

*Copy received - "No
- see under
Women's World Day of
Prayer Commemoration*

July 19, 1963

Mrs. J. Johnston,
Secretary,
United Council of Christian Women,
53 Kintail Road,
APPLECROSS.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dear Mrs. Johnston,

You will remember that in May of this year the Interim Committee of Australian Church Women sent out a statement of its purpose and aims to all Federal and State denominational women's groups and the Women's Inter-Church Councils in all States where they existed. There has been considerable discussion of this project and many groups have replied expressing their interest in this movement and asking for more information regarding the basis of Australian Church Women, and concerning the next steps which they can take to become part of ACW.

At its meeting on July 3 the Interim Committee resolved to invite the existing women's ecumenical organisations which operate on the State basis to become the State Councils of Australian Church Women. There is a copy of the document "Suggestions for a more formal structure of Australian Church Women" enclosed with this letter. This document sets out the basis on which this invitation is extended.

It appears that the United Council of Christian Women is not organised in the same way as the women's inter-church councils of Queensland, N.S.W and Victoria. The Councils in these states are made up of delegates duly elected by the women's organisations of the various churches. I am aware of the constitution of your council, but I do not think there is any reason why the council should become the State Council of ACW. The accompanying statement explains the attitude of the ACW and the ACC. to this matter of State Councils. Would it be possible for the Interim Committee to have a copy of your constitution so that we can discuss with you any issue that may arise?

The Interim Committee is convinced that ACW is needed to promote
p.t.o

ecumenical thought and action amongst the church women of Australia and that existing women's inter-church groups are the best channels for this ecumenical promotion. This opinion has also been expressed by inter-church groups and individual women in NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

It is the earnest hope of the Interim Committee that your Council will accept this invitation and will become an integral part of this movement to draw together the women of the Australian churches and to link them with Christian women throughout the world.

There are still many questions to be resolved, for example:

- . the time and manner of the election of a permanent national council
- . the financial requirements of ACW
- . the location of a national headquarters of ACW
- . the nature of the relationship of ACW and the Department of Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society of the World Council of Churches.

It is felt that these issues can be faced when once this more formal structure has been established. The calling together of representatives of women's inter-churches councils who are prepared to act as state councils of ACW would be the immediate next step.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)
Convener.

Western Australian Council of Churches

(Associated with the Australian and World Councils of Churches)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Rev. L. G. Staton

Telephone 23 3569
38A ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE
(opp. Council House)
PERTH

20th November, 1964.

Mrs. M.G. Wyllie,
Australian Church Women,
C/- Australian Council of Churches,
511 Kent St.,
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

You will no doubt be pleased to know that a decision has been made to form a branch of A.C.W. in W.A.

The (Women's World day of Prayer Committee (not correct title)) have agreed to the change in constitution of the body however it is felt that the association should not be too formal.

We would be pleased if you could let us have a dozen of the Brochures on the Fellowship of the least Coin and any other information you may have for the guidance of the Group.

It is hoped to have 50 ladies present to hear Rev. Alan Brash while he is here.

Yours sincerely,

Laurie Staton

L.G. Staton - Secretary.

Anglican, Churches of Christ, Presbyterian, Methodist, Congregational, Society of Friends, Salvation Army, Greek Orthodox



INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

December 2, 1964.

Rev. L. Staton,
Western Australian Council of Churches,
38a St. George's Terrace,
PERTH. WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Dear Laurie,

I am writing on behalf of Mrs. Wyllie in reply to your letter of November 20.

We are glad to hear of the possibility of a unit of Australian Church Women being formed in W.A. The procedure we have followed is to ask the committee concerned for a copy of their Constitution and following purasal, issue an invitation to the committee to be the state unit if their terms re members, etc. meet with the Interim Committee's requirements.

If may be that discussions have not reached this point in Perth but we would like to have a representantive from Perth at the first meeting of the National Committee on February 10 and 11 immediately prior to the ACC Annual Meeting.

The next meeting of the Interim Committee is on December 9. If you feel the time is right, we would like to hear from you before then and so issue an invitation to form this state unit.

Concerning your comment re - "association should not be too formal". This is precisely the case with all State Units - they have continued to use their old title - Women's Inter-Church Council - Women's United Church Association - etc. These state units co-operate with us in promoting the various Day's and projects and in so doing we have developed confidence and understanding. The National Committee meeting in February will be an important next step.

Yours sincerely,

AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

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SRR 324= PSM 202= C265 =
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SKILLER
ECUMENICAL
SYDNEY NSW

STATE UNIT ACW READY TWO REPRESENTATIVES AVAILABLE FOR
FEBRUARY MEETING
STATON
(ECUMENICAL ACW) 17

320 PAR



AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE
TELEGRAM

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

December 11, 1964

Rev.L. Staton,
Western Australia Council of Churches.
PERTH.

Dear Laurie,

Mrs. Wyllie has asked me to write to you concerning the National Committee of Australian Church Women.

We were delighted to receive your telegram although it arrived after the meeting of the Interim Committee. Also glad to know that you are ready to send two representatives to the National Committee.

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter we have used in inviting people to the meeting which sets out the steps leading to the calling of the first National Committee. You will also see that we are not able to offer any assistance concerning travel or accommodation.

There will not be another meeting of the Interim Committee so it will be the pleasure of the National Committee to receive Western Australia officially as a State Unit. Will you send to us the proposed constitution - there are two points we need to watch - that representatives to the inter-church women's committee (whatever name they choose) are appointed by their churches and that there is representation on the State Council of Churches. We are sure that these points can be worked out together.

With best wishes and looking forward to seeing you in February.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of Mrs. W.M. Wyllie
Convener.

297 Crawford Rd
Inglewood
W.A.

27/1/65

31st Dec 1964

Dear Miss Skiller,

I have this last week been handed over by Mr Staton the files containing the correspondence and leaflets etc referring to the work thus far of the Australian Church Women.

Mr Staton would have let you know that we here in the West have finally joined ourselves into a unit & will be prepared in the new year to do the ground work of promoting & fostering this ecumenical relationships between women's groups throughout the West. Owing to our formation being so late in the year we will not be coming to gether again until after the ^{national} meeting & by then you will have met our delegates & we know

2

They will return with information & enthusiasm that will spur us on for the coming year.

I myself feel it a privilege to be appointed to this office & feel very much that there will be some one much more capable in the future, ^{that} will be raised up to take ^{on} this ~~position~~ work. But until then I would appreciate if you can forward anything that will help me be well informed on matters pertaining to the work.

With Best wishes

Yours sincerely

Margaret Eaton
Secretary
West Australian Unit
Australian Church
Women

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

October 8, 1964

Mrs. J. Leigh Cook,
Kingswood College,
PERTH.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Dear Joyce,

I have asked Thelma Skiller to send you material on Australian Church Women. I hope that it will be self explanatory. I have also written to Mrs. Appleton to encourage her in her attempt to gather an ecumenical women's group in Perth and have mentioned your name to her.

Hope you had happy travelling and visiting on your way home.

With my love.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)
Convener.

MGW:TJS

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

October 8, 1964.

Mrs. G. Appleton,
Bishopscourt,
PERTH.
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Dear Mrs. Appleton,

The Interim Committee of Australian Church Women was very pleased to hear of your concern for ecumenical interest and work among church women in Perth. I trust that you have received the information about Australian Church Women sent either to yourself or to the Archbishop.

We are planning to convene the first meeting of the National Committee in Sydney at the time of the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches in February. Enclosed with this letter is the information about the meeting and also a further draft of the proposed Constitution. I am conscious of the difficulty of distance where Western Australia is concerned and also of the high cost of travel, but we would be exceedingly happy if there could be a representative from Western Australia with us in Sydney in February.

If there is any way in which we can help either with printed material or with suggestions we would be grateful if you could tell us.

I have recently talked with three Methodist women from Perth who are anxious to co-operate with you in any way that they can. They are Mrs. T. Hanna, Mrs. Ralph Sutton and Mrs. Leigh Cook. The Rev. Laurie Staton, the secretary of the Western Australia Council of Churches would also be anxious to help.

I trust that I will have the pleasure of meeting you in the near future.

With all good wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie (Mrs.)
Convener.

MGW:TJS

Conference of Churches of Christ in Western Australia

Incorporated

Women's Auxiliary

Motto:- "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go - - I will guide thee with mine eye."

4 Robinson Tce.,
DAGLISH. W.A.
16th March, 1965:

President:
MRS. M. F. WYSS
54 SEVENTH AVENUE,
MAYLANDS

President-Elect: The Convenor,
MRS. J. L. PALLOT Australian Church Women,
C/o Room 2, 3rd floor,
511 Kent St.,
511 Kent St.,
SYDNEY.

Secretary:
MRS. C. B. REID
4 ROBINSON TERRACE,
DAGLISH
PHONE 8 3877

Asst. Secretary:
MRS. J. W. GORDON
18 MCCALLUM AVENUE,
DAGLISH

Treasurer:
MRS. W. BECK
221 CHARLES STREET,
NORTH PERTH
PHONE 28 1250

Asst. Treasurer:
MRS. J. STEWART
221 EDWARD STREET,
OSBORNE PARK

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

In September last year during our Women's day of Conference - Churches of Christ Federal Conference held in Brisbane - the sisters attending from W.A. were rather disconcerted to discover that we were the only State in our brotherhood not affiliated with the Australian Church Women's organisation!

On returning home, the matter was again brought forward to our Council, and it was decided to seek guidance from our General Conference. This was done and the reply from them was that they were quite in agreement with our Women's Auxiliary becoming affiliated.

It is our pleasure, therefore, to inform you that it is now our desire to be associated with the wider Ecumenical movement, and look forward to receiving more news and information in this regard.

With christian greetings,

Yours in His service,

C. Reid
Secretary.

19 MAR 1965

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

April 21, 1965.

Mrs. C. B. Reid,
Secretary,
Conference of Churches of Christ in Western Australia,
Women's Auxiliary,
4 Robinson Tce.,
DAGLISH. Western Australia.

Dear Mrs. Reid,

We thank you for your letter of March 16, telling of your interest in Australian Church Women. This is all very heart-warming.

Also, we are happy to be able to say that the Women's Inter-Church Council of Western Australia sent two representatives to the first National Committee of Australian Church Women held in Sydney on February 10th and 11th of this year.

At the National Committee the Western Australian Council was accepted provisionally as the State Unit of Australian Church Women and we are hoping this will be followed by their full agreement to be this and appointment as such would then follow.

We presume the Churches of Christ in Western Australia are affiliated with the Women's Inter-Church Council. We would suggest you convey to them you desires, as expressed in your letter to us, if you have not already done so.

With warm greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Colonel H. Cross,
Honorary Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

April 21, 1965.

Mrs. Margaret Eaton,
Secretary,
Western Australian Unit,
Australian Church Women,
297 Crawford Road,
INGLEWOOD. Western Australia.

Dear Mrs. Eaton,

We were delighted that your Council was represented at the first National Committee of Australian Church Women by Mrs. Stafford and Mrs. Wilkinson, whose presence and participation made a most definite contribution thereto.

At the National Committee it was resolved to accept your Council provisionally as a State Unit of Australian Church Women, and we trust this is acceptable to you.

One meeting of the Working Committee has been held since. We would like to express our pleasure at the prospect of this association of your Council with Australian Church Women.

If you are able to accept our invitation to become the State Unit of Australian Church Women we would be glad to receive a copy of your Constitution for ratification, thus enabling the appointment to be made.

Thanking you, and with our warm greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Colonel H. Cross,
Honorary Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

August 31, 1965

Mrs. Margaret Eaton,
Secretary,
Western Australian Unit,
Australian Church Women,
297 Crawford Road,
INGLEWOOD. WEST. AUSTRALIA.

Dear Mrs. Eaton,

The Working Committee of Australian Church Women has been hoping that we might have some further word from you concerning becoming the State Unit of Australian Church Women in Western Australia.

As mentioned in our letter of April 21 your council was accepted provisionally as a State Unit at the National Committee Meeting in February, but not having heard anything further from you, it was agreed at a recent meeting of the Working Committee that we write you again.

We are not wanting to appear to be rushing you, and recognize the decision in this respect rests with your Council but would like to assure you that we would be most happy to have this relationship with you,

We realize that the year is pushing along and soon we will be coming up to another National Committee Meeting.

We would be glad to hear from you.
With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

Lt. Col. H. Cross,
Honorary Secretary

3 spare copies of
Constitution attached (see 5th
file)

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

3rd November, 1965.

Mrs. George Appleton,
PERTH. W.A.

Dear Mrs. Appleton,

As promised, we are enclosing copy of the recently adopted Constitution of the Women's United Church Association of South Australia. We trust this may be of some service to your ladies in preparing a Constitution for the Western Australia State Unit.

As could apply in any State, there is some colouring in this Constitution which would refer to South Australia only, e.g. point 10 (Finance) iii. This refers to an Annual Event which had been held prior to this Council becoming the State Unit of ACW, so that at present they are endeavouring to establish Fellowship Day and World Community Day without interfering with a previously established event.

Then, it may be helpful to say that States vary in the number of representatives from each denomination. In South Australia, we note this is six, in N.S.W. it is eight, in Queensland, four.

Another point, too, on which we might comment (seeing we are enclosing this Constitution), is that whilst in South Australia they plan to meet at least three times a year, in most States the Women's Inter-Church Councils meet monthly, February to November, inclusive.

It was a great joy for Mrs. Wyllie, Mrs. Verco and I to meet you recently. Western Australia will seem all the closer because of this, and we will be looking forward with great interest to hearing further of developments in your State.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,


Lt. Colonel H. Cross. Hon. Secretary.

Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

11 JAN 1965

Hon. Secretary:
Mrs. Colonel Saunders,
40 Middleborough Road,
Burwood, E.13
Telephone: 28 5702.

PRESIDENT

...Mrs. H. Stephens.....

10.1.65.

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. T. G. Grieve,
9 Serpentine Street,
Mont Albert, E.10
Telephone: 89 4505.

REPORT INTERIM COMMITTEE

Since the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches 1963, when the establishment of Australian Church Women was authorized 'that the Committee be re-appointed and nominate to the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches', The Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria has sought to understand, and assist in the work of the Interim Committee. Representatives have attended each Consultation held in Sydney. Mrs. B.R. Wyllie addressed the Council when passing through Melbourne, and thus the pattern has been unfolding.

In 1963, the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria accepted an invitation from the Interim Committee, to become the unit through which Australian Church Women work within the State.

When Dr. Barot visited Melbourne during her Australian tour, the Council invited her to address a gathering of inter-Church women. We learned a great deal that day about the department on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. This Committee has now been established, and has met in Melbourne.

When Miss Janet Lacey, and the Rev. A. Brasch visited Melbourne, we were able to listen them, and learned much from their Addresses at Receptions held to greet our visitors.

We have been happy to work with the Interim Committee toward developing and extending interest in Fellowship, and World Community Days, and are grateful to see signs of increasing interest in many Inter-Church Groups.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin has been introduced by the Interim Committee with great appeal to us, and we have joined willingly in the Circle of Prayer, and the Least Coin.

The Interim Committee has sponsored the "Winifred Kiek" Scholarship, and we shall work to assist this project.

Joana Saunders

H on. Sec.

297 Crawford Road,
INGLEWOOD, W.A.

13th September, 1965.

LT: Col. H. Cross,
Australian Church Women,
C/- Room 2, 3rd Floor,
511 Kent Street,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

13 SEP 1965

Dear Lt. Col. Cross,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of letters dated from the 27th August to 1st September, 1965.

We have been experiencing some difficulty in establishing the W.A. Unit because of some feeling that it would be duplicating the function of the United Council of Christian Women. However, after two meetings of meditation and discussion, it was decided to proceed with the formation of this Unit, and, although a constitution has not been formally adopted, we are planning the World Community Day as outlined in the Order of Service. Also, a meeting is to be held, men and women combined, to hear Mrs. Wells speaking on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

You may already be aware that the United Council has comprised a Committee whose function has been to promote the World Day of Prayer, and, therefore, we have first had to introduce the aims and purpose of Australian Church Women as an entirely new venture. After a period of caution and feeling our way, we can now report that the committee is gaining interest throughout the Women's Groups in W.A.

We are presently engaged in promoting World Community Day by a direct approach to every Women's Group whose Church is affiliated with the W.A. Council of Churches.

Kindest regards, *Ell Eaton*..... Hon Sec.
A.C.W. W.A. UNIT

Australian Church Women

October 8, 1965.

Mrs. Eaton,
297 Crawford Road,
INGLEWOOD. W.A.

Dear Mrs. Eaton,

Thank you for your letter of September 12.

The Working Committee would like you to know that they appreciate all that is being done in establishing the State Unit of Australian Church Women in Western Australia.

You will know you have our prayerful interest in all this, and we trust you will get a satisfying response concerning World Community Day.

We note you have not yet reached the place where a Constitution has been formed. We trust this will be possible in the not too distant future. When such has been formulated, we will be glad to receive this for ratification.

With warm greetings,

Yours sincerely,

Lt. Col. H. Cross,
Honorary Secretary.