



Montreal and Ottawa Conference UCW

REPORT TO MONTREAL OTTAWA CONFERENCE

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 2018

The annual meeting of the National UCW (NUCW) was held at Queen of Apostles Retreat Center in Mississauga, Ontario from Sept 16 to Sept 21, 2018. There was great fellowship throughout the week with all members and the welcoming of the 12 participants who were there for the first time. The week held many discussions on different topics and much time was spent on looking at the role of the UCW in the future. Phyllis Buchner has been elected to be NUCW representative on WICC for the next three years and Beulah Hayley was installed as the new NUCW president. Ruth Noble came and spoke to us about Congregational giving to Mission and Service and the many stories of UCW strength, Strong women – Strong faith. Susan Graham Walker promoted the programme Loving Our Neighbours, Called to be the Church 2018 and told us that a new programme will be presented for 2019 and will be sent out in January 2019 as part of the Stewardship Tool Kit. The NUCW 60th Anniversary will be held in Cape Breton in 2022 details will be following. There was a presentation by Erik Mathieson Chief Financial Officer of the United Church and a discussion on how the UCW will fit into the new church structure as Presbyteries will cease to exist. Nora Sanders spoke about this being a special time not that the decision making has been done and all the structural changes have been fully approved, now is the time to talk about the future the impact that the UCW has on the church and how this is a time of huge opportunity. Patty Evans was introduced as facilitator for the process of structure changes within the United Church. On the last day we concluded any business that was pending and the Moderator Rev. Richard Bott was introduced to the meeting and spoke about the future of the United Church and his three priorities. The meeting closed with a worship service led by Rev. Bott.

The Fall Gathering of the Montreal and Ottawa Conference was held Sept 27,2018 at Knox-St Paul s in Cornwall the theme of the meeting was Will You Come And Follow Me. During the meeting there was time of Open Space to have discussions on how the UCW will proceed in the future with the structural changes that are coming in 2019, we broke into 2 groups those that will be part of Region 12 and those that will be part of Region 13. As Region 13 we need to organize so that our voice is not lost a suggestion was made to have at least 2 fellowship days one in the Montreal or surrounding area and one in the Eastern Townships area. There was also discussion on possible area rallies. Our project for the near future is to promote the UCW and Women of the United Church wherever possible. The meeting then continued with the business portion of the agenda and Closing Worship. Adjournment was at 3 pm and we all packed our things and headed home with our heads full of ideas for the future of the women of the United Church of Canada.

Respectfully submitted

Valerie Nickson

for Kim Baird (President)

UCW Montreal – Ottawa Conference.