

Minutes of Meeting

June 21, 2021

The Maritime United Church Women executive meeting was held June 21, 2021 via Zoom with 13 members in attendance, namely Elaine Burrows – President/PEI Contact/FSLDW Rep, Marilyn Bubar – Co-Vice President/NW NB Contact, Debbie Hawkins – Co-Vice President/Region 15 Rep, Ruth Kennedy – Past President/Interim Secretary, Reta Manuel – Social Secretary, Audrey Matheson – 2nd Vice, Phyllis Munroe-Treasurer, Sharon Moyse – Archives, Sandra Carr – Christian Life and Growth, Anna Peters – Chignecto President, Lee-Anne Boulet – Halifax President, Ruth Rudderham – South Shore Contact, Evelyn Negus – Truro President.

Regrets were received from Joan Fraser – Berwick Camp, Diana MacLean – Sydney President and Carol Mehan – St Croix President.

Those who did not attend were – Fran Harding – Newsletter editor, Evelyn Taylor – Miramichi President, Rosanne Peach – Valley Contact, Olive Archibald – Pictou contact, Annie Dodge – Inverness/Guysborough contact, Marilyn Dyer – Bermuda Contact

This week was Reta's 86th birthday and today was Margaret Ingham's 66th birthday. We celebrate both women.

Our meeting was opened at 9:36 a.m. by President Elaine Burrows who reminded us this is National Indigenous Peoples Day here in Canada. Today is also the longest day of the year which is sad to say as now our days will start to get shorter.

The First Nations Legacy was read aloud by President Elaine Burrows, followed by the lighting of a candle to constitute the meeting open and our MUCW purpose.

Worship was presented by Marilyn Bubar. She is an avid gardener so decided to base her devotion around inspirational garden quotes. "and the day came to consider the risk of staying tight in the bud compared to the risk it is to blossom" . Nature is constantly changing. Scripture verse Matthew 6:34

It was moved by Phyllis Munroe and seconded by Reta Manuel that the agenda be accepted with two additional items namely a report on stats, and discussion on banners. Motion Carried

Minutes from the last meeting were sent out ahead of time. Here no errors or omissions it was moved by Audrey Matheson and seconded by Ruth Rudderham the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.

A discussion ensued about minutes going to the archives. Have they been sent in recent years? No one knew the answer to that question. Ruth Kennedy has a number of the minutes and will compile as many as she has. Evelyn Negus stated the information she got from Chris's family was mostly financial stuff. Does Fran send the newsletters to the archives? Ruth Rudderham has a number of anniversary banners and was wondering if the Archives takes these. Anna Peters stated they will take pictures but do not want the actual artifact. Sharon, as our archives contact will look into these questions and have a report for our next meeting.

A question was asked whether we gave \$450 to Camp Berwick this year. We did not give money this year or last. Ruth Rudderham stated although there is a modified camp this year and not cookie cottage, they

would appreciate the support. It is considered a good will gesture. It was moved by Anna Peters and seconded by Debbie Hawkins that we give \$450 for 2020 and \$450 for 2021 for a total of \$900 to Camp Berwick. Motion carried. Ruth Rudderham will look after delivering the cheque to the treasurer at Berwick Camp.

Elaine was pleased with the first UCW gathering we had over Zoom in April. There were positive comments and approximately 90 people gathered. It was difficult to get an exact number as people joined and left and others gathered as a group joining as one participant. Elaine would like to have another gathering this fall either October or November, sometime after the National meeting. If anyone has suggestions for speakers please contact Elaine.

There was no correspondence.

Sharon Moyses – Archive contact will look in to the items mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. Archives are having webinars that are open to everyone. They hope to resume in person meetings when it is safe to do so.

Fran Harding – Will send a report when she gets a chance.

There was a discussion about the Christian Life and Growth position. Does it continue when Sandra is finished. The CL&G person is responsible for the programming at Berwick Camp UCW day. Ruth Rudderham reminded us at our last meeting we discussed that the CL&G person would also be responsible for contributions to the newsletter. It was agreed that this position is needed. Debbie suggested that this position could help the President with Spring/Fall gatherings. Perhaps book club suggestions or things that will help nourish us.

Berwick camp is modified this year therefore there will be no cookies and no UCW Day.

Social Secretary Reta Manuel sent a report. Elaine commented that Reta sent A LOT of condolences. Reta stated she can't do anything with the website if no one sends her stuff.

Ruth Kennedy reported on the preparations for the 60th Anniversary. Nothing much to add to the written report. A question was asked about doilies and teapots. Debbie reported we do not have enough teapots yet. They asked Bible for Missions to save ones that had broken lids. We really don't want to get in to borrowing from members and having to protect and return them. We also do not have enough doilies yet but it is still early. They should be dinner plate sized and white if possible. Ruth noted that people are able to book at the Cambridge Suites as of this week, and the price is less than our contracted price. Ruth will continue to share information and put it on the webpage as soon as things become available. The Sydney airport is confident in saying they will be fully open by 2022. The only thing that will stop us from gathering now is if we will not be able to gather 350+ people in one room because of public health restrictions.

Financial Report – Phyllis Munroe presented her financial report. It was moved by Phyllis and seconded by Marilyn Bubar the report be accepted for information. Motion Carried.

A question was asked whether the money was given to Mission and Service on behalf of the ordinands? FSLDW only ordained one individual this year and Region 15 ordinands postponed their ordinations un2022. Elaine will send a card to the individual in FSLDW. Phyllis stated the amount that will be sent to M&S is \$240. Each year we send the interest to M&S as a donation on behalf of the people being ordained, commissioned, designated etc. On the treasure's report it is the amount noted under financial services.

Debbie Hawkins reported as UCW rep for Region 15. Information about the annual meeting can be found on the uceast website. The minutes will be available sometime in July. Debbie stated the Regional meeting was very interesting and informative. One interesting thing of note is the Strategic Plan. It is a "Go Forward" plan, not a rebuilding but refocusing. Debbie felt that as UCW we should look at our pillars of our purpose, look at our actions and functions and how they fit in to the Regional Strategic Plan.

Elaine sent a report as Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters Rep. The annual meeting of FSLDW went well and was well organized. There was a Moderator's town hall that people could attend basically dealing with coming up with a 5 year plan for the Denominational Church (United Church of Canada).

Elaine reported we had National UCW meeting in May via ZOOM. The UCW handbook is revised. It will be voted on at our National meeting in September. National UCW meetings will be held by ZOOM again this year September 20th-24th. Friday September 24th in the afternoon there will be a communion service. It will be open to all UCW members across Canada. The details for the ZOOM connection will be shared once available.

Terry Beaumont is now our UCW liaison person at General Council Office.

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Keeping In Touch: The newsletter is coming in June 2021. It will be forwarded the executive and will be on the UCW webpage.

Annual Meeting (Biennial): The question was asked: Should we have an annual meeting next year (biennial). It was felt by some that it is necessary to stay connected to the local units. It was also noted that we need to install new people, have our guidelines voted on, not to mention have our spirits lifted. The consensus was yes we will go ahead with a Biennial April 29th 30th, May 1st 2022. Anna Peters was asked if Chignecto was still willing to host and replied "We can try".

With the new handbook coming out for UCW it was questioned whether we should be having an annual meeting versus a biennial. As districts disband losing functioning executives, the onus is falling on Maritime UCW to provide gatherings and worships and leadership events.

A question arose whether this would be a good time to realign our district borders. Elaine asked Ruth Kennedy to share her thoughts. Ruth noted that there has been some concern with Chignecto being in 2 regions which set the wheels in motion. Ruth's suggestions for discussion are Pictou/ Guysborough go with Truro, Inverness County go with Sydney and form Cape Breton District, Halifax stay as is, Southshore join with Valley to be Southern NS, Amherst area units join with Truro, Saint John and St Croix be one district, NorthWest NB, PEI, Bermuda, Miramichi remains the same. Chignecto would remain the same except for losing the Nova Scotia units. When asked, Anna stated she thought Chignecto should stay as is. This is food for thought with discussion to be an agenda item for the fall meeting.

The figures are in for the UCW Mission and Service donations by UCW for 2020.

Region 15 UCW's donated 54,674.68

Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters UCW's donated 28,793.00

Total donations made by UCW across Canada was 681,020.70

The Maritimes/Bermuda gave approximately 12.25% of the total givings across Canada.

Statistics:

Ruth reported that most statistics are in. There are a number of hold outs. The issue is with the Districts that do not have strong contact leadership. For 3 years Ruth has worked to find contact names for UCW units and now that we have found quite a number there is push back wondering why they have to report statistics, let alone pay dues. As secretary I do not address dues unless asked. That as I perceive it is for the President and Treasurer to address. I believe as Presbyterials disbanded a strong connection was not maintained at the Maritime Conferenc UCW level which is unfortunate.

Total FSLDW 1483 + members 143 units 5 lifetime memberships

Totals Region 15 1364 + members 133 units 8 lifetime 1 individual membership

Total Number of reported members MUCW - 2767

Total Number of confirmed units MUCW- 276

Total Number of reported Lifetime memberships – 8 Total number of reported deaths -171

Banners:

Ruth Rudderham has agreed to make the banner for the 60th Anniversary and wanted some direction on design. Ruth would suggest a gold background with either the globe or the map of the Maritimes and Bermuda in tartan, along with a rainbow as a sign of hope. After discussion it was decided the map be used with individual tartan for each province/Bermuda. Ruth stated Bermuda does not have a tartan but was directed before to use blue like the sea for Bermuda. She will check with Mary Sumpter to see if this is still the case. Ruth will need us to send her tartan for NB and PEI. Not wool but cotton polyester, about a ¼ yard.

Next meeting is planned for an in person meeting , October 25th 2021 in Sackville. Elaine will book the space. Worship-Ruth Rudderham, Grace- ??, Food- we will bring our own lunch for this time as we do not know what restrictions will be in place.

Benediction was read by Elaine.

Meeting ended 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kennedy – Interim Recording Secretary