

NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH WOMEN ANNUAL MEETING REPORT – September 20 to 24 2021

MONDAY -- 20 September 2021

- ❖ Prior to the meeting, it was decided that Wednesday, 22 September would be Orange Shirt Day. Other than Thursday, 23 September which we are encouraged to wear black, colours were not designated to days as they had been in previous years.
- ❖ Meeting began at 10:20 a.m. CST
- ❖ President Beulah Hayley welcomed us all and lit the Christ Candle. She said a little prayer. We were asked to pray for Lorna J. Standingready as she battles COVID.
- ❖ Marj MacMillan and Linda Britton did the opening Worship. The Bible reading was from Genesis 32: 24-31. Marj did the reflection. She talked about Jacob and his frailties and strengths, good and evil. She, also, talked about Morgan Bennett-Murphy who was born with three fingers on each hand and shortened and rotated forearms. Around age of 2, she develops scoliosis. Morgan talks about being left out because she was different.
- ❖ Beulah did the Land Acknowledgement
- ❖ Beulah opened the business part of the meeting
- ❖ Each of the attendees introduced themselves and the region they are representing
- ❖ Motions:
 - i) Moved by Dawn Weber and seconded Pat Edmonds by that we make all guests corresponding members. Carried
 - ii) Moved by Win Czum and seconded by Nancy Hazen that the agenda be accepted as presented with the option to make changes during the week. Carried
 - iii) Moved by Margaret Curtis and seconded by Clare Walker to adopt the Minutes of September 2020 and 31 May 2021. Carried
- ❖ Kim Allin from the URCD talked about two books that are on sale at 20% if you buy them at the same time and before 30 September 2021. The first book is "Adventures in Faith and Family" by Susan Lukey (\$15.95) and the second book is "How the Light Shines" by Trisha Elliot (\$19.95). These could be used for book studies. Also, there is a summer sale on a lot of their books until 30 September. The website is: www.URCDstore.ca. For more information, please contact Kim at kallin@united_church.ca
- ❖ Nancy Hazen and Linda Stronski from Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional UCW did the closing Worship service. They read from Genesis 8 !-12. This the story of Noah (his name means rest) and how he sent forth a raven and dove (3 x).
- ❖ Dawn Munroe from Canadian Shield Regional UCW read Hymn #361 from VU "Small Things Matter"
- ❖ Diane Aikman from Shining Waters Regional UCW led us in "I Am Going To Live So God Can Use Me"
- ❖ Beulah adjourned today's meeting at 1:05 p.m. CST

Tuesday, 21 September 2021

- ❖ Diane Aikman welcomed us into the circle with two Hymns from VU 1) #289 – "It Only Takes a Spark" and 2) #814 "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love"
- ❖ President Beulah opened the meeting with the lighting of the Christ Candle and a prayer.
- ❖ The opening Worship was done by Diane Aikman and Pat Edmonds of Shining Waters Regional UCW. Scripture reading was 2 Samuel 6: Selected Verses. Pat did the reflection of on how King David danced when the before the Ark of God as it travelled to

the City of David. Hymns were 1) MV #156 "Dance with the Spirit" and 2) VU #352 "Lord of the Dance".

- ❖ Financial Statement was presented by Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle. She noted that as of beginning of September the "Women for Change-Zambia Fund was at a total of \$58,718.39. The NUCW does not having a chequing or savings account. The United Church of Canada pays our bills and we pay them back out of the foundation.
- ❖ Motions:
 - iv) Moved by Mary Mohn and seconded by Dawn Weber that the financial statement be approved as presented. Carried
 - v) Moved by Clare Walker and seconded by Ruth Kennedy that Terry Beaumont be given authority to request payments from United Church of Canada for National United Church Women expenses. Carried
 - vi) Moved by Pat Edmonds and seconded by Valerie Nickson that the National United Church Women Grant Committee be given the authority to request payments of the approved grants. Carried
 - vii) Moved by Janice Knowles and seconded by Dawn Monroe that the United Church Women give \$3,000.00 (Three Thousand Dollars) Womens-Interchurch Council of Canada (WICC) for 2022. Carried
 - viii) Moved by Barbara Davison and seconded by Win Czum that the National United Church Women donate \$150.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Dollars) in U.S. funds to the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women for 2022. Carried
- ❖ Guest Presenter, Adele Halliday, is the Anti-Racism and Equity Staff Person. She talked about being an Anti-Racist denomination. At the last General Council Meeting, it was voted that we look at being an Anti-Racist Church. A commitment statement was created in October 2020 and in November 2020 Adele was appointed the Anti-Racism and Equity Lead.
 - i) Long term no matter how uncomfortable
 - ii) Actively pursue anti-racism versus being passive anti-racist.
 - iii) Equity – adjusting our thought and actions for long term gain. https://united-church.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/equity-support-team-member_position-description.pdf
 - iv) Adjustments for identities
 - v) Moderator's video invitation "the Church Being The Church
 - vi) 7 Suggestions
 - a) Engage with United Church's anti-racism action plan. Plan includes theology, education, advocacy, policy healing
 - b) Work to becoming actively antiracist
 - c) Engage with anti-racism for the long term
 - d) Working on systemic racism by engaging with something tangible
 - e) Re-engage, in addition to being outraged
 - f) Participate in on-going programmes such as the 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-racism 1st October to 9th November. <https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/anti-racism/40-days-engagement-anti-racism>
 - g) Remember that you are not alone, you are on a journey alongside God.
- ❖ Closing Worship was done by Barbara Davison and Eleonore Tribe of Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit Regions UCWs. Scripture Reading was 1 Corinthians 10: 29-31. Hymns were 1) VU #371 "Open My Eyes That I May See" and 2) VU #374 Come and Find A Quiet Centre". Barb read "All or Nothing" from a daily devotional called "Heart Reflections" by Nanette Kinkade.

Wednesday, 22 September 2021

- ❖ Diane Aikman provided the gathering music – 1) VU #820 “Make a Joyful Noise” and 2) MV #154 “Deep in Our Hearts”
- ❖ President Beulah lit the Christ Candle and said a prayer.
- ❖ Community Building was by Janice Knowles. She read from Chicken Soup for Women “Money Well Spent” and the poem “Give Me” from Poems of Hope from Salesian Collection
- ❖ Opening Worship was led by Marilyn Johnston and Win Czum from Horseshoe Falls Region UCW. Scripture reading was from Mark 14: 3-9. Win read “She Did What She Could” from the book “Off To A Good Start” by David Sparks.
- ❖ Reports:
 - 1) Beulah gave her a report
 - 2) Regional Presidents added to their reports as needed
 - 3) Ruth Kennedy gave a slide presentation for the “60th Anniversary” being held in Sydney, Nova Scotia from 11 July to 15 July 2022. Terry Beaumont showed us how to use the registration form.
 - 4) All other reports will be given on Thursday and Friday
- ❖ Amy Crawford did the Bible Study on various chapters and verses from the Gospel of Mark.

Thursday, 23 September

- ❖ Today we wore black to challenge the attitudes that incite rape, violence and injustice, to show respect for the women who are resilient, for those who lead, for those who add their voices to be heard.

Diane Aikman again provided the Gathering Music.

President Beulah Hayley lit the Christ Candle and said the morning prayer.

Morning Worship was led by Sask. United Church of Canada Women. Dawn and Mary read the service that was written and prepared by our Co-chairs Susan Dokken and Chantal Ntibatagera. Scripture was Isaiah 43: 1 – 7. The reflection was titled “Lifetime Guarantee”

Treasurer Carolle Dalla-Arbuckle presented the budget. It was voted on and passed.

Reports were heard from the Grant Committee, Communications Committee and Handbook Committee.

Grant Committee: It was noted that over \$8000 has been given out to date from the Agatha Kaasa and Dorothy Amos Fund to those applying for funding to attend the UCW 60th Anniversary. To date there are another 61 applications to be processed by the October 15, 2021 deadline for the Agatha Kaasa fund.

Communications: Carolle Dallas Arbuckle invited everybody to make submissions from their region for the Keeping in Touch newsletter. The next edition is expected to be out on October 15, 2021. Deadline for submissions is October 1.

Handbook Committee: The revised (September 2021) UCW Handbook containing the constitution, guidelines, policies and resources for United Church Women was presented. It was noted the change to the policy and procedures regarding the election of the National President on page 34. A motion was made to approve the Handbook as presented. It was passed unanimously.

An in camera session was held to deal with the treasurer's contract. A motion was made and passed unanimously to renew Carolle Dallas Arbuckle's contract for another two years.

One of the Guest presenters today was Marilyn Rodger, a UCW member from Four Winds Presbyterial in Bay of Quinte UCW East CentralOntaio Region. She has been sewing custom face masks and donating the money to various charities such as the UCWs Women for Change Zambia Project and the Healing Fund. Her masks have been sold and shipped across Canada from Newfoundland to B.C.

Diane Aikman from Shining Water UCW did a presentation on 60 years of women's leadership.

Terry Beaumont, national coordinator for UCW from General Council, invited UCW to arrange an on-line booth for the up-coming "Engage" event on November 3 – 7. This will be available across Canada. People must register to take part. More information will be coming out in the near future from General Council and it will also be posted on the website and in "Keeping in Touch".

Closing Worship was led by Elaine Burrows from Maritime UCW. Diane Aikman played and sang Called by Earth and Sky from More Voices 135 interspersing music with readings.

- ❖ Marilyn Rodger: Fourwinds Presbyterial / Bay of Quinte UCW
ECOR marilynrodger@aol.com

You have been introduced to Marilyn Rodger through our Keeping in Touch UCW Newsletter and may be the proud wearer of one of Marilyn's UCW custom designed facemasks. Marilyn is joining us this year to give us a report on this inspiring fundraising initiative supporting Women for Change – Zambia and The Healing Fund. Payment via e-transfer, cheque to Marilyn Rodger in Kingston Ontario
Email Marilyn for all the information about purchase

Friday, 24 September

- ❖ Diane Aikman did the gathering music from MV #145 "Draw the Circle Wide"
- ❖ President Beulah lit the Christ Candle and said a prayer
- ❖ The Opening Worship was presented by Clare Walker and Valerie Weinert from Pacific Mountain Regional UCW. Clare read a story called the "Blue Rose"
- ❖ Moved by Mary Mohn and seconded by Diane Aikman that we let the people coming to the Worship, Communion and Installation of Nancy Risto as President know that we will be recording and will be making it public on social media. Should they not want to appear on social media, please shut off their video camera. Carried

- ❖ 2022 Meeting date will be 19 – 23 September at Queen of the Apostles Renewal Center in Mississauga, Ontario
- ❖ Moved by Dawn Weber and seconded by Joyce Osborne that the Handbook Committee be disbanded. Carried
- ❖ Moved by Dawn Weber and seconded by Linda Stronski that Power be given to the Sub-Executive (President, Past President, Secretary and Treasurer) to deal with urgent matters between meetings.
- ❖ Closing worship was led by Rev. Japhet Ndhlovu, Executive Minister of Church in Mission Unit of the United Church of Canada. Scripture Reading was from Genesis 8: 1 – 12. Hymns were VU #135 “Standing with God in Hope”, #376 “Spirit of the Living God”; #375 “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”; #457 “As We Gather At Your Table” and #672 “Take Time To Be Holy”. The reflection was called “Remembering to Remember”. We had the installation of Nancy Risto as president followed by Communion.
- ❖ New President gave her message and hopes to see us all at the 60th Anniversary and next year’s meeting so she can collect hugs.
- ❖ The Blessing Song was sung to Rev. Japhet and Beulah
- ❖ Last song for the road was VU #639 “One More Step Along the Road We Go”.

Submitted by
Mary Mohn
Dawn Weber