

1965

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Meeting of Working Committee held on Wednesday, 24th March,
at 2 p.m. in the ACC Meeting Room, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

OPENING: The meeting opened with prayer led by Mrs. M. G. Wyllie. Welcome was extended to all present, and in particular to Mrs. F. Stafford (Y.W.C.A.) and Mrs. S.M. Barrett, as alternate for Mrs. C.F. Gribble.

PRESENT: Mrs. M.G. Wyllie (chair); Mesdames J.F. Dey, H.J. Lilley, D.J.A. Verco, S.A. Barrett, F. Stafford, Miss T.J. Skiller, Lieut. Colonel H. Cross.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mrs. C.F. Gribble, Deaconess M. Andrews.

MEMBERS OF WORKING COMMITTEE:

It was reported that a letter had been received from Archbishop Ezekiel, nominating three members of the Greek Orthodox Church to be representatives on the National Committee of A.C.W., and sub-committees, viz., Mrs. Doratis, Mrs. L. Evangelinidis, and Mrs. A. Mageiros. The Archbishop's letter was received, and it was agreed that contact be made with Mrs. Doratis and the position explained to her - that she is regarded as the denominational representative on the National Committee, and was elected to the Working Committee, and that it would be in order for one of the other two ladies to be her alternate. A letter is also to be sent to the Archbishop. An invitation will be extended for all three ladies to become members of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council.

It was reported by Mrs. Wyllie that, in harmony with ACC Executive procedure, it is permissible for an alternate to be appointed for each member of the Working Committee. Such alternate may attend all meetings; when the original representative is present, the alternate has no voting right, but in her absence may vote.

DATE OF MEETINGS:

It was resolved that the Working Committee should meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m.

FUNCTION OF WORKING COMMITTEE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

There was some helpful discussion on this subject. The only resolution considered necessary had to do with finance. It was resolved that a Bank Account, in the name of Australian Church Women, be opened with the Bank of N.S.W., the signatories to be the President, Treasurer and Secretary - any two signatures being sufficient to operate the account.

Having to do with finance, there was some discussion concerning the need for the Working Committee to consult with State Units regarding the proportionate allocation of collections on special days, after local expenses had been met (Constitution - point 8 (i)). It was agreed that the President, Treasurer and Secretary form a committee to discuss this as it will affect Fellowship Day, and report to the next meeting of the Working Committee.

REPORT OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

a) Minutes: These were distributed and referred to.

Mrs. Wyllie invited expressions of opinion concerning the National Committee. There was discussion as to whether duration of the Committee could, with profit, have been longer. It was difficult, it was felt, to be too definite in our conclusions seeing this year a good deal of time needed to be taken in discussing the Constitution. It was suggested that this aspect receive consideration when the Agenda is being drawn up for the next National Committee.

- b) Newsletter: This was regarded as a matter of urgency. Resolved to ask the Secretary to write the Newsletter. It was agreed that a supply of the Newsletter be sent to each State Unit, with the information that more are available, if desired, at a set price.

POLICY - WORKING COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

It was agreed that Minutes of Working Committee meetings be sent to each member of the National Committee, following each meeting, such Minutes not to be for publication.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM NATIONAL COMMITTEE:

A) State Units:

Western Australia: Agreed to write to the Provisional Committee, expressing pleasure at progress, and concerning our hopes for the future.

It was reported that a letter had been received from the Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary of the Churches of Christ in Western Australia, indicating that their General Conference had agreed to their Women's Auxiliary becoming affiliated with ACW. This letter to be acknowledged, expressing appreciation.

A.C.T.: Reported that a letter had been received from the Secretary of the Women's World Day of Prayer Committee in A.C.T., indicating that it had been unanimously decided to ask to become the Women's Church Council of the A.C.T. Guidance was sought in connection with the drawing up of a Constitution. It was agreed to write, expressing our pleasure in such good progress in a comparatively short period, and send a copy of the draft of the new South Australian Constitution, this having been prepared recently.

- B) Constitution: Agreed that a copy be sent to all Heads of Churches and Diocesan Bishops, with a covering letter.

- C) Study material: The need to communicate the decisions concerning the Church and Life Movement to the Central Committee was noted; also the need to seek information from the Central Committee concerning the Church and Life Movement and pass this on to State Units.

- D) World Community Day: Mrs. Wyllie reported that Archbishop Appleton has agreed to prepare the Worship Service. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Archbishop, expressing our appreciation, and covering the following points:

- (a) That the subject be, "International Co-operation".
- (b) Enclosing copies of previous Services and study material.
- (c) That we request him to prepare both the Worship Service and Study material.
- (d) That we draw attention to what is included in the Minutes of the National Committee concerning simplicity and suitability for likely participants in group discussions.

- E) Fellowship Day: It was reported that Mrs. Wyllie is working on material for this. The title will be, "Bridges for South-East Asia". There was some discussion as to the wish of women for study material to be related to their desire and ability to serve. Because of the theme, it was suggested that Inter-Church Aid be asked to help us concerning ways in which women could help.

- F) Fellowship of the Least Coin: A proposal concerning promotion was considered. It was that we contact the Red Cross and Country Women's Association concerning getting this across to women in isolated areas. It was deemed inadvisable to approach the Red Cross. It was agreed that we write to the Country Women's Association, supply them with material, and ask if they would care for someone to speak briefly concerning the Fellowship of the Least Coin at their National Conference.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM NATIONAL COMMITTEE, continued.

G) Winifred Kiek Scholarship:

The meeting authorised Miss Thelma Skiller to continue correspondence and related arrangements.

It was reported that a letter of invitation had been despatched to Miss Connie Tan Kwie Hwa.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Scholarship Committee in Melbourne, seeking acceptance and underwriting of air fare to and from Australia. Also, that Committees be formed in Sydney and Melbourne to work out programme of academic and church activities. In Sydney it was proposed that those to form this Committee be: Miss Greta Nicholas, Head Deaconess M. Andrews and Colonel H. Cross. The meeting authorised Miss Skiller and Mr. Vaughan Hinton to prepare a Publicity Leaflet, setting out the story of the scholarship and background of Miss Connie Tan and suggesting ways and means of assisting the project. The need to keep in touch with Mr. V. Hinton for mention in press releases and 'In Unity' was noted.

H) Scholarship Committee: Noted that letters need to be sent to Deaconess C. Ritchie and Mrs. J.D. McCaughey, indicating that the National Committee wished them to be their representatives, and inviting their acceptance.

I) Committee on Co-operation of Men & Women in Church, Family and Society: Noted that a letter needs to be sent to this Committee, intimating that the National Committee appointed Mrs. D. Strack and Mrs. H. Stephens to be representatives.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Letter received from Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria, requesting copies of Constitution - also information for publicity concerning Miss Connie Tan. The latter will receive attention in preparation of Publicity Leaflet. As to whether the Constitution should be printed, say in folder form, will be discussed at the next meeting. An interim reply to be sent to Victoria.
- b) Letter received from Mrs. Pitman (South Australia), indicating that the Federation of Methodist Women of South Australia are preparing a study on South East Asia - to be used at a living-in conference in June. As the title is similar to that chosen for Fellowship Day, Mrs. Pitman wondered whether the two bodies might like to collaborate. Agreed that we thank Mrs. Pitman for her practical suggestion; as material for Fellowship Day needs to be available for distribution at an early date, it seems we must go ahead with what is already being prepared. A copy of the material being prepared in South Australia would be appreciated very much when it becomes available.

INDONESIAN CHURCH TEAM:

Plans were discussed for an informal Get-together of the six ladies of the Indonesian Team now visiting Australia with twelve Australian women. This will be held on Thursday, April 1st, over luncheon at the Y.W.C.A.

CLOSING:

The meeting closed with prayer led by Mrs. Wyllie.

CONFIRMED: _____

DATE: _____