

INTERIM COMMITTEE OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Interim Committee of Australian Church Women held on Wednesday, February 19, 1964.

- PRESENT:** Mesdames, F. J. Dey, D.J.A. Verco, H.J. Lilley, B.R. Wyllie, (chair), S.M. Barrett and Deaconess Andrews.
- OPENING:** The meeting opened with prayer led by Mrs. Wyllie.
- MINUTES:** Minutes of the previous meeting, having been duly circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.
- REPORTS:** Mrs. Wyllie reported that Queensland had now accepted the invitation to be the State unit of the Australian Church Women. There were now four State units - South Australia, Victoria, N.S.W. and Queensland.

Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches:

Mrs. Wyllie reported that she and Mrs. Dey had attended as their church's representatives the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches. Mrs. J. Coates was appointed Consultant from A.C.W. This year the meeting had been held in Melbourne, the first time away from Sydney and there had been a different type of programme which had involved many observers from various inter-church councils and groups connected with the Council in Victoria. The report of the Interim Committee was presented and there had been a number of criticisms expressed mainly from Victoria and in particular from the Presbyterian Church. The informal discussions and contacts had been most helpful and will assist in the continuing work of the Committee.

Fellowship Day: It was reported that the material requested from the Rev. C. Harcourt-Norton had been received and it was agreed that the study material and worship service be edited by Mesdames. S. McPhee, S.M. Barrett, J.F.Dey, and B. R. Wyllie.

Date: Discussions took place concerning the advisability of suggesting a particular date for the observance of Fellowship Day. Victoria have observed it in July but this would not be very suitable in N.S.W. The meeting agreed that the Consultation to be held in March would be the best time to discuss this question in relation to future years. It was agreed that this year May 1st be suggested. It was also suggested that consideration be given by local groups to having the meeting in the evening in order to attract the younger women and that men be invited to join in the programme. It was further agreed that a statement concerning the meaning of the Week of Prayer be circulated with the material.

**STUDY MATERIAL:** The meeting agreed that we circulate Couples' Clubs re the availability of study and worship materials prepared through the Interim Committee.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The Convener reported on correspondence received from the Federal Liaison Officer of the Women's World Day of Prayer concerning affiliation with the Interim Committee. Mrs. Wyllie read to the meeting her reply to Major Bell and indicated that a copy had been sent to each state committee of the Women's World Day of Prayer.

Tasmania; Mrs Wyllie reported that during the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches a discussion had taken place concerning the formation of a State unit in Tasmania. From the conversation it appears that there are tensions within the State and that it was evident we must work through the Tasmanian Council of Churches. It was agreed that all information be forwarded the Rev. A.N. Kemp, President of the Tasmanian Council of Churches.

CONSULTATION: Reported that the four state units had agreed to send representatives to the Consultation:

South Australia Mrs. E. A. Pitman  
Mrs. E. P. Playford  
Queensland Mrs. F. G. Dennis  
Victoria Mrs. T. H. Coates  
Mrs. Colonel Saunders

and two representatives from N.S.W. still had to be appointed.

Denominational Womens Groups: Resolved that an invitation to the Federal President of each of the Denominational Women's groups be extended to the Consultation.

Methodist - Mrs. W. F. Hambly  
Congregationalist - Mrs. I. Haynes  
Presbyterian - Mrs. Thompson in place of Mrs. Christie Johnson who is overseas.

Churches of Christ -  
Church of England - through Archdeacon Delbridge as secretary of the Ecumenical Affairs Committee.

Salvation Army - Mrs. Bramwell Cook.

It was further agreed that when sending the invitation we list the people who will be attending in other capacities from their denomination.

Hospitality - no definite allocations were made for the five inter-state representatives but it was left in the hands of the Convener to take up with the members of the Interim Committee who had indicated that they could extend hospitality.

Programme - agreed that the following be the programme to be presented to the meeting -

TUESDAY -

12.30 Lunch (at Wesley College)  
1.45 Opening Prayers: The President of the Council, Rev. B. R. Wyllie  
2.00 Business Session At Wesley  
3.30 Afternoon Tea Interim Committee to cater for afternoon teas and morning teas.  
6.00 Dinner (at Deaconess House)  
7.00 Business Session  
9.15 Evening Prayers: Mrs. L. M. Williams) at Deaconess House  
9.30 Supper

WEDNESDAY -

9.30 Prayers: Anglican representative) at the Australian Council of Churches'  
10.45 Morning Tea meeting room - 3rd floor, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.  
11.00 Business Session  
12.30 Lunch (at Wesley College)  
2.00 Business Session At Wesley College.  
Closing Devotions (Mrs. J. Coates) II)

Further agreed that:

(A) SHORT PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

(1) Relation of the Australian Council of Churches with Australian Church Women.

(2) Relation of Australian Church Women to the Department on the Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society of the World Council of Churches.

(3) How to establish local councils and how to promote Community Day and Fellowship Day - report by the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council.

(4) The Fellowship of the Least Coin. Relation of Australian

Church Women with regional councils of the W.C.C.

- (5) Ecumenical promotion within the local congregation - the "grass roots". (Joint action for Mission)
- (6) Report on the Singapore Situation Conference.
- (7) Statement of the steps leading to the calling of the consultation.

(B) GENERAL DISCUSSION

- (a) Where do we go from here?
  - in developing at national level
    - state level
    - local level
  - relation between these three
  - finance
- (b) How to develop our programme
  - Fellowship Day
  - Community Day
  - Local groups
  - Projects - scholarships, fraternal workers
  - Cooperation of men and women
- (c) Main points for the drawing up of a Constitution.

**STUDY MATERIAL:** Discussion took place concerning the promotion of study material and it was agreed that we write to the Federal women's denominational groups suggesting that they may promote through their groups the use of 2 or 3 meetings per year for the use of the Australian Church Women's study material on an ecumenical basis in their state and local situations.

It was agreed that we should only try to publish a study booklet once every two years.

**CLOSING:** The meeting closed with prayer led by the Convener.

Confirmation:

*Mabel G. Myler*

Date:

8.4.64