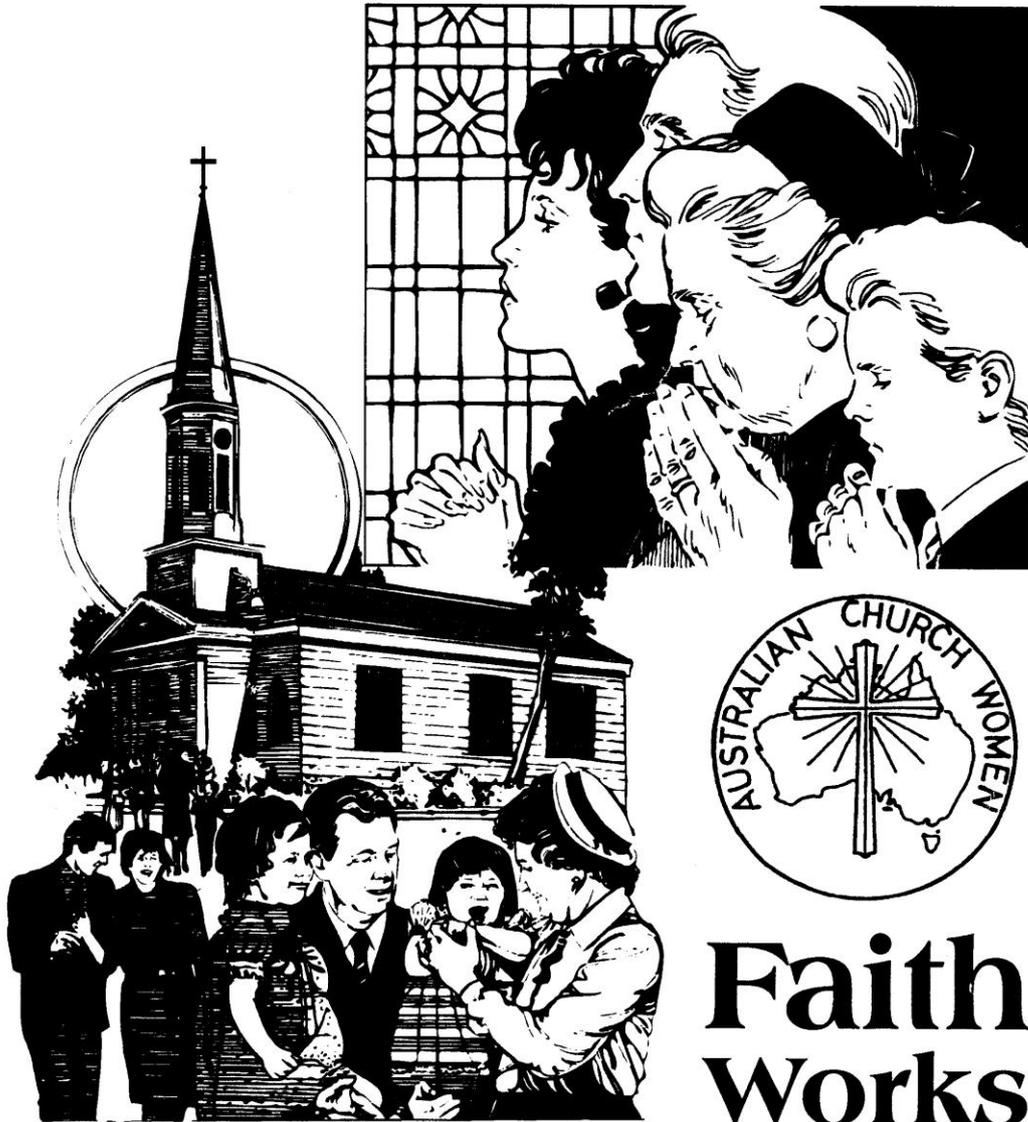


Australian Church Women NATIONAL CONFERENCE

27th September - 1st October, 1999

BRISBANE

MINUTES



AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN NATIONAL CONFERENCE
27th September – 1st October 1999
GRACE COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
ST LUCIA, BRISBANE QLD.

“FAITH WORKS”

CONFERENCE MINUTES
Monday 27th September 1999
Conference Session 1

- OPENING** The National President, Mrs Aileen Mortensen declared the 1999 National Conference open.
- DEVOTIONS** President, Mrs Aileen Mortensen, introduced Mrs Alike Flodine who spoke about the Theme Song “Faith Works” that she has written. She then sang this song beautifully for us. Aileen then led in a devotion on the Theme “Beside still waters”, with readings by Vice President, Mrs Terry Reeves and the opening prayer was led by Major Miriam Pratt. We concluded with all joining in singing the Theme song.
- WELCOME** President, Mrs Aileen Mortensen welcomed Delegates, Observers and Visitors from State /Territory Units, and Denominational Representatives and Special Interest Groups.
- INTRODUCTIONS** A special welcome was extended to Dr Esther Byu, Executive Secretary, International Committee Fellowship of the Least Coin
- GREETINGS** Greetings and Apologies were received as per the attached list and were read by Margaret Florence, National Secretary
- REMEMBRANCE** President Aileen Mortensen led in a prayer of Remembrance for those who had been called into the Fathers presence as listed in the Working Papers with the addition of Mrs Linda Perriam, and Mrs Dorothy McEwan, NSW Unit and Miss Pat Franklin, Victorian Unit. It was noted that Doris Mitchell, NSW Unit should be Miss. Correction made.
- HONOURS/ AWARDS -** President Aileen Mortensen led in a prayer of dedication and thanksgiving for those who received Honours and Awards as per list in Working Papers. With the following corrections and additions:
ACT Unit, Mrs Olga Scott – 1998 ACT Womens Award
NSW Unit – Mrs Edith Ridge, Mrs Mabel Ward (deceased) and Mrs Mina Whybourne – Life membership of NSW Unit.
Mrs Beryl McLaughlin, 1999 Woman of the year, NSW National Council of Women

Honours/Awards Contd.

Mrs Phyl McKinnerey, Life membership Catholic Womens League, Diocese of Parramatta
Mrs Elizabeth Appleby should read, Member of Order of Australia

PROCEDURAL National President -
ARRANGEMENTS

Motion – that Procedural arrangements as printed on Pages 9&10 of the working papers be approved.
99/1 Moved Margaret Napier, WA Unit, Seconded Ailsa Skippen. National Executive..... Carried

PRESENTATION OF National Secretary – Margaret Florence
WORKING PAPERS Alterations to Working Papers -

Page 5 - Incoming National Executive should be Miss Dorothy Chapman
99/2 Page 5 - add Mrs Barbara Grealy – Incoming National Executive - Visitor
Page 7 - add Mrs Helen Smith - Australian Baptist Women Delegate
Page 12 (10) – should be Franklin
Page 49 Heading – should be National Council of Churches
Page 43 (3) – should be Crawford, and Watts and final para should be Western.

Motion:- that the Working Papers together with alterations be received
Moved Margaret Florence, National Secretary, Seconded Yvonne Sullivan, ACT.
Carried

ROLL CALL National Secretary

A total of thirty-six voting members present.
99/3 Acceptance by show of voting cards. Confirmed.

WORKING ARRANGEMENTS (In house – Grace College)

Miss B Miller-Morrison welcomed all on behalf of the College and notified us that there would be a Master Key supplied for use in any emergency.

APPOINTMENT OF National President –
REFERENCE Proposed by National Executive that

COMMITTEE (3) Shirley Brooks (Convenor), Marie McCann,
99/4 Marj Dredge, constitute the Reference Committee.
Confirmed by a show of voting cards

APPOINTMENT OF
SCRUTINEERS (2)
99/5 Proposed by National Executive that
Bev Currie, Mackay Branch and Olga Scott, ACT Unit
be appointed as Official Scrutineers Carried.....

MINUTES NATIONAL
CONFERENCE 1997

ALTERATIONS
AMENDMENTS Amendments as per list on page 11, plus
No. 3, Page 1 Line 1 – should read Crouch
Page 2, Para 2 Line 1 – should read Bezos
Page 2, Para 7 Line 2 – should read Dorothy McMaster, ACT Unit
not National Executive
Page 5, Para 6 Line 7 – should read Appleby
Page 8, Para 10 Line1 – should read Tasmanian
Page 8, Para 11 Line 1 – should read Tasmanian
Page 29,Para 5 Line1 – should read word not work.

CONFIRMATION of MINUTES: Jean Hambley, ACT moved, Lee Edwards, Uniting
99/6 Church of Australia, seconded that the conference confirm the
1997 minutes including all alterations and amendments. Carried

BUSINESS ARISING National Secretary

1. 97/M6 The Winifred Kiek Scholarship Guidelines have been updated as per decision made at 1997 conference.
2. 97/M9 Abridged copies of the Fellowship Day and World Community Day Service have been prepared by State Units for use in Nursing Homes and Aged Care Units.
3. 97/10 National Executive were not able to find a person to take the responsibility of Publicity Officer. National Executive elected not to appoint a Social Justice Issues Convenor. Matters relating to social issues were handled by the President or Secretary.
4. 97/R2 National Executive have prepared information concerning Criteria for Membership and a Mission Statement. These will be discussed during the conference.
5. 97/R4 National Executive have invited representatives from Units to representative ACW at Seminars/Workshops held in other States where necessary

Business Arising Contd.

6. 97/R6 The favourite Benediction of Winifred Kiek has been included in the Guidelines for Fellowship Day Service (OPTIONAL)

A Reflection

Terry Reeves

GENERAL BUSINESS National Executive as requested by the National Conference 1997
99/7 prepared a Submission on the Rights of the Child, which was sent to the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

INWARDS CORRESPONDENCE – as listed

Business arising

1. Letter from ACWC Representative Barbara Lacy re holding the ACWC Executive Meeting in Adelaide at the same time as the 2001 Conference. This matter will be considered at a later session.
 2. Western Australian Unit accepts the responsibility of National Executive for the years 2001 –2003. Elizabeth Walker, NSW Unit, acknowledged with delight that W.A. Unit is able to take on this responsibility. Margaret Napier W.A. Unit shared that they can see some difficulties ahead, but they are looking for some new and younger women to join the unit, and with God's help and secure in the knowledge that the future is in His hands, they will plan accordingly.
- 99/8 Moved by Ina Collard, National Executive, Seconded by Leeola Loughnan, W.A. that the inward correspondence be received and the outward endorsed. Carried.

RECEPTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE REPORTS

Motion – That the Reports of the National Executive be taken as read,

- 99/9 Moved, Mollie Jean Hunt, Nat. Exec., Seconded Yvonne Sullivan ACT Unit Carried.

President: Aileen Mortensen presented her report and asked to add her thanks to Alike Flodine and her accompanist, and the writer of the music for the Theme Song "Faith Works". And also to Mrs Dale Gray for her help in the printing of various "Faith Works" calendars and bookmarks. Carried with applause.

Secretary: Margaret Florence presented her report, and drew our attention to para 6 and thanked the Conference for the privilege of attending this Forum. Carried with applause.

Treasurer: Joan Trudgian - Held over to next Business session.

National Executive Reports contd..

F.L.C. Convenor: Mollie Jean Hunt presented her report .

Janet Abrahamffy, ACT Unit asked if the Green and white FLC badges would be available again? Reply – 30 stick pin type are available, the new style are the usual brooch type and are available now. The cost of the Green/white design seemed extreme. Encourage the new Executive to look into the supply of the Green/white style. Re the Somali sewing women —They received the grant and employed a Tec teacher, which not only helped the women but the whole family to learn English.

99/10 *Memorial Minute to Shanti Solomon (Founder of F.L.C.)*

Mollie Jean Hunt – It is my pleasure to move this Memorial Minute to Mrs Shanti Solomon, a very remarkable woman of both vision and inspiration. Her dream of the amassing of every woman's Least Coin being able to provide assistance in the betterment of conditions for her sisters, has proved a most rewarding movement. We thank God for her life and for her energies on behalf of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, a Global Movement of Prayer, Peace, Justice and Reconciliation. Seconded by Margaret Napier W.A. Unit. Carried

Special Days Convenor: Val Van de Wiel presented her report.

Conference delegates were asked if the large print Order of Services were being used. As there appears to be more support for them, than against, this service will continue.

Publications Editor: Miriam Pratt presented her report, and was applauded for the excellent production.

Treasurer: Joan Trudgian presented her report.

She shared her concern of the cost of ACWC Bulletin to National Executive.

99/11 *Motion* - After some discussion, Margaret Napier (WA Unit) moved that free copies of ACWC Bulletin to each unit be discontinued, and that each unit be encouraged to purchase their own. Seconded by Beth Skilbeck (Vic) Carried.

Barbara Lacy, ACWC Representative, intimated that ACWC are considering producing only two (2) Bulletins, and a newsletter per year, and she will let us know as soon as a decision is made.

Joan then drew our attention to para 8 of her report re percentages taken out of offerings and contributions to cover administration costs.

Treasurer's Report Contd..

Much discussion then followed. Several speakers voicing their concern that monies given in offerings for F.L.C. have a percentage taken out for administration costs. Others reminded us that we need to pay for the cost of promotion etc. to do things well. Esther Byu, Executive Secretary International Committee, Fellowship of the Least Coin told us that other Countries also take out a percentage to cover costs of administration and promotion. It was agreed that a motion to clarify what percentage to take and for what purposes be put at the next business session.

MONDAY NIGHT 27th September 1999

CONFERENCE SESSION 2

Devotions - led by Western Australia – Faith is not a contradiction, but the courage to face reality with hope.

DISCUSSION “ACW 2000 ONWARDS”

All Conference attendees were divided into groups and with the help of a questionnaire produced by National Executive, discussed the future of ACW. A copy of the finding will be forwarded at a later date.

TUESDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER 1999

Morning Devotions – South Australian Unit – Healing, forgiveness, Jesus' Love, Faith.

Ecumenical Service

The Ecumenical Service was celebrated in the Albert Street Uniting Church, City, theme “Faith Works”. Rev Jenny Tymms was the guest Preacher, her address was titled “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”. Representatives from Local Government and Heads of Denominations and affiliated groups joined together with Conference delegates and observers and local men and women to praise and worship our living Lord. A highlight of the service was the procession of State and Territory Unit Banners into and from the Church. A copy of the Order of Service is held by each Unit. A Luncheon for 150 participants and guests was held after the service in Wesley House, which is adjacent to the Church.

CONFERENCE SESSION 3

A Reflection

Ina Collard

***Address to Conference–Esther Byu Executive Secretary International
Committee Fellowship of the Least Coin.***

A Reflection Miriam Pratt

Question time - Esther Byu – Fellowship of the Least Coin
Where and when will the ICFLC meet? Jamaica, November 15-19th.
How many applications for grants are there? 41 applications plus the Block grants
and provision for emergencies.
A Copy of the very moving address “Faith Works” was made available to each
Unit. The ‘Esther Story’ which she shared with us is one we will not soon forget.

CONFERENCE SESSION 4

Treasurer: **Motion** – Joan Trudgian moved

99/12 a. That the National Executive and State/Territory Units deduct an amount
not exceeding 10% from Fellowship Day and World Community Day offerings
for administration costs, until the next Conference.

99/12 b. That the National Executive and State/Territory Units deduct from
Fellowship of Least Coin offerings, **only** the costs pertaining to promotion and
administration of the Fellowship of Least Coin, until the next Conference.
Seconded by Yvonne Sullivan, ACT Unit, who then spoke to the motion.

Dorothy Wright, SA Unit spoke against the motion – if we take less from the FLC
offerings it means less for administration and the need to take more from the other
offerings.

Ailsa Skippen, Nat. Exec. Reminded us that since Interest rates have fallen on any
monies invested, we need to take the full 10% to cover costs.

Janet Abrahammy, ACT Unit asked is it possible that the promotion and costs for
FLC could exceed 10%? Answer, Yes, but not likely.

Heather Reid, NSW Unit, against part b, as a Unit could spend much money on
glossy productions if there is no limit.

Helen Lloyd foreshadowed an amendment to section b.

99/13 Motion – That the words, “and not to exceed 10%” be added before the words
“until the next Conference.” To section b of motion 99/12.

Seconded by Shirley Birch, Incoming Nat. Exec. Carried.....

The Motion 99/12a and 99/12b (which now reads – That the National Executive
and State/Territory Units deduct from Fellowship of Least Coin offerings, **only**
costs pertaining to promotion and administration of Fellowship of Least Coin, and
not to exceed 10%, until the next Conference) was put and carried.....

National Executive Report Contd.

WKS Convenor: Ailsa Skippen presented her report and gave special thanks to Margaret Florence for her help when she was in hospital, and to all those who prayed for her when she was so ill. She then drew our attention to the display of books of WKS Scholars which she had assembled which included the information that Doreen Tee has had a baby.

W.K.S. TRUST Dorothy Ferrier presented the Trust's report. News on Mai Zin Zin Wah, she has arrived at the University in Singapore on 11th September 1999, and Dorothy now has a contact within the University.
The Scholar for the year 2000 is Miss Susana Nitria from ACT, Australia.
Dorothy was asked if PNG is part of Pacific Region – Answer, Yes.

Yvonne Sullivan, ACT Unit, The sincere thanks of all members of Australian Church Women for the work done by Dorothy Ferrier and the other members of the Trust, for the wonderful work done within the Trust. Carried with applause.

NOTICE OF MOTION 2 – PAGE 60

99/14 The Trustees of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Trust recommend that the surplus funds from the 1999 and 2000 scholars be credited to the Winifred Kiek Fellowship Fund.

Moved by Dorothy Ferrier Seconded by Yvonne Sullivan. Carried.....

W.K.S. Treasurer Dorothy Ferrier presented the report.

Recommendation:

99/15 That Mr Adrian Nicholls be re-appointed as honorary Auditor and that a gift of \$100 be made in appreciation of his service over the past 2 years.

Moved: Dorothy Ferrier Seconded Laurice Smith Carried...

NOTICE OF MOTION 3 – PAGE 60

99/16 The South Australia Unit is pleased to recommend that Mrs Dorothy Ferrier and Mrs Jess Horton, presently serving as WKS Trustees, be re-appointed for a further 2(two) years.

Moved: Laurice Smith Seconded: Leeola Loughnan Carried...

National Archivist Edith Ridge presented her report.

99/17 **Motion** - That the National Archivist proceed to purchase a 4 drawer Steel Filing cabinet for storage purposes.

Moved: Lee Edwards (UCA) Seconded: Mina Whybourne Carried...

Edith Ridge has agreed to undertake another term as National Archivist.
President, Aileen thanked her on behalf of all present.

TUESDAY NIGHT 28TH SEPTEMBER 1999

DEVOTIONS TASMANIAN UNIT – The workings of Faith “Lace”

CONFERENCE SESSION 5

Asian Church Women’s Conference Report

Barbara Lacy presented her report.

Correction to para 1 , should be 6 observers, add Shirley Wells.

Letter and greeting received from Ms Shunila Ruth, Pakistan (our Prayer partner)

Asking to please remember them in our prayers as they remember and pray for us.

99/18 Recommendation 1.

The National Executive recommends:

The Executive Committee of Asian Church Women’s Conference be invited to hold their Executive Committee Meeting in Adelaide in the year 2001, at the same time as the Australian Church Women’s National Conference.

That Asian Church Women’s Conference will be responsible for airfares for the Executive Committee members. Australian Church Women will be responsible for the cost of accommodation for the Executive Committee members.

Moved – Margaret Florence, Nat Exec Seconded – Shirley Wallis Vic.

After some discussion and questions, Laurice Smith, S.A. Unit intimated that they would be delighted to be their hostesses. Approximate numbers would be 9. All those who attend the National Conference in 2001 would have the opportunity of meeting them, and sharing with them. The motion was carried.

RECEPTION OF STATE UNIT REPORTS

99/19 Motion: that State Unit reports be taken as read

Moved – Terry Reeves, Nat Exec. Seconded – Narelle Digney, Tas.
Carried....

ACT UNIT – Jean Hambley spoke to the report.

They are excited with the announcement of the WKS Scholar for 2000, Ms Suzanna Nitrai from ACT. They shared a concern about some phone calls from people asking for money, who were using names and phone numbers that should not have been known. The police have been notified. Please be warned.

Reception of Unit Reports Contd..

NEW SOUTH WALES UNIT – Rev Elizabeth Walker spoke to the report.

1. Statement of Faith, has been adopted and incorporated
2. Re Social Justice Issue – IYOP – expressed concern at the Grey Mardi Gras.
3. Sharing in Interfaith dialogue on how to celebrate the year of Jubilee. Gently and carefully learning about other faiths.

NORTHERN TERRITORY BRANCHES

Alice Springs report was received by phone.

No report from Darwin.

QUEENSLAND UNIT – Aileen Mortensen spoke to the report.

It has been a good but busy year.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN UNIT – Laurice Smith spoke to the report.

A happy and good year Ecumenically

TASMANIAN UNIT – Narelle Digney spoke to the report.

Thanked Aileen Mortensen for her visit, it made them all feel special.

VICTORIAN UNIT – Shirley Wallis spoke to the report.

Very sad in August at the passing of Pat Franklin. She thanked everyone for their expressions of sympathy.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN UNIT – Leeola Loughnan spoke to the report and added the following – We have been trying to get wider representation. We wrote to Churches of Christ and the Baptist Churches, but neither are prepared to join us. The Lutheran and Greek Orthodox and the Coptic Orthodox ladies come to services, but they are not interested in joining our committee. We will keep trying. We send copies of the Fellowship Day and World Community Day Services to our country FLC Groups when we send them letters to try and encourage them to use the service.

The Century of Women's Suffrage in W.A. is being celebrated this year and our unit has been represented at most activities. An ACW Plaque will be included in the upgraded Women's Garden at Kings Park.

RECEPTION OF DENOMINATIONAL AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS REPORTS

99/20 MOTION: that the reports be taken as read.

Moved – Laurice Smith
Carried..

Seconded – Jan Harrison

Denominational & Special Interest Groups Reports Contd.

Catholic Women's League – Marie Majoor

Exciting to hear of their involvement and contacts within the United Nations re Commission on the Status of Women. Also the official signing by the Lutheran and Catholic Churches of the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.

Mother's Union Australia – Mina Whybourne

Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia – Peg Blake

The Salvation Army – Major Annette Wilson

Asked us to correct the heading of the report. Should read - The Salvation Army – Australia. She also added that the women are heavily involved in Community Care.

Uniting Church Adult Fellowship Groups – Rev Lee Edwards

A correction to the 4th responsibility * having 26 (twenty-six) members etc. She reminded us that their groups are comprised of both men and women.

Women's Ministries Churches of Christ in Australia – Marj Dredge

World Convention will be held next year in Brisbane, preceeded by a National Gathering of Women. We are excited about 5000+ people coming to Australia to celebrate Christ not the Olympics.

WEDNESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER 1999

DEVOTIONS - VICTORIAN UNIT

BIBLE STUDY – Rev Janice Hughes – *“Faith Works – Family”*

BUSINESS SESSION 6

A Reflection

Margaret Florence

Greeting and prayers from C.W.L. of South Australia Inc. were received.

Denominational & Special Interest Reports Continued

Baptist Women's Ministries – Helen Smith

Helen gave a verbal report and hopes to have a printed report next year.

World Day of Prayer – Noelene Roose

There will be a special service for year 2000. Thanksgiving Service in Sydney in Salvation Army on 27th May and on 16th June in Victoria.

Special Interest Reports Continued

National Council of Churches - Edith Ridge

Edith expressed her surprise and delight at being asked by David Gill to represent NCCA at this Conference. She drew our attention to the list of member churches of NCCA and the welcome news of the Churches who are now observers.

Remember to encourage the people in your units and denominations to support the uniquely Australian Project – Christmas Bowl Appeal.

I would especially draw your attention to the paragraph on the Network on Women and Gender Relationships and the work they are trying to do.

A Reflection Mollie Jean Hunt

Re - Recommendation 2 from NSW Unit – Page 56

Clarification is requested on the criteria for affiliation with ACW, denominationally speaking, and by what method is an individual deemed eligible for affiliation. The ACW constitution gives no direction. The following recommendations that were accepted, will clarify these positions.

MISSION STATEMENT – moved that the following be the Mission Statement of Australian Church Women.

- 99/21** Australian Church Women seeks to unite women across denominational boundaries, to promote peace, understanding and unity through faith and love in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Moved – Margaret Florence
Carried unanimously.

Seconded – Laurice Smith

- 99/22** **Motion** – that the present Aims 2.1 of the Constitution be deleted and the proposal become the Aims 2.1

To unite Christian women from those Churches and Christian Communities, which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and commit themselves to the glory of the One God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Moved – Margaret Florence, Nat.Exec.
Carried...

Seconded Yvonne Sullivan, ACT

- 99/23** **Motion** – that the present Membership 4. Page 4, of the Constitution be deleted and the proposal become the Membership requirement.

Membership Qualifications Contd.

Membership:

- 4.1 Membership is open to women of those Churches and Christian Communities which accept the Aims of Australian Church Women.
- 4.2 Associate Membership is open to individual women who accept the Aims of Australian Church Women, and are active members of their Church or Christian Community.

Moved – Margaret Florence, Nat Exec. Seconded – Margaret Napier, WA

Amendment – that the Membership qualification 4.1 be

- 4.1 Membership is inclusive of all women of those Churches and Christian Communities which accept the Aims of Australian Church Women.
And that 4.2 be deleted.

Moved – Shirley Wallis, Vic Seconded – Beth Skilbeck, Vic

The Amendment was Lost.

The Motion was then put and Carried.

Participants departed by Coach for a picnic lunch and a tour of the Sunshine Coast Hinterland, stopping at picturesque Montville, for a little shopping and Cappucinos.

Wednesday Night 29th September

Devotions New South Wales – A visual of Faith through nature.

GUEST SPEAKER – Ms Glynthea Finger -
“Hope in suffering” (Within the Asian context)
Wherever women gather to tell their stories, Hope is present. Your story is my story.

THURSDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 1999

Devotions – Queensland – Christ has no hands but our hands.

Participants travelled to Brisbane City Hall for a Civic Reception given in their honour by The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Jim Soorley.

BIBLE STUDY Sr. Beryl Amedee – “Faith Works” - Ecumenism

A Reflection Mollie Jean Hunt

CONFERENCE SESSION 8

Alterations/Additions to Constitution – Page 52

99/24 Motion – That the present page 4, 6.2 and 6.2.1, a and b be deleted and become as follows:

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

b. Committee members who shall be:

Minute Secretary
Winifred Kiek Scholarship Convenor
Fellowship of the Least Coin Convenor
Special Days Convenor
Publication Editor
Social Justice Issues Convenor
Publicity Officer

Moved – Margaret Florence, Nat Exec. Seconded – Terry Reeves, Nat Exec
Carried...

99/25 Motion – that the Guidelines for Publicity Officer as set out on page 54 of the Working Papers be accepted for 2 years, to be reviewed at next National Conference.

Moved – Margaret Florence, Nat Exec Seconded – Ailsa Skippen, Nat Exec
Carried...

Conference Session 8 Contd.

99/26 **Motion** – that the Guidelines for Social Justice Issues as set out on page 55 of the Working Papers be accepted for 2 years, to be reviewed at next National Conference.

Moved – Margaret Florence, Nat Exec Seconded – Dorothy Wright, SA
Carried...

99/27 **Motion** – That the following list of names be approved as the National Executive 1999-2001.

Moved – Leeola Loughnan, WA Seconded – Beth Skilbeck, Vic
Carried.

President :	Mrs Marj Dredge
Vice President: (1)	Mrs Shirley Birch
Vice President: (2)	Mrs Laurice Smith
Secretary	Mrs Maureen Clark
Treasurer	Miss Dorothy Chapman
Convenor, F.L.C.	Mrs Margaret Greenslade
Convenor, W.K.S	Mrs Dorothy Ferrier
Convenor, Social Justice	Mrs Mavis Ellis
Publicity Officer	Mrs Barbara Grealy
Convenor, Special Days	To be appointed
Publications Editor	To be appointed

It was announced that Major Shirley Samson is appointed as Publications Editor

The ACW National Honorary Auditor will be Mr Des Collinson, FCA of Collinson & Co. Chartered Accountants.

A Reflection Val Van de Wiel

Announcement – Mrs Barbara Grealy was selected as a:- Commonwealth Senior Australian Achiever 1999 in the International Year of the Older Persons. Barbara was awarded a Community Service Award.

99/28 **Motion** – that we send a letter of congratulations to Mrs Barbara Grealy OAM on receiving this award.

Moved – Yvonne Sullivan, ACT Seconded – Ailsa Skippen, Nat Exec
Carried...

Conference Session 8 Contd.

99/29 Notice of Motion 1. South Australian Unit – Page 60

That other State and Territory Units support the aims of the Fair Wear Organisation in its efforts to protect the rights and human dignity of outworkers By writing to their appropriate Government Ministers, Retailers, Manufacturers, Wholesalers and Fashion houses who have not signed the Homeworkers Code of Practice.

Moved – Laurice Smith, SA Seconded – Shirley Wallis, Vic
The question was asked, what happens when a retailer moves offshore?
Answer – Governments are working on this.
Some awards do cover home worker.
This is an opportunity for us to do something for others in Australia.

The motion was then put, and Carried...
Carried...

99/30 Notice of Motion 4. New South Wales Unit

That all documentation be dated and labelled.

Moved – Jan Harrison, NSW Seconded – Rev Elizabeth Walker, NSW
Carried...

99/31 Notice of Motion 5, New South Wales Unit

That the National Executive explore the possibility of broadening the purpose and function of the existing National Travel Fund to enable more distant Units to avail themselves, even at short notice, of a special speaker, i.e. WKS Scholar, ACWC, FLC, from overseas.

Moved – Jan Harrison, NSW Seconded – Rev Elizabeth Walker, NSW
Carried...
We were reminded that you just had to apply to the Trustees for use of Winifred Kiek Fellowship money.

99/32 Notice of Motion 6, New South Wales Unit

That a National Directory be completed and sent to all Units containing

- a) Lists of National and all State/Territory Office Bearers, ACWC Executive members and ICFLC Executive members.

Notice of Motion 6 Contd.

- b) Guidelines from the National Committee for State/Territory office bearers and convenors.

Moved – Jan Harrison, NSW
Carried.

Seconded – Rev Elizabeth Walker, NSW

Special Interest Group – The Girls’ Brigade Report

Mrs Helen Irwin spoke to the report.

Asked if The Girls’ Brigade is active in Victoria, Answer – Yes.

CONFERENCE DINNER was held at Grace College.

Entertainment by Prime Time.

DEVOTIONS – INCOMING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

INDUCTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE 1999-2001

Theme “Jesus our Living Hope”

FRIDAY 1ST OCTOBER 1999

Devotions ACT Unit

BIBLE STUDY Mrs Gwen Tavener - ***“Faith Works – Community”***

CONFERENCE SESSION 9

A Reflection Ailsa Skippen

Recommendation 2 – National Executive – Page 61

99/33 Motion – That Australian Church Women National Executive minutes be sent to National organisations of each denomination, each National Special Interest Group participating in Australian Church Women through its State and Territory units.

Moved – Margaret Florence, Nat Exec

Seconded – Terry Reeves, Nat Exec

Conference Session 9 contd.

99/34 Amendment – that Australian Church Women National Executive minutes be sent to National organisations of each denomination, each National Special Interest Group participating in Australian Church Women through its State and Territory Units and the National Council of Churches Australia and its Network on Women and Gender Relationships.

Moved – Rev E Walker, NSW

Seconded – Rev L Edwards, UCA

The amendment was put and carried.

The amendment became the motion and was carried.

Conference then viewed a video, compiled by ACWC representative, Lynette Green, of our States and Units in Australia which was shown at the ACWC Assembly in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Members enjoyed viewing themselves and the completed project. ACWC, Representative, Barbara Lacy, answered questions about ACWC from the floor, and spoke of her enjoyment at the Executive Committee meeting in Manila.

A vote of thanks to Lynette Green was expressed by members of Conference.

Church Women United New Zealand – Diana Manson thanked us for the invitation to attend this Conference. Church Women United Aotearoa/ New Zealand is made up of four units, with 2 members each from Churches of Christ, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Salvation Army and Anglican churches. CWU organise the World Day of Prayer as well as Fellowship of the Least Coin, and ACWC. They have a FLC/ACWC combined service. Branches meet bi-monthly and are autonomous.

Members are in the 60+ age group.

She then presented a Candle with a verse to the incoming National Executive, with the good wishes of our New Zealand sisters

Presentations and thanks

A gift and thanks were presented to the Principal and Bursar of Grace College for their gracious help and assistance during the planning and duration of the Conference.

A hand painted fine china plate, with the Cooktown Orchid, was presented to Esther Byu with thanks for her participation and message during Conference.

Presentations and thanks contd.

Esther's message to us – Australian Church Women is a vital group, “Go on, continue to share your gifts”. Esther found home in our hearts and as we go home we are to-gether.

Rev Lee Edwards – thanked National Executive and Queensland unit for the gifts and bags as well as everything else that had been done to make this conference so enjoyable.

National Prayer Partners – Pakistan
Heather Reid led us in prayer for our sisters in Pakistan.

Minute Secretary – Averil Jell thanked Conference for their prayers and support during the hospitalisation of her husband Noel. He has returned home.

President Aileen Mortensen thanked members for their indulgence with her hearing impairment. She has been blessed by all, especially Secretary, Margaret Florence. She thanked the retiring National Executive for a job well done.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Closing devotions were led by Aileen Mortensen and the retiring National Executive.

CLOSE

President Aileen Mortensen closed the 17th Annual National Conference of Australian Church Women and sent us out with the Benediction.

Greetings received for 1999 National Conference Appendix 1

His Excellency, Major General Peter Arnison AO – Governor of QLD
Mrs Arnison
Best wishes for conference success.

Archbishop Peter Hollingworth, Anglican Archbishop of Brisbane
Mrs Hollingworth
Good wishes for a successful and enjoyable Conference.

Archbishop John Battersby, Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane
Best wishes for a successful Conference.

Pastor John Vitale, President Queensland District of Lutheran Church
Wishing you every blessing for the Conference.

Rev Dr David Gill, General Secretary, National Council of Churches,
Be assured of my best wishes for a rewarding Conference and for the ongoing
work of ACW.

The Rt Rev George Browning, Bishop of Canberra & Goulburn
I do hope and pray that you are having a time of rich fellowship, challenging
dialogue and unifying prayer.

Bishop Patrick Power, ACT Churches Council
Best wishes for the Biennial National Conference of Australian Church
Women.

Ruth Bremester – National Life Member ACT –
Every success, much happy fellowship and deeper faith to the participants that
“Faith Works”.

Marjorie Verco – National Life Member NSW –
My prayer is that your planning and all sessions of conference will be a great
blessing to all who attend.

Joan McDonald – Former Secretary Alice Springs Branch –
I wish God’s blessings for the future and particular for the success of the
National Conference. My thoughts and prayers will be with you.

Elizabeth Appleby – Former Co-ordinator Darwin Branch – Greetings

Lt. Col. Isabel Macintyre – Victorian Unit – Greetings

Eunice Reedy – Victorian Unit – Greetings

Leatrice McIntyre - Church Women United Aotearoa/ New Zealand –
Warm greetings from the National Committee of Church Women United in
Aotearoa / New Zealand.

Kay Bullpitt - Queensland Baptist Women’s Ministry –
Pray that the conference will be a time of encouragement and spiritual
refreshment.

Elsie Taylor - Women's Ministries - Churches of Christ in Australia
Pray that you receive a real blessing from our Lord as you meet and that the
Conference will prove to be a launching pad to greater service.

Barbara Melican – Catholic Women League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga,
Catholic Women's Prayerful good wishes for a successful National
Conference. May it be a fruitful grace filled time for all.

Renelle Neale - The Girls' Brigade Australia –
My thoughts and prayer are with you in Queensland. I pray that it is very
successful, and that the Lord shows, all present, the many ways that "Faith
Works".

Lorraine Buckingham – Territorial President Women's Organisations - The Salvation
Army.
Wish you every blessings, including a very successful Conference.

Mary Coyne - Mother's Union Australia
May I wish you God's richest blessings as you meet together in His name.

Betty Farrell – ACT Unit
Wishing you all the best for the conference – I will be thinking of you all.

Major Averil Whybird – ACT Unit secretary - Apology

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FAITH WORKS

We don't think of Faith seriously until we are struck by tragedy, disaster, calamity, illness, loss, separation; endangered by conflicts, wars and uncertainties, or when things get out of our hands or our control. We would rather depend on and trust our own ability and strength as long as we have something to hold on to and think we can control things ourselves.

Faith is a gift to those who realize their own weaknesses and limitations; who are willing to depend on the Divine power, the power which is beyond their comprehension.

It is a hopeful response to God's faithful promises; God's saving Grace and Act manifested through the life, the Ministry, the Death and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It is a powerful healing source which is used by God in restoring wholeness to human beings and to our communities. Jesus always recognized and affirmed the faith of those who came to him for healing. We find such evidences in the Gospels. Let us look into some.

After hearing a plea from a Roman Officer; begging Jesus to heal his sick servant, Jesus said to the people who were following him, *"I tell you, I have never found anyone in Israel with faith like this."* (Mtt.8: 10). Then, Jesus said to the Officer, *"Go home, and what you believe will be done for you."* And the Officer's servant was healed that very moment. (Mtt.8:13)

A woman who had suffered from severe bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, *"If only I touch his cloak, I will get well."* Jesus turned around and saw her, and said, *"Courage my daughter! Your faith has made you well."* At that very moment the woman became well. (Mtt.9:20-22; MK.5:25-34; LK.8:43-48)

Jesus asked the two blind men who followed him and begged for his mercy, *"Do you believe that I can heal you?"* They answered, *"Yes Sir!"* Then, Jesus touched their eyes and said, *"Let it happen, then, just as you believe!"* and their sight was restored. (Mtt.9:27-30)

Jesus, in response to a Canaanite Woman, who persistently begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter, said, *"You are a woman of great faith! What you want will be done for you."* And at that very moment her daughter was healed. (Mtt. 15:21-28; Mk. 7:24-30)

Jesus spoke up when a Samaritan man came back to thank Jesus after he was healed, *"There were ten men who were healed; where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God?"* And Jesus said to the man, *"Get up and go, your faith has made you well."* (Lk. 17:17-19)

Jesus, through out his ministry taught and exhorted his disciples to have much faith or strong faith in God.

In *Mtt.6:25-34; Lk.12:22-28* Jesus told his followers not to worry about food, drink and clothes in order to stay alive; but to have faith in God who knows and provides everything they need."

The disciples came to Jesus in private and asked him, "Why couldn't we drive the demon out?" "It was because you do not have enough faith," answered Jesus. "I assure you that if you have faith as big as a mustard seed, you can say to this hill, 'Go from here to there!' and it will go: You could do anything!" (*Mtt. 17:19-21; Lk.17:5-6*)

Jesus said to the disciples who were in great fear when their boat was tossed by a strong wind: "Where is your faith?" (*Lk.8:22-25*)

The whole chapter 11 of the letter to the Hebrews testify how faith works. The chapter begins with a description of faith. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (*Heb.11:1-2*) And the rest of the chapter talks about how, by faith, the people of ancient times won God's approval.

Let's probe further into how faith works by finding answers to some questions: What is the kind of faith that works? Through what kind of faith does God work?

1. A faith which is rooted; anchored or grounded in God: an unshakable faith. The faith which says, 'nothing in life, not even death itself, can shake us loose from our anchor in God, nothing can separate us from the Love of God. (*Rom.8:38-39*). The faith which continues to trust in God in all circumstances, in spite of ... anything and everything.

"Even though the fig trees have no fruit and no grapes grow on the vines, even though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no grain, even though the sheep all die and the cattle stalls are empty, I will still be joyful and glad, because the Lord God is my savior.

The Sovereign Lord gives me strength.

He makes me sure-footed as a deer and keeps me safe on the mountains."

(*Habakkuk 3:17-19*)

In *1 Kings 17:8-16*, we read about a poor widow who fed Elijah in her most desperate hour. There wasn't enough flour and oil to make bread for her son and herself. But she had faith in God. God rewarded her with enough food to last until the drought was over.

We need faith most in our bleakest moments, and when trusting is hard. When we cling to God despite an uncertain situation and an uncertain future, wondrous miracles can happen in our hearts and lives. In the face of our need, God can make something out of nothing.

A simple village woman who had put her trust in Christ two years before, lost her baby three days after giving birth. When she returned home from the hospital, the villagers mocked her because of her faith. But she remained faithful to the Lord and said, "Whatever tragedy comes to us, we will continue to trust in Jesus."

Such faith dares take a risk and pays a costly price; It dares to cross boundaries, barriers, and limitations; and do the unthinkable thing.

2. **An unquestioning faith;** a faith which does not doubt, but which depends absolutely on God's promise, God's power and God's unconditional Love and mercy, manifested in the lives of the faithful, the prophets and Jesus Christ. Let us listen to the word of God spoken through them.

"I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you." *Isa.42:6*

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine." *Isa.43:1*

"I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." *Jer.29:11*

"I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus. *Phil.1:6*

"Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act." *Ps.37:5*

"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you." *1 Pet.5:7*

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart." *Ps.27:14*

"By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." *Eph.2:8*

3. **A Living faith; an active faith; a vital faith.**

"Faith without work is dead." *James 2: 14-26*

"Abraham's faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did." *James 2:22*

"To him who by means of his power working in us is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for, or even think of." (*Eph.3:20 TEV.*)

Miracles happen when we believe in and allow God's power to work in and through our lives.

It was by faith that 43 years ago Mrs. Shanti Solomon from India was given a vision to conceive and give birth to a Prayer Movement for justice, peace and reconciliation which is widely known as the Fellowship of the Least Coin. It happened during a Peace Mission Team visit to some countries around the Pacific rim in 1956. She prayed and pondered over a possible way of bringing together people in war-torn countries for reconciliation and peace

while she was left behind in Manila, Philippines, because she had been refused a visa to Korea.

By faith she believed that wounds and brokenness caused by hatred and war could be healed by the power of prayer offered in the spirit of Love and forgiveness.

By faith she dared dream of introducing a worldwide movement of prayer which could embrace and unite people from all walks of life no matter from where they came, what their backgrounds were, what their positions and financial status might be. She suggested that anybody who wanted reconciliation and peace should pray. She/he would set aside a least coin whenever a prayer was said in a spirit of love and forgiveness. This act of faith, expressed in an earnest prayer and a giving of the Least Coin has touched many hearts and lives around the world. God has increased the faith of those who have joined Shanti in believing and promoting this simple, yet unique Fellowship of the Least Coin, an Ecumenical Prayer Movement for justice, peace and reconciliation. And God has multiplied the least coin in order to feed the hungry, to quench the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to heal the wounded and to provide shelter and home for the abused and the homeless. Over 80 countries around the world participate in this Prayer Movement; joining the circle of prayer, learning to give and to receive love and forgiveness from one another with humility. Each year around 40-50 programmes and projects in different parts of the world are supported by these least coins.

Yes, indeed faith does work. A faith which rest in the arms of the One who is faithful, A faith which is grounded in the assurance of things which are hoped for and which cannot be seen. A faith that sees the miracles and mercies of God transforming what seems to be impossibly bad situations, in a way beyond human imagination.

May God who is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine increase our faith and make it strong

- So that we may be able to learn to trust in God's promise, God's faithfulness and God's unconditional love;
- So that we may reach out in love and forgiveness to those who are estranged to us and to those whom we have never met;
- So that we may be able to dare to dream and commit ourselves to tasks which are beyond our own comprehension, ability, strength and resources.

Interview With God]

>>
>>-
>>> I dreamed I had an interview with God.
>>> "Come in," God said. "So, you would like to interview Me?"
>>> "If you have the time," I said. God smiled and said:
>>> "My time is eternity and is enough to do everything;
>>> what questions do you have in mind to ask me?"
>>>
>>> "What surprises you most about mankind?"
>>> God answered:
>>>
>>> "That they get bored of being children,
>>> are in a rush to grow up,
>>> and then long to be children again.
>>>
>>> That they lose their health to make money
>>> and then lose their money to restore their health.
>>>
>>> That by thinking anxiously about the future,
>>> they forget the present, such that they live
>>> neither for the present nor the future.
>>>
>>> That they live as if they will never die,
>>> and they die as if they had never lived..."
>>>
>>> God's hands took mine and we were silent for while
>>> and then I asked...
>>> "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you
>>> want your children to learn?"
>>>
>>> God replied with a smile:
>>> "To learn that they cannot make anyone love them.
>>> What they can do is to let themselves be loved.
>>>
>>> To learn that what is most valuable
>>> is not what they have in their lives,
>>> but who they have in their lives.
>>>
>>> To learn that it is not good
>>> to compare themselves to others.
>>> All will be judged individually on their own
>>> merits, not as a group on a comparison basis!
>>>
>>> To learn that a rich person is

>>> not the one who has the most,
>>> but is one who needs the least.
>>>
>>> To learn that it only takes a few seconds
>>> to open profound wounds in persons we love,
>>> and that it takes many years to heal them.
>>>
>>> To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.
>>>
>>> To learn that there are persons
>>> that love them dearly, but simply
>>> do not know how to express or
>>> show their feelings.
>>>
>>> To learn that money can buy everything but
>>> happiness.
>>>
>>> To learn that two people can look at the same thing
>>> and see it totally different.
>>>
>>> To learn that a true friend is someone who
>>> knows everything about them...and likes them anyway.
>>>
>>> To learn that it is not always enough
>>> that they be forgiven by others,
>>> but that they have to forgive themselves."
>>>
>>> I sat there for a while enjoying the moment.
>>>
>>> I thanked Him for his time and for all that
>>>
>>> He has done for me and my family, and He
>>> replied, "Anytime. I'm here 24 hours a day.
>>> All you have to do is ask for me, and I'll
>>> answer."
>>>