

**National United Church Women Annual General Meeting  
September 15-19, 2025  
Highlights by Phyllis Robinson**

**THEME: "LEAD NOT ONLY BY WORD, BUT BY ACTION"**

**SCRIPTURE: Nehemiah Ch 2:20 in part and 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27**

**HYMN: "How Firm a Foundation" VU #660 and "Let us Build a House" MV #1**

Attending as representatives from Living Skies were Diane Thurlow and Rev Debz Ferber, co-chairs of Saskatchewan United Church of Canada network. Phyllis Robinson attended as a non-voting member in her role of National UCW Communications Chair.

Grace before all the meals on Tuesday was led by Saskatchewan. Each year each region signs up to prepare some part of the event. In 2026 Saskatchewan will prepare the Vesper service on the Thursday evening.

As of January, any cheques or correspondence will have to be sent to 50 Wynford Drive as the temporary home of the United Church General Council Office.

**Rev. Michael Blair** spoke about 'What is happening in the life of the church'. They are still in the season of celebrating 100 years of the life and ministry of the church, and we have a lot to celebrate.

**Moderator the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath** – Spoke on connection. We have connections to our family; our close friends and we have online connections. Online connections have been disconnecting us. We have lost the village, the in between space. The village is the grocery store, the bank, the church. Our village spaces are disappearing. In the village we learn kindness, respect, tolerance and we get to know people who are different from us. The church can be and needs to be the village. We need to connect and find ways to genuinely connect with one another. Let us continue to be the church.

President Barbara Davison presented a prayer shawl to the Moderator the Right Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath.

Amy Crawford spoke about Youth Leadership – Opportunities for Youth in the United

Church of Canada (planned by the General Council office). All youth opportunities are aligned with the Church's Strategic Plan.

Climate Motivators; Youth Leadership Animators; Youth Forum at GC; Collective 2026; People to People Connections; Indigenous-Led Youth Opportunities; Call for a National Youth Council.

**WICC** – highlight – 2026 World Day of Prayer being written by the Christian Women from Nigeria – Theme – 'I will give you rest, come'.

IFLC (International Fellowship of the Least Coin) considered as 'High Risk' by Canada Revenue Agency. Therefore, WICC will no longer be handling any donations (As of August 2025). If people still wish to donate to FLC they could participate directly through IFLC.

Marilyn Johnson will be replacing Win Czum as the WICC representative for National UCW.

Phyllis Robinson shared some information about communication and NUCW Communication. Phyllis covered the following communication methods with a few safety reminders around computers and phones and what to look out for. To go to the National UCW Website, you have to go through the United Church of Canada website.

### **Healing Fund – Indigenous Ministries and Justice**

Joni Shawana spoke about the Healing fund, its background, project numbers and reviewed the projects the UCW has supported – the Mother and Baby Welcome Bag; Healing in the Kitchen and the 2025 project Reflections - Nanaandwejigjig Beshigoogizhiik (Healing Horses). Joni also represents the Indigenous Ministries and Justice at the National level.

### **How to be affirming, in a world of hate and trauma – Affirm United**

Ruth Noble spoke on How to be Affirming, in a world of hate and trauma and covered a Safe Space for all; public declaration of inclusion; intentional act of equity; explicitly share a way of justice; biblical language and translation; exploration and integration. She left us with the following quotes:

'When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time'

'In a world where you can be anything, be kind'.

### **Rev. Jennifer Henry, Executive Minister Organizational Development and Strategy (Planning, Communication, Growth)**

– responsible for planning for the denomination. She spoke about the United Church's 'Toward 2035'. She covered collective theological reflection, the exploration of the state of the church, facilitated small group conversation, and the vision of the future. She asked where our leadership can be used in the next little while.

She hopes that we can help them in the process of changing culture, towards the new

vision, so the UC of Canada can thrive across the country by being more connected to each other.

A discussion and information was provided about the following question: What if my church is amalgamation or closing?

If your church is amalgamating with another church your UCW unit is part of the amalgamation. Your existing UCW unit along with its funds enter into the amalgamation and the funds are yours to disburse as long as your UCW unit is still active. If in the new amalgamated church, you join with another UCW unit than your funds become joined together.

If your community of faith is closing.

Canada Revenue Agency Charity Legal Requirements.

There is a direct connection between the community of faith and the UCW unit regarding funds.

If your community of faith is closing, the UCW must close and disburse its funds prior to the community of faith closing its financial books.

If the UCW wants to remain as a UCW unit they may do so, notifying the Regional UCW executive so that it can continue to receive the statistics forms and be counted as UCW. They may also join another UCW group in another community of faith or each member can become an individual member of UCW.

Joan Zaretsky shared a workshop based on the book “Holy Moments” and her Story. She covered what is a Holy Moment and the value of Holy Moments to your life and the world. Joan then covered spreading the wonder of Holy Moments in your church and everyday life. Carole provided a copy of the book to everyone in attendance.

Kim Baird, Chair of 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee - 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary shared an Update and cards for us to hand out to all women interested in attending. Mark your calendar for July 19-23, 2027, Hilton Garden Ottawa Airport Hotel in Ottawa. Theme – Here Our Voice; Song – Draw The Circle Wide; Scripture: Proverbs 8:1  
She revealed the logo, covered speakers and time frames each day for the event.

NUCW 2026 Meeting Date – September 14-18, 2026, Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre

Installation Ceremony of New President Barbara DeJeet.

**Barbara DeJeet's Theme, Hymn and Scripture:**

Theme: “WALK WITH ME”

Hymn: “Walk with Me” VU #649 and “Let us Build a House” MV #1

Scripture:

Micah 6:8 “And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with your God”;  
Corinthians 5:2, “For we walk by faith not by sight.”

## **Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada**

### **Advance Notice of Training Workshop**

**Please note the date for the Training workshop for WDP 2026. It will be Saturday, November 8, 2025. It will be Canada wide and will be about 90 minutes. Service is written by Christian Women of Nigeria.**

The Executive Director will be sending out the annual Information Letter about World Day of Prayer very soon. Probably around the second or third week of October. IT WILL HAVE THE TIMES FOR EACH PROVINCE AND TERRITORY ACROSS CANADA. I do know it will be 10am in BC so perhaps you can figure out your provincial/Territory time.

I decided to send you something now so you have advance information. Note anyone can attend you do not have to be the coordinator to attend the training meeting. We will be going over the theme, the resources, how to access the resources plus other information like offering and videos.

Please pass this information to all those who might be interested.

I suggest having a cup of tea or coffee, maybe a sweet or two, note paper and pen for any information you might want to jot down. Always remember I am here to give you assistance.

**Remember when communicating back to me when I send out group emails as this email is please provide:**

**Your Name, CHURCH and Your Location. (CITY, COMMUNITY, PROVINCE) It is most helpful for me in tracking where you are and who I might have missed.**

**NOTE MY FIELD REP AREA IS ALL THE TERRITORIES AND PROVINCES FROM MANITOBA TO BC.**

My contact information is below.

Blessings in your work/ministry.

Linda

**Linda M. Ervin (H)250-493-5333 (C)2504623998**

**World Day of Prayer Field Representative**

**Email:** [fieldrep567@wicc.org](mailto:fieldrep567@wicc.org)

**WICC (Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada)**

**Mission:** Empowering Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in prayer and action.

### **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) The deadline for funding this year is Oct. 31, 2025.

### **Remembrance Day – November 11**

Try to attend a Remembrance Day Service near you or watch all the special events that are planned throughout our country on T.V.



“He who has the Kingdom of God within himself will imperceptibly pass it on to others. People will be attracted by the peace and warmth within us; they will want to be near us, and the atmosphere of heaven will gradually pass on to them.

It is not even necessary to speak to people about this. The atmosphere of heaven will radiate from us even when we keep silence or talk about ordinary things.”

– Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Blessings,  
Mary