

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg

The Communicator

June 2022

Sunday Services via [Zoom](#) at 10:30 am

The theme for June is Prophetic Imperative

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The deadline for the July/August 2022 issue is **Monday, June 20th, 2022**

June 5, 2022

The Right to a Healthy Environment: A Canary's Journey

Leaders: Marie LeBlanc, artist, photographer & fresh air advocate, and the Social Justice/Green Action Team Coordinator: Steve Lennon

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act is currently before the Canadian Parliament, and a Senate Committee is considering amendments to modernize this Act, which came into force in 2000. One proposed amendment is to add "the right to a healthy environment." Today's service will highlight why a healthy environment is critical for those with severe environmental sensitivities, the "canaries in the coal mine."

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Sunday Services continued

June 12, 2022

The Prophetic Imperative

Leaders: Adina Lyon, Deborah Lake, Lynn Clark & Social Justice/Green Action Team

Coordinator: Kelvin Seifert

We are a socially engaged community that works collaboratively, compassionately, and urgently for a just society, and for our life-sustaining planet.

How are we doing on this? In response to this question, the speakers will draw on the words of UU minister Rev. Richard S. Gilbert in his book *The Prophetic Imperative*.

June 19, 2022

Called to Act with Justice (Micah 6:8)

Leader: Dr. Mary LeMaître

Coordinators: Marian Siemens, Norm Cobb

Dr. Mary LeMaître, a University of Winnipeg professor who specializes in the analysis of colonial discourse (stereotypes about Indigenous people), will reflect on our collective and individual roles in bringing about Reconciliation in Canada. Why is this important? How do we go about it? What are we called to contribute or help change?

June 26, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. Central Time

UUA General Assembly Service, from Portland, Oregon

Leader: UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association)

Featuring Rev. Gretchen Haley, Senior Minister of Foothills UU Church in Fort Collins, Colorado, with participation from Rev. Sean Neil-Barron (Fort Collins) and Shari Halliday-Quan (Rochester, New York). The GA Choir will sing.

Vespers Services

by Janine Reid



Too many tabs open? Join us for a weekly mind refresh on Tuesday at 6 pm CST on Zoom for our rejuvenated Vespers service. Consider building it into your flow as a weekly ritual, or dip in when you need a boost. You

will be offered a half hour of music and meditative readings to consider on your spiritual journey, followed by an optional half hour of conversation and connection with the group participants. The zoom link is listed on our website and will be the same every week.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93643328083?pwd=eX-hiMU1OQ2Ztb1cybU81RndtU3V5dz09>

Meeting ID: 936 4332 8083

Passcode: 928082

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Board Update from the TownHall Held on May 11, 2022

On May 11, 2022, the Board held a Town Hall, with Janet Schmidt, conflict Mediation Specialist, in attendance, to discuss the continuing work of the congregation to address issues identified in the Shared Ministry Team report August 2021. We promised then that we would continue to update the congregation on progress.

At the Town Hall, we called attention to

- 1) Board responsibilities identified by the CUC at ["What does a Board do, anyway?"](#);
- 2) the continued work of *Mission into Action* with:
 - a) [Living into Our Mission](#) workshops February and March 2022 facilitated by Deb Weiner;
 - b) [Mission into Action](#) as a guide to how we govern ourselves, manage budgeting, and share staff and volunteer responsibilities;
- 3) Shared Ministry Team's (SMT) systemic recommendations to address governance issues. We have begun to gather and examine models for routine and regular church-wide reviews and evaluations. Two of these actions include establishing:
 - a) a working group to revise policies and bylaws led by Jon Cowtan; and
 - b) a Personnel Committee to conduct Ministerial Reviews in a supportive climate advised by Kris Breckman;
- 4) SMT's conflict recommendation to establish a congregational Handling Conflict Working Group, which engaged Janet Schmidt
 - a) to conduct a series of six workshops this winter. About 20 congregants took part. These recorded sessions and resource materials are available to members at [Handling Conflict Workshops 2022](#). We will require all Board and Staff to review these and strongly urge other church leadership to do so as well;

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- b) to continue working with the congregation on the following remaining tasks to:
 - i) establish policies and processes to address conflict in the future;
 - ii) coach congregants to have the skills to address future conflicts in line with our adopted policies and processes, and
 - iii) continue mediation of the conflicts we have experienced;
- c) to address interpersonal conflict between Peter Hill-Carroll and Rev. Meghann and the rippling repercussions.

During the Q & A on May 11, continuing concerns were raised with regarding the interpersonal conflicts. Since then, we have

- 1) revisited our apology to Peter HC, by noting explicitly Pamela's letter of rebuttal of claims that she had been bullied by Peter HC. Further, in the finding of the SMT, "[they] heard from no one outside of those persons in attendance at the March 2020 Board that Peter H-C's behaviour was out of covenant with any other members of the community."
- 2) responded to an unanswered message from Don Bailey to the Board June 2021 and apologized for the delay;
- 3) apologized to Pamela Johnson for involving her in a church conflict following her retirement; and thanked her for providing her statement that clarified that she had not accused Peter H-C of wrongdoing and
- 4) identified other individuals with whom we need to repair relationships and offer apologies, including some who have asked for some space before we engage them; and
- 5) communicated to individual congregants and the congregation at large about appropriate use of congregants' emails.

Apologies have also been accepted and conveyed. We include them here.

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From Peter Hill-Carroll:

“At a board meeting in March of 2020, during a discussion of church credit card use and Reverend Robern’s continued over expenditures of her professional development budget, I had an angry vocal response to Reverend Robern’s assertion that this matter should not have been brought to the board’s attention. I apologize for losing my temper, and acknowledge that an angry outburst is an out of covenant behaviour. For that I am sorry and apologize to everyone in attendance at that board meeting.”

From Don Bailey:

“ I would like to apologize to any church members that may have been offended, hurt or traumatized by the email that was sent regarding the situation pertaining to Peter Hill Carroll.”

We are waiting for Rev. Meghann’s return when we will continue this journey of healing together with her.

How you can help.

- 1) Be gentle with yourself and others. Church is where we practice being human. We are a microcosm of humanity forming an intentional community living out our values and mission together. We are self-sustaining and self-governing. We have no Bishop or higher church authority to resolve our issues, only ourselves.
- 2) Review our Covenant of Right Relations. Read it as if it’s the first time. Assume the best intentions of others. Approach each other directly with curiosity. Avoid third-party gossip or denunciation.
- 3) Learn from mistakes. We are a learning organization. The Board has limited capacity and wisdom and we rely on a mutual learning model.
- 4) Balance our values that include respect, truth-seeking, justice, and compassion.

And above all, love yourself and each other into being the Beloved Community we strive to be!

Endnotes
see UUA [Defining Desruptive Behaviour](#)

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Volunteer Corner

by Sonya Watson
for Volunteer Resources Committee (VRC)

Pride in Ownership

The congregation has begun returning to our beautiful sanctuary and historic house which is situated on a gorgeous riverside property. We appreciate having such a scenic and well cared for venue in which to gather, in small groups, during covid's sixth wave.

It takes many appreciative and willing volunteers to help to maintain the building and grounds. Jim Gardiner, Diane Pearce, and Michael Thiessen invite UUs to try out a Properties Committee role. Tasks are being grouped into bite-sized activities so all can participate in some way. There's lots of variety, and it's never boring!

Are you a relatively new homeowner who wonders which building issues can coast for awhile, and which others need to be flagged for more immediate attention? How do you begin to find solutions and resources?

or

Do you have a flair for decorating on a budget?

or

Have you dealt with building safety and accessibility in the past? Are you willing to share your experience?

or

Are you a home handyperson who likes rolling up your sleeves and getting dirty?

or

Would you like to help make technology integration seamless and user friendly?

or

Do you have a green thumb? Do you flourish in the great outdoors, along with the greenery?

If you answered yes to any of the questions, and are longing to get back working within a team, we want **you!** Come work and play with us and physically grow your faith while contributing to our beautiful space and community. Send an email to vrc@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca and we will be in touch.



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Created by Generosity

by Peter Miller

Created by Generosity

Pledging 2022-2023

We say in our church that we are self-sufficient. What we mean by that is that we believe it is a blessing to be able to govern and support our religious community ourselves—to make possible by our generosity everything we dream of and do to live out our shared values.

~ Sunday Offering

Our church exists and thrives only because members and friends care enough to invest themselves and their resources in what we do. It is moving to see folks step up and stretch themselves in new roles to meet major challenges. It is inspiring to see us reach out through Harvest, refugee support, Bear Clan patrols, and Share the Plate with frontline groups who transform lives. We are proud to be the home of community leaders. Remarkably, “we” have been doing this in Winnipeg, through thick and thin, since 1891.

[Mission into Action](#) summarizes congregational insights into what it means to be Caring, Learning, and Socially Engaged and considers ways to support our community and its Mission sustainably, efficiently, and effectively. Finally, governing our rich, complex community requires thoughtful delegation to decision/planning/action teams supported by staff.

[Budget 2022-2023](#) is a Restoration and Outreach budget. Let’s restore music, religious exploration, and programming with new staff. And let’s invite non-Unitarians to take part. Who knows? Some might join us. Some might donate. But, in any case, we engage to better people’s lives.

Please [complete your pledge](#) ASAP, if you are able. Not everyone can. We also need a generosity of spirit for mutual encouragement and generosity of volunteer time and talent. But if you have income or savings you can count on, we in turn count on you to help us thrive.

Thank you.

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UU Woman Pioneer

by Gini Martin



Emily Stowe, born in Upper Canada (now Ontario) in a family with Quaker background, educated at home, aged 15, she became a teacher in a one room school. She continued teaching for seven years, receiving, like other women teachers, one half the salary paid to men. In 1853-54 she attended the provincial normal school, the only advanced school open to women in British North America.

She married and had three children. When her husband was sent to a tuberculosis sanitarium, she returned to teaching to support her family. Deciding to study to become a physician, in 1865 she was denied admission to the Toronto School of Medicine. The Vice President of the University of Toronto said. **"The doors of the university are not open to women and I trust they never will be."**

Emily replied:

"Then I will make it the business of my life to see that they will be opened, that women will have the same opportunities as men."

She attended the New York Medical College for Women (1865-1867) because she could not be admitted to medical training in Canada. After graduation, she practiced in Toronto.

Even with her degree she could not be licensed in Ontario. When finally in 1870 she was allowed to take the courses at the U of T that were required of holders of foreign medical training, the class room behavior of a faculty member and some students were described as 'despicable'.

She refused to take the exams administered by the men of the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons so did not get a license for years. Without asking for it, she received a medical license in 1880.

In 1876 Emily founded the Toronto Women's Literary Club, later reorganized as Canadian Women's Suffrage Association.

Emily joined the First Unitarian Church, Toronto, in 1879.

In 1883 she was involved in the creation of the Women's Medical College in Toronto. Fifteen years later the "Dispensary", a medical clinic to provide practical clinical experience to students was opened. Eventually becoming Women's College Hospital—which is still providing services.

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In 2018 – over 140 years after she was licensed, Emily was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in London, Ontario.

Emily's daughter, Augusta Stowe-Gullen (1857-1943) was admitted to Victoria College and the Toronto School of Medicine. When she graduated in 1883, Augusta became the first woman physician fully trained in Canada.

Jabez T. Sunderland, Minister at the Toronto Unitarian Church spoke at Emily's funeral service in 1903.

Earlier, in about 1880, Emily said "My career has been one of struggle attended by that sort of persecution that falls to the lot of everyone who pioneers a new movement or steps out of line with established custom".



Rev. Meghann Robern Away

First UU Church of Winnipeg is proud to meet the Fair Compensation Guidelines of the UUA. These guidelines ensure that we take good care of our professional staff and recognize the importance of adequate paid vacation time (four weeks per year), as well as study leave (four weeks per year) and sabbatical (one month for each year of service). Rev. Robern will be combining these three portions of her contract for the next six months to return July 2, 2022. We wish her rest and renewal during her absence.

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Endowment Fund

by Doug Wasyliw



The Endowment Committee has assumed a formal educational approach to facilitate its work. We assume

the value of occasional advice columns would be to save members money that could be used to donate to the church, direct their financial resources into investments that respect our UU principles, etc.

Relevant UU principles:

2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Church attendees at my recent seminars on investing and financial planning expressed interest in ESG products: Environmentally sound, sustainable, as well as companies that have been documented to treat their employees fairly and equitably.

The information in that recent submission was to remind church investors of the many valid concerns regarding the current practices in creating and marketing many ESG type investment funds. ESG funds are becoming exceptionally popular but there are many that are highly deficient in actually being ESG compliant.

There have been a few successful law suits in the US against very large investment firms who were caught being fraudulent in their creation and marketing of ESG funds. These funds did not actually represent companies that were compliant with our UU principles of having environmentally sound operating practices, having fair employment practices, etc. My suggestion was that our congregants be very careful with these funds and question them. Many investors are still being duped. This is a very big problem that is not generally mentioned in the public press.

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First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg Covid Protocols

Covid is transmitted primarily by sharing virus-laden breath but also by contaminated surfaces.

Please observe and enforce these precautions.

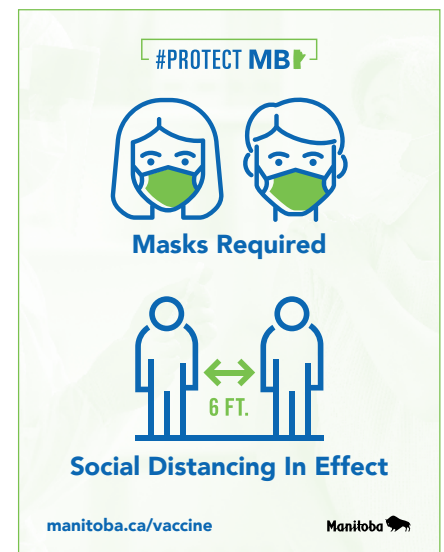
- Wear a mask indoors.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough / sneeze.
- Wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently.

Reduce your risk of hospitalization, intensive care, and death by being fully vaccinated.

Recommended protocols for reopening our church

- No one with [Covid symptoms](#) or recent unprotected exposure to someone with Covid should come to the church.
- Anyone entering the church to meet with others should be, and remain, masked.
- Hand sanitizer should be provided and used at church entrances, food tables, and washrooms.
- During the current surge, no food or drink should be consumed indoors, because that requires mask removal. Coffee and raisin bread can be provided outdoors, where well-spaced conversations can take place.
- During the current surge, the congregation should hum the tunes, sway, and clap but not sing, even with masks on, because of their proximity to one another.

- The choir can sing onstage separated and masked.
- Pulpit speakers may briefly remove their mask to speak and then replace it.
- During the current surge, seats in the sanctuary will be spaced with a separation of 2 seats in each row and a comparable distance between rows. Family units, however, can sit closer together.
- Donations of cash or cheques should be placed in a slotted box at the back, not in a collection plate. E-transfers can be made by smartphone or at home.
- We will post these rules, possibly using [available government posters](#), and communicate them on our web page, weekly emails, and Communicator.
- These measures are considered social norms, mutually enforced by all rather than having assigned enforcers.



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Indigenous and Muslim Communities Come Together

by Heather Emberley

The UU sanctuary was host to an amazing evening as we lived out our vision of community building. On May 27, 2022 the Indigenous and Muslim communities came together to “build relationships and to honour truth and reconciliation.”

The room was decorated using Indigenous colours, red, white, black and yellow. Elders, drummers, politicians and special guest, Wab Kinew attended. Diane Redsky, Mama Bear Clan, Leslie Spillet, David Budd, MaMawi Wi Chi Tata Centre and Ka ni Kanichik received awards for their contribution to community healing endeavours.



Elder Pat Caribou and Shahina Siddiqui shared spiritual Exchanges from traditional teachings and the Quran.

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First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg Mission Statement

We are a diverse and caring community that is loving, inclusive, responsible, and encouraging.

We are a learning community open to evidence and varied insights that encourages reflection and exploration. We use what we learn to strengthen our relationships and our capacity.

We are a socially engaged community that works collaboratively, compassionately, and urgently for a just society and for our life-sustaining planet.

We are Caring, Learning and Socially Engaged.

Please submit materials to the editor Marjorie Doyle by email to: communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca
The **deadline** for the **July/August 2022** issue is: **Monday, June 20th, 2022**

The opinions of the authors are their own and do not necessarily represent those of the Board of Directors, the editorial board, the newsletter editor, or the church minister.

Who's Who

Minister - on sabbatical

the Reverend Meghann Robern
minister@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Director of Lifespan Faith Development Vacant

dlfd@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Vacant

Lay Chaplain

Darlene Payne

Board President

Marlene Schellenberg

president@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Pastoral Care Coordinators

Esmat Elhami and Rev Ren McFadyen

pastoralcare@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Music Director & Choir Accompanist

Vacant

music@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Caretaker

acting Michael Thiessen

Webmaster

Karin Carlson

webmaster@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Rentals Director

Sheila Farago

rentals@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Newsletter Editor

Marjorie Doyle

communicator@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

Editorial Assistant

Linda Henderson

Vacant - Office Administrator

office@uuwinnipeg.mb.ca

First Unitarian Universalist
Church of Winnipeg

603 Wellington Crescent

Winnipeg, MB R3M 0A7

Telephone: 204.474.1261

Fax: 204.284.2639

Office Hours:

Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

www.uuwinnipeg.mb.ca