

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE WOMEN'S WORK HELD IN THE ACC
MEETING ROOM, WEDNESDAY MARCH 6, 1963 at 10 a.m.

The meeting opened with prayer and meditation on the fellowship of the Holy Spirit led by Mrs. Wyllie (convener).

PRESENT: Mesdames B. R. Wyllie, L. M. Williams, J. F. Dey, Doratis, S. M. Barrett, S. McPhee, Deaconess Andrews, and the Rev. H. L. Perkins.

APOLOGIES: Mrs F. McKay, Revs. B. R. Wyllie and B. H. Parker.

REPORT FROM ANNUAL MEETING of the ACC:

Mrs Wyllie reported on the decisions and debate at the Annual Meeting concerning the establishment of Australian Church Women and tabled the following resolutions of the ACC:

"That the report be received.

That the establishment of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN in accordance with the report be authorised:

The next Steps outlined in the report:

- To inform all the Heads of the member churches and their federal women's organizations;
- To encourage participation by existing State and local women's organizations;
- To organise a panel of speakers in each State to speak about Australian 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 Lacy 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 ACW (e.g. the Fellowship of the Least Coin).

That the committee to investigate women's work be reappointed:

Mrs B. R. Wyllie (convener)
Mrs L. M. Williams, Mrs F. McKay (Presbyterian)
Deaconess Andrews (Church of England)
Mrs S. M. Barrett (Methodist)
Mrs J. F. Dey (Congregational)
Mrs Doratis (Greek Orthodox)
Mrs S. McPhee (YWCA)
Revs. B. R. Wyllie, B. H. Parker, H. L. Perkins.

That this committee nominate to the Executive the National Committee of ACW."

Discussion took place as to reactions following the decisions of the ACC

1. The NSW Women's Inter-Church Council is ready to send representatives to help plan special days.
2. The Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council is unwilling to discuss a federal structure with other State WICC's until it has examined the Australian Church Women proposals.
3. Opinion is still divided in denominational organizations.
4. It was also noted that publicity has been given to the Annual Meeting decisions in a church press release and in In Unity.

NEXT STEPS: 1. It was resolved that Mrs McKay and Mrs Wyllie prepare a short and general statement about plans for ACW, for use in correspondence with Heads of Churches, denominational and interdenominational women's groups. (i.e. accompanying personal letters).

It was noted that the statement should encourage correspondence and inter-change of ideas, should set out clearly envisaged relations with existing organizations, should emphasize what we expect to do in the local area, and should underline its role in ecumenical promotion.

2. After discussion about the relationship of the role of ACW between "ecumenical promotion" and "cooperation of men and women", it was agreed that the first study theme should be on the laity.

It was resolved to ask Mrs McCaughey to convene a group in Victoria with Mesdames J. Wright, J. Coates, U. Porter, F. Christian, Deaconess Ritchie, Deaconess Shepherd and a person from the GBRE, to prepare a simple study outline for use in 1964.

Noting that the study material would need to be in draft by June and printed by September, it was resolved that Mrs Dey and Mrs Barrett plan how long the study should be, how many chapters, the role of questions. etc.

3. After some discussion of the Annual Meeting resolutions, it was agreed that the Committee could function more effectively as an interim Committee of ACW than as a Committee to investigate women's work.

It was therefore resolved to recommend to the Executive that the present committee be appointed an Interim Committee of ACW until a truly national committee can be appointed.

4. It was resolved to ask Mrs McKay, Mrs Wyllie, Mrs Faichney and Mrs Lilley to prepare proposals concerning the dates and nature of both the Fellowship Day and the World Community Day proposed.

5. It was resolved (a) to invite the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council to send 2 representatives to participate in further planning
(b) to invite representatives of all denominational organizations to another conference in July.

6. It was agreed that ACW should have a sub-committee to deal with matters of cooperation between men and women.

FINANCE: A donation of £10/10/- was received.

SECRETARY: It was agreed to appoint a Minute Secretary at the next meeting.

MEETING DATES: It was resolved that meetings should be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10 am.

The meeting closed with the Benediction.

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____