

Brief statement of Mrs. Winifred Kiek's association with the Australian Council of Churches, and Women In the Church.

The Rev. Winifred Kiek, B.A., B.D., is the widow of Dr. E.S. Kiek, who was Principal of Parkin Theological College, Adelaide, for 37 years.

She was born in England and, prior to her marriage to a Congregational minister, was a Quaker. After coming to Australia in 1920 and when her family had grown up she studied for the ministry and was ordained as a Congregational minister in 1927.

Her earliest association with the Australian Council of Churches was in 1946 when she was asked to undertake a questionnaire in Australia (also being conducted in 50 other countries) on Women in the Church, in preparation for the World Council of Churches Assembly in Amsterdam in 1948.

She was later appointed by the Australian Council as Liaison Officer for work among women and in 1950 was appointed a member of the World Commission (set up in Amsterdam) on Life and Work of Women in the Churches. (This involved a great deal of correspondence and distribution of material to all States and denominations including the Women's Inter Church Councils in all States except Tasmania.)

Mrs. Kiek attended the Annual Meetings of the Australian Council of Churches at Gilbulla each year and in 1952 she represented Australia at a Consultation arranged by the World Council of Churches Commission on Life and Work of Women in the Churches, held in Oxford, England.

In 1953 an Australian Commission on Co-operation between Men and Women in the Churches was set up and Mrs. Kiek was appointed convener.

From 1948 onwards efforts were made to form a Federation of Women's Inter Church Councils but this was never achieved.

Mrs. Kiek resigned as convener of the Commission in 1956.