



PACIFIC MOUNTAIN UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

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Greetings to you all,

As I write this it is blowing a gale and is quite chilly with rain forecast for most of the coming week. I can't help thinking about all the folk who are seeking shelter with nothing more than a flimsy tent pitched in a city park, to call home. Please reach out, as you are able, to assist your local support agencies to help these folk so that they may find a little joy in their lives this Christmas season.

I hope that you enjoyed getting the news from the National UCW Meeting held at the end of September – Oct 2.

Since then I have met with the UCW Handbook revision Committee and we are working to update that document and among other things, making all the “language” changes necessary like “Conference” to “Region” and eliminating reference to “Presbyterials”. In that regard we had quite a discussion about the need to find a name that describes a smaller group of UCW Units - groups within a region. “Zone”, “Cluster”, “District” were all suggested. I heard one lady say that a “cluster” is a kind of sweet treat (nuts, coconut, chocolate etc) which one makes at Christmas time, so that was removed from the suggested list pretty fast as there were others who identified with that!! We had discussed this at the Pacific Mountain Executive meeting held just a few days before the Handbook committee met. At the P.M. exec meeting we had decided that the simple word “area” would meet the need and agreed that this would be brought to our AGM in April 2021 (or when ever) for ratification. I suggested “area” to replace “Presbyterial” at the Handbook Committee meeting and the ladies agreed that this would be the word used and so it is hoped that this will be the term used right across the country. So I guess we will not be discussing it at our AGM after all!!

Just for local clarification the former Fraser Presbyterial is now Fraser UCW and the Victoria Presbyterial is now West Coast Islands UCW. It would be wonderful if we could establish some other “Areas” in our Region but certainly in these pandemic times that is hard to organize, but keep it in mind as it would be really great if we could have locals in various areas getting together from time to time.

Other local news is that unfortunately I have had word from two churches, who are going to be folding their UCW Units. The ladies at Oliver United Church and Saint Paul's in Princeton have made that decision. We all know the reasons these decisions are made but never-the-less it is sad when that step has to be taken. I have been in touch with both groups and have encouraged them to have the ladies keep in touch with each other, even though they will not be an official UCW Unit they are still Women of the United Church. We will be keeping them on our mailing list so they will still receive the news we have to share.

Your Executive met (by Zoom) on Monday November 9 and at that time some of the following news was shared.

- A certificate and a letter of appreciation was received from the Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Bott , our moderator thanking us for the \$44,449.00 that the Pacific Mountain UCW had given to the Mission & Service Fund in 2019. Thank you all so much for your great efforts to have raised and given so much. Across Canada the UCW gave a total of \$1,020,034. Truly amazing. In his covering letter Rev. Richard says “.....Gods compassionate presence is made real by the beautiful things that are happening because of your generosity.You are truly an example of what it means to love one another. Please continue to be part of our amazing ministry.”

My personal comment is..... “Lovely words from the Moderator, now wouldn’t it be nice if our Region would invite us to be part of that ministry and give UCW a vote at the Region AGM!!!” I will just insert a little bit at this point and that is to say that a special zoom meeting of the NUCW is being planned for some date fairly soon, at which time we are going to be discussing this whole matter of so many of the Regions not recognizing the UCW as a “Community of Faith” which should be recognized and given the right to vote at the AGMs. At this point out of the 16 Regions I think there are 5 who have been extended that right, so we are not alone in our concern.

- As mentioned in the NUCW AGM Report, the Rev. Michael Blair has been appointed the new National Executive Secretary taking over from Nora Sanders who is retiring this month. Rev. Michael is a great supporter of the UCW.
- Pat Elson will be replacing Rev. Michael as Interim Executive Minister of Church in Mission which is the great umbrella under which the UCW falls in the General Council Office. This will be short term just up until February 2021.
- The new UCW Contact person at the General Council Office is:
Carol Owegi COWegi@united-church.ca
Carol is replacing Sartu Mohamed who is moving to a different position in the General Council Office. Thanks are extended to Sartu for her support of the UCW over these past years
- During the pandemic, GCO staff have been working from home and because of this there was a real delay in the processing of Life Membership pins but it seems now things have been sorted out and a new system in place. If you are making a request for Life membership pins please send that request to Carol Owegi at the GCO. **(United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor Street W., Toronto, Ontario M8X 2Y4)** and remember to mark UCW Life Membership Pins on the memo line of your cheque.
- Area news is very encouraging as despite the limitations it would seem that some Units have been amazingly active with reports from Trinity Memorial in Abbotsford of their virtual Christmas sale of baking and crafts. Orders taken by a certain date and then pick-up arranged for a date toward the end of November. Peninsula UCW had a yard sale maintaining the recommended protocols and other groups have had garden parties and out-door luncheons. It all sounds great and good for you for not losing heart in these trying times. Peninsula is undertaking the filming of an Advent Service for which connection information is to be made available nearer the time.
- An amalgamation has taken place and Mount Shannon, Rosedale and Chilliwack United Churches now called Cheam View United Church and they have formed a new UCW unit to be known as Cheam View UCW. That seems to me to be most of the ladies who worked so hard preparing for our AGM this past April which unfortunately had to be cancelled so they are obviously a great group and we wish them all the very best as they get established in their new format.
- Our 2021 Annual General meeting was discussed. This is scheduled for April 23-24, 2021 at Cordova Bay United Church in Victoria. At this point there is certainly some question as to whether this will actually take place as a face-to-face gathering, but as we get nearer the date, have better indications as to what the future holds and the recommendations for such gatherings are to be, a decision will be made and you will certainly be kept informed.

Of course the **National UCW 60th Anniversary celebration** plans are well underway. As a reminder this is to be held July 11-15, 2022 at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney, Nova Scotia. They are asking for banners to be made dimension to be 36" wide by 48" long with 3, 6" tabs at the top for threading a tube through for hanging. Now here is a project to get on with while we are stuck inside with no-where to go!

It seems that accommodation is going to be in nearby hotels but most of them will not block out rooms this far in advance of the event. You will get more information about this as time goes on.

Now if you are planning on making this coast to coast excursion the NUCW through the Agatha Kaasa Fund and the Dorothy Amos Fund are going to make grants of up to \$400 available to those ladies who apply. Application forms are found in the UCW Handbook which is available on-line.

Note that deadlines for these applications for the Anniversary funding are as follows and you can only apply to one of the funds, not both.

For Dorothy Amos fund: Applications in by July 2 2021

For the Agatha Kaasa Fund: Applications in by October 15, 2021 or April 15, 2022

DID YOU KNOW.....?

- That the Mandate Magazine has been discontinued so the Fall 2020 edition is the last. I imagine there are many, like myself, who really enjoyed that informative mag - It will be missed.
- A message has been received from Heather Mackenzie advising that the "Roots & Wings Book Cooperative" is still up and running but as with most things these days with a few adjustments. Heather advises that there is a need to make an appointment if you want to visit the store and she can be reached by email roots.wingsbooks@yahoo.com The United Churches of Langley have put a link to the bookstore on their website.
- The NUCW is still counting on receiving a dollar per member from the Areas. This helps defray the costs of running the NUCW. This coming year the NUCW will receive \$18,000 from the National Church down \$2,000 from the \$20,000 received previously. Please make sure that any cheques sent to the GCO for the UCW are clearly marked as such - and include a note which is very specific.
- The NUCW gives each Region \$375 a year to be used for some educational event. If you have an idea or a need for a share of this please let me know so that your request can be considered by your executive.

A Closing thought:

The Dalai Lama is credited with the following and I thought it is worth sharing

" People are created to be loved,

Things are created to be used,

The reason the world is in such chaos is because things are being loved and people are being used"

As always please feel free to distribute this newsletter to whoever you feel might enjoy receiving it and let me or Winnie Kowalewich (Winnifred Kowalewich wmk4674@telus.net) know of anyone who would like to be added to the mailing list.

As we approach this Advent Season and a Christmas that may be different to any other you have ever experienced, may you feel the presence of our Saviour as you celebrate his birth and as Dr Bonnie reminds us, Take care, stay safe and be kind to one another.

Blessings to all

Clare Walker

President,

Pacific Mountain UCW