

Keeping in Touch

May 2018

NEWS FOR
UCW GROUPS



The National United Church Women

Here I Am, Lord

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things which should be changed,
And the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other...
—Serenity Prayer, Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971)

This familiar prayer—which goes on to speak of taking one day at a time, with full trust in God—hung on the wall of my home church for many years. As we are again facing many changes in our United Church, I thought it would be appropriate to begin with these words.

New Regions

The proposed new regions have been announced. Some of you will be pleased with the changes, and some of you not so pleased. We'll have to wait and see how we will be affected. Good things will come of the changes, we just need to get used to it—give it time.

Retirement

David Wilson has retired as editor of the *United Church Observer*. We have enjoyed his “Observations” column for many years—he’s been at the *Observer* for 30—and we wish him well in his future endeavours. We welcome Jocelyn Bell as the new editor and look forward to her writings about The United Church of Canada and its values.

Bequest

The National UCW has received a \$5,000 bequest from the estate of Elnora Evelyn Kelly Albright honouring her mother, Elizabeth Jane Kelly. It is to be designated as “The Elizabeth Jane Kelly Fund

60th UCW Anniversary

Bermuda is part of our Maritimes Conference and is eager for the UCW to celebrate our 60th anniversary in Bermuda in 2022. Ruth Kennedy, Vice President of Maritime Conference, and I made a visit to Bermuda in January to talk to the UCW and receive their hosting proposal. Everyone was friendly and gracious, showing us all that Bermuda has to offer. Ruth and I were honoured to be invited to speak in two Methodist churches. There is a lot to be done to make this gathering happen, but I believe it is doable. A presentation will be made at the National UCW Executive meeting in September and a decision will be made at that time.

Willowbank Lodge, Hamilton, Bermuda



and used for missionary purposes as the officers of that organization may deem best.”

Elnora Evelyn Kelly Albright was born November 14, 1890, in Cayuga, Ontario, the daughter of a Methodist minister. She graduated Victoria College in 1912 with a B.A. in English and History and went on to teach in Thorold elementary schools. She married Fred Stanley Albright, a lawyer, in 1914, and they made their home in Calgary. Evelyn was knowledgeable about plants and gardening, loved music and literature, and sang in the church choir. She went on to become a lawyer in her husband’s office. A woman ahead of her time. (Archives & Research Collections Centre, Western University, London, Ontario)

I could find no information on her mother, Elizabeth Jane Kelly. The National UCW are grateful for this gift.

Faith Journey

The Anglican Sisterhood of St. John the Divine invites women of any denomination, from age 21, to join them on a faith journey. For more information and applications, contact Sister Constance Joanna: 416-226-2201 ext. 316 or companions@ssjd.ca.

Bill C-262

Member of Parliament Romeo Saganash, who was taken from his home at age seven to attend a residential school for 10 years, thanks you for your support of Bill C-262 to align Canadian law with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which recently passed second reading. Please continue to pray as this bill goes through the committee processes and a final vote in the House before moving on to the Senate.

National UCW Secretary

Emily Pettypiece, National UCW Secretary, will retire after our Executive meeting in September. Emily has been my right hand through Presbytery, Conference, and National. She is a super-duper secretary, a devoted Christian, and a good friend. We’ve had a great faith journey together. Now it’s time to find her replacement. If you think this is a job you would enjoy doing or have any questions regarding this position, I would love to forward you an application form. We will elect a new secretary at the meeting in September.

GC43

General Council will meet in **Oshawa, Ontario, July 21–27, 2018**. They have some hard decisions to make. Keep them in your prayers as they come together in faith and love for these difficult conversations. I pray God will guide them as they carry out the work of the church.

Spring

Hopefully when you are reading this, the snow will be gone and the earth coming alive with beautiful spring flowers. We have been given a brand new year to live out our purpose and show our strength and wisdom; to be kind to one another, to spread joy and happiness, to promote peace and love because that’s what UCW is all about.

Best wishes for a peaceful, restful summer. If you are travelling, I wish you a safe journey, and sunny days so that you come back rejuvenated and ready to do God’s work.

Here I Am, Lord!

—**Nancy Sutherland**, *President, National United Church Women*

September Meeting

The next National UCW meeting will be held **September 17–21, 2018**, at **Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre**, 1617 Blythe Road, Mississauga, ON.

Old Hay Bay Church



In the January issue of *Keeping in Touch*, you read about Old Hay Bay Church, a National Historic Site in Bay of Quinte Conference. To learn about the church’s restoration project, visit www.oldhaybaychurch.ca or contact Elaine Farley (elaine.farley@sympatico.ca).



Photo: Floyd Sutherland

For all UCW matters, e-mail: ucw@united-church.ca.