



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NSW STATE UNIT INC.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 10th floor 222 Pitt Street, Monday 15 June 2009, 10.30 a.m.

WELCOME: President Jennifer Peffer opened the meeting, welcoming Mrs Natalie McLeod who is a new Anglican representative.

DEVOTIONS: From the illustration of a child wandering away, panicking, and only when exhausted hearing their name being called, so in times of quiet we can hear the still, small voice as we wait for, with, and on God. In prayer thanks were given for the new day, for the ability to leave our cares with God. Blessings were asked for those absent, and guidance asked for in the decisions to be made.

PRESENT: 46 as recorded.

APOLOGIES: 6 as recorded.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 April 2009 were initialled - with the correction of Jan Harrison instead of Judith Baker as an ACW NSW delegate to World Day of Prayer - on the motion of Carmel Keys and Julie Bryant.

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 April 2009 were confirmed on the motion of Nancy McLaren and Heather Reid.

BUSINESS ARISING:

1. Service of Dedication held at Eastwood Baptist Church on Monday 18 May 2009 was well attended. Jennifer Peffer was congratulated on her organisation. Council members had enjoyed the service and commented favourably on the music led capably by Isabella Harrison.

2. Spiritual Enrichment Day will be held in St James Church Hall, Phillip Street on 20 July 2009. Leaflets were available advertising the event. Council members were reminded that Executive will provide morning tea, but they should bring their own lunches. Denominational groups were asked to have a contact person appointed to liaise with Lyn Middleton who will coordinate the second segment. Volunteers for helping in the kitchen on the day: Helen Hill, Beatrice Kay, Julie Bryant and Olive Bolliger.

3. National Conference: Canberra 21-25 September. Registration Forms were available.

Following consideration at Executive it is proposed that two motions/suggestions of matters of concern for discussion be sent to National. We believe that the proposals should be given the widest possible chance for people to voice their opinions, with the formulation of a motion or motions to come before Conference as a result.

REPORTS

TREASURER: Helen Richardson reported Bank Balance \$2787.49 at the end of May, and the financial report was received on the motion of Helen Richardson and Shirley Mitchell.

To meet the payments coming up in the next two months it was moved Helen Richardson, seconded Lily Hanlon that \$1000 from the Investment Fund be moved into the working fund.

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN: Lillian Hodges reported that she had spent a day with Shirley Wells in preparation for her role as FLC Convener. The 2009 FLC Grants have been posted on the ACW website. As a movement for peace and reconciliation, the Fellowship of the Least Coin reminds us that peace and reconciliation begin with us, and forgiveness is vital in the making of peace. Reconciliation requires that we have love for our enemies, and the least coins bring a message of peace. Lillian reminded us of the prayer of St Francis of Assisi – ‘make me a channel of your peace ...’

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ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: Lyn Middleton told of prayer requests in the ACWC Newsletter for civilians caught up in the civil war in Sri Lanka, and for Christians in Orissa in India. Australia had received a grant at the time of the bush fires in Victoria and had been assured of prayers. South Korea is our prayer partner for the four years between ACWC Assemblies. The next Assembly will be in Indonesia, 4-10 October 2010 – *Asian Women Moving Forward*.

The multi cultural concert of praise will be held Sunday 18 October 2009 at the Churches of Christ Northside Community Church. Lyn would like to widen the representation of nationalities taking part, asking Council members to let her know of possible artists other than Chinese and Korean who are already well represented.

SPECIAL DAYS: Pamela Freeman reported that orders of service for Fellowship Day in July have been sent. Packing for World Community Day orders of service will follow Council in August.

WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP: Judith Cayzer had 2009 leaflets available featuring Christine Ferguson and Inese Foiakau. Imelda Aquino is hoping to cross the border from Jordan to Israel/Palestine to work in a Bible school. Lienamau and Christine have been in contact with Judith, and National WKS Convener has been in contact with Tania Eichler.

SOCIAL ISSUES: Carmel Keys referred to the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, and suggested we should all know about it and act with respect to its contents. She asked members to be vigilant in local areas where applications for brothels may be near churches or schools. Letters expressing opinions about sporting scandals can help support action against bad practice, and give support to those clubs that make changes for good. Letters can be written to the Prime Minister to urge governments to revoke the death penalty in countries that retain the practice. Write to Chocolate Manufacturers, PO Box 1307 Camberwell Victoria 3124 and ask if they are using cocoa farmed by children and slaves. Carmel drew attention to the difference between Human Rights and the proposed Bill of Rights. We should watch that our Government complies with the United Nations Convention on Human Rights. A Bill of Rights has the problem of power in the hands of lawyers rather than with Parliament. The suggestion was made that as individuals we concentrate on one issue locally, one nationally and one globally.

NEWSETTE: Beryl McLaughlin advised that the deadline for copy for the next issue is 20 July 2009.

PUBLICITY: Nancy McLaren had flyers available for Spiritual Enrichment Day, and posters for the ACWC celebration in October.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Inward)

National Executive – acknowledgement re Cora, Jean Thomson honours award
ACW SA – Newsletter and Mission statement
Bible Society – African appeal
PWA NSW – invitation
MU Annual Report
Olive Bolliger - thanks
Patricia Burke – response
NCW – re date of luncheon
Ramona Cowle – photos from Dedication Service
UC Day Mission Support Group – invitation for 10/8/09 Roseville UC
Bonnie Lyons – amalgamation of Burwood/Strathfield Branches
ACW ACT Newsletter, ACW Vic Unit News, PWA Span 6/09

CORRESPONDENCE: (Outward)

ACW National – re visit of Cora; Jean Thomson – OAM award
Patricia Burke – ACU Honorary Doctorate
Olive Bolliger
Jan Jeffrey
Annual reports to ACW Units

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PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS: Jean Thomson was awarded an OAM and a letter has been sent. Executive is still working on Associate Membership and hopes to have recommendations in place by the end of the year.

Insurance still needs to be resolved, preferably at National level with States contributing.

FUNCTIONS ATTENDED/TO ATTEND:

President attended PPSEAWA Luncheon. The speaker had represented CWA Australia in the United States. Presbyterian Women's Association Conference is in July.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS:

PAN PACIFIC & SOUTH EAST ASIAN WOMENS ASSOCIATION: Edith Ridge advised that Helen Richardson is now a Vice-President. Speaker in March was Norma Ingram, a Wiradjuri woman who told of her life work with the Aboriginal people of Redfern. The April meeting heard of work in a safe haven for people who have escaped situations of human trafficking. In May members heard of a visit to CWA groups in America, including Amish communities.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Shirley Mitchell noted the clash between the date for Spiritual Enrichment Day and World Day of Prayer meeting.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN: Fiona Higgins (nee Collins) will be the speaker at the Foundation Day Luncheon in August.

NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL: Pamela Freeman reported on the AGM where reports from the various commissions of the Council were heard. These included Social Justice, Reconciliation and Indigenous Issues, Peace Issues, Caring for Creation, Partnership and Development, House of Welcome, Theological Reflection and Local Initiatives. Major Paul Kinder is now the President of the Council. The Lutheran Church of Australia NSW District and the Maronite Catholic Eparchy were received into membership.

BIBLE SOCIETY: Julie Bryant reported on the media campaign Jesus, All about Life program for six weeks in September and October. Julie expressed her willingness to speak about this and other Bible Society ventures to groups in churches.

GIRLS' BRIGADE: Staff vacancies have now been filled and the people appointed seem happy in their jobs. The National Office has now returned to Sydney, making it somewhat easier for GB NSW.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Address list was available for those who had not already received it via email.

CLOSING PRAYER reflected on the wide range and concentration of information we had received in reports, and our need to act where we could to facilitate beneficial change. Prayer highlighted those with special needs and blessings as we went our separate ways.

NEXT MEETING: 17 August 2009

CHAIRS: Catholic
MORNING TEA: Salvation Army

Confirmed: _____

Date: _____