

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Working Committee

Minutes of Working Committee meeting held on Wednesday, March 23, 1966 at 10am in the ACC Meeting Room, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

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OPENING: The meeting opened with prayer led by the President, Mrs. M.G. Wyllie.

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

APOLOGIES: Mesdames A. Dougan and D. Badger.

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

ARISING FROM MINUTES:

a) Appraisal of the National Committee Meeting:

It was resolved that a Post-Meeting reaction form be sent to each member of the National Committee asking for her personal comments concerning various aspects of the meeting.

The form to be used was drafted at the Working Committee meeting.

b) Alternates - Working Committee.

Following discussion, it was agreed that any decision as to whether alternates should, or should not, be appointed rest with the National Committee.

It was resolved that the Working Committee prepare a recommendation in this respect for the consideration of the next National Committee meeting.

Until then the Working Committee will function as elected by the National Committee Meeting. Should any exceptional circumstance arise this will receive the consideration of the Working Committee.

c) Newsletter.

There was discussion as to the value, or otherwise, of Australian Church Women Newsletters at this stage. The need for information concerning Australian Church Women to be distributed was regarded as a high priority, but it was agreed that this was likely to be more effectively accomplished through newsletters prepared and issued by State Units rather than something prepared at the national level.

It was reported that the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council had decided to issue a newsletter periodically.

Discussion then took in the wider field of publicity. It was agreed that up to this point there has not been sufficient contact with Federal denominational women's groups, and we should now develop this. Also, the need for there to be produced at the national level an informative brochure concerning what A.C.W. is, its function, etc., for wide distribution was recognised.

It was resolved:

1. that a small, concise brochure on ACW be prepared.

2. that State Units be asked to issue Newsletters periodically in which up-to-date information concerning ACW is included and that a copy of such newsletters be sent to the Working C'tee.

3. that "A.C.W. NEWS" should appear as an item monthly on the Agenda of the Working C'tee.

4. that the Working Committee supply Mr. V. Hinton with ACW news for passing on to denominational papers and secretaries of ACC State Committees.

5. that consideration be given as to how we can strengthen links with denominational women's groups, and that this be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

d) Fellowship of the Least Coin.

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It was reported that Mrs. S. M. Barrett had accepted the invitation to become National Convener.

It was resolved that our thanks be expressed to Mrs. Barrett and that she be invited to attend Working Committee Meetings as an observer whenever her programme allows of this, and bring reports.

e) Assessment - Miss Connie Tan - Winifred Kiek Scholarship.

It was reported that a letter had been received from Miss Connie Tan, apologizing for delay in sending the promised assessment, and explaining that much information concerning her course in Australia had been packed for direct passage from Australia to Indonesia. It was apparent from her letter that Miss Tan was thinking in terms of the assessment needing to be something more detailed than was intended.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Miss Connie Tan, explaining that something of a concise, brief nature was all that was desired, and that it would be helpful for us to receive this now. Also, that a brief questionnaire be prepared and sent to her.

The correspondence was passed to the National Scholarship Committee for this to be followed through.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence, as follows, was received:

- a) Letter from Mrs. H.T. Wells, on behalf of the United Women's Church Association of South Australia, seeking clarification of certain points having to do with the preparation of Order of Service and Study questions for World Community Day. It was reported that a reply had been sent to Mrs. Wells, which had been acknowledged. The correspondence indicates that a sub-committee has been formed to carry through this assignment.
- b) Letter from the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council, indicating that the Council will see that information concerning Special Days, etc. will be supplied to Goulburn and other NSW portions of the Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn through "The Churchwomen's Union". (see Minutes of Working Committee, November 1965).
- c) Letter from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Tasmania, making several business enquiries, seeking publicity literature, and a supply of Fellowship of the Least Coin pamphlets and stickers. It was agreed that the Secretary deal with these.

The letter also reported that during March a meeting of the Council was held in Launceston at which Mrs. G.A. Wood reported concerning the National Committee Meeting. Also, that the second annual meeting of the Council will be held at Hobart on May 7.

- d) Letter from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Queensland, indicating that Mrs. R.S. Byrnes had reported concerning the National Committee meeting; also, that there are enquiries for leaflets having to do with the Fellowship of the Least Coin. It was agreed that this letter be acknowledged, and the requested leaflets be sent.

FINANCE: It was reported that no income had been received since the last meeting.

FELLOWSHIP DAY 1966:

It was reported that enquiries had been received from State Units in Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania as to whether any further information is yet available.

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Queensland indicated that Fellowship Day will be held on Friday, July 29 and World Community Day on Friday, October 28.

It was resolved that a cable be sent to the Rev. Edwin Robertson, emphasising the urgency of the position.

CHURCH & LIFE MOVEMENT:

It was agreed that State Units be requested to make links with the State Secretaries of denominational women's groups, asking them to encourage the members of existing local women's groups to participate in the Church and Life Movement in the forming of study groups in co-operation with the local CLM committees, most of which, will be held in the homes of people.

To help in publicising in this way a one sheet form will be prepared and made available - something in the nature of interrogation and answer.

REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEES:

a) National Scholarship Committee - Deaconess M. Andrews.

The following action had been decided upon:

1. that a leaflet concerning the Winifred Kiek Scholarship be prepared for circulation overseas in preparation for 1967.
2. that guidance be given to local committees concerning Scholarship holders not being involved in addressing too many public meetings.
3. that, in view of word having been received that it was believed a suitable scholarship holder was in Tonga, application forms be sent to the Free Wesleyan Conference in Tonga.

No further word had been received from the Rev. V. Toma.

b) Study Book - Mrs. M.G. Wyllie reported on behalf of Mrs. Dougan.

1. One study book for 1967 and 1968.
2. Subject - Worship - 4 studies
  - . what is worship?
  - . prayer ... the Lord's Prayer
  - . scripture ... teaching, preaching
  - . Holy Communion.
3. The Rev. and Mrs. A. Dougan be asked to prepare the first rough draft.
4. The book to be written either by individuals or groups.
5. An ample bibliography to be included.

c) Travel Fund - Asian Conference - Mrs. J.F. Dey.

1. Letters had gone to State Units, with additional copies to enable them to contact denominational groups.
2. Letters sent to State Secretaries of ACC for their information
3. Mr. V. Hinton will send pars to church papers.
4. Letters sent to members of the National Committee.
5. Contact had been made with the Congregational Women's Fellowship.

d) Location of Working Committee - Lt-Colonel H. Cross.

The Committee had met and engaged in work of an exploratory nature. It was agreed that the findings thus far be issued to members of the Working Committee, prior to the next meeting, as a Working Paper for discussion at the April meeting.

THIRD ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE:

- a) It was reported that Mrs. Badger had received an informative letter from the Asian Church Women's Conference, outlining the general purposes of the Conference.
- b) Word has been received that, if so desired, Australia could also send an observer to the Conference. The conditions outlined by the East Asia Christian Conference concerning observers are:-



They are expected to be:

1. active members of church women's organisations
2. pay all their own expenses
3. be recommended by the women's organisation or the NCC
4. have their names sent early for acceptance.

It was resolved that we write immediately to State Units and Federal denominational women's groups, covering the following points:

1. Advise them that this invitation has been extended.
2. Enquire as to whether they know of any Australian church woman who will be in Japan in July who would fulfil the required conditions, and who would care to be nominated as an observer.
3. Such nomination would need to come to the Working Committee who would need to approve the application
4. Outline the conditions stipulated by the EACC.
5. All expenses would need to be met personally by the person so nominated as an observer.

NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, April 27 at 10am.

CLOSING:

The meeting closed with prayer led by Mrs. Wyllie.

Confirmed: Mabel G. Wyllie

Date: 27. 4. 66