



# **World Day of Prayer Canada Annual Report**

## **Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada**

### **September 2020 – August 2021**

As I write this report and as vaccinations against COVID-19 around the world increase, glimmers of hope that the pandemic restrictions might be easing are appearing. Despite lockdowns, and social distancing the WDP committee and staff worked hard to ensure that WDP occurred in our country in 2021.

In accordance with decisions taken by the committee and WICC board, WDP 2021 went virtual. Prayer underpinned our work leading up to the March 2021 WDP date with 15-minute Facebook live WDP Pray NOW sessions on the first and third Friday of the month from September 2020 to February 2021. The inspiring theme and service gifted to us by our sisters from Vanuatu was turned into an hour-long video that was readily available through our website and through several community TV channels across the country, and on a USB and DVD that could be ordered. We received very positive feedback of new highlights such as liturgical dance for the processional, an interview with a sister from Vanuatu, a children's moment with Lego and song, choir music with local photos, and a devotional message. The written service provided by Vanuatu was presented by three generations of WDP women from across Canada. The video was viewed through Zoom meetings, in small groups and individually in homes and churches; some communities viewed the video personally and then met on Zoom for social time to talk about it. Two online Zoom fun WDP Paint nights promoted WDP opportunities and enabled fellowship.

We have been able to “build a strong foundation” for the future by moving resources, meetings, training/preparation sessions online, steep as that learning curve has been. One of the blessings of this year was the opportunity to gather online nationally and engage new people in the WDP movement. Grants to help women and children touched by injustice in Canada and internationally are funded through a portion of the WDP offerings; unfortunately, after a record 2020, 2021 donations are down.

The WDP committee is currently working on the 2022 Service “I Know the Plans I Have for You”, a gift from England, Wales, and Northern Ireland (EWNI). The draft service will be presented at this meeting for Board approval. We propose creating a video of the 2022 service for distribution across the country.

Internationally, WDPIC also produced a shorter video for 2021 and held some Zoom information sessions, which I attended, to introduce the materials. Sadly, WDPIC has decided to move the scheduled June 2022 international meeting in Scotland to a virtual platform. In preparation for this meeting, held every five years, we at WICC need to accomplish tasks. Delegate names are to be submitted to WDPIC by the end of June. We

propose sending three from Canada: WDP Liaison (voting delegate) Mary Nordick, with two alternates, Stephanie McClellan, WICC President, and Cath MacKeil, Executive Director.

We also need to nominate someone as one of two representatives for the CANA Region (Caribbean and North America (Canada/USA)). As the reps serve a five-year term and are eligible for election to an executive position at the next assembly, it could be a ten-year commitment. The WICC Board nominated Rev. Steph McClellan to be on the election ballot for CANA rep at the WDPIC meeting in June 2022.

On May 24th, I attended a CANA region Zoom call. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet and learn from sisters in our region. Several Caribbean countries were represented, and I represented Canada. I learned that in addition to COVID-19, several countries in the Caribbean are suffering the aftereffects of volcanic eruption. Several mentioned domestic violence as a major concern from COVID-19 isolation. It is inspiring to hear the faith and hope of our sisters in the face of trials. On May 28th Cath and I took part in an international Zoom call. Most countries were able to hold virtual WDP celebrations, but some had to cancel. Many are sad that we will be unable to gather in person next year but understand why. Such virtual opportunities to meet are encouragement and affirmation of the WDP movement of prayer and solidarity in a world that needs it more than ever.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Nordick  
WDP Chair and WDPIC Liaison