



Introvert, Extrovert & Fellowship

Some of us are introverts. We enjoy being alone more than we enjoy being around people. In fact, big crowds can make us feel uncomfortable and perhaps even a little anxious at times. Others of us are extroverts. We prefer not being alone if we can help it. We look for opportunities to be with others. We tend to thrive and our sense of well-being increases when in the presence of a group of people.

Which of these are you? One might say, "Well, it depends." It can vary depending on the circumstances. When it comes to temperament, we are who we are because of heredity, upbringing and to a greater or lesser extent, who we choose to be.

One of the instructions the Word of God gives a Christian is to participate in fellowship. This is irrespective of the personality type we may tend to be. For introverts, fellowshiping can be very difficult. For extroverts, fellowshiping can be relatively easy.

Talking to others doesn't come

easily for many people including Christians. It is something that needs to be learned and cultivated. Acts 2:41-42 beautifully describes the way the early church functioned: "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized, and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and prayers."

Regarding this the *Nelson Study Bible* states, "The Greek word translated fellowship means sharing in the lives of other believers." The only way we can do that is to reach out to one another and spend time with one another and especially so when we assemble for church services.

Hebrews 13:1 succinctly states, "Let brotherly love continue." Brotherly love doesn't come naturally. It has to be developed and promoted and even then it can somehow run its course and play out (Titus 3:3). That is why Christians are admonished to let it "continue." Brotherly love must be actively and deliberately sustained.

In John 4:20 we read, "He who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also." Reaching out to one another in Christian

fellowship is one important way in which we can tangibly express our love for our brothers and sisters.

Most of us have been unable to attend church services due to the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic. Fortunately, we have been able to participate in worship services on the Sabbath and Holy days by watching live webcast church services. This has been a wonderful blessing especially when we consider the alternative.

An added bonus has been the invitation to fellowship with one another either before or after services using various platforms such as Zoom. My experience has been that services have lasted for an average of an hour and a half. Then, after a short break, fellowship time has also lasted for about an hour and a half. The first portion has been a plenary session then the host can assign participants to breakout rooms. It is always suspenseful as my wife and I anticipate who we will be assigned to be with in these smaller group settings.

Fellowshipping on-line after services has proven to be a huge blessing to tide us over during these unpleasant times of physical distancing. Yet we yearn for the time when we can assemble locally once again to worship, to be taught and to fellowship.

Anthony Wasilkoff

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Cities of Truth

Truth is often a rare commodity in contemporary society. Just consider the plethora of “fake news” that exists as well as outright lying in the public arena. In times past, truth held a more exalted position than it does today.

American humorist, Josh Billings (1818-1885), said “As scarce as truth is, the supply has always been in excess of the demand.”

Truth characterizes the nobility of nations to a great degree. Righteous and noble nations adhere to more truth than tyrannical, oppressive nations. What makes up nations? It is people in its cities, towns, villages, agricultural communities and such. In this article my focus is on cities.

University Professor, Dr. Joel Kotkin, a widely-recognized expert regarding cities, authored the book, *The City: A Global History* (Modern Library Chronicles – 2006). He said that the three major characteristics of great cities are that they are sacred, safe and busy.

Moreover, *the smartcity journal* in its article “Smart Cities: A Futuristic Vision” noted that, “The future of our world is decided by the quality of its future cities.”

From a Church of God perspective, what should our take be on what a genuinely great city is? We will be given rulership and authority over cities in the world tomorrow upon Jesus Christ’s return to set up the Kingdom of God. We can plan even now for what we want to accomplish in our cities of tomorrow with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Let’s try to understand what cities - established on God’s Laws - will be like in the Millennium and beyond. Let’s seek to understand God’s take on sacred, safe, and busy as concerning tomorrow’s cities.

Sacred

Merriam Webster’s synonyms for sacred are: hallowed, holy, inviolable, sacrosanct, unassailable and untouchable. *The Oxford Learner’s Dictionary* defines sacred (adj.) as (1) connected with God or a god; considered to be holy; and (2) very important and treated with great respect; that must not be changed or challenged.

What stands out in the above definitions are the words “holy” and “connected with God”. Ultimately, cities of tomorrow, under Jesus Christ, will be sacred and

holy cities. Connected to God, through the King of Kings, they will be cities of truth. God’s truth will be taught to all citizens. God’s truth will be the foundation of the education system and all administrations of city government.

Exodus 19:5-6 (KJV) says, “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.”

A sacred and holy nation is made up of its family of sacred and holy cities (as well as towns, villages and farms) that keep God’s covenant.

Safe

The cities of tomorrow will be characterized by citizens living by the Word of God. It will be a learning process for the world - for those who have survived the Great Tribulation and are alive when Jesus Christ begins the restoration process. Each successive generation in the Millennium will live in increasingly safer cities.

What will be the result of cities

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established on God's truth – His righteous Laws? The wonderful result is found in Zechariah 8:4-5 (NKJV): "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.'"

All will dwell safely because they keep God's Laws, including the Sabbaths and Holy Days, and are doers of His word, which produces desired results. The keeping of God's righteous Laws results in truly safe cities. Safe cities are the natural by-product of citizens looking out for one another, of each loving his/her neighbour as themselves. It really is a simple concept that will pass when Satan's influence on mankind is removed.

Busy

Idle hands will be no part of tomorrow's cities under the rulership of Jesus Christ. These cities will be productive cities because of their creative and inspired citizens revelling in the joy of living according to God's Laws. They will be inspired by God's truth and the wonderful promises of God. They will see they have a hope and a marvellous future. This will inspire honour and reverence towards God and a desire to be about the Father's work.

The result of this proper 'busyness' will be prosperity. Zechariah 1:17 (ESV) says, "Cry out again, thus says the LORD of hosts: My cities shall again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem."

The foundation of the cities of tomorrow will be truth – the truth of and from God. The fruit of basing our cities on God's truth will be sacred, safe, and busy productive cities. And what wonderful spiritual as well as physical fruit!

As it says in Amos 9:14, "I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit."

Truth dispels confusion, and cities of truth will not be cities of Babylonian confusion and sin. The truth will be crystal clear, adhered to and will produce the wonderful benefits God intended from the beginning for his creation.

Michael Ugolini

Western Canada Regional Conference

On Sunday, May 24, the Western Canadian ministers had a first-ever Zoom Regional Conference. Joining us were the two laymembers on the Canadian National Council as well as Victor Kubik. Also, from the East, we had Tony and Linda Wasilkoff as well as Paul and Coreen Wasilkoff. The meeting lasted about two and a half hours and was a wonderful opportunity to get caught up since some only see each other every few years.

The only ones unable to join were Doug and Beth Lesh. Doug wrote, "Beth and I are both doing well and are gradually getting settled in

our new place in Spirit River after residing in the Hythe area for 32 years. It is surprising just how much "stuff" a person accumulates over time!"

Here are some comments that were made:

The Regina members are doing fine. Most are seniors and several cannot make it to church all the time. The congregations in North Battleford and Saskatoon are anxious to get started again. They have interactive online Bible Studies and connect to Edmonton and/or Cincinnati for services.

Prince George will begin services again soon. Edmonton will need to wait for a while. Surrey will begin services on Pentecost, while Abbotsford will wait until July.

Several miss seeing family members during the lockdown.

The Vancouver, Vancouver Island and Okanagan congregations are allowed to meet again. Okanagan has no resident elder or speakers so will need to continue linking until a speaker gets out there.

The two part-time Ministerial Trainees have kept busy maintain-

ing their own business, helping with the congregations and keeping up with additional studies.

After the personal updates, there was a National Office and Council of Elders update by Anthony Wasilkoff, a National Council update by Larry DeLong, a Ministerial Services Team report by Rainer Salomaa and finally an update by the president of UCGIA, Victor Kubik where he reminisced a bit, going back 25 years to the formation of United and then addressed some current conditions in the church.

There was a discussion on considerations for resuming in-person

services for UCG-Canada and the need to follow government guidelines, which are changing.

There was a reminder that Darris McNeely is scheduled to have personal appearances in Lethbridge, Calgary and Edmonton over the weekend of October 23-25.

Finally, we watched a SharePoint presentation about new ordinations, retirements and employee recognitions that would normally be given at the GCE, but was archived. Here in Canada, the following were recognized by Victor:

Employed 50 years – Anthony

and Linda Wasilkoff: They were presented with an engraved pocket watch, a card, an employee service pin, a monetary donation and flowers were sent.

Employed 20 Years – David and Ghyslaine Palmer: They were sent a card, an employee service pin and a monetary donation.

Employed 20 Years – Paul and Coreen Wasilkoff: They were sent a card, an employee service pin and a monetary donation.

Also, it was mentioned that Victor and Beverly Kubik have been recognized for 50 years of employment. Rainer Salomaa gave a brief background and employment history and congratulated our president and thanked him for joining us in this unique conference.

Congratulations to all and a special thank you to Lisa Fenchel for helping give credit and honour to whom it is due.

Linda Wasilkoff & Rainer Salomaa



Eastern Canada Regional Conference

On Sunday, June 14, the elders from Eastern Canada along some of their wives were able to meet for several hours using Zoom. Those online were Michael Caputo, Harold and Sharon Descoteaux, Dennis Horlick, Bruno and Chantal Leclerc, Garry Lucas, Jim Lucas, Joseph Moulton, Richard Moulton, Dennis O'Neill, Ken and Sally Parker, Patrick Read, Rainer and Claudia Salomaa, Ellsworth Stan-

ley, Anthony and Linda Wasilkoff, Paul and Coreen Wasilkoff, and Sixto Yap. It is interesting that there were three father/son teams.

After Dennis O'Neill gave the opening prayer, each elder was asked for an update on his health, work and the area he serves. Rainer Salomaa said that the Calgary congregation will resume services on July 4. It is difficult to travel to

Winnipeg since they require a 14-day quarantine. He and Claudia will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary on July 5.

Several elders reported that members are anxious to have services resume, though they appreciate the webcast from Cincinnati. The province of Ontario is being very cautious so it may be a while yet.

Garry Lucas is waiting for an operation on his eye to refasten a retina. It is on hold because of the pandemic. Jim Lucas is conducting an online bi-weekly Bible Study for Kitchener, Barrie and Ottawa.

Michael Caputo acknowledged that the Montreal and Quebec City congregations are in good hands with Bruno Leclerc as the new pastor being assisted by another capable elder, Harold Descoteaux.

Most elders are in good health but miss getting together with the congregation. Members are reaching out to each other through phone calls, email and Zoom. Richard Moulton is going through Scott Ashley's Survey of the Gospels and uses that for family discussions on the Sabbath. Joseph Moulton will be 96 on July 27 and is in good health as is his wife Mary.

Patrick Read reported that plans for the Feast in Midland are still on. Several of the speakers for the Feast in Midland are from the United States, and so he has created an alternate speaking schedule in case the border remains closed. He and Jorge de Campos are conducting a Zoom Sabbath service every week with members from New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Windsor and Lexington. Pat and Jorge take turns speaking.

Quebec is planning a small satellite Feast site that will hold just over 40 people. The arrangements were completed just before the lockdown. Members who speak French tune into a video conference for services each week that serves people from French-speak-

ing areas. Those who speak English tune into the Cincinnati webcast. One good thing is that those who are asking for visits can tune in to a church service.

Several in the Hamilton and Toronto congregations are having health challenges. One member had COVID, but has recovered. They are using Zoom for conducting a Bible Study and fellowship time.

There have been weekly Zoom meetings with the Media Team as they try to come up with effective campaigns during the pandemic. The team has worked hard over the past weeks and have a couple of live campaigns. Wayne Ward has given input on some changes to make to the website.

A larger hall has been booked for the Feast in Newfoundland to allow for physical distancing. The members there are tuning into two services each week.

Anthony Wasilkoff reported that the National Office is officially closed, but the work of answering phones, collecting and processing the mail and fulfilling booklet requests continues to be done. The Holy Day offerings were down somewhat, partly because some sent their offering to the U.S.

Jim Lucas gave a snapshot of the June National Council meeting that was held by Zoom. The annual evaluation of the Director of Operations took place during an informal meeting prior to the official meeting. Among other items, there was a discussion of a method for conducting the Laymember Selec-

tion if congregations are unable to meet in person. The current chairman's term ends before the September National Council meeting. Michael Erickson was appointed to be the Temporary Chairman for that meeting.

Anthony Wasilkoff gave a short update on the Council of Elders. He encouraged everyone to listen to Victor Kubik's podcast interviewing the new chairman, Len Martin.

Rainer Salomaa gave a synopsis of projects the Ministerial Services Team has been working on. One of them has been updating or "Canadianizing" job description documents. He asked for suggestions as to what elders would like to have covered at the next Canada wide Ministerial Conference to be held in Toronto on June 12-13, 2021.

There was a discussion about the reopening of services. There are many requirements and some halls won't be available to us for some time. This will have to be evaluated on an area by area basis. A concern that people will get too comfortable staying home was expressed, but has to be balanced with when it will be safe to have services.

The meeting ended with Service Award slides. Some in Canada received awards for their years of employment. They were: David Palmer (20 years), Paul Wasilkoff (20 years) and Anthony Wasilkoff (50 years).

Harold Descoteaux closed the meeting with prayer.

Canada-Wide Pastor's Meeting

On Monday, April 20, the majority of the Canadian pastors participated in a video conference meeting using the popular platform, Zoom. It was a chance to talk shop and share updates on the congregations to see how we are all coping during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Larry DeLong's two businesses are deemed as essential services. Alberta has been hard hit with the crash of oil prices and there is concern in the meat industry with outbreaks of the virus in major meat processing plants. The members in his area are doing well, watching the church webcasts, using Google Hangout and phoning each other a lot.

In Calgary, there were two baptisms before Passover and a private funeral service for Peter Krulc. They have used Zoom for Bible studies with members connecting from British Columbia to Manitoba. These are ongoing each Wednesday evening at least until summer. They had a meet-and-greet for the Night to be Observed. One member is in the hospital because of serious issues with diabetes.

Michael Erickson reported that his wife, Tonya, is using Zoom so that ladies in his congregations can stay connected. He also conducts a weekly Sabbath webcast from his home, has sent out more anointed cloths than ever and had one baptism in the area.

Paul Wasilkoff said members in his areas are using Zoom to connect with each other after the Cincinnati Sabbath webcasts. Some members continue to struggle with regular health issues.

Anthony Wasilkoff commented that he is learning to be more empathic with those who are shut-ins. Some are confined to their rooms and others only get out to their dining room. The church office is technically closed. The income is down somewhat, but expenses are as well. The greatest responses to Beyond Today television programs are those that have to do with prophecy.

Jim Lucas reported that the members are finding ways of reaching out to one another and are fellowshiping by calling each other on their phones. The con-

versations are often longer than those at church. There have been two baptisms. Passover at home has been good this year, teaching more personal responsibility.

David Palmer said he and Wayne Ward are preparing for the Feast in Osoyoos. Early registration has passed the half-way point. He performed an outdoor wedding with just him, a photographer, the bride and groom as well as the best man and maid of honour.

John Elliot mentioned that Al Morgan died and the family is trying to adjust. There will be a service for him once larger groups are allowed to gather. He does a Sabbath webcast from his home and a Wednesday night Bible study. All of the events around us are causing members to be more personally responsible for their salvation.

It was agreed that the meeting was valuable and encouraging so another one will be scheduled. Hopefully to discuss lessons we have learned from all of this.

Rainer Salomaa

March Council Meeting

The National Council met on March 9, 2020, via WebEx with all Council members present. In addition, Secretary Linda Wasilkoff, Treasurer Bill Dimovski and Edwin van Pelt were also online for the meeting.

After the customary opening

prayer, minutes from the December meeting were read and, with one minor edit, approved.

Anthony Wasilkoff gave the Council an update from the National Office and the Ministerial Team followed by a Media update by Paul Wasilkoff and a financial

update from Bill Dimovski.

The Media Update included highlights of a Media Team meeting that took place at the National Office in mid-January. The team is working on an internet ad campaign that asks questions designed to engage the public.

Bill Dimovski provided a financial update to the Council. Income for January was higher than budgeted and expenses were lower than forecast. It was noted that the Home Office would like the United Church of God – Canada to help pay for postage costs of mailing *Beyond Today* magazines to subscribers in Canada. Although this is included in the budget for 2020-2021 the Council approved this expense by general consent.

Anthony Wasilkoff provided an update on the recent Council of Elders meetings held in February. Two Council members were unable to attend the meetings in person but participated via videoconferencing.

Each Committee chair of the

National Council provided updates on their respective work. Due to recent changes in the makeup of the National Council, the Strategic Planning and Finance Committee was down to two members. Michael Erickson and Jeff Anderson both were assigned to that committee. A chairman for the committee will need to be selected.

Most of the remainder of the meeting was devoted to policy updates. Michael Erickson, on behalf of the Compliancy Task Force, presented a number of policies that required adoption or amendment. All the policies presented were approved with some being remanded to the Compensation Committee and to the Ministerial Services Team.

A new member for the Amendment Committee was selected. Maryann Halcrow will replace Ellsworth Stanley, whose term expired March 31, 2020. Almeda Lucas was selected as an alternate member.

The results of balloting for the 2020-2021 Strategic Plan, Operations Plan and Budget were presented and all were approved by the National Conference. They go into effect April 1.

The final item of business dealt with the June face-to-face National Council meetings scheduled to be held in the Toronto area. Spouses are invited to these meetings.

Edwin van Pelt

June Council Update

For the first time in our history, the June National Council meeting took place electronically. The June meetings have traditionally been face-to-face allowing the committees to spend a concentrated amount of time to discuss various items. It has also provided an opportunity for some Council members to speak at outlying areas on the Sabbath. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was decided in May to forego the face-to-face June meeting and instead meet via electronic means.

The meeting took place on Monday evening, June 8. All Council members were present. In addition, Bill Dimovski (Treasurer), Edwin van Pelt (Secretary-in-training)

and Linda Wasilkoff (Secretary) were all on-line.

The meeting officially began at 7:45 p.m. after the opening prayer. Prior to that there was an informal session to conduct the annual review of the Director of Operations as per our bylaws.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and unanimously adopted.

Anthony Wasilkoff then provided a brief National Office update. We are all cautiously, yet eagerly, awaiting the resumption of normal Sabbath and Holy Day services. There were two ordinations on the Feast of Pentecost, both in West-

ern Canada. A few congregations were able to meet in person for Pentecost with strict protocols in place. Some provinces will begin to allow worship services once again with a maximum of 30 per cent of the meeting facility's capacity along with other restrictions.

Paul Wasilkoff then gave a media update. The Media Team meets every other week by Zoom videoconferencing and are in regular communications with one another using email. An internet campaign dovetailing with the May-June issue of *Beyond Today* magazine dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic was launched but surprisingly there were no results. There might have been some censorship

in play to protect viewers since there is a lot of misinformation on the internet about COVID-19 and the coronavirus. A different campaign was then launched which generated at least 36,000 impressions on our websites.

Treasurer Bill Dimovski then gave a financial update. While Holy Day Offerings are below budget, other income is stronger. Expenses are down over last year. More and more people are using electronic means to donate to the Church. Our annual audit was also conducted in accordance with our bylaws and although the final report is still to come it appears the audit went very well once again.

Anthony Wasilkoff gave an update from the Council of Elders (CoE). There was a need to repopulate the various committees of the Council. The committees are: Doctrine, Education, Ethics, Executive, Strategic, Media and Roles & Rules. There are also two advisory committees.

Michael Erickson followed with a report from the Strategic Planning/Finance Committee, which met via Zoom on June 4. There was also a previous meeting with

some of the staff at the National Office to discuss the current financial situation. The committee reviewed the current mileage reimbursement policy and unanimously agreed to revise it.

By general consent, the next National Council meeting dates were approved. They are scheduled for December 14, 2020, followed by March 8, 2021, then June 10-11, 2021 (in Toronto to be followed by the bi-annual Ministerial Conference.) The National Conference Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled to take place on September 12, 2021, followed by a National Council meeting.

The Governance/Ethics/Pastoral Committee chair, Jim Lucas, gave an update on what the committee has been working on. The committee discussed the process for Council laymember selection should we be unable to congregate in person. Also discussed was the need to devise a process for the replacement of the Director of Operations if and when that time comes. It was decided to model the process based on the procedure to replace the President of United Church of God, *an International Association*.

Lloyd Teetaert followed with a Compensation Committee Report. The current salary ranges for employees does not need to be adjusted this year. Two Human Resource policies were also discussed; policy 4.3 was rescinded by the Council and policy 4.2 Employee Health Care was adopted with edits as discussed.

The agenda for the upcoming AGM was unanimously approved. Mr. Erickson was appointed as Temporary Chairman by the Council for the National Council meeting which will follow immediately after the AGM.

The Compliancy Task Force, chaired by Mr. Erickson, went through a large number of policies for approval by the Council. All the documents that were discussed were sent in a flurry of email messages and attachments prior to the meeting allowing time to review the material. Three of the policies were tabled for further discussion and the remainder were approved by general consent.

The meeting closed at 9:28 p.m. after a closing prayer.

Edwin van Pelt

Coming Soon

Once again this summer, every church member of each official congregation will have the opportunity to help choose someone from the congregation to be considered for selection to the National Council. Why do we do that?

When the United Church of God - Canada was first incorporated, it was recognized that there had to be a board for the charity. Those meeting to begin the process consisted of those individuals across the country instrumental in hosting the congregations

that then existed. As a group it was decided that there should be representatives on the board from across Canada with some being elders and some laymembers.

This process was written into the Bylaws of UCG-Canada. Be-

cause of having laymembers serve on the board, there also had to be a definition of laymembers. The definition reads: "The term 'laymember' as used in these By-laws is a person whose baptism has been recognized by the United Church of God – Canada as valid, who is in good standing as defined by the Church, who is enrolled on the corporate books as a member of the United Church of God – Canada and who has not been ordained as an Elder."

In addition to the need for this definition for the balloting process, the privacy laws in Canada rate someone's religious preference as being high on the privacy list. Thus, we have to be careful not to call someone a "member" without the person's express permission to do so.

Because of these factors, a Membership Form was created. If you have not filled in a UCG-Canada membership form, then UCG-

Canada cannot call you a member even though you have been baptized and are treated as a member in every other way. On the other hand, filling in the form does not come with any strings attached. It merely gives the church permission to change your status from "associate" to "member" while giving you the right to take part in the laymember selection process if you so choose. If you are not an official member but would like to be, contact your pastor who can assist you in the matter.

Soon there should be a list of all official members of your congregation posted in your congregation. These are those who will be eligible to take part in the balloting to select a representative from your congregation. It will also show who in the congregation is eligible to be selected. Each congregation will have the opportunity to put forward a name to be placed on the ballot for National Council. From that ballot, one

laymember will be selected by the National Conference to serve a three-year term on the National Council.

If there continues to be restrictions on congregating, alternate methods for balloting for individuals will be implemented. Your pastor will let you know when and how the selection process will be held.

There have been many good candidates put forward by congregations through the years. Not all have had the opportunity to serve a term, but their participation in the process is greatly needed and appreciated. Those who have served have come from across Canada (from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island) and from large and small congregations, bringing to the National Council a wide variety of experience, backgrounds and valuable input.

UNC

News From Across Canada

Calgary Activities

Never again will we take the brethren or what a blessing it truly is to assemble together and fellowship for granted. Calgary had three social events in December, January and February and now long for the next one.

On December 8, we had our annual Winter Social with group games and karaoke. It was so neat to see how many singers we

have in our midst. We especially enjoyed Rainer and Claudia Salomaa's rendition of Fiddler on the Roof's "Do you Love Me?"

After Sabbath services on January 11, we braved the frigid cold temperatures and twinkled our toes to ten-pin bowling. About 40 people attended and Mr. Salomaa mused that maybe we should have bowling every week to boost our church attendance! Nothing better than to look around and see the gig-

gles and smiling faces at our attempts to keep the ball straight and remember to release our fingers out of the ball!

Then on February 2, we had our annual outdoor/potluck/Super Bowl social. It started off with many gathering at Lake Sundance to enjoy tobogganing, skating, ice fishing and snowshoeing. Some even got a little hockey going. Weather was great and the sun was shining. Then we headed over to

the Salomaa's home for games and a Mexican-themed potluck. While we watched the Super Bowl, some brave souls ventured into the sauna and then rolled in the snow.



provided by Heidi Poffenroth

Although in March and April we were unable to gather together, we did add two people to the family of God: Rosalin Wegner on March 29, and Janet Hannah-Brown on April 6. We look forward to July's first services back to congratulate them in person.

Heidi Poffenroth

Guess Who?

Following Sabbath services on February 22, 2020, the Toronto congregation hosted a potluck social titled "Guess Who?" There was plenty of food with a variety of choice, and no lack of hungry bellies, since we all had to wait until after choir practice to begin our meal.

Near the end of dessert, Trish Romeo and Pat Ellis took turns reading brief facts about a number of church members that typically no one else would have

known. The audience had three opportunities to *Guess Who* this individual was. Some guesses were accurate and immediate, while others were not so successful and had to be revealed by the hosts.

After the identity of the person was revealed, the individual had a chance to provide further details which was often quite amusing, hilarious and amazing. These hidden facts would never have been known other than by guessing!



provided by Amy van Zant

Here are a few:

1. This person raised monarch butterflies.
2. This person competed in a professional winter sport that had him lying on his back.
3. This individual competed in three beauty pageants, where she placed third, second and first.
4. This person once fell out of a tree while attempting to retrieve a pet bird.
5. This person, at about five years of age, pushed his sibling into a fishpond, just so he could save his sibling and be the hero.

6. This individual attended a girls' Catholic school when HE was young.

It proved to be a very fun, interesting and entertaining social.

Pat Ellis

West Coast Ordination

The Victoria congregation had in-person services on Pentecost with an attendance of 11. This was the first time to meet since mid-March. To make the day even more special, Richard Shiundu was ordained as a Deacon.

Richard and his wife, Maureen, along with their oldest child, Timothy, came to Canada from Kenya four years ago. Since their move to Canada, they have had another child, Tallia.

The Shiundus attended UCG in Kenya, where John Elliott was Senior Regional Pastor, and so knew Richard and his family. They arrived in Winnipeg in June 2016 where they attended the local congregation. The family moved to Victoria in November 2018 when Richard was offered a better job.



provided by Wendy Corrigan

While in Winnipeg, Richard helped the Pastor, Herb Teitgen, by leading hymns. While in Victoria, he has further developed by giving sermonettes and split sermons.

Both Richard and his wife are excellent examples of being willing to serve and are greatly appreciated by the congregation.

Peter Corrigan

Prairie Ordination

A former Ambassador College graduate, Sheldon Sitter, was ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ on the morning of the Feast of Pentecost. Seeing him serve and grow as a Ministerial Trainee has been a wonderful experience.

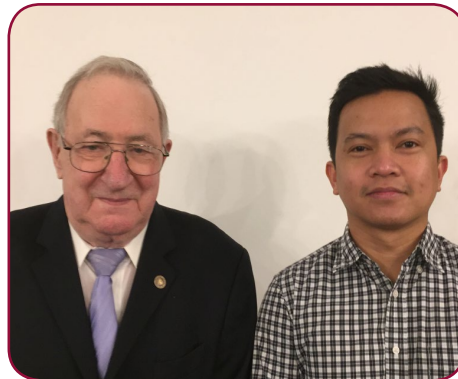
Now as a part-time salaried elder, Sheldon will be assisting in a number of UCG pastoral areas. He will assist Michael Erickson in Edmonton, Alberta. He will assist Larry Delong in the North Battleford and Saskatoon congregations. With the border between Canada and the United States closed, he will also help John Elliott as much as he is able in the

Kelowna congregation. As if that isn't enough, he will assist Rainer Salomaa in the Winnipeg and Regina congregations.

Michael Erickson

Vancouver Baptism

June 13, 2020, was a special day for Ralph Cortes who was baptized into the body of Christ prior to Sabbath services. Ralph has been attending the Vancouver congregation for just over two years.

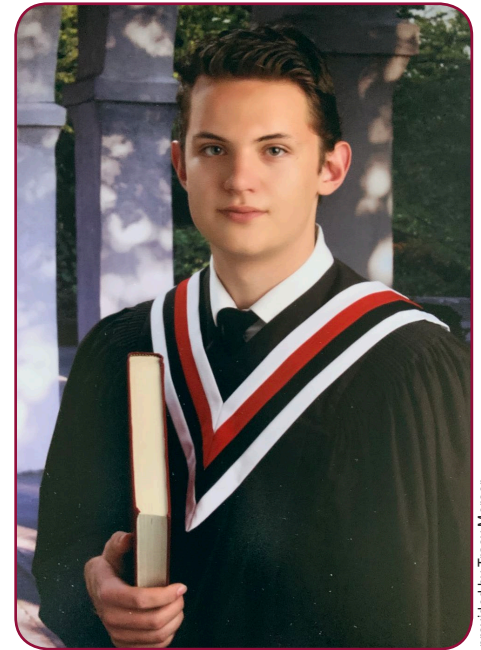


provided by Chyslane Palmer

Pastor John Elliott (who lives in Washington) had been counselling Ralph for baptism. Due to the Canada/US border being closed, he asked Abbotsford pastor David Palmer to conduct this special event.

David Palmer

also does volunteer work with a hockey coach to help instruct younger players. Ethan enjoys playing all sports especially hockey and soccer.



provided by Tracy Mercer

Ethan has attended UCG winter camp and has also volunteered at the Feast as an usher. After graduation, he plans to continue studies for a year as he determines whether to become a paramedic or go to university to study kinesiology.

Ethan's favourite scripture is Ephesians 4:32.

Tracy Mercer



provided by Tonya Erickson

Mercer Graduation

Ethan Mercer is graduating from Grimsby Secondary School. He is the son of Dave and Tracy Mercer of the Hamilton, Ontario, congregation.

Ethan works part-time as a sorter for a shipping company and as a hockey timekeeper. He

Morasse Graduation

Jaden Morasse is graduating from Grade 8 from South Grenville District High School. The last part of her school year was different, but she is a self-starter and has kept up with her studies though online learning. She is also very creative and loves a challenge.



She has interest in becoming a cosmetologist. She will be returning to South Grenville for Grade 9 and is interested in taking the hairdressing course.



provided by Julie Morasse

Jaden attends the Ottawa congregation with her parents, Daniel and Julie Morasse, and several other relatives. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Moulton.

Daniel Morasse

Ringor Graduation

Iana Gwen Ringor attends the Toronto congregation along with other family members. A few years ago she graduated from the University of Toronto with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree.

More recently she received an Advanced Diploma in Diagnostic Cytology from the Michener Institute of Education at UHN. This is a specialist post-secondary institution based in downtown Toronto. Cytology is the study of cells.



provided by Gwen Ringor

Gwen is now working as a Medical Laboratory Technologist specializing in Diagnostic Cytology and Histology.

UNC

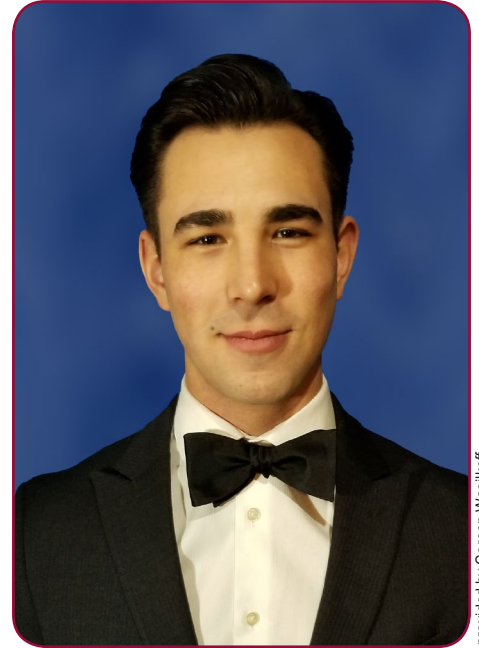
Wasilkoff Graduation

Logan Wasilkoff is graduating from Sir Allan MacNab High School. He attends the Hamilton, Ontario, congregation along with his parents and siblings.

During his high school years, Logan received honours including Outstanding Achievement Manufacturing Technologies, Guitar and Music award, and Outstanding Achievement Construction Technology. He was on the Junior Football Championship team and also played on the Senior Football team.

Logan's hobbies and interests include football, weight lifting, fishing and camping. He has also been an avid coin collector. He

plays both the guitar and the banjo. His favourite song is "Living On a Prayer" by Bon Jovi.



provided by Coreen Wasilkoff

After High School, Logan plans to enrol in the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Program at Mohawk College.

Logan's favourite scripture is, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4 KJV).

Coreen Wasilkoff

Moore-Kerr Wedding

On April 19, 2020, the country was in isolation and quarantine. That meant restrictions that included no large gatherings – like a wedding ceremony.

Despite the quarantine and all the restrictions required dur-

ing Canada's lockdown, a young couple decided it was time to get married anyway. And get married they did, without family or friends in attendance.



provided by Linda Copley

The couple's original intention was to be married in a park setting with a ceremony conducted by Calgary pastor Rainer Salomaa. The pandemic changed that plan. So the couple made alternate arrangements on the west coast, and I was asked to officiate the ceremony.

Fraser River lodge, about an hour from Vancouver, gave permission to hold the ceremony even though, due to the pandemic, they were actually closed. Of course, the wedding would be held with limited attendance.

So there we were outside in a beautiful setting with a mountain backdrop but with only seven people: the bride, the groom, two witnesses (Kayla Caruana and Chris Neykov), the photographer (Linda Copley), myself and my wife. The ceremony however was recorded for family and friends.

It felt a little strange to conduct what is usually a large family and friends gathering with only seven

people in attendance. Nevertheless, this young couple from the Okanagan was married. For me, it was a privilege and an honour to have a part in the wedding ceremony for Angela Kerr and Brandon Moore. Angela is the daughter of Melissa and Nigel Kerr of Calgary. Brandon is the son of Karen Erickson of Kelowna.

David Palmer

McCorkill Birth

Stephanie, Scott, Leon and Juliette McCorkill would like to share their very joyful news: It's a girl!



provided by Stephanie McCorkill

Madeleine Constance Mara was born on May 13, 2020, weighing in at eight pounds and seven ounces. She was a little over 22 inches long.

Baby Maddi and Mum are both very healthy and happy.

Stephanie McCorkill

Aime Obituary

Ken Aime was born on October 23, 1949, in Selkirk, Manitoba, and grew up there on a dairy farm. He was the son of Maurice and

Edith Aime. After finishing Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School, Ken spent four years in Bricket Wood, England, attending Ambassador College. During that time he spent one summer in Israel working on an archaeological dig. After returning to Manitoba, he worked for Dashwood Windows, Ste. Rose Lumber and Marchinski Lumber before starting his own business designing and building cattle oilers.

Ken was a member of the United Church of God - Canada and was known for his love of people. He always had time to sit with someone to listen, encourage and lift them up. His energy and enthusiasm for life were his trademark.

Ken had suffered from congestive heart failure with decreased health for several years. When pneumonia set in, his heart couldn't keep up and he died on Saturday, April 25, 2020, at the Selkirk Regional Health Centre.



provided by Betty Aime

Ken was predeceased by his parents, Maurice (1992), Edith (2009) and his brother Albert

(2013). He is survived by his wife, Betty; three children, Sonya Aime, Kabe Aime (Chantelle), and Teresa Aime; nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. There are also four stepchildren and six step-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother Doug Aime (Alice).

Rainer Salomaa

Krulc Obituary

Peter Krulc, beloved husband of Kaliopi Krulc, passed away at home surrounded by his family on April 12, 2020, at 81 years of age.



provided by Kaliopi Krulc

He was the loving father of Jani Krulc (Mike Jones) of Calgary, Alberta and Steven Bauer (Christina) of Regina, Saskatchewan. Peter will also be dearly missed by his granddaughter, Madeline Bauer; his sister Ela Golobic; and his nieces and their families in Slovenia; by extended family across Europe, the United States, and Canada. He was predeceased by his parents Valentine and Cyrila Krulc and his siblings: Valentine Krulc, Janez Krulc, Karl

Krulc, and Marija Jovan.

Peter was born in Maravce, Slovenia, on February 16, 1939, at the beginning of World War II. In 1960, he escaped former Yugoslavia and arrived in Canada as a political refugee. He first settled in Regina, working as a journeyman mechanic. Soon after, he opened his own auto repair shop. Steven, his first child, was born in Regina. In 1970, Peter moved to Calgary to start a galvanizing business with his brother, Karl. Together they built Industrial Galvanizing, which ran until 2015.

In 1971, Peter was called to the Church of God and was baptized into the Church in 1974. A Sabbath keeper and faithful member of God's church, Peter had a profound and unwavering belief in God which was the central pillar of his character. His faith guided him throughout his life, and he remained a devoted member of the United Church of God, an International Association. It was at church that he met his beloved wife, Kaliopi, the love of his life, and they married in 1978. Four years later, their daughter, Jani, was born.

Nothing was more important to Peter than his family, whom he loved with all his being. He had no greater joy than being with his son and daughter and their families. He was very proud of his children, Steven and Jani, and utterly delighted by his granddaughter Madeline (Steven's daughter); he was so much looking forward to meeting his second granddaughter in August with the arrival of

Jani's first child.

Peter was diligent and tireless in his work. He was an inventor, an innovator, an imaginative thinker and a mentor to many. He was never without a project, and he loved to design and fabricate machines, systems and tools. He, his wife and his daughter moved in 1984 to the country south of Calgary where Peter created a beautiful home for his family with the unwavering support of Kaliopi.

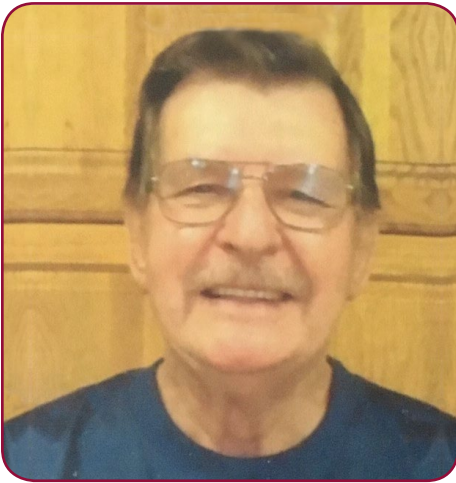
Peter was a quiet man with a steadfast presence. He was a voracious reader, especially of his Bible, but also of fiction and non-fiction, a keen political observer and a proud member of the Slovenian Canadian community. He enjoyed a good comedy, a nice shot of Metaxa and supporting his friends and family in any way he could. Peter will be remembered for his utmost kindness and patience, for his wit and humour, as well as for his loyalty and generosity of spirit. He will be forever missed by his family and friends.

A private family service was held Friday, April 17, 2020, at Mountain View Funeral Home. Announcements will be made for a public memorial to be held at a later date.

Jani Krulc

Turner Obituary

On Sunday, April 12, the Windsor congregation lost one of its members. Daniel Turner was born in April 1936 and died just short



provided by Gloria Turner

of his 84th birthday. He was retired from Chrysler Security.

Dan was among the first individuals who attended the mid-week Bible study in Windsor on April 10, 2013, and continued to attend when we held our first official Sabbath service on October 5, 2013.

I conducted Dan's first baptism counselling session in February 2014 and performed a baptism for him and two others in April of that year. Dan, with the support of his wife, Gloria, continued to attend faithfully until Alzheimer's set in preventing him

from further attendance.

At Dan's request, there was a private burial. Dan will be missed by all that knew him and we look forward to his resurrection at the return of Jesus Christ. Now he rests free from the suffering that he went through in this life, remaining faithful to the end. One of Dan's favorite scriptures was Psalm 121 as he looked to God for His faithful and steadfast help.

Patrick Read

"Unity" from page 16

is not a good thing. Continuity and stability of teaching is vital. Those who do otherwise are to be avoided. When contrary teachings are promoted verbally or in writing, the motive is not usually as pure as it may seem, which the next verse speaks to.

Do you think that those who cause division believe that they are causing division? Usually not. When it is pointed out to them by others, how do you suppose they typically react? Do you suppose they say, "Thank you for telling me. I didn't comprehend what I was doing was wrong. I'll repent and make amends." The reaction is typically not along these lines whatsoever.

What if there is a doctrine or teaching in UCG that you believe needs to be improved or adjusted? UCG has a remarkable process open to all members and

ministers to submit doctrinal papers for serious review and consideration.

The United Church of God welcomes the submissions of doctrinal and prophecy papers from the membership and the ministry. The Church appreciates the interest by ministers and members to further advance our understanding of God's Word. A process has been established in order to provide an orderly review of papers submitted dealing with doctrinal and prophecy topics. You may obtain a copy of the process by contacting your local pastor.

If as a result of such an investigation, a change is then made to a teaching or a doctrine, it will be communicated to the entire church so that we can all come to the same understanding at the same time. In the meantime, we should keep our personal views to ourselves knowing that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth

in God's good way and that we should avoid inadvertently causing harm and confusion.

Unity is a work of the Holy Spirit. Division is a work of the flesh. God is the source of peace and harmony. The Adversary is the advocate of division and injury. He's the one who would like to see the church fracture into a multitude of fragments.

Acts 2:46 describes the Church of God as being in "one accord." What a beautiful statement! A major descriptor of the early church was their oneness, unity and harmony. The Jerusalem church grew spiritually and grew numerically. It would appear that their unity and harmony had a major impact on others. We can similarly ask ourselves how what we are doing is promoting the cause of unity and harmony in the church.

Anthony Wasilkoff

Unity - More Than Just a Word

One definition of unity is, “the state or fact of being united or combined into one, as of the parts of a whole; unification.” Unity is desirable and can exist in many different endeavours. In the work place, productivity increases significantly when there is a significant measure of unity among employees. Unity is also important in a family and a marriage. Peace, contentment and happiness are more likely to be found in such a home. Unity is also essential in the Christian church. That is, in a denomination as a whole and in each congregation. Unity must be evident and cultivated in multiple areas on both levels for the institution to thrive and be abundantly blessed. One specific area of unity is doctrinal unity.

By doctrine we mean the teachings and beliefs of the Church. The core of UCGia’s doctrines is published in the *Fundamental Beliefs* booklet. These are by no means all of the beliefs and teachings of the church. There are many more which appear in our other publications.

One such teaching or doctrine is the resurrection. UCGia teaches that there will be a resurrection from the dead. In fact, we teach that there will be three resurrections. This is standard understanding for the Church of God. However, there was a time in the church when this doctrine was disputed and rejected. 1 Corinthians 15:12 tells us that there were individuals in the Corinthian church who were teaching against the resurrection of the dead. According to them, the resurrection had

already happened and wouldn’t happen again. They contradicted the teaching that followers of Jesus Christ would someday be resurrected even as He was. This would have been very upsetting to many in the Church of God in Corinth at that time.

How did the Apostle Paul react to this teaching? Paul didn’t say, “Well, the Church should be broad-minded. There is room for several views on our understanding of the resurrection.” Not at all. Paul fought and resisted what he considered to be a totally wrong teaching. He drives the point home in verses 29 through 34 by saying, “Evil company corrupts good habits.” What does this mean? He means that those teaching there is no resurrection are bad company and they are corrupting the good character and habits of those who hold to the correct doctrine. This is very emphatic language and for good reason. Divisive behaviour is no small matter. It is corrosive in the home, the work place and in the church.

How free-wheeling was the Apostle Paul? You would think that if there were anyone who had the capacity to make unilateral doctrinal pronouncements it would have been the Apostle Paul. But he didn’t, even though his credentials for doing so were impressive. Acts 15 relates the account of certain men who came to Antioch from Judea and taught the brethren that unless they were circumcised according to the custom of Moses, they could not be saved! Why did they advocate this? Because they thought they were

right, and they thought the rest of the church would soon come to see things the way they did. They had much more confidence than was good for them – or for others.

However, the Apostle Paul and Barnabas disagreed emphatically with these misguided teachers. What to do? A decision was made to appeal to Jerusalem, that is, to the headquarters of the Church at that time. The situation was presented to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem who subsequently entered into official deliberations to decide the matter. After much deliberation an official decision was made in a timely manner and then communicated to the entire church. Things were done decently and in order so as to preserve unity, harmony and peace in the church.

No one back then had the capacity to make doctrinal changes in the church unilaterally, not even the Apostle Paul. No one in the church today has the right or authority to institute doctrinal changes in the church on their own individual recognisance. Sadly at times it seems some seem to think they do. To attempt to do so usually causes harmful division in the church.

Romans 16:17 sternly warns, “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned and avoid them.” When teaching occurs which is contrary to doctrine (established teaching), it invariably causes divisions and offenses. That

See “Unity” on page 15