

## **Memo of Understanding for UUA / CUC Collaboration around Youth Ministry**

Canadian youth and congregations have had access to and benefited from many UUA resources including training of trainers for youth ministry trainings, youth office staff and resources. Relationships of trust, good will, collaboration and support have been formed and nurtured. We hope that this foundation of right relationship will ensure youth ministry in both countries goes forward in partnership knowing we have faith partners on both sides of the Canada-United States border. Cross-border relationships that are intentional and mutually satisfying and growth-producing are not only possible, but desirable. In that spirit we would like to see this morning's discussion framed around these understandings:

### **Context**

1. Since 2002, youth ministry in both countries has developed and moved in different ways with different priorities and resources.
2. CUC is focusing on an integrated model, working to include youth in multigenerational events and committees.
3. The CUC national youth conference is very different from "youth caucus" at UUA GA, and it works well for them.
4. The CUC is continuing to focus on regional yearly youth/multigenerational events. A desire for a yearly regional social justice con is emerging.
5. Through the implementation of the recommendations from the Summit on Youth Ministry the UUA's structures and processes are under development and may change in significant ways with regard to youth ministry structures and services.

### **Our joint position regarding 2002 Agreement**

Both organizations consider it fair that new services that were not negotiated in 2000-2002 would not be provided to the CUC unless specific time-limited arrangements are negotiated.

### **CUC-UUA youth ministry connections 2000-2007**

1. Canadian youth and congregations have had access to and benefited from many resources including training of trainers for youth ministry trainings.
2. YRUU structure presents challenges for how Canada and United States youth might interact in the best possible way to the greater good of both UUA and CUC. Both organizations have found the effectiveness of the arrangement is highly dependent on who is serving.
3. As the CUC is about the same size in numbers and congregations as most UUA districts, having youth council representation for each of their four regions gives the CUC disproportionately high representation. Feedback and observation tells us this does not serve the regions well.

4. The UUA priority on anti-racism/anti-oppression in youth ministry is a challenge to integrate within the Canadian context. The CUC now have their own resources, curricula and a structure for racial, religious, first nations, metis and inuit equity and justice. It has been challenging to engage Canadian youth to further develop these curricula and structures and social action while their focus has been on the UUA approach for the United States.

## **Understandings**

1. It is understood that the Youth Ministry Training and Consultancy needs of the UUA and the CUC are both similar and different because of size and context. To ensure that Canadian and United States Unitarian Universalists and congregations are getting the best possible service the following will happen:
  - a. As the UUA and CUC develop their respective Youth Ministry Training and Consultancy programs they will share existing and newly developed training modules.
  - b. The UUA Staff will assist the development of the CUC training system that may include telephone consultation, reviewing developed training modules and providing direct training. If members of the UUA Staff travel to Canada to provide direct training the cost of travel, room and board will be the responsibility of the CUC. The UUA will also provide a list of all people in Canada currently trained to lead youth ministry trainings.
  - c. To reduce costs the UUA's youth ministry training program will be sending trainers and consultants to congregations, districts and events that are geographically near them. Canadian's trained in the six current UUA youth ministry trainings might still be invited to lead trainings in the United States that are geographically near them but that will be handled on a case by case basis with the UUA being responsible for all costs.
  - d. The CUC is free to use UUA trainers but they will pay the full cost of travel and stipends. Contact should be directly between the CUC and those trainers. If needed the UUA will provide assistance in figuring out which trainers would be most suited for the specific need of the CUC.
2. An invitation will be extended by the CUC for two youth from the United States to attend the CUC's Annual Conference and Meeting. Similarly the UUA will extend an invitation for two Canadian youth to attend the UUA's General Assembly. The cost of attendance at these two gatherings will be the responsibility of the organization sending the youth.
3. Continuation of the agreement that youth and adults in Canada may attend youth events, including trainings, in the United States, youth and adults in the United States may attend youth events, including trainings, in Canada. All attendees at Canadian events will follow CUC policy and all attendees at United States events would follow UUA policy. Where attendance at United States events is subsidized, Canadians would be expected to pay the full cost transportation, room

and board. Similarly, where attendance at Canadian events is subsidized, United States participants would be expected to pay the full cost of transportation, room and board.

4. The CUC and the UUA grant access to and permission to use each other's youth ministry resources that are available on their respective web sites, excepting any materials on which a third party holds the copyright, and provided that the source is credited. Open youth ministry related list serves managed by the UUA and CUC will also remain available to Unitarian Universalists in either country.
5. Acknowledgment that CUC and UUA remain partners in faith and commit to exchanging information and working collaboratively in youth ministry as in other areas. As each organization develops new initiatives, we would each inform the other, and include the other in a role on a case-by-case basis.