

MINUTES OF INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Meeting held on Wednesday, April 8, 1964, 10am
at 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

OPENING: Devotions were led by Mrs. B.R. Wyllie.

PRESENT: Mesdames S. McPhee, D.J.A. Verco, S.M. Barrett, B.R. Wyllie (chair)
Deaconess Andrews and the Revs. H.L. Perkins and J.R. Neal.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs. J.F. Dey and Mrs. L.M. Williams.

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

REPORT OF CONSULTATION:

The meeting had before it the report of the Consultation held in Sydney on March 17 and 18. This had been circulated to the members of the Consultation, State Women's Inter-Church Councils and Denominational Federal Women's Organizations.

It was agreed that the Consultation had been very worthwhile and had accomplished much in strengthening of relationships between the members of the Interim Committee and the State units.

For future guidance it was suggested that a longer time could be spent for such a consultation - e.g. two nights and that overnight accommodation could be found nearer the meeting venue. A residential consultation would be the best if this could be achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CONSULTATION:

Following discussion of the recommendations from the Consultation it was resolved that the Interim Committee forward the following recommendations concerning aim and structure, and outline of programme and finance to the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

Following general approval and comment by the ACC Executive, the Interim Committee of ACW will prepare a draft constitution.

(1) That the AIM of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN be:

"To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to promote co-operation of men and women in the Church, family and society; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, study, fellowship and service across denominational divisions; and to encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries."

(2) That the STRUCTURE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN be:

(a) Within the Australian Council of Churches.

That the National Committee of Australian Church Women function in relationship with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

(b) The National Committee shall include:

i. Representatives of Federal Denominational women's organizations (appointed by the Federal body or by whatever means appropriate to the particular church).
Church of England 2 and other denominations 1 each.

ii. One representative of the State women's inter-church councils who have agreed to be the unit of Australian Church Women.

iii. Special interest groups invited by the National Committee to appoint a representative.

iv. 4 representatives to be appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches. In appointing these representatives consideration be given to:

1. the inclusion of men

2. the need to relate the work of Australian Church Women to the other parts of the Australian Council of Churches, including the Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women

in Church, Family and Society.

3. The need to preserve denominational balance in the total membership of the National Committee.

(c) Meetings.

i. The National Committee shall meet for two or three days once each year.

The time and location of the Annual Meeting of the National Committee to be determined in consultation with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

ii. A Working Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee to carry out its work between meetings. It is envisaged that the committee would be based in Sydney for the time being.

(d) State Committees of Australian Church Women. The existing State Women's Inter-Church Councils wherever they are willing to act, will be recognized by the National Committee of Australian Church Women as the units through which Australian Church Women works. It is envisaged that such groups will have consultative status on the State Council of Churches or State Committees affiliated with the Australian Council of Churches.

(e) Local Committees carrying out the purposes of Australian Church Women in suburban and rural areas shall be affiliated with the State Unit. These committees will also be encouraged to be a part of the local Inter-Church Councils affiliated with the ACC if one exists in the area.

(3) PROGRAMME OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

(1) Australian Church Women will encourage studies and consultations by:

- (a) providing study materials for use in local groups and on special days.
- (b) arranging consultations on particular issues.

(2) Australian Church Women will seek to develop international fellowship by:

- (a) commending and sponsoring the Fellowship of the Least Coin.
- (b) encouraging participation in Australian Inter-Church Aid programmes.
- (c) arranging visits of overseas speakers to Australia, and participation by Australian women in ecumenical events overseas.
- (d) encouraging individuals and groups to join the World Council of Churches Fellowship.

(3) Australian Church Women working in co-operation with State Women's Inter-Church Councils will promote a Fellowship Day and a World Community Day each year.

- (a) Australian Church Women will prepare study material and suggest service projects for Fellowship Day.
- (b) A State Women's Inter-Church Council will be asked to prepare the service of worship for Fellowship Day and a denominational group the service of worship for World Community Day.
- (c) Fellowship Day will be held at the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity or in June, and World Community Day on the fourth Friday in October. Fellowship of the Least Coin funds will be received on World Community Day.
- (d) Wherever possible Australian Church Women will be associated with the Committee and programme of the Women's World Day of Prayer.

(4) FINANCE.

That the following principles regarding finance be accepted:

- (a) that no affiliation fee be sought from groups at present.
- (b) that where special days and services are held a percentage of the collection be used for the work of the State Women's Inter-Church Council and the National Committee of Australian Church Women.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION:

Resolved that the draft constitution of Australian Church Women be prepared by September in time for the Enlarged Executive of the Australian Council of Churches.

COMMITTEE ON THE CO-OPERATION
of MEN & WOMEN IN CHURCH,
FAMILY & SOCIETY:

The Rev. J.R. Neal spoke of the setting up of the Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. The Working Committee of the Australian Council of Churches has had before it the issue whether the Committee should be interstate in character or centred in one place, probably other than the location of the National Committee of Australian Church Women. Exploratory work is being done concerning possible location. There is need for the work of the Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society to be closely related to Australian Church Women. While serving as the liaison with the WCC's Department its work must arise out of the needs of the Australian scene. It will be involved in the developing of co-operation of men and women in the church - in marriage and family life - in society. Co-operation in society involves people engaged in medicine and allied fields, education, social service, business and professional groups such as law and commerce and public life.

The meeting discussed Mr. Neal's report and made the following suggestions:

1. that the early formation of the Committee is desirable
2. that the Committee be interstate in composition
3. that the working committee be located in Melbourne
- and 4. that Australian Church Women have representation on the Committee.

Names of possible members of the Committee were discussed.

USE OF MATERIAL GATHERED
BY THE METHODIST WOMEN'S

FEDERATION: It was agreed that we write to Mrs. Rose Symons of Adelaide to enquire whether Australian Church Women could have the use of the material received and collated by the Methodist Women's Federation on the Service and Status of Women in the Church.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

Mrs. Wyllie reported that she had received a letter from Mrs. Lillian Wells who had attended the EACC Assembly in Bangkok. In this she indicated that an invitation had been received for an Australian representative to attend the Assembly of Asian Church Women's Conference in Japan during 1966. It was agreed that this matter be kept before the Interim Committee.

FELLOWSHIP DAY: It was reported that the material for Fellowship Day had been produced too late for the States to be able to give sufficient promotion.

"SAINTS ALIVE!": Reported that a further printing of 2,000 copies was under way.

MAILING LIST: It was agreed that we approach the State Units to seek their co-operation in forwarding material to the State Denominational Women's groups as the keeping of up-to-date address lists is extremely difficult because officers change each year and at different times in the year. The Interim Committee will be responsible for the sending of mail to the Federal denominational women's organizations, the YWCA at National Level and the United Churches in the Northern Territory and the Territories, etc.

CLOSING: The meeting closed with prayer led by Mrs. Wyllie.

CONFIRMED: Mrs. G. Wyllie
DATE: 12/15/64



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

c/o Room 2 - 3rd floor
511 Kent Street, Sydney.

April 21, 1964.

TO: Heads of Churches - Denominational Women's
Organizations - Women's Inter-Church Councils.

Dear Friends,

We feel that it is time for the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women, appointed by the Australian Council of Churches to report to the Churches, the denominational women's organizations and Inter-Church Councils on the progress made in the last six months.

A Consultation was called by the Interim Committee on March 17 - 18. This met in Sydney at Wesley College and Deaconess House and was attended by representatives of Women's Inter-Church Councils from NSW, S.A., Victoria and Queensland and by representatives of Federal Denominational Women's groups. It was a successful and rewarding meeting in which papers were read on:

- . steps leading to the calling of the Consultation
- . relation of Australian Church Women and the Australian Council of Churches
- . The World Council of Churches' Department on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society and Australian Church Women.
- . the development of programmes at State and local levels
- . The East Asia Christian Conference Situation Conference held in Singapore, 1963 - Joint Action for Mission
- . The Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Following a full discussion of the issues involved the Consultation made recommendations to the Interim Committee on Constitution and Programme. In the discussions at the Consultation consideration was given to all the comments of groups and individuals received in the last twelve months. The recommendations of the Consultation have now been reviewed by the Interim Committee and have been given general approval by the Executive of the Australian Council of Churches at its meeting on April 15.

You will find these recommendations on the attached sheet. We ask that you give them your careful consideration and invite comments which we would be glad to have prior to the drawing up of a draft constitution in August 1964 to be presented to the next Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches.

Encl.

Yours sincerely,
Mabel G. Wyllie
Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)
Convener.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Recommendations received from the Interim Committee following Consultation held in Sydney, March 17-18 with members of Denominational Federal Women's Organizations and State Women's Inter-Church Councils and given general approval by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches on April 15, 1964. The Interim Committee will now prepare a draft Constitution to be presented to the Australian Council of Churches' Annual Meeting in 1965.

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 1. the inclusion of men
 2. the need to relate the work of Australian Church Women to the other parts of the Australian Council of Churches.
 3. the need to preserve denominational balance in the total membership of the National Committee.
- v. Representation from the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

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c/o 511 KENT STREET
(Room 2 - 3rd floor)
SYDNEY.

APRIL 1964