

## Sask. UCCW Newsletter December 2023

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing , so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.**

**Romans 15:13**

I want to share my reconciliation story with you.

Our 9 year old grandson is playing hockey on a team in P.A.(Prince Albert) this year because there aren't enough kids here to make up a team. At the first parents' meeting the head coach, who is Indigenous, introduced himself and said he grew up at Grandmother's Bay, north of La Ronge. He was proud to point out that 80% of the kids on the team are Indigenous. He said the emphasis this year would be on teaching the kids how to play the game and to have fun. He also strongly encouraged the parents to let the players go into the dressing room alone and learn to dress themselves for hockey, maybe just help with tying their skates if needed. I was delighted because I don't have a clue how to dress a 9 year old for hockey. Do shin pads, elbow pads or neck protector go on first? When I asked my grandson the other day how it was going in the dressing room he quickly replied "Fine, but, the skate tying is a work in progress".

I soon realized that all the parents and grandparents want the same thing for their kids and grandkids: to have the opportunity to play and have fun. With helmets on I have no idea which kid on the ice is Indigenous or non-Indigenous and it doesn't matter in the slightest. The kids certainly do not care!

You can't imagine the excitement when this little team won Gold at their first tournament! This came after winning two games on the Saturday and winning three games back to back on Sunday.

They have won and lost games since but they are a team. Maybe that's what reconciliation needs: teamwork! This week, because of the unseasonably warm temperatures no natural ice is available in P.A., so the team has rented ice here in Birch Hills to practice. I am HOPEful this Advent that our kids, grandkids and great grandkids will lead us on the true path to reconciliation **if we let them!**

Mary Mohn

## MEMORIALS

The following are who we remembered during our memorial service in Esterhazy. Trudy (Gertrude) Pinch 1933 2023 Regina, Joyce Porsnuk life member Hudson Bay, Audrey Brooks Hudson Bay, Jean Chalus life member Hudson Bay, Caroline June Holoien Melfort, Iris Gloria Kaminskas 1939 2022 Melfort, Gale Anne Kolodinsky 1952 2023 Melfort, Karen Fehr Jun 2022 Saskatoon, Eunice Kleppe Sept 2022, Betty McGregor March 2023, Sheila Cochrane May 2023, Helen Fairburn 1932 Apr 2023 Saskatoon Bea Ward 1923 Apr 2023 Saskatoon, Edith Chapple 1930 May 2023, Marguerite Jean Boyd 1935-2022 life member Kinistino, Cora Gavel 1924 2022 Prince Albert, Leah Joyce Hunter 1931 2023 Birch Hills, Dianne Lisell Apr 9 1955 2022 Moose Jaw, Priscille Dec

25 2022 (Chantal's aunt), Dale Dagale Longbank, Bonnie Martinson 2015 Esterhazy Elsie Park Esterhazy, Barb Cook Esterhazy, Florrie Gray 2016 Esterhazy, Myrtle Scheier 2020 Esterhazy, Irene Philipps Esterhazy, Pat Mitchell 2022 Esterhazy, Elaine Brace 2023 Esterhazy, Wanda Bjorson Moosomin, Marilyn Pateman Moosomin. We're thankful for the lifetime of work these women did for the church and their communities.

### **STATISTICS FORM AND ANNUAL \$2 MEMBERSHIP FEE DONATION**

Please send statistics form to Barb Byers Bradley at 41 Nicholson Place, Saskatoon, Sask. S7L 4G7 or e-mail: [greenview@sasktel.net](mailto:greenview@sasktel.net). You can also send your membership fee donation to Barb along with the statistics form. Make cheques payable to: **SASKATCHEWAN UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA WOMEN (Sask. UCC Women)**. \$1 goes to National UCW to cover a fraction of the cost of sending two reps. to the annual National UCW meeting and the other \$1 stays here and goes towards the cost of printing and mailing our monthly newsletters to those who can't access internet..

### **Annual General Meeting – Saturday, January 27, 2024 3 p.m.**

January 19 is the deadline to register for the Zoom Annual meeting of Sask. UCCW. Please note that ALL women are welcome to join in this meeting. Register with Barb Byers Bradley by e-mail: [greenview@sasktel.net](mailto:greenview@sasktel.net) or phone 306-370-0136.

### **SASK. UCCW ELECTION**

**The Annual General Meeting of Sask. UCCW has been set for Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 3 p.m. It will be a Zoom meeting and ALL are invited to attend. We have three vacancies to fill on the executive: secretary, first and second vice-chairs. The following have agreed to let their name stand for the up-coming year: Co-chair – Diane Thurlow Co-chair – Allison Irvine Treasurer – Phyllis Robinson. Meetings are usually held by zoom three or four times throughout the year. If you or anyone you know is interested please let any member of the executive or myself know.**

### **ONE DAY WOMEN'S GATHERING**

Following the Gathering in Esterhazy it was the consensus of those who attended that they would prefer a one-day Gathering rather than a three-day Gathering. Sask. UCCW is planning to host a one-day Gathering in Saskatoon in the spring. We have two dates in mind: Saturday, April 27 OR Saturday, May 25. The latter would correspond with Grosvenor Park United Church's Contemplative Arts Festival that Thursday and Friday so Gathering attendees could come early and take in both events if they wished. Please let me (Mary Mohn) know which date you would prefer by January 23 so we can include it in our Annual General Meeting discussion.

### **NUCW ANNUAL EXECUTIVE MEETING – 18 to 22 September 2023**

This year's meeting was once again held in the beautiful setting of Queen of Apostles House Renewal Centre in Mississauga, Ontario. The surrounding area is peaceful and is

set amongst the most grandiose houses that we can see as we go for walks. Every meal that was served was great. Every time we were to gather around the meeting table, we were greeted by gathering music played by Margery Wright.

Every morning, Nancy Risto and Barbara Davison lit the Christ Candle and the UCW candle.

Every evening was community time with a vegetable tray, fruit tray, cheese and crackers and beverages

#### MONDAY:

Before supper, President-elect, Barbara Davison (from WOUC-Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit in Alberta) welcomed everyone.

1. Nancy Risto, our NUCW President, lit the Christ Candle to open tonight's gathering. Pat Gilmore from Grand River Book Store brought a variety of books for us to look at and buy. The opening service was done by Shining Waters UCW. There was a community building exercise and introductions around the table.
2. Vespers were done by the Prairie to Pine UCW.

#### TUESDAY:

Graces for today were done by the Womens-Interchurch Council of Canada (WICC) and the National Korean United Church Women. Opening Worship was done by the Newfoundland West District UCW. Myra Spence spoke on Faith and Hope.

1. Nancy did the Land Acknowledgement. We were on the land of the Southern Ontario Anishinabek Treaties. Nancy read the "Constitute a Business Meeting"
2. Motion of Correspondence by Secretary Karen Hansen Gardner - To make all guests corresponding members. Carried Acceptance of the agenda with the option to make changes throughout the week. Carried. Adoption of the Minutes of September 2022 meeting. Carried Financial Report was given by Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle. Carolle talked about the different funds and how they worked. She, also, talked about sending money and how to enter your wishes on the memo line. Her motion to accept her report as presented. Carried
3. Guest Presenter: Joni Shawana – The Healing Fund: Joni told us her Spirit Name is Wind. The Healing Fund gives out Grants twice yearly - June 1st and December 1st. June 1st grant recipient of \$9,000.00 was the Regina Native Outreach Ministries to make Mother and Baby Welcome Bags. They used what was in our account at the time of just over \$5,000.00 and the balance came from the General Funds of the Healing Fund. Grants up to \$15,000.00 can be given out.
4. Announcement of the 65th Anniversary - It is to be held in Ottawa from 19th – 23 July. 2027. Our hostesses will be the Women from Eastern Ontario Outaouais.
5. Guest Presenter/Bible Study – Amy Crawford - Amy brought with her sand and little people to talk about how the Jewish people staved off the Syrians from taking Jerusalem but fell to the Babylonians. The Babylonians kept the Jewish people that would be of use to them and sent the rest out into the desert.

- Eventually, the Jewish people returned to Jerusalem.
6. Guest Presenter – Lori Neale, Church In Mission. She talked on Social Justice and the Environment. The United Church of Canada belongs to national ecumenical organization. They can be found at “For the love of creation.ca” The Lenten study is: “Act/Fast for Creation.”
  7. Reports: President Nancy Risto gave her report for the last year and thanked everyone for their support
    - a) Regional Presidents Report – If the president’s thought that anything should be updated, they gave a report
    - b) Women’s Interchurch Council of Canada (WIIC) – Winn Czum – NUCW is a member this group. They sponsor World Day of Prayer. Next year, it is written by the WDP committee of Palestine. Theme: “I beg you, bear one with one another in love.” Ephesians 4: 1-7. They are a supporter of “Thursdays in Black” which is focused on ending gender-based violence. They encourage everyone in the United Church of Canada to wear black on Thursdays.
    - c) Alumnae – Patricia Edmonds - Asked us to make sure that those who no longer attend the NUCW meetings are put on the Alumnae list for newsletters.
    - d) Church in Mission – Angie Musonza – Told us that head office is moving to 300 Bloor Street in 2025 and will share space with the Presbyterians and Anglicans. She, also, told us of structural changes that are coming to General Council.
    - e) Communications Committee/Keeping in Touch – Karen Gardner – She took over the position when the previous volunteer became sick. She has resigned from both the secretarial and this position.
    - f) Statistics – Karen Gardner – She said that there is a steady decline of numbers in the UCW. Membership – Nancy Risto – talked about the challenges of remaining a member as communities of faith close.
  8. Experiencing Joy – Rev Alison Mock – She talked about becoming a funeral director after being an United Church minister for a number of years. She talked about how people become self-conscious when they giggle or laugh when they are with the funeral directors. She assures them and assured us that it is fine to laugh while grieving and preparing for the funeral. It is a way to honour them by remembering the good times.
  9. Vespers were done by Quebec UCW.

#### WEDNESDAY:

Graces for all the meals of the day were by Pacific Mountain UCW Morning Worship was done by Horseshoe Falls UCW.

1. Angie Musonza talked about using the Chrome river account when we have expenses pertaining to the NUCCW. It is so that they eliminate expense sheets and delays.

2. Carolle Dallas- Arbuckle was elected for another two-year term as the Treasurer to the NUCCW. We passed that she be given an honorarium of \$5,000.00 per year.
3. Karen Gardner is retiring from being our national secretary. Cheryl O'Sullivan will be the new secretary. The honorarium will remain at its current rate.
4. We are looking for an Editor for the "Keeping in Touch" as Karen is retiring from that position as well. This position is not only for "Keeping In Touch" editor but other multimedia jobs. Honorarium to be determined.
5. There was one hour and 15-minute break before lunch. It was time for looking at books.
6. Moderator, Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Kwisa'lakwa and Rev. Michael Blair joined us for lunch. After lunch we had a group picture.
7. The Moderator talked about her first year in her position. She, also, talked about her canoe trip with Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth. She said it was a learning experience for everyone.
8. Rev. Michael talked about "Thursdays in Black" which is a silent witness to end gender-based violence (women and trans). He said that there is a lot of angst about the United Church not just the UCW. We are still the largest Protestant Church in Canada. In the last year 20,000 members were lost. There are now 354,000 members. M & S went down \$1,000,000.00. He asks, that in the midst of decline, the people of God stay the course. He gave the NUCW encouragement for the coming years.
9. Vespers by Women of the United Church (WOUC) Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit.

#### THURSDAY:

Graces for today's meals were said by Canadian Shield. Morning Worship was done by Antler River Watershed

1. Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle presented the budget for the coming year. With a few amendments, the budget was passed
2. Canadian Shield brought a concern to the floor. They are wondering if a regional UCW has to close, how do they go about it. It will be discussed during Workshop 2.
3. Hosted by Karen Gardner. WORKSHOP I: Communication – Guest Speaker was Lori-Ann Livingston – Press and Public Relations Lead – United Church of Canada COMMUNICATE & NETWORKING FOR UCW One of the take aways is that to use plain language when writing or speaking so that it will be easily understood.
4. Hosted by Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle. WORKSHOP II: THE PANEL FOR THE FUTURE OF THE UCW. We discussed the future UCW could look like. This is where we discussed the closing of Regional UCWs. It was suggested that we add this to the manual. One suggestion was that we should not stress

- ourselves about new members and getting young women to see the UCW the same way we see it. Carolle asked us several questions and collected answers.
5. Hosted by Nancy Risto. WORKSHOP III: PLAN A VIRTUAL UCW MEETING SPACE: Nancy talked about women who want to continue to be part of the UCW after their Units/Region or Church closes. We need to make a space for them to meet virtually so that they feel part of the UCW community.
  6. Vespers were led by Western Ontario Waterways Entertainment was by the Niagara Men's Chorus

#### FRIDAY:

Graces for today's meals were by Newfoundland east District. Morning Worship was done by Maritime UCW

1. Meeting date for 2024 is September 16th to 20th at Queen of Apostles in Mississauga.
2. There was a motion to give the NUCW sub-Executive to deal with urgent matters between meetings.
3. There was a wrap up of business which was the updating of the UCW Manual to include the closing of the Regional UCW and motion to adjourn the 2023 meeting.
4. There was a Worship service with communion conducted by Re. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu, Executive Minister Church in Mission and Installation of Barbara Davison as the New NUCW President.

Submitted by: Phyllis Robinson & Dawn Weber

May you have the gladness of Christmas  
which is HOPE;  
The Spirit of Christmas  
which is PEACE;  
The heart of Christmas  
which is LOVE.

Merry Christmas!

From your current Sask. UCCW executive,  
Dawn Weber, Diane Thurlow, Barbara Byers Bradley, Phyllis Robinson, Allison Irvine,  
Chantal Ntibategera, Past Chair and Mary Mohn, Newsletter Editor