

Greetings to CWL Conference

Dear Sisters of the Catholic Women's League,

Thank you for the opportunity to bring greetings to your gathering this year. As the President of the Women's Inter-Church Council (WICC), it is such an honour to greet you as you gather to do the work of the church with God's wisdom and guidance.



As seekers of justice, WICC and the CWL both desire a closer relationship with God through faithful prayer and then follow those prayers with faithful action.

We are especially grateful for your support of the World Day of Prayer and The Fellowship of the Least Coin that are the two main projects of WICC.

This year, we have all learned to be flexible and creative in the work that we do for peace and justice.

At WICC, we knew that most of the groups that normally host World Day of Prayer Services across Canada would be unable to gather because of the CoVid-19 pandemic and protocols. So we decided to produce a virtual service with leadership from across the country, around the world and across the generations. It gave people the opportunity to worship and pray safely from home.

The service was a wonderful success including an Interpretive Dance, a Children's Moment, an Interview with someone from Vanuatu, the writing country, an inspiring Devotional Message and beautiful music! We even had the service on television for the first time ever with over 30 stations airing it the first Friday of March.

You can still go to our website and Facebook page and enjoy the Vanuatu WDP 2020 Service. While there, you can also sign up for our monthly email newsletter the We-Connect. The WDP service for 2021 from England, Wales and Northern Ireland is already in production.

WICC moved all of its WDP Coordinator resources on-line this year because of COVID-19. We were already heading towards a paperless process and COVID simply helped us reach our stewardship plan a few years earlier than expected. By eliminating the paper, printing and shipping costs, we are able to give out more grant money. Not traveling to meetings in Toronto and instead meeting by Zoom when travel was restricted, we also had more money for grants and accomplished the second plan of stewardship which was to care for our environment.

Using social media platforms, we have also been building an on-line community to raise awareness of justice issues, to gather women for prayer throughout the year, for painting nights using the World Day of Prayer themes, and to extend our reach to younger women as we seek to create a world daily prayer movement.

With our many creative endeavours and the incredible generosity of women like yourselves, who are dedicated to the World Day of Prayer, we were able to give \$60,000 in grants. Our grant funding is carefully vetted to align with the teaching of all denominational partners. Thank you for your help in providing these grants that make a life-changing difference in the lives of women and children who are touched by injustice.

May you be especially blessed through your worship, work, and learnings at this conference as you seek to be Ambassadors for Christ in a world that so badly needs peaceful reconciliation. You are in our prayers as your worship and work are one.

In Solidarity and Prayer,

Rev. Stephanie McClellan
WICC President