



# The Flaming Chalice

December 2021

## Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron

Lochiel Kiwanis Centre, 180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario [uusarnia.com](http://uusarnia.com)

*A loving community of spiritual explorers who stand on the side of love and justice.*

### December Services

Theme—Racial Justice & Reconciliation

#### December 5: Karen Minty

##### Conflict Resolution: A Different Paradigm

Most people fall into familiar habits when in conflict. Karen Minty will present a different perspective to what causes conflict, how we often get trapped in it, and then offer some alternative strategies to consider. Karen Minty is a university and college professor, instructional designer and corporate trainer. She is fascinated by human behaviour. Her favourite subject to teach is conflict resolution and has yet to teach a course or training session without learning something new.

#### December 12: Anne Bokma

##### Why Your Story Matters: -*The healing benefits of sharing our true-life tales*

Storytelling has the power to connect us during a time when so many are divided. It can help heal our wounds and also inspire others. Self-doubt and perfectionism can prevent us from telling our stories. As the founder of the popular 6-Minute Memoir “speed storytelling for a cause” series, which has hosted more than 200 folks sharing their personal true-life tale over the years, Anne has learned a thing or so about the importance of sharing our stories — and why it's the real legacy we leave behind.

#### December 19: Wendy Starr

##### Winter Solstice

Wendy Starr will lead us into an exploration of this ancient celebration with history, ritual and song. With the moon full on the longest night on Monday, we have an opportunity to let go and give thanks in a much more powerful way.

**Happy Holidays!**

#### December 26: No Service



*“Love is the spirit of this church, and service its law. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.”*

*James Vila Blake.*

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## President's Message

The theme for the month of November is 'Racial Justice and Reconciliation'.

The following passage speaks to me.

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach.

Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts, adding, adding to, adding more, continuing.

We know that it does not take everyone on Earth to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale...

When a great ship is in harbour and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But that is not what great ships are built for.

- Clarissa Pinkola Estes

Again "Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely." rings true for me. There are many ways and opportunities to help another soul.

I think that a good start would be to recognize every person, no matter their skin colour or ethnicity, as an individual and to call it out when stereotypes are expressed even in disguised ways.

Another idea is to give others an opportunity to be open and truly listen to their personal experiences and allow them to express their hurt and great disappointments.

Another idea is to act, individually and as a group, on the side of love and justice when racism and intolerance rear their ugly heads.

Our Fellowship through its collective voices and actions has in the past made a real difference in the world and will be there going forward.

*In Fellowship,*

*Dwayne O'Neill*



## Hybrid Services (In-Person & ZOOM) Update

In-person/hybrid services have been offered since the early part of October and are the “best of both worlds”. By meeting in-person, we have met the needs of people that haven’t participated in Zoom services in the past and still have Zoom available for others that are physically remote.

We are pleased to welcome Theo Perron as a technical support person for our Sunday services. Theo has been providing technical assistance with equipment setup and handling the technical details during the service.

It has been an excellent team effort in pulling this together. Ann Steadman has been coordinating the efforts with the help of many people. Thank you.

*In Fellowship, Dwayne O'Neill*



Pictures from the Kiwanis Room Sunday, November 14, 2021.

***Our goal is to create a beloved community and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.***

Martin Luther King, Jr.

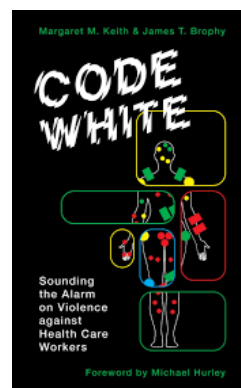
## Local Updates

### Directory of Members and Friends

Many thanks to Membership Chair Don Greaves for updating our Directory for 2021-22, creating it in wonderful new format and mailing or delivering these out to all those in the booklet!



### Code White— Preview of Jan. 30th Talk



Check out an interview with authors Jim Brophy & Margaret Keith about their new book exploring violence against health care workers.

**[James T. Brophy & Margaret M. Keith Break the Silence on the Hidden Crisis of Assaults on Health Care Workers](#)**

### How To Donate



Thank you for the eTransfers and the cheques that have been arriving since we stopped having in-person services.

Your continued financial support is appreciated. If you would like to make an eTransfer donation, please send it to: [UFSPH.executive@gmail.com](mailto:UFSPH.executive@gmail.com) Also send an email to [MEWoolston@hotmail.com](mailto:MEWoolston@hotmail.com) so he is aware of the donation in a timely manner. There is no longer a need for a security question. If you prefer to write a cheque, please designate the payee as Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and Port Huron and mail the cheque to:

Mark Woolston, UFSPH Treasurer, 1993 Rainbow Trail, Sarnia, ON, N7T 7H6.

## Unitarian Universalist Principles

Our Unitarian Universalist Principles are one of the cornerstones of our faith. They are living and not cast in stone.

The first six Principles were adopted in 1960.

They state: We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;  
Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;  
Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;  
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;  
The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;  
The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

In 1984 a 7<sup>th</sup> Principle was adopted:

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

In 2019 a Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Dismantling Racism Study Group was established to identify efforts in our congregations to dismantle racism and other oppressions and then to explore possible actions we can take to address racism in our communities. A report was submitted to the CUC members in May of this year with recommendations to address this issue.

It included background information such as “Black Lives Matter” resources and recommendations for action.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ru-ILl6Y8apeQW2w1PNzChHDgUnAdOSooNykTUx6hV8/edit#heading=h.awj94ag6skbz>

One of the recommendations was to add another Principle, the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, which was adopted by the CUC congregations on November 27<sup>th</sup> by an overwhelming majority.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle now reads:

- Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions.

The next steps the CUC plan includes developing plans to address this issue and rolling out programs to our congregations.

*In Fellowship, Dwayne O'Neill*

## CUC Approves 8<sup>th</sup> Principle



On Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at a Special Meeting, Canadian Unitarian Universalists voted to approve adding an 8th Principle to the current [seven Principles](#):

*“We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote:”*

***Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions”***

95% of 104 delegates at the Special Meeting voted in favour of the motion.

We celebrate this moment as an act of good faith, an intentional step toward this aspirational future.

Margaret Wanlin, President of the CUC Board of Trustees said, “We respect and give thanks for the hard and dedicated work of many leaders, over many years, that brought us to this moment. We acknowledge the sacrifices, and losses, experienced by those marginalized persons who became disillusioned with, or left, our faith tradition prior to this vote. And we commit to live fully into the lessons of this work, as we learn how to be partners in accountably dismantling racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion.”

Rev. Anne Barker, President of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada, adds, “When we look back to this moment in history, what will our next steps reveal? May the story show a determined and continued effort on the part of all Canadian UUs – to live

fully into all eight of our Principles and to remain responsive to the growth and evolution of this living tradition.”

CUC Executive Director, Vyda Ng, in acknowledging that Unitarian Universalists don't always agree and that this path has been challenging, said, “We need to remain in respectful relationship with each other, in covenant with each other, because covenant and relationship is at the heart of who we are and what we do.”

Rev. Shana Lynngood, Minister Observer to the CUC Board, closed the Special Meeting by recognizing that some of us have been committed to the work of dismantling racism for many decades, and for others, it has been a lifetime process. She ended with words by Dr. Martin Luther King from his book ‘Why We Can’t Wait’: “We need a powerful sense of determination to banish the ugly blemish of racism. We can, of course, try to temporize, negotiate small, inadequate changes and prolong the timetable of freedom in the hope that the narcotics of delay will dull the pain of progress. We can try, but we shall certainly fail. The shape of the world will not permit us the luxury of gradualism and procrastination.”

The work of dismantling racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion continues with this endorsement from congregations. [Recommendations from the CUC’s Dismantling Racism Study Group](#) are being implemented, which include adopting an 8th Principle, a willed commitment to anti-racism work demonstrated by an investment of resources at the national and congregational level, and creating/ assembling anti-racism material for education and worship for congregations.

Vyda Ng, Executive Director | [vyda@cuc.ca](mailto:vyda@cuc.ca)

## Quotes to Ponder on 'Racial Justice & Reconciliation'

There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives. - **Audre Lorde**

... racism is not about people's intentions. Racism is about the impact and the hurt of their actions. Intentions do not matter. And that's a hard one for people, because they cling to being good as a way of saying "I am not racist." And my thing is, I don't care if you're racist. I care if you're hurting me. - **Desmond Cole**

The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of beauty is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, but indifference between life and death. - **Elie Wiesel**

When your innocence is stripped from you, when your people are denigrated, when the family you came from is denounced and your tribal ways and rituals are pronounced backwards, primitive, savage, you come to see yourself as less than human. That is hell on earth, that sense of unworthiness. - **Richard Wagamese**

No matter what, when you are having a conversation about racial oppression, these conversations will always be hard, because they will always be about the hurt and pain of real people... racial oppression should always be an emotional topic to discuss. It should always be anger-inducing. As long as racism exists to ruin the lives of countless people of colour, it should be something that upsets us. But it upsets us because it exists, not because we talk about it. And if you are white, and you don't want to feel any of that pain by having these conversations, then you are asking people of colour to continue to bear the entire burden of racism alone. - **Ojeoma Oluo**

For nothing is fixed, forever and forever and forever, it is not fixed; the earth is always shifting, the light is always changing, the sea does not cease to grind down rock. Generations do not cease to be born, and we are responsible to them because we are the only witnesses they have. The sea rises, the light fails, lovers cling to each other, and children cling to us. The moment we cease to hold each other, the moment we break faith with one another, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out. - **James Baldwin**

## Questions to Live With

1. What important lesson have you most recently learned about racial justice and reconciliation?
2. What are you still trying to learn? What do you understand about your next possible step?
3. What actions are you feeling moved to undertake to affirm and promote reconciliation and racial justice?
4. Can you identify a time when bias, assumptions, or stereotypes affected how you experienced or acted in a situation?
5. What might it be like to journey for a day in the shoes of someone with a different set of identities?

## December's Theme—Racial Justice & Reconciliation



Please click on the link below to access the theme package so graciously shared by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ru-ILl6Y8apeQW2w1PNzChHDgUnAdOSooNykTUx6hV8/edit#heading=h.awj94ag6skbz>

### Vision



*As a spiritual community,  
We embrace diversity,  
We explore openly,  
We stand on the side of love and justice.*

**Community ... Spirituality ... Service**

### Other UU links:

Canadian Unitarian Council <https://cuc.ca/>

Unitarian Universalist Associations latest UUWorld <http://www.uuworld.org/>

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