



Congregational Photo, June 9, 2019

Summer Services

We offer informal services over the summer, at various venues. Regular Sunday worship services and Religious Exploration classes will resume on September 8, 2019 at Sapperton Pensioners' Hall in New Westminster.

**JUL
14**

**July 14, 10:45 am
Poetry, Prose, Music**

Coordinator: Marilyn Medén

Once again there will be a Poetry, Prose & Music service, with a finger food-pot luck, at the Astoria Retirement Home, 2245 Kelly Ave. Port Coquitlam. Weather permitting, we will be on the patio.

As usual, you are invited, really encouraged, to read from your own writing, or that of others. Please, please let me know as soon as possible what you would like to read, so I can plan "the arc" of the service, [and I know what to add to it myself!] Please

bring your own plate and cup as well as some simple food to share at the end of the service. Coffee and tea are available for a \$1 donation. Contact Marilyn Medén for more information: m.j.meden@telus.net or 604-469-6797.

**AUG
11**

**August 11, 10:30 am
Sunshine, Singing
and Socializing**

Coordinator: Peggy Lunderville

All are welcome to join us for this annual favourite—a morning of singing at the Lunderville's (8892 Armstrong Ave. Burnaby). This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect as a community in the summer as we sing our favourite hymns in worship. Bring musical instruments if you wish to accompany. Potluck to follow. If you have a hymn you wish to see included, please contact Peggy Lunderville ahead of time by telephone or message at 604-812-5939, or email prlunder@gmail.com.

Summer Pastoral and Lay Chaplaincy Support

Between the ending of Rev. Debra's contract and before Rev. Meg Roberts comes back from her August study leave, Beacon's Pastoral Care Team and Lay Chaplain are available to provide you with the care and support you need.

This summer between June 17 and August 25 if you need a pastoral call or visit contact Beth Connelly at pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org or call her at 604-880-3287.

If any Beacon member needs a memorial ceremony or a wedding, or any of the many ceremonies that we can provide, please send a message to our lay chaplain, Sue Sparlin, and she will follow up: ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org or call her at 778-319-7827.

Message from your Ministerial Search Team

As you heard in mid-June, Beacon is welcoming a new minister as of August 1. We're delighted that Meg Roberts will be joining us in shared ministry. Here are some answers to some questions that might be bubbling up for you, followed by a message from our new minister:

1) What is a Congregational Record and what does ours say?

The Congregational Record is an in-depth document that provides detailed information about Beacon (from financials to history to programs that we offer). In this document, we outline the qualities of the minister we seek, and priorities for shared ministry. We sent this information to the UUA where it was made available to ministers-in-search. You may have also seen a shorter version posted on our website.

The information that we provided about Beacon's priorities and the minister that we seek came directly from the congregational conversation that we held in March and the subsequent on-line and e-mail surveys (for those who couldn't attend the conversation).

Our long list of priorities was a tall order and can't all be addressed at once. But we feel that we have found the minister who can support us to

move in the direction that we all decided was important for us.

2) Why a Contract Minister and not an Interim Minister?

Congregations seeking a minister for less than three quarter time aren't eligible for an Interim Minister. We quickly learned that this reality provided Beacon with the best of both worlds. We can hire a contract minister who will focus on transitional support in the first year. (Our new minister will be attending UUA Interim Training to support this direction.) At the same time, because we have hired a contract minister rather than an interim minister, we aren't required to seek a different minister after the one or two year interim period. After the first year, we can change the focus to other priorities, if mutually agreeable to both the congregation and the minister. (Beacon has operated on this year to year contract basis for the past seven years.)

3) Why half time?

Meg's offer was to work half time for Beacon. She proposed a detailed plan for how this could work for us. Drawing on her experience, she can help us prioritize and focus on our passions. She can also help us to identify what we may want to put aside for later. She

will help us look at our Shared Ministry structure so that we can realign where a minister's time is best spent and what work can be picked up by lay leadership. To help us transition to this model Meg has agreed to work some extra hours for September and October. Within this model Beacon could consider paying for a small amount of administrative support.

4) What are the top 5 reasons that we think Meg is an excellent choice for Beacon

- Seventeen years of experience at multiple congregations in Canada enables her to bring a depth of wisdom and a wealth of ideas to all of the situations that Beacon might encounter;
- Chair of *Truth, Healing and Reconciliation* Resource Team for the last five years provides her with a sensitivity to diverse needs and perspectives, and a cultural awareness lens to the work that she does in the community;
- Love of music and the arts
- Kind, thoughtful, exceptional listener
- Encourages us to cry and collects our Kleenex to put on a sacred fire!

—From the Search Team:

David Kristjanson, Carol Woodworth,
Janet Pivnick, Donna Hamilton

A message from our incoming minister Meg Roberts



Iam so pleased to be with you this coming year. During this significant time of transition, I value the opportunity to be on this journey together – learning where you come from, how things are now, and where you want to go (both as individuals and as a congregation). I am inspired by your vision and look forward to discovering ways to embody it together:

Connect with Compassion & Respect

Inspire Learning & Spiritual Growth

Transform through Joy & Justice

I wish you a renewing and enjoyable summer. See you in the fall!

—Rev. Meg Roberts

Board Bitz



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

June started out, as usual, with a fun and exciting weekend at Beacon's annual Sasamat Camp. A great time was had by all. Many thanks to Richard Kwan for all his hard work in organizing the event this year.

The next Sunday we had a huge crowd and many special guests for a service to thank Rev. Debra for her seven years of ministry. Debra was given a beautiful hand turned wooden bowl as a gift from Beacon. One by one we deposited our personal written messages of thanks into that bowl. We

then formed a large circle and passed a heart made of rose quartz from hand to hand, finally passing it to Debra as a final keepsake. Worship Services worked hard on this special service over the last several months, and it was very beautiful and very moving. We had a wonderful celebration downstairs afterwards, with great food and conversation. Thank you to all who made this such a memorable occasion.

Our final service of this church year was on June 16th. It was also our final service with Rev. Debra. We wish her much happiness in her new home in Nanaimo, but we know that we will all miss her very much. Our annual picnic in the park, after the service, gave us a last chance to say our personal goodbyes.

June 14th brought us the exciting announcement that Rev. Meg Roberts would be our new minister in the fall. Meg comes to us with seventeen years of experience and a keen desire to work with Beacon as we enter this new

phase of our journey. We look forward to starting a new shared ministry with Meg in August and hope that you will all join us in welcoming her to our congregation.

Although there are no regular services in the summer, there will be ways to connect with each other over the next few months. There will be a *Poetry, Prose & Music Service* at *The Astoria* in Port Coquitlam on July 14th and a *Singing Service* at the Lundervilles on August 11th. Beacon will also have a booth set up at New West Pride on Saturday August 17th. We will be looking for a few friends to help us set up and to hang around to tell people all about our wonderful community. If you are interested in helping out, please contact David at davidhardy@telus.net. Hope to see you there.

Have a Very Happy Summer.

— David Kristjanson and
Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents
board@beaconunitarian.org

Summer connections

Connections are so important in our church community. At our monthly *Connecting and Membership* meetings we are constantly reminded how many ways you can connect with other Beaconites. For newcomers: Getting to Know U gatherings where those new to the church find out more about Unitarianism and Beacon, volunteering to assist with coffee or greeting on Sunday mornings. The Humanist group, Circle Dinners, Theology Pub, and Book club are other regular happenings. Check out the listings on page 5 for details of groups meeting in the summer.

Over the summer, events where you can connect with Beacon friends will be the summer services in July

and August to be held in Members' homes. See page 1 for details.

Why don't you plan to call a Beacon friend (or reach out to a newcomer) and go for a walk, a picnic, attend a movie together, or attend a summer service? Let us know so we can share your experience in the September newsletter.

Have a great summer Connecting!!

— *The Connecting and Membership Committee: Joan Morris, Phil Campbell, Joyce Gudaitis, Susan Tarras and Donna Hamilton (Circle Dinner Organizer Extraordinaire)*



Joan Morris



Beaconites and New Westminster MLA Judy Darcy at the 2017 New West Pride Festival.

New Westminster Pride Street Festival

Saturday, August 17, 3–8 pm

Come visit the Beacon table on Columbia Street in New West. Sit with us for a while and talk to people who stop with questions. Contact David Kristjanson to volunteer: davidhardy@telus.net.

Living with Less Plastic New West goes to City Hall!

On June 13th the *Less Plastic* team made a presentation to the Environment Advisory Committee of the City of New Westminster. We talked about the Congregation's commitment to reduce single use plastic and our current focus on plastics in the grocery store. Alternatives to plastic were discussed and we made our 'ask'. Our request was to ban single use plastic bags, plastic straws, plastic take-out containers & plastic cutlery. We also asked for Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic clamshells, plastic tubs and plastic wrap.

There were three plastics presentations that evening. Eventually (9:02 pm) the Advisory Committee passed a motion recommending that



Council prioritize an existing Council motion on banning plastic bags & straws, include styrofoam take out containers, and develop a work plan by the end of the 2019 fiscal year.

This was Debra's last official act with the *Living with Less Plastic* team, so it was good to see this phase of the

Living with Less Plastic NEW WEST

work come to fruition. Thank you, Debra for all your support for this project!

And thank you Marilyn, John, Debra, Allison, Madeline (aged 8), Anne & Elizabeth for being part of the delegation!

Do you want to be part of this endeavour?? *The Living with Less Plastic* team can use a couple of additional members to help with our work.

Please consider sharing your skills in this worthwhile area! Call Teresa (778.855.1704) or email lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com to get started.

—Teresa Morton

P.S. Peggy says, 'Who knew that it could be so easy!' To reduce plastics use, that is. Peggy takes her reusable bags to grocery shop and gets the meat counter at Safeway to wrap her meat in paper, thus avoiding the Styrofoam tray.



Teresa Morton



Settlement 2 NEWS FLASH! July 4th arrival!

Get your Criminal Record Check done in advance

We've heard that the rest of our refugee family will be arriving on July 4!! Mark your calendars now, so we can meet them at the airport (details to come).

Some time ago, many people said that they would help with this new addition to the family—the two sons, one with a wife, the other with a young child. **If you can help with some of the many tasks, you will need a criminal record check.**

You will need a letter from Beacon in order to get the criminal record check for volunteers. You can do it online in New Westminster, but only in person in Burnaby or Coquitlam. In Burnaby and Coquitlam it is still free for volunteers, but it now costs \$20.00 in New Westminster. If it is done online the letter will have to be scanned and attached to the application.

Keep your receipt and Beacon will reimburse you. If you would like an email letter, please contact David Kristjanson (davidhardy@telus.net), Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net) or Peggy Lunderville (prlunder@gmail.com).

—Peggy Lunderville

Beacon Programs

We invite you to explore these great ways to connect to the Beacon community and yourself!

The Humanist Discussion Group

meets the last Sunday of the month, 7:30 pm at *The Astoria Retirement Home* (2245 Kelly Avenue, Port Coquitlam) to discuss a wide range of current topics. Please contact Marilyn Medén if you would like any further details, m.j.meden@telus.net. Meetings will resume on Sept. 29th.

Lunch Bunch meets every Thursday at noon, year-round. Bring your own lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact Anne MacLeod at 604-524-2434.

Join the Beacon Choir for musical fun and skill development. Choir rehearsals will resume in September on Monday evenings, at 7:30 pm, at Miller Park School. Contact choir-director@beaconunitarian.org. All voices welcome!

Attend a 'Getting to Know U' session to meet other newcomers and deepen your knowledge of how Beacon functions and what Unitarianism is. Please contact Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net) if you are interested in attending the next meeting.

Book Club meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm. For meeting location details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net.

**Thursday, July 25
7 pm**

The Little Prince

by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
Discussion Leader: Marilyn Medén
An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life. (BPL)



Wrap-up Potluck Dinner

All ages, everyone welcome!

Saturday, July 6, 4–4:30 pm for appies and playtime, eat by 5:30 pm. At Beth Connelly's common room at Cranberry Commons, 4272 Albert Street, Burnaby. More info will be sent out by email closer to the time, or contact Beth Connelly (betcon42@gmail.com)

Attend a Circle Dinner and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For more information contact Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net) or Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net).

Help out on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Host contact Joyce Gudaitis (joyceg@asrsoft.com), **or sign-up as**

a Sunday Morning Greeter (contact Susan Tarras, starras@telus.net).

Youth Group: Contact Ashley Cole, dre@beaconunitarian.org, for more information.

Settlement 2: The Settlement 2 task force is organizing the sponsorship of four further members of the Al Rbaai family. Please contact Peggy Lunderville for meeting times and dates: prlunder@gmail.com. All are welcome.



Beacon Theology Pub

Talks have been based on our Beacon themes for each month. July and August could be different, when Beacon won't have regular services. Maybe we'll decide to meet in a different location, maybe weekly, depending on interest and other planned Beacon activities. Contact Franci Louann at flouann@telus.net or 604-837-7613 to express interest.

Happy Summer!

—Franci Louann

Summer Self-care

Laura Redmond is studying energy healing techniques and is offering free treatments to gain experience and deepen in her knowledge of this field. Contact lauraredmond2@telus.net to set up a free treatment or for more information.



Potluck and *Out in Harmony* Concert: June 29th, 6 pm

Presented by Unitarian Church of Vancouver Genders and Sexualities Alliance (GSA) June 29th: Potluck 6:00–7:15 pm; Concert 7:30 pm. Tickets available at the door. For potluck RSVP gsaucv@gmail.com so we can plan space.



Answering the Call of Love: Building Community through Song with Rev. Jason Shelton

September 27–29, 2019, Unitarian Church of Vancouver

Cost: \$65 (register before Sept. 15 for a \$15 discount)

Saturday lunch available if pre-ordered for \$10* (*There will be a vegetarian option but we are not able to accommodate special diets.)

Jason Shelton is a dynamic and inspiring UU minister, musician and consultant. Join us for this exciting workshop! Rediscover musical treasures from our hymnals; share new Jason Shelton repertoire; sing as part of the workshop choir during the Sunday morning service at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver; and hear Jason's perspectives on creating a truly welcoming community and developing an authentic UU musical repertoire

Registration is now available in two ways:

1. Print out the registration form from the church website (vancouverunitarians.ca) and return it to the church office (there are also registration forms available in the office.)

2. Register at [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca). Please note that this involves a service fee of about \$5. Visit [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) and search "Jason Shelton" and "Vancouver".

Open to anyone who loves to sing! For more information check the UCV website (vancouverunitarians.ca) or email Donna Brown (quinnbrown44@gmail.com).

The Rev. Jason Shelton served as Associate Minister for Music at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville from 1998–2017. In addition to Jason's work as a com-



poser (The Fire of Commitment, Answering the Call of Love, Life Calls Us On, and many more!), he is an active choral conductor and worship leader, and an advocate for using music as a means of creating community in multi-faith, multi-cultural environments. Formerly a Franciscan brother, Jason received an MDiv from Vanderbilt Divinity School in 2003 and was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist ministry in 2004.



Do you wish that you experienced your participation in your congregation as an expression of ministry, not primarily an obligation to do your part?

We invite you to a weekend to explore where you find the “springs” which fill your life’s well of energy, and how you can live out of that rich resource. There will be opportunities to connect with and be informed by other UUs, times, to engage with others as we learn new and hone familiar strategies, and space to do deep reflection,

Serving with Spirit: Nurturing UU Leaders

tion, identifying and strengthening the rich practice potential in your own life.

Returning to your home communities with a stronger network, you will have a fresh perspective from which to re-engage personally along with some rejuvenating ideas to explore with your congregation as you seek to deepen a shared experience.

Quotes from participants at the Serving with Spirit: Nurturing UU Leaders Retreats 2017

“An absolutely wonderful weekend. It was uplifting from the very first moment. There was lots of deep sharing, clarity, discussion, as well as laughter & tears – & singing. I have the sense that everyone was ready to share – some were tentative at first, however, no one felt forced. Under the gentle guidance of Linda and Peter, we moved at an appropriate pace. A wonderful experience.”

“I enjoyed the quiet and respectful atmosphere, and found the group discussions enlightening. This was the first time I’ve heard so many other UUs speak about their faith, and the diversity, although expected, still amazed me. And yet we found commonality and appreciation of each other.”

Time: Fri., Aug. 9 to Sun., Aug. 11

Place: Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton

Registration deadline: Thursday, July 10, 2019

Leaders: Rev. Christopher Wulff and Rev. Anne Barker

Cost: \$400 (includes program supplies, accommodation, and meals)

For more information and to register:
<https://cuc.ca/events/serving-with-spirit-west-2019/1565355600/1565528400/>

To inquire about Beacon financial support, contact: board@beaconunitarian.org

Minister Sees Opportunities in Congregational Collaboration

Central East region of the Unitarian Universalist Association, [Rev. Joan Van Becelaere](#) has worked with congregations large and small, but they’ve all had one thing in common: the opportunity to benefit from collaboration. Collaboration will be the focus of Van Becelaere’s one day online and in-person workshop “Serving With Spirit: Stronger Together, Planning for Partnership”, because she believes it’s not just an opportunity for congregations today, but a necessity.

“The truth of the matter is if we don’t collaborate and cooperate with each other, then we’re going to be suffering,” she says. “We’re not going to be able to meet people with what they need, we’re not going to be able

to maintain a stable congregational number, let alone grow.”

Van Becelaere doesn’t claim that collaborating with other congregations is a panacea for growth. But every congregation, she believes, has things they can both learn from and teach other congregations. Although the need to collaborate might seem more evident with smaller congregations, she believes members of larger ones will also benefit from the workshop by mutual learning and sharing.

“They have resources that they could share with the smaller ones,” she says. “Everybody’s got a strength – they will find that they’re surprised by what the smaller ones can share with them. Every church has a strength or else it wouldn’t exist.”

The workshop will lead participants through a process of determining their congregations’ strengths and weaknesses, looking at areas where they imagine collaboration would be helpful and then discussing the details of how this would work in practice. Van Becelaere has seen congregations share knowledge with each other as well as more practical things such as sheet music, bookkeeping services, and even bulk ordering toilet paper. The possibilities for collaboration, she believes, are virtually endless.

“Every group is different, every need, every situation is different,” she says. “There are no formulas for this”. Register at <https://cuc.ca/events/serving-with-spirit-stronger-together-planning-for-partnership-1-day-workshop-2019/>

UU Islands Network Summer Camp

August 9–11

Precious Connections – with nature, with ourselves, and with each other

There's a barbecue, an ingathering, tons of games, a variety show and family dance, campfire songs, waterfront yoga, youth and children's programs, adult programming on "Connecting with Our Inner Wisdom" or "Writing as a Spiritual Journey," Sunday morning worship and so much more... See the draft schedule. In



case weather affects outdoor activities, alternative in-door activities are being planned. Great opportunities to meet new people as well as old friends and develop precious connections. Invite friends and family to join you!

At beautiful Camp Pringle on

Shawnigan Lake: <http://www.camp-pringle.com/about/>

There will be food option for vegans as well as omnivores.

Register or find out more details at: <http://viuc.unitariancongregation.org/summer-camp/>



Gathered Here is a new monthly online check-in for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults.

Join other UU 18–35 year-olds on Zoom (a video-conferencing platform) for sharing of joys and concerns, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process current events with a spiritually grounded community.

Young adulthood can be a time of upheaval and transition and many of us struggle to maintain and build connections in the places we find ourselves physically.

While there is no substitute for in-person community, we hope that the opportunity to connect online with other young UUs will be a reminder to you that you're not alone. It's also a chance to reconnect with friends who live far away, and witness and celebrate the ups and downs of our lives alongside each other.

These are drop-in style gatherings, so you don't need to sign up in advance. On the days you want to attend, just get comfy with your internet box, sign in at the scheduled time, and bring your whole self for the hour and a quarter.

Gathered Here will generally take place on the second Monday evening of each month at 5 pm PT; 6 pm MT; 7 pm CT; 8 pm ET; and 9 pm AT

Summer: July 8 and August 12

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1894212357364432/>

www.beaconunitarian.org
info@beaconunitarian.org



Beacon Unitarian Church

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Contract

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Rev. Meg Roberts
minister@beaconunitarian.org

Lay Chaplain:

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ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org

Choir Director:

Sylvia McDonald
choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org

Board Executive:

Co-Presidents:
David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton;

Treasurer: Heather

Brown; **Secretary:**

Janet Pivnick;

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Deadline for article submissions is the

15th of the month, for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.