

UNIT NOTES

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Australian Church Women NSW State Unit Inc.

Council Meetings are held the third Monday of:
February, March, April, June, August & November,
In the Uniting Church Rooms Level 2, 222 Pitt Street, Sydney.
VISITORS WELCOME



Australian Church Women Inc

ABN 68 539 329 715

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

2016



EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT

Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Fellowship of
the Least Coin

Australian Church Women Inc.

In 1965 women's inter-church councils from all states and territories came together to form Australian Church Women.

Today Australian Church Women Inc. forms a network of committed Christian women dedicated to encouraging fellowship and service across denominational, national and international boundaries and promoting peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in the one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC)

The International Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) began in 1956. The least coins are dedicated at World Community Day services. The funds are channeled through Unit Treasurers to the National Treasurer. These funds are allocated internationally.

General Offering

Half of the general offering today supports the work of the **Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC)**.

The other half of the general offering is directed to the special project for 2016. **Seeds of Affinity**, started in 2006 by a group of South Australian women with lived prison experience, works to challenge the stigma faced by women leaving prison by supporting women and their children during the difficult transition from prison. Seeds of Affinity raises the funds for day-to-day expenses by producing a range of natural health and beauty products.

Today's Order of Service was prepared by the Western Australian Unit of Australian Church Women.

Please Note: This Order of Service is copyright and may not be rewritten or otherwise altered, except for additional prayers where relevant for the current situation, and the substitution of hymns that are considered to be more suitable or available locally.

ABBREVIATIONS: **TIS Together in Song**
 NIV New International Version

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WELCOME (Acknowledgement of traditional custodians of the land)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect (Acts 1:8a Living Bible).

In our worship let us rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN: Praise with Joy the world's Creator (TIS 179)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONFESSION based on Ephesians 3:14-19

All: When we think of all this, we fall to our knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth.

We pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower us with inner strength through his Spirit.

Then Christ will make his home in our hearts as we trust in him. Our roots will grow down into God's love and keep us strong.

And may we have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is.

May we experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully.

Then we will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God. AMEN

HYMN Filled with the Spirit's Power (TIS 411)

SCRIPTURE READINGS (NIV)

Ezekiel 36:26-28

1 John 4:1-6

John 14:15-21

(At end of third reading)

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader: Lord, we remember with gratitude all those women who, by serving you through the power of your Spirit, have made a difference for good in their world.

All: Lord we ask that you empower us by your Spirit to continue their work in our world.

Leader: Lord we remember all those whom the world sees as powerless (especially...) *You are invited to name here any particular needs at this time.*

All: Lord we ask that through your Spirit you give them the comfort of knowing that nothing can separate them from your love.

Leader: Lord open our eyes to all those in need and suffering injustice.

All: Lord may we through the power of your Spirit be emboldened to work for justice and peace.

LORD'S PRAYER

MUSICAL ITEM or HYMN The Spirit Song (TIS 655)

SPEAKER

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN HISTORY



A Woman Empowered by the Spirit

First Reader: The idea for the Fellowship of the Least Coin emerged as a vision from God to Mrs. Shanti Solomon of India. She was part of the Pacific Mission Team of seven women from different countries that traveled in Asian countries after World War II, in September 1956. It was organized by Dr. Margaret Shannon on behalf of the women of the

Presbyterian Church of the United States. Shanti Solomon, who was refused a visa to Korea, went to Manila, Philippines while other members of the team proceeded to Korea. She reflected on the experiences of their travel in the war-torn countries of Asia and was inspired to promote reconciliation, justice and peace.

On the return of the team, she suggested that prayer could transcend every national boundary. She challenged the Christian women of Asia and the women from the Presbyterian Church of the United States to combine their efforts and resources and launch a project of justice, peace and reconciliation on an international basis. It was to be a project of Christian prayer and positive action in which every Christian woman could participate, no matter what her economic position was. Every time a woman prayed she was to set aside a "least coin" of her currency. It was an encouragement to the women of the team to demonstrate their unity in Christian faith, regardless of their country or economic circumstances.

They all accepted it as their sincere desire to express their solidarity with suffering humanity and with women of every nation.

VISION/MISSION A Movement Empowered by the Spirit



Second Reader: The Fellowship of the Least Coin has flourished as a global ecumenical women's prayer movement. The key to the movement's success is its simplicity. Individuals or groups may join by committing to pray for peace, justice, and reconciliation among families and communities, and worldwide. Each

time a woman prays she sets aside the least coin of her local currency as a symbol of the prayer. Women's national groups collect the coins and send them to the central FLC Fund c/o World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. The prayers offered and the least coins collected support projects for women and the children around the world.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN OFFERING

Leader: We praise God for his revelation to Shanti Solomon of the FLC movement. The prayers and coins offered over many years have brought God's love into many lives, bringing new hope and release from the burdens of life.

Many here today will have collected their least coins throughout the past year. You are invited to bring your offerings forward now.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN PRAYER

O Loving Creator, we present ourselves in your divine presence to thank you for all the bountiful gifts of life. We are especially grateful for the Fellowship of the Least Coin, which binds us together in love and forgiveness around the globe. Free us from all doubts and prejudices, we pray. Inspire us to live in solidarity with humankind that we may know the joy of giving and receiving.

Dear God, accept this least coin "token of love". Make us mindful of the miracles of these coins. Let us honour your creation with love, as shown through the life, death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus the Christ. **AMEN**

HYMN: Come, Spirit Blest, Our hearts inspire (TIS 425)

GENERAL OFFERING

Leader: Let us make our offering that will be a shared blessing between the Asian Church Women's Conference and our Special Project – **Seeds of Affinity** In South Australia,

All: We make our offering to share God's empowering love with others.

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

Loving God, these gifts embody our love and thanksgiving for your amazing love. We offer them in dedication for your service. We pray for a blessing upon ourselves as we offer them, a blessing upon those who will benefit from them, and honour to you as you receive them. **AMEN**

HYMN: Great God, your Spirit, like the wind (TIS 416)

FINAL BLESSING Jude 20-21, 24-25 (NIV)

But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy, to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! **AMEN**