

Notes from the National UCW Executive Meeting September 18 - 22, 2023,

Edith Coyle and I attended the NUCW Executive Meeting this year. We mourned the loss of the UCW communities across Canada in which we and others have been nourished, comforted, and challenged. We laughed and cried, worshipped and prayed. We sang and talked. We worked hard.

But above all, we were raised up with hope that there is life in the God's church even if the structure is changing. God is not done with us yet! May you catch a little of our enthusiasm from these highlights below that excited us.

Good news!

- **In 2022, UCW members raised raised \$2,305,000 for Mission & Service - almost a million more than the previous year.** "This is a story of hope," says **Rev. Michael Blair**, Executive Secretary of the UCC:

The UCW has been "faithful in what you think your call has been....In the midst of decline [of membership], the people of God are still faithful. Church buildings come and go, but **"the people of God are still faithful in meeting together as communities of faith without buildings or ministers."**

- **United Church Women have given over \$5000 this past year to the NUCW 60th Anniversary Project in support of the Regina Native Outreach Ministries Baby & Mother Welcome Bags.**
- Joni Shawana, Healing Funds Coordinator, told us that Indigenous mothers giving birth often face discrimination and prejudice in the hospitals. Their rooms may be cleaned less thoroughly than those of non-indigenous women.. They are disproportionately identified as unfit mothers who are unable to care for their babies.
- The Regina Native Ministry Welcome assembles 40 welcome bags four times a year. Each includes items that the baby and mom need, including a small Medicine bag of traditional Indigenous medicines
 - The Regina Native Outreach Ministry has assembled 40 bags costing approximately \$9000 in total in this past quarter.
 - Our current donations did not cover the money spent to date. Funds from Mission & Service made up the deficit so that the project could be implemented.

Send your donations to:

*The United Church of Canada
3250 Bloor St. W. Suite 200
Toronto ON M8X 2Y4*

***Important: Make out the cheque to The United Church of Canada.
On cheque memo line, write National UCW Special Project - Healing Fund***

- **Climate Motivator Programme**

- The UCC sponsored 15 young people, aged 15-18 years, from across Canada, to participate in the Youth Climate Motivators Programme. Each young adult was recommended by his/her local community of faith, and each designed a “passion project” to implement with their home community of faith. Check the link below for stories of three young people and their exciting projects that are rooted in their deep faith and the support of their local communities of Faith.

- For more information:

- Click on link: <https://prairietopinerc.ca/climate-motivators-wrap-up-but-the-work-continues/>

- At our in-person/virtual **WOW UCW Regional Gathering on November 4, 2023**, four young Climate Motivators from WOW Region will speak about their experiences and the projects that they are carrying out with their local Communities of Faith.

- **Twelve youth from Shining Waters Region and twelve Indigenous Youth from across Canada were teamed up with each other in a 3-week canoeing group.**

- The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of the UCC, joined this group as they bonded as friends, learned about Indigenous cultures, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, traditional medicine teachings and back-country canoeing skills.

- She was rejuvenated by the experience and said:

This one project [young people and their friendships] is enough. If nothing else remained of the United Church of Canada, it is enough!

- PS. She also got dumped from her canoe twice, though she said it was **not** her fault!

- Check out the moderator’s Facebook page or [united-church.ca](https://www.united-church.ca) for more information on The Mod’s Book Squad, a virtual book discussion on a diverse range of books.

It was a wonderful time in Mississauga. I hope you can catch a glimpse of what nourished us at this meeting.

We are not alone. We live in God’s world.

Anne Reuber and Edith Coyle

