

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Working Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, January 25, 1967,
at 10am, at the home of Mrs. D.J.A. Verco, 56 Bundarra Avenue, Wahroonga.

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OPENING: The meeting opened with prayer led by Mrs. M.G. Wyllie.

PRESENT: Mrs. M.G. Wyllie (chair), Mesdames J.F. Dey, A. Dougan, D.G. Badger,
D.J.A. Verco, F. Stafford, A.G. Ralph, C.F. Gribble,
Deaconess M. Andrews and Lt. Colonel H. Cross.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. S.M. Barrett.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated were taken
as read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence as follows was received.

- a) A letter from Lt. Commissioner A.B. Cook requesting copy of article by Professor Saint on 'Alcoholism' referred to in ACW Minutes. This was obtained from the State Unit in South Australia and forwarded to the Commissioner.
- b) A letter from Miss Elsie Needham, Associate Director of Refugee and World Service of The Australian Council of Churches, expressing very warm appreciation concerning the desire of ACW to help migrant women in Australia. Receipt of cheque for \$300 from World Community Day offerings was acknowledged. Miss Needham stated that she will let us know how the money will be spent.

It was reported that a letter of congratulation had been sent to Mrs. T.C. Rentoul concerning the New Year's Honour of O.B.E. which had been conferred upon her.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Financial Statement as at 31st December, 1966, was presented by the Treasurer.

The Treasurer reported that the President, Secretary and Treasurer had met on 21st December, as authorised by the Working Committee on November 23, to examine the accounts and allocate receipts from collections from Special Days to ACW Projects and ACW Administration. It had been decided to allocate \$300 to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund from receipts for Fellowship Day, and \$300 to ACC Inter-Church Aid - to help migrant women in Australia. It was explained that in making the allocation to Inter-Church Aid an amount which had been received from collections from World Community Day in 1965 - for Projects of ACW - was considered along with the 1966 receipts for that Special Day.

The Statement (attached) and Report were received, and appreciation expressed to the Treasurer, Mrs. Dey, for all that had been involved in the preparation of these Statements.

STUDY BOOK:

It was reported that, following the meeting of the sub-committee on November 30, the Rev. Rex Davis and Mr. Vaughan Hinton of the ACC Staff had been asked to undertake the production of the book for ACW. This they agreed to do.

The Study Book, prepared by the Rev. A.A. Dougan and Mrs. Dougan for ACW, is now available from the office of The Australian Council of Churches, 3rd floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney. The title of the book is 'Church Worship'; there is an introduction and five studies.

The Australian Council of Churches has agreed to handle the receiving of orders for these books and dispatch. Payment for books should be made direct to the ACC office. The price to purchasers will be 15cents per book for quantities of 50 and over, and 20 cents for single copies, plus postage.

Whilst the ACC has agreed to handle the dispatch of these books, for the convenience of ACW, it is expected that all State Units will do their utmost in publicising the study book and encouraging its use with women's groups. The co-operation of Denominational Women's Groups will also be appreciated. The book is suitable for use by youth groups and mixed groups of the Churches as well as women's groups.

The report was received and it was agreed that early word should be sent to State Units and Denominational Women's Groups; also that books should be available for sale at the National Committee Meeting, including the Open Session.

REPORTS:

a) Meeting of office bearers - November 30, 1966.

The business of this meeting had been to discuss

1. What it was hoped to put forward in conference with executive officers of the ACC Staff concerning the up-to-date position of ACW (see Working Committee Meeting Minutes of 23/11/66).
2. Attend to certain details having to do with the Agenda of the National Committee Meeting.

The report was received.

b) Conference with the Australian Council of Churches.

Mrs. Wyllie reported that the President, Treasurer and Secretary had met with the Rev. H.L. Perkins and the Rev. J.R. Neal on January 20, matters put forward on behalf of ACW being

- 1) Secretarial work involved, and the need to look at this realistically for the future.
- 2) The advantage it would be to the promotion of ACW for a senior member of the ACC Staff to be a suitable woman, possibly an ordained woman.
- 3) The need for ACW to be linked with an executive member of the ACC staff.
- 4) past experience concerning promotion - touched on very briefly.

The executive officers of the ACC gave a sympathetic hearing to what was put forward, and the General Secretary, Rev. H. Perkins, entered into discussion of an exploratory nature. The position of the ACC in relationship to finance was outlined by the General Secretary, as this needed to be taken into account in considering (1) and (2); it was also suggested that in potential ACW should be self-supporting. The possibility of arrangements for some secretarial help were discussed, the financial aspect of which it would be expected would be by negotiation. Some helpful suggestions were given as to how administration funds could be augmented a little. Concerning (2) this would be a matter for future policy. Having to do with (3), Mr. Perkins gave his opinion in this respect, and suggested this be referred to Mr. V.K. Brown after he took office as General Secretary. The time element precluded discussion on (4), apart from indication being given that ACW felt that co-operation on the part of the ACC during the past year concerning the promotion of ACW could have been better.

c) Publicity.

It was reported that late in November a write-up had been received from the Rev. Winifred Kiek of some of her impressions of the 3rd Asian Church Women's Conference. This had been passed on to Mr. V. Hinton for use along with the report of Mrs. D.G. Badger. Both write-ups had been passed on to Church papers by Mr. Hinton.

There was discussion based on the past experience of the Working Committee concerning publicity - as to the responsibilities of the Working Committee in that regard and what we could justifiably expect on the part of the Public Relations Secretary of the ACC.

It was resolved that this Working Committee recommend to the Working Committee for 1967 that they handle publicity themselves.

To qualify the terms of this resolution, it was felt that whilst the Working Committee would want to retain links with the Public Relations Secretary of the ACC and be glad to have his co-operation, yet the Working Committee itself should accept more responsibility than it has done in the past for the production and distribution of publicity.

d) Location of the Working Committee.

It was reported that two meetings of the Planning Committee had been held, and a further meeting was planned for January 26. At the first meeting Mr. V.K. Brown was appointed chairman of the Committee and Mrs. Colonel Saunders the Secretary.

Enquiries from these meetings had been directed to the Working Committee through the Minutes, having to do in the main with the composition of the Working Committee and finance. These enquiries had been referred to the office bearers, as a full meeting of the Working Committee would not take place in time for answers to be sent, and the Secretary replied on their behalf. The Secretary of the Working Committee reported to the meeting the substance of Minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings and information which had been sent to the Planning Committee.

e) National Scholarship Committee.

It was reported that Miss Sabita Swarup had attended a Conference of the S.C.M., and was now gaining office experience at the War Memorial Hospital at Waverley.

She will attend the National Committee Meeting of ACW and live in with the delegates at Deaconess House. It is planned that she speak in one of the sessions. It has also been planned for her to attend the opening session of the Annual Meeting of The Australian Council of Churches when she will be introduced as the ACW Scholarship Holder for 1966.

She will then return immediately to Fiji and take up her work at the Ba Hospital.

A letter had been received from Canberra Church Women saying how very much they had appreciated Sabita's visit to Canberra, and how this had enlarged their understanding and appreciation of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

It was reported that in spite of enquiries application forms had not been received back concerning Miss A. Busima, of the Y.W.C.A., Port Moresby. There had been no acknowledgment in any way from the Rev. F. Kemp to the letter inviting the Churches in Papua/ New Guinea to nominate a scholarship holder for 1967.

f) Fellowship of the Least Coin.

It was reported that Mrs. S.M. Barrett had spoken with the President and Secretary, as she felt it would not be possible to continue as National Convener of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. For health reasons it has been necessary for the Rev. S.M. Barrett to retire earlier than would have normally been the case. They are now resident at Kiama. It was agreed that this matter should be referred to the National Committee Meeting.

g) Fellowship Day 1967.

It was reported that draft Order of Service had been received from Canberra Church Women, and that the receipt of this had already been acknowledged.

It was agreed that copies of the draft Order of Service be made in readiness for consideration at the National Committee Meeting.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING:

There was discussion regarding some of the 'ends' still to be tied up with some taking part in the meeting; also concerning some of the final parts of the general organisation of the meeting, and the Secretary was authorised to attend to what was necessary.

PERSONAL:

Deaconess M. Andrews very warmly expressed appreciation to Mrs. M.G. Wyllie for her work as President over the past two years, and also for her initial and interim work in the cause of ACW which goes back over a period of five years. A presentation was made. Mrs. Wyllie responded.

Mrs. Wyllie conveyed to Lt. Colonel Cross, as Hon. Secretary over the past two years, the deeply felt thanks of the Working Committee for the quality of the service given, and made a presentation. Lt. Colonel Cross responded.

CLOSING:

The meeting closed with prayer led by Mrs. Wyllie.

Mrs. D.J.A. Verco had invited the members of the Working Committee to remain for lunch, which was then served. At the conclusion of lunch Mrs. Wyllie thanked Mrs. Verco, on behalf of the Working Committee, for her delightful and gracious hospitality.

CONFIRMED _____

DATE _____