



National ACW Conference 2024

Theme: "Let your Light Shine"

Our Conference began with an important statement for our meeting place.

Land Acknowledgement

The Diocese of Huron is situated on the ancestral beaver hunting grounds of the Algonquin, Haudenosaunee and Attawandaran peoples: the traditional and unceded lands of the Anishinaabe Peoples, of Walpole Island, Kettle Point and the Thames, the settled People's Haudenosaunee Confederacy, at the Grand River and the Thames and the Lenni Lenape Delaware People's of Moraviantown and Muncey.

This year the ACW ladies met in Stratford, Ontario, at the Parish of St James , Hosted by the Diocese of Huron.

Apparently ACW Ladies are easy to spot for as I was looking for the transport that was carrying us to Stratford I was asked if I was an ACW Lady?

Thursday evening we had our opening service with the Rev'd Canon Robert Lemon preaching. The first thing I heard was we were to "Walk the walk" and "Talk the talk" and we should not be doing one without the other. It really spoke to me and reminded me how much I try to do the one without giving much thought to the other.

Friday we were introduced to our Chaplain for the weekend who was also from The Diocese of Huron, The Rev. Patricia Allison. She had given us a welcome card in our bags that invited us to approach or call on her if we needed. We had a welcome from the Mayor and from the local Member of Parliament.

We were greeted by Lillian Ketch of the Mothers Union who do the majority of their work in supporting a faith filled family life.

Our next guest was Michelle Hauser who is with The Anglican Foundation(AFC). It was very enlightening to understand AFC is so much more than just about building maintenance. She made us aware of some new grants and she is also able to help with grant application. Michelle also talked about all the camps that ran this summer across Canada with financial assistance from the "Say Yes to Kids" campaign.

We had a break and then heard from Janice Biehn from

PWRDF. One of the issues she spoke about was a potential name change for the organization which will be voted on in October. We were informed the logo would remain the same.

Janice also encouraged us to connect with the IAWN (International Anglican Women's Network) to receive communications from them.

iwan@nationalanglican.ca

Next was our business meeting at which the current secretary and the treasurer were acclaimed for another year.

Then we met in our Provincial groups to discuss a rule of life and answered the following questions. (We are the Province of Northern Lights):

Rule of Life

Creator God we acknowledge and give thanks the in Jesus we know we belong to a Sacred Circle with the Gospel And Baptismal. Covenant in the Center. In this Sacred Circle:

We are all related;

We live a compassionate and generous life;

We commit ourselves to spiritual growth, discipleship, and consensus
The three questions we were asked to discuss and reflect on.

- 1 What words or ideas did you hear?
2. What is Jesus saying to you?
3. What is Jesus calling you to do?

Saturday was primarily a day to explore Stratford and getting to know each other better.

I took the opportunity to tour the Stratford Warehouse which is a huge building which houses the costumes and props for theatrical productions around the world.

We were also given the opportunity to purchase tickets to Romeo and Juliet at the theatre and I took advantage of this offer. Once you get used to the actors using so many words and follow along it is still a sad story. It was very well done. The grounds of the theatre have lovely gardens which includes a theme garden depicting all the plays they will be doing that year. It was fascinating.

We had our evening meal which was cooked and provided by the men. Then we were entertained and taught to do some Scottish country dances. I was even able to do one! We ended with Compline.

Sunday there was a service at the church but I had to leave early to fly back.

I made new friends and reunited with old and it was amazing to reconnect to all those ladies. I feel refreshed and strengthened.

I pray there is one of you reading this that will be a great next Diocesan Coordinator for Athabasca. As you may be aware we need to choose someone at next years' conference in Grimshaw. I hope you will be encouraged because of the many amazing experiences I have described.

In Faith

Candace Mahaffey