

CUC Proposed Resolutions - Feedback from Vancouver Unitarians, 3 April 2023

38 entries

Compiled by the UCV Denominational Affairs Committee

How to interpret the rating scale. For each statement:

Left hand side

means

Strongly Disagree

Centre

means

Neutral

Right hand side

means

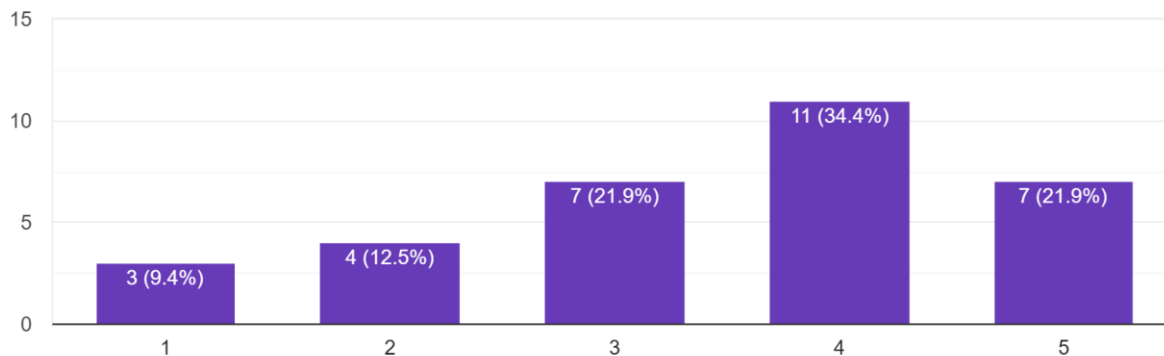
Strongly Agree

(Exception: Item 3 includes a 6th rating on the right showing “No agreement” with the statement.)

Resolution on CUC Goals and Strategic Priorities

I would like our committee and delegates to support this resolution

32 responses

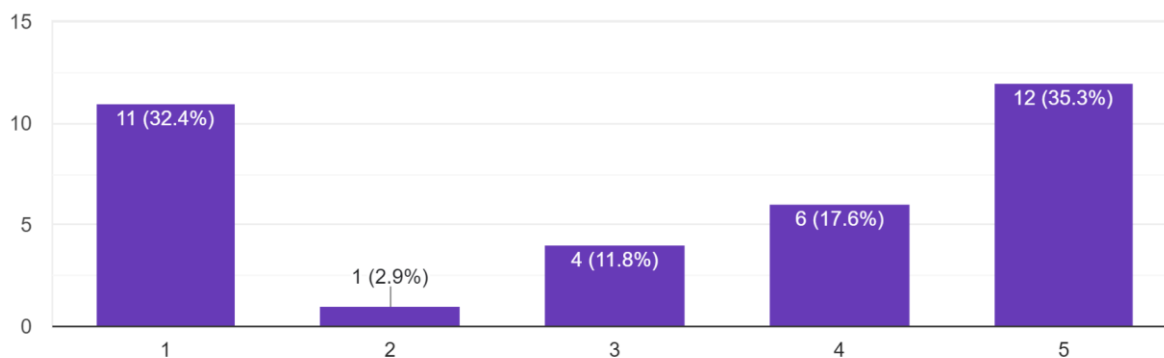


Disagree

Agree

Specifically, about wording of Goals and Strategic priorities Placing environmental action and refugee support as sub-clauses of "Living the 8th Principle"

34 responses

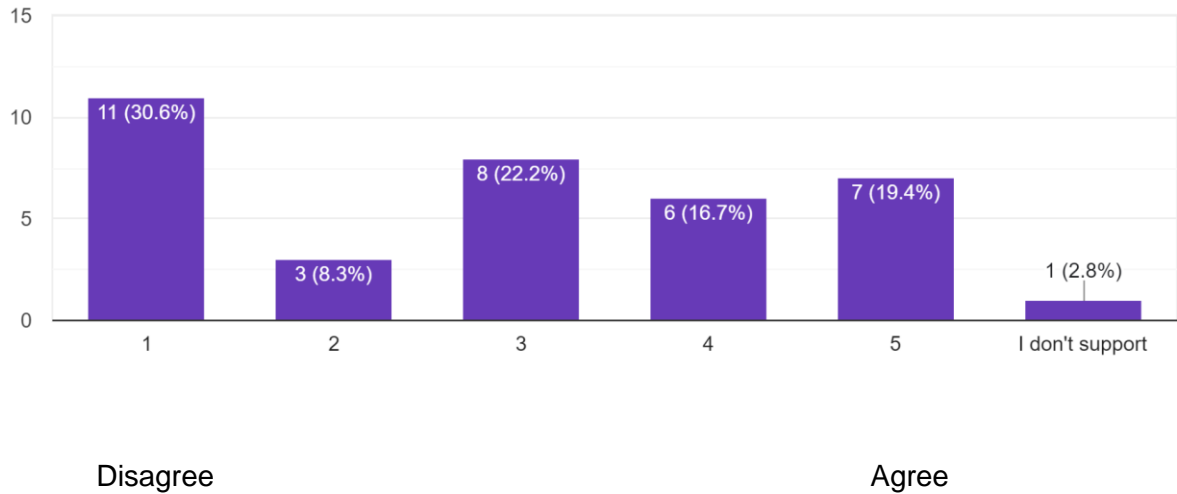


Disagree

Agree

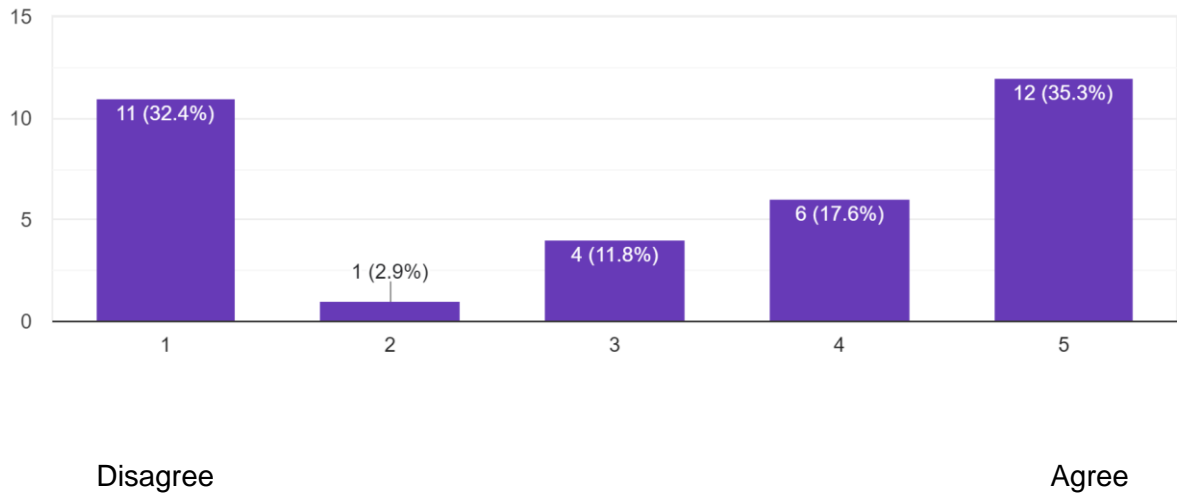
Specifically, about wording of Goals and Strategic priorities Change from "Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists" to "Unitarian Universalists"

36 responses



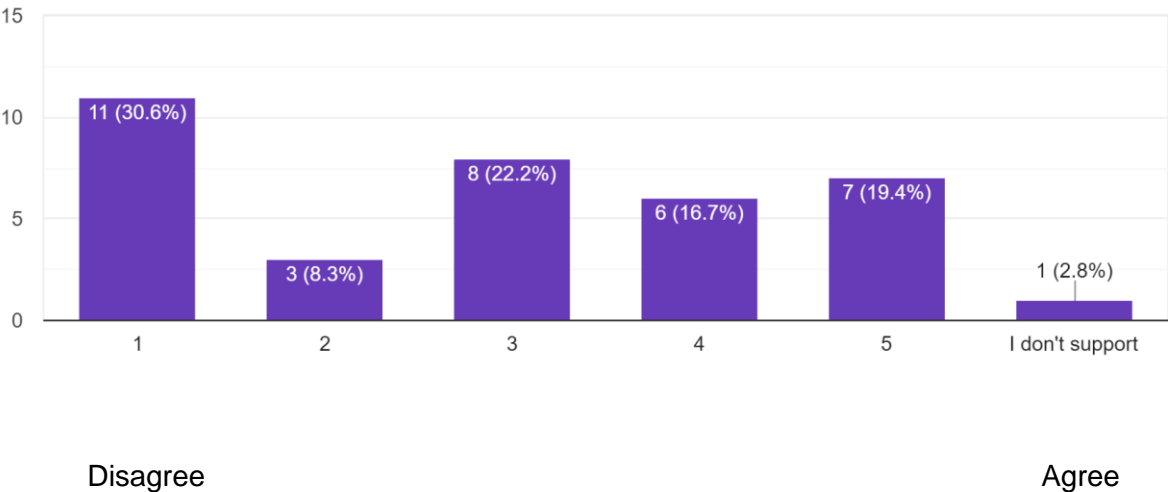
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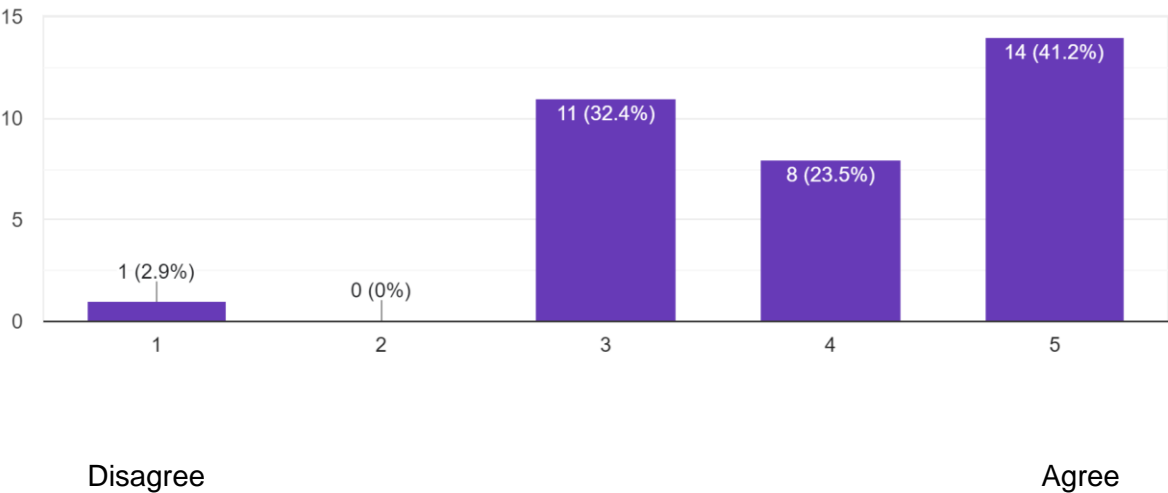
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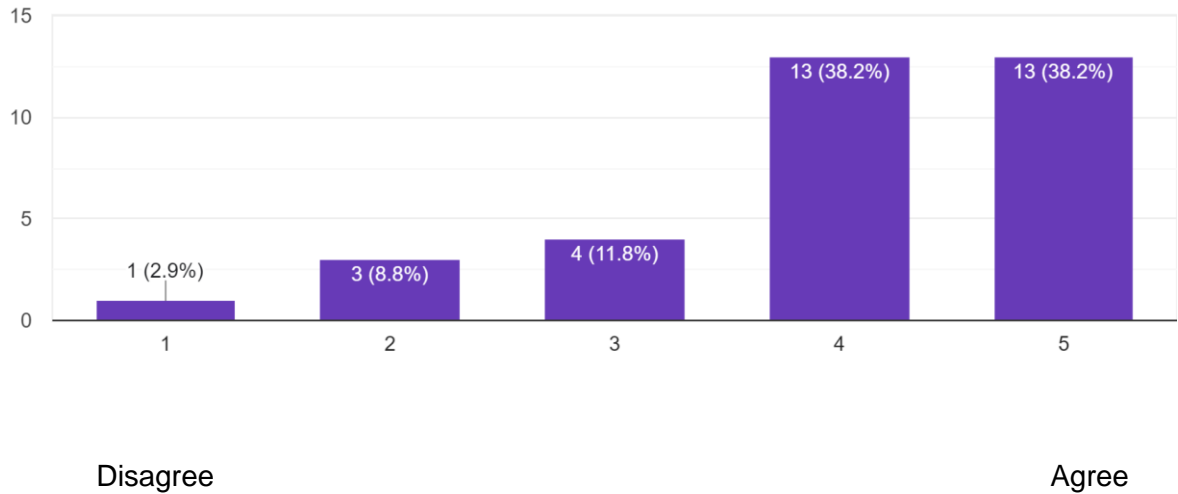
Specifically, about wording of Goals and Strategic priorities Addition of "communities' as well as "congregations"

34 responses



Specifically, about wording of Goals and Strategic priorities Adding "congregational resilience" to religious education and spiritual growth

34 responses



Comments - Goals and strategic priorities: Agreement: Points of agreement with the motion, as proposed13 responses

widening to include communities, and talk of residence

I agree

The motion does uphold and is consistent with our 8 principles

i agree with the proposed changes.

I agree with the proposed wording

reluctant to go in search to find what is being referred to here

I support the CUC focusing on repudiation of the DOD, environmental protection, environmental impact mitigation, refugee assistance, congregational support, and sound financial management.

I feel that environmental action in line with social justice and refugee support are very important ways of living by the 8th principle.

I think a focus on community and congregational resilience is very important in working towards a more inclusive way of being together. I think we need to specifically identify the racist underpinnings of our society and congregations and work towards being more inclusive and transparent.

Last year's Feedback on accepting the 8th principle was ignored so i presume any comment i make here will also be ignored.

Adding "communities" seems to make sense, as does "resilience".

most everything

I agree with Goal 1.

I agree with Goal 2 to "Enhance community resilience through exploration, education and sharing of diverse and inclusive spiritual and organizational practices," but I am just as satisfied, and in some ways more satisfied, with the 2022 statement to "Enhance religious exploration and spiritual growth grounded in the vision, principles, sources, and aspirations of the Canadian Unitarian Universalist (UU) movement." I understand and support "religious exploration and spiritual growth", but do not have a clear idea of what is meant by "community resilience" (and it is not defined in the resolution).

I agree with Goals 3 and 4.

I agree with two parts of Strategic priority A to "Strengthen the national fabric...":

- a. "Nurturing and enhancing Innovation and sustainability."
- d. "Ensuring that the CUC and its member congregations and communities..."

I agree with two parts of Strategic priority B to "Live into the 8th Principle":

- a. "Truth, Healing and Reconciliation..."
- c. "Identifying systemic barriers to full inclusion and acting on dismantling these..."

Comments -Goals and strategic priorities: Concerns about the motion, as proposed¹⁶

responses

Climate justice is extremely important and should not be subservient to anything else.

My main objection is subsuming social justice initiatives under "Live into the 8th Principle" in Strategic Priority #2. This must be changed to listing the initiatives on their own as in 2022. I vehemently oppose making anti-racism the context for all social justice initiatives. Environmental activism and refugee work, both of which I'm active in, have only incidental relationship to anti-racism work and must not be seen as such. Our environmental activism, especially around the climate crisis, has much bigger objectives than "ending environmental racism."

In Goal #2, I also object to replacing "religious exploration and spiritual growth" with "community resilience" which is code for I know not what. If the deleted items are not a priority, then the CUC has lost it's way.

I don't think I have any concerns

I stumble over statements like these:

CUC Strategic Priorities

b) Strengthening ministry and shared ministry

My Opinion:

What does this mean? More say? More control? More power? More money? Granted more status? Allowed more time? Or nothing in particular?

I don't know how "Universalist" became part of our name. I don't remember ever agreeing to this or even having the opportunity to discuss this change in name.

No concerns

Do not like or agree with consistent identification of CUC member congregations and their members as Unitarian Universalists. We are legally "The Unitarian Church of Vancouver" and have not adopted Unitarian Universalist as part of our name or, for many of us, our own religious identification.

ditto to the above

Environmental action should be given higher priority, and NOT subsumed under "Live into the 8th". (Environmental degradation will impact children and poor people most, not "racialized" people. Skin colour has little to do with it. The wealthy in Asia, Africa, Europe, Australia, and the Americas will fare far better, (for a while), than the poor in facing climate change. Let's focus on the heart of the problem: stopping our shared relentless destruction of the environment.

Support of congregations and fellowships should be given high priority.

Clarify what "communities" implies, or remove the term. (Are these outlying factions of various sorts?)

Refugee support is important on its own and should not be subsumed under the 8th Principle section.

I do not have strong feelings about changing the identify of CUC linked congregations to emphasize Universalists in contrast to Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists. If the wording change causes more division, I am fine with leaving it as is current.

ditto

Not sure all social /environmental justice is contained within 8th principle. Of course, issues are interrelated but it seems a bit forced. Also, the focus on Indigenous issues seems too inward-focused (uncolonizing ourselves) when many issues are systemic and require active, outward solidarity against injustice. I don't see this in either the words or actions of the CUC.

Environmental action and refugee support appear to be subsumed under the 8th Principle. If that is not the intent, the motion should be revised to make it clear that significant components unrelated to dismantling racism will not be de-emphasized. I am also concerned about important features and values of Unitarianism being sidelined in a shift towards Unitarian Universalism, along with a loss of our congregation's autonomy.

We need objective measurable goals and strategic priorities. How do we know when these are achieved? Dismantling racism requires Congregational wide anti-racism education. This should be included in the goals and strategic priorities.

Minor wording suggestion in explanatory document: remove "First Nations" in B.a.ii as captured by Indigenous, which is used on its own elsewhere in the document.

I do NOT agree with two parts of Strategic priority B to "Live into the 8th Principle":

b. "Enacting environmental justice..."

Environmental justice, which includes education and activism, cannot be properly subsumed under "Live into the 8th Principle" but should properly be listed as its own priority. Our environmental activism, especially around the climate crisis, has much bigger objectives than "ending environmental racism." This is, for me a very serious concern.

d. "Refugee support."

The work that we do to support refugees has only an incidental relationship to anti-racism work, and to subsume it under "Live into the 8th Principle" is a real disservice to this important and meaningful work. This (like environmental justice/activism) should properly be listed as its own priority.

Comments -Goals and strategic priorities: General comments, questions, or amendments to, the motion, as proposed^{12 responses}

Environmental action and refugee support need to be elevated as primary concerns in their own right.

See answers above.

I don't have any

I have a moderate concern about environmental action coming under supporting the 8th principle. While I can see of course the connection in some cases, certainly environmental concerns and action are not synonyms with concerns of the 8th principle. To me they more likely are consistent with support for our 7th principle.

Seems OK to me

ditto to the above

I suggest that CUC try to state strategic priorities more succinctly, use fewer words in this whole section, and perhaps add more measurable objectives.

Why use the jargon "live into"?

8th principle belongs as one of several social justice initiatives, not as the overarching one.

ditto

Can "Uncolonizing ourselves and our processes" be made more specific? As various qualities, processes and ways of thinking have been labelled as "colonial", I would like clarification on what the CUC has identified as requiring removal or transformation before agreeing to it.

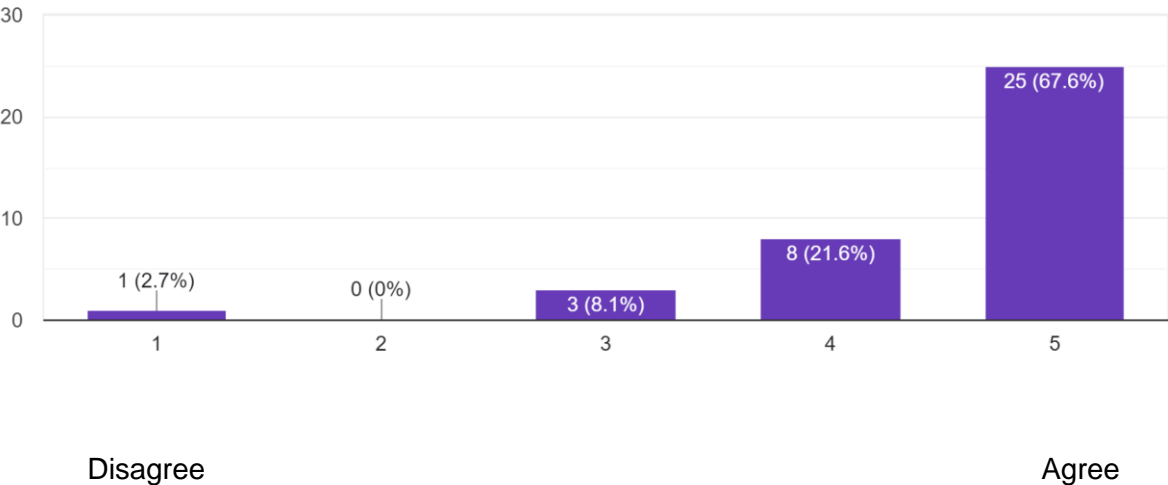
none

I do not want my congregation to support Strategic priority B unless clauses b. and d. are removed.

Resolution to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery

I would like our committee and delegates to support this resolution

37 responses



Comments - Doctrine of Discovery: Agreement: Points of agreement with the motion, as proposed18 responses

I agree

It's about time the CUC answered the call to action re this.

Surprised we haven't done it yet. As a new member, isn't this patently obvious.

Support all aspects of this except for binding member congregations.

That CUC repudiates the Doctrine of Discovery

That doctrine expresses the arrogance of western society, of which even today we have to let go of.

There should be a national movement to dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery

I fully agree

yes. the right thing to support

I like the action plan.

This is a symbolic motion, but it is still important to formally recognize the harms caused by settler colonization.

The Canadian government has already passed a law to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. I agree we should also repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery but also work to understand how the effects of the Doctrine of Discovery are still at work in our legal system.

Can not find a link to the Doctrine of /Discovery or to the proposed motion

Agree

all of it

long overdue...

Comments - Doctrine of Discovery: Concerns about the motion, as proposed 18 responses

A resolution from the CUC should not be binding on the congregations.

We don't want CUC to bind our congregation in the main resolution or action plan, even though we have an active group and expect our congregation will want to work on it. We want to add the "Anglican church" in the list of groups in #2. (explicit rather than "and others")

Each congregation needs to discuss this issue and decide for itself whether or not it supports this important motion.

That the CUC thinks it can act for its member congregations by including them in the motion and action plan. The CUC has no authority to speak for its independent member congregations.

I don't have any

I prefer to not include "and member congregations" in the repudiate Doctrine of Discovery resolution.

No concerns

oh dear -would need to go looking for it to answer

The CUC cannot legally or morally make a resolution on behalf of individual member congregations.

I don't see the need to spend much energy on convincing the Catholic Church to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. I believe that it is more important to spend energy on supporting Indigenous Peoples in their struggle for recognition of past harms and reparations for the damages done by colonization.

This should be about the CUC repudiating, removing reference to member congregations.

Let's have the year of study before voting on the motion to repudiate.

We at UCV and the general public need more education on how and why the DoD has effected and continues to effect rulings within our judicial system. The racist assumptions in the DoD still have an impact on how legal rulings play out - they continue to disregard the rights of Indigenous peoples and treaties that have been signed between Canadian & provincial governments and Indigenous peoples. We need to study the motion and make suitable recommendations to correct this. We also need to follow our established CUC procedures for changes.

ditto

I agree the Doctrine of Discovery needs repudiation. But the issue should be on its impact now in society and on the institutions, including courts, legal system, etc. that upholds laws respecting land and resources that stems from long-time injustice. And also on holding governments and other institutions accountable. And what do Unitarians know about the historic and current implications of this Doctrine on Indigenous peoples? We have a lot to learn and we should vote on this, in an informed way. This means we need to educate and study the issue before we vote on it.

None

Need a goal for accountability. How do we know when this is achieved?

none

I think we can and should still repudiate this doctrine even if the Pope has also done so.

Comments - Doctrine of Discovery: **General Comments, questions, or amendments to,**
the motion, as proposed¹¹ responses

None

ditto

Are we going to have specific wording of messages that go out?

Drop 'and it's member congregations'

The motion must be amended to remove the phrase "and its member congregations".

Can't think of any

Remove "and its member congregations" from Resolution 1.

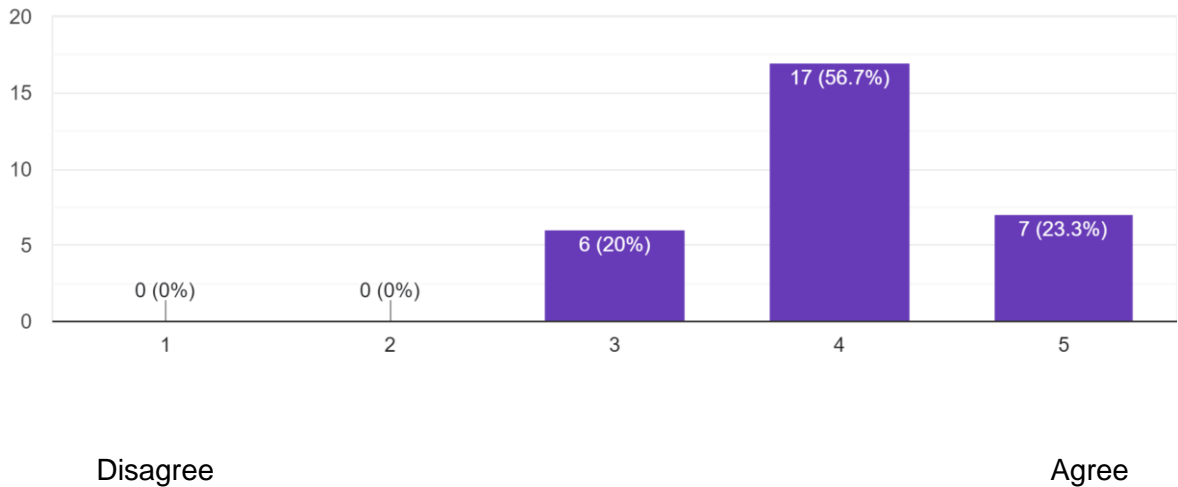
The Anglican Church, due to its roots being the Church of England, and that "Between 1820 and 1969, the Anglican Church operated roughly three dozen residential schools in Canada", although they are apparently quite involved now in reconciliation, I suggest they be included in the #2 point of the list of organizations which are informed of the CUC resolution.

celebrating the action.

Resolution to make extensive but minor Bylaw changes

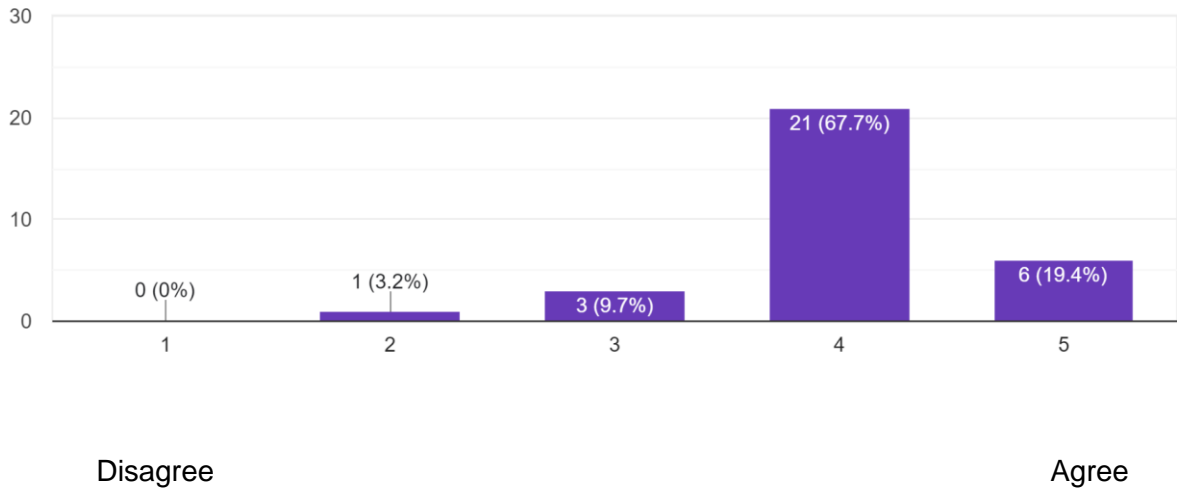
I would like our UCV Denominational Affairs Committee and delegates to support this resolution on By-law changes

30 responses



Specifically, about the possibility of a paid Treasurer

31 responses



Comments - By-laws: Agreement: Points of agreement with the motion, as proposed¹³ responses

I agree

I agree with monetary compensation considering the skilled work and responsibility required. Lay Chaplains are paid, why not others?

I don't have enough information to know if a paid treasurer is merited. I leave that decision to those who have day-to-day knowledge.

agreed

apologies but my brain is not willing to consider this. would help if it was added here for reference.

I like the intention of the proposed "administrative" amendments to try to ensure fair electronic participation.

I like continuation of clause 5.7 on consensus decision making. Perhaps this expectation could be strengthened in this or a future Bylaw amendment?

Agreeing with need for paid Treasurer.

The points of agreement are in line with current understandings and organizational process as far as I can see.

I presume the ammendments are in pink font. It would have been helpful to have a summary of the proposed changes

All

no objection to any of it

looks good to me. appreciate the updating (e.g., regarding electronic communications) and the attention to detail.

Comments - By-laws: Concerns about the motion, as proposed⁹ responses

none

I don't think I have any

The same argument could be made re other offices besides Treasurer

No concerns

ditto

If we have skillful paid book-keeping staff and skillful paid investment managers, the role of Treasurer might not require so much time and talent that we need to pay a person or persons for undertaking those responsibilities. I recall that we sometimes had trouble finding strong book-keeping staff in past years. Have we resolved that problem?

I am glad to know CUC has added a Finance Committee to support the Treasurer. I think this should be a real benefit for anyone assuming the volunteer Treasurer role.

Why would we pay a Treasurer and not other board members? Board work is a commitment that requires considerable time and commitment of all on the board.

None

Comments - Bylaws: Comments, questions, or amendments to, the motion, as proposed
responses

Can't think of any

Some amendment recognizing the novel and experimental nature of having paid officers: e.g. pilot project, \$500/year or other token amount.

No comments

ditto

Could Bylaw 3.5.3.4 be strengthened by changing the wording from:

"The strategic priorities for the current and the next succeeding year;"

to

"The strategic priorities for the current and the next succeeding year and the results of action on those priorities each year."

This is a call for clearer accountability. I believe that CUC HAS been delivering on its strategic priorities in most areas, but it would be helpful to everyone if the results could be stated succinctly to members.

Could clause 6.2.3 regarding Secretary duties be amended by adding something like "and the regular communication of these to member congregations." Without current minutes (even draft minutes) it is currently hard for congregations to know what the CUC Board has been talking about, and I think it would be impractical to expect regional delegates to take on this duty. It seems to me that congregational leaders and members should know the details of CUC Board discussions, (excluding in camera discussions), including differing points of view that have been expressed. The idea of "the board speaking with one voice" should not mean that the Board pretends there was no debate, but instead that the Board has reached a consensus, or decision by consent. The line should not be used to restrict information about the varying viewpoints discussed.

None

all seem reasonable

Thank you for completing this form. Your comments verbatim plus a compilation of the rank order questions will be sent to the UCV board and then to the CUC. Once completed, the report will be shared with the congregation

Any questions or comments for the Denominational Affairs Committee to consider about CUC involvement or any other matter?

8 responses

no

Should the CUC delegates be free to vote however they want or should their vote reflect the feelings of the congregation?

The DAC needs to be vigilant about the CUC's apparent interest in directing rather than supporting member congregations.

No. Thank you.

None at present

thanks for your work! you have helped me recognize how CUC is and should be connected to UCV.

None

End of Survey Responses April 2023