

## **Summary of Key Findings, Unicamp Charitable Purposes Review**

**March 2, 2023**

This report briefly summarizes the work to update Unicamp's charitable purposes, the results of the community feedback, the revisions made to the purposes, and next steps. For more detailed presentations, please refer to The Main Report of the Unicamp Charitable Purposes Review (18 pages) or The Full-Length Report of the Unicamp Charitable Purposes Review (60 pages).

A review of Unicamp's charitable purposes was initiated by a motion passed at the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Unicamp. Five volunteer delegates, the President of the Board and the Executive Director of Unicamp formed a Charter Review Committee. A review of Unicamp's current charitable purposes, developed in 1969, concluded they do not adequately describe Unicamp's current objectives and activities. The committee updated the charitable purposes and led a community engagement process to obtain feedback on the proposed updated purposes. From June to September 2022, we conducted 11 focus groups representing diverse perspectives with 60 participants and provided an on-line survey that was completed by 100 people.

Charitable purpose statements describe the objectives or aims of the organization – its reasons for being. They are a key element of the governing documents and must meet legal requirements. For religious charities, the legally charitable purposes are the advancement of religion.

### **What we Learned from the Community Feedback**

**1.** There is strong support for the 3 proposed charitable purposes.

- Focus group and on-line survey participants were asked to rate "how well the (first, second or third) charitable purpose describes what Unicamp, as a religious charity, is about?" Scale options were: Very Poorly; Poorly; Well; or Extremely Well. The purposes were rated "Well" or "Extremely Well" by a large majority of focus group and on-line survey participants, ranging from 77% for purpose three to 87% for purpose one.
- The on-line survey represented a range of perspectives in terms of age, UU affiliation and a variety of ways of participating at Unicamp.

### **On-Line Survey and Focus Group Ratings of Purposes**

<b>Ratings of "Well" and "Extremely Well"</b>	<b>Purpose 1</b>	<b>Purpose 2</b>	<b>Purpose 3</b>
On-line Survey	<b>87 %</b>	<b>81 %</b>	<b>77 %</b>
Focus Groups	<b>82.5 %</b>	<b>84.2 %</b>	<b>77.2 %</b>

**2.** Participants provided valuable reflections and suggestions in the focus group interviews and comments in the on-line survey. Overall, there was much agreement with the elements of the

purposes, such as the addition of a purpose for expressing the UU Principle of the interdependent web, community building, the ways we express the UU faith at Unicamp and the broad range of activities and participants.

3. There were also many suggestions for changes. Examples include the recommendation to centre and prioritize children and youth and the programs that serve them, and changing the wording of “religious exploration” to “spiritual exploration.”

Many revisions were made to the proposed charitable purpose statement, based on the community feedback. Words or letters in bold indicate revisions made.

### **Charitable Purpose Statement – Revised Based on Community Feedback**

The statement of purpose of Unicamp of Ontario is to operate a Canadian Unitarian Universalist (UU) **Camp** and Spiritual Retreat Centre for **UU 's, congregations, and the wider community** of all ages to:

1. Provide camps, programs, services and gatherings, that advance Canadian Unitarian Universalist **Principles**, engage in **spiritual exploration**, and **strive to create** a welcoming, inclusive, multigenerational, community **experience**. **Children and youth are central to Unicamp, therefore activities such as Kids Camp, youth camps, and family camps, are a priority.**
2. Nurture leadership, life skills **and spiritual growth** by offering programs and opportunities to children, youth, and adults **of all ages, rooted in** the Canadian Unitarian Universalist **Principles and Sources**;
3. Engage **Unicamp participants in learning about environmental stewardship, experiencing nature**, and living out the Canadian Unitarian Universalist **Principle** of respecting the interdependent web of all existence.

### **Next steps**

- Everyone is invited to attend an on-line town hall meeting on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. for a brief presentation of the results and time for discussion and reflection. Contact [unicamprep@grandriverunitarian.ca](mailto:unicamprep@grandriverunitarian.ca) for the zoom link.
- There will be a review of the impacts of the revised charitable purposes with Unicamp leadership.
- Updating Unicamp’s charitable purposes will require approval by the members, and federal and provincial governmental bodies.

Thank you to everyone who has assisted with this work and provided valuable and vital feedback on the proposed charitable purposes!

For more information or questions, please contact Dianne Heise, project lead, at [unicamprep@grandriverunitarian.ca](mailto:unicamprep@grandriverunitarian.ca)