

## **SASK. UCCW NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024**

**“COME, LET US PRAISE THE LORD! LET US SING FOR JOY TO GOD, WHO PROTECTS US! LET US COME BEFORE HIM WITH THANKSGIVING AND SING JOYFUL SONGS OF PRAISE.”**

**Psalm 95: 1 - 2**

I hope that your Thanksgiving week-end was one of true THANKS for the many blessings we have been given.

### **The Catholic Women's League of Canada Report**

The 104<sup>th</sup> Annual National Convention was held in Saskatoon on August 11 – 14, 2024. When National UCW president Barbara Davison broke her arm and was unable to travel she phoned and asked me if I would attend on her behalf. I immediately said yes. Little did I know that the theme of this year's convention was from Isaiah 6:8 *Here I am Lord, send me*. I felt I was living their theme.

The convention was packed with activities as well as inspirational speakers and their annual meeting. The activities began the day before the convention with the opening banquet. St. Patrick's Church has a large Filipino congregation and they hosted the evening sharing cultural food and entertainment. From that time on each day was filled. Sunday and Thursday mornings began with special events pertinent to Saskatoon. A trip to Wanuskewin Heritage Centre on Sunday for lunch and to the Berry Barn for breakfast on Thursday.

Sunday evening the Convention officially started with Mass at the Cathedral of Holy Family. Each day started with a Eucharistic Celebration. Guests who were not Catholic could chose to receive a personal blessing. This was a reminder of one of the differences in our Churches, with The United Church of Canada believing in the open table communion service.

Special guests were seated together. I had the opportunity to meet and spend the week with Cathy Reid, Board President of Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) and President of Women's Missionary Society Canada (WMS), her colleague Janet Brewer Executive Member of WMS, and Mary Nordick, the CWL representative to WICC and former CWL National President. I was welcomed by these wise and active women. Mary was able to guide us with the ins and outs of the Convention.

Being used to UCW meetings it was a surprising feeling to have a strong male presence at the meetings. There were 4 Archbishops, 10-12 bishops and priests in attendance at most of the sessions. Plus, on Tuesday a Monsignor was one of the invited guests. Any proposals that were made during the convention have to go for approval by the Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger, Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton, the

CWL National Spiritual Advisor and then to the regional Archbishops and/or Bishops.

The concerns of the CWL mirror many of the UCW concerns, declining membership, and how to continue the work and service to our communities of faith. There was a mutual understanding and acceptance that we all, UCW, WICC, WMS and CWL are serving God in our own ways.

I shared this thought as part of the UCW greeting “As women of faith the CWL and UCW have played and continue to play important roles in their churches, their communities, in their provinces and territories, and in our country. As you participate in your Convention may you deepen your faith and be inspired to continue your endeavors while you follow the theme of your convention “Here I am Lord, send me.” I believe that this holds true for all of us.



Back Row l. to r. : Jane Brewer, Phyllis Robinson

Seated l. to r.: Cathy Reid, Mary Nordick

*The theme prayer by Bishop Wayne Lobsinger:*

*Heavenly Father,*

*Through the ages, you have called many to serve you.*

*Abraham, Sarah and Samuel, Martha, Mary and Elizabeth.*

*As well as countless men and women throughout the ages.*

*All were different, and each brought different gifts to your service.*

*Now today, we too hear your call to come and follow, to bring our gifts to your service.*

*Help us, O Lord to make our reply, “Here I am Lord, Send me” with full and generous hearts,*

*In order that we may be your instruments in the building of your Kingdom.  
We ask that you hear and answer our prayers through Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

Report by Phyllis Robinson, Treasurer SK UCCW  
Incoming NUCW Communications Chair

### **NUCW ANNUAL MEETING REPORTS**

The National UCW Annual Meeting was held in Toronto 16 – 20 September, 2024. This year Diane Thurlow, Co-Chair SK UCCW and Phyllis Robinson, Treasurer SK UCCW attended from Living Skies Region.

With the potential Air Canada strike, we flew to Toronto early. It was great arriving early as we were able to be at Queen of Apostles Retreat Centre to assist in Monday morning setup. Following supper, the Annual Meeting officially started.

National UCW President Barbara Davison was still in the hospital and had gall bladder surgery the week of the Annual Meeting. Barbara had arranged the agenda, including presenters much earlier in the year. Nancy Risto, past president chaired the meeting. Barbara was able to join us by Zoom at different times throughout the week.

With the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada being in 2025, Barbara wanted the UCW to create a Worship Service focusing on the UCW. We had been given the key information ahead of time and were able to choose which creative group we wanted to join. Our first planning session was on Monday evening. Each group accomplished so much in that first session that most of the work was completed.

During Tuesday's session time we heard everything that had been created. We met again in our groups to polish what had been created. *The United Church has suggested that on Sunday, 2 March 2025 this service be used across Canada.*

The same week of the AGM, the United Church recognized the World Week of Peace for Palestine and Israel. Diane and I based our worship Wed morning on that plus Barb's theme of Action. On Tuesday our moderator, the Right Rev. Carmen Lansdown spoke about Palestine and Israel when she met with us. She plans to write a letter to the Canadian government calling for action. She will send it to us so that we can print it, hand write underneath that we support our Moderator, sign it and send it to our own Member of Parliament. She feels that MP's pay attention when they receive 4 letters on the same thing. By sending it to our area MP there will be many MPs of all parties receiving these letters across the country. We are encouraged to have as many members as possible from our Communities of Faith send these letters. The letter will be forwarded to all UCW and SK UCCW's.

Our Moderator had commented while in the Maritimes, that she had never been asked to become a UCW member. She was asked and then presented with a UCW Life Membership pin during the NUCW AGM.



Presenters throughout the week spoke about grants, Healing Fund, French Ministries, Philanthropy, NUCW funds, Nurturing the Common Good with the United Church and the 65<sup>th</sup> NUCW Conference in Ottawa, 19 -23 July, 2027. National UCW President-elect is Barbara DeJeet from Lyn, Ontario. Besides serving as local and regional UCW president she is also a Licensed Lay Worship Leader and sacraments elder for her home church.

There was plenty of opportunity during breaks, mealtimes and evening social times to browse the book table and socialize with the other women from across Canada.

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, I will be the Communications Chair for the NUCW. Mary Mohn remains as our SK UCCW newsletter editor and national committee member. I will be attending the National UCW Annual Meeting next September as a non-voting member. SK UCCW will still send 2 voting members. The meeting is from 15 – 19 September 2025.

Walking in the Light,  
Phyllis





Anniversary Service Planning

National United Church Women's Annual Meeting -- September 16 - 20  
Mississauga Ontario

Phyllis, I and George arrived on Saturday to avoid the possible pilot strike. Sunday, we went to the Queen's of Apostles Retreat site. Thanks to Phyllis who is a great mentor. She gave us a tour of the Queen's of Apostles Retreat site before others arrived on Monday and explained things as the meeting progressed. I enjoyed the fish pools both outside the building and inside the court area. They were great places to relax and visit on our breaks. The centre provided meals Monday to Friday and hot treats with coffee or tea both morning and afternoon. Grace presented by one of the Regions each day was held outside the dining hall. Wonderful feeling to pray together with women from across Canada.

Because I struggle with back pain, I use a cane. It was great to have all events on one floor. No steps to climb other than the front door which has a ramp. It was encouraging to see others with walkers. I appreciated the way we helped each other open doors, move chairs, help get the meeting space ready.

We want young women but the enthusiasm, interesting ideas, opinions and questions were very current and modern. I didn't feel like we'd "done that it won't work attitude".

The meeting times run smoothly lots of discussion and questions on topics.

The time of putting together the UCW Service for the 100<sup>th</sup> was amazing. The theme and scriptures were chosen before hand.

Each table had a topic of the service; opening prayers, songs, message, children's time, offering, other prayers. The group of 33+ people choose which area of the service they wanted to work on.

I chose children's time.

A group of 5 had one plan but when we ran through the full service the next day it sounded like a history lesson. We definitely needed to change it. One of the women who was unable to join us in the evening had a totally different idea which she uses for her children's time. The idea was accepted and is much more appropriate for children. It's now in the service. Those that worked on the message made some changes to theirs. Songs were selected as the group heard the service as it would be presented.

This is a very simple and easy way of putting together a service for the whole United Church to use.

I enjoyed the week of meeting new people, sharing comments, finding out new information on projects the United Church Women are working on.

I am very willing to go again with a second person as Phyllis is now Communication chair and on the Executive. Diane



## **UCW Bursary Fund**

The Sask. UCW Bursary application form is available on the Living Skies Website under Resources: Funding, by e-mailing [livingskies@united-church.ca](mailto:livingskies@united-church.ca) and is also available at St. Andrew's College. This is a reminder that the deadline for funding this year is Oct. 31, 2024. [Here is the link to the application form.](#)

## **REMEMBRANCE DAY**



Take time to attend a Remembrance Day Service near you on Monday, Nov. 11.

## **FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:**

**This year's theme is inspired by the Circle of Prayer (CoP) vol. 27 theme, Heal Our Selves, Heal Our World: Self Care is Earth Care. The Circle of Prayer is available at:**

<https://wicc.org/fellowship-of-the-least-coin/how-to-participate/>

As we are part of the Earth, self-care is also care for our Earth, and care of the Earth is also self-care. In solidarity we work with others in healing our Earth and ourselves. And as we do, we work with God in mending God's beautiful creation.

There is a suggested homily (short sermon) for this year's service written by Dr. Barbara Lloyd. She is a retired minister and national justice education program executive of The United Church of Canada. She continues to educate and advocate for a just peace in Palestine/Israel after an initial visit in 2001. Her other activities involve singing in two choirs, acrylic painting, reading, supporting family and friends, and leading worship and educational events in her Toronto congregation.

## **CAMP TAPAWINGO**

Tapawingo is run by a group of volunteers who comprise the board that does all the behind-the-scene planning, organizing, budgeting, fixing, cleaning, ordering, etc. Many have been involved with camp since childhood. 268 campers registered this past summer. Anyone interested in joining the volunteer group is most welcome!

For the summer of 2025 the board has a goal to renovate the bathrooms. Help with funding is needed. Thanks to the corporate sponsor, Korpan Tractor, any donation will be matched up to \$10,000. For further information e-mail: [www.camptapawingo.net](http://www.camptapawingo.net)

## **OCTOBER IS CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH**

Take time to pray for your minister/ministers and those in church leadership. Send a thank you card, e-mail or letter of appreciation.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

This is taken from Fellowship of the Least Coin on the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada website:

Loving Creator,

We come into your presence with deep gratitude for the longing and discontent that we feel. Thank you for giving us ears to hear cries for justice, hearts to feel with those who are oppressed, and hands and feet to do something about it.

Be with us on this journey to justice, peace, and reconciliation. When we're afraid, teach us how to face our prejudices. When we're weary, remind us of the miracles of whispered prayers and least coins.

Loving Creator, help us to love like you and create anew the world you so love.

Amen.

Blessings,

Mary