

MINUTES of meeting of the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, held at the Pitt Street Congregational Church, Sydney, on Monday, 16th February, 1976, at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. G. Bent, President, occupied the Chair, and 42 members and visitors attended.

APOLOGIES: Mesdames Bennie, Bragg, Lean, McMaster, Peterson, Saunders, Savage, Stanhope, Brigadier R. Smith, Miss Lee.

OPENING: The President opened the meeting with a devotional reading and prayer, and welcomed all present to this, the first meeting for 1976, especially new members, Mrs. H. Hardy and Mrs. A.C. Prior, also Miss Hall.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting were read, confirmed and signed.

BUSINESS ARISING: The Hon. Secretary presented a report from the Executive:- The Ecumenical Retreat, held on 8th December, 1975, had been attended by 75 Council members and friends: many expressions of appreciation had been received. The Delegates' Travel Fund had been opened and a box would be provided at Council meetings to receive voluntary donations. The Executive recommended that proceeds of sales of notelets be credited to the Fund. The Council agreed to this. The resignation of Mrs. M. Down had been received with great regret; it would be necessary to arrange for the carrying on of the work in connection with "special days", for which Mrs. Down had been responsible. It was agreed that this matter be discussed later in the meeting.

REPORTS: Hon. Treasurer- Mrs. Perriam presented a financial statement covering the period 10/11/75 - 10/2/76, and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mrs. Stolz and carried. It was ^{moved} ~~agreed~~ by Mrs. Green, seconded by Deaconess Andrews and agreed that the following payments be made:- Office-bearers' expenses- Hon. Treasurer \$ 10.00; Publicity Officer \$ 5.00; Hon. Secretary \$ 5.78. To Australian Church Women- F.L.C. - \$1758.21; W.K. Sch'ship - \$ 14.10; W.F. Day- \$ 552.71; W. Comm. Day \$420.04 -- Total- \$2745.06.

Publicity Officer- Mrs. Curtin reported on action taken following the Retreat.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship- Deaconess Andrews referred to the 1976 scholars, one from Samoa studying in Fiji, the other from P.N.G. taking a course in Brisbane. She asked for the prayers of Council members for these women, as well as for former scholarship holders, facing difficult situations in their own countries. At the President's request, Deaconess Andrews led us in prayer for these overseas friends.

World Community Day, 1975, The Hon. Secretary reported that services had been held in 19 centres. It was agreed, after some discussion, to defer until the next meeting a decision on the organisation of **special days**, following a suggestion that this work might be undertaken by some members of the Promotions Committee.

REPORTS: (cont) Fellowship of the Least Coin: In the absence of the Convenor, Mrs. Stanhope, the Hon. Secretary read some extracts from the Quarterly News Bulletin, and conducted an F.L.C. devotional from the Circle of Prayer.

At this point, the President invited Miss Mitchell to speak about some aspects of her tour in S.E. Asia in 1975. She mentioned her meetings with several groups of women in Indonesia, and of their concern for the welfare of children and young people, as well as for the community as a whole. Mrs. Bent thanked Miss Mitchell for her interesting and informative address.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Women's World Day of Prayer City Service- Wesley Chapel, 5th March, at 12 noon.
Dr. Margaret Sawin, a consultant in family education from New York, would visit N.S.W. in April, to conduct workshops.

HOSTESSES: The following members kindly agreed to assist in preparations for serving tea, following Council meetings:- Mrs. Green, Mrs. Curtin, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Jessup.

LOCAL BRANCHES AND INTERCHURCH GROUPS: There was an interesting and profitable discussion on the ways in which these function in different areas, and it was agreed that efforts should be made to maintain close links with them. Mrs. Woodhouse reported on steps being taken to establish an interchurch fellowship in the Chatswood area.

CLOSURE: Business being concluded, the President closed the meeting with the Benediction at 12.10 p.m.

Confirmed . Gladys M. Bent.
Date . . . 15th March, 1976