

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN N.S.W. UNIT

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 17 November 1986.

The meeting opened at 11 a.m. with the President in the chair giving a welcome to all present. Thanks were expressed to the Baptist ladies for the morning tea. Mrs Graham thanked members of Council for their prayer support during the recent Conference of A.C.W.C. and gave a special welcome to Mrs Dorothy Harris, who was also a delegate to the A.C.W.C. Conference and who has joined Council as a delegate from the Uniting Church, replacing Mrs Betty Davis, who has served for a number of years. Mrs Harris with Mrs Graham travelled with the President of A.C.T. Unit, Mrs Joan Adcock on their journey to the A.C.W.C. Conference.

Those present are recorded in the attendance book, there being 51 at this final meeting for 1986 and 5 apologies were recorded.

The President Lead in Prayer and read the Christmas story as recorded by Luke in the second chapter of his gospel. The first people to receive the Good News were busy people, the shepherds, busy at their work. We as Christ's witnesses need to meet people at their point of need. Mrs Graham expressed her hope that we would all receive blessings at Christmas.

The Minutes of the September 15 meeting were read and confirmed.

Business arising from the Minutes.

The Synod Fellowship Committee of the Uniting Church has confirmed the appointment of Mrs Dorothy Harris as a delegate to this Council.

CORRESPONDENCE Inwards.

1. Minutes of the National Committee.
2. Circular re. Winifred Kiek Guidelines (Deed). The Secretary & the Winifred Kiek Scholar Convenor have dealt with this report.
3. Copyright guidelines have been published and members are recommended to obtain a copy of this important document. Copies are available from the Board of Education of the Uniting Church.
4. Budget Programme of the Women's Commission. Copies received.
5. Return thanks letter from Mrs Mabel Wyllie.
6. Invitation to Baptist Women's Day. Pres. & Sec. to attend.
7. A.B.M. end of year meeting. Apology sent.
8. Letter from Budgewoi ladies enclosing F.L.C. monies.
9. U.C.A. Fellowship re. appointment of D. Harris.
10. Annual report of her branch, Mrs Judith Goodwin.
11. "Friends of St. Mary's Cathedral" (Dame Monica Galleger) inviting the Council to enter a Floral Display at the Spring 1987 Floral Festival. Executive to arrange for this to be done.
12. From Margaret Ralph, now of Moss Vale requesting help with promotion of A.C.W. in her area.

Correspondence. Outwards.

1. The gift of an A.C.W. spoon was sent to Erica Henderson.
2. Spoons were ordered from Perfection Plate.
3. A letter to Mrs Joy Udy who is unable to attend meetings because of ill health.
4. A letter of sympathy to Mrs Mabel Wyllie on the death of her husband.
5. An invitation to Mrs Bery Davis of Gladesville to attend our meetings.

Reports.

The President reported on meetings and luncheons she and the Secretary have attended for A.C.W. They included a. The Baptist Women's Day, N.C. Jewish Women Luncheon, 90 th Anniversary Service Mothers' Union, d. Greek Orthodox gathering. e. The Mass for the visit of the Pope. The President being unable to attend, it is hoped that The Secretary will be permitted to be her substitute.

Report on the A.C.W.C. Conference.

The President read the statement issued at the Conference (copy attached) Costs to our unit were just over \$1,000 being \$797 for fares & \$264.34 for registration.

Mrs Graham expressed her appreciation of fellowship shared with Mrs Adcock, with whom she shared a room at the Y. in Bangkok, and of the support of Mrs Harris at the Conference. Highlights of the conference were the devotions given by a Thai lady and the address of the key-note speaker, Janet Wood of Australia. The Bible studies were times of great help.

A matter of great concern at the conference was the prostitution of Asian women and the delegates were taken to see some of the areas in Bangkok where this trade is practised.

Mrs Graham gave a special welcome to Dorothy Harris as she gave her report of the conference. Fifteen countries were represented by 190 delegates and observers.

Financial Report.

This was a two-monthly report. The Treasurer asked for confirmation of payments made & presented accounts for payment. A copy of the Financial statement is attached. The report was received on the motion of D.Lumb, seconded Brigadier Smith.

A minute of appreciation to the Treasurer was moved.

It was moved by H.Stutchbury, seconded C.Groat, that all offering money from the recent World Community Day services except the F.L.C. offerings should go to the Mexican Relief Appeal. Carried.

Partners of A.C.W.C. We paid \$500 to this appeal in advance, at the launching of the appeal. Not even half that amount has been given by members in our unit. It was suggested that we need to do some publicity for new Partners of A.C.W.C. March is the month for Partners to re-subscribe. This is an on-going project, not a 'one-off'. It was moved by M. Burtinshaw, seconded Y.Davis, that we endorse the action of Council passing the \$500 in 1986. Carried.

General Business.

World Community Day Services. Very good reports were received about this service. The Longueville Branch requested the Secretary to write to the National Committee asking them to thank the writers of the service for the excellent work they did.

Members were again encouraged to insist that the organisers of our special days should use the hymns chosen for the service. Hymn books can be readily borrowed from churches where the specified books are in use.

It was moved by J.Baker, seconded C.Groat, that the National Committee arrange for the master copy to have copyright approved hymns printed on it. Carried.

The list of suggested & willing speakers was circulated for correction and additions. Members were reminded that expenses are to be offered to speakers.

Branch Reports.

Reports were received from Chatswood, Blue Mountains, Nth.Sydney/Harbourside, Lane Cove-Longueville, Sutherland, Turrumurra/Wahroonga, Parramatta, City Br., Epping, North Ryde, Strathfield, Burwood/Concord and Terrigal.

Newslette. Subscriptions are due. It was reported that one man subscribes.

F.L.C. Circle of Prayer copies are available for \$1.

Prayers for children of the World. Dame Monica requested that Executive make the recommendation that the abused children of the world should be especially remembered in prayer.

The Epping Branch suggested in its report that the people who have brought F.L.C. monies for dedication in the World Community Day services should be invited to stand at the front of the church during the dedication.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed with prayer and the Benediction.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 16, 1987, when the Presbyterian ladies will be the hostesses for morning tea.

Confirmed.

Yvonne A Davis
16.2.87

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN (N.S.W. STATE UNIT)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS 1ST SEPTEMBER to 31ST OCTOBER 1986

CR. BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 1/9/1986 (CURRENT A/C) \$4,065.58

ADD RECEIPTS - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Affiliation Fees	10.00	
Donation	4.00	
"Newsette" Subscriptions	8.00	
Refund part Imprest	30.00	
Overseas Travel Fund	8.50	
F.L.C. Donations	1,946.52	
Fellowship Day Offerings	153.33	
World Community Day Offerings	1,954.44	
Partner	35.00	
Interest - Glebe Administration Board	237.90	
Interest - Westpac Current A/c	21.69	
"Circle of Prayer"	3.00	
Transferred from Savings Investment A/c	500.00	
Transferred from Glebe Administration Board Investment	<u>1,000.00</u>	
		<u>5,912.38</u>
		9,977.96

DEDUCT - SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER PAYMENTS

Presidents Registration Asian Conference (Observer to Bangkok)	264.34	
Affiliation Fee - National Council of Women	20.00	
Qantas Airways - President's Air Fare Asian Conference	797.00	
Balance cost "Circle of Prayer"	<u>20.00</u>	
		<u>1,101.34</u>

CR. BALANCE - CURRENT A/C - 31ST OCTOBER 1986 \$8,876.62
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PAYMENTS FOR CONFIRMATION

Registration - Asian Conference	264.34	
Qantas Airways	901.00	
Less Refund	<u>104.00</u>	797.00
Affiliation Fee - National Council of Women	20.00	
Balance cost "Circle of Prayer"	<u>20.00</u>	
	<u>\$1,101.34</u>	
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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Treasurer's Imprest	30.00	
Mrs. D. Woodhouse "Newsette, Postage, Stickers & Photostats	50.18	
U/C in Australia - Board of Education ("Newsette")	<u>38.00</u>	
	<u>\$118.18</u>	
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BRANCH REPORTS November 17, 1986

Chatswood Celebrated 10th Anniversary of the branch.

Blue Mountains Continuing inspite of some churches pulling out.

NorthSydney/Harbourside Formed in 1985. Executive now reduced to Secretary, and branch has ceased to function.

Turrumurra/Wahroonga Reported a lot of community involvement.

Parramatta Since the loss of sight of Mrs Joy Udy, who organises the special days, Mrs Fran Cummins has recorded the instructions for the services and Mrs Udy is able to continue to make the arrangements & to take part in the services.

City Branch reported on the World Community Day service when the order was translated into chinese for the women at the Chinese Church where the service was held who cannot speak or read English. Discussion groups were held at this service and three languages were used.

Strathfield/Homebush reported that some men are beginning to attend their services. There were four at the World Community Day.

Burwood/Concord Very large congregations at all their services.

Terrigal The Anglican rector attended Fellowship Day & was impressed.

ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

ASSEMBLY STATEMENT

We, the participants of the 8th Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference held in Bangkok, Thailand, November 2 - 7, 1986, were challenged by the very large claim reflected in our theme, "I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST". We struggled with how to proclaim this, without seeming arrogant and insensitive to the religious beliefs of millions of people in Asia. We affirm that Christ is our model for service and He empowers us to serve with confidence in our complex world. In this service we encounter suffering, but through suffering we are called to make room for Divine Initiative to work in us to establish Peace and Justice.

The theme was further explored through four commissions which ^{dealt} dealt with Personhood, Family Life, Women in Society and Peace and Justice.

We affirm that women and men are together, created in the image of God and therefore wholeness is God's gift to all people. All practices which discriminate against women in home, church and society must be eliminated.

We affirm that family life has a prime place in society in strengthening Christian values. We urge churches to provide counselling and pastoral care and to give priority to Christian Family Life Programmes. The Churches need to work in co-operation with ^{secular} private and government agencies in order to improve the status of women and the welfare of children.

We view with great concern the existing position of women in society and the traditional ways of defining their roles. Christian women must voice their opposition to discrimination in different aspects of life especially in employment and systems of law and promote remedial action. The gap between different classes and races of women must be bridged.

We affirm that there can be no peace without justice. We must all strive to achieve Peace and Justice in social economic, religious, national and international conflicts.

Throughout all sessions of the Assembly participants were aware of the fellowship shared as Christian women and of the special needs of women in their own countries. Exploring the theme together, the participants found strength to assert confidently that "THROUGH CHRIST WE CAN DO ALL THINGS".