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Greetings. This is a different Editorial, to the one I usually write. I am sure you all have been following the rules set by the Health Experts regarding this dreadful virus that had brought all our meetings and gatherings to a halt. We follow the rules to keep us all safe to meet once again, but there are some people out there who think they are above the laws, and that they know better than the experts! They parade through our towns and cities to show their defiance to rules and regulations. I would really like to take them and place them in an ICU unit of a hospital where this really infectious disease is being dealt with. I would not give them gowns, gloves or PPE, but if this is all a hoax, what have they to worry about. I would like them to see the dreadful suffering of the patients who cannot breathe without ventilators or oxygen. All the extra problems that come with tube feeding, etc. I can hear some of you saying "How can she be so nasty?" I speak like this, because I watched my beloved husband fight this disease for eight weeks in two Intensive Care Units in Calgary. I watched as he fought for breathe, suffered through delirium due to the induced coma he was in. Cried as he didn't know me, when eventually I was allowed in to see him after three weeks, covered in gowns, gloves, masks etc. He did a friend a favour by driving them to a medical appointment, without saying they had already been tested for COVID. Five days later my husband was sick, I followed soon after, and when the tests came back positive, we were devastated. My husband took all he could, and fought as hard as he could for eight weeks, and finally succumbed to this dreadful disease. I have heard some of the "deniers " say that God will take care of them! God gave man a brain to make choices, and stood by as man made those choices. He was there to help and support and surround us with love, as we made our choices for good or for bad. I would hope that this situation is not what God wanted, but that he is guiding us and standing with us in this time of trouble. I cannot speak for anyone but myself, and I hope and pray every day, that those who say we are denying them their rights, would realize that they are denying ME and YOU our rights to a healthy life, free from fear of catching this disease because someone didn't care. I would ask you all to do something for me. Every night, I hugged my husband and told him that I loved him. Please do that to someone you love. I cannot do this any more.

Barbara.

WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH: CHINOOK WINDS & NORTHERN SPIRIT

INTERIM PRESIDENT'S REPORT
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021 BANNER



**LETTER
FROM
YOUR
Interim
PRESIDENT**

Greetings to Everyone:

Time seems to fly by regardless of the circumstances around us. “Where has January and February gone”?! I hope everyone is keeping healthy, not suffering from ‘covid fatigue’ and finding ways to still keep in touch with family, friends, and neighbours.

The Women of the United Church: Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit 59th Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom on Friday, 30th of April 2021 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Due to covid, UCW/women’s groups have been inactive; therefore written reports are not required; however there will be an opportunity during the Zoom meeting, to share news/ information about your group. A registration form and further information is included in this Banner (page 5) our theme is “Caring for our Sisters”. Our speaker, from NUCW, will be sharing information on the UCW Project “Women for Change” – Zambia. Hope you can join us.

Happy Easter and Happy Spring to all:

“Fair lilies with their crystal light
And eager, joyous greetings bright
Proclaim the Lord has risen again,
And put asunder death and pain!”

Josephine Rice Creelmans

Food for Thought: “The Bible without the Holy Spirit is a sundial by moonlight”

(Dwight L. Moody, 1837-1899)

God Bless,
Eleanore

NEWS UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

Greetings,

As I am sure you know that back in April of 2019 when we had our last in person Annual General Meeting in St. Albert, we voted to change our name from Alberta Northwest Conference UCW to Women of the United Church: Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit. But, in an earlier article in the Banner I asked you to continue to issue your cheques to the old name until further notice, because I still had a lot of the old cheques left and I didn't want to waste them. Also, because we had not changed the name officially at the bank, yet. So now, as of early January, 2021, the name of our bank account has been changed to the new one mentioned above. However, because this new name is rather long, the bank will accept the shorter version. Therefore, anytime you need to send me a cheque for your 'Allocation' or 'National Women's Travel Fund' or 'Banner', please make it payable to Women of the United Church and put the specific purpose in the Memo below. Remember, the name of our bank account is: Women of the United Church. Don't write my name on the cheque, just mail it to me.

Having said all this, Christensen/Dryburgh Memorial Fund is totally a separate account than the one mentioned above. So, whenever you choose to send a donation to Christensen/Dryburgh Memorial Fund, please continue to make the cheque payable to that name.

Any and all cheques that you wish to send to me, please mail them to:

Adrine Giles

413-14th St. E.
Drumheller, AB
T0J 0Y5

Thank you for your interest and cooperation,

Adrine Giles (Treasurer of Women of the United Church: Chinook Winds & Northern

Women of the United Church
Northern Spirit & Chinook Winds

58/59th ANNUAL GATHERING
“CARING FOR OUR SISTERS”

Virtual Conference
Friday 30 April 2021 9am to 4:30pm

Registration required by 13th of April 2021



The 59th Annual Meeting of
The Women of the United Church: Chinook Winds & Northern Spirit
will be held via Zoom
Friday, 30th April 2021 9 a.m. to 4:40 p.m.

REGISTRATION

To register please complete the following form by **13th April**. Return via e-mail to: Eleanore Tribe eleanoretribe.26@gmail.com

Name: _____

e-mail Address: _____

Contact Phone #: _____

Name of your Church: _____

Position in your UCW/Church group: _____

Visitor: _____

As soon as they are available, the Zoom joining instructions and agenda will be forwarded to registrants.

Information from Sharon Prenevost

The Environment.

I signed a petition on Action Network telling Legislative Assembly of Alberta to Protect our Water and Jobs: Restore the Coal Policy .

In the summer of 2020, Jason Kenney's UCP government rescinded the decades-long Coal Development Policy for Alberta which ensured that no coal mining would take place in the protected areas critical to the watershed of southern Alberta towns and cities. The decision to allow coal development in these sensitive areas must be reversed. The Coal Policy must be re-established. Every Albertan needs and deserves access to safe and clean water. Our watersheds must be protected from destructive strip mining. Without water, we have no lives or livelihoods here. Sign this petition to call for the Government of Alberta to restore the Coal Policy immediately. Protect our water, our health and our jobs in southern Alberta!

Can you join me and take action? Click here: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/restore-the-coal-policy?source=email&>

Thanks!

HOW IS YOUR GROUP COPING WITH THE PANDEMIC?

There is an interest in hearing how groups are coping. Do you meet in open areas,? Do you meet via computer, Write to us and let us know how things are going with you and your group. Let the rest of the ladies know what you are doing about fundraising, and keeping in contact with others.

This is YOUR newsletter, and we would like it to spread the word of your accomplishments.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN
60th ANNIVERSARY
SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA
JULY, 2022

The United Church Women of Canada, have been around for many years, and in 2022 will be celebrating their 60th Anniversary. As you can see from the above, the Celebrations in 2022 are being hosted in Sydney, Nova Scotia. This is a time when women from across the country and Bermuda Conference, join together to celebrate all the wonderful things have been accomplished in the past 60 years.

Information will be coming soon, but I wanted to give you information on the Grants that are available to help the women, who need it, to be able to make the trip.

There are two Grants available.

The Agatha Kaasa Fund and the Dorothy Amos Fund.

Application forms for both Funds are available from the Secretary of the Women of the United Church, Northern Spirit and Chinook Winds, or by contacting me and I will forward either or both applications. They are also available on the United Church of Canada Website, in the section on the UCW.

These Grants are available to members of the UCW or recognized Women's Groups in the Church, but any woman in the Church can attend this wonderful celebration and meeting in Nova Scotia.

The speaker/s are from the WOMEN FOR CHANGE , National UCW Project, and there will, hopefully be at least two representatives in attendance.

The deadline for applications are very early, - October 15th or April 15th for the Agatha Kaasa Fund and July 2nd for the Dorothy Amos Fund.

Decisions will be taken by - December 15th for October Applications

June 15th for April Applications.

Barbara Davison (National UCW Grant Committee Member)

Why Should We Pay \$1 per Member per Year to National UCW?

A few years ago, we were asked to pay \$1 per member per year to National UCW. Some have done this, and for this National UCW thanks you. To those who have not paid, here is the reason behind asking for this money.

Each September your Conference President and President Elect travel to the National UCW meeting in Toronto. (Your Past President attends if there is no President Elect]. The General Council have given a grant each year to the NUCW To partly cover the cost of the meeting, and the funds have come from the M & S. If each member of the UCW across the country gave \$1 per member per year, the cost of the meeting would be covered, and no M & S funds would be required. Travel is not cheap and it is only once a year that the Presidents of all Conferences across the United Church UCW's meet to co-ordinate work, mingle and learn the work being done by the other UCW Conferences. Please help send your 2 representatives to this Annual September meeting, as it is where the work of the UCW is discussed and where we join forces to work together on a common project.

Please forward your \$1 per member to Treasurer, Adrine Giles (address below) who will forward the total to the National UCW Treasurer.

CHRISTENSON/DRYBURGH MEMORIAL TRAVEL & EDUCATION FUND.

This fund supports travel to an event within Alberta and Northwest Conference, and at the discretion of the Review Committee, may also be used to attend at places/events outside the borders of ANWC. Events would be of an educational/leadership quality for use within one's home church; events could be of an ecumenical, mission, inter-faith, spiritual, youth or outreach interest. Funding is a 1/3 basis—1/3 personal, 1/3 supporting congregation or committee and 1/3 from the fund to a maximum of \$500.00. Application Forms and brochures are available on the ANWC website, and applications should be forwarded to the Administrator:

Adrine Giles, 413 = 14th Street, East, Drumheller, Alberta , T0J 0Y5.

Donations to the fund should be made out to the Christenson/Dryburgh Fund and

Forwarded to:

Adrine Giles at 413—14th St.E, Drumheller, Alberta, T0J 0Y5

THE AGATHA KAASA BURSARY FUND.

This is a bursary for Women of the United Church sponsored by the National UCW.

The **Agatha Kaasa Bursary Fund** was established by the National UCW in 2003. The fund is fully supported by a bequest left by Agatha Kaasa, for women's work in the church.

You will find more information on this remarkable woman in the National UCW Handbook.

Who can apply?

Any woman who is part of The United Church of Canada and is NOT in paid accountable ministry.

What kind of requests does the fund support?

Leadership training and education.:

Continuing education :

Projects or events that promote education, mission, outreach, spiritual nurture, and ecumenical and inter-faith dialogue, locally or abroad.

(Note: Formal theological education is not funded, for example, M.Div. and D.Min degrees. Centre for Christian Studies programmes or similar programmes.)

How much money does the bursary fund offer?

The recipient can receive up to one third of the total expenses related to the request, with a maximum bursary of \$1,500.

Will all requests be funded?

Requests will be funded at the discretion of the bursary committee, as funds permit.

How often can individuals apply for a bursary?

Applicants can apply once a year,.

Preference will be given to first –time applicants.

Application Procedure:

The applicant must submit **PRIOR TO THE EVENT:**

- A detailed description of the programme, project, or event.
- Total costs related to the request (travel, accommodation, registration, meals etc.
- Other sources of revenue

We encourage women of the church to attend events related to the work and development of the United Church.

See new information regarding deadlines on page 7.

Send applications to:

National UCW staff,

UCW: The Agatha Kaasa Bursary Fund,

The United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 300

Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4.

For more information, please contact:

UCW Representative: 416 231 5931.

Foothills Presbyterial

The Meet & Greet that was planned for April, has been cancelled, and hopefully can take place in September. Camp Chestermere, just east of Calgary had been booked, and the committee is still waiting to hear from the Camp Administrators regarding the change of date.

The speaker for the meeting (the Region 3 Administrative Minister) has agreed to still be our speaker in September. More information will be forthcoming when things are finalized. Please help us keep the communication going among the women in Region 3.

Thank You

Barbara Davison (Foothills Presbyterial President.)

Would you like a copy of the Banner or the EBanner sent to someone else in your group or to your friends?

Have you missed your copy of our UCW Newsletter?

Copies of this newsletter are sent by mail to those who have provided us with an address, or emailed to those who would like a paperless copy.

WE HAVE A PROBLEM!!

The last two issues have seen a number of copies, both paper and electronic, that have been returned. The return of the paper copy tells the sender that the recipient has moved or is no longer at the address provided. In the case of the electronic copy, either the address is not recognized, or the mailbox is full.

If you move, change your email address or service provider, **could you please inform me, Barbara Davison,** I send out the electronic copy. **Cheques should be made out to : ANWUCW—Banner. You can always send an email to :**

UCWbanner@gmail.com

The electronic copy of your newsletter is free. It costs ***\$10 per year to receive a printed copy.*** We spent over \$560 on printing and postage in 2019 and received just \$90 for subscriptions. **If your subscription is due this year, please pay the \$10 per year (3 copies).** If you have already paid for this coming year, your increase will show on your renewal. June is the month when these are due.

Please keep sending reports and information about your upcoming events. If you don't send us the information, it cannot be printed and your information will not be circulated.

Scams : if you receive anything (email or see a "link" entitled "UCW BANNER, - DO NOT OPEN IT—this is a SCAM address and not our Banner address. I do not send a "link" unless included in an article. Barbara.

This is your Newsletter! We need information from you and your unit or group, to let the rest of Alberta Northwest Conference know that we are still around and will be around for a good many years. If you have any items for your newsletter, please forward them to:-

ucwbanner@gmail.com

UCW PURPOSE

To unite women of the congregation, for the total mission of the church, and to provide a medium through which we may express our loyalty and devotion to Jesus Christ in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service.

Information on how to obtain this “Newsletter”

To receive a copy of this electronic newsletter, please send your email address to :

ucwbanner@gmail.com

If you wish to have a printed copy, the cost is \$10.00 per year, so send your address and your \$10.00 to:-

**Barbara Davison,
127 Ranchwood Lane,
Strathmore, Alberta,
TIP 1M8**

Cheques should be made out to :

**ANWUCW—
Banner.**

Expiry dates are May of each year, Please renew as soon as your expiry date arrives. This is found on the label of your “paper” copy. Remember this is your newsletter, and if you have anything of interest to share with the rest of Alberta Northwest Conference UCW, please forward that information. Your church group may be having a special celebration?

You may have a special member in your group. This is one way to get to know each other. Telling us the story of your Presbyterial, or the story of your UCW or Ladies group. Reading about groups, makes

Us realize just how much we are alike, although we are so far apart sometimes.

No matter what we do, we know that we are all special..

We have had a number of the last edition of the EBanner returned, both in the mail, and emails not delivered. If you or anyone you know has not received the requested Newsletter, please let me know, and I will send it by email People move around and we need to be told of a new address or email address.

Thank you.

Barbara Davison.