REPORT FROM PACIFIC MOUNTAIN UNITED CHURCH WOMEN. September 2020

As I write this report I definitely have a feeling of disconnectedness (is that a word?)
I feel somewhat isolated realizing that we have missed out on our usual Gatherings and our AGM and will be missing out on some future events also. We have had to rely on telephone and email communications. I guess I am just missing being with people!

Our emphasis this year has been on communication and with that in mind I have written and distributed UCW newsletters in June, September and November 2019 and February 2020.

What would have been my Annual report given at our AGM in April was sent out by email at the time our meeting would have been held.

The "Keeping in Touch" National Newsletters have also been scanned and distributed by email and these all seem to have been well received and the addresses on our mailing list have grown from around 30 to about 75 with others receiving the letters from friends. We are certainly widening our circle as I get enquiries on various subjects related to UCW and even heard from a lady in Seattle Washington who was trying to track a UCW Member - how she got my name I will never know!!

Although we have not had any response to, or even acknowledgement of receipt of, the 3 letters sent to the Regional Council Office requesting their consideration of UCW representation on the Regional Council, I am happy to report that we do have a spot on their website and our Newsletter is printed there and also the list of your executive. This obviously is a relationship still requiring a lot of work.

It is satisfying to note that our 2 former Presbyterials are continuing to keep active and enjoying the fellowship that their gatherings provide.

I was happy to have been invited to install the executive of the West Coast Islands UCW (Formerly Victoria Presbyterial) at their AGM in October 2019 and very sorry that I was not available to accept the invitation to attend the Annual Gathering and AGM of Fraser UCW in March 2020, as I was out of the country. We have welcomed the new Presidents for each of these UCW "groups" as members of our Pacific Mountain UCW Executive and had things been "normal" they would have been formally inducted at our Gathering in April.

The Ladies of 4 congregations in the Chilliwack area had done such a great job in organizing our Annual Gathering and AGM for April this year and we were all very disappointed when we had to make the hard decision in late March, to cancel it. We had such an interesting program planned too.

Plans have been in place for some months now, for our 2021 Gathering and AGM to be held in Victoria but at this point who really knows whether it will happen.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank our executive for the great support I have received over the past year. As we face the new "UCW Year" with all its special challenges there is a feeling that we haven't really finished the last year properly but we should give thanks for the wonders of this electronic age we live in and do our best to keep in touch by whatever means we can. A steep learning curve for some of us but so worth the effort.

Blessings to all and remember, take care, stay safe, be kind and wash your hands

Clare Walker

President, Pacific Mountain United Church Women