SECTION A

BYLAW and ADDENDA

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**LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP**

Thunder Bay, Ontario

**BY-LAW NUMBER ONE**

**WHEREAS** The Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship is a non-share capital, non-profit charitable
Corporation incorporated under the provisions of the Corporations Act of Ontario for religious
purposes;

**AND WHEREAS** The purpose of the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship is to bring Unitarian Universalists and religious liberals into closer relationship with one another and to unite them in the quest for the highest values in religion and life;

**AND WHEREAS** The purposes and programs of the Fellowship are determined by the members by means of congregational polity;

**THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** as a By-Law relating to the genera! conduct and operation of the affairs of the LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP (hereinafter referred to as the Fellowship) as follows:

**AFFILIATION**

1.1 The Fellowship is a member of the Canadian Unitarian Council.

1.2 Members are free to hold diverse beliefs and are encouraged to form their own personal

religious convictions; however, the Fellowship abides by the Purpose(s) of the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship and Principles of the Canadian Unitarian Council.

**HEAD OFFICE**

2. The Head Office of the Fellowship shall be in the City of Thunder Bay in the Province of Ontario,

and at such place therein as the Directors may from time to time determine.

**SEAL**

3. The Seal, an impression of which is stamped at the end of this document, shall be

 the corporate seal of the Fellowship.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**4.1 Membership Requirements**

Any person 18 years of age or over, without restriction as to race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, physical characteristics, ancestry or place of origin, may become a member of the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship by:

(a) Being in general agreement with the purpose(s) of the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship and its Covenant and Mission statements (see Addendum), and with the Principles of the Canadian Unitarian Council;

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4.1 **Membership Requirements** (continued):

(b) Having an understanding that an annual financial contribution of record is necessary to maintaining membership.

(c) Indicating agreement with the above conditions of membership by signing an Application for

Membership Card for presentation to the Board. Upon affirming the application, the Board shall ensure that each new member is promptly welcomed into the Fellowship in writing. Where the Board does not accept an application, it shall forward its reasons to the applicant by registered mail. Within thirty days of receipt of the registered letter, the applicant may request a meeting with the Board to review its reasons for refusing his/her membership.

(d) Making a financial contribution of record at the time of his/her acceptance as a member if such a contribution has not been already made in the same fiscal year

4.2 **Contribution of Record**

4.2.1 To retain active membership, each member shall make an annual financial contribution of

record. The Board may recommend a minimum amount for such contribution. The Board has the discretion to waive this stipulation.

4.2.2 Each fall prior to, and in conjunction with, the annual pledge campaign, the Board shall ensure that the current list of members is reviewed. By December 31, the Treasurer shall ensure that a letter is sent reminding those who have not made a financial contribution for the current fiscal year that, if no contribution for that year is received by the following January 31, his or her membership shall cease. In special cases, the Board may grant an exemption for reasons of financial hardship, illness, or some other valid reason.

4.3 **Termination of membership**

Termination of membership occurs:

(a) upon written notice of resignation to the Board.

(b) upon recommendation by the Board to the general membership, and only after Ratification by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a special Membership Meeting called for the purpose of terminating a membership, notice of which meeting has been given to the member, for the purpose of providing the member with the opportunity to respond to the recommendation at the meeting;

(c) upon death of a member; or

(d) upon failure to make an annual contribution of record as set out in Article 4.2.

Upon moving to a location too remote from Thunder Bay to participate in the life of the Fellowship, a member may

(i) retain Active Membership in the Fellowship by making an annual contribution of record, the amount to be recommended by the Board;

(ii) resign his/her membership but remain on the mailing list;

(iii) transfer his/her membership to another Unitarian Universalist congregation;

(iv) become an individual member of the CUC, or

(v) terminate his/her membership and association with the Fellowship. Before a member moves, the Board shall be responsible for determining his/her wishes.

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MEMBERSHIP (continued):

4.4 **Reinstatement of Active Membership**

Former Active Members may be reinstated to Active Membership upon making (a) a written application to the Board, and (b) a financial contribution of record.

4.5 **Privileges of membership**

 Privileges of membership, which begin four weeks after acceptance by the Board, include:

(a) the right to vote at general and special membership meetings;

(b) the right to be nominated as a director, a committee chair, a chaplain, a delegate to

denominational meetings and, after three years membership in the Fellowship, as a trustee of the Endowment Fund.

(c) the right to receive all communications from the Fellowship and the Canadian Unitarian Council to

 their respective memberships.

(d) the right to vote at congregational meetings shall be reserved for those who have been an active

member as defined by Article 4 of the Fellowship's by-laws for at least four weeks immediately preceding the meeting

4.6 **Membership Categories**

(a) **Active Member**

An Active Member is one who meets the stipulations for membership set out in Article 4.1.

(b) **Youth Member**

(i) A Youth Member is someone from the ages of 13 to 17 who except for age meets the requirements for Active Membership as defined in Article 4.1.

(ii) Youth Members have voice but no vote at Congregational Meetings. They are entitled to receive all communications of the Fellowship addressed to its members. They may also sit on Congregational Committees.

(iii) Youth Members may select an ex-officio representative to the board.

(c) **Honourary Member**

From time to time, the Board may bestow the status of Honourary Member upon any person.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

5.1 During each year, at a time and place determined by the Board,

(a) on or before June 15th, an Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held.

(b) on or before January 31st of the current fiscal year, an Annual Budget Meeting (ABM) shall be held.

Should special circumstances require it, the Board may move the date of the AGM or the ABM provided sufficient notice be given to the membership as required by the LUF by-law Article 5.5.

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**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** (continued):

5.2 The Annual General Meeting shall be held for the purpose of:

(a) electing Directors, the Nominating Committee and the auditors);

(b) receiving reports of officers and committees and lay chaplains;

(c) receiving the audited report of the previous fiscal year;

(d) transacting such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

5.3 The Annual Budget Meeting shall be held for the purpose of:

(a) hearing the year-to-date unaudited report of the Treasurer;

(b) discussing and approving the budget for the next fiscal year.

5.4 Special Membership Meetings may be called by the President or by a quorum of the Board, and must be called by the President, as soon as proper notice can be given, upon receipt of a written petition signed by at least ten members addressed to the Secretary stating the purpose of the meeting,

5.5 Notice of the Annual General Meeting, the Annual Budget Meeting and any special meetings of members shall be in writing and mailed or delivered to the last known address of each member at least 14 days prior to the meeting. The notice shall list the items on the agenda determined by the Board or as requested by the petition of members of the Fellowship. Items not listed in the notice may be discussed but not voted upon.

5.6 No error or omission in giving notice of any annual, general, or special meeting of the members shall invalidate the meeting or make void any proceedings taken at such meeting.

5.7 Membership Meetings shall be conducted according to standard parliamentary procedure using Roberts Rules of Order,

5.8 The quorum for Membership Meetings shall be twenty percent of the membership. Unless otherwise stated in these By-Laws, a simple majority is required to pass items of business at the meetings. In the event of a tie vote, the President shall cast a vote to break the tie.

5.9 The Secretary shall report to the meeting the number of members qualified to vote and the number required for a quorum.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**6.1 Numbers, Quorum and Election**

The affairs of the Fellowship shall be managed by a Board of six to eight Directors, consisting of the Past President, four Directors who shall have been elected as Officers of the Fellowship, and one to three elected Directors at Large. 50% plus one members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All Directors shall be elected for a one-year period, and shall be eligible for re-election if otherwise qualified. No Director shall serve as an Officer for a period in excess of six consecutive years.

01/27/2019**:** updated per January 27, 2019 LUF Budget Mtg.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** (continued):

6.2 **Qualifications**

Every Director shall be a member of the Fellowship at the time of his or her election, and shall remain a member throughout his or her term of office.

6.3 **Duties and Powers**

(a) The Board shall have the general care and management of all the affairs and property of the Fellowship, including custody of capital and trust funds, determination of policy and interpretation of terms, appointment and dismissal of committees and all staff except a Minister, and other matters pursuant to the purpose and welfare of the Fellowship, subject to reversal by a majority vote at a Membership Meeting. Each Director shall serve on at least one committee.

(b) Any expenditure in excess of 2% of the current annual budget must receive a majority vote of approval at a Membership Meeting.

6.4 **Directors at Large**

Four Directors at Large shall be elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Directors at Large shall assume duties as directed by the Board. The Past President shall remain as a Director during his or her term as Past President.

6.5 **Removal of Director**

The members of the Fellowship may, by resolution passed by at least two-thirds of the votes cast at a general meeting of which notice specifying the intention to pass such resolution has been given, remove any Director before the expiration of his or her term of office, and may, by a majority of the votes cast at that meeting, elect any qualified member in his or her stead for the remainder of his or her term.

6.6 **Vacancies**

A Director shall vacate the office of Director:

(a) if he or she ceases to be a member of the Fellowship;

(b) if he or she becomes bankrupt or makes an assignment in bankruptcy or is declared insolvent;

(c) if he or she is certified or assessed to be a person incapable of managing property;

(d) if he or she submits a resignation in writing to the Fellowship, in which case the

 resignation takes effect from the time of receipt of the said written resignation;

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS** (continued):

6.6 **Vacancies** (continued):

(e) if he or she is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board without a reasonable

 explanation or excuse;

(f) if he or she is removed by the members pursuant to paragraph 6.5; or

(g) upon the death of the Director.

Vacancies on the Board of Directors, however caused, may, so long as a quorum of Directors remains in office, be filled by the Directors from among the qualified members of the Fellowship, if they see fit to do so; otherwise such vacancy shall be filled at the next meeting of the members. If there is not a quorum of Directors, the remaining Directors shall call a meeting of the members to fill the vacancies.

6.7 **Meetings of the Board of Directors**

The Board shall meet monthly, except in July. A special Board meeting may be called by the President or two Directors. All Directors shall be notified of the regular monthly meetings and any special Board meetings.

**OFFICERS**

7.1 **Election of Officers**

The Officers, elected by the general membership at the Annual General Meeting from among the Directors, shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President shall hold that office for no more than two consecutive years. These four Officers, together with the Past President, shall be the Executive Committee of the Board.

7.2 **Duties of the President**

The President shall:

(a) preside at meetings of the Board and the Fellowship;

(b) ensure that meetings and content thereof are conducted according to these By-Laws;

(c) be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Fellowship except the Nominating Committee;

(d) report in writing to the members at the Annual General Meeting;

(e) represent the Fellowship on appropriate occasions;

(f) assume such other duties as the Board may direct.

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**OFFICERS** (continued):

7,3 **Duties of the Vice President**

The Vice President shall:

(a) perform the duties of the President in his/her absence;

(b) be prepared to accept nomination as President at a future date;

(c) assume such other duties as the Board may direct.

7.4 **Duties of the Secretary**

The Secretary shall:

(a) prepare and have available minutes of all Board, general budget, and special meetings;

(b) ensure that a proper file of all minutes is kept;

(c) conduct correspondence as requested by the President and ensure that copies of all

 correspondence are filed;

(d) ensure that notice of Board and Membership Meetings, as requested by the Board, is given;

(e) ensure that an up-to-date file of all members and the mailing list are maintained;

(f) ensure that an Annual Report of the Fellowship is prepared;

(g) assume such other duties as the Board may direct.

7.5 **Duties of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall:

(a) be responsible for the receipt of the Fellowship income;

(b) ensure that all income is deposited and accounts are maintained in the name of the Fellowship in a chartered bank, credit union or trust company;

(c) ensure that all accounts which are authorized by the Board are paid;

(d) ensure that appropriate account books are maintained, which shall be audited annually and be kept available to the Board and/or members on request;

(e) report at regular Board meetings the state of the budgets of the Fellowship and its committees;

(f) be a member of the Finance Committee;

(g) issue a balanced statement of receipts and disbursements for the fiscal year at the Annual Budget Meeting;

(h) be responsible for the registration of the Fellowship with the federal and/or provincial

governments;

 (i) assume such other duties as the Board may direct.

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**OFFICERS** (continued):

7.5 **Duties of the Past President**

The Past President shall:

(a) provide continuity of executive experience;

(b) be a member of the Nominating Committee;

(c) assume such other duties as the Board may direct.

**COMMITTEES**

8.1 The Board shall meet within one month following the Annual General Meeting. It may establish such committees as are required to fulfill certain functions of the Fellowship. All committees of the Fellowship shall consist of at least one Director, who shall serve as liaison from the committee to the Board of Directors, and such other members as may be elected by the members or appointed by the Board. Each Director shall serve on at least one committee. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the Fellowship shall have the following Standing Committees:

**8.2 Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee of the Board shall consist of the President, Past President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

8.2.1 The purpose of the Executive Committee is to act as a management team for the board. It is therefore accountable to the Board of Directors, reporting regularly at board meetings.

**8.3 Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee shall:

(a) be elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting, and shall assume its duties at the close of the meeting;

(b) consist of three members, usually the immediate Past President and two other members of the Fellowship;

(c) present to the Secretary in writing the names of candidates (each of whom has agreed to serve) for distribution in the call to the Annual General Meeting, along with any other nominations received;

(d) receive further nominations, with prior consent of the candidate, presented from the floor at the Annual General Meeting;

(e) conduct an election by secret ballot if more than one candidate has been nominated for any position, the ballots to be distributed at the meeting. To be declared elected, a candidate must receive at least 51 (fifty-one) percent of the votes cast. Where there is only one candidate for a position, that person shall be declared elected by acclamation.

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**8.4 Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, one or more members of the Board and one or more members of the Fellowship.

8.4.1 The Finance Committee, subject to the approval of the Board, shall be responsible for financial arrangements and planning. These responsibilities include but are not limited to:

(a) managing all the Fellowship funds;

(b) preparing the annual budget after consultation with the appropriate committees;

(c) approving and coordinating all fund-raising activities of the Fellowship.

**8.5 By-law and Policy Committee**

The By-law and Policy Committee shall consist of the Past President and two or more members of the Fellowship. The mandate of this committee shall be to review both By-law No. 1 and the Policy Manual annually and to make, or recommend that others make revisions to each document and its addenda as deemed necessary to meet current needs of the Fellowship

**CHAPLAINS**

9. Under the **Lay Chaplaincy Program** of the Canadian Unitarian Council, the Fellowship may appoint, at the Annual General Meeting, one of more of its members to act as Lay Chaplain(s). The terms of appointment and termination of Lay Chaplains shall be in accordance with the guidelines set out in the most current Lay Chaplaincy Program Manual.

**MINISTER**

10.1 **Qualification**

A prospective Minister shall be in fellowship with the Unitarian Universalist Association, as long as suitable candidates are available. This requirement shall not preclude consideration of other types of professional leadership. The position shall be open to all qualified candidates.

10.2 **Selection**

A call to a Minister shall be extended by a two-thirds vote of a Fellowship Membership Meeting called for this purpose. To the extent practical, such meeting shall be preceded by the candidate steps currently recommended by the UUA Department of Ministry and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association.

10.3 **Duties**

The Minister shall be an ex-officio member of the Board and of all committees of the Fellowship except the Nominating Committee, with voice but no vote. He/she may become a member of the Fellowship, and may exercise all the rights and privileges of such membership.

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**MINISTER (continued)**

10.4 **Terms of Service**

The terms of service of the Minister shall be set out in a contract of service. The Minister's service may only be terminated by the Fellowship by a two-thirds vote of the members at a Membership Meeting duly called for such purpose. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a minimum of 40% of the members of the Fellowship. All other matters relating to the service of the Minister shall be described in the Personnel Policy.

**ENDOWMENT TRUST FUND**

**11.** There shall be a segregated fund in the name of the Fellowship, known as the **Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship** **Endowment Trust Fund,** for the purpose of receiving and holding monies and other assets donated or bequeathed to the Fellowship to be held indefinitely as capital. The Endowment Trust Fund shall be governed by the terms of the Trust Fund Agreement dated October 17, 1991.

11.1 One Trustee shall be elected at each annual general meeting to serve for a three-year term.

**FINANCIAL REVIEWERS**

12. Two financial reviewers, who must not be Officers or members of the Board, shall be elected from the membership at each Annual General Meeting, and shall examine the accounts of the Fellowship before the next Annual General Meeting, and shall certify to the Fellowship in writing the results of their examination. Alternatively, the Board of Directors may employ or appoint a professional public accountant from within or outside the membership of the Fellowship to audit the books of the Fellowship and submit a written report to the Annual General Meeting.

**FISCAL YEAR**

13. The fiscal year shall be from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

**INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS**

14. Every Director of the Fellowship, his or her heirs, executors, and administrators, and estate and effects, respectively, may, with the consent of the Fellowship given at any meeting of the members, from time to time and at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the Fellowship from and against:

(a) all costs, charges and expenses whatsoever that a Director sustains or incurs in or about any action, suit or proceeding which is brought, commenced or prosecuted against him or her for or in respect of any act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever, made, done or permitted by him or her in or about the execution of the duties of his or her office; and

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**INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS (continued)**

(b) all other costs, charges and expenses which he or she sustains or incurs in or about or in

relation to the affairs thereof, except such costs, charges or expenses as are occasioned by his or her own wilful neglect or default.

The Fellowship shall also indemnify any Director in such other circumstances as the Corporations Act or the law permits or requires.

**EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS AND SIGNING OFFICERS**

15.1 The Board shall authorize Signing Officers for the financial institution(s) in which the Fellowship monies are kept. Any two of the authorized Officers may sign. The Officers normally appointed shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

15.2 Any two of the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer shall be authorized to sign all deeds, contracts and other legal documents on behalf of the Fellowship when the action has been properly authorized by the Board or by the members at a Membership Meeting.

**DISSOLUTION**

16. Upon dissolution of the Fellowship, and payment of all debts and liabilities, the remaining assets. including lottery trust accounts or property purchased from lottery proceeds, shall be distributed to the Canadian Unitarian Council or its successor. [amended Feb. 2, 2020 at Budget Ratification meeting.]

**AMENDMENTS**

17. These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present at an Annual General Meeting or at any special Membership Meeting called for such purpose. The wording of the proposed amendment must be published in the call to the meeting, which call must be mailed or delivered. [Redundant sentence removed from this space by vote at January 26, 2014 Gen. Mtg.]

**REVOCATION OF PRIOR BY-LAWS**

18. All prior Constitution or By-Laws, save and except any bank borrowing By-Law, of the Fellowship shall be revoked upon ratification of this By-Law by the membership.

Passed by the Board of Directors and the congregation at the June 5, 2011 Annual General Meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_President \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Secretary

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**ADDENDA TO BYLAW NO. 1**

***Our Statements of:***

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP:

as expressed in our constitution (Bylaw No. 1) is: to bring Unitarian Universalists and religious liberals into closer relationship with one another and to unite them in the quest for the highest values in religion and life.

OUR MISSION as amended in 2017, is:

Together in liberal religious community, we grow in spirit, nurture inclusive relationships, and act for a just and sustainable world.

THE VISION OF THE LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP as expressed in the 2002 Strategic Plan is (briefly)

* A community that is diverse, welcoming, and celebratory of life’s journeys.
* A gathering place that is aesthetically pleasing, accessible, and adaptable to a variety of needs.
* Thoughtful, meaningful and provocative Sunday services that are enhanced by music and other artistic expression.
* Programming that values active individual and collective responsibility by encouraging children to think independently, providing youth with meaningful growth experiences, and offering adults opportunities for the exploration of spiritual, human and environmental ideas and values.
* An effective social action program which increases awareness of and involvement in issues of global and local concern.

The COVENANT of the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship –

Guided by Unitarian Universalist Traditions, Principles and Purposes:

We the members of the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship covenant as a religious community to:

* Create a welcoming environment.
* Respect each person’s unique character and contribution.
* Encourage compassion, reason and responsibility.
* Nurture lifelong spiritual growth.
* Promote social justice for all.
* Foster stewardship in our natural world.

We are therefore committed to the concept and practice of ministering to one another in the spirit of right relations. *(Composed with input from LUF congregation, June 1990.)*

Our WELCOMING CONGREGATION Commitment

LAKEHEAD Unitarian Fellowship is a Welcoming Congregation which means that this Unitarian Universalist community welcomes and celebrates the presence and participation of persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

Following two series of Welcoming Congregation workshops, LUF was recognized as a Welcoming Congregation in 1995, the third congregation in Canada to be certified. At that time the designation did not include transgender persons. In the fall of 2011, a new series of updated workshops was held, and the Board voted to move to renewal of or Welcoming Congregation status. A congregation vote was held in June 2012 to renew our Welcoming Congregation status. LUF is committed to being an inclusive spiritual community.

THE MEANING OF MEMBERSHIP

**Membership in the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship has two aspects:**

1. The formal aspect includes signing a membership application card, having it approved by the Board of Directors, being officially welcomed into the congregation and signing the membership book.

2. The informal aspect is a personal commitment to sharing one's talents, resources, energy, and religious convictions with others within this religious community. It implies also that one is in
fundamental sympathy with the denomination's purposes and principles. Our hope is that both the new members' and the Fellowship's spirits will be nourished by this new relationship.

**What is considered when someone expresses an interest in membership:**

Some newcomers declare "This is the place that I have been looking for" and want to join immediately, and others may take years before becoming formal members. The Membership Committee suggests that newcomers make this decision after a minimum three month period of
attendance/exposure. This will enable prospective members to test their comfort level with the beliefs and spirituality as expressed in this particular UU community. It is also highly recommended that a potential new member attend an orientation meeting before being formally accepted into the Fellowship. It is hoped that this procedure will not dampen the new member's first flush of enthusiasm. Instead it is intended to enable the newcomer to make a well-informed decision.

**Expectations and Privileges of Membership:**

1. A member can speak and vote on matters of church business, and a right to seek membership on all committees including the Board of Directors. A member may also chair a committee.

2. Our bylaws require that to remain a member a person must make a contribution of record in any given year. Since the annual dues paid to denominational organizations amount to about $100, this sum is suggested as a minimum contribution. Of course, if a member is in serious financial difficulties this minimum will be adjusted. There is also an annual financial canvass. The Fellowship's survival and growth depends on a pattern of regular giving to the best of one's ability.

3. Membership provides opportunity for personal growth through involvement in the vibrant life of Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship. Since this is a voluntary organization we count on the talents and energy of members.

4. Membership implies a commitment to deepen and widen one's knowledge of the Basic Beliefs and the Purposes and Principles of this denomination. "Our religious way of life is not so much an arriving as a becoming - an ongoing process of thought and life experience". (UUA pamphlet written by Polly Laughland Guild).

(Adopted by our Fellowship September 2009.)

***CUC Statements of:***

THE PRINCIPLES AND SOURCES OF OUR RELIGIOUS FAITH

Principles

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;
* respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Sources

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

* direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures which move us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create the uphold life;
* words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
* wisdom from the world’s religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
* Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbours as ourselves;
* Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
* spiritual teachings of Earth-centred traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

VISION STATEMENT

**As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice.**

**Seven principles guide our choices. Six sources nourish our spirits.**

### Five aspirations help us grow. **As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we aspire to be:**

1. **Deeply Connected:** We strive to foster healthy relationships amongst and within UU communities, with the broader world and with all life.
2. **Radically Inclusive:** We strive to create hospitable, diverse, multi-generational communities.
3. **Actively Engaged:** We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.
4. **Theologically Alive:** We seek to be ever-evolving in our understanding, open to new knowledge.
5. **Spiritually Grounded:** We seek transformation through personal spiritual experiences and shared ritual.