



LIVING INTO THE FUTURE: Emergent Sustainability Crew TERMS OF REFERENCE - DRAFT (2) 2023-09

[DRAFT description of LIFES Initiative](#)

Mandate

- The *Living into the Future: Emergent Sustainability* (LIFES) crew is responsible for coordination and implementation of the strategic initiative process aimed at answering the question “**How can the CUC and Canadian Unitarian Universalism be relevant and sustainable into the future?**” and will engage as many perspectives as possible.

Accountability

- The Crew will work with the Executive Director or designate, who is accountable to the CUC Board of Trustees.

Crew members

- The Crew will aim for maximum diversity and consist of up to 10 members, with representatives from CUC Board and staff, ministers, religious educators, musicians, youth, young adults, lay chaplains, and experienced and emerging leaders
- Crew members have to be tech savvy, and comfortable using various online tools; work on this initiative will be done online
- The qualities desired for Crew members include:
 - Can think in larger, longer terms and in radically inclusive ways
 - Interest in larger national focus, beyond congregational walls, ie more than bricks-n-sticks
 - Collaborative
 - Responsive in communications
 - Curious and open to possibilities
 - Learner
 - Excited to explore a range of perspectives
 - Grounded in / inspired by our faith
 - Visionary
 - Ready to think outside the shape
 - Playful, sense of humour
 - Aware and self-reflective
 - Good facilitation skills
 - Active in UUism, locally-nationally-regionally

The Job of the Crew



- The Crew is expected to be active between October, 2023 to January 2025
- During that time, the Crew will:
 - Work with the Executive Director or designate to coordinate and implement a process for engaging with congregations and UUs. This is a generative process and is in development and will be finalized after the Crew is confirmed
 - Create avenues for conversation and input, with the conversations taking place between January - April 2024
 - Organize the information collected
 - Provide an interim update to the Board in April 2024 and to the Annual General Meeting in May 2024
 - Distill the data between April - July 2024
 - Present the completed report to the CUC Board by the end of July 2024

Time commitment

- There will three phases to the work:
 - Phase I: engaging people and collecting information
 - Phase II: distilling and organizing the information
 - Phase III: designing an implementation plan
- It is estimated that between 5-15 hours a month will be necessary for the work involved, depending on the tasks undertaken by each Crew member. Work will peak at specific times and when deadlines approach
- There will be Crew meetings at least once a month, and probably more as tasks emerge
- The range of time for the initiative is estimated to be between October 2023 to January 2025
 - Hours spent on this initiative may be used towards high school community involvement hours

Mode of working

- The Crew will conduct its work online, and use various platforms including Google Drive and Zoom

Crew Leadership

- When the Crew convenes, they will decide on a collaborative leadership style together

Covenanting

- The Crew will create a covenant for working together that will include agreement on decision making and dispute resolution process

Request for expressions of interest for membership:



CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL - CONSEIL UNITARIEN DU CANADA

Growing Vital Religious Communities in Canada

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The CUC Board and Executive Director invite expressions of interest from those with the preferred skill sets, and encourage Indigenous, Black and People of Colour, and people of all abilities, sexual/gender identities and orientations to apply.

If you're interested in this exciting initiative, please send a description of your interests, skills and availability, highlighting those skills and gifts that you would use for the Living into the Future Crew. Please recommend at least two individuals at congregational, regional, or national levels who can speak to your skills and experience.

Please send your expression of interest to future@cuc.ca by October 15, 2023