

STREAM NUMBER	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	FACILITATOR(S)
Stream 1	From 110 Good Ideas to Three Action Projects	Like most Unitarian Universalist congregations, the members of the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton have lots of ideas for great social justice projects. Turning ideas into focused congregational action can be more difficult. In this workshop, facilitators from Hamilton will share their success in doing just that. The congregation invited ideas from everyone including children and youth, respectfully measured more than 100 ideas against opportunities in the community, and ultimately had the congregation decide on a focus through a commitment-based voting system. Workshop participants will walk through the process and come away with a set of tools they can use, singly or together, to develop or strengthen their own social justice work.	Jennifer Kaye, Bill Johnston, Gail Rappolt, First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, ON
Stream 2	1 + 7 = 8: Considering the 8th Principle in the Canadian Context	<p>We have 7 Unitarian Universalist Principles. Why do we need an 8th? This is the question at the heart of the “7+1=8” stream. The 8th Principle, proposed by Black Lives of UU (BIUU) in the US, calls Unitarian Universalists to “accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”</p> <p>Although this principle has its origins in the history and culture of structural racism in the United States, Canada has its own version of this history and culture.</p> <p>The “7+1=8” stream will give us a chance to think about and talk about structural racism as reflected in the lived experience of First Nations peoples and People of Colour in Canada. Scenario-based exercises and dialogue will support our consideration of the 8th Principle as the fuel for our individual and collective racial justice work and the mortar we use to build Beloved Community in our congregations and in the Canadian Unitarian Council.</p>	Beverly Horton, and Reverend Julie Stoneberg. Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough, ON

Stream 3	Truly Welcoming: Trans Folks and Gender Diversity in our Congregations	<p>A Welcoming Congregation is one that engages, as a spiritual practice, in the deepest way possible to intentionally welcome individuals, families, and communities of all sexual orientations and gender identities.</p> <p>This workshop will introduce learners to concepts and issues current in trans and gender-diverse communities in Canada. Through interactive discussion participants will learn about privilege and power and about how to use it to act in solidarity with trans communities. We will learn how to be effective allies and to develop congregations truly welcoming to all.</p> <p>Tools, resources and processes needed to be recertified as a Welcoming Congregation by the CUC will be integrated throughout the workshop.</p>	<p>Monica Bennett, Cole Gately – First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, ON</p> <p>Autumn Getty, author, PFLAG and Hamilton Trans Health Coalition.</p>
Stream 4	Communities of Belonging and Possibility: Dialogue Methods that Reawaken Congregational Life	<p>What if we could transform the way we gather as congregations and committees to discuss and decide what matters?</p> <p>What if we could begin from love and possibility, give everyone in the room a voice, leave meetings more connected, and widen our circles of leadership?</p> <p>This workshop stream will introduce and model next-generation participatory dialogue practices and principles that could help reinvigorate your congregation, make better use of your meeting time, energize your outreach and social justice efforts, and create more of a culture of collaboration and play.</p> <p>This is an experiential workshop day that models the methods it teaches. Participants will leave with many of the tools they need to invite a dialogue session on belonging, social justice or congregational vitality in their home congregation.</p>	<p>Ben Wolfe, Aukje Byker, Todd Barr, Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough</p>

Stream 5	Love and Justice in Support of Our Mental and Emotional Wellbeing	<p>Our dominant cultural narrative funnels an enormous range of human experience into a disease model of “mental illness,” requiring medical and pharmacological treatments. The typical social justice response is to call for more equitable access to these treatments. But what if there are different ways to make sense of and move through these experiences that aren’t being heard in the conversation?</p> <p>We’ll explore diverse understandings of what’s commonly called “mental health,” including personal stories, small group reflection, and various resources for responding to mental, emotional, and spiritual distress. We’ll question the dominant narrative and conventional responses, while also honouring the very real suffering and struggle which so many of us experience. We’ll hold space for not knowing, and explore what it means to work toward healing and justice in our own lives, families, and communities.</p> <p>Bring your strength and vulnerability, your curiosity, your stories and your hope for the future.</p>	<p>Rev. Steven Epperson, Unitarian Church of Vancouver, BC</p> <p>Rev. Carly Gaylor, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Durham, ON</p> <p>Laura Delano, Inner Compass Initiative (ICI) CT, USA</p>
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Stream 6	<p>More than a Hymn Sandwich: Creating Sunday Services Differently</p>	<p>If we want people from a church-phobic culture to notice our brand of spirituality for the 21st century, we may need to recreate our Sunday Service, making it more user friendly and participatory. This does not mean imitating the consumer culture with our spirituality. What it means is leading people through story, music and ritual, differently.</p> <p>Sometimes we forget that our “Sunday Service” is one of our most attended events. It takes place in our largest spaces and consumes a significant amount of paid staff time. It is resource intensive using volunteers in visible and hidden roles. It requires equipment and furniture setup. It is also the place where newcomers are most likely to contact our denomination and our congregation. It is the most extensive and expensive thing we do. It also has the most outreach potential.</p> <p>In approximately three 90 minute modules, we will practice story, use ritual and make music. We will offer ways to contextualize each of these differently. And we will give clear methods about how we might build them into our congregations. Changing a 300 year old formula does not have to be difficult.</p>	<p>Reverend Wayne Walder, Susane Maziarz, and Margaret Evans. Neighbourhood UU Congregation, ON</p>
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Stream 7	<p>Indigenous Perspectives in a Modern World</p>	<p>Stillwater 4d, founded by workshop facilitator, Stephen Paquette, represents the four directions within the medicine wheel. It is that place Indigenous knowledge keepers and Elders speak of, the sacred place within us all which derives from the four directions, representing both unity and diversity, a core principle in all of Stephen's work.</p> <p>In this interactive full-day workshop, Stephen will support participants in engaging that place, allowing knowledge to come not only more freely, but also allowing us to heal. Please note that registration is limited to 30 participants.</p> <p>The CUC's Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide (THRRG) team is happy to sponsor this stream. It is designed to deepen the participant's experience of reconciliation and is intended for those who have been engaged in the work either through the CUC's THRRG materials or other avenues.</p>	<p>Stephen Paquette, the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide (THRRG) team, and guests.</p>
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