

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Interim Committee meeting held on Wednesday, July 3, at 10 a.m. in the Australian Council of Churches Meeting Room.

OPENING: Opening Prayers were led by Mrs. McPhee.

PRESENT: Mesdames McPhee, Lilley, McKay, Williams, Wyllie (chair), Head Deaconess Andrews and the Revd. H. L. Perkins.

APOLOGIES: Apology was received from Mrs. S. M. Barrett and Mrs. Brigadier Baker.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the previous meeting having been duly circulated were taken as read and confirmed with the following alterations:

- . addition to those present of Mrs. McPhee
- . Mrs. I. Hayman should read Mrs. I. Haines

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was tabled from:

- . Mrs. Brig. Baker from Bathurst
- . Mrs. Haslett from Roseville
- . Mrs. M. Ford from Alice Springs
- . The Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union, of W.A.
- . The W.A. Committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Resolved that the correspondence be received and dealt with by the convener.

REPORTS: Study Material: Mrs. Wyllie reported that the study material had not yet arrived but was expected very soon from the committee in Melbourne.

Constitutional Relationships: The Committee had before it the draft suggestions for a more formal structure of the ACW which had been drawn up by the committee appointed. The document had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion it was resolved that the following be the proposed structure:

(attached as separate document to these minutes)

Circulation of Document and necessary action: It was resolved that the document be forwarded with accompanying invitation to all state women's inter-church councils (or appropriate body) to become the state council of ACW. It was noted that the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council Executive Committee meeting would be held on Monday, July 8.

Further resolved that the document be used at the forthcoming consultation on July 10 and Mrs. McKay would also use it when she addresses the Women's Inter-Church Council of Queensland in Brisbane on July 24.

The meeting also agreed that when the invitation is issued to the councils to become the State Council of ACW that we ask for a copy of their constitution for our records.

Visit of Dr. Madeline Barot - October 2-16: The convener, Mrs. Wyllie, reported that she had now the dates on which Dr. Barot would be available in

Australia and outlined some of the things she would be interested in doing.

Mrs. Wyllie also suggested that we should arrange for her to

(a) speak to groups of women to give them the opportunity to hear her and also to assist in the defraying of any expenses of her visit.

(b) speak to groups of both men and women on the work of her department in the WCC namely the Department of Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

Mrs. Wyllie said that in view of her limited time in Australia she would be only able to visit Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne. Mrs. McKay drew the attention of the meeting that the holiday weekend in Sydney fell during this time and suggested that her visit to Sydney be arranged for the latter part of her stay.

It was resolved that the following form the committee to arrange for the visit: Mrs. F. McKay, Mrs. Lilley, Mrs. H. McPhee, Mrs. M. Wyllie and the Revd. H. L. Perkins and that the committee meet at 2.30 p.m. on July 10.

<sup>1</sup> July 10 Consultation: Final arrangements were made for the consultation.

Community Day: Mrs. Wyllie reported that the material for Community Day was almost ready and would be made available as quickly as possible.

NSW Local Groups of ACW: Following the decisions made earlier in the meeting concerning the structure of ACW it was agreed that the matter of the formation of local groups was now the business of the NSW Women's Inter-Church Council in cooperation with the Revd. C. H. Norton as NSW State Secretary of the ACC.

CLOSING: Mrs. Wyllie closed the meeting with prayer.

CONFIRMED:

DATE:

*J.R. Neal*  
7-8-63

attached "Suggestions for a more formal structure of ACW".

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Suggestions for a more formal structure of Australian Church Women.

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1. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

The basic composition of the NC of ACW shall be representative of:

1. Federal denominational women's organizations (appointed by the Federal body or by whatever means appropriate to the particular church).

Church of England	4		
Methodist	2		
Presbyterian	2		
Congregational	1		
Churches of Christl			
Salvation Army	1		
Other churches one each		minimum	15

2. State Councils of ACW (by whatever name they are called)  
(see No.2 below)

Queensland	1	Sth Aust.	1
N.S.W.	2	West Aust.	1
Victoria	2	A.C.T.	1
Tasmania	1		

9

3. Special interest groups: as will be named in the Constitution  
e.g. Women's World Day of Prayer, YWCA
- 2

4. The Australian Council of Churches
- 4

2. STATE COUNCILS OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN.

The existing State women's inter-church groups (where their constitution provides for representatives to be appointed by the denominational women's organizations of the State) shall be invited to be the State Council of ACW.

3. STATE COUNCILS OF ACW shall have consultative status on the State Council of Churches or the Committee affiliated with the ACC.

(Consultants have the right to speak and move motions but not to vote.)

4. LOCAL GROUPS OF ACW in suburban and rural areas shall be affiliated with the State Council of ACW.

5. The LOCAL GROUP OF ACW shall become affiliated with the Local Inter-Church Council if that Council is affiliated with the State Council of the ACC.

6. Individuals may become corresponding members with the State Council of ACW if there is no local group to which they may belong.

7. When the invitation to existing State Women's Inter-Church Councils to become State Councils of ACW is extended the following points should be made:

1. That the present name of the State body may be retained but that the organization function as the State Council of the ACW.
2. That the organization which functions as the State Council of ACW shall give priority to the promoting of and continuing assistance to local groups of ACW in suburban and rural areas.
3. That the State Council include all member churches of the Australian Council of Churches and such other churches as may desire membership. e.g. The Russian and Serbian Orthodox Churches are in the Inter-Church Aid in Australia but are not member churches of the ACC., the Baptist Federal Board of Christian Education is a member of the Australian Council of Christian Education and the Australian Christian Youth Council, but the Baptist Church is not a member of the ACC., the Baptist Unions in Victoria and Tasmania are members of the Victorian and Tasmanian Councils of Churches affiliated with the ACC., but the Australian Baptist Union is not a member of the ACC. The basis of membership shall be that which governs admission to the Australian Council of Churches:

"A fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and therefore seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

4. That the State Councils of the ACW determine their ratio of representation from their member groups.

5. That special interest groups which have membership on the National Council of ACW shall be invited to the members on the State Councils.

3/7/63

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