

SASK UCCW NEWSLETTER December 2022

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours.” NRSV Luke 2: 13, 14



MODERATOR’S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

In her [Christmas video message](#), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne reminds us that when so much seems uncertain and the news amplifies all the hard news stories, there is One who came to show us that all the ends of the earth should see the salvation of God—and that through that One, we are capable of coming together to achieve the impossible.

If you would like to include the video in your worship live stream, please use the downloadable version, available at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/3hZ2wlv>

SASKATCHEWAN UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA WOMEN 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Zoom Executive meetings were held January 16, 2021, April 10, 2021, and September 4, 2021 as well as consulting by telephone and e-mail.

Dawn Weber, 1st Vice Chair and Mary Mohn represented Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women at the National UCW Annual Meeting held September 20 to 24, 2021 by Zoom. Our unit was assigned to prepare the Opening Prayer and Worship for September 23, 2021.

The 60th anniversary of UCW was set for July 11 to 15, 2022 at Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

Monthly newsletters have been written, distributed by email and mail by Mary Mohn, Editor. She is our representative to the National UCW In Touch Newsletter [formerly Keeping In Touch]. The Sask UCCW Newsletters and revised Statistics Form are posted online at the Living Skies Regional website:

www.livingskiesrc.ca/programs/UCW [under Programs>Women's Network].

Mary Mohn is our Sask UCCW Communications Officer and contact person for Sask UCCW on the UCW webpage.

The Sask UCCW Statistics Form 2021/2022 was circulated with a deadline date for returns by March 1, 2022. As at March 2022 there were 741 Saskatchewan UCCW Members.

The Saskatchewan UCW Bursary Fund Committee members are Mary Mohn, Susan Dokken, Chantal Ntibategera, Allison Irvine, Joan Brown. Persons who are members of Living Skies Regional Council United Church community of faith and who are participants in a recognized program of preparation for pastoral ministry in the United Church of Canada may apply. Applications will be considered twice yearly, at the end of February and the end of October. Applications may be submitted once per year per person. Two Bursaries were awarded totaling \$3,000.00. The Bursary Fund balance at December 31, 2021, was \$8,172.75.

Once again plans were cancelled for an in person regional meeting event planned for September 25, 2021 due to the significant rise in Covid 1 infections. A Sask.

United Church of Canada Women Regional Annual General Meeting was held by Zoom on Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Founding member and Treasurer Wilma Will retired. The following agreed to let their names stand for Election of Executive for the coming year: Past Co-chair: Susan Dokken; Co-chair: Chantal Ntibategera, Prince Albert; Co-chair: Dawn Weber, Saskatoon; 1st Vice Chair: Diane Thurlow, Meadow Lake; 2nd Vice Chair: Marilyn Bodner, Lanigan; Treasurer: Phyllis Robinson, Saskatoon; Secretary: Barbara Byers Bradley, Saskatoon.

The next National UCW Meeting was scheduled to be held September 19 – 23, 2022 at Queen of the Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, Ontario.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Women: Chantal Ntibategera, Dawn Weber, Co-chairs; Mary Mohn, Communications Officer, Diane Thurlow, 1st Vice-chair, Phyllis Robinson, Treasurer, Barb Byers Bradley, Secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 7 at 3 p.m. by zoom

Please register so we can send reports, agenda, budget and log-in or phone in information to you. There is NO Charge.

Contact Phyllis Robinson at phyllis.r2@sasktel.net or phone 306-244-1478.

NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL MEETING:

We are looking for nominations for the positions of 1st and 2nd Vice-chair. These positions will begin following the Annual Meeting in January 2023. If you, or you know of anyone who would be willing to fill either of these positions, please contact Dawn Weber at 306-373-2407 or any member of the Sask. UCCW executive. Remember, we are part of the Living Skies Women's Network and any woman (including clergy) is welcome to be part of the executive. Meetings are most often held by Zoom or arranged at the convenience of those on the executive when held in person. Usually there are two to four meetings a year.

Winter Solstice: Taken from “The Circle of Life” by Joyce Rupp and Macrina Wiederkehr

There is a tendency to want to hurry from autumn to spring, to avoid the long dark days that winter brings. Many people do not like constant days bereft of light and months filled with colder temperatures. They struggle with the bleakness of land and the emptiness of trees. Their eyes and hearts seek color. Their spirits tire of tasting the endless gray skies. There is great rejoicing in the thought that light and warmth will soon be filling more and more of each new day.

But winter darkness has a positive side to it. As we gather to celebrate the first turn from winter to spring, we are invited to recognize and honor the beauty in the often unwanted season of winter. Let us invite our hearts to be glad for the courage winter proclaims. Let us be grateful for the wisdom winter brings in teaching us about the need for withdrawal as an essential part of renewal. Let us also encourage our spirits as Earth prepares to come forth from this time of withdrawal into a season filled with light.

The winter solstice celebrates the return of hope to our land as our planet experiences the first slow turn toward greater daylight. Soon we will welcome the return of the sun and the coming of springtime. As we do so, let us remember and embrace the positive, enriching aspects of winter’s darkness. Pause now to sit in silence in the darkness of this space. Let this space be a safe enclosure of creative gestation for you.

BLESSING: We extend this Cherokee Blessing for the coming year to each of you!

May the warm winds of heaven blow softly through your house.

May the Great Spirit bless all who enter there.

May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows,

And may the rainbow always touch your shoulder.

Christmas Blessings - Chantal, Dawn, Diane, Barb, Phyllis & Mary