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CUC National Conference 2020 - Help Decide on the Theme!

CUC conferences are centred around different themes, with the content of programming and worship centred around each theme. In previous years, themes have covered the following areas:

2012 - Ottawa ON: Spiritual Leadership Symposium

2013 - Calgary AB: Diversity: Creating a Shared Understanding

2014 - Montreal QC: Building Beloved CommUUnity: Sacred Spaces Beyond Walls

2015 - Ottawa ON: Seeking Justice in a Changing Land - À la recherche de la justice sur une terre changeante

2016 - Vancouver BC: Bolder Ways of Being - Être et vivre avec plus d'audace

2018 - Hamilton ON: An Invitation to Love and Justice

How is a Theme Chosen?

A number of groups (Program Planning Committee, Host Committee, Board and staff) consider the needs and wishes from congregations, in UU settings, and from conference evaluations. They brainstorm possibilities, which are collected and narrowed down before they are presented for voting in a poll, to a large group of people.

For the 2020 Conference in Halifax, we would like to include even more people in making the theme choice.

2020: Proposed Themes

Two themes are proposed for Conference 2020. These have been carefully culled from dozens of suggestions. An explanation and framework is provided for each option. Which theme speaks to who we are, who we want to be, and how we can impact the world around us?

Option 1: Living Our Aspirations

When the Canadian Unitarian Universalist community named a new vision in 2016, new aspirations were also articulated. How do we live into our Aspirations?

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we aspire to be:

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



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- ***Spiritually Grounded:*** We seek transformation through personal spiritual experiences and shared ritual.

The five aspirations will be woven through the Conference, starting with the Confluence lecture and moving through the Worship, spiritual practice, networking sessions, and congregational development activities. Streams and workshops will address the aspirations, considering how each informs the growth of our movement and how they interrelate in our individual actions and congregational activities. What will it mean to live out or live into our five aspirations? How does creating deeper connections and more diverse communities enhance the way we understand theology and spirituality?

Option 2: Making Waves

The CUC launched its two-year campaign, [The Ripple Effect](#), in February 2019. The campaign focuses on water and its related environmental issues, and invites congregations and individuals to engage and to create ripples.

Going further than this in 2020, how do we intensify the effects and make waves that will challenge the status quo, and have implications for our relevance into the future?

We are called to be a larger, intentionally inclusive community of belonging with adaptive skills and responses to face the challenges of a changing world.

The waves we make should be far-reaching, have impact beyond UU communities, and affect diverse areas of social justice and equity: racial justice; truth, healing and reconciliation; refugee sponsorship; environmental concerns; assisted dying; radical inclusion of LGBTQ2+, differently abled, and marginalized communities; economic and social oppressions; multi-generational engagement, and more.

How To Choose a Theme

Fill out the information [in the survey](#), and you're done! Share widely, and vote by **Sunday, March 17**. Once the final vote is in, we will inform you of the 2020 theme!

Conference Location

Conference 2020 is hosted by the [Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax](#) and will take place at the intimate [University of King's College](#) campus. [CanUUdle](#) (youth con) and [Chorus](#) (young adult con) will take place over the same weekend in Halifax.

Save the date now - **May 15 - 18, 2020**.

Volunteer for the Conference

We are looking for volunteers for specific tasks, both before and during the conference. If you'd like to be part of bringing Conference 2020 to life, [let us know in this survey](#).

Questions or comments about the conference? Email conference@cuc.ca.