

MEMO FROM MRS. WYLLIE:

There is a resolution in the Annual Meeting Minute regarding the Ecumenical Movement in relation to Women's Work.

Executive is to appoint a committee to enquire into this matter. The work of the committee suggested is purely exploratory. Its terms of reference will be to discover what happens in Women's Work in the various denominations. It should be given power to co-opt so that as soon as it has looked at the subject it could have the power to secure a thorough report.

The annual meeting gave it three things to do :

1. To examine the possibility of working through Women's Inter-church Councils where they exist, or,
2. Through denominational or Federal bodies, or
3. Through Women's World Day of Prayer Committees.
4. Investigate the constitution and functioning of the "United Church Women" in America and a similar organization in New Zealand.

There are particular problems in Australia arising out of the fact that some churches are not members of the World Council of Churches.

There are a variety of ways in which the Women's Work could be united with the W.C.C. For example, through the Department of the Laity, through the Commission for the Co-operation of Men and Women in the Church.

*Correspondence re possibility of  
organization of A.C.W.*

*1962*

c/o Australian Council of Churches  
Room 2 - 3rd Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
Sydney.

May 3, 1962.

Rev. Dr W. J. Gallagher,  
Canadian Council of Churches,  
40 St Clair Avenue East,  
TORONTO 7.

Ontario  
Canada.

Dear Dr Gallagher,

The Australian Council of Churches is anxious to promote interest in the ecumenical movement among the women's groups in our Australian churches. Following the last Annual Meeting of the Australian Council a committee has been set up to discover how best this can be done. Here is the relevant resolution:

- "That (a) a commission be appointed by the Executive Committee to examine the possibility of some kind of relationship with women's inter-church councils in the various states and with women's denominational commonwealth-wide federations, and report back to the Executive for further examination and implementation.
- (b) the commission review the constitution and activity of the United Church Women of USA and its relation to the NCC of the USA."

We understand that in Canada you have made some progress in this matter and we would be grateful if we could learn from your experience. Would you please answer these two questions for us:

1. How did you make your first contacts with women's groups in the various churches?
2. What organization have you to maintain interest and support?

Our committee will be meeting on May 21 and we would be most grateful for any information and encouragement that you can give us.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie,  
Convener.

c/o Australian Council of Churches,  
Room 2 - 3rd Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY.

May 3, 1962.

Rev. J. A. Yap,  
National Christian Council of the Philippines,  
1648 Taft Avenue,  
MANILA.  
Federation of the Philippines.

Dear Mr. Yap,

The Australian Council of Churches is anxious to promote interest in the ecumenical movement among the women's groups in our Australian churches. Following the last Annual Meeting of the Australian Council a committee has been set up to discover how best this can be done. Here is the relevant resolution:

- "That (a) a commission be appointed by the Executive Committee to examine the possibility of some kind of relationship with women's inter-church councils in the various states and with women's denominational commonwealth-wide federations, and report back to the Executive for further examination and implementation.
- (b) the commission review the constitution and activity of the United Church Women of USA and its relation to the NCC of the USA."

We understand that in the Philippines you have made some progress in this matter and we would be grateful if we could learn from your experience. Would you please answer these two questions for us:

1. How did you make your first contacts with women's groups in the various churches?
2. What organization have you to maintain interest and support?

Our committee will be meeting on May 21 and we would be most grateful for any information and encouragement that you can give us.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie,  
Convener.

July 4, 1962.

Mrs June Wright,  
61 Locksley Road,  
IVANHOE. Victoria.

Dear Mrs Wright,

I enclose minutes of a meeting held recently to consider planning a programme whereby the women of our Australian churches might be incorporated into an ecumenical fellowship. The minutes I think need no further explanation.

We felt that we wanted to be in touch with some of the key people in the churches as early as possible in our negotiations, hence this letter to you.

I would be grateful if you could look through any material you have that might be useful as indicated in the first two resolutions and post it on to me. When we come to the actual preparation of the material we shall want to make further use of you for suggestion and criticism.

Thank you for the help I know you will give.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Mabel G. Wyllie,  
Convener.

July 4, 1962.

Mrs T. H. Coates,  
Wesley College,  
PRAHRAN. Victoria.

Dear Mrs Coates,

I enclose minutes of a meeting held recently to consider planning a programme whereby the women of our Australian churches might be incorporated into an ecumenical fellowship. The minutes I think need no further explanation.

We felt that we wanted to be in touch with some of the key people in the churches as early as possible in our negotiations, hence this letter to you.

I would be grateful if you could look through any material you have that might be useful as indicated in the first two resolutions and post it on to me. When we come to the actual preparation of the material we shall want to make further use of you for suggestion and criticism.

Thank you for the help I know you will give.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Mabel G. Wyllie,  
Convener.



July 4, 1962.

Miss Joan Macneil,  
Box 100 G.B.O.,  
SYDNEY. N.S.W.

Dear Miss Macneil,

I enclose minutes of a meeting held recently to consider planning a programme whereby the women of our Australian churches might be incorporated into an ecumenical fellowship. The minutes I think need no further explanation.

We felt that we wanted to be in touch with some of the key people in the churches as early as possible in our negotiations, hence this letter to you.

I would be grateful if you could look through any material you have that might be useful to us as indicated in the first two resolutions and post it on to me. When we come to the actual preparation of the material we shall want to make further use of you for suggestion and criticism.

Thank you for the help I know you will give.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Mabel G. Wyllie.  
Convener.

July 4, 1962.

Mrs Rose Symons,  
64 Watson Avenue,  
ROSE PARK. S.A.

Dear Mrs Symons,

I enclose minutes of a meeting held recently to consider planning a programme whereby the women of our Australian churches might be incorporated into an ecumenical fellowship. The minutes I think need no further explanation.

We felt that we wanted to be in touch with some of the key people in the churches as early as possible in our negotiations, hence this letter to you.

I would be grateful if you could look through any material you have that might be useful as indicated in the first two resolutions and post it on to me. When we come to the actual preparation of the material we shall want to make further use of you for suggestion and criticism.

Thank you for the help I know you will give.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Mabel G. Wyllie.  
Convener.

July 4, 1962.

Deaconess C. Ritchie,  
Rolland House,  
97 Rathdown Street,  
CARLTON. Victoria.

Dear Deaconess,

I enclose minutes of a meeting held recently to consider planning a programme whereby the women of our Australian churches might be incorporated into an ecumenical fellowship. The minutes I think need no further explanation.

We felt that we wanted to be in touch with some of the key people in the churches as early as possible in our negotiations, hence this letter to you.

I would be grateful if you could look through any material you have that might be useful as indicated in the first two resolutions and post it on to me. When we come to the actual preparation of the material we shall want to make further use of you for suggestion and criticism.

Thank you for the help I know you will give,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Mabel G. Wyllie,  
Convener.

July 4, 1962.

Mr Val Brown,  
General Board of Religious Education,  
92 Finch Street,  
EAST MALVERN. Victoria.

Dear Val,

I enclose the minutes of the first meeting of the Committee appointed by the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches, to examine the relationships of women's groups. The minutes will explain themselves, and you will note that you and your Board are mentioned in Resolution 1. So, please Val will you forward to the ACC material which you have and which you feel would be suitable for women's groups in local churches - any kind of study material with an ecumenical slant. It must be practical and down to earth. And, maybe, you have some words of advice, encouragement or criticism for the committee.

With affectionate regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs) Mabel G. Wyllie.  
Convener.

c/o Australian Council of Churches,  
Room 2, 3rd Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY.

May 3, 1962.

Dr D. W. MacLeod,  
475 Riverside Drive,  
NEW YORK 27.

N.Y.  
U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. MacLeod,

Greetings from Sydney and from the Australian Council of Churches. Madras seems such a long time behind us but I have very pleasant memories of the consultation there, and of our association at New Delhi.

The Australian Council of Churches is anxious to promote interest in the ecumenical movement among the women's groups in our Australian churches. Following the last Annual Meeting of the Australian Council a committee has been set up to discover how best this can be done. Here is the relevant resolution:

- "That (a) a commission be appointed by the Executive Committee to examine the possibility of some kind of relationship with Women's Inter-Church Councils in the various states and with women's denominational commonwealth-wide federations, and report back to the Executive for further examination and implementation.
- (b) the commission review the constitution and activity of the United Church Women of USA and its relation to the NCC of the USA."

Please Mrs MacLeod could you find time in your busy life to send me material which describe the organization of the United Church Women and in particular the organisational relationships between the National Council of Churches of the USA and the United Church Women.

The committee will be meeting on Monday, May 21 and if we could have your material by then it would help us greatly.

With affectionate regards.

Yours sincerely,

July 3, 1962.

Dr D. W. MacLeod,  
475 Riverside Drive,  
NEW YORK. 27 N.Y. U.S.A.

Dear Mrs MacLeod,

Thank you very much for your prompt response to my request for information. We in Australia are impressed with the ecumenical interest and activity of American church women. We feel that we have a long journey ahead of us.

I am enclosing the brief minutes of a long discussion at our first meeting. You will see that we have decided to proceed slowly and in the first instance to try to be of service to women's groups by providing suitable study material. There is a dearth of such material in Australia. We know that there must be plenty of material already prepared and in circulation. It will need to be study material with an ecumenical bias. Please may I ask your help again?

I shall be in Paris for the various meetings and hope to be able to talk with you then, but I am writing now to acknowledge gratefully the receipt of material already sent to Australia and to ask if you could either post some of your study outlines to Sydney or bring them with you to Paris.

With grateful thanks and affectionate good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Mabel Wyllie.  
Convener.

40, St. Clair Avenue, East,  
Toronto 7, Ontario.

May 8, 1962.

Miss Mabel G. Wyllie,  
Australian Council of Churches,  
Room 2 - 3rd Floor,  
511 Kent Street,  
Sydney, Australia.

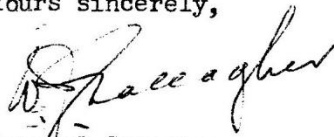
Dear Miss Wyllie:

I fear that I cannot be of much help to you in your consideration of relations with women's groups.

In the Canadian Council of Churches we have four lines of communication with the women's organization;

1. Our Council, of course, is a Council of Churches, and our first line is through the national headquarters of our member-Churches.
2. We have a Committee on the Work of the Laity, which corresponds to the World Council of Churches' Departments on the Laity and on Co-operation of Men and Women. The women's organizations of the Churches are represented on this Committee.
3. The Women's Missionary <sup>Societies</sup> Secretaries of our Churches are directly represented in our Department of Overseas Missions.
4. In Canada there is the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. This is not part of the Canadian Council of Churches structure, but we have close association with it.

Yours sincerely,

  
General Secretary.

WJG/s



*General Synod of The Church of England in Australia and Tasmania*

## **The General Board of Religious Education**

92 FINCH STREET, EAST MALVERN, S.E.5, VIC.

Telephone: 25 7178 — Telegrams: Genboard, Melbourne

9th July 1962

Mrs. Mabel Wyllie,  
Wesley College,  
NEWTOWN N.S.W.

Dear Mabel,

I have your letter concerning your A.C.C. Committee on Women and their Councils.

We shall do what we can about sending study material with an ecumenical slant to the A.C.C. As you know there is a poverty of such material.

You ask for advice, encouragement, criticism. I should have thought you might have had a "Correspondence Committee" of the Chair Women of the capital city Womens Inter-Church Councils plus a secretary from A.C.C. This would enable you to assess the situation and interest on that level.

*sample* Also you might ask the denominations for the names of their Australia-wide Women's organisation and the Chairman and address of each, for the Church of England has Mother's Union and Girl's Friendly Society together with energetic Diocesan organisations such as "The Church Woman's Union" in Canberra-Goulburn. This list of "Important People" could be not only a source of situation assessment but a channel for information and inspiration.

To arrange for some active relationship the first step is to arrange meeting, followed by deeper understanding and concern for each other.

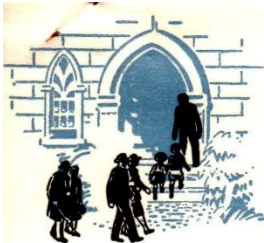
At the moment I have little other to suggest but do let me know whenever I can help.

With love to you all,

Yours sincerely,

*Kal*  
V.K. Brown.  
Director.





**Presbyterian Church of Australia**  
In the State of New South Wales



**DEPARTMENT OF  
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Room 429, Assembly Hall Building, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney

**Convener:** Rev. R. A. Blackwood, B.A. **Director:** Rev. A. L. Hewitt. **Field Worker:** Miss Patsy Lee.  
**Supervisor of Christian Education in Schools:** Rev. Cyril J. R. Price, M.A., B.Com., B.D. **Supervisor of Adult Education:** Miss Joan Macneil, B.A., B.D.  
**Home Correspondence Sunday School Supervisor:** Mrs. J. Moir, Secretary, Mrs. L. Parr.

Telegrams: "Presbyter" Sydney.

Postal Address: Box 100, G.P.O., Sydney, Australia.

Telephones: BX 1108, BX 1301

10 July 1962

Mrs. B. R. Wyllie,  
c/o Australian Council of Churches,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs. Wyllie,

In reply to your letter of 4 July, I am sending a copy of a booklet "Let's Think About..." which was recently prepared for use in women's groups in the Presbyterian Church in N.S.W., and also another leaflet "Parents First Teachers of Religion", reproduced by the Australian Council of Christian Education from an American original, which has been used in a few groups - as more than 50% of women are married by the time they are 21, groups with members under 45 are often primarily groups of mothers.

The PWMU in Victoria has some material, mainly concerned with the work of the Presbyterian Church - doubtless Miss Ritchie will let you know of that. We find that on the whole different types of material are needed in different states, where groups differ in interests and traditions. For instance, most Victorian women's groups in our church are looking for programmes to fill a meeting in which business is a brief interlude; many groups in NSW are looking for a brief opening programme for a meeting in which business takes most of the time. In preparing material for all denominations all over Australia, it may be necessary to concentrate on ideas and resources, which can be adapted to a wide variety of situations.

A booklet which is helpful in the brevity and practical nature of its suggestions is "Suggested Programmes for Guild Meetings" of the Women's Guilds of the Church of Scotland. The Assembly Bookshop has none in stock, but Miss Ritchie may have a copy. The United Presbyterian Women in the USA have a tradition of regular small discussion and study meetings, and larger meetings with a programme of general interest on matters of concern to women in the church; they stress the responsibility of women beyond their own home and local church life. I have copies of one or two of their study and programme guides, if you would like to see if they are worth looking into.

While in the USA I had discussion with some leaders of United Church Women, mainly in relation to the Women's World Day of Prayer, but also on the general pattern of their organisations and activity. They were concerned to understand the situation in Australia, and in talking it was possible to see the marked difference between their situation and ours.

My own doubt about the development of ecumenical women's work arises from doubts about the permanence of women's organisations within our church life. It may be impossible to imagine our churches without these organisations, but I am sure that as the hand of God unmakes and remakes our churches, these structures will be superseded. The whole development of concern for the laity and the total mission of the church, the stress on family life, and the encouragement to consider the reshaping of the life of the Christian community - the developments which the World Council of Churches has helped to stimulate in our churches - cuts across the perpetuating of structures like our women's and men's organisations. However, it may be true that introducing this sort of thinking into women's groups will help to transform them, so that women who at present can only be touched in this way are introduced to a concern for the total life of the church and their place within it.

I will be glad to give any help which your committee may want, so far as I am able.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joan Macneil". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned centrally below the typed name.

Supervisor of Adult Education



Final Meeting of Committee appointed  
by Q. C. C. Annual Meeting 1962

WOMENS WORK

~~XXXX~~  
511

April 18, 1962.

Mrs B. R. Wyllie,  
Wesley College,  
NEWTOWN, SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs Wyllie,

The Resolution to set up an exploratory committee went through the Executive last Wednesday and its membership is as you suggested with the deletion of B.H.Parker. At his request "a parish minister" to be inserted and delete Mrs Ferrier because nobody knew who she was and it was felt that a typographical error had been made.

The list, therefore, is as follows :

Chairman of the Executive  
General Secretary  
Rev. D. M. Taylor  
A parish minister  
Dean Andrews  
Mrs Wyllie  
Mrs Dey

- with power to coopt

I would be glad if you would take the initiative to call the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS,  
General Secretary.

HLP:ms

Reference:

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AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 11  
at 2 o'clock in the Council's meeting room, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

OPENING: The meeting opened with prayer led by Mr. L. K. Green.

PRESENT: The Archbishop of Sydney, the Archbishop of Melbourne, Bishop R. Kerle,  
The Revs. B.R. Wyllie, B.H. Parker, Canon F. Coaldrake, Dr W. Cumming  
Thom, Dean E. Pitt, E.V. Newman, J.F. Peter, F. Engel, Lt Col. R.  
Liddell, Mr. L. K. Green, The Revs. D.M. Taylor, F.F. Byatt and H. L.  
Perkins.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from the Bishop of Armidale, Father A. Mirzaian,  
Rev. Prof. N. Lade, Archdeacon H. M. Arrowsmith, Rev. J. Stuckey, The  
Rev. Dr R.B. Lew, Mrs Maynard Davies, Miss Ruth H. Swann, Principal  
Stephenson, Mr. J.J. Dedman, Bishop Dionysios, Rev. U.F. Gribble, Mrs.  
B.R. Wyllie and the Ven. G.R. Delbridge.

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INVESTIGATING  
COMMITTEE INTO

WOMEN'S WORK: Following the decision of the Annual Meeting to set up a committee  
to explore the possibilities of women's work within the ecumenical  
movement, it was resolved that the following be invited to form the  
committee:

Rev. B. R. Wyllie,  
Rev. H. L. Perkins,  
Rev. D. M. Taylor  
A parish minister,

Deaconess Andrews,  
Mrs. Williams,  
Mrs. B.R. Wyllie,  
Mrs. J. Dey

with power to coopt.

September 5, 1962.

Mrs. M. Verco,  
55 Burns Road,  
WAHROONGA.  
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Verco,

Further to our 'phone conversation about the possibility of some Executive members of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council meeting with the ACC Executive investigating Ecumenical Women's Work - the Committee will be glad to meet with 3 of your members on Tuesday, September 25 in the ACC meeting room, 511 Kent Street, 3rd Floor at 1pm.

I trust that this time and place will be suitable to your members. We will provide sandwiches and tea.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey L. Perkins,  
General Secretary.

HLP:TJS

September 7, 1962.

NOTICE OF MEETING:

Australian Council of Churches Committee  
to investigate Women's work.

Dear Committee member,

A meeting of the above committee will be held in the ACC's meeting room on Friday, September 21 at 2pm (3rd Floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney).

The agenda will include:

- . Survey of material collected
- . Relationships with present Women's Inter-Church Councils.

Please forward any material you have collected to the office at least one week ahead (September 14), so that it can be circulated to other members.

A special meeting with representatives of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council will take place on Tuesday, September 25 in the Meeting Room at 1pm. Sandwiches and tea will be provided.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey L. Perkins,  
General Secretary.

# New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

55 Burns Road,  
WAHROONGA, N. S. W.

11th September, 1962.

12 SEP 1962

Rev. Harvey L. Perkins,  
Australian Council of Churches,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY, N. S. W..

Dear Mr. Perkins,

Thank you for your invitation to 3 members of the N. S. W. Women's Inter-Church Council Executive to meet the A. C. C. Executive investigating Ecumenical Women's Work on September 25th at 1 p.m.. I have arranged for Mrs. Farr (Past President), and Mrs. Brigadier Baker (Secretary and President-Elect) to be present with me on this occasion.

Yours Sincerely,

*Margery J. Verco.*  
(President).

Record of meeting of the Australian Council of Churches'  
Committee to investigate Women's Work with representatives  
of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, Thursday,  
October 4, 1962 at 10.30am at 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Wyllie (convener), Mrs. F. Mackay, Deaconess Andrews, Mrs. L.M. Williams, Mrs. J.F. Dey.  
Mrs. D.J.A. Verco, Mrs. Farr and Mrs. Brig. Baker, representing the NSW Inter-Church Council Executive.  
The Revs. D.M. Taylor and H. L. Perkins (ACC staff).

APOLOGY: Apology was received from the Rev. B. H. Parker.

PRAYERS: Prayers were led, after morning tea, by the Rev. H. L. Perkins.

BUSINESS:

1. Mrs. Wyllie spoke of how the ACC Committee and the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council Executive had become aware that they were both seeking development in women's work along overlapping lines, and had therefore decided to consult with each other. Hence, this meeting took place.

2. Mrs. Verco, speaking on behalf of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council, said that her Council had resolved to write to the Women's Inter-Church Councils in other States to discuss closer relationships, but had delayed acting on its resolutions until this consultation took place. The NSW Women's Inter-Church Council had two things in mind:

1. the need for a loose national women's organization which did not dominate existing inter-church councils, but related them to each other.
2. the need for inter-church women's work to develop in local areas.

3. Mrs. Wyllie, speaking on behalf of the ACC Committee on Women's Work, said that her Committee shared these two concerns, but would add to them the following:

1. the two concerns for national and local development are not alternative courses of action. The ACC Committee had considered them in terms of "one or the other" and had come to the conclusion that local development needed the stimulation of national development. Hence the two developments must take place together.
2. In developing a national organization, it is important to include the Federal denominational women's organizations which are becoming increasingly important in helping programme development in local denominational groups.
3. A national organization works to stimulate women's work at every level in Australia, but it is also important in order to provide a link with, and receive help from, organizations of similar kind overseas, such as the Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society in the WCC, and the Committee for Christian Home and Family in the East Asia Christian Conference.

4. The meeting was in agreement with all the points made by Mrs. Verco and Mrs. Wyllie. Mrs. Verco referred to the United Church Women in the USA, which was part of the National Council of Churches there and hoped for something similar in Australia. Mrs. Wyllie said she too believed that there was a pattern in that organization which could guide us, although there were differences between the situations in the two countries also. Both agreed that belonging to the National Council of Churches was important.

Mrs. Baker referred to the women's work carried out by the National Council of Churches in New Zealand, where the national women's organizations produces study materials, conducts inter-church schools for women, trains women to speak on the life of their various churches, etc.

5. Mr. Taylor asked to comment on the New Zealand situation pointed out that in Australia there are state organizations, both denominational and inter-church in character interposed between any national organization and the women in the local churches. Some tasks were clearly national such as programme material requiring publication, etc. while other tasks, such as field activities clearly had to be carried out within the States.

6. The two groups shared a very deep concern for the local church woman. Much of the need for the national organization arises from the need to stimulate and help the local church woman.

*Community work, church, inter-church*  
Mrs. Mackay said she wanted the focus to be on "this woman who belongs to a world and to a world church and needs to know it".

Mrs. Wyllie said that in country areas particularly the relationships between the women of the various churches already exist; all that is missing is sufficient organization to make those relationships enduringly effective.

7. Mrs. Farr asked was there any danger of competing inter-church women's groups in local areas, some brought into existence through the work of the ACC and Local Inter-Church Councils affiliated with it, and others brought into existence through the work of a State Inter-Church Council. She expressed the hope that this could be avoided.

Mr. Perkins said that inter-church women's groups in local areas could develop in several ways, as Mrs. Farr suggests, but they need not be competitive if at state and national level we are all related to a national women's organization. For example, if a national organization comprising federal denominational women's organizations, state women's inter-church councils, and ACC (women's work) linked together these organizations in, say, the United Church Women of Australia, every local inter-church group could take that name, and have several affiliations - e.g. with either or both a Local Inter-Church Council affiliated with the ACC and a State Women's Inter-Church Council. An inter-church group started by a State Women's Inter-Church Council in an area where there was no local Council of Churches might lead to one coming into existence. An inter-church group in an area where there was already a Local Council of Churches would be its "women's wing". So from several initiatives, we would stimulate each other, and avoid competition by our common link in a national organization.

8. Mrs. Farr asked that the Committees for the Women's World Day of Prayer also be invited to join any national organization. She pointed out that these committees, while operating independently in each state, reach very dispersed local areas.

All were agreed that this should be done. Mrs. Wyllie said that they should also be invited to join our continuing discussions.

Mr. Perkins was asked to write to Lt.-Col. Mabel Bell inviting her to join the discussions at the next meeting called and sharing with her the background information and the general approach so far made.

9. Mrs Wyllie, while agreeing with the focus on the local church woman, said that a national organization would also tackle particular problems such as the professional woman, the working mother, etc.

10. Mr. Perkins then offered a tentative proposal which seemed to sum up the mind of the meeting.

1. That a national women's organization be formed, named the United Church Women of Australia.
2. That the UCWA be comprised of representatives of existing organizations including Federal Denominational Women's Organizations, State Women's Inter-Church Councils, Australian Council of Churches (Committee on Women's Work), State Committees for Women's World Day of Prayer.
3. That the appointment of representatives should be so ordered that the resulting body consists fairly equally of office bearers of existing organizations and other persons appointed for personal qualities of Christian leadership. The latter could be appointed partly by the ACC and partly by cooption by the UCWA - this would ensure continuity as well as up-to-date representation of existing office bearers of the constituent organizations.
4. That the UCWA should be affiliated with the ACC, and so establish links with similar work at the international level.
5. That local inter-church women's groups could be affiliated with one or more of the constituent organizations and carry the name of the UCWA in  
.....

Mr. Taylor, commenting on the proposal, pointed out that some of the constituent bodies have no national coordination of state organizations. It is difficult to convene a national organization effectively, unless representatives can have proxies to attend who live at the place where the meetings are held. He also said that the situation probably required a good meeting once a year, with people attending from all States, and an Executive which operated during the year in a fixed place.

11. The meeting then discussed how further consideration could be given to such a proposal.

Mrs. Wyllie suggested that next time we meet we should enlarge the meeting to about 30 people, in order to include the leaders of denominational women's organizations, the Women's World Day of Prayer Committees, and some Orthodox women, as well as 3 more representatives from the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council.

It was agreed:

1. that a record of the proceedings of this meeting should be the basis for discussion at a further meeting on November 9.
2. that the November 9 meeting should be enlarged as Mrs. Wyllie proposed.
3. That the invitation to the meeting should go out over the names of Mrs. Wyllie (ACC Committee on Women's Work), Mrs. Verco (N.S.W. Women's



Inter-Church Council) and Lt.-Col. Bell (Women's World Day of Prayer Committee) if possible.

4. That Mrs. Wyllie and Mrs. Verco should meet with Mr. Perkins on October 22 at 10am to finalize the record of proceedings as it will go out with the invitations to the enlarged meeting.

12. Mr. Perkins suggested that if reasonable progress was made at the November 9 meeting, plans should then be made for a national 2-day consultation with inter-state people participating early in 1963. Mrs. Verco suggested February 25 - 26, 1963.

Mr. Taylor asked that the situation of women's work in the Church of England be investigated in order to ensure that Anglican representatives at further consultations covers adequately the great diversity of women's organizations in that church.

Deaconess Andrews supported this, and enlarged on the diversity.

Mr. Taylor suggested Melbourne as the location for the national consultation. The suggestion was supported by Mrs. Verco, who spoke of the more decentralized functioning of the Women's Inter-Church Council there.

Mrs. Wyllie asked who would be responsible for organizing the Consultation, and the meeting agreed that it looked to the ACC, as the only body with staff, to undertake the task.

Mr. Perkins referred to the proximity of the proposed date to the ACC Annual Meeting, and said that if the ACC were to undertake it, it could do so more effectively if the Consultation were held in Sydney. This would enable the use of office staff, and enable the people who have led the conversations so far to guide the planning of the consultation.

The meeting then agreed on Sydney as the location, but asked that plenty of notice be given to organizations in other States.

CLOSING. The meeting closed with prayer and the benediction by the chairwoman, Mrs. Wyllie.

- - - - -

P.S. When Mrs. Wyllie, Mrs. Verco and Lt.-Col. Bell met together on October 22 (see item 8), item 12 was reconsidered because the date proposed clashed with the Women's World Day of Prayer, and because more time was needed to widen the conversation beyond N.S.W.

It was therefore agreed to propose to the meeting on November 9 that a series of consultations be held in each State early in 1963.

12/10/62

WOMEN'S WORK

1. Representatives of the NSW Inter-Church Council met with the Australian Council of Churches Committee investigating Women's Work on Thursday, October 4.

The representatives of the Inter-Church Council spoke of their council's desire

- a) to develop relationships with Inter-Church Councils in other States
- b) to develop inter-church women's work in local areas within NSW.

2. The ACC Committee indicated that its concerns included these but were also broader. It believed that a national organisation of church women was required in order to serve 3 purposes:

- a) to widen the horizons of women in the local churches ecumenically (i.e. toward the whole world and the whole Christian church).
- b) to relate women's inter-church councils in the various States to each other.
- c) to relate denominational women's organisations at the federal level to each other.
- d) to relate Australian organisations with inter-church organisations overseas.

3. In the discussion which followed, a broad tentative picture of what might be began to emerge.

- a) a national organisation, known as United Church Women of Australia with representatives from -
  - . Denominational Women's organisations
  - . Women's Inter-Church Councils
  - . The Women's World Day of Prayer Committees
  - . The Australian Council of Churches (Women's Work)
- b) As a national organisation, it would i) relate existing organisations to each other; ii) stimulate their work by cross-fertilization of ideas, programme suggestions, leadership training, etc.
- c) A major area for such stimulation would be inter-church women's work in the local area. This work would develop in many ways and from many initiatives (e.g. a Local Inter-Church Council, a State Women's Inter-Church Council). All such groups could take the name of United Church Women of Australia and be affiliated with any or all of the constituent organizations of United Church Women of Australia.

October 9, 1962.

Archbishop Ezekiel,  
Bishopscourt,  
374 Edgecliff Road,  
WOOLLAHRA.  
N.S.W.

Your Eminence,

Re: Women's Meeting, November 9.

Further to my telephone conversation this letter is to invite you to arrange for two women to represent the Greek Orthodox Church at a meeting to be held on Friday, November 9 at 10.30am in the Meeting Room on the 3rd floor of the CENEV Building, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

There are a number of women's organisations of different denominations, and there has recently been a growing desire among them to find some way in which they can come into closer relations with one another. There is also the desire for the ecumenical spirit to penetrate more deeply into the women's organisations in each church. This meeting is called to give representatives a chance to meet one another and discuss possibilities. To attend does not in any way commit a church or an organisation to further participation. I hope it will be possible for you to persuade the President and Secretary of your Ladies' Guild to attend; otherwise two other representatives.

Yours sincerely,

(The Rev.) David M. Taylor,  
Assistant General Secretary.

DMT:TJS

October 24, 1962.

Mrs. S. McPhee,  
14 Lennox Street,  
GORDON.  
N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. McPhee,

We have pleasure in inviting you to a consultation on ecumenical women's work, to be held on Friday, November 9 at 10.30am in the Australian Council of Churches' Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

Members of a special committee appointed by the ACC to investigate women's work under the convenership of Mrs. Mabel Wyllie, have had preliminary conversations with representatives of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council led by its President Mrs. Marjory Verco, and a summary of those conversations is enclosed.

We now want to widen our conversations because we believe that the Women's Organizations in the churches are vitally important, as are also special purpose groups such as the Committees for the Women's World Day of Prayer.

We enclose for you a full record of our conversations so far and a summary which will form the basis of our continuing discussions on November 9. The agenda for the meeting is also enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey L. Perkins,  
on behalf of  
Mrs. Mabel Wyllie,  
Mrs. Marjory Verco,  
Lt.-Col. Mabel Bell.

Encl.

October 24, 1962.

Miss E. Rivett,  
London Missionary Society,  
41 The Boulevard,  
PETERSHAM,  
N.S.W.

Dear Miss Rivett,

We have pleasure in inviting you to a consultation on ecumenical women's work, to be held on Friday, November 9 at 10.30am in the Australian Council of Churches' Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

Members of a special committee appointed by the ACC to investigate women's work under the convenership of Mrs. Mabel Wyllie, have had preliminary conversations with representatives of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council led by its President, Mrs. Marjory Verco, and a summary of those conversations is enclosed.

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We enclose for you a full record of our conversations so far and a summary which will form the basis of our continuing discussions on November 9. The agenda for the meeting is also enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey L. Perkins,  
on behalf of  
Mrs. Mabel Wyllie,  
Mrs. Marjory Verco,  
Lt.-Col. Mabel Bell.

Encl.

October 24, 1962.

Mrs. Havery L. Perkins,  
24 Foxhall Street,  
ELANORA HEIGHTS.  
N.S.W.

Dear Jill,

We have pleasure in inviting you to a consultation on ecumenical women's work, to be held on Friday, November 9 at 10.30am in the Australian Council of Churches' Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

Members of the special committee appointed by the ACC to investigate women's work under the convenership of Mrs. Mabel Wyllie, have had preliminary conversations with representatives of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council led by its President, Mrs. Marjory Verco, and a summary of those conversations is enclosed.

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We enclose for you a full record of our conversations so far and a summary which will form the basis of our continuing discussions on November 9. The agenda for the meeting is also enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey L. Perkins,  
on behalf of  
Mrs. Mabel Wyllie,  
Mrs. Marjory Verco,  
Lt.-Col. Mabel Bell.

Encl.

October 24, 1962.

Mrs. Lawrence,  
Baptist Women's Work,  
c/o 619 George Street,  
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs. Lawrence,

We have pleasure in inviting you to a consultation on ecumenical women's work, to be held on Friday, November 9 at 10.30am in the Australian Council of Churches' Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

Members of a special committee appointed by the ACC to investigate women's work under the convenership of Mrs. Mabel Wyllie, have had preliminary conversations with representatives of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council led by its President, Mrs. Marjory Verco, and a summary of those conversations is enclosed.

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We enclose for you a full record of our conversations so far and a summary which will form the basis of our continuing discussions on November 9. The agenda for the meeting is also enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey L. Perkins,  
on behalf of  
Mrs. Mabel Wyllie,  
Mrs. Marjory Verco,  
Lt.-Col. Mabel Bell.

Encl.

October 24, 1962.

Mrs. H.E. Bell,  
Churches of Christ Women's Work,  
c/o 69 Campbell Street,  
SURRY HILLS.

N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Bell,

We have pleasure in inviting you to a consultation on ecumenical women's work, to be held on Friday, November 9 at 10.30am in the Australian Council of Churches' Meeting Room, 3rd Floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

Members of a special committee appointed by the ACC to investigate women's work under the convenership of Mrs. Mabel Wyllie, have had preliminary conversations with representatives of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council led by its President, Mrs. Marjory Verco, and a summary of those conversations is enclosed.

We now want to widen our conversations because we believe that the Women's Organizations in the churches are vitally important, as are also special purpose groups such as the Committees for the Women's World Day of Prayer.

We enclose for you a full record of our conversations so far and a summary which will form the basis of our continuing discussions on November 9. The agenda for the meeting is also enclosed.

Yours sincerely,

Harvey L. Perkins,  
on behalf of  
Mrs. Mabel Wyllie,  
Mrs. Marjory Verco,  
Lt.-Col. Mabel Bell.

Encl.



*Womens work* W 21

## Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

PRESIDENT:

Mrs. Norman Faichney.

Joint Secretaries:

MRS. COLONEL H. W. SAUNDERS,  
794 Canterbury Road,  
Box Hill, E.11.  
Tel.: WX 2568.

MRS. F. J. PELL,  
18 Gordon Avenue,  
Kew, E.4.  
Tel.: WM 6923.

★

Joint Treasurers:

MRS. D. H. PEART,  
16 Baker Parade,  
Ashburton, S.E.11.  
Tel.: BL 4109 or MB 1024.

MRS. T. GRIEVE,  
19 Elmie Street,  
Auburn, E.2.  
Tel.: WA 2781

18 Gordon Avenue,  
Kew, Melbourne.  
29.10.62.

Dear Mr. Perkins,

This is just to confirm that Mrs. Faichney will be coming to the Conference on the 9th of November. Travelling by air, and catching the 8 a.m. plane from Melbourne I think she will be in quite good time for the meeting. She will also return by plane the same day.

Should there be any need to contact her direct, her address is - 6 Estells St. Glen Iris.

Yours sincerely,

*F. J. Pell*  
Hon. Sec.

December 24, 1962

Mrs. J.F. McKay,  
65 Barcoona Road,  
NORTHBRIDGE, N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. McKay,

You will be expecting a record of the consultation on  
Women's Work held on November 9.

I write to let you know that the NSW Women's Inter-Church  
Council has withdrawn from the conversation by resolution at its  
last Council meeting, and therefore there is no point in preparing  
the material for another consultation which the November 9 meeting  
suggested.

The ACC committee which was appointed to investigate Women's  
Work will continue its investigations and report to the Annual  
Meeting of the ACC in February. We hope by that time to have a  
firm proposal to put before denominational women's groups.

Thank you for your interest and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie

This letter also sent to  
Mrs. J. Dey  
Deaconess Andrews

December 24, 1962

Mrs. A. Mirzaian,  
372 Miller Street,  
CAMMERAY, N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Mirzaian,

This is to invite you to join the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on Women's Work.

We are planning to hold a meeting on January 10 at 10 a.m. in the ACC's office to draw up plans to promote ecumenical interest and concern amongst the Church women of Australia. Personally I would be very glad to know that you could join us and help in our planning.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie

December 24, 1962

Mrs. N. Doratis,  
c/o Greek Orthodox Church Offices,  
374 Edgecliff Road,  
WOOLLAHRA, N.S.W.

Dear Mrs. Doratis,

This is to invite you to join the ACC's Committee on Women's Work. Since the meeting with the NSW Inter-Church Council which you attended on November 9, this Council has withdrawn from further conversation with us. This is a disappointment but we are planning to propose a development in Inter-Church Women's Work to the Annual Meeting of the ACC next February.

We were particularly delighted to have you with us on November 9 and would like to have the Greek Orthodox Church represented on our Committee as we make our plans.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie

December 24, 1962

Mrs. N. Faichney,  
6 Estella Street,  
GLEN IRIS, Vic.

Dear Mrs. Faichney,

I would like to add some personal comment about what has happened since we met in Sydney on November 9. Enclosed in this letter you will find a general letter which we sent out to everyone who attended the meeting on November 9.

After the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council withdrew from the conversations, the ACC Committee appointed to investigate Women's Work has met together again, and after discussion has planned to meet on January 10 in order to prepare a proposal to present to the Annual Meeting of the ACC in February next. At the moment it is our intention to propose an organization within the Australian Council's Division of Ecumenical Promotion which we might call Australian Church Women. It would have a small national committee and would concentrate on developing inter-church work amongst women in local areas.

We are thinking of a Fellowship Day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and a World Community Day in September or the first week in October. This would provide us with twodays during the year as a focus for the initial development of inter-church women's work. We also have in mind producing one set of study material for women's groups each year and stimulating some service projects in the local areas.

I am mentioning this to you now as we are still very hopeful that although the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council has withdrawn, the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council would work with us to co-operate in this wider ecumenical venture. We know that the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council will be contacting the Councils in each State to seek a closer liaison but we trust that you would not regard this as excluding you from working closely with us, or even being the State organization which would represent the women's ecumenical movement in your State. Although Mrs. Verco, whom you

- 2 -

met on November 9, is disappointed with the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council's decision, she is now prepared to push this second suggestion.

I will be able to send to you the report and proposal which we will be making to the Annual Meeting after our next meeting on January 10. I hope you will feel able to present this to your February meeting for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie

December 24, 1962

Mrs. C.A. Read,  
12 Church Road,  
Mitchelton, Qld.

Dear Mrs. Read,

Since I met you at Leigh College a fortnight ago, there has been some further development in our discussions about the formation of an ecumenical women's organization in Australia.

The NSW Women's Inter-Church Council has withdrawn from any further conversation with the Australian Council of Churches' group. It did this by resolution at its last Council meeting. However, the Australian Council of Churches' Committee appointed to investigate women's work met together again and after discussion planned to meet on January 10 in order to prepare a proposal to present to the Annual Meeting of the ACC in February next. At the moment it is our intention to propose an organization within the Australian Council's Division of Ecumenical Promotion which we might call Australian Church Women. It would have a small national committee and would concentrate on developing inter-church work amongst women in local areas.

We are thinking of a Fellowship Day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and a World Community Day in September or the first week in October. This would provide us with two days during the year as a focus for the initial development of inter-church women's work. We also have in mind producing one set of study material for women's groups each year and stimulating some service projects in the local areas.

I will be able to send to you the report and proposal which we will be making to the Annual Meeting after our next meeting on January 10. I am most anxious to keep in touch with you so that you can be kept in the picture and we can have your reactions from time to time.

Yours sincerely,

Mabel G. Wyllie.

DRAFT

W 21

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

BY THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE WOMEN'S WORK

A. WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

During the year 1962 the Committee appointed to investigate women's work has met several times and has come to a firm conclusion that much wants to be done to draw women in the local congregations of our churches into closer relationships with each other and with the Christian women of the world.

After several meetings the Committee reached the conclusion that what is required is a development of cooperative women's work among our local congregations, and only as much national organisation as will help to bring that development about. In the national organization, it is important, the Committee felt, to win the participation not only of existing State Women's Inter-Church Councils, but also the federal denominational women's organisations. The Committee also regarded it as important that whatever development took place should be within the life of the ACC, so that links could be established between the women of the local churches and the international bodies such as the WCC's Department for the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society and the EACC's Committee on Church, Home and Family.

At this junction, the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council asked for conversations with the ACC Committee, and at a meeting dated October 4 representatives shared with the ACC Committee their concerns for wider relationships in Australia and for developing the relationships of the local church women. As a result the ACC Committee decided to pursue these NSW conversations further by bringing in also the NSW Women's World Day of Prayer Committee, and also representatives of denominational organisations.

That larger meeting was held on November 9. Comments expressed a lively interest in the plan for local development and a fear of a large expensive national organisation. The meeting concluded with an agreement to arrange consultations in the various states early in 1963. However at the next ensuing meeting of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council, that Council withdrew from the conversations on the grounds that some of its members were not member churches of the ACC.

The ACC Committee then continued with its national investigating task. In the course of its work, it has established new contacts. Representatives of the Greek and Armenian Churches attended the November 9 meeting, and Mrs. Doratis (Greek Orthodox) was invited to join the ACC Committee. Mrs. Faichney, President of the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council, also attended the November 9 meeting, and Mr. Perkins subsequently visited the Victorian Council in Melbourne.

The Committee now presents its conclusions.

B. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

1. We believe that there is a desire among many women in the churches to have a deeper bond of fellowship with Christian women of all denominations, locally, nationally

and internationally, and to know the strength that comes from such unity. Christian unity has come to be widely recognized as an imperative for the effective work and witness of the Church in our times. However, its practical expression at different levels is difficult to attain, and requires new and varied approaches. Our responsibility is to devise such a new approach which enables church women to do more than what is done already in many areas, than how they show their oneness in Christ by having representatives of other denominations for annual meetings and special days.

2. It is part of the work of ecumenical promotion to stimulate the life and work of women's organizations in the churches, and to draw those organizations together with inter-church relationships. In many situations, inter-church activities among the women of the churches could be the starting point from which local councils of churches will eventuate.

The individual women within the church, especially in areas far removed from cities and provincial towns, also need to be aware of her own place in a wider Christian framework, and to have the means to express it.

3. Local development is the urgent need. We need a means whereby we can promote and extend the cooperation of church women in local communities, to unite them in witness and service, and to link them with the wider life of the Church in Australia and overseas. The first task is to educate the church woman in the local area and in every denomination by some means which awakens within her, as a person, the realization that she is not only a

Anglican	}	communicant or adherent
Methodist		
Presbyterian		
Congregational		
etc.		

but that she has a "oneness" with every other church women she knows in her own locality.

#### C. THE PLAN PROPOSED.

We therefore propose that there should be set up within the Council's Division of Ecumenical Promotion, an organization known as Australian Church Women. We choose this name because it creates an image and suggests fellowship more than an organisation.

1. The purpose of Australian Church Women would be:

To unite Australian church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, fellowship and service across denominational divisions; through the ACC to incorporate Christian women into the total life and work of the church; and to unite them for the building of a world Christian community.

Australian Church Women would participate in the interests and activities of the WCC's Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, the EACC's Committee on Church, Home and Family, and similar committees of other regional ecumenical organizations.

2. There would be a national Committee of 12 persons appointed by the ACC in the



first instance. A majority would meet once a year to plan ahead, and the Executive carry out the plans through the year. We would immediately invite Federal denominational women's organizations to participate, and add to the Committee their representatives. We would also encourage participation by existing inter-church women's group at a state level.

State Councils or Committees of the ACC would be important agents in the task of promoting Australian Church Women in their State. They might appoint committees to promote the inter-church field activities of ACW or work through existing inter-church councils which are willing to serve.

In the local area, women's organizations of the various churches would form a branch of Australian Church Women. In some places the branch would be a part of the local Council of Churches (i.e. existing inter-church councils).

Each women's organization joining an ACW branch would contribute 10/- per annum, of which half would be kept by the local ACW branch for expenses, and half forwarded to the ACW national committee to cover national costs of programming.

Collections taken at ACW meetings would be used to serve projects adopted by ACW after paying the expenses of those meetings.

One page of In Unity would serve as a news bulletin of the work of ACW. In Unity would be sent to all ACW branches.

ACW publications would be carried on the ACC Literature Account.

The initial activities of Australian Church Women could include:

- . promote a Fellowship Day and a World Community Day each year.
- . promote the use of one set of study material for women's groups, different in kind (e.g. unity, mission, family, etc.) each year.
- . stimulate service projects (a) in the local community. (e.g. among migrants, aborigines, by inter-church survey of human needs.)  
(b) on a world level (e.g. by providing for scholarships, fraternal workers etc. through the WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service, and of World Mission and Evangelism).

#### D. NEXT STEPS.

If the plan is approved by the Annual Meeting we would see as the next steps during 1963:

1. inform immediately all the Heads of the member churches and their Federal women's organizations.
2. encourage participation by existing State and local women's organizations.
3. organize panel of speakers in each State to speak about Australian Church Women at denominational and inter-church gatherings.
4. arrange gatherings at which representatives to significant ecumenical conferences may report.

5. share in the planning of itineraries of overseas visitors e.g. Madelaine Barot in September; Janet Lacy in November.
6. decide the dates for Fellowship Day and World Community Day.
7. Set in motion a group of to prepare or select study material for use in 1964.
8. devise ways of linking individual women with ACW (e.g. the Fellowship of the Least Coin).

**E. RESOLUTIONS**

1. That the report be received.
- 2/ That the establishment of Australian Church Women in accordance with the report be authorized.
3. That the Committee to investigate women's work be reappointed -  
Mrs. B.R. Wyllie (convener), Mrs. L.H. Williams, Mrs. F. Mackay (Pres.),  
Deaconess Andrews (C. of E.), Mrs. S. Barrett (Meth.), Mrs. J. Dey (Congl.)  
Mrs. Doratis (Greek Orthodox), Mrs. McPhee (YWCA), Revs. B.H. Parker, B.R. Wyllie,  
H.L. Perkins, and Bishop R.C. Kerle.
4. That the Committee nominate to the Executive when ready the National Committee of ACW.

REPORT TO THE ANNUAL MEETING.

*ACC  
Annual Meeting  
1963*

BY THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO INVESTIGATE WOMEN'S WORK.

A. WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

During the year 1962 the Committee appointed to investigate women's work has met several times and has come to the firm conclusion that much needs to be done to draw women in the local congregations of our churches into closer relationships with each other and with the Christian women of the world.

After several meetings the Committee decided that what is required is a development of cooperative women's work among our local congregations, and only as much national organisation as will help to bring that development about. In the national organisation, it is important, the Committee felt, to seek the cooperation of both the existing State Women's Inter-Church Councils and the federal denominational women's organisations. The Committee also regarded it as important that whatever development takes place should be within the life of the A.C.C.

The N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council asked for conversations with the A.C.C. Committee, and at a meeting on October 4th representatives shared with the A.C.C. Committee their concern for wider relationships in Australia and for developing cooperation among church women in local areas. The A.C.C. Committee decided to enlarge these N.S.W. conversations further by inviting representatives of the U.S.A. Women's World Day of Prayer Committee and of denominational organisations.

The larger meeting was held on November 9th. Speakers expressed a lively interest in the plan for local development, and some people expressed a reluctance to contemplate what they feared would be a large expensive national organisation. The meeting decided to arrange consultations in the various states early in 1963. However, at the next meeting of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, that Council withdrew from the conversations on the grounds that some of its members were not member churches of the A.C.C.

The A.C.C. Committee then continued with the task given it by the Annual Meeting. In the course of its work it has established new contacts. Representatives of the Greek and Armenian Churches attended the November 9th meeting, and Mrs. Doratis (Greek Orthodox) was invited to join the A.C.C. Committee. Mrs. N. Faichney, President of the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council also attended the November meeting, and Mr. Perkins subsequently visited the Victorian Council in Melbourne. Mrs. Wyllie has made contacts in Brisbane.

The Committee now presents its report.

B. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

1. We believe that there is a desire among many women in the churches to have a deeper bond of fellowship with Christian women of all denominations, locally, nationally and internationally, and to know the strength that comes from such unity. Christian unity has come to be widely recognised as an imperative for the effective work and witness of the Church in our times. However, its practical expression at different levels is difficult to attain, and requires new and varied approaches. Our responsibility is to devise such a new approach which will enable church women to do more than they can now do by inviting representatives of other denominations to annual meetings and on special days.

2. It is part of the work of ecumenical promotion to stimulate the life and work of women's organisations in the churches, and to draw those organisations together. In many situations, inter-church activities among the women of the churches could be the starting point from which local councils of churches will develop.

The individual woman within the church, especially in areas far removed from cities and provincial towns, also needs this ecumenical fellowship.

The urgent need is for local development. An important aspect is to help the Church woman in the local area and in each denomination to realise that she is not only a Anglican  
Congregational }  
Methodist } communicant or adherent  
Orthodox }  
Presbyterian }

but that she has a 'oneness' with every other church woman she knows in her own locality.

#### C. THE PLAN PROPOSED.

We therefore propose that there should be set up within the Council's Division of Ecumenical Promotion an organisation known as Australian Church Women. We choose this name because it creates an image and suggests fellowship more than an organisation.

##### 1. The Purpose:

To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, fellowship and service across denominational divisions; through the A.C.C. to incorporate Christian women into the total life and mission of the church; and to unite them for the building of a world Christian community.

Australian Church Women would participate in the interests and activities of the W.C.C.'s Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, the E.A.C.C.'s Committee on Church, Home and Family, and similar committees of other regional ecumenical organisations.

2. There would be a National Committee of 12 persons appointed by the A.C.C. in the first instance. This Committee would meet once a year to plan ahead, and the Executive would carry out the plans through the year. We would invite Federal denominational women's organisations to cooperate. Representatives of these organisations would be added to the Committee. We would also encourage participation by existing inter-church women's groups at a state level.

State Councils or Committees of the A.C.C. would be important agents in the task of promoting Australian Church Women in their State. They could appoint committees to promote the work of A.C.W. or could work through existing inter-Church councils which are willing to serve.

In the local area, women's organisations of the various churches would form a branch of Australian Church Women. In some places the branch would be a part of the local Council of Churches (i.e. existing inter-church councils).

Each women's organisation joining an A.C.W. branch would contribute 10/- per annum, of which half would be kept by the local A.C.W. branch for expenses, and half forwarded to the A.C.W. national committee to cover national costs of programming.

Collections taken at A.C.W. meetings would be used for service projects adopted by A.C.W. after paying the expenses of those meetings.

One page of IN UNITY would serve as a news bulletin of the work of A.C.W. In Unity would be sent to all A.C.W. branches.

A.C.W. publications would be carried on the A.C.C. Literature Account.

The initial activities of Australian Church Women would be:

To promote a Fellowship Day and a World Community Day each year.

- To promote the use of one set of study material for women's groups, different in kind (e.g. unity, mission, family etc.) each year.
- To stimulate service projects - (a) at the local and national level (e.g. among migrants, aborigines by inter-church survey of human needs).
- (b) at the world level (e.g. by providing for scholarships, fraternal workers etc. through the WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service, and of World Mission and Evangelism).

D. NEXT STEPS.

If the plan is approved by the Annual Meeting the next steps this year would be:

- To inform all the Heads of the member churches and their federal women's organisations;
- To encourage participation by existing State and local women's organisations;
- To organise a panel of speakers in each state to speak about Aust. Church Women at denominational and inter-church gatherings;
- To arrange gatherings at which representatives to significant ecumenical conferences may report;
- To share in the planning of itineraries of overseas visitors e.g. Madelaine Barot in September and Janet Lacey in November;
- To decide the dates of Fellowship Day and World Community Day;
- To appoint a group to prepare or select study material for use in 1964;
- To devise ways of linking individual women with A.C.W. (e.g. the Fellowship of the Least Coin).

E. RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the establishment of Australian Church Women in accordance with the Report be authorised.
3. That the Committee to investigate Women's Work be reappointed:  
Mrs. B. R. Wyllie (Convener), Mrs. L. M. William, Mrs. F. McKay (Pres.), Deaconess Andrews (C. of E.), Mrs. S. Barrett (Meth), Mrs. J. Dey (Cong.), Mrs. Doratis (Greek Orth.), Mrs. McPhee (Y.W.C.A.), Revds. B. R. Wyllie, B. H. Parker, H. L. Perkins and Bishop Kerle.
4. That this Committee nominate to the Executive the National Committee of A.C.W.

Australian Representation at Asian  
Rural Women's Conference in Thailand

Ms Edna Beales

12.11.62

143 St. John's Road,  
Rangoon, Burma.  
2 March, '62.

Subject: Invitation to the Asian Churchwomen's Conference, Philippines,  
Baguio City, 12-23 November, 1962.

Dear Friends,

You are aware that the East Asia Christian Conference inaugurated at Kuala Lumpur in 1959 is slowly becoming a real factor in the life of the Asian Churches and we believe that every effort must be put forth to make it a vital channel of fellowship and witness. It is most gratifying to know that some Christian women of Asia have so early caught the spirit and import of this Conference and are making a move to rally Christian womenhood to this cause which is the cause of Christ. They wish therefore to hold a Conference of Asian Churchwomen from the 12-23 November, 1962, in Baguio City, Philippines, with the theme "Launch Out Into the Deep." They requested the EACC to sponsor this event and this request was granted whole-heartedly. The responsibility of inviting the delegates was made over to the EACC Committee for the Cooperation of Men & Women in Home, Church and Society and plans are underway and in good hands.

We invite your national council to send a delegate to this conference and we hope that she will be chosen with the following qualifications:

1. She should be actively related to the women's organization of the Church where she holds membership.
2. She should be one who has not had much opportunity of attending international conferences.
3. She should be elected representative of the Church's national women's organization.

We shall be most grateful if you will send in the name of your delegate as soon as possible so that study materials can be sent to her for preparation for the conference.

Though this conference is called an Asian Churchwomen's conference, we would like to include our sisters of Australia and New Zealand as their countries are members of the EACC.

~~We are giving some help to our Asian sisters for their travel to the conference. But we are asking them to put forth some effort on their part too. Their response has been encouraging. May I request that your women's organization help to pay for your travel and the Conference will give hospitality throughout the conference.~~

Please address further enquiries to Mrs. Jael Cruz (Chairman of the Planning Committee) C/o Philippine National Bank, Dagupan City, Philippines.

This Conference is going to be the first of its kind and there are doubtless many things in our plans that need improvement or a different way of handling. We ask you to bear with us and we are confident that at this first conference the women gathered there from all the countries of Asia will work out better plans for future ones.

Yours in His Service,

(Mrs.) Louise Paw.

Chairman, EACC Committee on Cooperation of  
Men and Women in Home, Church and Society.

April 4, 1962.

Mrs T. H. Coates,  
Wesley College,  
PRAHRAN, VICTORIA.

Dear Mrs Coates,

I have received an invitation from the Chairman of the East Asia Christian Conference Committee on Cooperation of Men and Women in Home, Church and Society, for an Australian to attend a conference of Asian Churchwomen, at Baguio City, Philippines, November 12-23, 1962. The invitation asks that a person be appointed by the National Council, that she be actively related to the women's organization of the Church where she holds membership, that she should be one who has not had much opportunity of attending international conferences, and that she should be an elected representative of the Church's national women's organization.

Of course here in Australia we do not have a national women's organization of the Church so I have not been able simply to hand this matter over to such a group. Several people have been consulted about it and this letter comes to you because it is felt that in the first instance we would like to ask you to accept nomination of the Australian Council of Churches to attend this Conference. However, I must add that we would be unable to provide finance but you might be able to handle that through the help of the women's organization to which you belong.

Of course, too, it may be that you feel that if you were to go it should be by the decision of some women's organization. We have felt that in the circumstances of women's organizations in Australia, we should not insist, hence this letter to you. But if you yourself feel this way, then we would ask you to act on our behalf in raising the matter with the Women's Inter-Church Council in Victoria in order to give that Council the opportunity to act on behalf of the ACC in appointing someone from Victoria (you or somebody else), to attend the Asian Churchwomen's Conference. If you prefer to act in this way I enclose for your use a copy of the letter I have received and ask you to present it to the Women's Inter-Church Council. With it I enclose a covering letter from me to you asking you to present it.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS,  
General Secretary

Encl: 2.

88/4 sent  
4/4/62



WOMENS WORK

~~XXXXX~~  
511

April 4, 1962.

Mrs L. H. Coates,  
Wesley College,  
GRAHAM, VICTORIA.

Dear Mrs Coates,

I am forwarding to you a copy of an invitation to the Australian Council of Churches to send a delegate to a Conference of Asian Churchwomen to be held in the Philippines this November. I am sending the invitation to you in the absence of any national women's organization linked with the ACC and with the suggestion that you invite, on the ACC's behalf, the women's inter-church council of Victoria to nominate to me a delegate to this Conference.

You would need to mention that the ACC has no way of financing such a nomination and we would hope that the Victorian inter-church council could find ways of doing this.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS,  
General Secretary.

HLP:ms

Encl:

WOMENS WORK



Wesley College  
Melbourne

Postal Address:

Prahran, S.I.

Victoria.

25th April, 1962

Dear Mr. Perkins

Thank you very much for your letter Jane for the invitation to take part in the Conference of Asian Churchwomen, or rather to approach to the WICC of Victoria for their support. I feel this to be a great honour & I only wish that I could say I was available if it proves possible to finance the trip.

However it is not so easy to leave a family, & Tom and I both feel it would be especially difficult at that time of the year.

I have passed on your enquiries to the Vice-President of

the WICC here, Mrs Osborne Keen, who will raise the matter at the Executive meeting on Friday. I do hope it proves possible to send someone.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Coates.

20, June 1962.

Dear Friends,

This is to inform you that our Consultation on the Christian Family and Changing Society planned from 24 - 30 November 1962 at Baguio, Philippines will now take place in Petchburi, (near Bangkok), Thailand.

Please inform all delegates, both of the Consultation and the Asian Church Women's Conference of this change. I do hope they have not gone too far in their travel plans to inconvenience them.

The main reason for the change is the high costs in the Philippines. The new place Petchburi is 165 kilometres from Bangkok and right on the sea side. Accommodation in Hahd Chow Samran Hotel has been confirmed.

Though funds are limited we will consider helping Consultation delegates with some travel subsidy if no other help is available and if a request is made by the N.C.C. Be sure to let us know in good time with address to which the subsidy is to be remitted. If we do not hear from you on this matter we shall take it to mean that no aid is required.

I hope you will remember about the national report from your country of conditions and problems related to the subject and the efforts that are being made by the Church to meet them. We need this report early so that a general survey and study may be prepared by two people for presentation at the Consultation. Please also try to bring about 50 copies of this report with you when you come to Bangkok.

May God bless all of us as we prepare for the meetings in Petchburi in November.

With warm greetings,

Sincerely,

*Louise Paw*

Sd/- (Louise Paw),

Chairman, EACC Committee on  
Cooperation of Men and Women  
in Home, Church & Society.  
143, St. John's Road, Rangoon, (Burma).

July 18, 1962.

Mrs T. H. Coates,  
Wesley College,  
PRAHRAN. Victoria.

Dear Mrs Coates,

I had not heard from Mrs Keen of the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council since you wrote to me on April 25 indicating that you could not attend the Conference of Asian Churchwomen in November, but had passed on my query to Mrs Keen so that the matter could be raised at the Executive of the Victorian W.I.C.C.

Time is running short for Australia to find a representative. If the Victorian W.I.C.C. is not yet able to find one, I think I should give the opportunity to another State where I have reason to believe the appointment could be made very quickly. Would you therefore please ask Mrs Keen whether the W.I.C.C. has appointed somebody and if not ask her to refer the matter back to me so that I may take it up with another State. The Australian Committee for the East Asia Christian Conference is finally responsible for any appointment of a representative that is made.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS.  
General Secretary.

EACc

## Women's Inter-church Council of Victoria

PRESIDENT:

~~Mrs. N. Faichney.~~

Joint Secretaries:

MRS. COLONEL H. W. SAUNDERS,  
794 Canterbury Road,  
Box Hill, E.11.  
Tel.: WX 2568.

MRS. F. J. PELL,  
18 Gordon Avenue,  
Kew, E.4.  
Tel.: WM 6923.

Rev. H. L. Perkins.  
Gen. Sec.  
Australian Council of Churches.

18 Gordon Avenue,  
Kew,  
Melbourne.

24 7 62.  
25 JUL 1962

★

Joint Treasurers:

MRS. D. H. PEART,  
16 Baker Parade,  
Ashburton, S.E.11.  
Tel.: BL 4109 or MB 1024.

MRS. T. GRIEVE,  
19 Elmie Street,  
Auburn, E.2.  
Tel.: WA 2781

Dear Mr. Perkins.

Your letter to Mrs. Coates concerning the sending of a delegate to a Conference of Asian Church Women to be held in November was passed on to a meeting of our Executive per Mrs. O. Keen. The matter was discussed but we felt there were one or two difficulties in the way of us nominating anyone, even were we able to find someone who was willing to go. First of all we are only a State Inter-Church Group and therefore could not speak for the whole of Australia. We are not in a position to assist financially anyone who could go, and I understand from the Rev. David Robinson, that the Victorian Inter-Church Council are not in a position to help either. It does so happen that our incoming President Mrs. Norman Faichney has for the past 4 months been overseas and will be returning at the end of next month, and another of our members Mrs. Lawrence Warner will be returning from American and Canada in November but unfortunately not coinciding with the dates of Asian Churchwomen's Conference. I am sorry that Mrs. Coates herself is not in a position to go. Perhaps at some future date it might be possible for us to have a conference of churchwomen on the Australian level - which at the moment seems to be very needful.

I am sorry if you have been inconvenienced and I hope you may yet find someone who could attend, and represent Australia.

Yours sincerely,

*F. Pell* (L.S.)  
Hon. Sec.

143 St. John's Rd.,  
Rangoon, Burma,  
30 July, '62.

The Secretary,  
Australian Council of Churches,  
511 Kent Street, 3rd Floor,  
Sydney, N.S.W.

Dear Friend,

This is to remind you that the name of your delegate to the Asian Church Women's Conference is due. We shall be grateful if you can provide us with it at your earliest convenience. You will have received a notification of the change of the Conference site from Baguio in the Philippines to Petchburi, Thailand. The dates remain the same - from the 12-23 November, 1962.

Perhaps you have sent the name direct to the Chairman Mrs. Cruz of the Planning Committee. If you have done so, I shall be grateful if you will also give me a copy of the letter.

We do hope Australia will be represented at the Conference. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely yours,

*Louise Paw.*

( Mrs. L. Paw, )  
Chairman, EACC Committee on the Cooperation  
of Men & Women in Home, Church & Society.

# New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

23 Frazer St.,  
DULWICH HILL.  
1st August, 1962.

The Revd. Harvey Perkins,  
Secretary,  
Australian Council of Churches,  
Genef Building,  
Kent Street, CITY.

Dear Revd. Perkins,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of the list  
of Office Bearers of the above Council for this current year.  
We thought you might like to have these names for future  
reference.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Mrs. Brigadier K. Baker)  
HON. SECRETARY.

# *New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council*

## OFFICE BEARERS 1962-3

PRESIDENT - MRS. D.J.A. VERCO, 55 Burns Road, WAHROONGA.

.....

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - MRS. E.M. MANEFIELD, 18 Helen St., LANE COVE

ACTING I/PAST PRESIDENT - MRS. R.B. LEW 6A Tyron Rd. CHATSWOOD

PRESIDENT ELECT. - MRS. BRIGADIER K. BAKER 23 Frazer St. DULWICH  
HILL

HON. SECRETARY. - MRS. BRIGADIER K. BAKER. " " " "

RECORDING SECRETARY - MRS. E.G. PEARSON, 33 Lord St. ROSEVILLE

TREASURER - MRS. H.J. LILLEY 206 Eastern Valley Way,  
WILLOUGHBY.

PUBLICITY SECRETARY - MISS E. EASTAWAY, 9 Andover St. CARLTON.

=====oOo=====

## THE AIMS.

1. To promote friendship and co-operation between the women of the various branches of the Christian Church.
2. To provide an avenue whereby they may unitedly serve the Kingdom of God, particularly with regard to Social Reform, and Right International Relationships.



August 3, 1962.

Mrs D. J. A. Verco,  
55 Burns Road,  
WAHROONGA. N.S.W.

48 4358

Dear Mrs Verco,

I am writing to you as President of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council to offer you the opportunity of making an appointment on behalf of the ACC to provide Australian representation at the Asian Churchwomen's Conference in Thailand, November 12-23, 1962.

The text of the invitation which I originally received is attached. I should explain the reason for offering this opportunity to you so late. Originally we offered it to the Women's Inter-Church Council in Victoria and it is only now that we have learned that they are not able to fill the position. This will make it even more difficult for you to do so, but nevertheless I give you the opportunity.

Not having a national women's organisation of the churches in Australia, the only way that the Australian Council can act is to offer the opportunity to State organisations such as yours.

I must add of course, that we will be unable to provide finance for travel but you may be able to raise that from the various women's organisations linked with the Women's Inter-Church Council. If you are able to make the appointment please address your reply to Mrs J. Cruz (Chairman of the Planning Committee, C/- Philippine National Bank, Dagupan City, Philippines, with copies to Mrs L. Paw, 143 St John's Road, Rangoon, Burma, and to myself.

I am enclosing a circular containing all the information about the Conference required by anybody you appoint and would ask you to pass it on to that person, if you are able to make the appointment. I also enclose a certificate of authority which the member should take to the Conference and ask that you fill in the line with the person's name and church, followed by the words Australian Council of Churches in brackets.

If you are unable to use this opportunity please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS.  
General Secretary.

August 6, 1962.

Mrs L. Paw,  
143 St John Road,  
RANGOON. Burma

Dear Mrs Paw,

Thank you for your letter of July 30. We have not yet been able to find a delegate from Australia for the Asian Churchwomen's Conference., but are still trying to do so. We will let you know as well as Mrs Kruz as soon as we are able.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L PERKINS.  
General Secretary.



**THE METHODIST CHURCH of AUSTRALASIA**  
**New South Wales Conference**

PRESIDENT:  
REV. NORMAN W. LICKISS, L.TH.  
18 ESSEX STREET  
EPPING  
TEL.: 86-3450

SECRETARY:  
REV. NORMAN G. PARDEY, L.TH.  
28 TRYON ROAD  
LINDFIELD  
TEL.: 46-1705

The Parsonage,  
18 Essex Street,  
EPPING.  
29th August, 1962.

Mrs. D.J.A. Verco,  
President Women's Inter Church Council.  
SYDNEY.

Dear Mrs. Verco,

It gives me pleasure to know that the name of Mrs. EDNA BEALES came before, and was approved by, your Executive Committee of the Women's Inter Church Council.

You can have every confidence that in Mrs. Beales you will have a worthy representative for the reasons I indicate hereunder:-

- a. Mrs. Edna Beales, more widely known as Edna Roughley, has been a writer to various religious journals for over 25 years, and at present contributes the Women's and Children's pages of our weekly publication "The Methodist".
- b. This talented lady has consistently occupied our pulpits in many city and country centres, and has been increasingly in demand as a speaker at Women's Rallies. In her own Church at Bondi she was for years the General Superintendent of the Sunday School.
- c. Mrs. Beales is also an experienced Scripture teacher in the State Schools, and at present is taking regular weekly classes in Epping and Homebush High Schools.
- d. In addition to these activities she has found time to lead a fortnightly Bible Study Class in my own Church at Epping for the past three years.

In Mrs. Beales we have a lady of high Christian principles, Missionary outlook, most conscientious and devoted in everything she undertakes, and if appointed as your representative to the forthcoming Conference, will justify the confidence placed in her.

Yours sincerely,

*Norman W. Lickiss.*

# New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

55 Burns Road,  
WAHROONGA, N. S. W.

3rd September, 1962.

Rev. Harvey Perkins,  
Australian Council of Churches,  
511 Kent Street,  
SYDNEY.

Dear Mr. Perkins,

Re Asian Church Women's Conference

At our Council meeting last Friday, our Executive's nomination of Mrs. Edna Beales, 24a Rawson Street, Epping, to attend the Asian Church Women's Conference as representative of Australian Church Women, was accepted unanimously, there being no other nominations. No member of the Council was in the position to find the finance necessary and the Council has no fund on which to draw for such a purpose.

I am enclosing a letter I received from Rev. Norman Lickiss setting out some of Mrs. Beales interests and activities in Church life and from this the Council judges that she will be a very worthy representative of Australian Church women.

Our Secretary, Mrs. Brigadier Baker has forwarded to Mrs. Beales the papers you sent to me, as you requested and I shall suggest that she contact you for any further information.

The feeling of the Council was that we regretted that we had not had sufficient time to build up a fund for the travelling expenses of our representative.

Mrs. Beales has consented to become an associate member of the Council and will be invited to meet the Council at our Community Day on Sept. 28th. Mrs. Beales has also agreed to take the time on her return to report on the Conference to any interested Church women's groups.

Yours sincerely,

*Harvey J. Verco.*  
President.

# New South Wales Women's Inter-Church Council

Ph. LM1188

23 Frazer Street,  
DULWICH HILL.  
5th September, 1962.

Rev. H.L. Perkins,  
General Secretary,  
Australian Council of Churches,  
SYDNEY.

Dear Rev. Perkins,

Re: ASIAN CHURCHWOMEN'S CONFERENCE - THAILAND  
NOVEMBER 12-23, 1962 - APPOINTMENT

In reply to your letter of the 3rd. ultimo relative to the above, addressed to the President of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council (Mrs. D.J.A. Verco) I would advise that Mrs. Edna Beales, our Methodist Representative has been nominated as our appointment on behalf of the ACC to provide Australian representation at the above conference.

I understand that this appointment will be brought to your next meeting on September 19th, and if accepted, I will write to Mrs. J. Cruz (Chairman of the Planning Committee) sending copies to Mrs. Paw and yourself as requested in your letter.

The Circular concerning the Conference has been forwarded to Mrs. Beales of 24A Rawson Street, Epping.

With every good wish.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs. Brigadier K.)  
Hon. Secretary.

God said: "Fear not for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art Mine."—Isaiah 43:1

24a Rawson Street  
Epping, N.S.W.

18.9.62

Rev. Harvey Perkins,  
Aust. Council of Churches.  
Sydney.

Dear Mr. Perkins,

I rang to have a chat with you in regard to the Thailand Conference, but you were in Adelaide.

To date I do not know whether the Australian Council of Churches has confirmed the selection of myself as Delegate to the Asian Women's Conference; but the members (more accurately the Secretary of the Inter-Church Council) advised me to proceed with plans, and this I have done. The papers to enter Thailand ask for proof that I am indeed attending a Conference; so when convenient, and if your Council has approved, I should be delighted to have from you a letter confirming the appointment. The suggested journey will begin on Nov. 7th. (for I would like two days in Singapore) arrive in Bangkok on the evening of the 9th. leave Thailand on the 29th., after which I am going to see something of Hong-Kong and Manila, arriving back in Sydney on Dec. 12th.

I think you are sure to be sending word to Thailand regarding the Delegate; but as I have the Circular, you, perhaps,

may not have the address, so I'll include it here — just in case.

Secretary: Mrs. L. Paw,  
143, St. John's Road,  
Rangoon Burma.

This Conference should be a wonderful opportunity for both giving and receiving, and I'm more than happy with the anticipation and thought of it.

I trust your stay in Adelaide was all you could ask of it. The last time I met you was at the Conference of the Council of Churches that I reported for the Methodist; it seems a long time ago.

With every good wish,

*Edna Beales*  
(Mrs. Edna Beales)  
(Edna Roughley)

*Asian Church  
Women's Conference*

October 2, 1962.

Mrs Edna Beales,  
24a Rawson Street,  
EPHING. N.S.W.

Dear Mrs Beales,

Thank you for your letter of September 18.

This is to confirm in writing your appointment by this Council to represent Australia at the Asian Church Women's Conference in Thailand, November 12-23. This Council rejoices that Australia can be represented at the Conference and looks forward to your own participation as our representative and to your report on your return.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS.  
General Secretary.

October 2, 1962.

Mrs J. Cruz,  
Chairman of the Planning Committee,  
Asian Church Women's Conference,

Mrs L. Paw,  
143 St John's Road,  
RANGOON. Burma

Dear Mrs Cruz and Mrs Paw,

I am now able to inform you of the appointment of the Australian representative to the Asian Church Women's Conference in Thailand November 12-23. Our representative is Mrs Edna Beales, 24a Rawson Street, Epping, N.S.W. Mrs Beales is more widely known as Edna Roughly and has been a writer for various religious journals for over 25 years. She is She has occupied Methodist pulpits in city and country centres constantly and is in very considerable demand as a speaker at women's rallies. She teaches scripture regularly in public schools and has also been Superintendent of the Sunday School in her local church.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS.  
General Secretary.

cc: Mrs Beales



October 2, 1962.

Mrs Brigadier K. Baker,  
N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council,  
23 Frazer Street,  
DULWICH HILL. N.S.W.

Dear Mrs Baker,

Thank you for your letter of September 5 concerning your nomination of Mrs Beales as the person whom the Australian Council of Churches could nominate for Australian representation at the Asian Church Women's Conference in Thailand in November.

We have pleasure in accepting your recommendation, and I have written to Mrs Cruz and Mrs Faw on behalf of the ACC and the Joint Committee of the Australian Council of Churches and the National Missionary Council for the East Asia Christian Conference under whose auspices the Church Women's Conference is being held.

I am very grateful for your help in enabling the Council to make a nomination for Australian representation at the Conference. We will all look forward to Mrs Beales' return and her report.

Yours sincerely,

HARVEY L. PERKINS.  
General Secretary.

Attempts to define the purpose  
of A.C.W.

1962-3

## The Church of England Deaconess Institution

Sydney

*President:*

The Most Reverend  
The Archbishop of Sydney.

Deaconess House,  
28 Carillon Avenue,  
Newtown.

*Principal:*

Head Deaconess M. Andrews,  
LA 1172.

13 DEC 1962

The Rev. Harvey Perkins  
Australian Council of Churches  
511, Kent Street  
SYDNEY N.S.W.

12th December, 1962

Dear Mr. Perkins,

This is my homework! As far as reporting to the A.C.C. I feel a brief factual report should be given of meetings so far held expressing the feeling of the representatives who attended the meeting on 9th November and the result, e.g. the letter from the Interchurch Women's Council. As far as the document produced on 9th December is concerned I would suggest it should be simplified as much as possible.

### Purpose of the Australian Church Women's Organisation

In order to draw together Australian Church Women and stimulate life and work in women's groups and organisations in member churches a simple rallying point to be established such as a Women's World Community Day to test and establish how far it is feasible to expect those groups and organisations to co-operate for mutual benefit and fellowship.

The production of suitable study material for women's work may be included.

### Committee

A National Committee of women to be appointed by the A.C.C. (six of whom to reside in Sydney and would form the Executive).

The Committee to meet once a year - the executive when necessary.

### Fees

That each group or organisation affiliating pay 10/- per annum as subscription.

I make these suggestions because I feel in the Church of England in Australia the more complex organisation would not be acceptable at present. Just as the Women's World Day of Prayer has become a rallying point for many Christian women in a number of denominations so I feel that Women's World Community Day could be the beginning of a drawing together of women for ecumenical purposes.

Mary M. Andrews  
(Head Deaconess & Principal)

## Australian Church Women.

### Purpose.

To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, fellowship and service across denominational divisions; through the Australian Council of Churches to incorporate Christian women into the total life and work of the Church and to unite them for the building of a world Christian community.

### Purpose of Local Groups of Australian Church Women.

To promote and extend the co-operation of Church women in local communities and to link them with

- 1) the ecumenical movement or
- 2) the life of the Church in Australia and overseas.

Australian Church Women shall participate in the interests and activities of the Dept. on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church Family and Society of the World Council of Churches.

For the present the relationship of Australian Church Women and the Australian Council of Churches shall be through the Council's Division of Ecumenical Promotion.

The initial activities of the Australian Church Women could include:

- (a) Promotion of a Fellowship Day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- (b) promotion of a World Community Day in September.
- (c) production of one set of study material for women's groups, different in kind (e.g. unity, mission, etc.) each year. family
- (f) stimulating social service projects - e.g. amongst migrants, aborigines, etc. and encouraging inter-church survey of human needs in the local community.

When a local branch of Australian Church Women has been formed each Church women's organisation shall contribute 10/- per annum, of which half shall be kept by the local Australian Church Women for its expenses and  $\frac{1}{2}$  shall be forwarded to the National Australian Church Women to cover national administration costs.

### Immediate programme.

1. Submission of plan to Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches or if possible to a prior executive meeting.
2. As soon as possible after 1., notification of intention and invitation to participate where applicable to
  - 1) all Federal denominational women's groups.
  - 2) all State denominational women's groups
  - 3) all Women's Inter Church Councils.
  - 4) all Women's World Day of Prayer State Committees.
  - 5) all heads of Churches.
  - 6) Y.W.C.A.
3. Organisation of panel of speakers and speaking appointments in N.S.W. at least and elsewhere if possible. To speak at - denominational rallies  
inter-Church rallies.
4. Early planning for visit of Dr. Madeleine Barot.

The following pages are rough working notes from which documents were teased out

1. Stimulation of the life and work of women's organizations and drawing these organizations together into inter-church relationships is an essential part of ecumenical promotion.

Add. →  
A.

In many situations, inter-church activities among the women of the churches could be the "first base" from which inter-church councils of churches will eventuate. *local*

Therefore women's work should have its own structural expression within the Council's Division of Ecumenical Promotion.

2. Local development requires an incipient national development within the ACC.

Add  
B

→

- (a) in order to work through the developing federal structures of women's organizations in the member churches, especially in the stimulation of programmes within existing denominational organizations.

- (b) in order to provide a link with the wider horizons of work in which Church women are involved in Australia and the world and individuals e.g. WCC Department of Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. *(I'd leave this till we had done some pretty thorough education at the local level)*  
EACC Committee on Church, Home and Family.  
The work of the ACC.

- (c) to provide study materials, conduct inter-church schools for women, leadership training, and to tackle special problems, e.g. the professional woman, etc.

3. To serve these purposes and to work within the Council's Division of Ecumenical Promotion, we propose the formation of UNITED CHURCH WOMEN OF AUSTRALIA.

The organization would have a National Committee, comprising 12 persons appointed by the ACC (of whom 6 would be resident in Sydney), plus representatives of the women's organizations of the member churches. The national committee would meet as a whole once a year to plan ahead, and the Sydney Executive carry through the plans during the year. *(representative women of the member churches)*  
The national committee would work through the denominational organizations represented on it and through the State Committees of the ACC. State Committees may appoint committees or leadership consultants to promote inter-church field activities.

See C.

In the local area, women's organizations of the churches would form a United Church Women of \_\_\_\_\_. In some places the inter-church women's group would be part of the local Inter-Church Council. In all

*of churches affiliated to ACC.*

*Aust. Church Women*

places it would be affiliated with ~~United Church Women of Australia.~~

4. The initial activities of United Church Women should include:

- Good.* (a) <sup>Encourage a</sup> promotion ~~of~~ Fellowship Day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. *Apr - May.*
- Good.* (a) promotion of a World Community Day in September  
*1st week of October. 1963*
- Good.* (b) production of one set of study material for women's groups, different in kind (e.g. unity, mission, etc.), each year.  
*family,*
- x (d) holding of one leadership course each year, moving from state to state each succeeding year. *(wait til 1964 or 5.)*
- ✓ (e) launching the Fellowship of the Least Coin. *(yes if this helps the individual women)*
- ✓ (e) stimulating social service projects -- e.g. amongst migrants, aborigines, etc. and encouraging inter-church survey of human needs in the local community.
- x (g) encouraging quarterly marriage rededication services for husbands and wives on an inter-church basis rotating between the local churches. *(Suggest wait 1 - 2 years.)*
- x (h) providing WOCF membership and Inter-Church Councils. *(1 - 2 yrs)*
5. Women can also relate themselves as individuals to ~~United Church Women~~ where no local U.C.W. is formed, by joining the Fellowship of the Least Coin. *Aust. ACW I like this one.*
6. Each women's organization joining a ~~U.C.W.~~ <sup>the</sup> shall contribute 10/- p.a., of which half shall be kept by the local ~~U.C.W.~~ <sup>the</sup> for its expenses, and half forwarded to ~~ACW of Australia~~ to cover national costs of programming. *(Reivable)*
7. One page of In Unity shall serve as a news bulletin of the work of ~~United Church Women~~, which shall be sent to all local U.C.Ws. Publications shall be carried on the ACC Literature Account.
- ok. x*

C. My own feeling is that initially it might be possible to get further by having women who were chosen - maybe even in the sense of being "challenged" or "called" - by the A.C.C. to work at a national level as a person rather than being in the position of having to go back & forwards all the time to an organisation which she is representing. This latter of course must eventually be the case - but out of my own limited experience I wonder how long it would take to even get an A.C.W. launched if we have 'official' representation from the road go! I favour more, for the next couple of years - until we can assess an overall reaction to this idea - to work through the State Committees of the A.C.C.

Thank.

The aim of "Church Women of Australia" (or the Council) would be to unite <sup>Christian</sup> women of all denominations in witness in the community and to provide opportunities for them to engage unitedly in special spheres of Christian training & service.

It is suggested that there should be set up a National Committee which would meet annually & would consist of representatives of Federal Denominational Women's organisations and any other groups of Church women affiliated with the A.C.C.

In addition to provide continuity there would be an approximate equal number of persons of merit qualities of Christian leadership appointed, partly by the A.C.C. & partly by co-optation.

### ~~The type of activity encouraged~~

In the local area women's organisations of the Church would form a branch of "Australian Church Women" or the <sup>the just</sup> Council of Church Women.

The type of activity encouraged would include

a) the promotion of a "World Community"

Day in October

b) The production of one set of study material for women's groups each year.

c. Stimulating social service projects e.g. amongst migrants, aborigines etc and encouraging inter-Church survey of human needs of in the local community

Each women's organisation joining "Australian Church Women" shall contribute 10/- p.a., of which half shall be kept by the local committee for its expenses & half forwarded to the National Committee to cover national costs of programming.

One page of "In Unity" shall serve as a news bulletin of the work of "Australian Church Women" or the Australian Council of Church Women; which shall be sent to all local branches. Publications shall be carried on the A.C.C. Literature Account.



places it would be affiliated with United Church Women of Australia.

4. The initial activities of United Church Women should include:

- (d) ~~evening women's fellowship in~~ *promotion of a Fellowship Day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 1964* ~~promotion of a Fellowship Day during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 1964~~ *between churches in Lenten week of October 1963*
- (e) ~~promoting~~ *a World Community Day in September*
- (f) ~~production of~~ *one set of study material for women's groups, different in kind (e.g. unity, mission, etc.), each year, family,*
- (g) ~~holding of one leadership course each year, moving from state to state each succeeding year.~~
- (h) ~~launching the Fellowship of the Least Coin.~~
- (i) ~~stimulating social service projects -- e.g. amongst migrants, aborigines, etc. and encouraging inter-church survey of human needs in the local community.~~
- (j) ~~encouraging quarterly marriage rededication services for husbands and wives on an inter-church basis rotating between the local churches.~~
- (k) ~~not~~ *increasing WCCF membership and Inter-Church Councils*

2. Local development *of women's work* requires an *incipient* national development within the ACC *at a beginning of a small*

- (a) in order to work through the developing federal structures of women's organizations in the member churches, especially in the stimulation of programmes within existing denominational organizations.
- (b) in order to provide a link with the wider horizons of work in which Church women are involved in Australia and the world e.g. WCC Department of Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. EACC Committee on Church, Home and Family. The work of the ACC.
- (c) to provide study materials, conduct inter-church schools for women, leadership training, and to tackle special problems, e.g. the professional woman, etc.

When a local branch of Australian Church Women has been formed each Church women's organisation shall contribute 10/- per annum,\* of which half shall be kept by the local Australian Church Women for its expenses and  $\frac{1}{2}$  shall be forwarded to the National Australian Church Women to cover national administration costs.

Immediate programme.

1. Submission of plan to Annual Meeting of the Australian

Council of Churches or if possible to a prior executive meeting.

2. As soon as possible after 1., notification of intention and invitation to participate where applicable to
  - 1) all Federal denominational women's groups.
  - 2) all State denominational women's groups
  - 3) all Women's Inter Church Councils.
  - 4) all Women's World Day of Prayer State Committees.
  - 5) all heads of Churches.
  - 6) Y.W.C.A.
3. Organisation of panel of speakers and speaking appointments in N.S.W. at least and elsewhere if possible.  
To speak at - denominational rallies  
inter-Church rallies.
4. Early planning for visit of Dr. Madeleine Barot.

*I feel that the need*

- a) preamble explaining steps taken before the document drawn up
- 1) a description of formation & organisation of a local group. vague as yet.