

Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women October Newsletter 2020

"I will always thank you, God, for what you have done; in the presence of your people I will proclaim that you are good." Psalm 52:9

In this season of thankfulness I hope everyone had an opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving in whatever way was best for them!

Let us be thankful for each other.

We are thankful to all who have sent their \$2 memberships this year. Of the \$2 you send per member per year, \$1 goes to National UCW to help defray the costs of having two representatives attend and vote at the annual National Meeting of UCW. It usually takes place at Queen of Apostles Centre in Mississauga, Ontario but this year it was held as a Zoom meeting. The other \$1 stays with Saskatchewan UCC Women to cover costs of planning and hosting events for women throughout Living Skies Regional Council, as well as printing and mailing newsletters to those who do not have e-mail. We would like to get the Statistics Reports more up to date and will be personally contacting all churches and/or women's groups including UCW to make sure we have correct contact names and information. After compiling a report of how many members we have based on reports as far back as 2016, I came up with 718 members, 30 non-active and 20 affiliate.

Memberships can be mailed to our treasurer, Wilma Will at

Box 367, Star City, Sask. S0E 1P0

Cheques should be made out to Sask. UCC Women.

We also want to thank all who have donated to the UCW Bursary Fund. To date this year \$3,600 has been given out to students who are members of a Saskatchewan United Church and who are currently involved in ministry studies.

October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Take time to pray for your minister and those in church leadership. This has been an especially challenging and stressful year!

This is also the time of year when some are collecting for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (nickels) to send to Women's Inter-church Council of Canada to help women's organizations around the world who are in need not only of financial assistance, but also of prayers to end violence against women.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an international ecumenical movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. It began in 1956 with Shanti Solomon of India, who was part of a Christian women's mission of reconciliation to countries on the Pacific Rim. The divisions among people and nations were made real to her when she was not allowed into Korea because it did not have diplomatic relations with India. She stayed behind in the Philippines and as she prayed, God gave her the simple but profound idea of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. For more information visit www.wicc.org then tick on Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin Prayer

O Loving Creator,

We present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind, that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept this least coin “token of Love”. Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honour your creation with love, as shown through the life, death, and resurrection of your son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Dawn Weber and Barb Byers Bradley represented the Sask. UCC Women at the National UCW Annual Meeting via Zoom September 28 to October 2. There were 39 women attending from all across Canada, sharing news from their various regions, offering suggestions, deciding on future courses of action of UCW. Barb and Dawn wrote and sent out morning and evening meditations each day. [Feel free to use these](#) as part of your personal or group meditations:

Some highlights that they reported from the Annual meeting:

On Day 2 Erik Mathiesen, Chief Financial Officer of The United Church of Canada was guest presenter. He mentioned that M & S contributions are millions of dollars behind, so that would indicate it is even more important that we thank and acknowledge UCWs who donated to Mission and Service this past year giving over a million dollars from across Canada. If donating to National M & S make sure that you indicate your UCW and church name on the memo of the cheque.

On Day 3 Amy Crawford, Church in Mission Team Leader did the Bible study. This was followed by President Beulah Hayley’s report. She noted that the National UCW Newsletter (Keeping in Touch) would no longer be mailed out from General Council. It is discontinuing mailing info packs to all the churches in Canada. Therefore, National UCW will take over producing the newsletter and we will be printing it in this newsletter. Rev. Sandra Bendall volunteered to be the Editor of Keeping in Touch and I will be forwarding our monthly newsletter with information from Living Skies Regional Council to her.

The 60th Anniversary of UCW will take place July 11 to 15, 2022 at Membertou Trade and Convention Centre at Sydney, Nova Scotia. Details will follow in the new year. It may be time to start thinking of local events that we could be doing in the Living Skies Region to recognize the work of UCWs here.

On Day 4 national treasurer Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle presented the budget. Nora Sanders, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada was the guest speaker. If you would like to see these financial reports please contact Dawn Weber.

There was much discussion throughout the meeting about a letter being sent from NUCW to General Council proposing that the UCW be recognized as a constituent part of The United Church of Canada. Constituent means a member, being part of, component part of the church. An essential part. It does not mean that UCW gets a vote but would be recognized in writing as well as orally. This motion was carried. Once the letter is created, the executive including Barb and Dawn will be called to join the Zoom meeting to discuss the contents.

Day 5 wrapped up the business part of the meeting. Rev. Michael Blair was the guest worship leader for the closing worship and communion. This was open to women across Canada via Zoom. A copy of the closing service is available upon request.

Next year's National UCW meeting is scheduled for September 21 – 24 in Mississauga, Ontario.

Due to the COVID -19 pandemic, it was impossible to install the new President in person. Therefore Beulah Hayley will be staying on as President for another year.

If anyone would like the detailed report from National UCW please e-mail me at d.mohn@sasktel.net and I will gladly send it to you.

The executive of Sask. United Church of Canada women met through Zoom on Saturday, Oct. 10.

All women's events that were planned were cancelled this year. We plan to keep in contact with women throughout the province via this monthly newsletter.

We do hope to advertise, plan and possibly host a Women's Gathering in the coming year. We'd also welcome the chance to let others know of events happening in your area. If anyone is looking for a unique Christmas Gift I still have a few copies of "Celebrating 55 years of UCW in Sask." left for \$12 a copy.

Maybe we can share some unique ways of meeting, fund raising and fellowship.

Blessings,

Mary, on behalf of the Sask. United Church of Canada Women