

BC Conference UCW President's Report – April 2016

In my capacity as UCW President of BC Conference I welcome you to our 2016 Annual Meeting and Conference. It has been a year with a steep learning curve. In May my first event was attending BC Conference on behalf of UCW. The Conference was held in Whistler and was a wonderful venue with lots of room and large screens which allowed every table to be involved in the proceedings. Cheers to the people doing the audio and visual. The accommodations were such that we could walk to the venue in 3 minutes and the weather was beautiful. It had been a long time since I had attended a BC Conference meeting and it took me awhile to get into the swing of things. It was full days of agenda items interspersed with wonderful music and worship. For me it was also a sad time as we presented our UCW Proposal for CG42 and it was soundly defeated. Due to the political body of BC Conference I now realize there needed to be much more thought, discussion and writing of the document that was presented and that the time frame we were facing was much too short to accomplish such a task. I was very pleased to hear of the wonderful response that our provincial sisters in UCW received from their Conferences across Canada. It was a privilege to be able to present new ordinands with a book in celebration of the new Journey they have undertaken.

In Sep 2015 I attended National UCW for 5 full days of business. I spent 2014 – 2015 year working on a committee for new UCW guidelines and at this meeting we implemented a draft form that will be used but not finalized until the restructuring of the church. For this year I am co-chair of the National UCW Financial Committee and we have spent a great amount of time this year trying to simplify our records for our membership to be able to understand the finances more easily. While in Toronto we went the National Offices of the United Church of Canada where we met with different staff and learned how we interact with those staff. While there we were assured that UCW would be on their web site but warned that the revamping of the web site is a work in progress.

I continue to be involved with the planning meetings of the UCW 55th Anniversary Celebration that will be held in British Columbia July 10 – 14, 2017 at UBC, Vancouver. This National event is held every 5 years in a different province and it is the first time it has been held in B. C. We have already been circulating information about this event so please contact us if your church has not received any information.

I am privileged to have a wonderful executive who are teaching me a lot and keeping me on track.

In October I attended part of Fraser Presbyterial's Rally and brought greetings from BC Conference UCW.

Here we are today. A huge thank-you to Shady Creek-Brentwood Bay United Church for hosting us this year and we are pleased to be meeting to be on the island. May God be with me on this journey and bring blessings to the work that we do together

Lynn Lancaster

BC Conference President, UCW