Keeping in Touch

NUCW President Barbara DeJeet

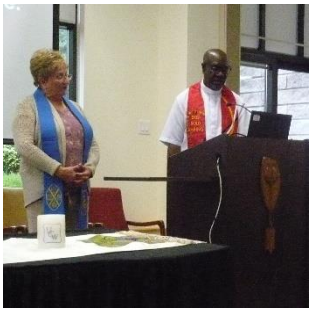
Theme: "WALK WITH ME"

Hymn: "Walk with Me" VU #649 and "Let us Build a House" MV #1

Scripture:

Micah 6:8 "And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with your God";

Corinthians 5:2 "For we walk by faith not by sight."



Letter from NUCW President Barbara DeJeet

Hello ladies,

Just a note to introduce myself to you all as your new NUCW President. My name is Barbara DeJeet and I reside in Brockville, Ontario. I am a mother of two adult children, two adult granddaughters and two great-granddaughters, who are the apple of my eye.

I am a child of God, a member of Christ United Church, Lyn, Ontario, which is in Eastern Ontario Outaouais Region. I have been a member of the UCW since 1995, and president of my unit since then. My passion is in women's ministry especially UCW. Planning, attending and supporting UCW is my mission.

As we know there are many levels in the structure of the UCW, and I served at every level. Being NUCW President has been a dream of mine or maybe part of my bucket list, so to say, and now my dream came true.

I am looking forward to travelling to each Region to meet each and every one of you. We all have a duty to ourselves and those who went before us to keep going strong with our purpose and vision.

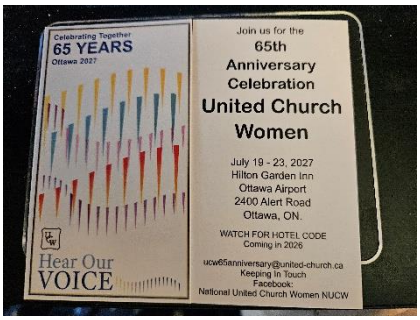
We have a wonderful 65th anniversary celebration coming up in 2027, and we, EOOR UCW, are your host. We have great events planned; so save your pennies and come to have a memorable time together.

"Walk with me."

Barbara DeJeet: National UCW President

It is time to start thinking of the President Elect for the National United Church Women. More information in January 2026 KIT.

65th Anniversary Conference in Ottawa



Date: July 19th – 23rd, 2027
Location: Hilton Garden Inn, Ottawa Airport.
Theme: Hear Our Voice.
Scripture: Proverbs 8;
Contact: ucw65anniversary@united-church.ca
Theme Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide

65th Anniversary Cards are available by request from your regional NUCW representatives.

United Church of Canada Address

Although the General Council office is temporally moving to a different location, they are still using the same address. Continue using this address until further notice.

United Church of Canada
200 - 3250 Bloor ST West
Toronto ON M8X 2Y4

Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) www.wicc.org

Mission" Empowering Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in Prayer and Action"

2026-- Christian Women from Nigeria wrote the service for 2026.
Theme " I Will Give You Rest: Come" Matthew 11:28-30
Check with WICC for your regional planning meetings.

WICC has stopped their relationship with the IFLC (International Fellowship of the Least Coin) as it could affect WICC charitable status with Canada Revenue Agency. As of August 2025, gifts received for FLC through WICC will be donated to WDP. If people still wish to donate to IFLC they could participate directly through IFLC.)

For more information and resources go to WICC web site www.wicc.org

Blessings: *Win Czum* (NUCW rep to WICC)

A very special thank you to Win for her years as our NUCW representative to WICC. Your wisdom, joy and passion for what you do has been so appreciated. We hold you in our hearts and prayers as your life unfolds.

On behalf of all UCW members, thank you Win.

We welcome Marilyn Johnston as our new WICC representative. We hope that you enjoy your new role within WICC and the UCW (United Church Women).

Women's Missionary Society (WMS)

Hi Folks,

Here is information related to Women's Missionary Society (WMS).

I believe that this is the 100th anniversary of the Women's Missionary Society of The United Church of Canada. My grandmother, Viola Mae Tory (nee Vail) was a life member as this certificate asserts. She then became a member of United Church Women in 1962. My grandmother was dedicated to her faith, her family and her country. She was among her church and community as one who served, humble, committed and focused on the needs of others. For all the women of the WMS who are now among the saints, for all the women who continue in faithful commitment in the UCW, I lift my hands in gratitude. Happy 100th Birthday WMS in The United Church of Canada. **#UCCan #DeepBoldDaring #UCW**

Rev. Jennifer Henry (she/her)
Executive Minister,
Organizational Development and Strategy Unit
(Growth R&D, Communications, Ministries in French, Planning)

The United Church of Canada

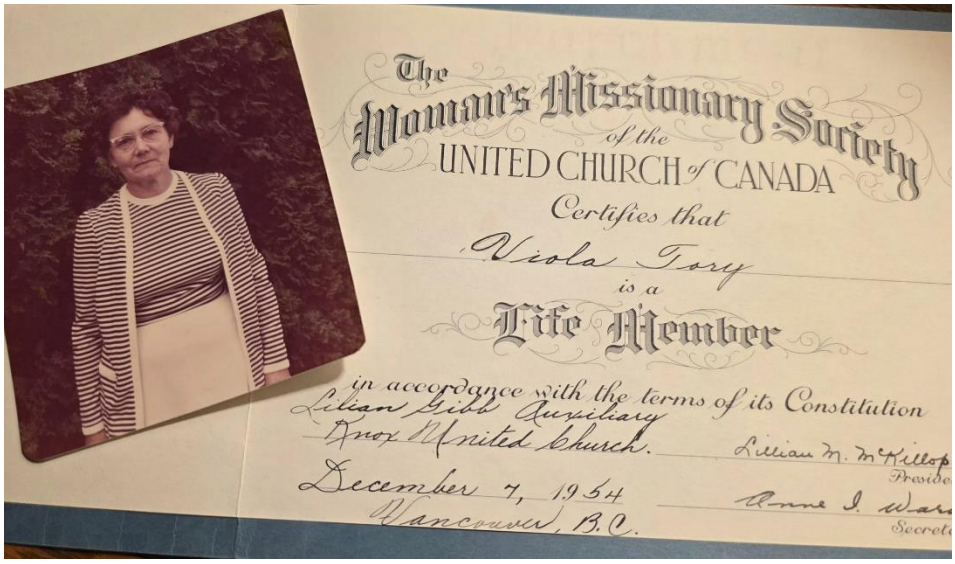
Ministre exécutive
Unité du développement organisationnel et de la stratégie

(Croissance, communications, recherche et développement, planification, Ministères en français)

L'Église Unie du Canada

jhenry@united-church.ca

1-647-557-5446



NUCW Alumnae - October 2025

Thanks for your help in keeping the alumnae addresses up-to-date. If you hear of an alumnae member in your region who has changed residence, email, mailing address or has passed away please let me know. Since the last issue of "Keeping In Touch", several of our alumnae are no longer with us but have gone on to their heavenly reward. If you have stories of these wonderful alumnae members, please send them to me and I will try to share them in up-coming issues of KIT.

Cora Brodie on the right with a longtime UCW friend, Esther Lewis.

Shining Waters Region UCW mourns the passing of Cora Brodie, former president of Toronto Conference UCW. Cora not only supported her local church and organizations but was quick to recognize a need and take action. She traveled to South Africa with a couple of friends to visit the women who had been to Canada on a M & S exchange. While there she discovered that Megan and her husband were trying to run a school and provide a daily meal for farm workers' children. Upon arriving home Cora said, "We have seen the need. What are we going to do about it?" – and the African School Project that raised over $25 000 was born and continued supporting the school for about 10 years. Cora's generosity knew no limits. She was quick to support projects that addressed the needs of children and she anonymously supported many small churches in the presbytery. Cora was a dynamo on any Nominations Committee. Not only was she able to recognize the abilities of others, convince the nominees that they had the skills for the job but was there to encourage, advise and support them in their leadership roles. She touched the lives of many people in the UCC as well as the world and was an example of a true Christian committed to doing God's work. My thanks to alumnae members, Esther Lewis and Joyce MacKinnon, for sharing their memories of Cora.

Blessings, *Pat Edmonds*, Alumnae Rep.
patriciaedmonds11@gmail.com

The Healing Fund

Carolle reminds you that any payments by cheque to the healing fund are to be made out to:
The United Church of Canada and memo line **NUCW The Healing Fund**

The 2025 Spring Healing Fund Initiative was Healing with Horses: Nanaandwejgejig Bezhigoogizhiik. The project supported Healing Grief and Families Impacted by Substance Abuse. The program ran July 4, 2025-August 30, 2025.

From the Finance Committee

The National UCW Executive approved that UCW women who plan on attending the 65th Anniversary in Ottawa can apply to the Dorothy Amos Fund or the Agatha Kaasa Fund and will receive $300.00.

We encourage the women to apply to the Dorothy Amos Fund with the deadline of July 2, 2026. Remembering that if you are unable to attend you will return the $300.00. All Regional UCW Presidents have a working copy of the Dorothy Amos grant if you want help to fill it out. You can also contact the National UCW treasurer, Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle at cdallas@ripnet.com or 343-571-7780.
See you in Ottawa in July of 2027. "Hear our Voice".

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle NUCW Treasurer

From the Affirming Committee

Information taken from "Open Hearts – Resources for Affirming Ministries in The United Church of Canada," written by Alyson C Huntly in conjunction with the Affirming Ministries Program Coordinators. Revised April 2020.

Affirming Ministries seek to go beyond issues of gender identity and sexual orientation to work for justice and inclusion for all people. Affirming Ministries work in many different ways toward the healing and wholeness of creation – challenging bias and discrimination based on appearance, ability, culture, class, or age; working to end racism; promoting economic justice; increasing accessibility; or caring for the planet.

Affirming Ministry Program encourages us to study what it means to be publicly welcoming and inclusive. We hope to provide information about it means to be an Affirming Ministry and help us discern what it means for National UCW Executive to become Affirming and how we might live that out in word and action.

The aims of Affirm United are; to educate and promote greater awareness and to end discrimination against people in our church, in our society and our own organization UCW, to support people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, age, racial/cultural backgrounds, physical ability, and family configurations.

On page 7 of the UCW Handbook, you will find the UCW Vision and Mission Statement.

Our Vision Statement reads: As women of faith, we believe in nurturing Christian spirituality by reaching out through commitment and devotion to all God's people in the promotion of truth, justice, peace, caring and respect for all throughout the earth, God's world; we believe in honouring God the Creator, and loving others through generous giving and joyful living; and we believe in affirming and strengthening ourselves both individually and together through creative study, prayer and action.
Our Mission Statement reads: Foster Christian commitment, faithfulness, and spirituality. Promote respect and love for all God's creation.

You are invited to wonder, question, explore, learn and discern the Affirming process with the National UCW Executive as it starts it's journey to discovery and faith.

As the UCW women who sit on the National UCW Executive can change year to year, how can we commit as a National Executive to welcome, respect, support, encourage and provide a safe meeting environment for all the Regional UCW representatives as they attend and participate at the National level of UCW?Will UCW women say "Hear Our Voice, as we speak out and stand side by side?

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle NUCW Treasurer

The Child Well-being Initiative (CWBI) Story

This is an abbreviated section of the story. If you would like the complete story of the dolls, please request it through our KIT email nucwcanada@gmail.com.

The landmark **UN Convention of the Rights of the Child was signed in 1989.** That was followed in **1990** by a **World Summit for Children** and **t**he UN General Assembly **Special Session for Children** for 2001.

As a result, organizations like **Save the Children** and **UNICE**F, in Canada and around the world, pledged a **Global Movement for Children** affirming and standing in solidarity **with** children by engaging in concrete action for change in local communities around the world.

In July of 2007 at Ponoka, Alberta, Mary Jones hosted the first meeting of the child poverty interest group which included Janet Walter, Sharon Gillespie, Marilyn Thomas, Emmy Henry, Lillian Stewart, Sharon Prenevost. The group chose a name, set goals and developed a position statement premised on the question**: What if Alberta government policies were measured by the well-being of Alberta's children?**

Carolyn Pogue from Calgary, who became CWBI strategist, presented samples of an ambassador **rag doll** (pattern from a 1991 "Canadian Living Magazine") and a brightly painted birdhouse. The tag on the birdhouse read, **"Every bird but not every child can find a home."** In part, this is where the name of the **Hope doll** came.

The Hope dolls were presented to each of Alberta's 83 MLAs on the floor of the legislative assembly during the fall sitting of the Legislature in 2010 close to November 20th (**International Day of the Child**.) Subsequently dolls have been presented to MLAs, MPs, and the United Church General Council. These dolls represent the hope of ending the child poverty in all parts of Canada and the ultimately the world.

Thank you to CWBI Co-chair Sharon Prenevost (Spring/2022 for sharing the history.

Western Ontario Waterways Region (WOW)

Seventy women registered and 12 more joined on line to attend the Western Ontario Waterways Region UCW on October 20, 2025. The hybrid event was hosted by Drayton UCC.
Our theme was "Then Let Us Sing!"

A 3-generational delegation of members from Pine River United Church, led by their minister, Rev. Wonder, went on a study tour to Zimbabwe in August. Four of them came and told us about their trip. The oldest traveller was 75 and the youngest 7 or 8. One of the teens on the trip said he learned church could be "very loud and very active". Dancing while singing in worship is vigorous. They attended a Women's Gathering of 13,000 Women of the Reformed Church of Zimbabwe. There everyone wanted selfies with them. They brought official greetings from the Women to us in Drayton.

The speakers talked of how life-changing this trip was for them. Rev. Wonder hopes that there might be a reciprocal trip from some of the people in Zimbabwe, and that we in our regional UCW might find ways to continue to support and learn from these women ion the Reformed Church of Zimbabwe.

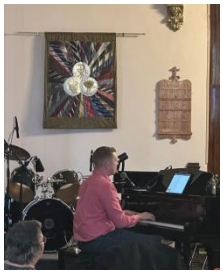
In the afternoon, Dan Van Winden, Music Director of Avondale UCC, Stratford, led us in singing hymns from the new hymnal supplement, "Then Let Us Sing!" We learned that one of the criteria for choices of hymns to include hymns that spoke to those who could not find themselves, their stories , and music in our other hymn books. There are many beautiful new words, some set to music new to us, and some set to familiar tunes. There are even some songs with no English words.

We were moved to tears by some of the songs. Our hearts danced with joy as sang a Spanish song.

Our offering of $522.65 went to the NUCW project of *Healing with Horses: Healing Grief and Families Impacted by Substance Abuse*.

We also recognized the work of Rev. Kathy Douglas, Faith Formation Minister for Western Ontario Waterways, Antler River Watershed, and Horseshoe Falls who has supported our Regional UCW over these years. She is retiring from the position as of December 31. We shall miss her faithful presence at our meetings.

It was a wonderful day of faith stories, community, and singing great music.



Dan Van Winden leading Us singing from "Now Let Us Sing!

Rachel Eby, Janice Curtise Karen Dobson, Rev. Wonder Chimvinaga

Pacific Mountain Region
Cloverdale United Church Gala Dinner Surrey B.C.

On Saturday, September 13, 2025 a gourmet dinner and celebratory evening of story-sharing and fellowship-building was held at the Cloverdale United Church in Surrey B.C.
In 2025, our congregation is celebrating multiple milestone anniversaries:

- 75 years in our current church building and site on 58A Avenue.
- 100 years of The United Church of Canada, formed on June 10, 1925, as the union of Canada's Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregationalist denominations.
- 100 years as Cloverdale United Church, the coming together of Cloverdale Presbyterian Church and Cloverdale Methodist Church at the time of the national church union.
- 150 years of our total mission, ministry, and witness in Cloverdale and central and southern Surrey, inclusive of the pre-church-union lives of Cloverdale Presbyterian Church and Cloverdale Methodist Church, each of which traced roots to activity starting in 1875.

Photos: Ursula Maxwell / Cloverdale United Church

Northern Spirit Region
UCW Fall Rally Sept 13, 2025 at St. David's United Church, Leduc, Alberta

For over 40 years, the women of Central Alberta have held a Fall Rally in September. As 36 women gathered to share muffins and coffee, we reconnected with friends seldom seen from rural and urban areas. Stony Plain UCW had prepared the name tags, and Leduc UCW greeted registrants on arrival.

coffee and muffins on arrival

The host UCW planned the theme, "Women of the Church" and the speaker, Rev. Leigh Sinclair from St. David's UC in Leduc. Barrhead UCW brought us together in the sanctuary for a sing song, following which Warberg led the opening worship.

Leduc UCW led a business meeting in which it was decided that St. Albert UCW will host the rally in 2026. A motion was made to have money raised from registration, the offering and the book exchange table ($694 in total) sent to the children of Gaza through the national church.

Units were invited to share what they had been doing since we last met and the morning ended with a Memorial Service for 6 UC Women, led by St. Albert UCW.

After grace, led by Stony Plain UCW, we returned to the coffee area and shared our bag lunches at designated tables along with some lively conversation.

Later, Rev. Leigh Sinclair introduced the theme, "Women of the Church" by telling us we were the women of the church, women with a deep spirituality, all of us different. The Gifts of the Spirit may come to us naturally, but some have to be nurtured. She got us on our feet to stand where we thought our greatest gift was: faithfulness, patience, self-control, gentleness, kindness then challenged us to grow in new directions. She ended by telling us, we were like a basket full of these gifts, the basket an image called the women of the church.

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

The remainder of the afternoon was spent doing crafts or walking in the Memorial Garden to enjoy the lovely fall day.

Rocks painted by L to R Candida Billan, Erin Ahlberg, Linda Thompson, Terry Blois.

Wreaths made by L to R. Carolyn Cournoyea, and Maxine

Horseshoe Falls Region

Delta United Church in Hamilton, ON

100th Birthday for one of Delta's dearest members

Meat Pie prep for Bazaar Nov 1st

Prepping Christmas Shoebox gifts for Seniors

Welcome back Everyone

Welcome Back Service on the lawn September 14th

Helen Martin, UCW Delta

Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC)

Four Rivers Area UCW

A wagon full of personal items gathered for women at Food Bank in Gananoque Ontario at our Fall rally.

Blessings *Barb DeJeet*

Living Skies Region
Saskatchewan United Church of Canada Network

As we get back into the swing of things this Fall, it is a time to decide how each of us can share our gifts with our Church family. Many United Church Communities of Faith are hosting Fall Suppers, Garage Sales, musical entertainments. It was a quiet summer for the Prairie women of the church. Many were dealing with the effects of forest fires, evacuations, and assisting people who lost their homes and possessions.

This fall the UCW unit Care to Share at Grace-Westminster United Church in Saskatoon used the 100th Anniversary Worship Service written by NUCW. They included the history of the Women's Missionary Society (WMS), Women's Auxiliary or Women's Aid (WA) and then the United Church Women (UCW) as pertaining to their church. It was very well received by the congregation.

Blessings *Mary Mohn &*
Phyllis Robinson

Prairie to Pine Region
Brandon MB 4F Day

A 4F Day for Women: Faith, Fellowship, Fun and Food was held in Brandon on Sep 27th. 50 women were in attendance for a great day. I was privileged to attend along with another UCW member from Saskatoon. Morning Worship and Hymn Sing was led by Karen Kempe & Harold Kuipers. We sang several pieces from "Then Let Us Sing" and I found at least two new favourites.

In the afternoon Joan Zaretsky shared a presentation on a "Holy Moments: A Handbook for the Rest of Your Life". Joan presented the key ideas and ways to brainstorm how you can quickly start using Holy Moments in your life and your church community.

Joan Zaretsky

Banners through the years

Prairie Pine Executive Plus One
Phyllis Robinson, Darleen Foster, Karen Corbett, Darlynn Smith (sitting), Joan Zaretsky, Linda Buchanan & Shirley May

Submitted by *Phyllis Robinson*
Living Skies Guest

Harrow Church Winnipeg MB
UCW Anniversary Service May

Our minister, Rev. Mark Whitehead, supplied the hats. He did borrow them from his wife who collects hats.

Blessings *Karen Corbett*
Prairie to Pine President

Celebrations of United Church Women Anniversaries

Celebrations of the United Church Women anniversaries started with the 25th Anniversary in 1987; the 35th Anniversary was celebrated 10 years later in 1997. It was decided to celebrate every 5 years from then on. To celebrate the occasion in 2012, a 50th anniversary project was adopted. It was to support the Morogoro Women's Training Centre in Tanzania. Over $268,000 was raised, and as a result over 600 women were trained in maternity health care. In 2017, the United Church Women celebrated its 55th Anniversary, "Celebrating Spirit", in Vancouver, British Columbia.

More information in KIT throughout 2026 and 2027. If you have an anniversary pin that you are willing to pass on we have a member that needs pins to complete a UCW anniversary collection. Please email me for further information. nucwcanada@gmail.com

Phyllis

Shining Waters Region

Shining Waters Region UCW Annual Togetherness Day was held Thursday, October 9th at the Barrie Legion Hall. About 100 women registered. It was a great day of fun, fellowship and a wonderful luncheon provided by the Legion's Women's Auxiliary. Members were encouraged to wear black and "Thursdays in Black" pins were given to all. Diane Aikman led the singing with her guitar.

Our speaker, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham, newly retired but busier than ever, addressed our theme "Dreaming of Our Future" by reviewing the past of UCW, celebrating what we are currently accomplishing and sharing some future possibilities for the United Church of Canada and the UCW. She encouraged us to dream "outside the box" as we plan the future of UCW in our churches and region. She invited us to sing along with a hymn representing each era. Attendees were invited to participate in a Book Exchange and take home "new to them" resources for themselves or their unit.

Pat Edmonds shared the true story of six-year-old Phyllis Webstad and the formation of Orange Shirt Day. She asked us to become educated about Truth and Reconciliation and the on-going healing process funded by the Healing Fund. The NUCW has chosen the Healing Fund as their current project and units and individuals are asked to donate so projects can continue. We were encouraged to not only wear an orange shirt but to tell others why!

Toe-tapping, hand-clapping entertainment was provided by 11 members of the Thornton/Barrie Fiddlers Group. Worship was written by Diane Aikman and conducted by Diane, Sue Williams and Pat Edmonds. Several UCW members from Western Ontario Waterways Region joined us. It was wonderful to see an increase in attendance again this year.

Shining Waters Region UCW Executive.

Back Row: Debbie Schieck, Diane Aikman, June Blanchette, Sue Williams, Laurie Cook, Karen Given. Front Row: Pat Edmonds, Bev Blake, Anne Ella-Arnold, Esther Lewis. Absent: Nancy Waxl and Catherine Hawkins

Keeping In Touch

There are several regions without an update in this newsletter. Please encourage every UCW group to send us a hello, a story, a picture, as we would like to share with all women of the United Church from sea to sea to sea. You can send your submission by email to nucwcanada@gmail.com. Please include the date of the event, the name(s) of people in your photo, your region, the name of your UCW, your church, your town and province with each submission. Thank you for all the submissions that are part of this issue of Keeping in Touch.

Blessings *Phyllis Robinson*
NUCW Communicans Chair

Pictures from NUCW AGM 2025

Rev. Michael Blair General Secretary of the United Church of Canada
Barbara Davison Past-President NUCW 2023-2025
The Right Reverend Dr. Kimberly Heath Moderator United Church of Canada

The National United Church Women Executive September 2025 – 2026

As women of faith, our strength, commitment, joy and love are important examples in our world today. With issues locally, nationally, and internationally influencing our lives, keep true to your belief in our Divine Creator and let God help you every day. May all our communities of faith be steadfast and sustain us and those around us.

Walking in the Light, Phyllis

"Keeping in Touch" January 2026 Issue
Submission Deadline 20 January 2026
nucwcanada@gmail.com