

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.

4. The meeting then planned further investigations into this proposal.

10-30 ACC Board Room
November 9, 1962 - a larger consultation of NSW people including representatives of all the organisations mentioned.

February 25 and 26, 1963 - a national consultation which would give further consideration to the plan, prepare a proposed constitution, and make plans for the inauguration of U.C.W.A.

Mrs. Miller
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10.30 12.12.