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## Upcoming Services

**May 7** *The Raging Grannies* Service Leader Patricia desChamps will guide the congregation through a Service to Celebrate Women. Please come. Bring women with you. Wear purple. Try to outdo the Raging Grannies who will be singing. Also, Nansan Noqtok will sing I Am Woman; Pat Mason will read When I am Old I will Wear Purple; and, using a mannequin on loan from Robert Simmonds, Janet Crawford will display her late mother, Alberta (Bertie) Crawford's, favorite dress. Janet will also provide photographs of Bertie—in celebration of a woman's life, well lived and well remembered. Linda Caissie, PhD candidate at the University of Waterloo, will present on the Raging Grannies, the topic of her thesis.

**May 14** *Roads: taken and not* with Stephen Atkinson as presenter and service leader.

Each life is punctuated by events and decisions that mark out a more than metaphorical journey. There are always forks in the road, detours and dead ends which fill out the map of a life and the shape of a spirit. Today we consider maps

**May 21** The Adult Program committee is happy to be going to the Sunday service at the ACM, and we hope as many people as possible from TUFF

attend—it is amazing to be in a large room full of U\*Us holding a service together ! The singing will be terrific, a grand choir, and lots and lots of excitement. You should all come ! However, we are looking for somebody—who is not going to the Sunday service in Saint John on May 21—to lead the service here at TUFF. Maybe your Great Aunt Bea is coming for a visit at 1pm and you have to be there when she arrives or she will cut you out of her will. Maybe she is leaving at 1pm and you want to be sure she actually gets out the door in time to make the plane. Please contact allison if you are willing and able to lead the service at TUFF on May 21. Thanks.

**May 28** *Magnolia Festival* with presenter Debbie Peck. While the Magnolia seems to have its own schedule, somewhat precocious this year, the last Sunday in May is Magnolia Festival day. Patricia desChamps is service leader; garden enthusiast Debbie Peck is our presenter; and special invitees include members of the Botanical Gardens. A special treat will be the Grateful Dead song, Sugar Magnolia, sung by Sharon and Don Flatt.

**June 4** *Spirituality of Wine* "Water saw its creator and blushed," said Lord Byron, explaining wine to his Sunday school teacher after hearing about Jesus' miracle at Cana. Wine is found in most writings of organized religions and is considered by some as the life giving essence prescribed by God. Italians have a saying, "One barrel of wine can work more miracles than a church full of saints," but of course, wine is also called the Devil's tool. Ed Leslie will present on the spiritual and physical attributes and benefits of this ancient liquid. Following the service, Ed will provide small samples of a variety of his wines, sharing his passion for this divine hobby. Benjamin Franklin said, "God gave us wine because he wanted us to be happy."

*take care*  
allison calvern



## Children's Religious Education

I'm so glad to see the children enjoying their time upstairs! They really like participating in their weekly rituals of sharing their joys and concerns, lighting their personal and real chalice, singing their songs and saying their prayer. I would recommend that you ask the children to tell you about their Sunday mornings- especially the children's care givers. Perhaps some elements of their religious education could be melded into their daily routine. Maybe the prayer in the morning or before bed or perhaps their song when lighting a candle at dinner. I have experienced my own children adding these elements to their day and seen the joy of a "spirit" filled day.

Here is what Sierra-Marie Gerfao, director of Religious Education for the Olympia Unitarian Universalist congregation said about this subject. "Wellness is known by prominent health educators to include concepts such as physical fitness and diet, but also concepts such as spirituality, community, and emotional well being. Not only is health connected to spirituality and related concepts, but spirituality is equally related to other parts of our lives, such as parenting, care for children, and lifelong learning, all of which have become a part of many public health programs. Religious Education is a lifelong health practice." The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA.Org) has a spiritual parenting page on their website that lists resources that parents can access to help them be better "resident theologians". It includes links to websites and a suggested reading list.

Finally, I would like to once again ask that members join us upstairs to get a feel of our program. It is fun and simple. The children would benefit so much from your participation. Just talk to me any time and I will fill you in on what you could do for our children.

*Blessings to you and yours*  
Sharon Flatt



## Women's Potluck

The next women's pot luck will be held on May 26 at the fellowship, 874 York Street, at 6pm. Hosts for the evening are Anne Leslie and Mary Malanych. Besides a pot for the table, bring a photograph and a letter for the post-meal discussion. The photograph should be of yourself as a twenty-year-old (for Beth, perhaps as a twelve-year-old), and the letter is one written by your current self to your younger self. What would that twenty-year-old (or twelve) have benefited from hearing? Come along, then !! For more details, contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169, or jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca



## CUC ACM

By now, I would hope, everyone reading this knows that the 2006 Annual Conference and Meeting of the CUC will be held in Saint John over the Victoria Day weekend in May. Many people from Fredericton will be attending various sessions and functions of the meeting. There is a wealth of information available, far too much to include in Touchstone and previous issues have given information appropriate to the lead time to the conference at which the letter was published.

Please discuss with our official delegates, Patricia desChamps and Barb Fairweather, if you have opinions on the resolutions which will be voted on at the Meeting. The conference web site should have details and you should be able to find the conference web site from the [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) site.

Please remember the empty bowls drive and put your spare coin into the bowl. You may write a cheque if you would prefer to have the donation added to your tax receipt.

Part of the ingathering will feature a water ceremony. In addition to the water, we are to provide pictures of the Fellowship and the location from which the water was taken. Here is the picture which we have chosen, taken from the walking trail at the end of the Thatch road in Lincoln.



*In fellowship*  
Tony Fitzgerald



## Board Café

*Editor's note: the following is extracted from a larger article which may be found at the web location shown. While it talks about boards, the suggestions are good for any group of people who have to work together.*

When I ran out of gas recently, I realized with embarrassment that I should have been looking at the gas gauge on my dashboard. Walking to the gas station I was reminded of the Nonprofit Dashboards that we at CompassPoint have been developing for client organizations. I hope you'll find the sample below a useful tool for management teams and for boards of directors. -Jan Masaoka

7 + 7

Briefings and presentations at board meetings tend to be too long, whether given by board or staff. Call your presentations "7 + 7," with a 7-minute presentation and then 7 minutes of questions and answers. Nobody minds 15 minutes of a meeting as presentation, and people can get an amazing amount of info into that time if they prepare to do so. Try it!

### DASHBOARD FOR NONPROFITS

The dashboard in a car gives an instant update on many important factors: speedometer, gas left in the tank, engine temperature, whether the air conditioner is on. At the same time, it may not give you the most important piece of information-whether you are on the right road. A nonprofit dashboard is similar: it gives important information to decision makers such as executives and boards, in a quick-read way. But it may not be helpful on bigger matters: are we doing the right work? should we be considering merging or a new initiative? CompassPoint consultants increasingly work with client organizations to develop dashboard indicators. Here's an example that may be helpful to you.

Dashboard	Key
Red	Act now
Yellow	Watch
Green	Celebrate!

A report issued at the halfway point in the fiscal year:  
Performance indicators

#### 1. Program

- \* Number of first-time clients. Target = 360 per year. Current status: 205. **GREEN**
- \* Post-test scores. Target = 80% have increase of 50% or more. Current status: 65%. **RED**
- \* Client satisfaction. Target: Average score of 4.2 out of 5.0. Current status: 4.6. **GREEN**
- \* Volunteer hours. Target: 960 per year. Current status: 569. Current status: **GREEN**

#### 2. Finance

- \* Days of cash on hand. Target: 30 days. Current status: 14. **RED**
- \* Net surplus or deficit compared to budget. Target: within \$25,000. Current status: \$28,000. **YELLOW**

- \* Days after month end for financial statement preparation. Target: 21 days. Current status: 41. **RED**

#### 3. Fund development

- \* New individual donors. Target: 100 this year. Current status: 82. **GREEN**.
- \* New foundations or corporations. Target: 10 this year. Current status: 5. **GREEN**
- \* Total non-government revenue. Target: \$600,000 this year. Current status: \$178,000. **YELLOW**

#### 4. Human resources

- \* Performance evaluations completed on time. Target: 90%. Current status: 82%. **YELLOW**
- \* Staff meeting or exceeding goals in core job functions. Target: 95%. Current status: 97%. **GREEN**

#### 5. Board of Directors

- \* Attendance at board meetings. Target: 75%. Current status: 83%. **GREEN**
- \* New board members joining. Target: 6 this year. Current status: 2. **RED**
- \* Executive Director performance evaluation completed on time. Target: yes. Current status: on timeline but not completed. **YELLOW**

Imagine getting a dashboard like this at every meeting . . . with a glance board members could see how the organization is doing, and go to the important questions. The board would also be able to discuss what indicators should be added to the dashboard, and which might not be necessary. Board committees could look at expanded sets of indicators within their own areas; for example, the Fund Development Committee might have additional indicators around major donors, or attendance at events.

If this Dashboard is distributed at each board meeting, the board can zero in on key issues, rather than try to discover issues on their own. Don't forget that a dashboard shows a lot, but not everything.



## A Message from Mary

A Message from Mary—CUC Executive Director

What's a Virtual Church?

a message from Mary Bennett April 06

What's a "virtual church" and why would you go there?

By searching for "Virtual Church" on the internet I found all manner of things from jokes and spoofs to serious, if expensive and experimental approaches. Below picture is from the Church of Fools, a 3-month experiment funded by the Methodist Church in the UK. To the right is the

screen save from [www.virtualchurch.com](http://www.virtualchurch.com) which promises a customized worship service.

Our own CUC webweaver, Bert Christensen, has been exploring this idea and its application to Unitarian and Universalist groups. He has set up on behalf of Toronto First congregation and the CUC, a Virtual Church website at <http://firstunitariantoronto.org/vc/>

Here's what he says in the "concept" section there:

As a webweaver, I have been giving some thought to the possible future directions of church web sites. Currently, some church sites are little more than yellow page ads and some are full service sites which are adjuncts to the church. The First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, membership ~400, (<http://www.firstunitariantoronto.org>) is one of those latter sites. The Toronto site has hundreds of pages with information about almost all aspects of its life. It receives about 30,000 page hits (web pages are counted but not the graphics on those pages) a month from about 10,000 visitors a month. Even if you assume that the church gets 1,000 people through its doors each week, the web gets two and a half times more visits than the church. The main church e-list has 275 members and is an important information and discussion forum. While most e-list members are from the Toronto area, there is a fair number from the United States and Europe.

The logical extension of this is what I call The Virtual Church, a church whose main constituency would be on the web. The obvious role for such a church would be the CUC's Individual Members Program but it could also be a parallel to a bricks and mortar church like Toronto First.

In typical Unitarian fashion I want to start by saying what a Virtual Church would not be. It would not be video or audio taped sermons. It would not just a listing of Adult programs or RE overviews. It would BE the sermons, the adult programs, the Social Action, the RE classes, the Committee meetings, the coffee hour.

I would like to adapt this model to the Virtual Church. I would like to see sermons with links to other or supporting material and with opportunities to respond and discuss via e-list or bulletin board system. I would like to see adult and RE programs done in the way that is outlined above. I would like to see church decisions informed by e-list discussion as well as at a regular meeting. I would like to explore this 21st century church model.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Is the Virtual Church meant to replace regular churches?

A: Certainly not. It is an extension to the regular church which will allow for deeper discussion and involvement. The e-lists and forums are designed to enhance the church experience. The Religious and Adult programs will be in addition to the regular church programs and can be used by families as extra material or by those people unable,

for whatever reason, to get to church.

Q: Will there be one Virtual Church for the whole country.

A: No, there may be one or more Virtual Churches to serve those persons living too far away from a regular church to attend. The example for this is The Church of the Larger Fellowship. But, it is hoped that many churches will have their own Virtual Church serving their regular members.

And why visit a Virtual Church?

Well, we could start with Mary's Maximum Number 7 which is: To every question to which you can ask, "Why", you can also ask, "Why not?"

See you in church—or on-line!

Mary

Mary Bennett [mary@cuc.ca](mailto:mary@cuc.ca)

Executive Director

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

SHORT SNIPPETS

– for sharing in your newsletter when there's space– or for your amusement

Conversations with Mary Bennett, Canadian Unitarian Council

Mary has sent out a monthly message for over five years and now she has a "blog" so conversation can go both ways. Comment on Mary's monthly message or just add your own ideas or questions: <http://x.cuc.ca/wordpress/>

Unitarians from Across the Country are gathering in Saint John, New Brunswick, this May. A total of 226 adults, youth and children have registered as of April 13. Highlights will be the banner parade and celebration of community; nearly 50 concurrent sessions to choose from; Sunday worship; Saturday night youth-led worship and Sunday Soulful Sundown service. Lots of networking, learning, singing and sharing. If you can't make it this year, mark the May long weekend on your calendar for 2007 when we'll be meeting in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia. Brian Tate who has led singing workshops for several Unitarian churches will be leading a Friday pre-conference session. More information as it's available at [www.cuc.ca/conference](http://www.cuc.ca/conference).

Go 4 It: The Board and Strategy Team of the Canadian Unitarian Council will be presenting a Strategic Planning Framework of: Go On! Go Deep! Go Out! Go Big! At the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting this May. Want to keep up to date on developments? Send a blank email to [cuc-strategy-news-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cuc-strategy-news-subscribe@yahoogroups.com) to get a monthly email message. Information will be posted at <http://www.cuc.ca/strategy/> as it's developed.

REGIONAL FALL GATHERINGS - All dates and locations are now posted on the CUC's Calendar page:

[http://www.cuc.ca/CUC\\_calendar.html](http://www.cuc.ca/CUC_calendar.html)

CANADIAN UNITARIAN NEWSLETTER If you are a member and not receiving the Canadian Unitarian newsletter, just contact the CUC office at 1-888-568-5723 or 416-489-4121 or send an email to [info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca). You can also sign up at [www.cuc.ca/store](http://www.cuc.ca/store) The next issue will be published in May. The online version includes colour photos and can be viewed at:

<http://www.cuc.ca/newsletter/canu.htm>

Take care,

Mary Bennett, Executive Director

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

[www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) 1-888-568-5723



## IARF Congress Report

International Association for Religious Freedom

March 26-30

By Clayton Welwood

The IARF Congress was held this year in a monastery outside of Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Fo Guang Shan (which means “Light of Buddha Mountain”) was the perfect setting for this spiritual and spirited gathering. The grand Chinese imperial architectures and the subtropical gardens and forests created peaceful beauty all around.

But for me, it was the calm, wise, kind souls at the congress that settled my spirit. I arrived on Saturday morning as our wonderful host, the Venerable Yi Jhi, was touring the young adults around. In the group of about 30, many regions and religious were represented. To my delight, there were Unitarians from not only North America, but also the Philippines, India, and Transylvania.

In our meeting that afternoon, three young adult regional groups presented the projects they’d worked on in the past few years. It was amazing to hear Salah and Iman (Muslim) talking with Dotan (Orthodox Jewish) about the interfaith group that they started in Jerusalem. Through their work, the idea of getting Muslims, Jews and Christians together to share experiences and hopes for peace has since spread to 15 other places in Israel-Palestine. The group from India talked about how they assembled an interfaith group of Hindus, Christians and Muslims to rebuild each others’ houses of worship after the big earthquake.

On Sunday, the other attendees arrived, and after an impressive opening ceremony we were treated to a speech by the Venerable Master Hsing Yun on the theme of the conference, “Dignity in Diversity.”

Through the rest of the week, we enjoyed monastery life

by eating vegetarian food, doing Tai Chi, and meditating. There was also lots of work to do, but there was time set aside for prayer and socializing, too.

For me, the conference was a blissful reunion with a religious community that I have missed a lot. It was also a chance to see the values that I love about Unitarianism in other faiths, and the willingness to make harmony in diversity a reality.



*The Young Adults’ performance at the opening ceremony. Flags read, ‘Do good things, speak good words, think good thoughts.’*



*Young Adults and Venerable Master Yi Jhi in front of the golden Buddha.”*

Clayton Welwood attended the congress as a young adult, supported by the Canadian Chapter of the IARF. He has been a Unitarian since his family joined the North Shore Church in West Vancouver when he was 13. Clayton was involved in YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). In his teens, he went to work on staff for several years at Goldmine, an annual UU leadership camp held in

Olympia, WA.

He studied International Development and Social Anthropology at Trent University in Peterborough, ON. After that he moved to Taipei where he has been teaching English and working as an editor and actor for a magazine/TV program.



## Ethical Purchasing

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver is setting up a Task Force to develop an ethical purchasing policy to recommend to their Board of Trustees. Karl Perrin, a member of UCV who is also a member of the CUC's Environment Monitoring Group is interested in connecting with representatives from other UU congregations who either have ethical purchasing policies or are interested in developing such.

For instance, a congregation might adopt a policy such as:

"Paper products: recycled: 100%, post-consumer content: minimum 80% unless cost is over 20% higher, then minimum 50% post consumer content. Local or Canadian produced. No black listing of company re employee relations, etc."

CUC's working group on this issue will be a sub-group of the Environment committee and will have 3 objectives:

1. collect current policies and encourage congregations to develop policy in this area
2. develop a recommended policy for sharing with all congregations
3. develop recommended policies for the CUC as an organization

Please let me know if someone from your congregation would like to participate in this endeavour.

Take care,

Mary Bennett, Executive Director CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca) 1-888-568-5723



## Ferry Beach: Positions Available

Ferry Beach announces the opening of 2 full time, year round staff positions, REGISTRAR and OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Registrar

Ferry Beach, a Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center on the Maine coast is looking for a flexible,

creative, energetic individual with relevant education and life experience in office management and customer service. Must have excellent written, verbal and computer skills. Able to collaborate with diverse groups. Strong leadership and organizational skills essential. Perfect opportunity to put liberal religious ideas into action! Full time position, target start date June 15. Applications will be reviewed until May 19.

Operations Director

Ferry Beach, a Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center on the Maine coast is looking for a flexible, creative, energetic individual with 3-5 years relevant education and life experience in site management, human resources, group facilitation, and day to day administration. Must have excellent written, verbal and computer skills. Able to collaborate with diverse groups. Strong leadership and organizational skills essential. Perfect opportunity to put liberal religious ideas into action! Full time position, target start date June 15. Applications will be reviewed until May 19.

Send cover letter and resume to:

[fbcraig@maine.rr.com](mailto:fbcraig@maine.rr.com) -or-

Ferry Beach Search, 5 Morris Ave., Saco, ME 04072.

Visit <http://www.ferrybeach.org> for details.



## Fundraising events for Buildings and Grounds Committee

Tracy Walls is heading several fundraising events for the Buildings and Grounds Committee. These events will take place on several dates between now and fall.

Starting immediately framed and autographed prints are for sale.

Several talented photographers have very kindly donated prints of their work for us to sell. Each five by seven framed and matted print is individually autographed by the artist. A brief description of the print and the artist will be pasted on the back. The price is \$7.00 for each framed print (our cost is \$2.00 which will give us a profit of \$5.00 for each print). If we sell one hundred framed prints the profit will be \$500.00.

Our talented Nancy Beltrandi has donated prints of four wonderful photographs: a close up of sunflowers, fabulous morning glories against a blue wall, a purple lupin on a green background and the tulip beds of Ottawa.

Pat Mason has donated prints of her flowers as well. Janet Crawford has donated some of her magnolia photographs.

Thanks to Sheila Moore and Patricia desChamps for doing the framing.

Please support this excellent fundraiser. Prints may be ordered from Tracy and Patricia. The cost is \$7.00 each or three for \$20.00. They would make great gifts!

**May 28, 2006** To compliment our Magnolia Festival we will also be having a "Bring and Buy Plant Sale" Are your Hostas taking hostage? Poppy seeds popping? Sharpen up your spade and divide them up. Start your cuttings now so they can start rooting by Festival time. Bring them to church and go home with something new. Funds raised will benefit the costs of our new wheelchair ramp.

potted perennials	3.00
cuttings in water	1.00
packets of seeds	.50
bulbs, tubers etc	.50

This will also mark the beginning of our "Soup for the Toilet" Sundays. Our powder room off the Kitchen will need several modifications to make it wheelchair accessible. Therefore we are starting our Soup Sundays to help offset the cost of these renovations. Small bowls of soup will sell after service every Sunday for 1.00 or as you are able. Leftovers will also be available for sale. We will be asking volunteers to bring in plastic ice cream containers for leftovers and also to make soup. Sign up through Tracy please, either on a Sunday or by emailing walls@nbnet.nb.ca. And as an added bonus, the first person to sign up to make "Pee Soup" will receive a special gift from Tracy. Lets have fun with this one!

**June 17, 2006** 8:00 am to 12:00 noon Yard sale/Bake sale Funds raised will benefit the costs of our new wheelchair ramp. Fair trade coffee and sweeties will be on hand for sale while people browse. Advertisement will be on the radio stations. We need volunteers to help sell, donate gently used goods for sale and bake yummies.

Please stay tuned for announcements of more fun events

as we plan them. And as always I welcome anyone who wants to be a part of the planning process for these events. Ideas, time and the ability to make a few calls would be most welcome.

*In fellowship*  
Tracy Walls



## Minutes of Board Meeting

March 15, 2006

Present: Ed Leslie, Allison Calvern, George DeMille, Tony Fitzgerald, Don Flatt, Betty Ponder, and Rita van Groenewoud.

1. Opening: Allison lit the chalice as Ed read an opening selection, after which . . .
2. Call to order: . . . he called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.
3. Check-in: Those present were invited to check in.
4. Approval of agenda: Two items were added to the agenda: call for delegates for the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting under other business, and comments by Rita under correspondence.

MOVED (George & Don) that the agenda, as circulated, be adopted. CARRIED

5. Minutes of meeting of February 23: MOVED (George & Don) that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

6. Business arising: The new dishwasher has been installed. A building use form for outside groups using our facility, accompanied by a letter from the Welcoming Congregation Committee, had been circulated prior to the meeting (attached to minutes). The language of the building use form is fine but some objections were raised with respect to the letter. Its contents will be reviewed by the full Welcoming Congregation Committee.

7. Correspondence: Rita expressed concern about the e-mail exchanges on the board listserve about the issue of inappropriate social behaviour of a person attending the fellowship - further considered under item 10 below. She also commented on the by-law material that had been circulated which she finds disorganized. She has suggested a significant rewriting which she will bring to the March 16 by-laws meeting.

Ed reported that we need to have two official delegates to the ACM in Saint John. George will send out a call for persons interested in serving as a delegate in the order of service and via e-mail to the congregation with a deadline prior to the April board meeting. We should also see if anyone is interested in attending the CUULC (Canadian

U\*U Leadership School) in Ottawa next October.

#### 8. Section and Financial reports

(i) Financial report: George distributed a report (attached to minutes) showing a year-to-date surplus of \$7900. There was some discussion about the valuation of the grand piano. The \$23,000 figure is based on an appraisal done at the time the piano was given to us and is now probably quite out of date. It was suggested that we might ask the tuner for his sense of the value when it is next tuned.

MOVED (George & Betty) that the report be accepted.  
CARRIED

(ii) Programs & Ministry: Betty and Allison presented a written report (attached to minutes). Except for the necessity of using ad hoc arrangements for hospitality all committees are functioning well. With assistance from Nancy Beltrandi, Patricia is collecting material to be used in the "crisis management" information package being assembled.

There was discussion of the proposal in the Programs and Ministry report to establish a sanctuary panel, whose mandate would be to maintain the tone and timbre of the sanctuary. Some felt that, rather than having a separate panel, the Board or the Adult Program Committee should exercise this function. It was agreed, in any event, that a moratorium on adding decorations or other objects d'art to our Sunday meeting place be put in place until next September.

(iii) Communications & Outreach: Don reported that Patricia is doing a good job with respect to publicity. Sheila Moore is planning to do a New U series; she has 7 or 8 people interested in taking it. The lay-chaplains can now access the on-line calendar so as to enter meetings with those seeking lay-chaplain services. The notice board will be put back in the kitchen entry way now that the painting in that area is finished.

There was some discussion concerning the April 15 concert at the fellowship by Nasnan Nooktok. It was agreed that she could ask only for a "free will" offering so that it not be seen as a pay to attend event. It was also felt that a contribution to the fellowship should be expected.

(iv) Finance & Facilities: Ed reported that Patricia's handyman, Michel Plourde has been doing some work at the fellowship - removing mould in the basement, etc. - for which she will bill us at \$10.50/h. As a member of the Buildings and Grounds committee Patricia's experience in maintaining a large house is a definite asset, although there might be a perceived potential conflict of interest in having the work done by her employee. Ed will speak to Danny

and Patricia to ensure that Buildings and Grounds priorities are followed.

9. Ad hoc committees: There will be a meeting on the by-law revisions on March 16. The Welcoming Congregation committee will meet on March 20 to work on a letter to go, along with the building usage document, to outside groups using our facility.

10. Parental concerns: Don explained that the concerns expressed to him had not been out of fear of inappropriate approaches to the children but were more about the issue of social behaviour - e.g., coughing and sneezing around open food in the kitchen. Tony and Allison have separately spoken to the individual involved and both feel that he is likely to observe reasonable rules of behaviour given to him: remaining in the sanctuary during the Sunday service, avoiding the kitchen until we adjourn there after service, not going upstairs and, not making any approach to children unless they are in the presence of a parent or RE supervisor.

11. Nominating Committee: Having chaired this committee for the past 100 y or so, Tony declined to serve on the committee this time. Patricia might be willing to be chair. Haifa Miller and Sheila Moore were suggested as possible members. Ed will sound them out.

12. Other business: Rita informed the meeting that, for reasons of her personal well-being, she felt it necessary to resign from the board. Thanks were expressed to her for the conscientious way in which she had approached her responsibilities as a board member.

Don expressed concern that, with Rita's departure, the Finance and Facilities section might not receive the attention needed. He hoped that the AVP position could be filled as soon as possible.

13. Closing words and adjournment: After a closing reading by Ed the meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

George DeMille

Secretary-Treasurer

Attachments:

1. Proposed building use form;
2. Draft letter from Welcoming Congregation Committee;
3. Year-to-date Financial Statement for 2006;
4. Report from VP Programs and Ministry.

Printed April 26, 2006

George DeMille  
Secretary Treasurer

This space wants your material!