

Maritime United Church Women

We have lived through a pandemic year, and it has affected everything that we do. Its impact has been felt in UCW circles as well.

Thank you to Ruth Kennedy who represented the Maritime UCW at both Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters (FSLDW) and Region 15 from the time of the new structure until Nov. 17, 2020 when she stepped down as president of Maritime UCW. Elaine Burrows became president, and Debbie Hawkins and Marilyn Bubar became Co-Vice Presidents. Elaine Burrows agreed to represent Maritime UCW at Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region, while Debbie Hawkins represents the UCW in Region 15.

The MUCW executive met on March 23, 2020 and November 17, 2020 and March 27, 2021 each time by Zoom. We have an executive of 10. Each of the 14 districts either has an executive or a representative who is supposed to be in contact with UCW units in her area. FSLDW has the following districts: Chignecto, Miramichi, Northwest NB, PEI, St. Croix, and Saint John. Region 15 has the following districts: Bermuda, Inverness-Guysborough, Halifax, Pictou, South Shore, Sydney, Truro, and Valley.

UCW groups in FSLDW gave \$49,517 to Mission and Service in 2019. Region 15 gave \$79,007 to Mission and Service in 2019. Nationally, UCW units gave \$1,020,034 to Mission and Service in 2019. The 2020 Mission and Service figures are not yet available.

The Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Water has 145 units with around 1352 members. Region 15 has 96 units and around 992 members. We are still waiting to hear from at least another 56 units that have not sent in their statistics nor paid their dues. Please see that this gets done. It is expected that dues will be paid. There is \$1.00 for National UCW, \$3.00 for the Maritime UCW, and the fee that is set by the local district. Each group needs money to function and to carry on its work. We also need contact information for each group. There were probably UCW groups who missed out on the first ever Maritime UCW Zoom call on April 19th because they have not submitted their contact information.

There was no Cookie Cottage at Berwick Camp for 2020, nor will there be one in 2021.

We are working on improving **communication** for members. The “Keeping in Touch” flyer which used to come out in the info packs to the congregations has been discontinued by the national church. A National UCW committee has taken on the task of producing the “Keeping in Touch” UCW leaflet. The first one came out in March 2021.

The “**MUCW Newsletter**” which has only been available by mail can still be purchased, but now has been put on the UCW page on the Regional website. It can be read there, or members can print off their own copy. It comes out three times a year.

To find the UCW page on the FSLDW and Region 15 web page, look under ministries. Click on it and you will find UCW at the bottom. Click on it. We are trying to keep this information up-to-date.

You will find 60th anniversary news, Maritime UCW newsletters, Keeping in Touch, UCW facebook page, Minutes, Handbooks and Study Guides, the October 2020 Tatamagouche fundraising letter, and Women for Change- Zambia poster. Other items will be added as they come in.

The 60th anniversary committee for “**Continuing in Hope**” is planned for July 11-15 2022 in Sydney, Cape Breton. The committee has met numerous times by Zoom since we began planning this major event. Details about the event can be found on the FSLDW and region 15 website under ministries/UCW. Registration will go live the end of September 2021.

The **National UCW meeting** was held by Zoom this year. Four members (Elaine Burrows, Ruth Kennedy, Debbie Hawkins and Marilyn Bubar) attended the five day event from September 28 to October 2 from 2 p.m. AST till 4 p.m. AST. It was much more fun to travel to Toronto to the Queens of the Apostles Renewal Centre in Mississauga, ON and meet all the regional UCW presidents from across the country to share worship, meetings, meals, and social times. However, by Zoom we were able to cover the needed business.

For the first time a **Zoom call** was organized for the Maritime UCW members on **Monday morning April 19th**. Around 90 members and guests were present. Time was spent introducing members of the executive, and hearing how the fourteen districts across the two regions were doing during the pandemic. The national UCW president, Beulah Hayley, sent greetings, and the National UCW treasurer Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle co-hosted the event. Sharon Moyse led the group in worship.

Margie MacIntyre spoke to the group about ongoing projects at the **Tatamagouche Centre**, and how UCW donations are making a difference in their offering of hospitality to the groups who use their space. www.tatacentre.ca

The Rev. Janet Stobie, the author of a number of books including “Dipping Your Toes” in planning Small Group Devotionals spoke to us about her ministry through her books. She is a writer, family counsellor, and an inspirational speaker who lives in Peterborough, Ontario, www.janetstobie.com

Our third guest was **The Rev. Dr. Japhet Ndhlovu**, Global Partnership Program coordinator, South East Asia/Southern Africa, Church in Partnership for the United Church of Canada. His presentation (power point) brought us a lot of useful information about the UCW's 60th anniversary project “Women for Change – Zambia.” 1-800-268-3781, Ext. 4056

Ruth Kennedy, chair of the 60th anniversary celebration to be held in Sydney, Cape Breton from July 11-15 2022 with the theme “Continuing in Hope” updated the group with a slide presentation. After a closing prayer, the discussion continued till 12:30 p.m.

We will be having another Zoom call for Maritime UCW members this fall, probably sometime in October, but the time will be organized differently. We may add chat rooms so UCW members and small groups can talk to each other.

Thank you to Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters and Region 15 for their financial support for the 50th anniversary celebration in 2022 by providing funding for the bookstore representative to come from NL, and to stay at a local hotel during the week long event.

Maritime UCW groups continue to be active in many different ways in spite of a world-wide pandemic.

Elaine Burrows
FSLDW UCW Representative