

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

AVE MARIA CENTRE, COORPAROO, BRISBANE. 5th-9th AUGUST, 1985.

"LIVING IN GOD'S SERVICE".

MINUTES.

MONDAY, 5th AUGUST

Following registrations from 2 p.m., the President formerly welcomed members of Conference at 4 p.m., and the Secretary read the Roll Call, as per attached list.

Greetings were received from N.C.C. in New Zealand; Miss Jean Skuse, A.C.C.; A.C.W.F.; Mrs. Comm. Read, East Territory and Mrs. Col. Sketcher, Sthn. Territory, the Salvation Army; Mrs. Wyllie, Mrs. Verco and Mrs. Dey, Life members; Mrs. Hilbig; C.W.L. Victoria, Tasmania, Sth. Australia; Mrs. Eunice Kim, A.C.W.C.; Mrs. Valerie Beal, Anglican Women of Australia.

Procedural Arrangements were noted as set out, with the addition of 3 minutes to be allowed for speaking to Unit Reports.

Agenda: The Agenda as printed was presented and as there were no alterations, was adopted on the motion of Mrs. M. Hunt seconded Comm. M. Linnett. CARRIED.

OPENING SERVICE: This was held at St. Stephen's Anglican Church Coorparoo at 7.30 p.m. Invited guests were representatives from all church women's organisations, members of the Q'land Australian Church Women, Mrs. Leisha Harvey, M.L.A., Lady Grindrod (wife of the Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane), and interested friends. Apologies were received from Bishop Adrian Charles and Mrs. Charles, Archbishop Sir John Grindrod, Archbishop F. Rush, the Revd. Eric Moore and Mrs. Moore of the Uniting Church, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Beale of the Churches of Christ.

The service was prepared by Miss Helen Trudgian of the National Executive. Readings and poems were read by Mrs. Val Clarke a Vice President and Miss Helen Trudgian, and prayers were led by Mrs. Lena Meadows President and Mrs. Mary Carroll Vice President. Mrs. Adele Nesbitt was guest soloist.

As Bishop A.O. Charles, who was to have been guest preacher, was hospitalised only two days before the service, Canon Les Turner gave the address and based it on the Theme of the Conference "Living in God's Service". In his thoughts were that when serving we are using the gifts of God to His service and for one another, and the more we come to know God the more easily satisfying our task becomes and the greater our understanding of His love for us becomes. Our daily work is our daily service for God.

Following the service, guests and conference members were entertained to supper in St. Stephen's Parish Hall, by members of the Mothers' Union branch there.

.

TUESDAY, 6th AUGUST

Morning devotions were led by the N.S.W. delegation using the theme "Morning has broken", with hymns and prayers being based on this.

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Following breakfast, the President formerly opened the day's proceedings with a Bible reading from Romans 12, and read a passage from the Anglican Women's Conference held in Nth. Q'land, and concluded with a poem "You are a masterpiece, saith the Lord".

Prayer Partners - A call was made for participants as prayer partners and many members spoke of the value of the practice. It was unanimously decided to continue this and Averil Whybird and Helen Trudgian were appointed to arrange the partnership from names placed on a list and to be announced at the end of proceedings.

Notices of Motion - Attention was drawn to the Notices of Motion and Amendments as printed in the Working Documents and any additional Notices of Motion were called for.

Minutes of 1983 National Committee Meetings, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and it was moved Leonie Liveris (W.A.) seconded Ailsa Skippen (Q.) that the Minutes be verified.
CARRIED.

Business Arising -

re Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Discussion took place on areas to be defined for allocation, suggestions being -
1. East Asia, Indonesia, Malaysia (exclude Japan and Philippines)
2. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka.
3. Pacific Islands, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Australia.

It was moved by Evonne Sullivan (A.C.T.) seconded Merle Linnett (Vic.) that Area 3 of the three defined areas be widened to include Australia.
CARRIED.

re Fellowship Day and World Community Day Services contributions. Some Units felt that there was confusion on the purpose of these days and the receiving of gifts for same, and questioned if they could be changed and/or clarified. Following discussion it was felt that they be left as at present, and members and friends should be educated on the respective Days and their purposes. Ina Collard (Q.) withdrew the motion as in Executive Minutes, September 1983.

Correspondence -

1. From Lutheran Women of Australia - reference to letter of March 1983 and decision not to become affiliated with A.C.W.
2. From West Australia Unit accepting responsibility for National Executive after Sth. Australia's term ends.
3. From Mrs. Shanti Solomon, ICFLC - re grant to Sth. Australia for bus for Vietnamese congregation.
4. From Mrs. M. Wyllie, N.S.W. - re material for archives.

Business Arising -

Following discussion on Item 3 re the ICFLC grant, it was moved by Evonne Sullivan (A.C.T.) seconded Marion Dodds (Vic.) That guidelines for the selection of recipients of F.L.C. grants be looked into and freshened up as required.
CARRIED.

Re Item 4 the Secretary reported that procedural papers of National Conferences are sent to the National Library Canberra. After delegates had expressed their opinions Dorothy Hartam (Tas.) moved seconded Mary Carroll (Q.)

That this Conference appoint a committee to ensure that Australian Church Women records be completed as far as possible and lodged in the National Library Archives, also that Mrs. Mabel Wyllie's offer of assistance be accepted.
CARRIED.

REPORTS:

Moved by Val Clarke (Q.) seconded Edith Ridge (N.S.W.) that reports as printed be taken as read. CARRIED.

Secretary - Sheela Turner presented her report and thanked all State Units for their understanding and co-operation during the past two years. All members of Executive had fulfilled their role and gained much from the experience of working together, and fellowship. The highlight of the past two years had been the visit of Mrs. Eunice Kim, Executive Secretary of A.C.W.C., to almost all States and Units, and we had all benefited from her time with us. In moving the adoption of this report Lena Meadows (President) thanked the Secretary for a job well done during her term of office. These comments were seconded by Ailsa Skippen and endorsed by other delegates.

Treasurer - The Financial Report was read by Ailsa Skippen, who was then congratulated by the President and other delegates who remarked on the clarity of the Report. In response to an enquiry, the Treasurer explained a difference in F.L.C. amounts saying fluctuations in international currency in preceding year was the reason. Mary Carroll (Q.) said amounts raised for F.L.C. were a credit to those concerned, mentioning Mrs. Meadows' role as Queensland Convener, and praised Mr. Meadows for his co-operation in chauffeuring his wife to various Queensland centres to speak on F.L.C. projects. The Treasurer's Report was received on the motion of Dorothy Haensel (S.A.) seconded by Evonne Sullivan (A.C.T.) CARRIED.

Ailsa Skippen asked as a token of appreciation to the Auditor Mr. E.J. Haffenden, that a book token to the value of \$15 be given to him. Moved Ailsa Skippen (Q.) seconded Val Clarke (Q.) CARRIED.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

The Secretary asked for names to be recorded for those delegates requiring Minutes and Women at Work for the next term.

State Unit Reports -

N.S.W. Brig. M. Ward presented the report and reported that 17 new groups had been formed in the past two years, which means more financial help for F.L.C. and W.K.S. At the time of Installation of a new President (every 2 years) she is presented with a Bible. This is held in May and the alternate year is a Service with Special Intent.

A.C.T. Mrs. E. Sullivan spoke to this report and said one of the highlights was the introduction of Life Members. A.C.W. has been 20 years in A.C.T., and two of the foundation members had been inducted in August.

Victoria Mrs. M. Dodds spoke of the visits of Eunice Kim and Dr. Sushila Rao as very important to them and noted that these visits had deepened interest in A.C.W. They now have 75 groups who meet for F.L.C. and World Community Days. Information days are most worthwhile but must be followed up by local groups. Quiet Days create atmosphere of peace and quiet. The Victorian Unit is involved in Victoria's 150th Celebrations.

Tasmania Mrs. R. Edwards also reported on the Bible ceremony to incoming Presidents, with the names of previous Presidents on the fly-leaf. There was growth in A.C.W. in Tasmania, and the Lutheran church were now joining in Burnie.

S.A. Mrs. J. Roberts spoke of the many activities coming up next year with the A.C.W.C. Rally and South Australia's own celebrations. The Constitution had been amended to include Life Members and Mrs. Myrtle Wood, first treasurer for the Inter-Church Council was made the first life member.

W.A. Mrs. L. Liveris spoke of her own involvement as President of the W.A. Council of Churches. Participation in all aspects of A.C.W. was good, we should be looking at an inclusiveness in all services and encourage other ethnic groups to join in.

Queensland Mrs. M. Carroll spoke of the new format for organising Fellowship Day and World Community Day Services, when members from each City church meet in committee to arrange a central service, as well as services held in different areas. Mrs. Jessie Dennis was granted life membership after 30 years loyal service to Q'land A.C.W. We are happy to have Valeri Palang studying here. She has attended various functions and visited country areas.

N.T. As there were no delegates present this report was taken as read.

GUEST SPEAKER - Mrs. Margo Heyburn, wife of Mr. Sam Heyburn who is the National Director for Youth for Christ Australia. The speaker used texts from Is.6, 1-8 and John 15, 14-15 and stated "Living in God's Service means more than being God's servants.....we must also be His friends". God is Holy. We are wretched. Even our righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight. When we come to this realisation we are challenged to ask for cleansing through the blood of Jesus Christ and say "Master; I am your servant" or "Here am I, send me". However, God is also huggable. We are His bride. Clothed in Christ's righteousness God sees us as perfect - because the SON gets in His eyes. We are more than servants, we are friends. Servants obey because they have to, friends obey because they want to. Living in God's service truly means being partners with God sharing His message of the Good News - the purpose of Christ's visit to this world - because we are in love with Him. Thanks was expressed to Mrs. Heyburn by Lena Meadows.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

Four delegate/observers presented a brief recollection and prayer commemorating the 40th anniversary of Hiroshima.

MOTION - Re 3 year tenure (instead of 2) for National Executive. This was presented by Mary Carroll (Q.) with the view that not enough experience was gained in a 2 year term to fulfil duties adequately and then prepare for National Conference. Following discussion the majority felt 2 year terms were sufficient. Val Clarke (Q.) expressed the view that she would be happy to see conferences held in a central place as large expense was involved in travelling, etc. Proposed by Joan Adcock (A.C.T.) seconded Evonne Sullivan (A.C.T.) That the National Executive sit for a three (3) year period instead of two (2) commencing with South Australia's term of office as National Executive. LOST.

NEW CONSTITUTION - At the request of the President, Pauline Crosby (S.A.) was asked to lead this part of proceedings, as she had been one of the committee appointed to prepare a preliminary draft of revisions. The Clauses were moved by Pauline Crosby seconded by Dorothy Haensel (S.A.)

- Clause 1. NAME: Australian Church Women. ACCEPTED.
2. AIMS:
- 2.1 To unite Christian women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; (with addition of "and") ACCEPTED
- 2.2 To promote co-operation and understanding between men and women in Church, family and society; ACCEPTED
- 2.3 To help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the church; ACCEPTED
- 2.4 To provide opportunities for Christian women of different denominations to worship, study and serve together; ACCEPTED
- 2.5 To encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries. ACCEPTED

3. OBJECTS: In fulfilment of its Aims, the Australian Church Women shall promote:-
- 3.1 State and Territory Units. Such Units shall act as a forum for discussion on any matters that may arise in pursuance of these aims within their own areas. ACCEPTED.
- 3.2 SCHOLARSHIP
- 3.2.1 Australian Church Women shall sponsor a scholarship to be known as the Winifred Kiek Scholarship; ACCEPTED
- 3.2.2 Australian Church Women may sponsor a fellowship to be known as the Winifred Kiek Fellowship; ACCEPTED
- 3.2.3 The Winifred Kiek Scholarship and the Winifred Kiek Fellowship and any other approved award shall be made according to guidelines determined from time to time by the National Conference. ACCEPTED
- 3.3 FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN
Australian Church Women shall promote the International Fellowship of the Least Coin as a Fellowship of Prayer and Reconciliation and Offering of the Least Coin of our realm, according to the accepted practice of the International Fellowship of the Least Coin. ACCEPTED
- 3.4 SPECIAL DAYS
Australian Church Women shall promote Fellowship Day and World Community Day and encourage the observance of Women's World Day of Prayer. The National Executive shall be responsible for the preparation and distribution of Orders of Service for Fellowship Day and World Community Day. ACCEPTED
- 3.5 NATIONAL PUBLICATION
The National Executive shall be responsible for the production of a publication for distribution to all State and Territory Units. ACCEPTED
4. MEMBERSHIP: Each and every member of a State or Territory Unit shall be a member of Australian Church Women. ACCEPTED
- 4.1 LIFE MEMBERS
- 4.1.1 The honour of life membership may be conferred on women who have made a long term significant contribution to Australian Church Women at the national level; ACCEPTED
- 4.1.2 There may be only one life member from each State or Territory Unit at any one time;
Re question from N.S.W. where there is more than one Life Member, this is to come into line with the new Constitution in due course. Clause ACCEPTED
- 4.1.3 Nominations for Life Membership shall come from State or Territory Units and appointments shall be made by the National Conference. ACCEPTED
5. RELATIONSHIPS:
- 5.1 Australian Church Women shall be a member of the Asian Church Women's Conference; ACCEPTED
- 5.2 Australian Church Women shall have fraternal relationships with the Australian Council of Churches;
- 5.3 Australian Church Women shall, through the foregoing relationships, be associated with the Regional Conferences of Churches of Asia, Africa and the Pacific, and the World Council of Churches.

Many delegates felt it unacceptable to have links with Australian Council of Churches, as in many cases it kept some churches from joining Australian Church Women. Others thought it a retrograde step to disassociate with A.C.C. and it was pointed out that the Constitution states 'fraternal relationships' only. After discussion Clauses 5.2 and 5.3 were DELETED and it was foreshadowed that an amendment would be forthcoming .

6. ADMINISTRATION: shall be through
- 6.1 NATIONAL CONFERENCE which shall meet biennially; ACCEPTED.
- 6.1.1 Membership of National Conference shall consist of:
- (a) Voting Members
- (i) The members of the current National Executive as set out in Para. 6.2; ACCEPTED.
- (ii) Two members appointed by each State and Territory Unit of Australian Church Women; ACCEPTED.
- (iii) One member from the National organisation of each denomination participating in Australian Church Women through its State and Territory Units; ACCEPTED.
- (iv) Up to five members from the incoming National Executive nominees. ACCEPTED.
- (b) Observers
(who shall have the right to speak but not to vote)
- (i) Two members from each State and Territory Unit of Australian Church Women; ACCEPTED.
- (ii) Two members from the National organisation of each denomination participating in Australian Church Women through its State and Territory Units; ACCEPTED.
- (iii) Life members; ACCEPTED.
- (iv) Such others as may from time to time be determined by the National Executive or be recommended by Units and endorsed by the National Executive. ACCEPTED.
- (v) Up to five members from the incoming National Executive nominees; ACCEPTED.
- (vi) One member from National special interest groups participating in Australian Church Women through its State and Territory Units. ACCEPTED.
- 6.1.2 Alternates may be appointed for both Voting Members and Observers. ACCEPTED.
- 6.1.3 LOCATION:
Each State or Territory Unit shall have the right to host the National Conference and provide the National Executive of National Conference in rotation. ACCEPTED.
- 6.1.4 QUORUM:
Two-thirds of members who are in attendance and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at National Conference. ACCEPTED.
- 6.1.5 ELECTIONS:
- (a) Nominations for National Executive (and Auditor) from each State and Territory Unit in rotation (as decided at previous National Conference) shall be submitted to the National Secretary eight weeks prior to the Conference, such nominations to be approved by the Conference; ACCEPTED.
- (b) National delegates to Conference, Representatives to other organisations, and such other appointments as shall from time to time be considered desirable by National Conference, shall be elected by ballot from nominations received by the National Secretary eight weeks prior to National Conference. Any member in good standing in a State or Territory Unit of Australian Church Women may be nominated for any such position; ACCEPTED.
- (c) An amended clause foreshadowed.
- (d) (formerly (c) If insufficient nominations are received it shall be the responsibility of the National Executive to submit the required number of nominations. No nomination shall be accepted from the floor of Conference. ACCEPTED.

6.1.6 BUSINESS:

Notice of all matters which shall engage the attention of Conference, including Reports, shall be submitted to the National Executive at least eight weeks prior to Conference and shall be forwarded to each State and Territory Unit four weeks prior to Conference. ACCEPTED.

6.2 NATIONAL EXECUTIVE:

6.2.1 Membership of the National Executive shall consist of:

(a) Executive Officers who shall be President,
2 Vice-Presidents,
Secretary,
Treasurer. ACCEPTED.

(b) Five Committee Members who shall be
Minute Secretary,
W.K.S. Convener,
F.L.C. Convener,
Special Days Convener,
Publication Editor. ACCEPTED.

(c) Any members of the Executive Committee of Asian Church Womens Conference resident in the same State or Territory as the Australian Church Women's National Executive may be invited to serve ex-officio ACCEPTED.

(d) The Australian Representative on Asian Church Women's Conference General Committee, ex-officio ACCEPTED.

(e) Up to three (3) members may be co-opted for special purposes. ACCEPTED.

6.2.2 QUORUM:

Two-thirds of the elected membership of National Executive shall constitute a quorum. ACCEPTED.

6.2.3 VACANCIES:

In the event of a vacancy occurring on the National Executive between National Conferences, the National Executive shall appoint a replacement to fill such vacancy, and shall within one month notify in writing all State and Territory Units of Australian Church Women of such appointment for ratification. ACCEPTED.

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

CONVENERS' REPORTS

Winifred Kiek Scholar - Mrs. M. Hunt

Formal application from Burma has been received and will go ahead. Mrs. Hunt explained problems involved with new person taking over every 2 years and suggested perhaps it wasn't fair to students. Valeri Palang would be welcomed in Melbourne if an invitation was extended to her.

A suggestion was made that the Winifred Kiek Scholarship be located in a central place - so problems could be brought together and handled.

It was moved Ailsa Skippen (Q.) seconded Rosemary Edwards (Tas.) All internal travel for the Winifred Kiek Scholar for promotional purposes only, be paid from the Scholarship Fund. CARRIED.

Fellowship of the Least Coin - Mrs. I. Collard

There is plenty of promotional material available, also F.L.C. leaflets, labels and bookmarks. Some cartons of reports had been held up at Customs and some were water damaged when received.

The auditor had recommended that new stock of Circle of Prayer should increase in price.

Rosemary Edwards (Tas.) moved seconded Merle Linnett (Vic.)

That new stock of Circle of Prayer be priced at \$1.00 plus postage. CARRIED.

National Representative, Olive Ackland, to enquire at next Executive Meeting when new issue of Circle of Prayer due.

Burma Prayer Partnership - Mrs. V. Clarke

Val thanked Units for gathering material for monthly schedules and Information days on Burma. Val had received no replies to her letters hence, from information received, she had considered it best not to continue writing since February 1985. Burma has applied for Winifred Kiek Scholarship. The student was arranged through Burma Council of Churches. Scholarship holders are allowed out of the country on limited visas - three months. Student is well educated and will return to her country to do counselling. It was suggested that the incoming National Executive write to A.C.W.C. and advise how we have been getting on with Burma, and suggest perhaps we have a change around and the scheme be taken up by other nations.

Special Days - Mrs. Major Averil Whybird

Averil thanked Olive Ackland for her assistance, and for the patience extended by the Units. She also thanked her husband for his help. Thanks extended to those who prepared Orders of Service. Mrs. Margaret Knauerhouse of Sth. Australia is preparing the 1986 Fellowship Day service, the theme being "The Committed Life". 1986 World Community Day theme is "To the World - with Love", being prepared by the C.W.I. of Sth. Australia.

Women at Work - Miss H. Trudgian

Helen found the position a very interesting one and enjoyed doing it.

Publicity - Mrs. M. Carroll

The Catholic Leader has given good coverage of the Conference, with an article in February 1985 and again in May 1985. Articles have appeared in The Courier Mail, Women 's Weekly, local papers, Life and Times, Uniting Church Year Book, Church News, and programme on A.B.C. This all stimulated interest.

Asian Church Women's Conference - Mrs. O. Ackland

A seminar was held in Pakistan, funded by A.C.W.C., organised by Mrs. Shirin Samuel Vice-President of A.C.W.C., attended by women from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Burma and representatives of A.C.W.C.

The main issues coming to the fore were the need for education and health care, the abolition of the dowry system, awareness raising of village women, women's status within the family and society, the sharing of work in the home between female and male and the ways some interpretations of the Bible have been used to put women in an inferior role.

In Australia there is some confusion as to a grant received by N.T. of \$1500 as to whether it was an F.L.C. grant or A.C.W.C. Leadership Grant. It was actually the latter.

Contacts with other ecumenical organisations are maintained by the President who is a member of a W.C.C. Committee, the Executive Secretary who is a member of C.C.A. Committee and the International W.W.D.P. Committee.

The non-governmental Forum was held in Nairobi recently and Eva Findlay and Shanti Solomon were to represent I.C.F.L.C. and A.C.W.C.

The issue for 1985 is Tourism and Prostitution and there is to be a Seminar in November in Taiwan.

A.C.W.C. Assembly 1986

Dorothy Haensel, of the local committee for A.C.W.C. Assembly spoke of the 8th Assembly to be held in Adelaide August 24th-29th, 1986. The Opening Service will be on the 24th August at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, the speaker to be Janet Wood, Theologian and executive officer of World Council of Churches. Small committees have been formed e.g. transport, accommodation, hospitality, etc., and 'operation bedsocks' has been launched (a pair of knitted bedsocks on every pillow). Each State has offered assistance and from Conference offered to provide 120 postcards of their State or Territory. 120 participants are expected. Lena Meadows congratulated Sth. Australia for their efforts in this regard.

DENOMINATIONAL REPORTS

ANGLICAN - Mrs. A. Hearn

Mothers' Union - main emphasis is on Marriage and Family Life. Programmes include support for after school care, a Caring ministry to ethnic groups, and Brisbane has bought a caravan for use of families who can't afford holidays. Anglican Women of Australia will be holding a Conference in October.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST - Mrs. D. Hartam

The present Executive of Australian Christian Women's Fellowship is resident in Tasmania. Federal Executive moves from State to State every 2 years. Each state received a regular newsletter. Each Executive in turn adds material for 2 years to the Resource Kit.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE - Mrs. B. Grealy

The report as printed is from the State Conference (Victoria). Barbara expressed her enthusiasm for the ideals of A.C.W. and stated that C.W.L. is to have a National Conference in October 1985, in Melbourne.

SALVATION ARMY - Mrs. Commissioner Merle Linnett

General Wahlstrom is to visit Brisbane in September and 5,000 are expected to be present at the Rally. A Rally, with an anticipated attendance of 12,000 is also being organised for the bi-centennial in 1988. The equality of women in the Salvation Army mentioned and in the Southern Territory, history has been made with five States choosing women for top positions.

UNITING CHURCH - Mrs. G. Gillies

Greetings from the National Committee. Uniting Church Fellowships were started in 1982. Victoria is to provide the Executive Working Committee for the next 3 years.

GREEK ORTHODOX OF ST. GEORGE - Mrs. M. Fouras

In Brisbane there is a forward thinking President and Priest who gives support. The Ladies Auxiliary supports community. It has undertaken the construction of the St. Nicholas Nursing Home. They are involved with Religious Education, senior citizens, and fellowship groups. Married women work with young people who, being Greek, have a double identity. They have introduced a Marriage Preparation Course dealing with Human Relationships, etc.

BAPTIST + Miss D. Clack.

Report arrived late as National Secretary is overseas. Administrative roles; women are voted into position of leadership if best person for the job. Constitution now states that positions are open to men and women. In October there will be elected a new President for the Baptist Union of Australia who is expected to be a woman.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - Mrs. D. Armstrong

Next year's service written by Australian women with the theme "Choose Life". In 1987 there would be the celebration of centenary of Women's World Day of Prayer with celebrations centred mainly in New York. The Theme "Come and Rejoice" was written by the World Executive.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES + Mrs. J. Nelson

Congratulations to the Salvation Army. Men and women have gifts and the church must fulfil its role from men and women. We need co-operation of men and women in church, family and society. Greetings from the General Secretary, Miss Jean Skuse. Judy spoke on her role on the Status of Commission to women. The Commission is to look at social issues from the Christian viewpoint. To look at women in poverty (increasing number of poor families headed by women). Women's Refuges. To look at taxation. The task force to look into domestic violence - violence is in the Church - need to inform and challenge church. A women's Art Festival is to be organised.

It was moved by Jean Adcock (A.C.T.) seconded Evonne Sullivan (A.C.T.) that Reports be received. CARRIED.

The first full day of the Conference concluded with Evening Worship led by the Victorian Unit.

.

WEDNESDAY, 7th AUGUST

Morning devotions were led by the Tasmania Unit, with messages from each Branch around the State.

FIFTH BUSINESS SESSION - Constitution continued

To begin the Session, the President used as her text James 2.14,24 and read an extract from J.B. Priestly "Literature and the Western Man".

Constitution:

7. FINANCE:
- 7.1 All monies received by the Treasurer shall be disbursed as determined by the National Conference. ACCEPTED.
 - 7.2 An amended clause foreshadowed.
 - 7.3 (formerly 2) Signatories for all Bank accounts and investments, shall be any two of the Executive Officers. ACCEPTED.
 - 7.4 (formerly 3) A Statement of accounts shall be presented to each meeting of the National Executive. ACCEPTED.
 - 7.5 (formerly 4) The Financial year shall end on 30 June in each year, and an audited Financial Statement shall be circulated annually to all State and Territory Units, and shall be presented to the National Conference for endorsement. ACCEPTED.
 - 7.6 (formerly 5) The National Conference shall appoint an accredited accountant, resident in the State or Territory of the National Executive, to audit accounts. ACCEPTED.
8. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION:
- 8.1 This Constitution may be amended by a vote of a two-thirds majority of voting delegates at the National Conference. ACCEPTED.
 - 8.2 Notice of Motion to amend the Constitution shall be forwarded in writing to the National Secretary not less than four months before the meeting of the National Conference at which the proposed amendment will be moved. Such Notices of Motion shall be circulated to all State and Territory Units three months prior to the National Conference. ACCEPTED.
 - 8.3 All duly ratified changes and amendments to the Constitution shall become operative on the conclusion of the National Conference at which they are adopted. ACCEPTED.
9. DISSOLUTION:
- In the event of the dissolution of Australian Church Women, its project funds and trust funds shall be disbursed to the purposes designated, and its administrative funds as decided by the dissolving National Conference. ACCEPTED.

AMENDMENTS TO PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

5. RELATIONSHIPS:

In lieu of 5.2 and 5.3 Marion Dodds (Vic.) moved and Dorothy Hartam (Tasmania) seconded that Australian Church Women shall maintain relationships and dialogue with Australian Council of Churches and other ecumenical bodies. CARRIED.

6.1,5 (c) ELECTIONS:

Moved Pauline Crosby (S.A.) seconded Dorothy Haensel (S.A.) that this clause be inserted:

In the event of National Representation to a Conference or other organisation being necessary between National Conferences, the National Executive shall appoint such representative/s after consultation with each State and Territory Unit. CARRIED.

7.2 FINANCE:

Moved Judy Nelson (A.C.C.) seconded Dorothy Hartam (Tas.) All financial accounts and investments shall include the words "Australian Church Women" in their title. CARRIED.

Following these Amendments being passed, Pauline Crosby moved and Dorothy Haensel seconded that the Revised Constitution be adopted in its entirety. CARRIED.

Helen Trudgian spoke of the time and effort needed in building or revising a Constitution and paid tribute and appreciation to what the S.A. Unit Committee had done in this regard. This was seconded by Ailsa Skippen and supported by Deaconess Mary Andrews. Ina Collard congratulated the Committee on the presentation of the Draft Constitution.

Joan Adcock foreshadowed for 'Further Business' - the possibility of helping with funding for the Incoming National Executive to attend Conference.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Following morning tea, Val Clarke introduced Mrs. Stephanie Kennedy, who worked with her Dr. husband for 5 years in Tanzania with the Church Missionary Society.

To use the words of the speaker "In thinking through what aspect of "Living in God's Service" I could present this morning, I decided that living in the cross-cultural situation, as missionaries in Tanzania, East Africa, highlighted many important aspects of Christian life, which were worth bringing to your attention. So I speak, not as a learned theologian, nor do I bring you a victorious missionary success story. I speak simply as a Christian who has had the rather unique privilege of serving God overseas (and who's lived to tell the tale)."

Mrs. Kennedy then went on to speak of the country itself, its culture and customs, its poverty, its people, and finally of her role as a Missionary wife - her first priority. At the conclusion of Mrs. Kennedy's talk her message was highlighted by an interpretive dance of "Let me be your brother" beautifully presented by two dancers. Thanks was expressed by Lena Meadows.

CITY BUS TOUR

Following lunch, two buses left for a tour through Brisbane City streets, pointing out various landmarks, and then making their way to the Botanical Gardens and Slaughter Falls, where afternoon tea was enjoyed in the open and many photographs taken. On then to scenic Mt. Coottha, which gives a panoramic view of Brisbane and surrounds, before returning to Ave Maria Centre.

SIXTH BUSINESS SESSION.

Pauline Crosby advised of advice received from lawyer regarding Deed of Trust for Winifred Kiek Scholarship. It was recommended that W.K.S. Money be invested and interest only used for the scholar - this may take time to build up. On the motion of Pauline Crosby (S.A.) seconded Dorothy Haensel (S.A.) it was moved That the Incoming National Executive be instructed to immediately draw up a Deed of Trust for the implementation and administration of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship through a permanent Board of Trustees, this to be circulated to all State and Territory Units for endorsement and legally registered and acted upon. CARRIED.

GUEST SPEAKER:

GUEST SPEAKER:

Val Clarke introduced the speaker for the evening - Sister Julie O'Gorman. Sister Julie is a member of the Order of St. Joseph and has been involved in schools and Religious Education for a number of years. Presently she is co-founder of Mary Haven family ministry which focuses on families in general and mothers in particular. Sister Julie held delegates' attention as she told of activities at Mary Haven and related our lives to a Song - using the words "Where is your Song My Lord" as her theme and how each part of our lives is in response to our song. Sister Julie is assisted at Mary Haven by Sister Kath, who accompanied her. The Sisters were thanked by Lena Meadows, and as a result of a voluntary contribution \$186 was forwarded later towards their work.

S.A. Unit conducted the Evening Worship, led by Margaret Chittleborough.

.

THURSDAY, 8th AUGUST

Morning devotions were led by the W.A. Unit, and featured an opening in the Greek Orthodox tradition by Leonie Liveris. The President's time of reflection centred on the 23rd psalm, and reading from "Rest and be thankful" from 'I travel the road'.

Joan Adcock (A.C.T.) introduced the matter of a travel fund to be set up for the purpose of assisting incoming National Executive to attend National Conference. Following lengthy discussion, it was moved by Marion Dodds (Vic.) seconded Margaret Wall (Vic.)

That the matter be rested and foreshadowed a motion on this subject later in this Conference. CARRIED.

NOTICES OF MOTION:

From W.A. Unit - Winifred Kiek scholars in future not being brought to Australia to study, but sent to suitable establishments nearer to, or, in their country. Amendment from W.A. - Where possible students study to be undertaken in establishments in or near their own country. They would not be excluded from study in Australia if the course they wished to study was only available here.

Following discussion on the various aspects of study in home countries or in Australia - Leonie Liveris (W.A.) withdrew the motion, but recommended that A.C.W. gather information from national church bodies and A.C.C. who have listings of courses available for theological studies.

Notice of Motion from W.A. and Q'land re term of office of National Executive had been dealt with earlier in Conference.

Notice of Motion from Queensland re application for W.K.S. to include an Australian woman every second year, was dealt with in Business from Minutes earlier in Conference and was therefore withdrawn.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Marion Dodds (Vic.) moved and Margaret Wall (Vic.) seconded That the recommendations and suggestions regarding the Winifred Kiek Scholarship, as submitted by the Victorian Unit, omitting Nos. 1 and 2, be acted upon. CARRIED.

Edith Ridge (N.S.W.) moved that recommendations as submitted by N.S.W. be submitted for discussion. Nos. 2 and 6 had already been dealt with.

1. Avenues were suggested for contact to seek help with funding for A.C.W.C. Assembly, such as Walter & Eliza Hall Trust. Evonne Sullivan (A.C.T.) suggested that the Incoming Executive should contact the Office of Status for Women in Canberra and ask what funding is available.

3. re holding of Fellowship Day in July, suggest June a better month. It was generally felt we could be flexible with this, if the Order of Service was ready and available.
4. re extension of Conference time for seminars, speakers, etc. - S.A. has already planned to make use of extra time.
5. That consideration be given to offerings taken on World Community Day be sent to Winifred Kiek Scholars who have returned to their own countries, but are in need of funds to carry out their work.

Edith Ridge (N.S.W.) moved and Mabel Ward (N.S.W.) seconded that these recommendations be accepted. CARRIED.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Averil Whybird introduced Capt. Mrs. Olive Lucas, presently Q'land Salvation Army Social Service Assistant Secretary. Capt. Lucas spoke of her experiences in India, first as a Lay worker with her husband who was a Doctor, then as Salvation Army Officers.

The title of the Theme "Life in God's Service" made her think of girls in service in England many years ago - how they were totally committed to hard work - and we should be totally committed to our Lord.

When we live in the Spirit we become Heirs and this requires a daily commitment. To be possessed by the Spirit is not to be suppressed by the Spirit. In all things we are victorious "Living Life in God's Service."

The thanks of Conference was again expressed by Lena Meadows.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES:

Prior to the Election of delegates and observers to A.C.W.C. Assembly 1986, Olive Ackland read the guidelines for delegates to A.C.W.C. and pointed out that the National Representative takes over part way through the 1986 Assembly and attends Assembly 1990.

The following were elected as delegates to the 1986 Assembly, Val Clarke and Maria Fouras being scrutineers.

Mrs. J. Adcock (A.C.T.)	Mrs. B. Grealy (S.A.)
Capt. L. Green (Vic.)	Mrs. D. Haensel (S.A.)

Ailsa Skippen moved Molly Jean Hunt seconded that voting papers be destroyed. CARRIED.

The following Observers were elected to the 1986 Assembly:

Mrs. H. Banks (Vic.)	Miss M. Barrie (S.A.)	Mrs. S. Birch (S.A.)
Mrs. S. Brooks (S.A.)	Mrs. M. Dredge (S.A.)	Rev. L. Edwards (W.A.)
Mrs. M. Napier (W.A.)	Mrs. J. Roberts (S.A.)	Mrs. H. Tucker (S.A.)
Mrs. J. Watts (W.A.)		

Mary Andrews moved Mary Carroll seconded that voting papers be destroyed. CARRIED.

Barbara Grealy was elected to be National Representative for the ensuing four years from Assembly 1986.

Mary Andrews moved Evonne Sullivan seconded that voting papers be destroyed. CARRIED.

REPRESENTATIVES TO A.C.C.:

Mrs. Edith Ridge (N.S.W.) moved seconded (Brig) Mabel Ward (N.S.W.) that Mrs. Win Dougherty be appointed as A.C.W. representative to the Australian Council of Churches and Mrs. Elizabeth Walker as the alternate representative. CARRIED.

W.K.S. TRAVELLING FELLOW:

The President introduced the discussion saying that in the Working Committee Minutes of 1975 the purpose of the Fellowship arose from the thought that it could be of value when money and/or suitable person was available.

It was suggested that there may be one or more of the women visiting next year's Assembly who may be willing to travel around in terms of the Fellowship, and it would be good to take the opportunity, at S.A.'s discretion.

Evonne Sullivan (A.C.T.) moved Joan Adcock (A.C.T.) seconded That when the participants of the Eighth A.C.W.C. Assembly are known, the National Executive be empowered to proceed with the appointment of a Winifred Kiek Travelling Fellowship according to the Guidelines to be established for the Winifred Kiek Trust. CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Foreshadowed motion re Incoming National Executive Travel expenses was presented.

Marion Dodds (Vic.) moved seconded Joan Adcock (A.C.T.) This conference urges that donations to the National Travel Fund be urgently sought and that this fund be maintained at a minimum of \$2000. All amounts above this figure be used as grants toward the travelling expenses to National Conference of five voting members of the Incoming National Executive. This fund to be separate from the Travel Pool. CARRIED.

Committee to investigate A.C.W. archives.

The following members were nominated to form this committee:
Brig. M. Ward Moved A. Skippen, seconded A. Whybird
Mrs. E. Walker Moved M. Ward, seconded M. Andrews
Mrs. J. Adcock Moved M. Dodds, seconded E. Sullivan
Mrs. E. Ridge Moved E. Sullivan, seconded M. Andrews
Mrs. M. Wyllie Moved E. Ridge, seconded M. Hunt
Deaconess M. Andrews moved seconded Mrs. G. Gillies that this be the committee, with power to co-opt. CARRIED.

Deaconess Mary Andrews spoke of the possibility of building up links with the women of China and is to escort a tour making contacts with Christian leaders in China, particularly women, in October. She hopes to have a letter from Mrs. Eunice Kim extending an invitation to the women to attend A.C.W.C. Assembly 1986. Deaconess Andrews moved seconded Marion Dodds -

That the National Conference send greetings to Mrs. Cao Shen/Ji of Shanghai, Vice President of Christian Churches in China and the President of Y.W.C.A. in China, sending greetings to the women in China. CARRIED.

Cost of A.C.W.C. Bulletin

It was suggested that a letter of congratulations should be sent to Mrs. Eunice Kim on the news value of the Bulletin and the production of same - also the presentation in packing.

Also suggested that as we have no cost of the Bulletin at the present time, Mrs. Olive Ackland take this matter to the A.C.W.C. Executive in November. In view of this fact, we wait and see results of the Finance Committee Meeting (A.C.W.C.) and that it be left in the hands of the Incoming Treasurer to notify Units of the cost.

AUDITOR:

Dorothy Haensel moved seconded Joan Adcock that Mr. Geoffrey R. Butler A.A.S.A. (Senior) be appointed Auditor for the ensuing term.

Expressions of thanks were expressed to the Sisters and Staff of Ave Maria, and to the President and members of the retiring Executive for the organisation of the Conference.

INCOMING EXECUTIVE:

On the motion of Deaconess M. Andrews seconded Evonne Sullivan it was moved that the following nominees for the Incoming National Executive be appointed for 1985/87 :

President -	Mrs. Dorothy Haensel
Vice-Presidents -	Mrs. Pauline Crosby
	Mrs. Barbara Grealy
Secretary -	Miss Margaret Pittman
Minute Secretary -	Mrs. Nancy Rowe
Treasurer -	Mrs. Dorothy Wright
W.K.S. Convener -	Mrs. Margaret Knauerhase
F.L.C. Convener -	Mrs. Jean Middleton
Special Days Convener -	Miss Irene Jeffreys
Publication Editor -	Mrs. Margaret Pollard

CARRIED.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLAR:

Miss Valeri Palang was then introduced as the current Winifred Kiek Scholar and spoke of her life in Papua New Guinea and the work she does there as Co-ordinator of Women's Fellowship (Uniting Church) and working in the Highlands. There are some 330 women's groups in the area. Valeri said how very thankful she is to be doing the course at Alcorn College and the opportunity to broaden her outlook as she meets people here. It had just been announced that Valeri is to be a representative at the Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist Women at Nairobi in July 1986.

ENTERTAINMENT:

A wonderful evening of entertainment followed, given by the Salvation Army Youth Group. Some 20 young people took part in the concert and this was followed by a delightful supper hosted by the Salvation Army ladies.

.

FRIDAY 9th AUGUST:

The closing service was prepared by Helen Trudgian (who also wrote the words of the opening hymn) and focussed on thanksgiving. In passing the peace and handing over to the new Executive, the retiring members handed their respective partner a crocheted cross.

Dorothy Haensel, the new President, then addressed those gathered and in doing so thanked her Mother (who was present) and others who had helped her in her life and then drew the threads of the Conference together in summary.

.

Signed

Date

PARTICIPANTS

Life Member

Andrews, Head Deaconess Mary

National Executive

Meadows, Mrs. Lena	President
Carroll, Mrs. Mary	Vice-President
Clarke, Mrs. Val	Vice-President
Turner, Mrs. Sheela	Secretary
Skippen, Mrs. Ailsa	Treasurer
Collard, Mrs. Ina	F.L.C. Convener
Hunt, Mrs. Mollie Jean	W.K.S. Convener
Trudgian, Miss Helen	W.at W. Convener
Whybird, Mrs. Major Averil	Special Days

State Units

Delegates

Observers

New South Wales

Ridge, Mrs. E.
Ward, Brig. Mabel
Adcock, Mrs. J.
Sullivan, Mrs. E.
Edwards, Mrs. R.
Dell, Mrs. Major O.

Graham, Mrs. J.
Baker, Mrs. M.
Burmester, Mrs. R.
Gray, Mrs. F.
Brooks, Mrs. S.

A.C.T.

Dodds, Mrs. M.
Wall, Mrs. M.
Chittleborough, Mrs. M.
Roberts, Mrs. J.
Liveris, Mrs. L.
Miller, Miss J.
Carroll, Mrs. M.
Jackson, Mrs. J.

Clack, Miss D.
Reidy, Mrs. E.
Crawford, Mrs. M.
Tucker, Mrs. H.

Tasmania

Victoria

South Australia

West Australia

Queensland

Federal Organisations

Anglican
Churches of Christ
Salvation Army
Uniting Church
Society of Friends
Greek Orthodox
Australian Council
of Churches

Hearn, Mrs. A.
Hartam, Mrs. D.
Linnett, Comm. M.
Gillies, Mrs. G.
Edwards, Mrs. E.
Zervos, Mrs. A.
Lobb, Miss E.
Nelson, Mrs. J.

Venables, Lt. Col. J.
Elvery, Mrs. E.
Fouras, Mrs. M.

Invited Federal Organisations

Baptist Women's Fellowship
Catholic Women's League
Y.W.C.A.

Clack, Miss D.
Hagan, Mrs. T.
Miller, Mrs. J.

Consultants

Women's World Day of Prayer -
National Liaison Officer
Asian Church Women's Conference -
National Representative

Armstrong, Mrs. D.
Ackland, Mrs. O.

Queensland Invited Observers

Anglican
Churches of Christ
Catholic Women's League
Uniting Church
Salvation Army

Clarke, Mrs. V.
Willshire, Miss J.
McDonald, Mrs. D.
Florance, Mrs. M.
Young, Mrs. Major D.

Winifred Kiek Scholar

Palang, Miss Valeri

Incoming National Executive

Haensel, Mrs. D.
Crosby, Mrs. P.
Grealy, Mrs. B.
Pittman, Miss M.
Wright, Mrs. D.
Middleton, Mrs. J.