

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Working Committee held on Tuesday, July 27th, 1965, at 2 p.m. in the ACC Meeting Room, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

OPENING: The meeting opened with prayer led by Mrs. J.F. Dey.

PRESENT: Deaconess M. Andrews (chair); Mesdames A.G. Ralph, A.A. Adam, F. Stafford, D.J.A. Verco, J.F. Dey, C.F. Gribble, L. Evangelinidis, Miss T. Skiller, Lt.Col. H. Cross.

Welcome was extended to Mrs. Evangelinidis as alternate for Mrs. Doratis.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mesdames M.G. Wyllie and H.J. Lilley.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

a) National Committee, 1966:

1. Dates: It was reported that no replies had yet been received from State Units or Federal Denominational Women's Organisations concerning proposed dates.

Miss Skiller reported that inter-divisional meetings of the ACC will be held during the proposed dates for the National Committee, which could affect the attendance of some members of the National Committee at the full series of meetings, as they are also members of some division.

It was resolved that the proposed dates for the National Committee be brought forward to Thursday and Friday, January 20th and 21st, with the hope that the opening session of the National Committee could take place on Wednesday evening, 19th January.

2. Hostess: It was resolved that we ask the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria to be Hostess for the National Committee, this to include reserving accommodation for inter-state visitors, provision of meals during the National Committee, arranging for building in which meetings will be held, and any other local details calling for attention.

3. State Units and Federal Denominational Women's Organisations:

It was resolved that we write to these bodies -

- (a) Advising revised dates.
- (b) Requesting the nomination of representatives.
- (c) Inviting suggestions concerning subjects to be considered.

- b) Articles from "Together": Material had been circulated to members of the Working Committee, following the previous meeting. It was reported that a letter had been received from Mrs. Coates, together with views of the group from the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society delegated to study these articles, recorded by Mrs. McCaughey.

A copy of the comments by Mrs. Coates and these views were placed before each member of the Working Committee. The Working Committee agreed with the views expressed.

It was the considered opinion of the Working Committee that the articles, whilst quite good as articles, are too general to be of much service in getting down to really helping women in teaching and answering questions concerning sex, or helping with teen-age problems. This opinion is illustrated by the concluding paragraph of the article, "There's more than teaching in sex education" by Dr. W.L. Carrington, in which he says, "There are books. This article is limited to the sex education of young children, and it has set out to discuss the general perspective and attitude rather than the details of any actual teaching or answering of questions. These are well covered in many good books and pamphlets." The Working Committee's view is that it would be helpful if, instead of a general statement of this nature, these books had been listed.

It was resolved that we write to the Rev. J.R. Neal in terms of the foregoing, stating that we do not give our recommendation to the re-publishing of these articles, for use by Women's groups, and that in our opinion the preparation of a bibliography, dealing with these subjects, is the most likely medium of assistance; also that we would appreciate this being undertaken under the direction of the Commission on Christian Marriage and Family Life.

- c) Constitution - Canberra Church Women: This was submitted and approved. It was resolved that we advise Canberra Church Women that their Constitution has been ratified, and that we gladly accept them as the Unit of Australian Church Women in the Australian Capital Territory.
- d) Material - Fellowship Day, 1966: As it had been resolved by the National Committee that ACW give full support to the Church and Life Movement, it was agreed that the material used should be related thereto. It was also noted that Fellowship Day will be towards the close of the Church and Life Movement.

It was resolved that we request the Rev. Edwin Robertson to prepare a Worship Service for Fellowship Day, 1966, and Study Questions (suggested number four) to be based on material which would have been already used in the Church and Life Programmes.

- e) President of NSW Women's Inter-Church Council and Working Committee: This matter had been put forward at the previous meeting - as to whether the Constitution of Australian Church Women could allow of the President of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council being a member of the Working Committee instead of an alternate. Because of lack of time, consideration was deferred.

It was noted (1) that change of President in the NSW Inter-Church Council takes place mid-year, (2) that the responsibility for nominations from State Units rests with such bodies. It was agreed, therefore, that appointment of representatives actually had nothing to do with the Working Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence, as follows, was received.

- (a) Mrs. T.C. Rentoul has agreed to represent ACW on the Commission of Christian Marriage and Family Life until the next National Committee Meeting, when she suggests the matter could be reviewed. The Rev. J.R. Neal to be informed concerning this.
- (b) A letter from Mrs. H.J. Lilley, acknowledging appreciatively letter from the Working Committee. Mrs. Lilley is progressing well and is looking forward to returning to meetings following a holiday commencing towards the end of July.
- (c) A letter from Archbishop Ezekiel, stating that, with Mrs. Doratis, Mrs. L. Evangelinidis will be a representative of the Greek Orthodox Church.
- (d) A letter from Mrs. S.M. Barrett regretfully tendering her resignation as alternate to Mrs. C.F. Gribble on the Working Committee of ACW. Mrs. Barrett says, "Circumstances quite beyond my control compel me to do this. But I want the members to know how greatly I have enjoyed association with them over the past few years. I feel that the task of establishing ACW has been a most worthwhile project in the furtherance of the Kingdom of God, and I will continue to pray that His will and purpose may be done in and through you". Mrs. Barrett also expressed thanks for the letter from the Working Committee received at the time of their recent family bereavement. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mrs. Barrett, expressing our regret concerning her resignation and expressing appreciation concerning the very fine contribution she had made in the formation of ACW.
- (e) A letter from Mrs. Joan Coates, enclosing for our interest the first of a series of articles being produced by the Committee on Co-operation; also copy of a report prepared for Mr. Styles for the Divisional Meeting on Church and Community, having to do with both ACW and the

Committee on Co-operation. These are gratefully received, and will be made available to any member of the Working Committee who so desires.

CHURCH AND LIFE MOVEMENT:

It was agreed that we seek co-operation along the following lines:

- 1) Communicate with State Units concerning the Church and Life Movement, and suggest they co-operate with Panels in their State in the Training and Study Programme.
- 2) Write in similar strain to Denominational Women's Organisations, requesting that they communicate with their State Committees.
- 3) Invite Mrs. Edwin Robertson, who will be accompanying her husband to Australia, to undertake a programme of meetings during May to August, 1966, on behalf of ACW in co-operation with State Units.
- 4) Request Mr. V. Hinton to prepare two or three articles concerning the Church and Life Movement suitable for publication in the Women's section of Church papers.

FELLOWSHIP DAY, 1965: Reports, as follow, were received:

- a) Women's Inter-Church Council of Queensland: Meetings were held at two centres, Brisbane and Southport. Attendances at both were good. Miss Connie Tan attended both meetings and participated. At Brisbane a Panel discussed the Study Questions, and this was greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Miss Connie Tan was a member of the panel. During her visit to Brisbane the Scholarship Holder visited the Spastic Centre and Homes for Children, the Aged, Delinquent Girls, and dks-charged prisoners.
- b) Women's United Church Association of South Australia: Fellowship Day was observed at one central meeting. There was a good deal of interest in the meeting, although some disappointment that the meeting had not been as largely attended as anticipated. There were several contributing factors in this regard.
- c) N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council: Interim reports were given by Mrs. D.J.A. Verco, Promotion Officer, and other members of the Working Committee who had taken part in meetings. Meetings at several centres appear to have been well attended, with a good deal of interest therein. Detailed report will be submitted in due course.

A letter was received from the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council, indicating that after expenses have been met, the offerings taken at Fellowship Day will be devoted to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY: It was reported that material had been received from Archbishop George Appleton, the theme being, "God at Work". This had been received too close to the date of the meeting for full copies to be made for each member of the Working Committee, but abridged material, showing the main steps in the Service and study were provided.

It was observed that there are no Study Questions included, but the preparation of the service provides for the Scripture Lesson, "Behind the World Scene" and four Meditations concerning "God at Work in the World". These meditations are so written that, if group discussions are desired at the close of the service, they could very helpfully be on this subject matter, each group concentrating on one meditation.

It was agreed that the material be produced at once for World Community Day, and that Miss T. Skiller and Lt.Col. H. Cross give attention to suitable comment concerning group discussions.

Archbishop Appleton has offered to prepare a short draft of advice to those who will take services, if so desired. It was agreed that we ask the Archbishop to do this, and at the same time thank him most warmly for the very fine Service he has provided.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

Draft of proposed policy, as prepared by the committee appointed by the Working Committee was submitted. This was approved. Terms of the Policy are:

"1) AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN, as part of its programme, will include the granting of a Scholarship to be known as the WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP. Where possible a scholarship will be given each academic year.

2) The PURPOSE of the scholarship is to offer supplementary training for a Christian woman who has already received her basic training. The scholarship is intended for those who give leadership in church life and for those who need strengthening as Christians for their work in the world.

3) The scholarship to be tenable for 10 months (one academic year) and part of the year to be spent in a training school or university, part in practical work and observation in church and community institutions, and part in speaking to women's groups and church groups.

4) The scholarship to be part of the Australian Council of Churches' inter-church aid scholarship operation and the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service to be asked to underwrite the scholarship; Australian Church Women having a funding account, reimbursing the inter-church aid operations as donations are received through their appeal on Fellowship Day and any other donations given for the scholarship.

5) The terms of the scholarship will be circulated through the national Christian councils of the East Asia Christian Conference, the All Africa Conference of Churches and the Pacific Conference of Churches. Applications to be received by the Working Committee of Australian Church Women for selection. The successful application to be forwarded to the Scholarship Committee of the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service of the Australian Council of Churches for perusal before going to the Division for adoption. Australian Church Women to be represented on the Scholarship Committee by two members.

6) The application to be made on the prescribed forms used by the Scholarship Committee, viz:

Application in triplicate	
Academic Record	Appendix A. 3 forms
Language certificates	" B.
Recommendations	" C. 3 forms
Health Certificate	" D.
Statement by Church	" E.
Place of Study	" F.

7) Forms to be made available upon request through the Working Committee of Australian Church Women. Application forms to be channelled through the relevant national Christian council whose recommendation will accompany the application.

8) The co-operation of training schools and universities will be sought to provide for places and facilities.

9) The Working Committee of Australian Church Women will be responsible for the arrangements made for the scholarship holder concerning her training; accommodation and personal requirements. The co-operation of State Units of Australian Church Women will be sought in the carrying out of the arrangements.

All inquiries: Australian Church Women,
Room 2, 3rd Floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney."

Letter from Mrs. Joan Coates: A letter was received indicating that at the last meeting of the Committee on Co-operation the members had before them a copy of the Rev. Winifred Kiek's book, "We of One House", which gathers up in the form of letters her reflections on the early days of the

World Council of Churches, and especially the relationships of men and women. Mrs. Coates enquired as to whether it would be possible for ACW to consider republishing this book, perhaps as a source of income for the Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

It was agreed that this be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting and that in the meantime we enquire from the Rev. H.L. Perkins as to whether such republishing would be possible, and his opinion of the suggestion in the event of it being possible.

NEXT MEETING: To be held on Tuesday, August 24th, at 2 p.m.

CLOSING: The meeting closed with prayer led by Deaconess Andrews.

CONFIRMED: . Mabel G. Wyllie .

DATE: 24. 8. 65 .