



We envision a vibrant, diverse and inclusive home for spiritual exploration and social action.

UFR Board of Trustees

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UFR Committee Contacts

(Tentative: won't you join us?)

Bylaws Action Group

Richard Jack

Finance

Joanne Green

Member Services & Communication

Richard Jack

Program

(Sunday Services, music, children's program)

Joanne Green

Property

Dave Cowley/Joanne Green

Reconciliation Study Group

Sandra Blenkinsop

Sparkle & Shine Action Group

Carol Porter

Lay Chaplaincy Services

The Fellowship provides non-denomination services to celebrate rites of passage, including births, weddings and deaths. *Our Lay Chaplains are available to the public to provide services.* Please feel free to contact us at (306)522-7357 or reginauu@gmail.com.

President's Message

As I sit down to write at the end of 2019, I come to the realization that we are beginning in a few days the third decade of the twenty-first century – it seems quite incredible to me!

In looking back over the past year or so, there are certainly reasons to become discouraged. Among those issues is the realization that climate change is beginning to take a significant physical toll on our Earth and is beginning to affect the social order as well. Political instability and polarization, particularly in the U.S. and Europe are worrying in that they limit the ability to tackle global issues in any coordinated fashion.

From a more positive perspective, the work of young Swedish climate activist, Greta Thunberg, and the significant global following she has attracted, particularly among youth, provides hope on this issue. Clearly in Canada, issues relating to environment and climate change were 'front and centre' in the recent federal election and are beginning to resonate with voters. From my observation, recognition and understanding of issues related to colonialism and indigenous people in this part of Canada is increasing and the prospects for a meaningful reconciliation gets brighter as time goes on.

Similarly, I see that the Regina Unitarian community faces both challenges, but can also be both proud of accomplishments of the last years and can look forward into the next decade with a sense of purpose and optimism. There is no doubt that there have been sleepless nights and many discussions about such issues as building expenses, flat membership numbers, financial stability, taxing our volunteers, and such. All these issues are real. I also see many reasons to be proud of our accomplishments and work done to achieve them. Support for truth-telling and efforts at reconciliation with indigenous communities (including a KAIROS Blanket Exercise held in November this year), support and programming to ensure discussion about LGBTQ+ issues, support for efforts to curtail homelessness in Regina, as well as others. These efforts and accomplishments compliment the quality Sunday programming. I am confident that, whether the current format of programming remains constant or changes, whether we continue to use 2700 College as our base or not, we have lots of cause for both pride and optimism.

Jamie Struthers

December 2019

Office Hours & Rentals

Saturdays, 1-3 PM

Mike McCall is available at the Unitarian Centre once a week for any business which needs to be dealt with in person. At any other time, feel free to telephone the Centre (306-522-7357) and leave a message, or email reginauu@gmail.com

Regina Multi-Faith Forum

The Regina Multi-Faith Forum provides opportunities for people of different faith traditions to gather, get to know each other and pray together.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reginamultifaith/>



Board Talk

December 2019 by Jane Knox, Secretary

Annual Meeting—10:30 AM, March 8, 2020 in the upper hall at the Unitarian Centre. Please plan to attend to guide the future of the Fellowship. Agenda items will include:

1. Bylaw changes—details will be out by early February at latest. Watch for an email
2. Committee reports for 2019—By January 15, Chairpersons for Standing Committees and Action Groups to submit their annual reports to our Administrative Coordinator. This timing allows for formatting, proof-reading, and 28-day notice of bylaw changes.
3. Approval of financial statements for 2019—including a report by an external reviewer.
4. Approval of budget for 2020—the Board will present its draft plan for member approval

2020 Budget—At its November and December meetings, the Board explored potential budget items and their impact on the Fellowship's "bottom line." The Board intends to present a balanced budget to members for their decision at the March Annual Meeting. Some decisions may be wrenching. We will need YOUR input. Although not finalized, the Board expects to recommend reduced children's programming in view of infrequent visits from children and building maintenance only as donations allow. Major building repairs, including the roof, will be dependent on sufficient fundraising by 2021. The Board will continue to explore possible alternative futures related to accommodation for the Fellowship.

Reconciliation—The Board discussed the benefits and costs of hosting blanket exercises. Reconciliation is one of the Fellowship's priorities (e.g., Reconciliation Study Group, library, bulletin board, website tab, Indigenous stories). The Board decided its budget should allow the Fellowship to host at least one blanket exercise in 2020, and approved the Reconciliation Study Group's plan to explore a partnership with Kairos.

Legacy Program—The Board approved the Fundraising Action Group plans to explore administrative practicalities and introduce a program to encourage interested persons to:

- make Bequests in honour of individuals who have made a special contribution to society through social action or active involvement in the Fellowship;
- leave a Legacy Gift in their will that will reduce taxes payable upon death and will enable future social action or support Fellowship activities;
- create an ongoing Legacy related to accommodation for the Fellowship.

Outreach—December 8, the Fellowship hosted jointly with Amnesty a letter-writing event that was part of the international Write for Rights as our contribution to support International Human Rights Day on December 10th 2019. Thanks to Jim Hutchings for initiating this event.

Choir Practice – Singing Fun!

January 5, 2020, 9:45 a.m.

The regular monthly choir practise starts at 9:45 a.m.. Be there or be square!



2019 UFR Mitten Tree

By Wayne Williamson

For two weeks from November to December members and friends of the Fellowship have collected various articles for our mitten tree in support of the Rainbow Youth Centre's Christmas project.

On Monday Dec. 9th we delivered to Rainbow Youth, 12 pairs of mittens/gloves; 6 scarves; 6 toques, 42 pairs of socks; a dozen personal hygiene items; along with 3 packs of crayons and a colouring book. Well done everyone and thank-you so much.

The Unitarian Fellowship of Regina has supported the Rainbow Youth for several years at this time of year in this very worthwhile project. Rainbow Youth endeavors to ensure that all members of their organization, from young children to young adults, receive a Christmas parcel of essential items. (For additional information about Rainbow youth, please see their website rainbowyouth.com).

If anyone missed the cut off date for donations, please hang on to those items for next year. To continue with that idea, and because the mitten tree is only up for a short period, perhaps we could all start collecting items throughout the year. When we are out shopping for ourselves, pick up an extra pair of mittens, socks, or toothbrush, etc., put it aside in a bag/box marked "mitten tree" and bring it in to the Fellowship the first Sunday in December. That way I am sure we could double our support to Rainbow Youth. Once again, thanks to everyone for your participation and Merry Christmas.



Ugly Sweater Day

And Now for Something Creatively Different!

In early December, we moved downstairs for a service - not our traditional format, but a time to have fun. We explored our creative side and had a good time visiting with our table mates as we put together our 'ugly' Christmas sweaters.



Jamie Reynolds set us up with some ideas, patterns, multicoloured felt squares, and a plentiful supply of items to attach to our sweaters. Glue and scissors were shared widely as they were in short supply. We listened to music selected by Marena Charron and Tanya Walker while creating our masterpieces.

To the left is a sample of the sweaters we made and to the right are some of our happy crafters. Pictured above are Ethel Struthers, Jane Knox, Jamie Reynolds and her two children, Lucy and Jude.



Thoughts for the New Year

by Pam Bocking

“Last year’s thoughts belong to last year’s language. And next year’s words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.”

– T.S. Eliot, excerpted from Little Gidding

“And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.”

– Rainer Maria Rilke, excerpted from Letter to Clara Rilke

“We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise we harden.”

– Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

“Strength shows not only in the ability to persist, but in the ability to start over.”

– F. Scott Fitzgerald, excerpted from a book of essays The Crack-Up

“And suddenly you know. It’s time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.”

– Meister Eckhart, excerpted from a 13th century sermon

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world.”

– Neil Gaiman, excerpt of his online Journal, December 31, 2011

“Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.”

– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Give Us Spirit

Support for your spiritual journey A New Year Inspiration

The New Year: How can we welcome it?

It came in the darkness, but with days becoming longer ...*there is hope.*

It's a new beginning, so we think—or is it more of the same?

What New Year’s resolutions do we make?

Did we accomplish the resolutions we made last year?

How can we make this year better and do we have the power to do so?

But yes, *if we all stand together and have insight—we can!*

– by Zonia Guenther, long-time Unitarian





Reconciliation Ripples

by Jane Knox

January 2020—what a challenge, what an inspiration! It seems just yesterday that 2020 was far off in the future ... and here we are. Imagine all the positive vibes ... 20-20 vision is perfect and a great inspiration to begin our year. By working together, we can achieve much! Join us as we work to inspire change in our community in the year ahead.

Here is what we have in mind for 2020. What would you like to add? What actions will YOU undertake during this “turning point” year? Choose something and “Just Do It”

Action Plan for Reconciliation—thoughts for personal and Unitarian Fellowship action

1. Listen
 - a. Regularly offer services on related topics
 - b. Promote listening to “Unreserved”, APTN, other Indigenous media
 - c. Invite Indigenous acquaintances to social events, dinners, etc.
2. Learn through independent reading and study
 - a. Expand Unitarian library collection by/about Indigenous people
 - b. Collect meaningful videos on Unitarian website
 - c. Promote Unitarian website and library on Facebook
3. Show-up at Indigenous-sponsored events
 - a. Promote events in Order of Service and newsletters
 - b. Attend events/workshops
 - c. Publish highlights in newsletter or on Facebook
4. Speak-out to promote positive race relations
 - a. Respond to racist comments effectively and promptly
 - b. Host reconciliation events on Indigenous issues regularly
 - c. Urge others to read the Principles of Reconciliation (2 pages + an overview)
<http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Principles%20of%20Truth%20and%20Reconciliation.pdf>
and selected stories collected by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
http://www.trc.ca/assets/pdf/Survivors_Speak_English_Web.pdf

Did you know?

Each of the seven flames in the circle of the TRC's logo represents one of the Seven Sacred Teachings - Truth, Humility, Honesty, Wisdom, Respect, Courage and Love.



If you have contributions to make to this newsletter, please contact Mike McCall:

email reginauu@gmail.com. or 306-522-7357 (office). The deadline for contributions is the 23rd of the month.

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/reginauunitarians/>

Podcast: unitarianfellowshipregina.podbean.com