

AVALON UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

PROGRESS UPDATE

July 2007

Board of Directors

At the Annual Fellowship Meeting in June, AUF members elected a new board of directors. They are:

President:	Tammy Macleod; tmdances@hotmail.com
Vice-President:	Jan Dicks; jandicks@nl.rogers.com
Secretary/Treasurer:	Carol Butler; cbutler@nfld.com
Members-at-large:	Louis Chiaramonte; louisc@mun.ca Dorothy Milne; dmilne@mun.ca Kate Morrison; katem50@nl.rogers.com Keith Pike; kappy@nl.rogers.com

Review & Planning

It has been 5 years since the AUF received a generous grant from Ed and Elinor Ratcliffe to sustain a Unitarian presence in Newfoundland; part of the agreement included a review of the Fellowship in 2007. The board is currently engaged in such a review, and over the next few months will look at the different components that make up our congregational life.

The Canadian Unitarian Council has launched “GO-4-IT!” a planning framework designed to assist Unitarians in planning at local, regional, and national levels:

- ✍ GO ON: maintain & enhance current practices – doing what we do in better ways
- ✍ GO DEEP: deepen our spiritual lives individually & in connection with others
- ✍ GO OUT: explore ways of taking our news of Unitarianism into the larger community
- ✍ GO BIG: expand our reach & increase our presence on the Canadian religious, social and political landscape

The AUF board has decided to adopt the language of the framework in this review exercise to provide us with a mutual context within which to converse, and to remain in step with other Unitarian congregations across the country. The board is currently focused on GO ON and GO DEEP.

GO ON

The board has made some changes to date. These include more comprehensive internal board processes, some shifting in roles at the Sunday services with equal participation by all members being sought and encouraged, and re-formatting communication methods with members and friends of the Fellowship.

Input Group

The board’s next step is to seek information from members. To this end, there will be a “**Where Are We Going?**” Input Session on *Sunday, July 29 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm*, Gower Street United Church. This session will take the format of a focus group, and

will ask participants three key questions about the life of the Fellowship and individuals' spiritual journeys, part of the process of **GOing DEEP**. All friends and members are invited to attend - participation is crucial, as the resulting discussion will help inform the board about future directions.

Consultation

The board has entered into consultation with the CUC's Director of Regional Services, Linda Thomson, and a Service Consultant for the Eastern Region. This will culminate in a visit in the fall by regional staff to work with the board and Fellowship, with an emphasis on growing a vital, healthy congregation.

Communications

During this review period, the Fellowship will be kept abreast of developments with an info-bulletin, updates to the website, and direct e-mails.

Sunday Services

Services will continue at Gower Street United Church at 7 pm. The board recognizes that this is not an ideal time, but asks your patience while it considers the options that are available.

During August, the services will take different forms, which will include traditional worship services, discussion groups, and small group formats, with the possibility of additional planning/input sessions as necessary. The board has decided, with our Music Coordinator's agreement, that this role will be restructured, and as such, there will be a mix of live and recorded musical support at services.

GO OUT

This November, the AUF is hosting the CUC's Eastern Regional Fall Gathering, an annual event that gathers Unitarians from the Eastern Region (from Kingston to St. John's) together. Members of the Planning Committee will be looking for volunteers to help coordinate this exciting gathering. For more information or to participate in planning, please contact host chair Vyda Ng at vyda@cuc.ca.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Tammy Macleod or Jan Dicks.

"WHERE ARE WE GOING?"

Input & planning session for members and friends
of the Avalon Unitarian Fellowship

SUNDAY, JULY 29/07

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Gower Street United Church
(rear entrance)

Attendance by all is respectfully requested
Light refreshments will be served