CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Winter & Spring 2026 Series

Sessions (each 90 minutes, offered twice):

- Jan 22 & 24 – 2026 Fresh Start
- Feb 19 & 21 – Ministry Updates 2026
- Mar 19 & 21 – Planting, Pruning, & Bearing Fruit
- Apr 16 & 18 – Shifting From Problem to Opportunity

Purpose of This Communications Kit

We know congregational leaders and volunteers are busy.

This kit is designed to make promotion simple, adaptable, and low-effort while keeping the messaging coherent across the country.

You do not need to rewrite anything from scratch.

You are invited to copy, paste, edit lightly, and share.

What's Included for Each Workshop

Each workshop folder contains:

1. Email Template (Congregation → Congregants)
Ready-to-send copy you can adapt for your context.

2. Social Media Post Copy
Short, flexible text for Facebook, Instagram, or eNews.

3. Printable Poster Copy
Clear, bulletin-board friendly messaging for physical spaces.

4. Sunday Service Slide Text
Minimal, announcement-ready language for worship slides.

Each resource is written to:

- Respect volunteer capacity
- Avoid hype or pressure
- Clarify who the session is for
- Make the time commitment clear
- Support participation without obligation

How to Use This Kit

You can:

- Share one workshop at a time
- Promote the entire series at once
- Focus on sessions most relevant to your congregation
- Encourage emerging leaders to participate
- Invite board members or ministry teams specifically

Participation is always an invitation.
Congregations are encouraged to choose what fits their season and capacity.

Email Congregations Can Send

LONG FORMAT:

Subject: Congregational Conversations 2026 – Join Us This Winter & Spring

Dear friends,

Congregational life asks a lot of those who serve — whether on the board, a committee, a ministry team, or in informal leadership roles. Leadership can be deeply meaningful, and sometimes isolating.

This winter and spring, the Canadian Unitarian Council is offering a national series called **Congregational Conversations** — spaces where UU leaders across Canada gather to reflect, connect, and learn together.

Each session is 90 minutes and offered twice (Thursday and Saturday) so you can choose the date that fits your schedule.

Winter & Spring 2026 Sessions

January 22 & 24 – 2026 Fresh Start
A new year invites clarity and intention. What are we hoping to nurture in our congregation? What needs tending? This session offers guided reflection and collective discernment to ground leadership for the year ahead.

February 19 & 21 – Ministry Updates 2026
Shared ministry is evolving. Whether a congregation has settled ministry, is in transition, or is lay-led, this conversation explores emerging models and national trends. Special guest on February 19: Christine Purcell, UUA Congregational Transitions Director.

March 19 & 21 – Planting, Pruning, & Bearing Fruit
Congregations are always making decisions — what to grow, what to sustain, what to release. This session focuses on how we make decisions in ways that support long-term health and vitality.

April 16 & 18 – Shifting From Problem to Opportunity
How might we reframe challenges through a solutions lens? This conversation explores practical tools for moving from scarcity thinking toward possibility and creativity.

Time (All Sessions)

10:00 am PT | 11:00 am MT | 12:00 pm CT | 1:00 pm ET | 2:00 pm AT | 2:30 pm NT
Online via Zoom

Who Should Attend?

- Board members
- Committee chairs
- Ministers and lay leaders
- Emerging leaders
- Anyone engaged in congregational decision-making

You are welcome to attend one session or the full series.

These gatherings are not lectures. They are facilitated spaces for shared reflection and national connection. Leaders from congregations of all sizes participate, bringing practical insight and real questions.

If you are carrying responsibility in our congregation, this may be a meaningful way to feel supported and connected beyond our local context.

Learn more and register here:https://cuc.ca/news/yearly-programming/congregational-life/

If you're unsure whether this is for you, feel free to reach out — we're happy to talk.

BLURB

Subject: Join Congregational Conversations this winter

Congregational Conversations is a national leadership series for UU congregations across Canada.

Four 90-minute sessions offered twice each:

Jan 22 & 24 – Fresh Start
Feb 19 & 21 – Ministry Updates
Mar 19 & 21 – Planting, Pruning, & Bearing Fruit
Apr 16 & 18 – Shifting From Problem to Opportunity

These gatherings offer space for reflection, shared learning, and connection with leaders across Canada.

Choose one or join the full series.

Learn more and register: https://cuc.ca/news/yearly-programming/congregational-life/