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Remarks from the Editor

Remarks from the Editor

Well it is that time again! I am finding it hard to put my thoughts into words at this time. There seems to be lots to report on, but at the same time, there is not much to report locally. Most of the activities I hear about are happening in the Eastern Provinces. Lots of Zoom meetings, so the ladies are keeping in touch, and even just visiting. Some are doing virtual fundraisers, selling candies, plants and baking, while others are making sure that their monthly dues are still being contributed to help with UCW funds being maintained to a healthy level. We don't seem to do quite as much here in the West, although I have heard of a virtual bake sale in the Chinook Winds Region. I wonder if we are more content staying home, not mixing and seem to be concentrating on keeping ourselves safe. I know that I spend a lot more time at home than I have ever done, and I wash my shopping with disinfectant wipes before putting it away, I sanitize the door knobs and the sides of the outside doors! I really get very cross when I see the demonstrations against vaccinations. I wish I could show them what happens when you catch the virus and are not vaccinated. It is only when we are all "jabbed" that things will get back to as normal as we can make it. I am hoping that we will soon be able to meet together in our local meetings, in our Regional meetings and then in July, meet in our National 60th Anniversary meeting. Virtual meetings are being held across the country, and Webinars seem to quite popular. I hope and pray that all our UCW ladies are taking care of themselves and each other, and that it won't be long before we can shake hands, hug and let our church families know how much we have missed the connections and that we can work together to keep those connections open. Please tell someone you care about that you do care, as it is important for everyone to know someone cares about them.

Hugs to you all.

Barbara.



**LETTER
FROM
YOUR
Interim
PRESIDENT**

**WOMEN OF THE UNITED CHURCH
CHINOOK WINDS & NORTHERN SPIRIT REGIONS
PRESIDENT'S REPORT – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021
BANNER**

Many thanks to everyone for the messages of condolences you sent me for the loss of my brother. I can't thank you enough for the care and concern you extended to me while I was recovering from covid. I was truly blessed by your messages, cards and phone calls. *Thank you!*

The fall season seems to have come quickly – I am very thankful for the beautiful fall days we have had here in Southern Alberta; there were many days of clear, sunny skies and spectacular colours..

It is good to hear from the various UCWs and women's groups within our network. Over this long haul dealing with the pandemic, UCW groups have had to make many changes in the way they meet and plan events. Thank You and Blessings to all of you to keep your groups active in whatever way you can.

The National UCW gathering was held via Zoom the week of September 20th for 2-3 hours per day. The Theme was "Walking with Love in the Holy Spirit's Power". Early in the week, the financial statements were presented and approved. The National UCW Executive moved to donate \$10,000.00 to Women for Change – Zambia and \$5, 000, 00 to the Healing Fund of the UCC. The main speaker was Adel Halliday, the Anti-Racism and Equity Lead with UCC. The goal of the Church is to engage in a long-term Anti-Racism Plan and become an Anti-Racism Denomination. An ongoing program called 40 Days of Engagement has been developed. (detailed information can be found on the UCC website). Adel reminded us to engage in this journey "Along with God".

Amy Crawford, Team Lead, Identity ad Mission, led us in Bible Study based on the Book of Mark. Participants broke into 'rooms' and the discussed the various verses which were assigned to each group. Rev Japhet Ndhlovu, Executive Minister to Church in Mission, conducted the closing worship and communion service and installed our new National UCW President, Nancy Risto.

The Full Executive of UCW Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit met via Zoom on 29th Oct. Many Thanks to Margery Wright, Past President, for 'filling in for me' and chairing the meeting. Rev Larry Wright conducted the opening worship service with Communion. The service was based on Scriptures from Deuteronomy 26 (First Fruits and Tithes) and John 4 (Jesus and the Woman of Samaria).

A letter of encouragement from Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, National UCW Treasurer, was read. She has been receiving emails and phone calls from UCWs contemplating closing their UCW groups. Carolle advises that “now is not the time to make those decisions” – take time to stop, breath, rest and just enjoy being a UCW Woman”. The complete letter can be found on Page 9 of the Banner.

Sharon Prenevost, Advocacy Committee Chair, reported on Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration for COP26. “Our faith communities are united in caring for human life and the natural world”. The complete document can be found on Page 5 of the Banner.

Plans for our 2022 AGM were discussed. The FCJ Centre, Calgary, has been tentatively booked for April 21 – 23rd, 2022. We have a speaker booked – Claire McMordie, a member of Scarborough United, Calgary, will be speaking about the process involved in sponsoring a refugee. A decision has to be made by 1 Dec 2021 whether we wish to meet in person at FCJ Centre or via Zoom. An email will be circulated to pole our network of women and determine whether we meet in person or via Zoom.

Adjournment: Margery closed the meeting with the UCW Prayer:

And now go with us, God, into the days ahead.

Strengthen us for Peace.

Give us Wisdom

Keep us Humble

And may we live and work together, and so striving to build a new

And better world for tomorrow. Amen.

Blessings, and

May your Christmas be filled with the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Eleanore

SMART:

By our age, we’ve been around the block, so to speak (perhaps several times). So why aren’t folks paying us consultation fees just to hear our sage words of advice? Because they’re too busy racing around the block, that’s why!

So, it’s left to us to congratulate each other. Pat someone on the back, because they, too, have kicked a few curbs, gotten up and kept on going. They, too, have turned blind corners bumped their bean on a light post. Ouch!

We know the neighbourhood, and we’re here to help each other. (Encourage each other and build each other up. 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NV)

Women of the United Church: Chinook Winds and Northern Spirit

How Would You Like to Hold Our Spring AGM?

As you know, our Annual General Meeting is usually held at a retreat house. Last year, due to COVID-19, we held it as a Zoom meeting.

What shall we do in Spring 2022? At the moment, we have a tentative booking at the FCJ Centre in Calgary, for April 21 to 23, 2022. However, the FCJ Centre requires us to confirm by December 1, 2021, if we wish to keep the booking. So, we need to decide by then: do we feel we will be able to hold an in-person meeting in April, or would it be better to meet again by Zoom?

The Executive was almost evenly divided on this question, and we realized that we need to know what you think. So we are asking: Would you like to attend the AGM in person? Or would you prefer Zoom?

Please let us know! Contact President Eleanore Tribe (eleanoretribe.26@gmail.com or 403-646-5629) or Banner Editor Barbara Davison (ucwbanner@gmail.com or 403-934-2659).

We will need your reply by Friday, November 20. The Full Executive will hold a brief meeting on Tuesday, November 23, to decide, taking your opinion into account.

Bible Quiz

People in Bible times used trees for many reasons. Can you identify the trees with the story or person?

1. God created many kinds of trees for _____ and other ways to serve the peoples of the world (Genesis 1: 12)
2. Adam and Eve ate fruit from the _____ tree in the Garden of Eden .(Genesis 3:3)
3. When the Lord appeared to _____, he sat near the big trees by his tent entrance . (Genesis 18:1)
4. When visitors came to Abraham, they washed their _____ and rested under a tree. (Genesis 18:4)
5. Joshua made a covenant with the people and set it up under a _____ tree. (Joshua 24:25,26)

Answers Page 13.

Report from our Advocacy Chair:

Sharon Prenevost.

Climate change summit COP26 (Conference of the Parties) is in Glasgow, Scotland from October 31-November 12, 2021. Fifty Senior Faith leaders from Scotland and across the UK have collaborated in creating a Multi-Faith Declaration for COP26. Signatories to the statement include leaders from: many Christian, Muslim, Hebrew, Hindu, Sikh, Zoroastrian, Baha'i, Quaker, Salvation Army, Ahlul Bayt and Jain faiths. At about the middle of the page of the **Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration for COP26** (see below) find three bullets with actions that you and possibly your community might take in addressing climate change.

Glasgow Multi-Faith Declaration for COP26

Our faith communities are united in caring for human life and the natural world. We share a belief in a hopeful future, as well as an obligation to be responsible in caring for our common home, the Earth.

We recognise the opportunities that COP26 brings in addressing the urgent need for action in limiting the effects of climate change and the critical importance of decisions made in this conference to take forward the agreement made in Paris in 2015.

People have exploited the planet, causing climate change. We recognise that the burden of loss and damage falls most heavily on people living in poverty, especially women and children.

We acknowledge the commitments made through the Lambeth Declaration in 2015. Now, because of the gravity of our situation, the impact of climate change around the world, and the inequality of its effects we seek to strengthen those commitments. We commit to respond to this challenge by:

- Reflecting deeply in prayer, meditation and worship to discern how to care for the earth and each other, and to encourage our respective communities to do the same.
- Making transformational change in our own lives and in the lives of our communities through individual and collective action.
- Being advocates for justice by calling on governments, businesses and others who exercise power and influence to put into effect the Paris agreement; to make the transition to a just and green economy a priority; and to commit to science-based targets that are aligned with a healthy, resilient, zero-emissions future.

We remind governments of their commitments made in Paris in 2015 to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, and of Article 17 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights to protect the environment, the biosphere and biodiversity. We call upon them to take the urgent action needed to avert the loss, damage, and forced migration threatened by climate change.

We look to governments to work together and with others to create a positive vision for 2050 where addressing climate change is not just an opportunity to stop burning fossil fuels, but also: to achieve cleaner air and water; to reduce food waste; to ensure a just and equitable sharing of the earth's resources; and to protect the habitats we share with all other life on whose health we also depend.

Across our doctrinal and political differences, we know that we must change our ways to ensure a quality of life which all can share, and we need to provide hope for people of all ages, everywhere, including future generations. To offer hope in the world we need to have confidence that those in power understand the vital role they have to play at the Glasgow COP26. 2 Our collective energy and prayers will be with those working for a successful outcome.

Nanton UCW working through the Pandemic.

A short 'blurb' re Nanton UCW Coffee Table at the Farmer's Market this summer:

The Nanton UCW are looking forward to start meeting again in November. We have been inactive for the most part of the past year or so. We were able to open our UCW Coffee Table at the Farmer's Market, which is held in the Church parking lot. Our coffee table was a success this summer as we had many Saturdays with good weather and were able to have a canvass covering. Customers of the market enjoy being able to sit, visit, and enjoy a cup of coffee and goodies.

Eleanore

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.

Banners for 60th Anniversary of UCW

Banners are being requested from all the Regions to Parade into the Main area of the Conference in Sydney Nova Scotia. . Asking if there is a person or a group in Regions 2 & 3, hopefully one from each Region, who would be prepared to design and create a Banner for presentation. Please contact me at 403 934 2659 or at the.davisons@shaw.ca See page 8 for information or contact me.

Barbara Davison.

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.

Barbara Davison (National UCW Grant Committee Member)

Updated Info Banners:

Important information regarding Banners.

All banners should be 3 feet wide by 4 feet long.

All banners should have 3 tabs along the top (one on each end and one at the center 18 inches in from the end).

All tabs should be cut 12 inches long so that when folded in half to make a loop and sewn on your banner there will be room to hang down from the tube system. The longer loop is necessary because the tube is 3 inches in diameter.

Banners will be paraded in at the opening ceremony on Monday evening, July 11th by 2 people from each Region. All banner carriers will be directed to a place to line up. You will be following the drummers and dancers.

Please have a short write up (4-5 lines) printed about your banner which includes the name of your Region and brief description of the banner. These will be given to the emcee who will read them as you are walking up.

After all banner carriers are lined up on the floor in front of the stage, on a given signal, you will divide in the middle and lay your banner on the table by your side of the stage.

Banner carriers will then walk down the same side of the room that your banner was laid and back to your seat

All banners will be hung from the tube system

Banners will have to be taken down after the banquet on Thursday evening, July 14th to be ready for the banner carriers to walk out.

Banners will be piped out from the front sides of the stage towards the centre and down the middle aisle (a reverse of the way you entered on Monday)

Stay safe and God bless,

Audrey

audreyandangus@hotmail.com

Letter to the Units

Questions have been sent to the National UCW regarding the closing of Units, due to fewer members and not being able to join together for meetings. The following is a letter sent to one such Regional group, and it was felt that this reply should be shared among the general UCW members.

What should WE do?

Fellowship & UCW

An important part of belonging to UCW is the fellowship.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic we were not able to do that.

Our UCW lives changed. I personally realized how much I missed my sisters in Christ the longer I had to go without seeing them in person.

Our world and lives began to change, how we did things change. We discovered that for most of the time we did not have to leave our homes our computers and the internet had us connected to everything. I always had a big thank you and smile to the person who delivered my purchases. When I did need to leave the house it was usually only once a week or once every two weeks for groceries, the drugstore, that medical appointment. I noticed there was a big difference between what I needed to live and be happy and what I thought I wanted.

I notice that something else was taking place within UCW. I have had email communications and telephone calls from UCW women who are thinking that now is the time that maybe, just maybe they should close their UCW group. One part of me totally understands and there is another part of me that right now is screaming no, not yet, please do not let the pandemic be the excuse to close your UCW.

Now is not the time to make decisions, now is the time to stop, to breath, to rest, and to enjoy just being a UCW women. Many women can say that their age and mobility is the reason they can no longer be UCW. I get you, my body sure can not do the things it has done in the past. Many UCW groups no longer have the number of women needed to hold a fundraising event, why should they continue.

Please try this, while you spend time thinking about closing, I want you to consider staying open for another year. If the women can not submit your units membership dues than don't worry about that, please also don't worry about Mission & Service or the National UCW special project, Women for Change – Zambia. Things will fall into place when God is ready.

Take this time to just be friends, be UCW friends, call each other, if you are able to go outside and meet with social distancing try doing that. If you are able to share a meal together to that. Know that being together is fellowship, is service as you support and encourage each other. If you are comfortable sharing your faith (a good way to do this is if you are able to get your Minister's sermon or are attending church, discuss what your minister said), this can really lead to study and witnessing of your faith.

Take the time you might even decide to change how you do UCW, and that change will be great. If you decide after a year or so to close, celebrate all things UCW within your unit, area, Region and across Canada.

Blessings and stay sane.

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle – Treasurer National UCW

cdallas@ripnet.com 613-821-2828

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

KEEPING IN TOUCH.

As you probably know, the INFOPAC used to be sent to every United Church. There was a sheet included in that package, that was entitled "Keeping in Touch". This was the information sheet for the women of the United Church, and came from the National UCW. Since the INFOPAC is no longer being sent out, the National UCW decided that the women of the church needed the information that sheet contained, and so a committee was formed to make sure that the Keeping In Touch information was still being sent to the UCW ladies, and those who were interested. The first issue was sent out earlier this year, and a second issue was sent out in June. The distribution is from National UCW to contacts in the various regions, and those contacts are asked for forward to their contacts in the various areas. It should eventually trickle down to each local UCW group, and from their to each member of the UCW. If you have not seen a copy of Keeping in Touch, please contact your local unit, if they have not received it, contact the area contact, and so on up the line. The committee are hoping that eventually all women of the United Church, will be able to read about all the projects etc., for which the UCW is known, and what is going on around the country.

FOOTHILLS UCW PRESBYTERIAL.

Foothills Presbyterial have been trying over the last two years to arrange a Meet & Greet with the ladies of the Foothills Presbyterial, and inviting the ladies from the other areas of the Region (3) to join them. Foothills Presbyterial is the only working or operating Presbyterial in our Region, and as such are hoping to be able to keep this organization going to enable the ladies throughout the Region to keep in touch and to be included as part of our group.

If it is determined that the ladies throughout the Region would like to keep attending and meeting and greeting, then a new committee (Executive) will be formed to work out the ways and means of gathering and distributing information to the ladies of the Region.

We are hoping to hold our Meet & Greet at Camp Chestermere on 31st March, 2022. More information will be available in January.

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 interfaith 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.

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.

Answers to Bible Quiz on page 4

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1. Fruit | 2. middle |
| 3. Abraham | 4. feet |

Let me know if you like having these little articles and quizzes in your Newsletter, as I usually use them just to fill up the space, when I have no further articles. Keep send your articles and news from your Units, and let the rest of the ladies know what you are doing. B.

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. **You can always send an email to : UCWbanner@gmail.com**

Cheques for paper copies (\$10 per year) should be made out to : Women of the United Church, Northern Spirit & Chinook Winds. 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 :

Women of the United Church, Northern Spirit & Chinook Winds (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.