



PACIFIC MOUNTAIN UNITED CHURCH WOMEN NEWSLETTER

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August, 2025

Greetings, Everyone,

Clare Walker was the editor of the Pacific Mountain UCW Newsletter. With her passing on February 27, 2025, we have lost an incredible writer. Clare wrote the Newsletter with flourish. I, on the other hand, am more of a “just the facts Ma’am” (Colombo’s words).

So here goes....

A Message from The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator



*“The Palestinian Christian Women issued an urgent call to:
Women and people of conscience to act to end the starvation
in Gaza.*

I am asking the women of UCW to do three things:

- 1) Please sign the petition at Change.org to add your voices to Palestinian Christian women.
- 2) Please encourage the members of your regions to write handwritten letters to the Prime Minister and Minister Anand, and cc a copy to your MP. Your letter can be as long or as brief as you want, and should express your feelings in your own words. You can reference the Palestinian Christian Women’s petition.
- 3) Encourage your communities of faith to get engaged and learn about the roots of the conflict. The group United for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel is an excellent resource – you can access their group here: <https://unjppi.ca/>”.

Moderator Carmen was awarded a Lifetime Membership in the United Church Women (UCW) organization at the Pacific Mountain UCW Gathering/AGM on April 27, 2024 at Trinity United Church, Port Coquitlam. As Moderator Carmen’s term is coming to an end in August, 2025, we, the Pacific Mountain UCW are grateful for her continual support of UCW. Her stories have inspired us and broadened our knowledge. We wish her success in her new career taking up a teaching position as an Assistant Professor of United Church of Canada Studies at the University of Toronto beginning January, 2026.

May God’s blessing be upon her

2025 Pacific Mountain United Church Women (UCW) Gathering/AGM

Theme: “Laughing and Rejoicing”
Date: April 25 – 26, 2025
Venue: Cloverdale United Church
Hosts: Cloverdale UCW
Minister: The Rev. Matthew Emery

With all the global and national issues it was decided to “lighten” the theme for the 2025 event. **“Laughing and Rejoicing”** was chosen.

In attendance were sixty-four (64) women.

Singing in the Sanctuary was led by Joanne Rathgeber with Dianne Nichols, pianist.



“Ice breaker” -organized by Val Weinert, President of Fraser UCW.

Blowing up sixty-four balloons of six different colours was difficult; transporting them in a vehicle was a challenge. Each woman had to match her balloon with the tablecloth covering a table. The goal was to pop the balloon by sitting on it.

This was difficult. Inside the balloon was a question to be answered either by the holder or collaboratively with others.

Business Meeting

In addition to the usual motions of adoption of the 2024 minutes, ratification of the work accomplished by the 2024 – 2025 Executive, acceptance of reports, financial report to December 31, 2024 and budget for 2025, a motion to change the length of the Gathering/AGM was passed.

Motion: Anna Paton (Peninsula)/Henriette Pieron (Peninsula) that the Gathering/Annual General Meeting of Pacific Mountain UCW for 2026 be changed from two half days to one full day. Discussion followed. The motion was passed unanimously in favor.

Financial Report to December 31, 2024:

Chequing Account -	\$11,741.78
Credit Union shares -	5.19
GIC –	<u>15,699.10</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity -	\$27, 445.97

The Proposed Slate of Officers for 2025 – 2026 was incomplete with the Treasurer, Joanne Craven (Trinity Memorial), tendering her resignation. A motion was passed granting the Executive authority to appoint members to the Pacific Mountain UCW Executive as needed.

As the event was closing, Sydney MacPherson (Cloverdale), agreed to be the incoming Treasurer.

The Pacific Mountain UCW Executive for 2025 – 2026

President – Winnie Kowalewich – Peninsula - wmk4674@telus.net

Secretary – Kathleen Burchill – Trinity Memorial- kamelbur@telus.net

Treasurer – Sydney MacPherson – Cloverdale – sydneymacpherson@telus.net

Fraser President - Val Weinert – Peninsula – valharry@shaw.ca

Members at Large – Carolyn Matheson – Gordon – cmatheson1@gmail.com

Joan Leston – Trinity, Pt.Coquitlam – jleston212@gmail.com

Madelyn Craven – Trinity Memorial – rmcraven@shaw.ca



National Annual General Meeting Report by Winnie Kowalewich held in Mississauga, ON Sept.16 - 20, 2024.

Winnie Kowalewich and Kathleen Burchill attended.

Sydney Mapherson, Treasurer, and Val Weinert, President of Fraser UCW will be attending the 2025 AGM.

- Mission and Service 2024 donations from UCW across Canada - \$511,205

- Mission and Service 2024 donations from Pacific Mountain UCW – \$15,752

A Certificate of Thanksgiving signed by The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator was received.

-NUCW Healing Fund (65th Anniversary Project) September, 2022 – May 31,2025 donations - \$68,741.39. The National UCW is in the process of becoming Affirming.

There will be an educational session via zoom on **September 3, at 1:00 pm Eastern Time.**

Note:10:00 am Pacific Time. A link will be sent to you.

-NUCW Healing Fund – **Spring 2024** Number 2 project “Healing in the Kitchen” by the Fort McKay Metis Nation Association in Fort McMurray AB has been completed. A summary report has been received.

Spring 2025 Number 3 project “Healing with Horses: Healing Grief and Families Impacted by Substance Abuse” by Reflections Nanaandwejgejig Bezhigoozizhiik in Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. Reflections offers an experimental approach to teaching life skills using horses to individuals who are struggling with mental health.

ARE YOU SAVING YOUR TOONIES ? – TWO MORE YEARS

65th UCW Anniversary
Theme ; “Hear Our Voice”
Date: July 19 – 23, 2027
Place: Ottawa, ON
Venue: Hilton Garden Inn
Registrar: Carolle Dallas – Arbuckle

Grants will be available. Registration begins in 2026.

“Laughing”



On Friday afternoon the CHURCH SANCTUARY was filled with laughter as sixty-four women listened to presenter, Janice Bannister, a psychiatric nurse turned comedian.

Her credentials include being a presenter in 2023 at TEDx SFU, the largest Canadian TEDx talk.

Laughter is an integral part of one's well being along with diet, nutrition and exercise. Laughter can change one's mood. Janice's topic “GIVE YOURSELF PERMISSION TO LAUGH” was well suited to our demographics. Interspersed among the jokes were ideas of how we could use “laughter as a wellness tool”.

“Rejoicing” - video



It was called the Great Debate from 1926 to 1936 whether women were allowed to be ordained. The affirmative side was upheld by Nellie McClung. The judges voted in favour of ordination of women ministers.

*The resolution” **Resolved, that the United Church of Canada should grant ordination to women on the same terms as***

We rejoice there were “trail blazers” such as Lydia Gruchy who was ordained in 1936. We rejoice there were women such as Norah Hughes, the first ordained woman in British Columbia Conference. Do women going into ministry today realize how fortunate they are because there are no longer roadblocks to their desire to serve the Church.

We should rejoice when the second video was viewed. It was the Women's Missionary Society, the forerunner of UCW, that did the work to maintain The Oriental Home and School (1888 – 1942) in Victoria, BC. Young Women sent from China as young as age nine were saved from a life of slavery and abuse. In 1942 the Women's Missionary Society took in 18 girls of Japanese descent to protect them from abuse.

In Memoriam

Within ten days we lost two members of last year's Executive. Clare Walker passed away on February 27, 2025. She was President of Pacific Mountain UCW from 2019 - 2023 and Past President from 2023 - 2025.

Lynn Lancaster passed away March 9, 2025. She was President of BC Conference from 2015 - 2017. She then held the position of Treasurer of the Pacific Mountain UCW from 2018 - 2024.

We pray for Clare, Lynn and all the other United Church Women in all your Units who are no longer with us. We will remember them with love, respect and affection. We ask God to open our hearts to the joyful memories of friendship we shared with these women who staunchly supported their churches and UCW. Truly, these women will be missed.

A worship skit, "If God Should Speak", was presented by Trixie Martyn and Heather Becker.

Joanne Craven read a poem, "Smiley Face".

The band, "Vintage People" provided the Friday evening entertainment. It was very enjoyable as we could sing along with some of the familiar tunes.

The Reverend Matthew Emery conducted the Installation of the 2025 - 2026 Pacific Mountain UCW Executive, led us in worship and presided over Communion.

With Sydney MacPherson reading a poem entitled "Hugs" and the singing of "We Are Marching", the event came to a close.

Our grateful thanks and appreciation to Christine Connal, her Team and others whose efforts made this event so successful. For a little time we were able to set aside the chaos, laugh and enjoy each other.

Submitted by Winnie Kowalewich
President Pacific Mountain United Church Women (UCW)