



# UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF NIAGARA

223 Church Street  
St. Catharines, ON L2R 3E8  
905-687-8433

## 2011 Annual General Meeting

February 20, 2011

### AGENDA

Welcome

Opening Words

Chalice Lighting

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of Minutes of 2010 Annual General Meeting**
3. **President's Message**
4. **Committee Reports**
5. **Nominating Committee Report**
6. **Congregational Approval of Nominees**
7. **Treasurer's Report**
8. **Operating Budget Report 2011**
9. **New Business:**
  - a) Motions from the Floor

Closing Words

Adjournment

<b>REPORTS.</b>	<b>Pg. #</b>
Minutes.....	2
President's Report.....	6
<b>Committee Reports.</b>	
Choir/Music Report.....	19
Communications/Website.....	18
Denominational Affairs.....	9
Film and Book Club.....	14
Lay Chaplaincy Committee.....	7
Membership.....	9
Newsletter.....	15
Nominating Committee.....	21
Pastoral Care.....	Inactive
Program.....	8
Property.....	20
Religious Education.....	14
Rental Agent's Report.....	11
Sexual and Gender Diversity.....	12
Social Action.....	16 & 27
Social Committee.....	10
Special Events.....	14
Trustees' Report.....	22
Treasurer's Report.....	23
Financial Statements.....	25
Budget.....	24

*We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions in the compilation of these reports.*

Minutes of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara  
Annual General Meeting

Held on February 7, 2010

President Michael Petrocci welcomed the congregation with opening words and the chalice lighting, assisted by Valerie Jaeger.

The meeting was attended by 26 members and proxy was given by 5 members who could not attend, totalling 31. Current membership is 59, so a quorum would be 38.

***"Correction: A quorum is 1/3 of the congregation for all but special circumstances described in Bylaw 3.5; so for this meeting, we needed only 20 members."***

1. The meeting was called to order at 11:13 a.m.
2. Announcements: Andrea Gravelle re: Council of Women lecture on Nanotechnology; John Northover re: locking doors and care of floor.
3. Minutes of the 2009 AGM

Motion # 1: John Storm moved that the minutes of the 2009 AGM be accepted as written.\* Seconded by Marie Belliveau. Motion carried.

\*Note: A correction was brought to the secretary's attention after the meeting. On p. 2, under Motion #7, A. "Andrea Gravelle would like the Trustees to get a monthly report from the bank on the Endowment Fund." Change Endowment Fund to Trustees' Fund.

4. President's Message: Michael reported that a new acoustic piano has been purchased from Lowrey's as well as a Roland electronic piano, the cost for both totalling \$13,000. The price includes moving out the old piano, tuning the new piano, and a damp chaser; the new pianos will arrive on Thursday, February 11. Michael thanked the congregation for its generosity for Haiti relief and read a message from John Mayer, incoming president. Penny Blake expressed her thanks for the new pianos. Andrea Gravelle pointed out that since the meeting did not have a quorum, no resolutions could actually be passed. However, any resolutions discussed could be passed later with a quorum.
5. Reports of Committees:
  - A. Lay Chaplain Reports: Submitted by Julianne Momirov, Valerie Jaeger, and Ed Gilbert

Motion #2: Doreen Peever moved acceptance of the reports, seconded by Marie Belliveau, carried.

- B. Pastoral Care Report: Submitted by Jenny Leach

Motion #3: Roy Blake moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Joan Wiley, carried.

- C. Social Action Report: Submitted by Marie Belliveau. Marie commented that she had not been informed of all Social Action expenditures initiated by the board.

Motion # 4: Julianne Momirov moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Jim Glassford, carried.

- D. Adult Religious Education Program Report: Submitted by Joan Rothman and Marie Belliveau. Joan added to the report: “Another aspect of this committee’s program is the Book Club, which meets every two months.

Motion # 5: Marie Belliveau moved acceptance of the report with the above addition, seconded by Andrea Gravelle, carried.

- E. Babysitting Committee Report: Submitted by Marie Belliveau

Motion # 6: Barbara Bennett moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Carl Beckett, carried.

- F. Social Committee Report: Submitted by Hilde Wheeler

Motion # 7: Kevin Jacobi moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Julianne Momirov, carried.

- G. Special Events Committee Report: Submitted by Rhonda Armstrong

Motion #8: Penny Blake moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Joan Wiley, carried.

- H. Choir/Music Report: Submitted by Penny Blake. Penny is planning a summer workshop on “alternate” hymns.

Motion # 9: Valerie Jaeger moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Rhonda Armstrong, carried.

- I. Communications/Website Report: Submitted by Bruce Millar. Joan Rothman suggested that board minutes be given to Merrilee for posting at the back of the church. Anita Miecznikowski mentioned that the minutes binder at the back of the church had disappeared. Roy suggested that the point “ Implemented a wireless printer...” be altered with the deletion of “wireless”. Michael thanked Bruce and his team for all their work.

Motion #10: Kevin Jacobi moved acceptance of the report with above change, seconded by Alan Wheeler, carried.

- J. Newsletter Report: Submitted by Sofa Vuorinen

Motion #11: Valerie Jaeger moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Marie Belliveau, carried.

- K. Rental Agent's Report: Submitted by John Northover. The income from rental properties was \$9029, a substantial increase over past years.

Motion #12: Judith Barker moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Hilde Wheeler, carried.

- L. Property Care & Maintenance Report: Submitted by Peter Skelton.

Motion #13: Adolf Miecznikowski moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Lisa Laughton, carried.

- M. Sexual and Gender Diversity Committee: Submitted by Joan Wiley.

Motion # 14: Doreen Peever moved acceptance of the report, seconded by John Northover, carried.

- N. Program Committee: Submitted by Julianne Momirov.

Motion #15: Kaye Grampola moved acceptance of the report, seconded by John Northover, carried.

- O. Membership Report: Submitted by Jim Glassford. Jim corrected the membership number from 58 to 59.

Motion #16: Adolf Miecznikowski moved acceptance of the report with the correction to the number of members, seconded by Andrea Gravelle, carried.

- P. Nominating Committee: Submitted by Michael Petrocci. The Committee presented a slate of officers for the 2010-2011 term. The Pastoral Care Committee still needs a chair.

Motion # 17: Doreen Peever moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Adolf Miecznikowski, carried.

- 6. Trustees' Report: Submitted by Andrea Gravelle, J. Wilson, Don Herne.

Motion # 18: Valerie moved acceptance of the report, seconded by Carl Beckett, carried.

- 7. Treasurer's Report: Submitted by Carl Beckett.

Andrea Gravelle pointed out that bylaws state members of the church cannot be paid for services, so perhaps the mail pickup costs can be given as an honorarium. Valerie suggested that the new board look at this issue.

Property Care: Floor Refinishing is \$3910 in P&L but only \$3900 in opening notes, should be \$3910 in both.

Carl thanked John Northover, Andrea Gravelle and Doreen Peever for their assistance.

Two budgets were discussed: A normal budget and a social action budget.

Motion #19: Kevin Jacobi moved that the social action budget be adopted, but with the percentage of increase set at 5%, seconded by Barbara Bennett, carried.

Andrea Gravelle suggested that Endowment Funds could help pay for pianos. Carl Beckett will assess how to proceed.

8. UCN Board Response Group Report on the Ad Hoc CUC Relations Committee: Michael mentioned that the Board report was available for interested members.
9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2010

It is a pleasure to report after my year in the Presidency that from my perspective we have had a very successful year. First of all this is due to a very supportive and efficient Board, to whom I herewith give thanks. The principal joy has been that subsequent to last year's AGM, where you voted to increase our Social Justice and Outreach spending from the traditional (for us) 5% to 16% . This enabled us to support in addition to our usual recipients (RAFT, USC, etc.), Child Haven (the Cappuccino's Asian child care program), UU/UN, the local Harvest Festival, Haiti, and the education of girls in Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as the Guatemalan Stove Project.

We have been able to have our denomination represented in Brock University's Campus Ministry program through the Ecumenical Chaplain Dr. David Galston, previously sponsored by the United Church of Canada, the Anglicans and the Presbyterians. The previous committee has accepted us as cosponsors at a relatively low rate, and have added Doreen Peever to their supervisory committee, which meets once a month. While we have not yet received support from the CUC for this project, we are awaiting the response to our request. As is traditional for us, we have paid our full share of the CUC fees.

We have spent considerable money in removing the mulberry tree that was causing unhappiness to our next door neighbours, the St. John Ambulance, because of the fruit dropping on their walkway and vehicles. They participated in the cost of removal, and being a good neighbour is part of our civic responsibility.

Carl Beckett has very generously spent much time most effectively managing the church finances and helping greatly with the Pledge Drive to raise the funds for 2011. John Northover has handled a very successful and rewarding rental program, Marie Belliveau has worked hard on various Social Justice projects, and we have increased our role in the Out of the Cold program thanks to Hilde Wheeler. We very much appreciate Penny Blake's success in developing the choral program. I offer my special thanks to Sofia Vuorinen for her editorship of the Newsletter, to Peter Skelton for taking care of the church and to Roy Blake for his electronic wizardry. We lost George Spencer, a former President, but welcomed new members. Our Sunday programs have been most successful, and the Lay Chaplains serve our outreach needs very well. All of you are thanked for your support, and asked to keep up the good work!

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Mayer, President*

## LAY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE REPORT

This committee consisted this year of the three Lay Chaplains: Ed Gilbert, Julianne Momirov and Valerie Jaeger, Marie Belliveau and myself. We had three meetings during the year. The first mainly to fill me in on the details of the LCC, the second in response to a request by the Board to sort out if a change in the Chaplaincy contract would necessitate a change in the Bylaws, which it does NOT. We added a minor clause in the contract.

All year we have been trying to find a system that deals efficiently and fairly with incoming phone calls to the Church with (wedding) requests. Frequently people are just "shopping around" and phone a whole list of possible churches. We had 24 requests to deal with weddings during the year. Eight of those phone calls came to fruition. So our third meeting was to fine-tune once again our procedure on how to deal with these phone calls promptly.

Ed Gilbert is now the person who checks on the phone calls coming in to the Church, so this will be very helpful to make the response time quicker, since he will know where to direct this call to.

I thank the whole committee for their willing co-operation and patience, and of course, for the fantastic work the Lay Chaplains do.

As a special mention: Ed Gilbert did a wonderfully suitable Memorial Service for George Spencer, who was a past President. George was vividly present in our memories during the service. That was a great gift to all who knew him.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jenny Leach*

I performed *five weddings, and the funeral of George Spencer* a past President of UCN for which there was no charge.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Ed Gilbert, Lay Chaplain.*

I was privileged to continue as a Lay Chaplain for the congregation this past year and to work with Ed and Julianne. I officiated at seven weddings and one memorial service. Lay chaplaincy remains a wonderful method of outreach and service to our community and I am grateful to our committee members, Jenny and Marie, for enabling us to perform this function.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Jaeger, Lay Chaplain*

Over the past year I performed five weddings, two of which have been same-sex couples from the local area. I also performed a renewal of vows ceremony for my friend's parents' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. I did not charge a fee for this ceremony as it was my gift to the couple.

I have not had the opportunity to perform any other rite of passage this year. Also I have also not had the opportunity to attend any chaplaincy training sessions.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Julianne Momirov*

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2010**

The Program Committee this year was Valerie Jaeger, Judith Barker and Sandra Watson. We are grateful for the guidance of Julianne Momirov in the change over from her leadership. We are also grateful to Julianne and other members of this congregation who crafted quality services for us throughout the year. The committee aimed for a balance of theological standpoints and experimented with the theme of "Sacred Spaces" this year. As always, it is a struggle to get ordained UU speakers to lead services in Niagara and the committee feels that this is a gap in the program which the committee will attempt to close next year.

Increased participation from congregational members in the form of service leading would be greatly appreciated, as would suggestions for speakers for next year. Huge thanks to Karen Johnson for joining our ranks.

The Program Committee operated well within its budget.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie Jaeger*

## **2010 MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Attendance has been holding steady this year. Some of our services have been very well attended. Our present number of members stands at 58. This is down 2 from last year.

A break down of numbers is as follows:

2 have left the congregation.

3 have changed from members to Friends of the Church

3 have joined the congregation.

Two of our former members died this year: George Spencer and Grant Thompson

Doreen Peever has been a big help in welcoming visitors, giving out name tags, and using her beautiful penmanship in the name tags and books on Unitarianism given to new members.

A Directory of Members and Friends of the Church was given out and kept up to date by additions and deletions written in the monthly newsletter. Thanks to all those who do the Fan-Out telephoning when necessary.

New booklets were purchased for the Building Your Own Theology - Part 1 which is being started in late January through to March, 2011. Perhaps, in the future, booklets could be purchased for Building Your Own Theology – Part 2 and be given next winter.

Thanks to all those who take the time to talk to and welcome visitors to our Church.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jim Glassford, Membership Co-ordinator*

## **DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS REPORT**

Carl Beckett and Peter Skelton were our delegates to the Canadian Unitarian Council AGM in Victoria in May, and presented a summer service.

Ed Gilbert attended CUC School in Hamilton in July.

John Mayer, Jon Stahl and Ed Gilbert were delegates to the southern Ontario conference in Waterloo in the fall 2010.

The Board of Directors handled any dealings with the CUC.

Thanks to Joan Rothman and Mike Petrocci for attending Board meetings.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Merelie Scott-Armstrong*

## **SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2010**

- Many thanks to the members of the Social Committee, which included Jenny Leach, Sandra Watson, Alan and Hilde Wheeler.
- Coffee mornings continued to be hosted in the UU tradition.
- Again this year, we were the beneficiaries of our own generosity and fortunate that the voluntary contributions from congregation members and guests covered the expenses for the coffee/tea mornings as well as for the special monthly lunches.
- Special monthly lunches were again provided either as a Salad day, Soupalicious day, or as a Sandwich Day.
- In January a special Curry Lunch was prepared from the over abundance of food from the catered Pledge Dinner in December 2009.
- A special Lunch (Potato Bar) was prepared in April as a fund raising event for the annual USC drive and a cheque of \$124.00 was given to USC from the lunch profits.
- The monthly special lunches have been evolving into more than just a lunch. They seem to be an extension of congregational fellowship, goodwill, interesting conversations with an opportunity to get to know one another and giving us an opportunity to continue interaction and reflection with the day's speaker.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Hilde Wheeler*

## RENTAL AGENT'S REPORT FOR 2010

The church rental program for 2010 was busy and financially very successful. Income increased to \$11,622, a rise of 29% over the previous year. Burt Peeters' yoga program was the largest source of income. The Niagara Dance Company increased the number of rehearsals, but now they have lost their funding from the City of St. Catharines for Tuesday evenings. However, they have reserved Sunday afternoons at the church from Jan 9th until May15 in 2011. Our neighbours, the St. John Council (St. John Ambulance), were regular users of the sanctuary on Thursday evenings during the Fall to Spring months for both their continuing adult training and recertification programs and their cadet program for girls and boys. Our UCN Buddhists who meet on Sunday evenings have generously contributed to cover the maintenance and heating costs of the church.

<u>Source of Income / Year</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Yoga Unlimited	5,120	5,040	4,894	4,481
Niagara Dance Company	3,305	2,560	1,175	1,750
St John Council (Ambulance)	1,500	600	0	0
Niagara Action for Animals	540	264	536	520
Weddings, memorials	208 (5)	195 (2)	0	185 (2)
UCN Buddhists	490	0	0	0
Buddhists.. Other	55	240	370	0
Council of Canadians	0	60	200	105
Families of Children from China...	50	35	55	41
PFLAG and Transparent	100	0	0	100 ('06)
Niagara Secular Humanists	33	35	35	0
Craft Fair, concerts	0	0	404	?
Student recitals, etc.	221	0	0	80
Rental Agent's documented income	<b><u>\$11,622</u></b>	<b><u>\$9,029</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,265</u></b>	<b><u>\$7,666</u></b>

*Respectfully submitted by John Northover for the February 2011 AGM*

# THE SEXUAL AND GENDER DIVERSITY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2010

## Celebrating diversity in 2010

The Sexual and Gender Diversity Committee (SGDC) is committed to complying with its mission statement, which is as follows:

*The Sexual and Gender Diversity Committee seeks to uphold Unitarian Universalist principles in order to assist and support the safe and equitable inclusion of sexual and gender minorities and their supporters in the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara by offering education, representation and community outreach.*

- The members of the SGDC are Ed Gilbert, Doreen Peever, Marie Belliveau, Sarah Draper, Chris Wiley and Joan Wiley (chair). Chris and Sarah were invited to join the team in the fall of 2010 in an effort to gain additional perspectives regarding the lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) community. Following are some of the activities in which we represented our congregation in 2010:
- Three films were shown during the year that focused on the LGBTQI community. “And the Band Played On” was an account of the early years of the HIV-AIDS crisis and its impact on the San Francisco gay community. “Ma Vie en Rose” was a sub-titled film about a very young little boy who identified as a little girl. “Brokeback Mountain” was a movie, nominated for the Best Picture award in 2006, which portrayed the intimate relationship between two cowboys.
- Ed and Marie represented UCN at the annual Toronto Pride Parade in July. Joan and Sarah marched with PFLAG St. Catharines, an organization supported by our congregation, and Joan volunteered at the PFLAG Canada information booth and participated in the second annual Transgender Pride march.
- Ed, Sarah and Joan attended an anti-bullying rally at St. Catharines city hall that was held in the fall in response to the high-profile suicides of young LGBTQI persons. Joan spoke at the rally.
- Marie and Ed attended the annual AIDS Niagara vigil; Joan and Marie also participated in the annual AIDS Niagara fundraising march. Marie is also immediate past chair of AIDS Niagara.
- In the spring, Joan delivered an address to UCN entitled “Celebrating the T in LGBTQ: One Family’s Sacred Journey.” It was the same presentation that won an international competition in 2009 for UU sermons that focus on LGBTQ issues.
- Doreen Peever continues to represent UCN at the PFLAG St. Catharines chapter; she is secretary.

- A donation was made in December to Niagara Pride Support Services to support the activities of Rainbow Youth Niagara.
- UCN was the host facility for the well-attended annual winter solstice service that was organized by PFLAG St. Catharines, TransParent and Transgender Niagara.
- Members of the SGDC supported or were active in one or more LGBTQI-related organizations and activities in 2010: PFLAG St. Catharines; PFLAG Canada; AIDS Niagara; OUTniagara; TransParent Canada; Brock Pride; Positive Space at Brock University; Justice at Brock; Transgender Niagara; the Regional Municipality of Niagara Public Health Advisory Committee on Issues of Gender Identification and Sexual Orientation; Niagara Pride Support Services; Canadian Cancer Society Relay for Life (Brock University) and the CCS LGBTQ Relay for Life in Niagara Falls.
- Joan received two awards in 2010 in recognition of her volunteer work in the LGBTQ community: The Ed Eldred Volunteer of the Year Award from Pride in Niagara and the Adult Volunteer of the Year from Niagara Pride Support Services. The organization she founded, TransParent Canada, also was approved by the board of directors of national PFLAG Canada as an official affiliate organization.

Some of SGDC's plans for 2011:

We are exploring the possibility of offering Part 2 of the Welcoming Congregation curriculum, which builds on the knowledge and insights that congregation members gained in 2008 from Part 1.

- Joan, at the direction of the committee, will meet with Rainbow Niagara youth to discuss how UCN may better support them, both in outreach and as a church.
- SGDC will explore further how to take advantage of social media trends to let the LGBTQI community know that UCN is an inclusive and supportive church.
- The SGDC hopes to have a presence at the Queer Without Fear event at Brock University in March this year. The event will position UCN as a church of acceptance and inclusiveness.
- It is hoped that we'll once again have a presence at the Pride festivities in Toronto and Niagara, including the flag-raising at St. Catharines city hall.
- Individual members of the SGDC will continue to participate in LGBTQI-related events in and outside of Niagara.

As always, the SGDC welcomes all suggestions from the congregation about how to better serve the sexual- and gender-diverse community.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Wiley*

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2010**

The Religious Education Committee did not offer any short term workshops in 2010, but in early 2011, Jim Glassford will give a workshop on ‘Developing Your Own Theology’.

The Committee’s efforts to encourage parents with young children to attend our Sunday meetings have not met with much success despite our advertizing that we have separate accommodation and a caregiver for young children. The caregiver has been Sandra Beckett, who has been coming regularly. However, as she has not been called upon to take care of children, she has joined our church choir, but she will continue to be available as needed to take care of young visitors.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marie Belliveau and Joan Rothman*

## **FILM NIGHT AND BOOK CLUB REPORT FOR 2010**

During the past year, the Film Night has continued to meet monthly in the sanctuary on Friday evenings, and the Book Club has met on a bimonthly basis in members’ homes. Both of these group meetings are a combination of a discussion of the current film or book followed by a social gathering with light refreshments.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Marie Belliveau and Joan Rothman*

## **SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE, 2010**

The Special Events Committee is small, really a sub-committee of the Social Committee. Normally it is responsible for only two events and this year was no exception.

The annual pot luck picnic was held in June at Queenston Heights. This year we were joined by a group of Niagara Secular Humanists.

The annual pledge dinner, attended by thirty-six people, was held on December 4. It was catered by Classic Caterers, with music provided by John Kukoli and Joy Edwards of Celtic Country. My thanks to Andrea Gravelle, Joan Rothman and John Northover for their invaluable help in setting up. Thanks also to John for suggesting the musicians and to Penny Blake for contacting them.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Rhonda Armstrong*

## THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT FOR 2010

The Newsletter for our Congregation comes out once a month and generally it is published at the end of the month. When I was asked by Doreen Peever, our lay chaplain at the time to be the Newsletter editor of our Unitarian Congregation of Niagara, she suggested that it would be a good idea to interview different members of our Congregation at the time and publish it under a front page feature called "Who Are We?" This has been a very important factor that helps us to get to know other members of our Congregation and make possible links with our general concerns and works in which we are involved. I generally interview people and ask them where they are coming from, where they are at present and where they hope to be going in the future.

This has been the most enjoyable aspect of being the Newsletter editor and so many of our members have commented on how important and enjoyable this article is so that they can link up with other "like-minded" people, their concerns and what they are doing about this. What attracted me to become a member of this Congregation was that so many of the people here are involved with social justice issues. This has been a significant part of my life. I was the chair of Worldwise International Centre for many years, a CIDA funded organization whose focus was to educate Canadians about social justice issues. I was on Brock Radio for eight years interviewing people for an hour every week concerning social justice issues.

I have been told many times how much people like our Newsletter and its content. I cannot state how positive this experience has been working with Darcy Ewanchuk, who does the layout and has "saved my bacon" many times. Working on the Newsletter with Darcy has become one of the most enjoyable and significant aspects of my life as well as being a member of this Congregation. This is OUR Newsletter and please forward anything that you want to share with the Congregation to Darcy and myself a week before its publication.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Sofia Vuorinen*

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Social Action Committee has been a committee of one person but I am informed that others are interested and this assistance will be gratefully accepted for the year's activities to come. I look forward to working with anyone interested in Social Justice/Action.

Social Action updates the web page periodically with current issues and events in social justice occurring in the Niagara Region as they occur. Items of interest are forwarded to be added to the page and as always any ideas/articles would be welcomed to add to the page.

As a member of the Social Action Committee I sit on the Sexual and Gender Diversity Committee as Secretary and have been active again this year. (See SGDC Report). At this time I am on leave due to a change in meeting nights and my commitments at work, hopefully this will change soon and I or another member of the our committee will be able to attend.

Social Action is the host for the UCN Night at the Movies which runs the 3rd Friday of each month (except for occasional lapses). This event brings members of the Congregation and visitors together in an informal way to enjoy and discuss social issues portrayed in film. This is a free service to the Congregation and we hope more people will take advantage of it but this seems to be faltering in popularity lately but we will persevere and hope people will become more interested. There is no money budgeted or donated for this service, it is assisted through donations for refreshments and goodies provided. Films and refreshments are purchased with this money. For a list of coming films please visit the congregation's website and be sure to email Marie with any requests/suggestions.

The hospital closings and department closings of the hospitals of South Niagara continues to be a critical issue and one that will affect North Niagara even though most of us are totally oblivious to this issue and how it will cause overcrowding and longer wait times for all, not to mention a clear safety concern for our neighbours in the South Niagara area. I have been active in working on this issue in South Niagara with the Niagara Health Coalition and have attempted to bring this issue to the Congregation and bring awareness of how it will affect this city and our own healthcare. We will continue to update the Congregation on this important issue.

The RAFT has been one of this Congregation's pet projects for quite a long time and I will continue to support them with this committee's assistance. They are very pleased to have the donations and people are able to drop items or cash/cheques off themselves or bring their donations into the building and I will deliver them. Social Action took items donated by

members over to them periodically and also donated \$100 to the RAFT. This collection of items will continue all year indefinitely.

New this year was UCN's involvement with Silver Spire, Start Me Up Niagara, Westview Church, Salvation Army and several other organizations in the first annual "Harvest Festival". We were on the forming committee and played an important role in this event contributing \$927.68 and time well spent. I thank the members of our congregation who help out the day of the event and Carl Beckett, as the festival's treasurer. The first try at this festival was a resounding success (except for the rain) and we will be involved next year as much as possible both with our time and financially.

I am no longer the Chair of the Board of Directors of AIDS Niagara, however; AIDS Niagara (AN) continues to be another favourite charity and issue of this Congregation and for many reasons should be supported by all Unitarians. Social Action donated \$200 to AN.

Social Action budget was responsible for the food and items needed for the Congregation's work at the "Out of the Cold" twice out of this year's budget.

Donations were made to the USC Canada for \$500; the UU-UNO Fund \$300; United Way for \$200; and a membership fee and donation for the Preservation of Agricultural Lands (PALS) \$100; Central Asian Institute \$350; Child Haven International \$350.

Please find attached a complete account of the monies donated on behalf of the Social Action Committee and the members of this Congregation for a total of \$1926.05 (this amount is not correct at this printing). I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding any donations made by the Social Action Committee on behalf of this Congregation. I thank you for your generosity.

Social Action should be one of the most important committees of any congregation, especially a Unitarian one. Due to some difficulties between the Board and Board's interference with the budget of this committee, we have agreed that \$3000.00 will be set aside in this year's budget to be used entirely by the Social Action committee with no further interference from the Board. If there are any questions regarding this comment, please feel free to ask.

I thank you and would gratefully accept any advice and/or guidance the Board and/or the Members of the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara have to offer.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Marie L. Belliveau*

## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT FOR 2010

This year was a pretty quiet one. The systems already in place for bulletins, newsletter etc., worked well. I updated the website on an approximate weekly basis, monitored the UCN email addresses, and sent out emails to the congregation as needed. The Newsletter was sent by email to those who requested it, saving paper and postage. Notices were placed online in Kijiji and Craigslist, as well as occasional notices in local papers.

In the next year I'd like to try to get more free notices into local papers, if possible, and improve the organization of the website somewhat, to make things easier to find. I have some ideas, and would certainly appreciate input from anyone in the congregation.

I'd also like to remind everyone that the Newsletter is available by email to anyone who wants it. If you receive it that way you may elect not to get a paper copy, which will reduce paper and postage costs. Just mention it to me or send an email to [ucn.communications@gmail.com](mailto:ucn.communications@gmail.com). A version with phone numbers and addresses removed is also available on the website.

As for the A/V equipment, we had to replace the DVD player, at a cost of about \$100. Our equipment has been used often at services, Film Nights and other events.

I've shown a number of people how to use the equipment, which is not difficult to operate. If you'd like to learn, just see me. We can give it a run-through after almost any service. Service leaders especially would benefit from this knowledge – I'm always willing to help, but I can't be at every service.

A number of people have suggested that a wireless microphone would be useful. I'd like to look into acquiring one in the near future.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Roy Blake*

## CHOIR AND MUSIC REPORT FOR 2010

I am very pleased to say that the choir has thrived this year. We have about 8 members and are lucky to have new members on board, Sandra, Petra, Karen, and Alexis. But more than that, attendance has been more consistent, and, with only a little bit of nagging, on time. So, we've continued to provide musical alternatives to the hymnal. Also, some members have been brave enough to perform as a quartet. We aim to perform about once a month at services – sometimes twice/month. I try to co-ordinate the music selections with the service topics and collaborate with the programming committee. This year to make communications smoother I am making more use of the UCN communications e-mail.

My attendance at the UUMN conference in Madison last summer has born fruit – we've performed some of the pieces I was introduced to there, and I've used some of their warm-up ideas. We were invited to the inauguration of a new minister at First Unitarian of Hamilton, - I think it helped to have been in contact with other music directors at the conference - and a group of us who could attend sang some music there with a larger choir. I think it made us all feel more part of the loop, and I hope to continue by at least attending part of the CUC conference in Toronto this Spring, and another UUMN conference if possible. There's also the possibility of us being able to attend a joint choir concert at First Unitarian in Toronto this Spring.

As a new venture to encourage participation and community, and develop both the choir and congregation further, we have been planning a 'Spring folly' – *UCN Got Talent* at the beginning of April 2011. I'd like a mix of the creative arts – music, dance, acting, baking - and crafts, and hope you can invite interested people from around here to attend. For the second time, we can also look forward to Carl Beckett's presentation 'Love in Word and Song' at the end of February. That, and a bit of chocolate is a great way to counter the 'blahs'.

Anyways, it's been great to work with this group of talented people this year. Many thanks to all the members, old and new, and of course to Terri Pothier, our accompanist, who keeps us all together.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Penny Blake*

## **REPORT OF PROPERTY MANAGER FOR 2010**

1. There were two incidents of a homeless man (now identified) leaving trash in the alleyway (west side of building), in April and November. The November cache consisted of 1200 lbs. of newsprint/magazines, 4 shopping carts, and assorted garbage which John Northover and I rebagged into 40 sturdy bags which were set out over three weeks for collection by the City's trash removal service.
2. Snow removal was returned to the contractor who did it satisfactorily during 2005-2009, on a contract basis. The 2009-10 season had been handled by a man who charged on a per-snowfall basis. He had equipment troubles, leading to delays in removing the snow. He has given up that line of work.
3. Several cars in our parking lot were vandalized/damaged during November, without any valuables taken. Several motion-detector lights on the exterior of the church were replaced, having been non-functional at the time.
4. Our large mulberry tree, previously near the fence at the St. John Ambulance's property line, had been causing objectionable stains on ambulance paint and carpets inside their building, from fallen berries. A drastic tree-trimming in December did not resolve the problem, and the remainder of the tree was removed in January 2011. St. John Ambulance will reimburse UCN for some of the cost of removal.
5. Church side doors were crack-filled and painted. No other painting was done in 2010.
6. New locks on doors were installed, for easier access by the handicapped, and for safeguarding the contents of the office/R.E. rooms.
7. Front lawn was re-seeded. Weeding has become a chore, as we're no longer permitted to use weed-killer. Four more loads of wood chips were put around bushes and trees, to limit weed growth.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*P. Skelton*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2011 AGM

The Nominating Committee is proud to present the following slate of officers for approval of the UCN for the 2011 - 2012 term.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Past President: .....	Michael Petrocci
President: .....	John Mayer
Vice President: .....	John Northover
Secretary: .....	Doreen Peever
Treasurer: .....	Carl Beckett
Communications: .....	Roy Blake
Member-at-Large: .....	Ed Gilbert

### STANDING COMMITTEE CO-ORDINATORS:

Choir / Music: .....	Penny Blake
Denominational Affairs: .....	Merelie Scott-Armstrong
Lay Chaplaincy: .....	Jenny Leach
Membership: .....	Jim Glassford
Pastoral Care: .....	Inactive
Phone Monitor: .....	Ed Gilbert
Program: .....	Karen Johnson
Property: .....	Peter Skelton
Religious Education: .....	Joan Rothman / Marie Belliveau
Rental: .....	John Northover
SDGC: .....	Joan Wiley
Social: .....	Hilde Wheeler
Social Justice: .....	Marie Belliveau
Special Events: .....	Rhonda Armstrong
Website: .....	Roy Blake

### TRUSTEES:

Andrea Gravelle  
Don Herne  
Doreen Peever

### LAY CHAPLAINS:

Valerie Jaeger  
Julianne Momirov  
Ed Gilbert

*Respectfully submitted with thanks to Doreen Peever and Joan Rothman,  
M. Petrocci, Chair*

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

2010

Meridian Advantage Account 6396147

Balance January 1, 2010		\$8,928.31
Interest income	\$ 4.91	
Rental income transfer January 20, 2010	\$1,000.00	
Balance January 31, 2010		\$9,933.22
Withdrawal (re: Piano)	\$5,000.00	
Balance December 31, 2010		\$4,933.22
*Meridian 3 year term account (escalating interest)		
Balance January 1, 2010		\$33,743.61
Interest Income April 25, 2010	\$ 674.87	
Balance December 31, 2010		\$34,418.48
Total monies in the Trustees' account		\$39,351.70

\*This escalating term deposit was rolled over on April 25, 2009. The interest rates over the 3 year period are as follows: year 1 (2009-10) 2%, year 2 (2010-11) 2.4%, year 3 (2011-12) 4.2%.

The Trustees' portion of the rental income transferred in January 2010 was from rental income of 2009. 2010 rental income transfer was made in January 2011.

Although money was readily available in the Trustees' account to assist in the purchase of the second piano, it is the view of the Trustees, that the Endowment Fund is a better source for purchases of this sort. It allows those giving 'in memory' donations to the church to know something worthy, that enhances and enriches our programs, was made possible through their contributions.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Andrea Gravelle, James Wilson, Don Herne*

## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2010

Notes to accompany the profit loss report.

Two thousand and ten was another financially good year for the Unitarian Congregation of Niagara. As you can see from the bottom line of the Profit Loss Report, we ended up \$6339.13 in the black. We had an exceptional year for rental income. A special thanks to John Northover all his hard work keeping our tenants happy. We also, regrettably, had \$1200 of income for the Endowment Fund in honour of George Spencer.

It is important to add that we paid \$13644.75 for our new piano and electronic keyboard. This does not show up in my report because I consider them fixed assets. To include them in the day-to-day operation would be confusing to the bottom line. A large amount of money for their purchase came from the Trustee's Account.

This year we voted at the Annual General Meeting, to put 11% of our operating income into social justice. Counting Sunday collections and rental income, we only ended up spending slightly more than 10% on social justice. We agreed to spend 16% of our operating income in 2011 for social action causes. This reflects in this year's budget.

For the trustee bank account balance, please see the Trustee's Report. The bank accounts in my sphere of operations on December 31, 2010 were as follows (\*Not all cheques have cleared yet so this is approximate):

Advantage Chaplaincy Account (019521411)	\$112.61
*General Chequering Account (019521411)	\$8,685.30
General Savings Account (019521411)	\$33,148.51
UCN Endowment Fund (6741441)	\$16,819.65

I have endeavored to keep a detailed listing of all our transactions in 2010. This is shown in the Profit Loss Report accompanying this dialog.

Special thanks to Doreen Peever for taking the collections in my absence and to John Northover and Roy Blake for their help in the canvass this year.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Carl Beckett*







