

## Maritime UCW Executive Meeting by ZOOM

Friday, January 23, 2026

### Welcome

<b>In Attendance:</b>	Betty Ann Watts	Ann Piper
	Myra Thiemann	Marilyn Burbar
	Lee-Anne Boulet (11am)	Elaine Burrows
	Michele Ashby	Sharon Moyse
	Debbie Hawkins	Pauline Luker
	Heather MacDonald	Anna Peters
	Phyllis Munroe	Elaine Stewart
	Lois Budd	Joan Fraser

**Good News and Regrets:** Jocelyn Langille

### First Nations Legacy:

*As we gather, let us pause to remember that in this region we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples predominately the lands of the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet, and Passamaquoddy. May we live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with its people.*

### Lighting the Christ Candle: Betty Ann Watts

**Opening Worship:** Marilyn and Pauline lead us in worship with a story from a book called 'Everyday Parables' by James Taylor. Scripture reading was from Matthew 19, vs 18-20

**Approval of Agenda:** It was moved by Debbie Hawkins and seconded by Ann Piper that the agenda be approved with the addition of 'Regional Website' and unit closure question.

. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** It was moved by Sharon Moyse and seconded by Pauline Luker that the minutes be approved with a small correction in the Archive report; the word *antidotes* should read *anecdote*. Motion carried.

### Business Arising from the Minutes:

*Archives Committee-* Sharon Moyse explained that she sent a report to 'Keeping in Touch' with her experiences as a member of the NUCW. She heard back that the Newsletter was looking for current information on what was happening in our area. Lois suggested that the two "experience" articles she has on hand be forwarded to the newsletter editor for possible future publication and also to Jean Smith for the Chignecto newsletter.

Debbie and Marilyn have a bag of photos that they will give to Sharon with a scrapbook that may be used for historical purposes. Betty Ann will also provide some additional photos from our mobile display board. Marilyn received a book called 'Treasured Mothers' that was project developed by the UCW at St Mark's United in St John, NB. It was suggested that a copy should be sent to the Archives in Sackville and the National Archives. No decision on who would do this.

**Correspondence:** There was no Correspondence.

### **Committee Reports**

1. Archives: as previously reported in Business Arising.
2. *Newsletter:* Ann Piper reported that the Newsletter is costing \$4.72 to mail and suggested that we should consider either raising the price or sending the Newsletter by E-mail only. **After much discussion, it was moved by Anna Peters and seconded by Marilyn Bubar that a recommendation be made at the Annual General Meeting that the Newsletter will be sent out electronically in the future and that UCW members should print off copies for those who cannot receive it in electronically. Motion Carried.** Ann has received a few cheques for Newsletter subscriptions and will just hold on to them until after the AGM. The next issue of the Newsletter will be the Registration for the AGM and a request for Nominations for various positions. Debbie will provide the information to Ann.
3. *Christian Life and Growth;* no report
4. *Berwick Camp:* Joan Fraser said that Western NB was the next group to provide cookies for the Cookie Cottage but Marilyn said that this wouldn't be possible. She would be willing to collect funds to purchase cookies. Joan said that having money to buy the cookies was easier than trying to collect the cookies. Last year PEI provide 200 dozen cookies and \$750.00. There is \$200.00 left in that fund. Joan will send information to Ann for the next Newsletter. Marilyn asked if there were any names to be added to the plaque at the Cookie Cottage. The person honoured in

this way should be a UCW member who was very active at Berwick Camp. Mary Lynn Cameron's name is a possible honouree. No decision made in this regard.

5. *MUCW Social Secretary:* Michele was able to join the meeting using her phone. She is having computer problems so didn't have the exact number of cards sent but reported that it is usually once a week. Betty Ann has three books of stamps to donate for Michele's use and Debbie suggested that anyone with extra sympathy cards could bring them to the AGM to donate.
  
6. *Annual Meeting:* The registration form was discussed and amended as required. Marilyn had another map inset that she thought would be helpful. The amended registration form will be sent out electronically and also as part of the Newsletter. Marilyn will again have a Book Table and she will purchase a few extra books to have on hand. Betty Turcott has a new book as does Janet Stobie. Marilyn and Pauline shared "give aways" they are creating for inclusion in the attendee packages. Debbie identified the information required for creation of name cards and participant packages. There was also a brief discussion of gifts for presenters. No decision was reached.
  
7. *Nominations:* Welcome to 2026– Well, we made it through another year and here we are beginning a fresh year. I thank every one of you for your service in 2025 and look forward to working together in the year ahead. 2026 will be a year of transition. At our annual meeting in April, we will see the completion of Betty Ann's term as president as she hands the reigns over to our president elect Ann Piper. Ann has been working closely by Betty Ann's side and is more than capable and ready to lead us forward. How blessed we are to have to have such wonderful leadership. I am so grateful for these women, but they can't do it without the help of a solid Executive. As our past secretary Ruth Kennedy wrote in our Summer 2025 newsletter "MUCW cannot operate without member participation. It takes many United Church Women to share the workload. The work of the UCW across the Maritimes is important work, and it has been important work since before our United Church was formed. Work is only a small part of the benefit of participating in MUCW, the fellowship, the laughter and the support in times of trouble, the celebrations in times of joy, and simply spending time with other women are all reasons to become involved. (And the food we share is always tasty!) "

It is time for all of us to get out there, encourage other women to join our executive, turn over some stones, add some additional strength and ensure we have a strong foundation going forward.

Our Executive currently sits at 17 members and nominations are needed by our annual meeting for several key positions.

**President Elect** - Do you know of someone that would make a great leader? Perhaps you would be willing or know someone you would like to work with and share the position.

**Treasurer** – Are you good with finances? Do you know of a treasurer of a local unit who would be approachable? (Both *Betty Ann and Sharon have possible candidates and will confirm*)

We continue to look for a **Maritime UCW Newsletter Editor**. We are so grateful to those who made sure the news got out; to Ruth Kennedy for the Spring Issue and to Ann Piper and Betty Ann for the Summer and Fall issues.

**Members at Large** are needed; it is a great way to introduce someone (maybe a travel companion) to the committee and “get their feet wet”.

**Contacts** are needed to collect and share news from Cape Breton, Eastern NS, South Shore/Valley.

Currently the Nominating Committee consists of past co-presidents Marilyn Bubar and Debbie Hawkins (NB) and Sharon Moyse (PEI). In effort to have wide representation on the committee we are still seeking another member ideally from Eastern Nova Scotia/Cape Breton.

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer for any of these positions, or know of someone we should reach out to, please contact any one of us

Blessings,

Debbie Hawkins, Marilyn Bubar, Sharon Moyse

### **Treasurer Report:**

Balance Dec.31,2025. \$2494.94

#### RECEIPTS

Dues. \$901.00

Financial Services. \$240.00

Total Receipts. \$1141,00

Balance on Hand. Jan.20, 2026 \$3635.94

Phyllis will cash a \$7000.00 GIC before the annual meeting so that there will be sufficient funds to cover expenses.

*Phyllis moved the adoption of the report for information only.*

## **District Reports**

### ***Region 14 Fundy St Lawrence Dawning Waters (FSLDW)***

*Chignecto:* Good afternoon, ladies, CW Executive met on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> at the home of Anna Peters, to formalize plans for our Annual Meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> with a storm date of March 28<sup>th</sup>. We welcomed our new Treasurer Susan Copeland with her first treasurers report after she stepped up for us when our friend and treasurer Ruth Anne Waddy passed away in September. Our Chignecto UCW Rally will now be a spring Rally on May 23<sup>th</sup> in Sackville.

Statistics forms have been sent out to our local units and are slowly trickling back in. We have also updated our Guidelines and Policies which we hope to have approved at our annual meeting.

I would like to invite anyone from our MUCW to join us at our Annual "Dare to Dream" or our Spring Rally " Hope Continues to Bloom". Submitted by Lois Budd

*Miramachi :* Elaine Stewart was at the meeting and has kindly agreed to be the Contact person for the district. She reported that there are some areas disbanding but there are ~~five~~very active groups.

*PEI :* Stats are being gathered.

*FSLDW Regional Rep:* No written report.

*Western NB:* No written report but it should be noted that there have been more statistic forms received from Western NB than any other area.

### ***Bermuda Nova Scotia***

*Halifax* The active Halifax UCW's have remained busy throughout the fall with bake sales, fashion shows, luncheons, and teas. Bedford United held their annual Candlelight Service and invited all the UCW's in the Halifax district to attend. They had a good turnout and will probably continue to do this on an annual basis. The service was also live streamed so members could watch it from home. Our next district meeting is being held on January 26<sup>th</sup>. I hopefully will have a list of upcoming events happening in the active units. I have asked that units not attending the district meetings send in a report so that we know what's going on in their units. With only five churches being represented at meetings I felt it was only right to hear from them with a report. I only hope that they respond. As I reflect on the past 5 years of being President of the district, I have seen units disappear, churches close and merge with others. It has been hard to see what is going on with both UCW and

the United Churches in the area. But it is also great to see other units thriving and getting new members. We have 3 churches merging in Halifax this year into one so I'm hoping the UCW's will unite together and continue to thrive. We also have some Dartmouth churches looking to merge but only one of them has an active UCW.

Respectfully Submitted, Lee-Anne Boulet

*Valley/South Shore*

No report

*Cape Breton/Sydney*

Dingwall has sent in Stat sheet.

*Eastern*

A few UCW Groups have submitted stats and reports for Annual Meeting Booklet.

*Bermuda NS Council Rep*

Regional council met in person on October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 2025 at Trinity United Church in New Glasgow.

After devotion based on Luke 9, we got to work discussing Governance. Topics included: Understanding our roles, Key legal duties of Governors, Governance practices, and exploring tools and resources. We looked at the big picture to ensure our purpose is achieved. In smaller table groups we discussed, Who are we accountable to? Governance should be moveable and flexible, are we?

Some questions that arose from the discussions. Do we sometimes use governance as a distraction from the real work? We are the visionaries, are we seeing the big picture? What can we let go of? Are we seeing ourselves as part of something bigger? How do we support the best and deepest frame of mind?

As governors we need more communication with our congregations. We need to articulate the regions purpose, and ensure there is progress, while managing the risks and with full accountability. The purpose of governance is to enable the Region to live out God's call and vision for the church in the world.

Things we still want to work on: Strategic Geographic planning; Improve communication from Governance to management to communities of faith; taking church out into the community.

The second day we discussed what makes a church vital and how does it show vitality. We are seeking to realize a vision of vitality at the region.

The remainder of the day was our regular business meeting. We discussed the Tatamagouche centre. The Women of First Light, need more time to obtain funding to be

able to continue the Tatamagouche centre as a place of learning and healing. The buildings have been closed down for the winter with maintenance to ensure no further deterioration.

Some of the buildings need renovations to bring them up to code for safety. One may need to be taken down. The plans for rematriation remain although delayed.

Respectfully submitted. Ann Piper, BNS regional rep.

**President's Report** Betty Ann Watts reviewed her report.

I have not been especially busy since our October Executive meeting beyond working with the AGM planning committee and lending a little support to Ann Piper in preparation of the fall newsletter.

Myra Thiemann, Ann Piper and I met to review our unit and member mailing and email lists and develop a plan for distribution of statistical information and dues requests. Thank you to Ann for sending out the email requests. The response has been good but there remains a need to follow-up with phone calls which Myra and I will undertake.

I will be participating in a NUCW zoom call about UCWs having a voting member on regional councils. We are fortunate that those managing implementation of the UCC reorganization plan chose to recognize the MUCW by designating a seat for us at the regional tables. Debbie Hawkins, Ann Piper, and Elaine Burrows have served us well in that capacity.

I will be representing MUCW at the Chignecto district AGM on March 21 and will attend their spring rally in Sackville as well albeit as past-president.

### **New Business**

1. *Dues: A motion was made by Anna Peters and seconded by Debbie Hawkins that a recommendation be made by the MUCW Executive to the Annual General Meeting that the dues be raised to \$5.00 per person effective January 01, 2027. Motion carried.*
2. *Website update.* Debbie discussed the need to ensure our website is up to date. She took the executive on a walk through on the site to identify available information categories and areas that needed up-dating. It was agreed that the Secretary will contact Shari Kaster to have meeting minutes posted. Ann will provide Myra with an updated contact list to be posted. And will also post the AGM information/registration package. It was not determined who would be responsible for updating other areas.

There was also a suggestion to add AGM information to the uceast announcements weekly newsletter. This was not assigned to anyone.

3. Halifax District Unit church and UCW unit mergers. After some discussion it was agreed that the units simply needed to close their books and transfer funds to the newly named amalgamated group. It is recommended that each of the units send minutes of their “closing meeting” to the MUCW secretary including a statement of where residual funds were directed. It was also recommended that those units closing send their minutes to the archives in Sackville.
4. *Handbook Review* It was discussed and decided that a small group should take time to review the Handbook and report back to the executive Committee. Ann Piper, Anna Peters and Elaine Burrows agreed to take on this task.
5. NUCW Anniversary gathering. Members were advised if they plan to attend the Ottawa event they should apply to the Dorothy Amos fund this year. The national executive allocated additional money to the fund with a cap of \$300 on every application. An application form will be sent to everyone on the MUCW email lists and if space allows, included in the next newsletter.
6. AGM Guidelines Review. To be reviewed by the AGM Planning Committee.

**Next Meetings**      **April 10, 2026 10am by ZOOM.**

**June 15, 2026 10am Moncton, NB at Anna Peter’s apartment  
Complex**

**Worship**      Anna Peters

**Grace:**      Phyllis Munroe

**Pot Luck**      It has been suggested that if we are going to have a pot luck at our in-person meetings that perhaps only half of the executive should contribute to the lunch at each in-person meeting--rationale- just too much food left over. **Details to be determined.**

**Adjournment moved by Phyllis Munroe at 1pm.**

Notes

Ann is away Feb 20-?

Debbie March 8-18

Myra March 17 to April 13