

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Working Committee held on Tuesday, August 24th, 1965 at 2 pm in the Rev. John Neal's Office within the Australian Council of Churches.

- OPENING: The meeting opened with prayer led by Mrs. M. G. Wyllie.
- PRESENT: Mrs. M. G. Wyllie (chair); Mesdames A.A. Adam, C.F. Gribble, F.O. Hulme-Moir, Deaconess M. Andrews, Miss T. Skillier, Lt.Col. H. Cross.
- Welcome was extended to Mrs. F.O. Hulme-Moir as alternate for Deaconess M. Andrews.
- APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Mesdames J.F. Dey, H.J. Lilley, F. Stafford, A.G. Ralph, D.J.A. Verco, Mrs. A. Dougan.
- MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Fellowship Day Report: The Secretary had been asked by the N.S.W. Promotion Officer, Mrs. Verco, to report that she was not yet able to supply a full report, but that from reports received she would like to submit the following constructive comments.

- (1) It was considered that the service was longer than was needed for the occasion.
- (2) For future events, the Working Committee carefully examine the Study Questions, trying to put ourselves in the place of women who will participate in discussion groups. Some study leaders had found one or two of the questions a little ambiguous.

Following this report, and discussion, it was resolved that attention in future be given to -

- (1) The service being a little shorter.
- (2) That questions be clear, and consideration be given to providing an annotation for group leaders.
- (3) Hymns be carefully chosen. Having in mind the variety of Hymn Books, the selection be of hymns to be known to worshippers from all churches.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was received from the Asian Church Women's Conference. This letter invites Australian Church Women to have representation at the third Conference of Asian Church Women, to be held in July, 1966.

This letter says:

"The third Conference of Asian Church Women will be held from July 15 - 26, 1966, at International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan, with the Theme - "Abide in Me ---- Bear Rich Fruit". The EACC was requested to sponsor the third Conference, as it had the second one, and the request was gladly granted. The responsibility of inviting delegates was entrusted to the Planning Committee of the Asian Church Women's Conference according to the recommendations of the 1962 conference.

We invite your National Council to send a delegation of women who will fulfil the following qualifications:

1. They should be actively related to the Women's organization of the Church where they hold membership.
2. They should be those who have never had an opportunity of attending an international Christian conference outside their country before.
3. They should be elected representatives of the Church's National Women's organization.

4. That in case there is no such National Women's organization in a country, the Church Assembly or their Executive Committee be requested to elect their delegates to the conference.
5. In choosing delegates a reasonable weightage should be given to United Churches.
6. There should be a reasonable denominational balance.

We shall be most grateful if you will elect your delegates as early as possible as study materials will need to be sent to them in plenty of time for local group study. We would request the names to be submitted to the chairman of the Conference by the end of December, 1965. This is necessary as vacancies will have to be filled. Please include the mailing address along with each name.

Regarding the expenses, the Asian Church Women's Committee anticipates to practice the principle of stewardship and self-support. If the National Council or the Women's organization within it will contribute U.S. 150 dollars plus passport and visa expenses for each delegate, the conference will pay the balance of the total cost of return air passage (tourist). For those countries where the return air passage expense is less than U.S. 150 dollars, we request the National Bodies to be totally responsible. Hospitality will be provided in Japan."

The letter also invites suggestions concerning the conference; it is signed by Mrs. Jannuan Suriyakham, Chairman, Asian Church Women's Conference.

Some discussion of an exploratory nature took place, which included as to whether in view of point two in 'qualifications' we should consider someone from a State where a representative has not previously attended an International Conference outside Australia. The view was then expressed that if the person were representing Australian Church Women, she would need to have a good working knowledge of Australian Church Women. Other comments were as to the advisability of the person being a member of the National Committee, or in a place of leadership in a State Unit of Australian Church Women - that in the selection it would be necessary to take into account what would be the extent of the person's influence in the future. All agreed that the decision as to who the representative should be should rest with the National Committee. It was considered the conditions concerning finance were very equitable. It was resolved.

- (1) That we write to the Asian Church Women's Conference, thanking them for their invitation, and stating we expect to send one delegate to the Conference. Also, that it will be appreciated if we are not required to send the actual name of the person until after the National Committee to be held in January, 1966.
- (2) That we write to State Units, giving them the contents of the letter from the Asian Church Women's Conference, and also the points covered in our exploratory discussion; that we ask them as to whether they would like to make any suggestion concerning whom the representative should be, and also that we would appreciate any suggestions they would like to make concerning raising our quota of travel expenses.
- (3) Even if the Working Committee were in a position to make recommendations to the National Committee, there should be full opportunity for discussion at the National Committee Meeting in January, 1966, and the appointment of the representative be made by the National Committee.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The financial statement was presented by Miss Skiller on behalf of the Treasurer, Mrs. J.F. Dey. Mrs Dey is at present in Indonesia.

<u>Receipts.</u>		<u>Expenses.</u>	
Fellowship of the Least Coin	77 12 9		
Winifred Kiek Scholarship			
for investment	100 0 0		
donations	46 2 9		
Asian Church Womens Conference		Credit balance	227 15 6
donation for travel	2 0 0		
	<u>£227 15 6</u>		<u>£227 15 6</u>

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY:

It was resolved:

- 1) That it be requested that Offerings received at this year's World Community Day be used for "Overseas Projects of Australian Church Women".
- 2) Concerning 'The Fellowship of the Least Coin', that it be suggested that at the conclusion of the Service, Offerings for the Fellowship of the Least Coin be received. During organ music, those belonging to this Fellowship could be invited to place their offerings in a suitable bowl on the Communion Table.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to State Units covering these points, and explaining that as it appears Fellowship Day Offerings will not this year cover our financial responsibility in connection with Miss Connie Tan's visit to Australia, it would be appreciated if State Units could be as generous to Australian Church Women as they consider possible in connection with World Community Day Offerings.

It was reported that, in harmony with Minutes of the Meeting of the Working Committee held on 27th April, a letter had been sent to State Units conveying the resolution of the National Committee that men be invited to join in World Community Day meetings where this was considered to be practicable.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP:

- 1) Circulating terms of policy:

It was resolved -

- a) That copy of the Scholarship Policy be sent to the East Asia Christian Conference, The All Africa Conference of Churches and the Pacific Conference of Churches, the mode of address on the letter being to all three Conferences.
 - b) That a further letter be sent to the Pacific Conference of Churches, inviting them to nominate a scholarship holder for 1966, and that we would appreciate receiving this by the earlier part of November.
 - c) That carbon copies of these letters be sent to the Australian Council of Churches Scholarship Committee.
 - d) That State Units be given this information.
- 2) Miss Connie Tan's Programme in Adeliade and Victoria:
This was outlined by Miss Skiller, and is given below.

August 23 - Sept 5

Adelaide - Bordertown

Australian Social Workers Conference
Australian Church Women State Unit programme

September 6 arrive

Melbourne

Programme arranged by Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council includes -

- 1) three weeks with Social Service Departments Church and State
- 2) Attending lectures with final year students - Social Studies, Melbourne University
- 3) Visit Church institutions
 - Salvation Army
 - Methodist
 - Church of England
 - Presbyterian
- 4) "Janefield" for mentally retarded children
- 5) Assimilation problems of young European migrants
- 6) Speaking to church and inter-church groups

PUBLICATION OF "WE OF ONE HOUSE" by the Rev. Winifred Kiek:

Consideration was given to this, but the Working Committee had very serious doubts as to whether there would be a good market for this book at present. Also, we are faced with the lack of funds to undertake printing of this nature. It was agreed that we write to Mrs. Coates and thank her for her thought in this respect, but that it is not thought we could proceed with this suggestion.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING. 1966:

Brief consideration was given to this subject. It was agreed that we invite members of the present National Committee to make suggestions concerning subjects to be considered at the National Committee Meeting in January, 1966; also, that we invite the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society to suggest subjects they think should be included in the Agenda, and invite them also to join with Australian Church Women for a session of the National Committee Meeting.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL:

It was noted that no word had reached us from Western Australia following their having been accepted provisionally as a State Unit of Australian Church Women at the National Committee Meeting in February, and our letter of April 21 confirming this.

It was resolved that we write again, expressing the hope that there is favourable response concerning their becoming the State Unit of Australian Church Women, and that we would be glad to know what the position is.

NEXT MEETING:

To be held on Tuesday, 28th September, at 2 pm.

CLOSING:

The meeting with prayer led by Mrs. Wylie.

CONFIRMED

DATE

Mary M. Andrews
28th Sept. 1965