUSJ to fold as long we have people willing to commit.

Our then board of nine had four people determined to have a nice funeral for our organization and five of us decided to keep it going. The result was to have a special membership meeting in the fall to have a vote. A two-thirds majority of the cast votes would be needed to fold CUSJ. At the meeting of November 26, 2022 the motion to dissolve failed. The five committed to continue had quite a task in front of us. In view of work, it certainly would have been easier to let all go, but at a great loss. The CUSJ is the only National Unitarian organization for Social Justice in Canada. The Executive continued with Ahti Tolvanen, Gary Campbell, Ellen Papenburg, Joy Silver, and Jim Sannes. Irene Kaye joined us in December.

No matter the disagreements, we do appreciate the enormous work the dissolution committee did to prepare the proper legal end of the CUSJ under the expert leadership of past-president Lynn Armstrong.

I really thought Lynn's original idea of "Let's Connect" webinars was the way to rejuvenate CUSJ and set up a series of monthly interactive meetings with speakers at the beginning of 2023. We had the infrastructure to do webinars, our webpage, the Forum and our Facebook presence to promote the meetings. In order to effectively publicize our webinars we reinstated JUSTnews in a compact Express digital-only format via MailChimp. It's not anything like the prestigious full blown JUSTnews, that Phil Symons and Marya Nijland published twice a year as that would need a dedicated editor. The more frequent Express will have to do for now.

We invited our keynote speaker from the last AGM, **Tamara Lorincz** to speak at our first "Let's Connect" meeting in January. She joined Ahti

Tolvanen (Board Member) in Egypt at COP27, where he was our official representative. She provided first hand experience from this meeting and Ahti's report is on our website and in JUSTnews Express.

Our February Speaker was **Anita Nickerson** with Fair Vote Canada followed in March by **Caterina Lindman** talking about the corporate takeover of our food system. **Niki Ashton** M.P. spoke about how we can stand by Indigenous communities in Canada in May. Our Keynote speaker at this year's AGM (2023) will be writer activist **Yves Engler** telling us about "The Ugly Canadian: Justin Trudeau's foreign policy."

To have the Interactive meeting on the last Saturday of the month at 1pm Eastern seems to coincide with CUC and other meetings. We will explore having it on the third Saturday of the month instead. Possible topics for the meetings in September, October, November, January, February, March, April and the AGM in May are (and we always welcome suggestions!):

- Affordable Housing and Homelessness
- Refugee Sponsorship
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women
- Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry
- Public Transportation, Why not Free?
- Where are we going with Artificial Intelligence?
- The Changing Climate and possible solutions
- The Far Right in Canada and "Fake News"
- Immigrant and Migrant workers in Canada

All meetings are recorded and posted on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@cusjmedia>

Four Board members will be attending the CUC Symposium in Ottawa promoting CUSJ. This will be our first "in person" function in over four years. We will be looking for new board members and ideas for speakers for the next monthly meetings starting in September. We formed a CUSJ Unitarian and Universalist Animal Ministry Chapter with Irene Kaye (Board Member) heading that up. The CUSJ future has many possibilities.

2022-2023 CUSJ MEMBERSHIP REPORT

It has been a pleasure working with our Treasurer, Gary Campbell to manage the oversight of our CUSJ Membership. Although we have added only three new members, we are heartened by the wide interest in our webinars that do attract new faces.

Current Membership Data -

Paid Membership 2022-2023	Members not Renewing 2022 - 2023	Paid New Members	Paid Membership 2022– 2023	Renewing Members 2023- 2024	Members in Provinces		Cities Represented
52	21	3	34	8	BC	4	Calgary Grand River Edmonton Hamilton Lakehead London Montreal Nanaimo North Vancouver Ottawa Sarnia-Port Huron Toronto Vancouver Victoria Winnipeg
					AB	2	
					MN	1	
					ON	8	
					QC	1	

Listserv Report

There are 76 people registered on our Listserv

The **CUSJ Listserv Forum** is an electronic discussion medium for CUSJ members and non-members to share social justice information, opinions, and action requests. Membership in the Forum is done upon request to the Manager, and by following the UU Principles in all communications. Email: listserv@cusj.org

Respectfully submitted by,

Joy Silver,

Membership Chair and Listserv Manager

Friday, May 12th, 2023

Communications Report – Ellen Papenburg

Website

First of all the **Website:** <https://cusj.org>. For the last five years yours truly is the webmaster, which was not a new task as I was involved to setup much of the current structure about 20 years ago. As the website is based on WordPress, we can add editors of content with some short training. In the past Frances Deverell was a main contributor as co-owner of the website for decades and Leslie Kemp was one of our stalwart editors, and many others whose names escaped me. My gratitude to all of them for the work they did. I am basically the “techie” helping in the background but now doing content as well, and I could use other contributors!

The usual tasks are to maintain the site, setting up the meetings per zoom, put the registration online, plus thank you and confirmation emails and keeping the registration database up to date to send out reminders. News items are being picked up via the cusj forum and what is fed by CUSJ activists, which are then posted.

The website is very big and getting unwieldy. It should be checked over for many things, especially archival parts and categories. Volunteers are needed and would be most welcome.

Let’s Connect Monthly Meetings (webinars)

Together with President Jim I set up the monthly Let’s Connect meetings (webinars) with social action exchange across the country and a speaker. We set up a successful training session for our board members to know how to be a Zoom co-host. Some trouble in paradise: originally the registration was utilized per Zoom, which was lovely as it was just going by itself! However, the Zoom Registration feature turned out to have a severe random bug. After it worked like a charm with the first two meetings, it caused people having to re-register in an infinite loop for the Better Food System meeting and they couldn’t get in. Therefore, we only 18 people attending of the 50 plus that registered. Fortunately recordings are posted on **YouTube**.

Our YouTube channel with all recordings is at <https://www.youtube.com/@cusjmedia>

As the Zoom registration bug has not been resolved yet, we returned to the old solid way of registering people per cusj.org. Not a problem, just more work for your webmaster! Zoom itself works just fine as always.

The Zoom meetings are now set up with Power Point, which keeps it a bit more structured. As Jim says in his president’s report, we had four meetings in 2023 in that format. We hope to have monthly meetings with interesting Speakers again starting September. The Let’s Connect meetings are recorded and put on YouTube (channel @cusjmedia) and the links put on the website. Eric James is contributing his video editing skills when needed. Thank you Eric.

JUSTnews Express has been going out about monthly per MailChimp with Jim Sannes at the helm and yours truly as proofreader and part contributor, It is by no means like the extensive bi-annual JUSTnews with **Philip Symons** in charge, but we kept the name with the addition of “Express” as a tribute to the wonderful past publication and keeping the possibility open to revisit the old format in the future.

Our discussion forum is **CUSJ Forum** owners Joy Silver, Jim Sannes and Ellen Papenburg. It is in principle not moderated unless things get out of hand. We cannot prevent email to land into your mailbox, unless we would moderate every single post and we trust our forum members to keep themselves to the rules of treating each other with respect.

Facebook could be utilized better. We use it mainly to promote the meetings and news, but other members do contribute as well. Thank you!

No Instagram and no Twitter (yet?) as far as I know.

Being the current Secretary, I thank Sally Palmer Woods and Adina Lyon for their past fulfillment of this job.

Secretary's Report: The Annual General Meeting was held on May 28, 2022 and the Special Member Meeting proposing dissolution of the CUSJ was held on November 26, 2022. The board got together monthly except in the summer. As it is now after the member meeting in November, the board met in December when we appointed Irene Kaye as an additional board member and in January, February, March, and April except summer. Minutes were kept with task lists. Our board is very efficient for its size, and it could function better when we would have a few more people "on board" and then CUSJ potentially can look at a good future.

CUSJ 2022 23 Treasurer's Report - Gary Campbell

Balance Sheet

	<u>2022/2023</u>	<u>2021/2022</u>
Assets		
Cash in Bank - chequing	\$9,441.95	\$10,236.87
- Saving	\$3,106.25	\$3,104.70
Term deposit - Maturity Jan 10, 2023	\$2,288.52	\$2,268.01
- Maturity Nov. 02, 2023	\$3,466.79	\$3,444.40
Share account	\$30.00	\$30.00
Total Assets	<u>\$18,333.51</u>	<u>\$19,083.98</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equity		
Initial Equity	\$9,666.97	\$9,666.97
Accumulated retained earnings	\$8,666.54	\$9,417.01
Net Worth	<u>\$18,333.51</u>	<u>\$19,083.98</u>

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues	Year 2022/2023	Year 2021/2022
Individual Members	\$2,401.43 (34 members)	\$3,610.73 (46 members)
Congregation payments	122.52 (2 congregations)	650.00 (4 congregation)
Credit Union Interest – Chequing	5.25	5.33
- Savings	1.55	1.55
- Certificates	42.90	75.88
Book Sales	0.00	0.00
Gifts	0.00	0.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,573.65	\$4,343.49
EXPENDITURES		
Donations – Justice Org.	1,700.00	1,150.00
Admin & General Exp.	0.00	0.00
Auditing	300.00 (2 years)	0.00
Corporation Canada	0.00	12.00
AGM – Room Rental &	0.00	0.00
AGM - Speaker honorarium	300.00	500.00
- Coffee etc. (included)	0.00	0.00
- Travel for President	0.00	0.00
Monthly Interactive Meetings	0.00	0.00
- Speaker honorarium	200.00	0.00
- Livestream	0.00	0.00
-Speaker travel	0.00	0.00
Conferences	0.00	0.00
Credit Union service charge	20.00	22.50
CUSJ Web Site	272.79	0.00
Membership Service (Breeze)	265.33	772.27
Zoom charges for 1 year	226.00	226.00
Board - Consulting	40.00	500.00
CUSJ banners & books	0.00	0.00
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$3,324.12	\$0.00 \$3,182.77
NET OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	<u>-\$ (750.47)</u>	<u>\$1,160.72</u>

Donations to support other organizations

Recipient-Name	Donation-amount
Climate Action Network Canada	100
Canadian Foreign Policy Institute	100
Canada Palestine Association	100
Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	100
Extradition Legal Defence Fund	500
Fair Vote Canada	100
International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG)	500
First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada	100
Amnesty International	100
Total	1700

These payments were made in 2023 as there was some delay to get our signing officers organized by the bank.

Gary welcomes any questions.

Nominating Committee Report – Ellen Papenburg

The board functioned as the nominating committee and we found and appointed Irene Kaye from Burlington, First Unitarian Church of Hamilton congregation as a member to the board. **Welcome Irene!**