

Keeping in Touch

October 2018

NEWS FOR
UCW GROUPS



The National United Church Women

Here I Am, Lord

“You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:13-4)

Risking Faith, Daring Hope was the theme of the 43rd General Council, held in Oshawa, ON, July 21-27. This was an exciting but exhausting week as we went about the business of our United Church. There were lively discussion groups on the

remits, the many proposals, and other business that came up. The Rev. Dr. Richard Bott was voted to become our new Moderator. I had the honour of participating in the opening worship service, and the closing service when the Rev. Bott was installed.

During closing worship, I asked the Rev. Bott, “Will you, with Christ’s people, be faithful in prayer and in the study of scripture, that you may discern God’s calling?” To which he answered, “I will with God’s aid.”

The UCW congratulates the Rev. Bott on this next step in his faith journey. We look forward to working with him and pray God will guide him as he carries out his duties as Moderator of The United Church of Canada.



Prior to General Council, I asked nominees their thoughts about UCW. Some replies:

- “It wasn’t until I was ordained and serving in a congregation that I really began to realize the wideness of the ministry of the UCW.”
- “I know only too well the incredible value of the UCW and the amazing work they do on behalf of local congregations and the wider church. The United Church of Canada would not be what it is without them!”



During opening worship I read: “The United Church of Canada made me a feminist as I witnessed women in leadership, whether as Moderator or C.G.I.T. leader, as money-raiser or agitator. The UCW (United Church Women) powerfully lobbied both government and corporations for justice and through study, armed themselves with compassionate knowledge. We have been a pro-choice denomination since the 1970’s. We championed inclusive language that opened our theology to an expansive vision. The Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with women (30th anniversary this year!) gave focus to violence against women, economic injustice and barriers to leadership—even as we experienced the decade as the Decade of Women in Solidarity with Women...but we did not give up. We risk faith and dare hope.”

Nora Sanders, Joy Bott, George Bott, and the Rev. Jordan Cantwell lay hands on the Rev. Richard Bott during his installation as Moderator at GC43.



Risking Faith Daring Hope

- “The UCW is the spiritual hub of our church”
- “The essential nature of UCW both roots mission in Christian faith and expresses that faith through study, outreach, and political action. The United Church of Canada is, in large part, what we are because of the UCW.”
- “I appreciate very much the way the UCW contributes in churches of every size to the fabric of the church community and, very often, to the health of the financial picture.”
- “I think the UCW is an important part of the church on all levels, congregation to national.”
- “I think UCW is an expression of the church at its best and I hope to be given the opportunity to work with them to bring my generation to the inspired table of service.”
- “I was struck by the fact that you do much more in terms of advocacy and advancing gendered approaches to questions of faith the wider church appreciates.”
- “While there may be uncertainty in the future for all of us in this United Church of ours, I have no doubt that the UCW will continue to be a strong and vital part of our particular incarnation of the body of Christ.”

Looking Back on the Child Well Being Initiative

Darlene Thompson, Secretary, Robert McClure United Church, Calgary, Alberta

About 10 years ago, Lillian Stewart of Red Deer Lake United in Calgary saw a need for feeding the children of the Inn from the Cold Program. She talked with Sharon Prenevost of Lethbridge, AB, and Carolyn Pogue of Hillhurst United in Calgary. These women put words into action and the Child Well Being Initiative was born. These women started talking to MLAs, MPs, mayors, councillors, faith groups, professional groups, service clubs, justice groups, media, and other organizations in small towns, villages, and larger centres in Alberta. Then off they went the Alberta Legislative Assembly four times to be heard. During those early years, the Child Well Being petition was tabled seven times. They did not give up! There was letter writing, editorials, press releases, informative DVDs, and YouTube pieces. Busy hands across the province created and distributed thousands of Hope Dolls to influential people in Alberta and across Canada. In November 2017, these ladies participated in the Bread Not Stones event on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Thank God for these women who put words into action—you can’t stop them!



Rag dolls made by UCW

Photo: The United Church of Canada

National UCW Executive

There has been a change in command—we welcome Beulah Haley of Newfoundland as our new National President. We also have a new National Secretary. Emily Pettypiece, secretary extraordinaire, retired September 30 and will be missed. We welcome Karen Gardner, from Metcalf, ON, who joined our executive as National Secretary on October 1. We offer both Beulah and Karen our support and look forward to working with both these ladies.

This wonderful journey I have been on with UCW has come to an end. I know you will be in good hands with Beulah. Thank you for your love and support. May we continue to *risk faith and dare hope*. God bless you all.

I am honoured to be among you.

Blessings,

Nancy Sutherland

Past President

National United Church Women

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