

AVEL USER REPORT

BY CONFERENCE	2011
Bay of Quinte	346
Hamilton	1071
London	498
Toronto	744
Manitou	100
Saskatchewan (Chinook, Wascana)	197
Non-United Church Members	178
Five Oaks Education Centre	68
Francis Sandy Theological Centre	41
Total Bookings	3243

his report summarizes program activity and bookings of United Church audio-visual resources for the year 2011 through the AVEL Ontario outlet, located at the Five Oaks Centre, Paris Ontario. In 2011 AVEL bookings rose 28% and audio visual programming materials were used for Adult Studies, New Member and Confirmation events, Children and Youth Programs, Small Group Ministry, Mission and Outreach Study Themes and Worship ideas. New studies are added to the collection regularly. Connecting resources with clergy/laity seeking current, faith-filled, United Church programming represents the large volume of consultation work by telephone, email, in person and through our website. Bookings always increase when clergy or laity make a commitment to Christian education and creatively use AVEL resources. Borrowing from your AVEL outlet should be considered an easy alternative to purchasing expensive resources. AVEL users are a connected community of life-long learners. AVEL/bookstore is staffed by one full-time and one part-time consultant. Financial statements for the bookstore/resource centre will be available soon and will be sent to conference offices. We are proud of the atmosphere at AVEL and the bookstore and continue to receive positive feedback from our AVEL users, customers and guests at Five Oaks. Call our toll-free number 1-888-668-0871 and discover how easy it is to use AVEL.

Our Directors and Officers in 2012:

Stephen Mabee, Member-at-large, President
Will Kunder, Manitou Conference, Secretary
Randy MacKenzie, Erie Presbytery, Interim Treasurer
Gail Rhodey, Director, Five Oaks
Glen Wright, Director, London Conference
Fred Monteith, Director, Hamilton Conference
Myra McWilliams, Director, Bay of Quinte Conference
Norma Cronkwright, Director, Member-at-large
Warren Schell-Ross, Director, Member-at-large
Sheena Riley Marini, Director, Member-at-large

Our staff:

Jackie Childerhose, Manager/AVEL Consultant
Kathy Haley

In 2012 our meetings will be held at Five Oaks:

April 30, 2012 – Board of Directors

October 1, 2012 - Board of Directors

November 5, 2012 – Annual General Membership Meeting.

UCW HAMILTON CONFERENCE REPORT

“Worship and Work Must Be One”

Greetings from Hamilton Conference UCW!

This has been a very busy year for our Executive as we finalize plans for our Golden Anniversary celebrating 50 years of active work within our UCW membership.

Our purpose is to unite all women of the congregations of the United Church of Canada for the total mission of the church and to provide an opportunity for spiritual growth and Christian fellowship. It is my hope that through our local unit meetings, our Presbyterial gatherings, and our Conference events that we are accomplishing these goals.

We are very blessed to have enthusiastic leadership who dedicate time and energy to planning events such as our retreat at 5 Oaks last Oct., and are already planning for our next retreat – Oct 19-20, 2012. This is often a highlight for many of our women.

I have had the privilege of attending and taking part in all six Presbyterial AGMs this year. I was delighted and uplifted by the warmth of fellowship, the sincerity in worship, and service within their communities and global outreach. We continue to honour our heritage –WMS and WA— through our monetary givings and support of various fund raising events. Ex: knit wear, prayer shawls, luncheons/dinners, Christmas bazaars, and recycling eye glasses, milk bags, rummage sales, etc.

At present, within our Presbyterials, we have 166 UCW groups totaling 4124 members!

Our Hamilton Conference UCW Annual Gathering is being hosted by Niagara Presbyterial on April 28 at St Andrew’s UC in Niagara Falls. We are looking forward to celebrating our 50th Anniversary with special guest speakers, Kim Uyede-Kai (Conference Staff resource) and Joyce McKinnon (National UCW past President). All United Church women are invited to join us!! For more information please check with your Presbyterial Executive.

Excitement is growing as we near the time for our Golden Anniversary celebration after five years of planning! In July 2012, 23—27, at Redeemer College in Ancaster, we will be hosting almost 500 women from across Canada including 22 women from Bermuda and our special banquet speaker will be UC Moderator, Mardi Tindal. There is an opportunity to share in all or part of this National Celebration. For more information please see www.hamconf.org -- UCW events. ALL are welcome!

As a National project , we are hoping to raise \$50,000.00 in support of the MOROGORO Women’s Training Centre in Tanzania – one of our global mission partners. This center will provide training in mid-wifery, nutrition, and education regarding female mutilation- a huge problem in the health of African women.

As we celebrate this wonderful milestone of 50 years we continue our loving service, and are challenged to find new ways to meet the needs of a changing society and world. May our hearts be open to God's guidance in our "worship and work" as United Church Women.

Blessings

Edith Coyle, President

Hamilton Conference UCW



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Wesley Urban Ministries has a vision of community where justice and compassion guide the way we live, where all members are treated with respect and dignity. To achieve our vision, Wesley Urban Ministries uses its' resources to: 'decrease barriers' by developing and delivering programs that address the needs of people who are marginalized; 'increase opportunities' by providing services that help individuals achieve their full potential; and 'be a model and catalyst' for social transformation. Wesley Urban Ministries has been implementing our mission in partnership with The United Church of Canada for over fifty-five years.

Healthy Congregations and Presbyteries

The past year has been a year of change and transition at Wesley Urban Ministries; we continue to be blessed by the on-going support of the local presbyteries and congregations. The Presbytery has been ever supportive showing interest in all of Wesley's programs and actively encouraging their respective congregations to be involved not only financially but also by volunteering and participating in events. Of course, we are very dependent on the church folks that serve the traditional Sunday dinner, which is prepared and served at Wesley Day Centre. Wesley representatives attend the monthly Presbytery meetings to ensure the lines of communication remain open between Wesley and our fellow churches. The commitment and involvement of the congregations and presbyteries in the work of Wesley is never more evident than at the 'Case for Kids' walk, run, ride... raising \$105,000 in 2011; the highest amount raised to date for children that live in poverty and need our programs to give them a 'level playing field' - early in their lives, when it will be extremely impactful. The Christmas Store Program served over 6,500 individuals in 2011; this is possible mainly because of the churches efforts and the generosity and compassion of the congregations and presbyteries. Wesley continues to grow the scope of 'community' by partnering with like-minded organizations, media and funders who are always top of mind as we continue to impact our community in a healthy and successful manner.

Effective Leadership

As Wesley continues to evolve and grow we remain ever cognizant of the necessity to ensure strong leadership to bring our vision to fruition. Leadership that recognizes and respects the diverse skills within staff and works as a 'team' to create Wesley Urban Ministries as a 'centre for change'. As you are aware, we have had significant challenges in our Day Centre Program; nevertheless we are as committed today to feeding the hungry as we were in the 1950's when the Church leadership saw a need and stepped up with a solution. This same type of leadership permeates the core of Wesley Urban Ministries from the Board of Directors to the volunteers and indeed the staff; we are all leaders moving forward to bring change without judgment to those in need. This year saw the addition of the Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP) and Client Support Services (CSS); these programs have been entrusted to Wesley Urban Ministries by Citizen and Immigration Canada. We know that our reputation for leadership, commitment and results have afforded us this opportunity.

Faithful Public Witness

Wesley continues to focus on its mission and vision in every activity that we undertake; very aware that the topic “social justice” encapsulates many, many different issues, from Aboriginal rights, human rights, ecological or eco-justice, refugee issues, environmental concerns, and many more. Our values shine in all our initiatives; speaking out for justice and equality at every opportunity, while effectively working to bring fairness to all in our community.

Strengthening Partnerships

Our partnership with our Presbyteries and Congregations is one of our core relationships and we certainly desire to grow and nurture this relationship. Our links with the community are too numerous to mention in this report; however, networking with other organizations, funders, media, and corporations are of the utmost importance to fulfilling our mission. The Hamilton Community Foundation, ArcelorMittal Dofasco, North Hamilton Community Centre, and the Dr. J. Edgar Davey School are just a few of our diverse partnerships.

2011-2012 at Wesley Urban Ministries

The excitement of change continued to be in the air at Wesley throughout the year as programs such as the Resettlement Assistance (RAP) and Client Support Services (CSS) were implemented. With this came the ‘Welcome Circle’ which proved a huge success as new refugees were ‘welcomed’ into the community by neighbours, groups and others. First Pilgrim United Church hosted this event; it was a wonderful way to say ‘hello’ to our new neighbours!

2012-2013 Goals and Objectives

Transitions to Homes continues to thrive as Wesley Urban Ministries places more and more individuals that are ready to live independently in their own apartments; the Transitions to Homes Team provides that very necessary support to ensure our clients success. We expect our Employment Program to play a larger and larger role with those that have been connected with the transitional program, as those folks are prepared to gain jobs, training and other employment related needs. We plan to expand our Community Kitchen Program, which really makes a difference in the lives of those who use our services. Claremont will be moving to a new location, one in which we will be able to expand the number of individuals we serve and continue to improve this very unique and valuable program. Our Resettlement and Client Support Program has recognized that the children that are coming with their families as refugees to Canada have needs that cannot be met in the schools. We are working to develop a program that will help these students adapt to Canadian life. On the same note, we are also very concerned about post-traumatic stress syndrome being a serious threat to the health, well-being and independence of the refugees we are supporting and in that regard we are hoping to provide counseling with experts in the field of trauma. Wesley Day Centre also plans to implement a ‘Harm Reduction Program’ that will provide support and alternatives to those with addictions.

Another of Wesley’s goals this year is to create a speaking group that is able to visit congregations and groups to share the news of Wesley’s successes, growth and yes, challenges, so we may build on our long and successful partnership..