



CANADIAN SHIELD REGION UCW SPECIAL NEWSLETTER FALL 2020



From the President's Desk

Greetings one and all. By now you will have surmised that there will not be a person to person Canadian Region UCW gathering this fall. It is the best thing to do to keep us all safe. Over the next few weeks your CSRUCW will be working on a way to have a virtual gathering of some sort. Be sure and stay tuned for information.

I have just attended, as your president, the NUCW annual executive meeting via zoom. The NUCW executive consists of two representatives, usually regional president and regional vice president, from each United Church Region from across the country. Along with the NUCW president, president elect, secretary, treasurer, and our office support worker from national in Toronto there were 33 ladies from across the country at the zoom meeting. On the whole I quite enjoyed the experience. Our CSUCW vice president Rita Olink was very busy with work but was able to join us on Thursday and Friday. I felt that this meeting brought forth a lot of information that should be passed along to our UCW units. This edition of or CSR Newsletter will be dedicated to the news from NUCW. Our regular "Fall into Christmas" Newsletter will be along shortly after this special edition.

NUCW Executive Meeting Day One.

Our first day of gathering began with a welcome from our NUCW president, Beulah Hayley from Newfoundland. She lit the Christ candle and invited two of the gathering to lead us in opening service. Each region signs up to present either a morning service, vespers, or thank you duties.

We then went 'around the table' for introductions. It was great to see via zoom images some returning executive members and of course meet new representatives.

Once introductions were complete, we were ready for our first guest Rebecca Hornberg. Rebecca works with the United Church book store, UCRD. Usually we have a book table at our NUCW Executive meeting each year in Toronto. This year Rebecca zoomed into our meeting suggesting several books that she thought might be of interest. She also



reminded us that they sell UCW pins such as key chains.

at \$3.95 each

UC Pins at 5.95 each or other items

Their web site is **UCRDSTORE.ca**. I checked it out and it has a search function on the first page and in general is very easy to use. The store also has pre packaged communion kits with pre-filled cups and a wafer packaged individually. Perhaps this is something to distribute to congregants at home for online to use for online communion.

Rebecca assured us that the church calendars are at the printers and will be ready for sale shortly. Calendars will have a new price so that there is no discount by the number of calendars ordered. This is fairer for smaller orders. So there you

are ladies, a good place to start your Christmas shopping.
The two hours went very fast and we closed the meeting with Vespers.

NUCW Executive Meeting Day Two

Once again president Beulah started us off by lighting our Christ candle and Pat Edmonds from Shining Waters Region (Toronto) presented morning worship using the Lobster Parable. I want to look that up for sure, as it was quite interesting. On this day two we got down to the business of finances for the NUCW. Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, our NUCW treasurer did an excellent job of 'dumbing down' the finances so that we could all understand. Carolle reminded us all that the NUCW does not have a bank account of its own but rather conducts all financial transaction through the United Church of Canada or the United Church of Canada Foundation. **When you send cheques to the NUCW simply make the cheque to the United Church of Canada and in the Memo line at the bottom of the cheque put UCW and what the money is for. As example if you are sending donations to NUCW for our charity project... Women for Change, Zambia, simply make the cheque payable to the United Church of Canada in the memo line write UCW-Zambia.**

Our guest for the day was Erik Mathieson, Chief Financial Officer of the United Church of Canada. Erik spoke about UCW units having their finances handled by their church. This saves finances for the UCW by not having their own banking accounts. The Local church treasurer simply creates a designated fund for UCW. It is called consolidated banking. The local church treasurer must consolidate UCW data into financial statements for the Canada Revenue agency.

Covid 19 times presents different banking as well. If our revenue for March 2020 was lower by 15% over revenue of March 2019 we can get a government grant. Local Church treasurers or independent UCW unit treasurers need to count UCW revenue each month to be able to compare to that month in the previous year in order to apply to the government CEWS plan. Erik put his presentation on a series of slides which will be forwarded to each person at the meeting. If any individual unit wishes to have a copy of Erik's presentation I will gladly forward it to you as soon as I receive it.

NUCW Executive Meeting Day Three

Today was 'report day'. The first report was from our president, Beulah Hayley, who stated that life had been relatively quiet and that she really missed attending our regional UCW meetings and seeing everyone. Traditionally, the NUCW President serves two years and then the President elect is installed. This year however, due to Covid 19, Beulah will continue another year until Nancy Risto, our President elect, can be properly installed at the 2021 NUCW executive meeting in Toronto. After the president's report came reports from each of the regions. Even though reports are distributed in advance of our NUCW Executive meetings, there is always something to highlight or update. One of the things that came up was that people had noticed that cheques, which have been sent to NUCW this year, have not been cashed and in many cases have become stale dated. Sartu Mohammed, our current representative at UCC head office, explained that UCC offices have been closed and mail workers, who would normally distribute mail daily, have not been into the office each day. If mail does reach the office of an individual that individual may not have been allowed to go the office either. We ask that all be patient with this Covid 19 closure. If and when the offices do reopen for daily attendance things will be handled.

Our guest of the day was Amy Crawford, part of the Church in Mission team in Toronto, who led us un a virtual Bible study from Nehemiah 4: 1-6 and 12: 40-4. We broke out into smaller zoom groups for ten minutes to discuss what might we need in order to "build up" UCC or UCW. There was a second question as well, but ten minutes meant none of us got to question two. It was really cool with the zoom groups because the zoom host puts you into your group and at the end of ten minutes POOF you are back in the larger gathering. LOL! No lingering or overtime there at all!!

One of the comments that came out of this session stuck with me...

The rear view mirror is so much smaller than looking forward through the large windshield!

After Amy left the group we returned to reports and there was a great deal of discussion about UCW representation or lack of representation on Regional Council executives. UCW on Regional Council executive varies with each region. Just so you know Canadian Shield UCW is NOT on Regional Council Executive.

The 60th Anniversary report stated that they have confirmed *Men of the Deep* coming to perform.

NUCW Executive Meeting Day Four

After lighting of the Christ candle and morning worship we got down to business. The 2021 budget reflected the hope of returning to meet in person at NUCW Executive at Queen of the Apostles in Toronto.

The NUCW newsletter, **Keeping in Touch**, will no longer be produced and sent out from United Church headquarters. It had been previously been distributed in United Church mailings of the INFOPAC which has now been discontinued.

Keeping in Touch will now be prepared and sent out to UCW regional representatives for distribution. It will be up to each UCW region as to how distribution will be handled. Each region will be responsible to print out required copies.

Keeping in Touch will continue to be posted on the NUCW web pages. There was a lot of discussion about the current situation with Life Membership pins. Several suggestions were put forward. In some cases, such as the member receiving the life membership being in her 90's, there was concern as to urgency. This will all be discussed at a NUCW Zoom executive meeting in November 2020.

We moved to renew the contract for our secretary Karen Gardner for two more years.

Our guest for the day was outgoing UCC General Secretary Nora Sanders. Nora has been a guest of NUCW multiple times over the years. This year she spoke to us from her new home in Port Stanley, Ontario. She spoke to the fact that she was now a senior citizen and what some of her plans were like for her impending retirement. She said she felt very comfortable and that she was leaving the job in good hands with Rev. Michael Blair.

NUCW Executive Meeting Day Five ...the final two hours of Zoom

We began with the lighting of the Christ Candle and a short morning service.

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle is working on writing and collecting weekly devotionals for UCW. If people wish they may send original devotionals with opening prayer, Bible readings, write up of approximately 400 words, and closing prayers. They must be original. These will eventually be put up on the UCW web pages. NUCW will hold copyright.

There was also a brief discussion and review with respect to individual memberships which Canadian Shield had proposed last year.

There was a short time for final business housekeeping motions before we had Michael Blair, incoming UCC General Secretary, led us in a closing service with communion. Michael had been a welcome guest to our meetings over the years and we are pleased that we will see him in his new job in the future.

This year, for the first time, NUCW executive were able to ask other members who knew how to use Zoom to join the closing service given by Michael Blair. I did not have much lead time but I put the word out to various members of Canadian Shield UCW and I believe that five or six ladies were able to join us for the service. There were 130 ladies who zoomed into the service from across the country. I hope that they will be able to have this service online again next year so that even more UCW members will be able to join.

Please note we have a new contact person at UCC headquarters in Toronto. Caroline Owegi will now be our NUCW contact person. Sartu, who has worked with us for several years now will be working with overseas contacts for the UCC. After the service it was time for final goodbyes. We were all emotional to see the end of the meeting. While we could not gather person to person we at least saw smiling faces on Zoom. We all felt time was limited and there was no chatting at breaks or in the evenings. Having said this I was tired but flowing with information for all of you.

So now you know what happens at NUCW Executive. You have all the latest news. Your regular Canadian Shield UCW "*Fall into Christmas*" will be coming out shortly.

Blessings,

Dawn Monroe, President Canadian Shield UCW.