



Keeping in Touch

Keeping in Touch - News for UCW

When the United Church of Canada decided to discontinue publishing the Info Pack, National UCW decided to take on the task of publishing the *Keeping in Touch* – News for UCW Newsletter. Our goal is to bring UCW women across Canada/Bermuda information on what National, Regional and local UCW women are doing as they live out the UCW purpose in Christian witness, study, fellowship and service. As the National UCW Communications Committee educate themselves on the logistics of publishing a newsletter, please be patient with us. Things are changing and we are up to the challenge!



NUCW President's Message - *Walking in the Holy Spirit's Power*

In this year of 2020 and 2021, we are waiting, trusting, and hoping that God would heal His world of this virus and other hurts. No one is likely to forget how the world shut down over Covid 19 virus and the worldwide protests over racism and injustice. Our Church could not meet in our buildings, and service was performed via Zoom, teleconference, etc.; who could forget our “bubble”?

But let us remember that God is good! Always! He provided the blessings of silent, birds singing, brighter skies at night, and neighbours reaching out to check on their neighbours. We have been blessed by technology, and young people to help us use it. After witnessing the abuse of power and hate, we can never go back to closing our eyes to the injustice in the world.

My Dad was an incredibly wise man. When we were growing up in a very small, isolated village, he taught us that there is good and bad in all people and to stand for truth and justice; and to love all people. Where there is love, there cannot be hate. Let us remember and lift them up in prayer, the people who have lost loved ones to this terrible virus; sometimes, from an act of kindness. I want to encourage you to celebrate Easter Blessings with your family and friends in whatever way you are allowed. Remember, God loves you and we get to celebrate because of His love.

Continuing in Hope (the theme for our 60th Anniversary), and in loving gratefulness and joy,

Beulah Hayley

National UCW President



Women for Change – Zambia

United Church Women across Canada and Bermuda understand our mission to service.

Your donation total for *Women for Change - Zambia*, as of the end of December 2020, is \$50,166.69. Keep up the wonderful work you are all doing. COVID will not stop us from caring and supporting the educations of girls in Zambia. You are all a blessing. Thank you.



Information from the National UCW Communication Committee

Our mail address. **When sending mail to National UCW**, whether it is a donation to National UCW or our Special Project *Women for Change - Zambia*, a membership fee, Life Membership Pins requests, or the Agatha Kaasa or Dorothy Amos Grants – please address the envelope to:

**The United Church of Canada
Church in Mission Unit,
NATIONAL UCW
3250 Bloor St. W. Suite 200
Toronto, Ontario, M8X 2Y4**

If **sending a donation to the UCW Endowment Fund** in memory or in honour of a UCW member — please address the envelope to:

**The United Church of Canada Foundation
3250 Bloor St. W. Suite 200
Toronto, Ontario, M8X 2Y4**



Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada/Conseil œcuménique des chrétiennes du Canada
47 Queen's Park Crescent East, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C3 www.wicc.org

The World Day of Prayer was quite different this year. Gathering together was not an option. You can still view the service on our website and donate on-line at www.wicc.org. If you wish to donate by mail, send your payment to our address noted above. Tax receipts will be provided for donations of \$20.00 and over.



Submissions to *Keeping in Touch*

Keeping in Touch would love to share UCW stories from across Canada and Bermuda.

What is happening in your Region, your Area, and your local UCW Unit?

Please keep your submission to no more than 500 words. Send photos as jpg files. We would like to see at least one Regional, Area or local UCW unit's news in each issue, so "keep in touch". **Note:** Your Editor reserves the right to modify submissions as may be required.

Please send all submissions to: nucw.kit.ed@gmail.com

Information from the National UCW Grant Committee

The time has come to start planning for the 60th Anniversary of National UCW. The National UCW executive approved, with a motion, that each woman applying to the Agatha Kaasa or the Dorothy Amos fund for financial assistance to attend the 60th Anniversary would receive \$400.00.

When applying for one of the grants fill out the Personal Details section. It is not necessary to fill out the financial section or provide letters of reference. When entering your Region/District please include the name of your UCW group. Please note that if for any reason you cannot attend next July 2022 Anniversary, you are required to return the grant money. Do not forget to date and sign the application. Looking forward to seeing you in Sydney, Nova Scotia in 2022!

Deadline to Apply: Dorothy Amos Fund - July 2, 2021.

Deadlines to Apply: Agatha Kaasa Fund - October 15, 2021 and April 15, 2022.



**UCW 60TH ANNIVERSARY
CONTINUING IN HOPE**

JULY 11 – 15, 2022

Membertou Trade and Convention Centre
Sydney, Nova Scotia

www.ucceast.ca
ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com



Our theme is “CONTINUING IN HOPE”. Hope for our UCW's, hope for the future, hope for our church and hope for our world. The theme was the brainchild of Mary Lou Binns from Bermuda. Sadly, we lost Mary Lou last year to cancer, but her work and vision continue.

Keep watch for information as it becomes available: If you would like to receive updates as they become available, please email a request to ulvashepherdns@hotmail.com and you will be placed on the 60th news email list. Please check on our **Maritime UCW Webpage** at www.ucceast.ca. Our webpage will be updated with 60th News as we finalize and have things to share.

If you know of members who are interested, but who don't have email, please share the information.

Hotels: *Hampton Inn and Suites* (on Membertou site), *Cambridge Suites* (5 mins away, on waterfront, shuttle will be provided), *Travelodge* (5 mins away, shuttle provided, no elevator, older hotel), and *Comfort Inn* (5 mins away shuttle will be provided). All these hotels have blocked rooms for our UCW ladies to register. The booking codes and blocked rooms will not be available for booking at the contracted rates until late summer. We will share the dates as soon as they are available. All these hotels have breakfast included.

NUCW Grants: All UCW members attending the 60th Anniversary are eligible to apply for a \$400.00 grant from the NUCW Agatha Kassa Bursary Fund or the Dorothy Amos Fund. Applications must be received by dates specified on grant application forms.

Registration will be on-line. Payment can be made by credit card on-line through the UCC. A paper registration option and payment by cheque option are being considered. We will share further information when we have more details.

Women for Change - Zambia representatives have been invited to join us for the week. We have 18 months left, to make a great impact to present them with donations from our UCW units across Canada /Bermuda. Please consider sending a donation to our National Special Project this year and next. Send your cheque to the United Church of Canada with note on memo line: *Women for Change - Zambia*.

Banners: For those who wish to create and display banners at the 60th, the dimensions can be found on the Maritime UCW (MUCW) webpage under 60th News, at www.ucceast.ca



The Pandemic, UCW and Me



“No, I am not fine”. There, I have said it.

I have been telling people that I am fine. You could say I am fine, but I have noticed some changes within my life. I am a Licensed Lay Worship Leader, and when we were first told to stay home a lot of my preaching commitments were cancelled. That was understandable.

I had volunteered to write some devotionals for the National UCW webpage as we begin to welcome individual members. Well! I discovered that I could not focus, nothing came to me, I could not even write an opening prayer. Frustration and anger set in; why could I not do something that I really enjoyed doing. Advice was given. Let it go. It will come back.

A friend whose wife has been in a long-term care home, and was not able to see or hug her for so long, could not take it anymore and took his own life. A friend who lives alone was not returning calls, texts or voice mail. I tracked down a neighbour to check on her and discovered she had passed away while lying on the couch watching TV. A friend whose husband died from the COVID virus. Medical appointments by phone; I wear hearing aids so I lipread. Tests requested but with months, maybe even a year, wait time. Not being able to hug my children, grandchildren, mother and sisters. My husband must be wondering why I am hugging him so often.

I remember my first few Zoom meetings. Such joy in seeing and hearing everyone. After the call it felt great, like I had contacted those who were on the call. Now yes, I still am happy that I get to see and hear everyone but after the meeting I sit back and realize how much I miss you all.

I do miss you all, I never realized the importance that UCW events had for me. Our unit’s monthly meeting, our area’s fellowship days, our Regional meetings and weekend retreat; there seems to be an empty void in my soul where UCW use to be.

When UCWs can gather again, this is how I hope my first meeting goes: Refreshment served right away, opening prayer of gratitude for all who have gathered here today. No business; no minutes; no offering; no devotional. They say one of the best ways to healing a loss, and yes, we have all lost something during this pandemic; we have lost what was normal life, is to talk about it. That will be the devotional -- sharing and witnessing each other’s stories while enjoying refreshments. Closing prayers, offer up to our Lord our families and friends. My second, third and maybe even fourth UCW meeting -- pretty much the same as the first. When we are ready, then and only then should we decide what and how we will continue; and continue we will.

I still cannot focus on writing a devotional or a sermon; it is like I have nothing to say, which if you know me, I always have something to say. I am trying to keep positive, and I do see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Blessings,
Carolle



We all travelled our own personal journey through Covid-19 during these many months of 2020-2021. It has been an emotional, unprecedented year of change for us all, and it continues... We ask, “Did you keep your gratitude attitude?”. *Send us a photo or write your own love letter to Covid-19 for our next issue, and share how UCW is faring in these times. We look forward to hearing from you. With love, from Keeping in Touch.*