

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

CONSTITUTION

- 1. NAME: AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN
- 2. AIMS: To unite Australian Church Women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ;  
To promote co-operation of men and women in Church, family and society;  
To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church;  
To provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together, and  
To encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries.

- 3. RELATIONSHIPS:
  - (a) Through the Australian Council of Churches, Australian Church Women shall be linked with the World Council of Churches and with the regional conferences of churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.
  - (b) Australian Church Women shall be a member of the Asian Church Women's Conference.

- 4. NATIONAL COMMITTEE: (Conference)?
  - (a) The National Committee shall consist of:
    - i. Representatives:
      - (i) two from each unit of Australian Church Women in the Australian states and territories;
      - (ii) one from each denomination participating in the Australian Council of Churches and such other denominations as shall be invited by the National Committee to attend;
      - (iii) one from the federal organisation of any special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee;
      - (iv) two appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.
    - ii. the Working Committee, as set out in para.5 below.
  - (b) *Executive* the National Committee shall meet biennially at a time and place to be determined by the National Committee on the recommendation of the Working Committee. *Exec.*
  - (c) The Working Committee shall prepare an Annual Report and audited Financial Statement which shall be circulated annually to all organisations having representation on the National Committee (Conf.) and to the Australian Council of Churches and shall be presented to the biennial National Committee Meeting for endorsement.
  - (d) At least half of the representatives under 4(a) i.(i) and (ii) together with half of the Working Committee shall constitute a quorum. *Exec. Com.*
  - (e) Alternates may be appointed for all representatives to the National Committee.
  - (f) Observers and Consultants to be invited to National Committee meetings

- i. Non-voting observers with privilege to speak
  - (i) two from each unit of Australian Church Women in the Australian states and territories;
  - (ii) one from each denomination participating in the Australian Council of Churches and such other denominations as shall be invited by the Working Committee to attend;
  - (iii) one from the federal organisation of any special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee;
  - (iv) up to ten Working Committee nominees from the new state or territory location.
- ii. Consultants with privilege to speak
  - (i) the Federal Liaison Officer, Women's World Day of Prayer;
  - (ii) the Australian Representative on the General Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference;
  - (iii) any co-opted members of the Working Committee of Australian Church Women.

ACW Constitution (cont.)

4. NATIONAL COMMITTEE (cont.)

- iii Non-voting observers without privilege to speak  
one from each state or territory women's organisation of each denomination or special interest group in the state or territory in which the National Committee meeting is held.

5. WORKING COMMITTEE

- (a) The Working Committee shall consist of ten members:
  - i Officebearers of Australian Church Women
    - (i) a President
    - (ii) two Vice-Presidents
    - (iii) a Secretary
    - (iv) a Treasurer.
  - ii Five Committee members, one of whom shall be the Convener of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Committee.
- (b) These ten members of the Working Committee shall all be
  - i Resident in one state or territory;
  - ii Elected biennially by the National Committee.
- (c) The Working Committee shall have power to co-opt:
  - i Up to three members for special purposes;
  - ii Any members of the Planning and/or Working Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference resident in the same state or territory as the Working Committee of Australian Church Women.  
Such co-opted members shall not be eligible to vote, but shall be eligible to attend the National Committee Meeting as Consultants with privilege to speak.
- (d) The location of the Working Committee shall be determined by the National Committee and shall be changed to a different state or territory every two years, and shall not be relocated in any one state or territory until a period of four years has elapsed following the retirement of the previous Working Committee in that state or territory.
- (e) The Working Committee shall be responsible to the National Committee for the implementation of the programme of Australian Church Women according to the directions of the National Committee and shall act as an Executive on behalf of the National Committee between its meetings.
- (f) A Statement of Accounts shall be presented to each meeting of the Working Committee.
- (g) In the event of a vacancy on the Working Committee occurring between National Committee meetings, the Working Committee shall appoint a replacement to fill such vacancy and shall within one month notify in writing those organisations having representation on the National Committee.

6. FINANCE

- (a) All monies received by the Treasurer shall be paid as determined each year by the National Committee or by postal ballot by all organisations having representation on the National Committee, on the recommendation of the Working Committee.
- (b) Signatories for all Bank accounts and investments shall be any two of the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer.
- (c) The Financial Year shall end on 30th June in each year.

7. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the National Committee present and voting. Notice of Motion to amend the Constitution shall be forwarded in writing to the Secretary by any organisation having representation on the National Committee or by the Working Committee. All Constituent bodies shall be notified in writing of the proposed amendment not less than three months before the meeting of the National Committee at which the proposed amendment will be moved. Amendments shall be operative only upon ratification by the Australian Council of Churches.

8. DISSOLUTION:

In the event of the dissolution of Australian Church Women, its projects and trust funds shall be paid to the purposes designated and its administrative funds to the Australian Council of Churches.