

United Church Women

Maritime UCW Executive traditionally meets three times a year in March, June and October. We also have a Biennial week end event (every second year) for all UCW members to attend. In 2018 approximately 145 ladies attended the event in Summerside PEI. At biennial we have a business meeting, where a new President and Vice President are installed as well as any new Executive members. We set the fee for dues per UCW member. We learn of UCW initiatives. We have Spiritual Gatherings and Social times. It's a time to see old friends, meet new friends, become UCW centered, and fueled to go back to our local membership with information and renewal. This year our Biennial scheduled for Riverview NB was cancelled. I would like to thank the Biennial Committee for all the meetings and hard work. We are now in limbo with our Biennial and how to meet as well as when to meet. That being said I remain as President until we can meet as a full body to vote in a new Executive, however Debbie Hawkins has become the Region 15 Executive UCW Rep as of this week. Debbie will become a co Vice President when the Covid dust settles and I thank her for taking this position.

The UCW Statistics are an annual responsibility for every unit in the Maritimes/Bermuda. Maritime UCW Statistics are very slow to come in, if at all. It is troubling to me that the local units don't see the need to send in their individual statistics. I have tried my best to get the word out to the units and will continue to do so. According to some research there are approximately 4,000 UCW ladies in the Maritimes Bermuda. They are not all accounted for in our documentation. When researching for information on UCW in Pastoral Charges (Faith Communities) through archives and annual reports, I was also trouble by the large number of Pastoral Charges that had not submitted annual reports for 2018. We all have responsibilities to help our Regions and UCW's run as smooth as possible. Perhaps we need to pay more attention to what is asked of us. We have 1 UCW District (formerly Presbyterian) in Bermuda. We have 7 Districts in Nova Scotia. We have received statistics from Halifax, Truro, South Shore, and Sydney. We have received no statistics from the Pictou District or from Bermuda. We have received statistics from two units in Inverness Guysborough, we have received statistics from 2 units in the Valley. Thank you to all those that made the effort. I am hoping the members from Region 15 Annual meeting will read this report and take the initiative to ask their Faith community UCW unit to contact me at the email at the end of this report. We want to connect and celebrate ALL our UCW ladies.

I have always said that I didn't want to make dues and money an issue. That it is not the most important thing. As I visited the Units and listened to the ladies, I have come to realize that money ,at present, largely is what's driving UCW. Most are focussed on making money for the church and money for missions and most, although they do go through the motions of the purpose, have worn themselves out doing it. One of the things I realized while doing the national survey last summer was that every UCW that reported back (approx 56%) had raised money...from \$500 to thousands. But many will not pay money to fund UCW, the organization. I have met with push back and excuses not to pay dues while witnessing pride in raising money...this both confuses and saddens me.

The survey done in August of 2019 was in response to UCW's across Canada not being given a voice and vote on Regional Councils. We in Region 15 have been given a voice and I am thankful

for that as UCW is a very important player in the lives of many Faith Communities. The survey results for Region 15 are as follows along with some National totals for your information.

50 out of 127 UCW units replied (39%) I found 33 more from annual reports for financial totals, this gave me 65% of UCW units accounted for.

\$180,282 was given to their local churches, knowing this I can estimate factoring 100% of the UCW's that \$277,365 given to their churches in 2018.

\$72,172 was given to local outreach, knowing this I can estimate \$111,033 was given to local outreach.

Out of the 50 surveys returned, 7 LLWL and 266 ladies were on committees

Regions combined for Mission and Service 2018 gave \$126,771 (we were still one Conference in 2018)

The **documented** amount given to the church/outreach/Mission and Service in 2018 for the combined Regions is **\$682,889**

We can estimate that UCW has contributed financially in 2018 to our combined regions **\$1,047,912**

NATIONALLY:

Money given to UCC Mission and Service in 2018 - 1,133,000

56% from across Canada responded - there are 109 LLWL and 3,802 on committees

\$ **2,240,085** was given to churches (from the 56%); we can estimate that **\$4,000,151** was given in 2018.

\$779,415 was given to local outreach therefore we can estimate that to **\$1,391,812** was given in 2018.

The documented amount of givings to Mission and Service (1,133,000) plus our Prorated amounts (\$5,391,963) means UCW has contributed financially **\$6,524,963 in 2018.**

These amounts do not take into account the money ladies give to Outreach Nationally or Internationally. It does not account for the in kind donations (hats, shawls, food bank items , soup kitchens, family Christmas hampers and so on....nor does it take into account the volunteer hours.

Since our last Regional Council gathering in May 2019 we have found ourselves busy with our Bazaars and teas and mission work, annual meetings and worship. Many units supported the Linen Initiative for Tatamagouche Center, raising money for new bedding, mattresses etc. We suddenly lost our MUCW secretary Chris Urquhart last June, who was my right arm. We have had to learn to work without her direction and have welcomed a new secretary - Liz Birch from Cape Breton.

Many of our activities have been halted due to Covid 19. However ladies are still meeting virtually having coffee chats on zoom and just being good to one another. We've learned to Zoom and Conference Call and connect in new ways. I truly believe if we live our UCW purpose and keep

Christ in the forefront we will be okay. We are looking forward to our 60th Anniversary National celebrations in Sydney July 11-17th 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

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