

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, December 9 at 10am
in the ACC Meeting Room, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

OPENING: The meeting opened with prayers led by the Rev. J. R. Neal.

PRESENT: Mrs. M.G. Wyllie (chair); Mesdames, J.F. Dey, S.M. Barrett, D.J.A. Verco, L. Lilley, Head Deaconess M. Andrews, Col. H. Cross and the Rev. J.R. Neal.

APOLOGIES: Apologies received from Mrs. S. McPhee and the Rev. H. L. Perkins.

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

NATIONAL COMMITTEE: It was reported that arrangements for the first National Committee meeting were in hand:

a) Representation: Representatives have been appointed by all groups except the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Churches and one further representative from the ACC Executive Committee is to be appointed.

It was resolved that we write to 1) Archbishop Ezekiel seeking his endorsement for Mrs. Doratis to continue to represent the Greek Orthodox Church. 2) Father Mirzaian asking for a representative from the Armenian Church.

b) ACC Representative: Mr. Neal indicated that the ACC Working Committee had not been able to suggest the fourth name as yet. They were desirous that the appointment be a Sydney layman keeping in mind denominational balance etc. The meeting discussed the matter but no specific recommendation was made, although it was felt he should be either a Congregationalist or Presbyterian. The meeting agreed that if a suitable person was suggested, the convener be authorized to make the suggestion to the ACC Working Committee.

c) Report from States to the National Committee. Agreed that we write 1) to the States asking for a written report to be included in the Working Documents. Also agreed that we ask the States to give suggestions as to the most convenient dates for Fellowship Day and World Community Day.

2) to the United Churches who have co-operated in the programme of A.C.W. asking for a report for the information of the Churches and the State Units.

d) Constitution. Agreed that we ask Mr. Perkins to introduce the draft Constitution to the National Committee. Meeting agreed that the question of observers and affiliated local councils should be introduced by Mr. Perkins at the time when the Constitution is being discussed.

e) Study Material: Mrs. Barrett agreed to introduce the session by giving an outline of the studies prepared - trends of studies in women's groups - suggestions for future development.

f) Programme: Mrs. Verco agreed to introduce this session.

g) Projects: Agreed that we invite Mrs. Lilian Wells to outline the projects of A.C.W. so far and suggestions for future developments. (Fellowship of the Least Coin and Winifred Kiek Scholarships).

h) Survey on the Service and Status of Women in the Churches and the Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. Agreed that we ask Mr. V.K. Brown, Mrs. J. Coates and Deaconess Ritchie to form a committee to prepare for the introduction of this session.

i) Procedural: Agreed that a Steering Committee be suggested to the National Committee comprising: Mrs. J. Coates, Mrs. J. Dey and Mrs. Rentoul.

Chair - agreed that if possible Mrs. Wyllie act as chairman until the election of a President.

Costs - Registration fee 5/- - full accommodation 35/-, casual meals 6/-.

j) Prayers. Agreed that we ask the following to lead prayers:
 Opening Prayers - Head Deaconess Andrews
 Evening Prayers - Mrs. Strack
 Morning Prayers - Mrs. Ashton.

k) Programme: Agreed that the following be the agenda for the meeting:

Wednesday, February 10.

10.30am arrive - Morning tea

SESSION 1.

11.00am Opening Prayers - Head Deaconess M. Andrews.
 Welcomes
 Procedural arrangements
 Review of the Interim Committee's work
 Report from the States, etc.

12.30pm

SESSION 2.

1.30pm Constitution
 3.30 Afternoon Tea

SESSION 3.

4.00 Study material - to be introduced by Mrs. Barrett
 5.30 Close of Session
 6.00 Tea

SESSION 4.

7.00 Programme of Australian Church Women - Mrs. Verco
 Projects: Fellowship of the Least Coin - } Mrs. Wells
 Winifred Kiek Scholarship - }
 9.00 Prayers - Mrs. D. Strack

THURSDAY - February 11.

SESSION 5.

9.00am Prayers - Mrs. A.G. Ashton
 Constitution
 9.30 Survey on the Service and Status of Women in the Churches. Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in the Church, Family and Society.
 10.30 Morning Tea

SESSION 6:

11.00am Appointments and Elections
 Recommendations to the ACC Annual Meeting
 11.45 Closing Prayer - The President
 12.00 Lunch
 1.00pm Opening Service of the ACC Annual Meeting
 St. Andrew's Cathedral, George Street.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

It was reported that letters had been written to the Rev. Alan Brash, ICA Secretary for the EACC, and the Rev. S. Marantika, General Secretary of the Indonesian Council of Churches with regard to the suggestion that Miss Liem Khing Boen come to Australia as the first Scholarship holder. A reply from Mr. Brash was very helpful in developing the Scholarship programme as also a letter from Mr. Byatt, ACC Scholarship Committee. Information received from Djakarta indicated that Miss Liem has accepted a scholarship from Holland so is unavailable.

Mrs. Dey reported that she had received the suggestion from her daughter, Jennifer (social worker in Djakarta sponsored by the ACC) that Miss Connie Tan Kwie Hwa come to Australia to do post-graduate work. She is involved in caring for children in institutions. Mrs. Dey read the recommendation from Jennifer and the meeting agreed that Miss Tan Kwie Hwa would be a most suitable person.

It was agreed:

- 1) That we invite Miss Connie Tan Kwie Hwa to accept a scholarship for the second and third terms of the 1965 Academic Year.
- 2) That we ask Miss Kath George, Miss Greta Nicholas, Miss Betty Vaughan and Miss Monica Wilson to form a committee to consult with such people as Dr. Brennan and Mrs. Matsdorf with a view to planning for the 2nd term in NSW (from May).
- 3) That we ask Deaconess Ritchie to form a small committee to plan her work for the 3rd term in Victoria.
- 4) That the two committees be advised that the programme could include one women's group meeting per week and one weekend engagement (e.g. youth groups, etc.)
- 5) Finance: a) Agreed that we ask Inter-Church Aid to underwrite the return aid fare Djakarta/Sydney for Miss Tan Kwie Hwa.
b) Agreed that we seek the co-operation of training institutions and local groups to cover her living and travelling expenses and that pocket money be the responsibility of the scholarship holder.

FELLOWSHIP DAY:

Reported that a letter had been written to the Rev. Ivy Chou inviting her to prepare the worship service for 1965 Fellowship Day, but no reply had been received. Agreed that we write again to Miss Chou asking for a quick reply.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Reported that a letter had been received from the Rev. L. Staton indicating that the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee in W.A. would be happy to change their constitution in order to become a State Unit of Australian Church Women. A letter had been sent to Mr. Staton welcoming the development and asking for a copy of the Constitution with the hope that it may be received in time for a representative to attend the first National Committee.

A.C.T.

Reported that the General Secretary, the Rev. H.L. Perkins, had been invited to meet with the women in Canberra re the development of a Unit of Australian Church Women in the A.C.T.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE: Agreed that we ask Deaconess Ritchie and Mrs. H. Stephens to represent Australian Church Women on the ACC Scholarship Committee which is based in Melbourne.

A.C.C. ANNUAL MEETING: Agreed that the Consultant to the Annual Meeting be appointed by the National Committee.

OBSERVERS: Discussion took place concerning the inviting of observers particularly from the Roman Catholic Church. The meeting would like guidance on the matter and looked to the ACC. The matter of affiliated local women's inter-church councils was discussed and it was agreed that it be considered at the National Committee and that Mr. Perkins be asked to bring this into the discussion on the Constitution and the subsequent relationships this would involve.

APPRECIATION: Mrs. Wyllie, as convener of the Interim Committee, expressed her appreciation to the members of the Committee for the fellowship experience during the two years. The meeting agreed that the experience had been a very fruitful one and each looked forward to the next step in the formation of the National Committee and the subsequent development of the work.

CLOSING: The meeting closed with prayer led by the Rev. J.R. Neal.

CONFIRMED: _____

DATE: _____