



## February 2022 United Church Women of Western Ontario Waterways

Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! On January 1, 1962 the UCW officially came into being.

The world for women at that time was very different. There were few women on the Official Boards or decision-making bodies of the church, and very few women ordained ministers.

In 1960, the United Church approved the formation of a women's organization that would allow them to "share in a much more meaningful way the work of the church" (*UCW Handbook, September, 2019*). It would be another four years in 1964 before women seeking ordination did not have to be unmarried, widowed, or old enough that they were not needed in the home.

Even in the Bible, women's voices and stories got lost. Paul often gets a bad rap for his view on women, but read these three verses from Paul's letter to the Romans for another perspective.

Romans 16: 1-2: *I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon or minister of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well. Verse 7: Greet Andronicus and Junia my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.* NRSV

Phoebe was a minister in Cenchreae near Corinth. Paul clearly respects her. He trusts her to carry his letter to the Christians of Rome, and then read and explain its meaning to them. He praises her for helping many including himself and asks the Roman Christians to help her in whatever she needs. Is she on your list of well-known women in the Bible? The interesting question is "Why not?"

The seventh verse presents a mystery. Early manuscripts recognized Andronicus and Junia, a woman, as relatives of Paul, as prominent apostles, and early followers of Jesus even before Paul's conversion. They even shared a prison with Paul. The mystery lies in the name Junia.

That *ia* ending indicates Junia was a woman, and early manuscripts used the feminine name. But by the thirteenth century, Junia had become Junias, a masculine-sounding name. Junia continued to be a man in most manuscripts and Bibles until the late twentieth century. Today, nearly all versions of the English Bible have restored Junia to her position as a strong and important woman leader in the early church. The mystery lies in why she disappeared for so many centuries. (*A Woman's History of the Christian Church*. Elizabeth Gillan Muir)

It has often been a struggle for women to have a voice within the church over the centuries. I am proud that the UCW provides a platform for women whose voices have been stifled in other parts of the world. I am proud that our National UCW 60th Anniversary project continues this tradition by raising money for scholarships to encourage young women in Zambia to get an education in schools. I am grateful that the UCW has provided a voice for women over the past 60 years in The United Church of Canada.

This year, let us celebrate who we have been, who we are, and who we yet might become.  
Anne Reuber President

---

### Report from UCW Representative to Mission & Discipleship Committee, WOW Regional Council

Edith Coyle reminds us that the three church camps in our region, Menesetung, Bimini, and Silver Lake continue to appreciate your support, especially your financial, as they have had to severely limit summer programmes for the past two years.

Vanessa Shuttleworthy-Spence, the Youth Rally Adult Advisory, shared how her involvement as a young person in Christian activities shaped who she is today. A YAT (Young Adults Together) forum is planned for April 29 – May 1 this spring. Please encourage any young adults you know to attend.

A Youth Rally is planned for Sept 29-Oct 2 in the fall when young people can get together, get

involved, and experience spiritual and personal growth through fun, fellowship, faith, and a connection with the UCC.

There are two Winter/Spring 2022 Right Relations Events by zoom you might be interested in: *Learn How/Why Tobacco Ties are Made* on **Feb. 24, 7-8:30 pm**, and a follow-up to last year's Truth and Reconciliation Sessions on Thursday, **March 10, 1:30 – 3:00 pm**. Both require pre-registration.

Contact: Thérèse Samuel (Rev.) *she/her*, Minister, Right Relations and Social Justice, Antler River Watershed, Western Ontario Waterways, Horseshoe Falls [TSamuel@united-church.ca](mailto:TSamuel@united-church.ca)

---

## Upcoming Events

### World Day of Prayer 2022

World Day of Prayer service materials are available online at [www.wicc.org](http://www.wicc.org). The full-length Service Video is free to download now. Printed materials, DVD and USB memory stick can be ordered for use.

Join with women in your community and around the world in this World Day of Prayer service prepared by women of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, using Zoom or Facebook Live on Friday, March 4, or move your date to a time of warmer weather when you can safely meet outdoors. See the latest *Keeping in Touch* for more details.

---

## Save the Date

### Annual General Meeting of UCW of WOW Region

Saturday, April 9, 2022 10 am by zoom.  
Annual Reports will be emailed the week of March 21.

### Leadership Needed

You are invited to consider joining the Regional UCW executive for 2022-23. This is an opportunity to contribute your experience, your sense of vulnerability and inadequacy, and your unique skills to journey with others on the challenging and exciting path of leadership. The new executive will be elected in April at our AGM.

There are openings for President and Secretary as well as for any of the other executive positions.

Below, are brief job descriptions of the positions of executive officers as outlined in the *UCW Handbook, September 2021* and in the Nominations Report in the *2020 Annual Report* passed at the first Annual General Meeting of UCW of WOW Region on April 12, 2021.

**WOW Regional UCW Executive shall have the following structure and officers:**

**A core Executive** to be elected at the Annual General Meeting to the positions of President, President-Elect, Treasurer and Recording Secretary; **up to 8 members-at-large** to be elected or appointed to the Executive; representation from each of the four areas of the region.

**Term of office:** Except for the President-Elect who has a one-year term before stepping up as president, all terms are for 3 years with 1/3 of the executive stepping down each year.

**Communications Officer** to be appointed to a three-year term.

**Representative to WOW Regional Council** to be appointed

**President:** conducts business meetings; represents WOW Regional UCW at various functions eg. Yearly NUCW Executive Meeting, Tri-regional planning meetings; generally oversees the functioning of the regional UCW business; facilitates communication with the wider church, the region, the Tri-Regions, the National UCW and the local membership.

**President-Elect:** normally represents the region at the NUCW Executive Meeting along with the President; can take over the role as President if required; becomes President upon the retirement of the current president.

**Treasurer** keeps financial records for the Regional UCW; presents a financial report at each meeting and a full financial report at the AGM; prepares an annual budget to present to the membership; collects assessments and sends funds as designated in the annual budget.

**Secretary** records, distributes, and keeps files of minutes; contributes to the preparation of the annual report; arranges for the minutes and records to be sent to the Regional Archives periodically.

**Members-at-Large:** represent women of the local UCW's at executive meetings on a regular basis.

Remember. None of us is alone as we serve. We live in God's world, surrounded by God's people and in the unceasing presence of the Holy One.

Contact: Anne Reuber

[dareuber@rogers.com](mailto:dareuber@rogers.com) or at 519-273-3344 for more information about the responsibilities for particular positions.

---

## What are you doing to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UCW?

1. **Attend** the National Anniversary Gathering July 11-15, 2022 in Sydney NS. Currently 29 from WOW region have registered. See the latest edition of *Keeping in Touch* for information on how to register or check out the link at [60th UCW Anniversary News](#) .

2. Eleanor Firth has a suggestion for you. **Sally Armstrong**, an award-winning Canadian author, journalist and human rights activist will be the theme speaker at Sydney in July. As a journalist, Sally works in zones of conflict. She has written *Veiled Threat* (published in 2002), the story of the hidden power of the Women of Afghanistan.

The information on the book cover says in part: "Denied schooling, employment and adequate health care and confined to their homes unless accompanied by a male relative, the women of Afghanistan struggled to survive under the Taliban regime. Appearing alone in public or without a burqa could cause a stoning."

The book tells the story of extraordinary women who rebelled against the Taliban, prior to 2002. We know that the Taliban again controls Afghanistan, and many women live in fear of the Taliban.

3. To get more information on Sally Armstrong, go to the [60th UCW Anniversary News](#) and click on "speakers". You will also see a list of other books she has written. Find a copy of *Veiled Threat*, read it, and use it for a UCW programme.

4. **Plan an event locally.** There are four worship services available to download which have

been designed to celebrate our UCW Anniversary available at [60th UCW Anniversary News](#) .

5. Let us know what you and/or your UCW is doing locally to celebrate our Anniversary and we shall publish some of these ideas in our next newsletter.

---

## The Regional Archives and the UCW Records

Some of you have been asking what to do with a closet full of local UCW minutes and documents. Erin Greeno the Regional Archivist sent a succinct and clear description of what UCW materials the UCC Archives is interested in receiving.

"The United Church of Canada Archives will acquire the historical records of United Church Women groups, including local church units, Presbyterials, Conferences and now Regional Councils. In general, we accept general and executive minutes, minutes of any committees or subcommittees (including minutes for rallies, etc.), prepared histories, correspondence, newsletters, annual reports, and photographs. For photographs, we do highly recommend that items be identified, and if possible, for a sample of images from an event be selected instead of hundreds of images for one event be submitted. Financial records can be destroyed after seven years, so these do not need to come to the Archives."

Please note that materials are not currently being accepted because of Covid 19 protocols.

Erin Greeno, Regional Archivist, UCC Archives  
[egreeno@united-church.ca](mailto:egreeno@united-church.ca)

416-231-7680 x 1104

---

## Individual Memberships

Just a reminder that Individual memberships are available for those whose UCWs have closed or who are no longer able to attend regular in-person meetings. They provide an opportunity for you to continue to learn about how women in the United Church and throughout the world are using their voices to reach out in love to support each other with prayers and offerings. Contact [ucw.wow@gmail.com](mailto:ucw.wow@gmail.com) for your application.

---

Anne Reuber, Marnie McDonough, Joyce Osborne, Kim Posno, Edith Coyle, Eleanor Firth, Nancy Lennox, Barbara Seaton, Eileen Townsend, Joan Whyte, Jacquie Diverty

