



**PACIFIC MOUNTAIN
UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
NEWSLETTER**

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Greeting Friends,

My hope is that you have all been blessed with a very happy and safe beginning to this New Year and that it may continue to be so. Sadly it seems that in the last week or so there have been so many tragedies in this world that this year is not starting off well for many. I am sure there are many of us with very long prayer lists.

My first thoughts are that I hope this new year brings all that is good and with the Covid protocols starting to lift slightly, we all may get used to, and enjoy a more normal way of doing things. But... having said that, please continue to be very careful.

Yes, I know that I had sort of promised another Newsletter before year end but I hope you understand and forgive that other things can get in the way and obviously it didn't happen.

Maybe for the UCW the big news is that this year, 2023, we are going to have our first in person Gathering and Annual General meeting since 2019. That is 3 years since we have been able to really be together for this event. Though the ZOOM meetings that we have had for the past 3 years served their purpose it was not the same as really being together so grab your appointment book and mark this date:

**UCW, GATHERING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APRIL 21-22, 2023
At SQUAMISH UNITED CHURCH.**

Beginning after lunch on Friday the 21st and adjourning after lunch (around 2:30pm on Saturday April 22nd.

**Guest speaker will be the Rev. Debra Bowman
And the theme is "DON'T WORRY, BE HAPPY"**

Your executive and the Ladies of Squamish UCW are getting very excited about this Gathering and hope that there will be many who will make the effort to attend.

As the theme might indicate we are hoping that this will be a fun time together as we feel we need to be together and make the most of the “Fellowship” quadrant of our UCW purpose.

You will be getting further details and registration forms, after our next UCW Exec meeting at the end of February.

AGM Report Book

If you have any sort of report or news you would like to have included in the report book then please put something together and send it to me by email.

clareawalker@shaw.ca

Mission & Service Fund.

Totals for M&S givings are usually not available until well into the following year so these figures are for 2021, however it is interesting to note that the givings across the country were up for the first time in 10 years and from the UCW alone the total was over half a million dollars!! The actual figure for National UCW was \$521,588.

Amazing, and particularly so when it was in the midst of the time when we couldn't hold our usual fundraising events, and as a reminder the total for Pacific Mountain UCW was \$44,449. Well done ladies.

National UCW Mission Project 2022-2027

The Healing Fund was chosen at the 2022 meeting of the Executive of the National United Church Women, held in September in Toronto. There were four projects brought forward to the group as the new Project, beginning in September and ending at the 65th Celebrations in 2027. The Healing Fund was chosen by the majority of those present. Questions have been raised about this fund: - What is the money used for? Who receives the money? Who decides what and where the money is sent? Most of the answers to these questions can be found on the United Church of Canada website, under United Church Women.

The Healing Fund, established in 1994, is a grant that supports healing initiatives in Indigenous communities to address the ongoing impacts of the residential school system. Many name a need for mending, restoring, and celebrating—a sense of loss, along with hope for rebuilding identity. Indigenous communities may apply up to

\$15,000 to create healing, culture, and/or language projects. The Healing Programs Working Group (formerly called the Healing Fund Council), made up of representatives from diverse Indigenous communities across the country, determines the fund's criteria and evaluates applications. Support for the Healing Fund is a growing movement towards living out the United Church's Apology to Indigenous Peoples offered at the meeting of the General Council in 1986 and the Apology to Former Students of United Church Indian Residential Schools and to their Families and Communities (1998).

Joni Shawana, Healing Fund Program Coordinator with Indigenous Ministries, United Church of Canada, is our key contact for the project.

She may be contacted at jshawana@united-church.ca

Programs that have been supported throughout the years include healing and sharing circles, reunions and commemorations, traditional and cultural programs, language revitalization,

workshops for residential school survivors and families, teaching traditional crafts, spiritual gatherings, creating digital resources, and more.

At the meeting of the National UCW it was requested that our donations be directed especially toward work with indigenous women and their children.

Morogoro Mission Project:

Yes, I know it has been a long time since we worked to raise money for this project and I think we are all very pleased, and maybe even surprised with the amazing results of our efforts. Recently I had someone ask me what the end results were so I made some enquiries and am pleased to be able to share the results with you all.

As it was our 50th Anniversary Mission Project our aim was to raise \$50,000.

Well as you know we excelled - the UCW raised \$268,956 and another \$5,000 was contributed through the M&S fund for a grand total of \$273,956. Truly amazing!!

Women for Change - Zambia

I know many of you contributed to our 55th anniversary effort and at this point the income is approximately \$109,000 though the final figures will not be available until June 2023 when the books are finally closed and audited - another great effort and you should all be very proud of your accomplishments. At the 60th Anniversary celebration in Sydney in July 2022 the guests from Zambia certainly expressed very sincere thanks for all that had been given to them by the UCW.

Support Funding from Areas and UCW Units

In many regions the UCW establishes their budgets by approving a certain figure as an “allocation” to be paid to the Region’s UCW treasurer by each UCW Unit or by the Areas. In Pacific Mountain UCW we have not following this tradition - it may have been done in the past but at this point is not. However the Pacific Mountain UCW does need money to cover the expenses of the Annual General Meetings, Annual Reports, Directories, honorarium for guest speakers and/or worship leaders, reimbursing mileage to executive members attending in-person meetings, office supplies, M&S, overseas relief funds, special projects, etc.,.

We know that many Units are no longer able to do fundraising in order to raise funds and we really appreciate the efforts of those who can, and who have generously made an annual donation to the PM UCW Funds.

During the 3 years we were not meeting in person our expenditures have been greatly reduced with no travel or In-person meetings and the expenses associated, but that is all about to change so this is a plea to all groups as you think about and consider your Unit/Area budgets for the coming year that you include PM UCW. This may well be a topic for discussion at our AGM in April.

“UCW Orphans”

This situation affects a number of ladies and is the matter of what happens when a Church closes and the UCW now has no “Home”. Can the ladies be a UCW group without a church? There are a few suggestions and one is that the ladies continue their group and meet in members’ homes, carry on with their activities and maintain the 4 pillars of purpose of UCW. Through freewill offerings support can be given to the Mission & Service Fund, and the National UCW and most of all is that the “fellowship” pillar is being maintained.

Another option of course, is to join the UCW in the Community of Faith you are now part of after your Church closed.

Then there is the chance that you join a congregation which has no UCW unit. What then? Reach out and ask to join the Unit in another church. I fell sure they would be pleased to have you join their group.

If that is not your choice then you could continue to feel like a contributing UCW member by making a donation to the Region UCW Treasurer and ask to be put on the PM UCW mailing list so that you would continue to get newsletters and other UCW information, and remember to ask to be included in the statistics which are sent to the National UCW each year. I think they are actually establishing a special category for “Orphan Members”!! There are quite a number of us.

Just as a reminder:

Pacific Mountain UCW treasurer:

Lynn Lancaster, Box 29, Walhachin, B.C. V0K 2P0.

UCW Web Page on Pacific Mountain Region Web site.

Pacific Mountain United Church Women (UCW) have a web page on the Pacific Mountain web site.

There are 3 ways to access the web page:

1) Manually type this: **PacificMountain.ca/UCW-PM** into the address bar in your internet browser.

or

2) Click the URL: <https://pacificmountain.ca/ucw-pm> (and then save it to your Bookmark).

or

3) Find it from the Regional Council's Home Page like this:

- Type in **PacificMountain.ca**
- Hover on the menu title "**Connect**"
- Select "**Groups, Clusters and Networks**" to open. You will see UCW at the top of the page..

The following is a repeat from our previous Newsletter but as it is an issue still being considered I thought it was worth repeating.

You will remember that before the reorganization of the church and our change from being a "Conference" to a "Region", that the UCW had "Presbyterials" and now we have chosen to call them "Areas". At present we have only 2 identified Areas that are functioning as such, Fraser and West Coast Islands. Westminster Presbytery disbanded about 3 years ago. We have a number of UCW Groups (Units) that are not really related to a larger group or Area and it is our wish to get these "orphaned" Units somehow attached to Units nearby so that they may have a wider group with which to relate. At this point the Executive is considering 2 more Areas and inviting Units with-in those areas to connect one with another even if just for an annual gathering of fellowship so each may fully appreciate the feeling of belonging to a national organization which has very wide reaching connections.

The suggestion is as follows but further discussion will take place. This is just a start.

1. Northern BC/Yukon, Bella, Bella Coola, Smithers

2. Okanagan/Kootenay

3. Fraser including all the Mainland, Sechelt, Powell River, North Van.

West Van. Squamish, Burnaby – Jubilee

4. The West Coast Islands.

And please remember if you are not in an identified Area (formerly Presbyterial) but your local is wanting to contribute to Pacific Mountain UCW please send your cheque from your Local Unit to our **Pacific Mountain UCW treasurer:**

Lynn Lancaster, Box 29, Walhachin, B.C. V0K 2P0.

News from our Units:

West Coast Islands United Church Women's Report

A note from their President Louise Johnston

With COVID 19 still present this year the UCW has not been active as usual. Some groups are participating by Zoom but many do not have access to Zoom. The West Coast Islands Executive will be meeting in the near future to plan a gathering in the late spring.

United Church Women(UCW) - Gordon United Church, Langford,

Due to the COVID 19, our UCW Meetings had been postponed since early 2020. A meeting will be held to discuss our any plans in regards to any fundraising projects. More importantly, we need to talk about whether our UCW is viable enough to stay functioning as a Unit in Gordon United Church.

In the past, this UCW has been responsible for the following:

1. Poinsettia Teas
2. Penny Auctions
3. Memorial Teas
4. A June Church Luncheon usually with a speaker
5. Paying for kitchen expenses such as a new fridge or freezer, dishwasher breakdowns, etc usually with support from the Get Acquainted Group
6. Donations to Gordon United Church when decided
6. Donations/dues to Camp Pringle, Mission & Service, Pacific Mountain Region UCW, membership dues to the National UCW
7. Lastly but not least, **Fellowship**

Submitted by Carolyn Matheson, Chair

First Metropolitan UCW in Victoria.

Thanks to Marie McKee for this report.

First-Met UCW held three special meetings during the Fall of 2022.

In October we held the Least Coin service. After sharing lunch, we celebrated the women of the Philippines and the work of the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Pacific Mountain President, Clare Walker joined us and presented Marion Denton with a Life Membership pin.

In November we held an M&S fund raising service with guest speaker, Dell Marie Wergeland, Director of the Compassionate Warehouse, presenting photos and stories of the world-wide work of the Compassionate Warehouse; for example, in 2022 they packed 8 containers of goods destined for the Ukraine. UCW members brought items for the Compassionate Warehouse and donations for the M&S fund.

Then in December we finished the year with a potluck luncheon celebration honouring women of the FirstMet staff. We concluded our celebration with a singsong of Christmas songs.

We have been an active group and actually have 2 units, the Mildred Mossop Unit and the Unity Unit which join together for these special celebrations.

And now just a little news from Fraser Area - thanks to their President Val Weinert. Crescent is having it's AGM on Valentine's day. We have an interesting speaker from our congregation. The title of her presentation is "Young White Girl In The Black South". She is American born and was living in the American South during some very turbulent times.

Well that seems to have brought this Newsletter edition to an end and it is sent to you to share in any way you wish and remember if you have a friend who would like to be added to the mailing list please let me know.

Now, remember to mark **April 21 - 22, 2023** on your calendar and I look forward to seeing you at our AGM in Squamish.

Blessings to all,

Clare Walker

President,
Pacific Mountain UCW