

**MINUTES - ANNUAL MEETING 2022**  
**EASTERN ONTARIO OUTAOUAIS REGION UNITED CHURCH WOMEN**

The Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council United Church Women met by Zoom on Monday, May 9, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Linda Stronski, Regional UCW President; Nancy Hazen, Regional President Elect; Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle, Interim President Ottawa Area and Regional Stewardship; Lee Torvi, Past President Upper Valley Area; Sharon Hinton, President Seaway Valley Area; Norma Wrightly, President Four Rivers Area; Kim Baird, Treasurer; Charlotte Hoy, Leadership; Barb DeJeet, Resources; Ellen Muise, Secretary; Linda Hamon, Member-at-Large; Brenda Swan, Nancy Desjardins, Barb McGonegal, Carol Dowdall, Joan Fletcher, Myrtle Fraser, Mary Kilgour, Phoebe Mclelland, Lorraine Belanger, Barbara Symington, Jan Montgomery, Betty Lou Anderson Kempt, Janice Burroughs.

Guests: Reverend Trisha Elliott, Pat Gilmour of Grand River Books, and Reverend Christopher Ryan.

Linda Stronski opened the meeting by lighting the Christ Candle, spoke to the land acknowledgement, and called upon Nancy Hazen to lead attendees in the UCW Purpose.

Brenda Swan, of Trinity United Church, Smith's Falls, greeted attendees.

Lee Torvi and Barb McGonegal of Upper Valley Area led a devotional, starting by reading verse one of the theme hymn "It Only Takes a Spark". Referring to the theme of the AGM, "Hopeful Revival", Lee Torvi, noted the Bible includes many stories of individuals who experienced suffering. She pointed out that pain and suffering can lead to despair. However, other verses in the Bible explain how God gives hope. Barb McGonegal read one of those passages: Isaiah 40:31. Lee read a story "The Princess", an example of how serving others brings hope to the giver and the receiver. They closed the devotions by reading aloud the hymn "May the God of Hope Go with Us".

Lee Torvi presented the In Memoriam for Our Friends of UCW based on the *UCW Handbook*, Appendix 6. Barb McGonegal read her paraphrase of Proverb 31: 10-31 to describe UCW women, the women whom we were remembering.

Reverend Christopher Ryan of Trinity United Church, Smith's Falls, led attendees in worship, based on "The Lord is My Shepherd", reading from Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, and John 10:22-30, followed by communion.

Pat Gilmour of Grand River Books, reviewed books: "A Circle of Stones" by Betty Radford Turcott; "Feathers of Hope" by Sharon Garlough Brown; "Calm Your Anxious Mind: Daily Devotions to Manage Stress and Build Resilience" by Carrie Marr; "Driving Miss Norma: One Family's Journey Saying "Yes" to Living" by Tim Bauerschmidt and Ramie Liddle; "Wholehearted Faith" by Rachel Hill Evans; and a number of children's books. She answered questions. Barb Dejeet noted that Pat Gilmour will be at Summer Event. Linda Stronski thanked Pat Gilmour for joining us and sharing interesting books with us.

A number of motions were made:

- Barb Dejeet moved, seconded by Nancy Hazen that all UCW members present be voting members. Motion carried.
- Mary Kilgourn moved, seconded by Lee Torvi that all persons present be considered corresponding members. Motion carried.
- Phoebe Mclelland moved, seconded by Norma Wrightly that the minutes of the last AGM be accepted as issued. Motion carried.
- Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle shared the financial statements and budget in the 2022 Annual Report on screen. It was noted that a committee is to be formed to establish guidelines for bursaries. Moved by Ellen Muise, seconded by Barb Dejeet that the financial statements for 2021 be accepted. Motion carried.
- Sharon Hinton moved, seconded by Charlotte Hoy that the budget for 2022 be adopted. Questions were raised concerning approving the budget when we are unsure of the amount for Summer Event and

how bursaries are funded and expended. The vote was 9 for; 4 against; and 3 abstentions. Motion carried.

- Barb Dejeet moved, seconded by Barbara Symington that portfolio reports be accepted as published. Motion carried.
- Nancy Hazen moved, seconded by Charlotte Hoy that Linda Stronski put forth her name for President Elect National UCW. Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle abstained. Motion carried.

Linda Stronski presented the Nominations Report, noting that a volunteer is needed for Archives. Louise Shaw will be President Seaway Valley Area and Sharon Hinton Member at Large. Nancy Desjardins moved, seconded by Barbara McGonegal that the Nominations Report be accepted. Motion carried.

Linda Stronski said grace before the meeting broke for lunch.

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle introduced our guest speaker, the Reverend Trisha Elliott, Mission & Service Stewardship & Gifts Officer, Philanthropy Unit involved with “Gifts with Vision”; well-known for her articles in “The Observer” and “Broadview” magazines; author of “How The Light Shines: Stories, Strategies, and Spiritual Practices for Caregivers of People with Dementia”; and a businesswoman.

Reverend Elliott began her talk with the parable of the mustard seed, saying that there are signs of hopeful revival in Mission & Service with 2021 gifts increasing for the first time in a decade. Her presentation included:

- videos on the Food Security Program in northern Ethiopia; the impact of an Ottawa Mission on the life of a young woman; and how church camps can be transformational on the lives of young people. Reverend Elliott brought her own experiences into her discussion of each video and shared how we are all stronger when we plant seeds of hope together.
- discussion on the situation in Ukraine and the numbers of people displaced, noting that the United Church of Canada has provided \$750,000 of support - shelter, water, food, and medical aid - through

ACT Alliance.. She introduced the Gifts with Visions food and hygiene kits, available at \$25, \$38 and \$40 levels.

- explanation that while there was a ceasefire agreement in the Korean war, but that the war has not officially ended, noting there is an online Korea Peace Appeal petition to End the Korean War and establish a peace agreement.
- description of a new initiative in Mission & Service for supporting volunteers, noting that Kathie Murphy will be looking for volunteers to make hand-made thank-you cards and to make calls to say thank you to donors and to be on-line ambassadors by adding comments on social media sites.

Reverend Elliott responded to questions. Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle said she would include an article on volunteering in the upcoming “Keeping In Touch” and suggested that if a list of addresses, plus stamped envelopes and cards, they could be done by United Church Women. Phoebe McLelland noted that Reverend Elliott would be joining the group reading “How the Light Shines” at Centretown United Church.

Norma Wrightly requested the links and permission to share the videos presented.

Sharon Hinton noted that Mission & Service does work through partnerships and noted that a woman has donated her home for a full year for an immigrant family.

Linda Stronski thanked Trisha for sharing the information on Mission & Service partnerships.

Linda Stronski noted that the financial statements may not have been reviewed. It was noted that the Treasurer is responsible for finding a reviewer. Norma Wrightly moved that the EOOR UCW executive ensure that the financial statements 2021 and 2022 are reviewed. Seconded by Lee Torvi. Motion carried.

The installation of the new executive was led by Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle based on the Service for Installation (UCW Executive) in the UCW Handbook. It was noted that Area Presidents are elected by their areas and therefore not installed at the region level.

Nancy Hazen asked for a motion to empower the executive to conduct business on behalf of the EOOD UCW until the next Annual General Meeting. Moved by Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle and seconded by Jan Montgomery. Motion carried.

Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle thanked Ellen Muise and Aylmer United Church for the use of their Zoom account when difficulties arose with accessing the National Zoom account.

Nancy Hazen thanked Linda Stronski for her service and wished her success in becoming National UCW President; the executive for their help and guidance; Lee Torvi and Barb McGonegal for their devotional, asking Lee to thank Reverend Ryan; Pat Gilmour; members who gave up their day to attend; and to Carolle Dallas-Arbuckle for her support.

Linda Stronski thanked the outgoing executive for their support during the past three years.

Charlotte Hoy reminded attendees of the upcoming Leadership Day, noting that the deadline for registration is May 18.

Linda Stronski moved that the meeting be adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

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Nancy Hazen, EOOD UCW President

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Ellen Muise, EOOD UCW Secretary