

Minutes of Meeting March 22, 2021

The Maritime United Church Women executive meeting was held via Zoom with 14 people in attendance, namely Marilyn Bubar – NW WB/ Co Vice President, LeeAnne Boulet - Halifax, Ruth Rudderham – South Shore, Elaine Burrows- President/PEI/FSLDW Rep, Evelyn Negus – Truro, Anna Peters – Chignecto, Sandra Carr – Christian Life and Growth, Ruth Kennedy – Past President/Interim Recording Secretary, Diana MacLean- Sydney, Debbie Hawkins – Co Vice President/ Region 15 Rep, Audrey Matheson Halifax/ Second Vice, Sharon Moyse – Archives, Carol Mehan- St Croix, Phyllis Munroe- Treasurer.

Regrets were received from Fran Harding, Joan Fraser, and Marilyn Dyer

Those who did not attend were Evelyn Taylor - Miramichi, Annie Dodge – Inverness Guysborough, Olive Archibald – Pictou, Rosanne Peach – Valley, and Reta Manuel - Corresponding Secretary

The attendees were welcomed by Elaine Burrows- President. Individual introductions were made. We welcomed LeeAnne Boulet as a corresponding member. Leanne is the incoming President for Halifax District.

The First Nations Legacy included in the agenda was read aloud by President Elaine Burrows.

The meeting was constituted with the lighting of an angel candle to represent the light and will remain lit while the meeting is in session.

The MUCW purpose included in the agenda was read aloud by our President Elaine Burrows while others followed along.

Opening Worship was presented by Ruth Rudderham from “Prayer Seeds” by Joyce Rupp. The message “Opening the Heart to Love” followed by prayers were based on the scriptures from 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 and prayer was “Return to Love” by Marianne Williamson.

It was moved by Anna Peters and seconded by Audrey Matheson that voting privileges be extended to corresponding members. Motion carried.

The approval of the agenda as printed was moved by Debbie Hawkins and seconded by Phyllis Munroe. Motion was carried.

It was moved by Anna Peters and seconded by Sharon Moyse that the minutes of the MUCW executive meeting November 17th be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

There was no correspondence.

Committee reports were available prior to the meeting. President Elaine Burrows asked for highlights only from the committee members.

Highlights were as follows:

Nominations – Ruth Kennedy noted that someone will need to be recruited to fill Sandra’s position (CL&G) as she is only still in the position because of the Pandemic.

Ruth Rudderham spoke on behalf of Berwick camp, UCW Day. This year at Berwick there will be a modified gathering. This means that there will most likely not be a UCW day program. 2021 is the 150th year for Berwick camp. Because of the pandemic they have decided to move the 150 celebrations to next year, 2022. Ruth advised the executive that we should think about planning something special for UCW Day 2022. The question was asked when UCW day is held. UCW day is usually the Wednesday afternoon of camp, which is usually the last part of July and the first days of August. For 2021 the dates are July 23 – August 1.

Phyllis Munroe treasurer stated that there is a \$10,000 GIC that is part of the money we have for Berwick Camp. Ruth informed us that usually MUCW gives \$450 per year as a good will gesture to help with the UCW cottage “cookie cottage”. It was noted that we did not do that in 2020. Elaine stated there was a notice that they needed to do water tests from each tap on the property at a cost of \$68. There are two taps in the cookie cottage. This test is done by the property committee of Berwick camp.

It was moved by Ruth Rudderham and seconded by Sharon Moyses that \$136 be donated to Berwick camp to provide for water tests of the 2 taps in the cookie cottage. Motion carried. Phyllis Munroe will send the cheque as soon as she has the mailing address.

The question was raised if we will send \$450 to the camp as we usually do annually. After discussion it was decided this question will be brought to the June MUCW executive meeting.

Treasurer’s report was presented. Phyllis stated we have a 15 month cashable GIC of 10,602.96 at 0.2%. This GIC is good until March 10, 2022, however that bank investment offered a 9 month GIC for 0.5%. After considerable discussion it was decided to leave the GIC as is.

Phyllis Munroe moved the adoption of her report for information. Seconded by Carol Mehan. Motion carried.

District and Regional UCW rep reports were made available prior to the meeting.

Elaine Burrows as contact person for PEI noted that Montague seemed to be the most active unit as they meet, have had take out meals etc.

Elaine stated her next meeting of the FSLDW Regional council executive is on March 27th.

Carol Mehan stated this year has taken a toll on our ucw members with not being able to meet and socialize, and not being able to go to church.

Halifax District – Audrey informed is they are having a special meeting to plan for their Annual meeting in April, when LeeAnne will become President. Audrey mention they lost a number of UCW members this past year and the women are hurting as they cannot attend wakes, funerals and can’t hug to help with the healing following a death, due to pandemic restrictions.

Debbie Hawkins – Regional Council UCW rep for Region 15 stated she is enjoying the position and has learned a lot. One thing she asked the executive to note was the Regional Council rep for Region 15 should ideally be from Region 15. It was noted by Ruth Kennedy (Nominations) that this was taken in to consideration when finding the second vice position. It was intended by the Nomination committee that when Debbie/Marilyn move in to the President position they would be responsible for the FSLDW Regional Council Rep position and Audrey would then take on the Region 15 Regional Rep position.

Diana MacLean read a short note that accompanied a statistics form from St Matthew Wesley in North Sydney. They are a small group hanging on by a thread. This note resonated with the MUCW executive members as this seems to be happening all over the MUCW regions.

Evelyn Negus – Truro stated she is the only person on her executive. They are very fortunate in her pastoral charge that they have been meeting since September at their church.

New Business –

Women For Change Zambia. Elaine asked for suggestions on how to generate more interest for Women for Change Zambia. It was noted that this is a National UCW initiative. Suggestions were given. Debbie told everyone about the power point presentation that was available from the National UCW webpage. This presentation is available in PDF and can be presented on ZOOM. Ruth will send the information to Elaine to contact Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu the person responsible for Women for Change at General Council office. [United Church Women | Antler River Watershed Regional Council \(arwrcucc.ca\)](http://www.arwrcucc.ca) This is a gathering the ladies of Antler River Watershed Regional Council had last year. There is a presentation about WFC in this video. Ruth will attempt to get this video for ladies to use for presentations.

ZOOM gathering

Elaine has suggested a ZOOM gathering for all UCW members across the Maritimes/Bermuda. Sharon Moyses has offered to do a worship for the gathering. Elaine will check with Carol Dallas-Arbuckle on NUCW hosting the ZOOM meeting so we can have someone controlling the mute buttons and chat conversations. Elaine will contact Rev. Japhet Ndhlovu to request a presentation on Women for Change. It was suggested if we do a slide show there will need to be someone to present it.

Ruth will make a presentation for the 60th Anniversary no longer than 15mins.

Elaine asked how we will spread the word about the gathering. Emails will be sent to all the people on the MUCW district contact lists. We will have something on the UCW webpage.

A question was raised stating that usually only 6 delegates can attend a Biennial, is this the same for the Zoom...only 6 per district? It was explained by Ruth Kennedy that in our handbook it states 6 delegates. Biennial is open to all UCW members across the Maritimes /Bermuda. The 6 delegates that are sent by the district are the people eligible to vote. (this gives a measurable amount for a quorum). All members are welcome to attend but the handbook states we only pay travel expenses for 2 carloads. It was also noted that this gathering will not have a business meeting. This is to offer a connection, worship and information. A suggestion was made that once the date and time is confirmed, an email will be distributed, asking the ladies that are interested to send a request to be part of the Zoom gathering, at which point the Zoom information will be shared.

Keeping in Touch

Elaine stated we were promised a newsletter but have not received it yet. Ruth stated it is being worked on. The NUCW communications committee is meeting this week. Rev. Sandra Bendell the new editor has

had some health issues. Carolle Dallas Arbuckle has offered to help to get the newsletter finished and out. Ruth was contacted for information on the 60th Anniversary.

Roles of Corresponding Secretary/ Recording Secretary

As nominations is looking for a new secretary, we were asked to review the job descriptions of the two positions. After discussion it was moved by Anna Peters and seconded by Leanne Boulet that the role of Corresponding Secretary will be renamed to “Social Secretary” and be responsible for sending cards and emails, covering all MUCW districts, as well as any NUCW members or alumni where appropriate, moving the responsibilities of maintaining email lists and media communication to the Recording Secretary. Motion carried

Life Memberships

A question about applying for lifetime memberships arose, as we were told in November that lifetime memberships were delayed being processed. This issue has been addressed at the National UCW level and it was suggested there should not be a problem requesting lifetime memberships.

Another question was asked about requesting a lifetime membership for someone that no longer has a UCW. A single person cannot request a lifetime membership it has to come from a unit. Elaine will look into this to give some direction.

Banner for 60th Anniversary for MUCW

Elaine asked for volunteers to create a banner for the 60th Anniversary July 11th – 15th, 2022. Ruth Rudderham volunteered to do it. Ruth as made the banners for the last few anniversary gatherings. She will need information on the logo which will be provided.

Disbanding Protocol

There have been a number of units in the Maritimes that have just closed their doors for various reasons. There is a protocol listed in the UCW handbook March 2018. This should be followed and a service of closure should be offered where possible. The protocol was read aloud.

Elaine thanked everyone for coming.

Our next meeting will be June 14th, 2021 at 10 a.m. either by Zoom or in person in Sackville.

Marilyn Bubar will be responsible for worship.

Anna will be responsible for grace if we meet in person.

The meeting was adjourned with reading the UCW Benediction in unison, a challenge to do with microphones cutting out however it was nice to hear voices together.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kennedy – Interim Secretary