

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(In association with the Australian Council of Churches, which is affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGGATE. S.A. 506

3rd. April, 1973.

Mrs. Gladys S. Naylor,
Church Women United,
Box 134 Manhattanville Station,
New York, N.Y. 10027.

Dear Mrs. Naylor,

It is my privilege to extend warm Christian greetings to the President and members of the Executive of Church Women United on behalf of the South Australian Working Committee of the Australian Church Women.

At the recent National Committee Meeting held in Sydney in February, the responsibility of this committee was transferred to our State. We deem it an honour and a challenge to serve in this capacity. We are indeed most fortunate to have such a dedicated and capable leader in our President (Mrs.) Joy Smith. We look forward to this time of fellowship and service, relying on the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit - do pray for us as we seek to do our Master's will.

As a result of the National Committee Meeting the following was resolved and I quote from the Minutes page 8:

"That the Working Committee be empowered to write to Church Women United for their Themes for 1974 and to make necessary arrangements for preparation of the Services."

It was further resolved

"That the Working Committee obtain the information on the 1975 Themes for the celebration days of Church Women United in time for consideration at the National Committee Meeting, 1974."

Hence my letter of request to you; I do trust that once again you will share the Themes of your special days with us, as in previous years the material has been most inspiring. Do you think it will be at all possible for information relating to 1975 Themes be available for the next National Committee Meeting scheduled for Adelaide early February, 1974?

The two groups appointed to prepare the Fellowship and World Community Day Orders of Service for 1974 are already most anxious to proceed. If our request is favourably received, I would appreciate an early reply.

Also we would be pleased

to be advised for the News letter convenor, Mrs. Beryl Golding, 48 Fairford St, Unley, S.A. 5061 to receive the Christian Women United Mission booklet. Could her name be added to the mailing list and would you please let me know the yearly subscription that a cheque for same can be forwarded to your Treasurer - thank you

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

ASUTALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(In association with the Asutalain Council of Churches, which is affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGHGATE. South Australia. 5063.
29th May, 1973.

Mrs. Gladys S. Naylor,
Church Women United,
Box 134 Manhattanville Station.,
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027.

Dear Mrs. Naylor,

I refer to my letter of the 3rd. April, '73 and I do not appear to have received a reply and I am therefore writing again.

The letter extended warm Christian greetings to the President and committee members of the Church Women United from the Australian Women's Working committee which is now located in South Australia. In case you have not received my previous correspondence, I will quote from the letter in detail.

At the recent National Committee Meeting held in Sydney in February, the responsibility of this committee was transferred to our State. We deem it an honour and a challenge to service in this capacity. We are indeed most fortunate to have such a dedicated and capable leader in our President (Mrs. Joy Smith). We look forward to this time of fellowship and service, relying on the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit - do pray for us as we seek to do our Master's will.

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The two groups appointed to prepare the Fellowship and World Community Day Orders of Service for 1974 are already most anxious to proceed. If our request is favourably received, I would appreciate an early reply.

Also, we would be pleased for the Newsletter convenor, Mrs. Capt. Beryl Golding, 48 Fairford St, Unley, Sth. Aust. 5061. to receive the Christian Women United Mission booklet. Could her name be added to the mailing list and would you please let me know the yearly subscription rate so that a cheque for same can be forwarded to your Treasurer - thank you.

I am also pleased to report that plans for the National Committee Meeting Adelaide, February 12th - 15th, '74 are well in hand and this promises to be most worthwhile.

Trusting to hear from you at your earliest. With best wishes from all members of the Working Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. E. Ackland.
Secretary, Working Committee.
A.C.W.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

CLARIE COLLINS HARVEY, PRESIDENT
MARGARET SHANNON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Box 134, MANHATTANVILLE STATION, NEW YORK, NY 10027

Cable: CHWOMENUN, New York

June 7, 1973

Mrs. D.E. Ackland
Secretary, Working Committee
Australian Church Women
1a Avenue Road
Highgate, South Australia 5063

Dear Mrs. Ackland:

For the first time we are aware of how the Australian Church Women organize their responsibilities. It was not until your letter came that we realized that the states take their turn in administrating the activities of Australian Church Women. The system has much to commend it, I am sure.

Just as your second letter arrived, we were in the process of sending you the themes for 1974. I'm sorry that I have been away from the desk so very much in the last month. Just last week, the packet of materials for World Community Day 1973 was mailed to the address of the former president and secretary in Brisbane, Queensland. So we are forwarding you another packet of materials that were produced for use in the U.S.A. You will remember the theme, "Where in the World is my Neighbor?"

You have asked for the themes for 1974 and 1975. I can furnish you at this time with the themes for 1974. You already have the materials through the World Day of Prayer committee of Australia on the theme, "Make Us Builders of Peace," written by the women of Japan. This is under the auspices of the International Committee for the World Day of Prayer. The theme for May Fellowship for 1974 is, "Explore New Paths." The service gives inspiration to women to seek out new careers of interest and need. It may take special training, it may just take special wisdom. In any case, the theme grows out of a need for new careers for women. The theme for World Community Day for 1974 is "Discover the Aspiring Majority." The service itself picks up the women of the world who have arrived at the decision-making level of Church, government, business and industry and the quality of person that aspires to carry the responsibility that must be ours. What has been her commitment and her faith? What influence does she carry? How does she relate her influence to building a better world community? I'll be glad to send a packet as soon as these last two services are in print.

You ask if it would be possible to have the 1975 themes available for your meeting in Adelaide in February, 1974? We do have an Executive Board meeting in November, 1973. It may be possible to deal with the theme at that time, but usually the recommendations are given and then a small task force convenes and sets the theme and direction. You are very fortunate that you have groups already tapped to work on 1974. Of course, our committee work on this was done last year, and the materials are just now going to press for May Fellowship.

I would be glad to place Mrs. Capt. Beryl Golding's name on the list to receive the Church Woman. However, I believe the most convenient way to do this would be to use the envelope enclosed and it would be mailed in a regular order to the correct desk. We are most pleased to have her interest in the woman's magazine.

It is a real privilege to learn to know the Working Group of the Australian Church Women. We send our best wishes for a forward looking meeting for February, 1974. Together, we ask of God, "What Will You Have Us Do?"

Please let us know if we can be of help. Do you have our booklet called, "On Our Way Together." It is a handbook for our national movement. I seem to remember that I sent one to the others in responsible positions. If you do not have it, and feel that you could profit from some of the ideas, please let us know. I feel certain that you received the World Day of Prayer materials from the National Committee headed by Mrs. Doreen Strack, 66 Tennyson Street, Moonie Ponds, Melbourne 3039, Australia. Please pass on to us any ideas or materials that will help us build for peace in this year ahead.

Truly yours,



Gladys Naylor

GN:sk

Enclosure: Church Woman order form

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

(In association with the Australian Council of Churches, which is affiliated with the World Council of Churches)

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGHGATE. 5063.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

7th July, 1973.

Mrs. Gladys S. Naylor,
Church Women United,
Box 134 Manhattanville Station.,
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027.

Dear Mrs. Naylor,

I wish to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 7th June. The 1974 themes for Fellowship Day and World Community Day have been forwarded to the respective States for consideration when planning the orders of service. I have had a request for further information from the General Secretary of the Girls' Brigade in Sydney. I was able to quote from your letter the relevant points but have been asked if there is any other available material for the World Community Day. I mentioned that I would receive from you the orders of service when they are ready, but in the mean-time it would be appreciated if any helpful material could be forwarded at your earliest - than you.

The orderform for the woman's magazine 'Church Woman' has been given to Mrs. Capt. Golding and I trust that by now you have received same.

I have looked for the copy of the booklet "On our way together" but was unable to find it amongst the files and various collection of books, candles and other odds and ends that we have inherited. It would be appreciated if you could forward me a copy - thank you.

You will be interested to hear that Mrs. Doreen Strack was inducted as President of the Victorian State Unit of A.C.W. on Friday 22nd, June. So as well as keeping A.C.W. informed on matters relating to World Day of Prayer she will be kept busy in her role of President of the State Unit.

The sub-committee of the Working Committee presented a draft copy of the programme for the National Committee Meeting in February. The theme is "THE KINGDOM IS YOURS"; we are delighted that Miss Jean Skuse is to be the Guest Speaker at the Opening session and will also be a leader during one of the night discussion sessions. The Working Committee plans a day of retreat when we will discuss plans for the future of A.C.W. to be presented at the N.C.M. It is important that we 'keep house' but more important that we 'look to the future and the role of A.C.W.'; please remember us in prayer. The day for the retreat is Monday 17th September.

The following are the members of the Working Committee which I thought would be of interest to you.

Mrs. A.C. Smith (Joy) President	Methodist	Deaconess Norris (Nora) Vice	P. Presbyterian
Mrs. W.F. Kain (Nell) Vice-P.	Catholic	Mrs. D.J. Rowston (Sue) Publication	Baptist
Mrs. E.A. Bache (Joan) Treasurer	Congregational	Mrs. K.D. Hall (Alder) F.L. Coin	Anglican
Mrs. Capt. Golding (Beryl) Newsletter	S. Army	Mrs. P. Parkin (Elspeth)	Congregation
Deaconess Simmons (Eunice) Convenor	Winifred Kiek Scholarship	- Methodist	
Mrs. D.E. Ackland (Olive) Methodist			

If you would be interested to know about the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund, I will be pleased to forward any information. Briefly, this fund enables a Christian woman who has already received basic training in various fields to further her studies here in Australia for a year. You probably know about this already so won't bore you further. A monthly Newsletter 'Women at Work' is prepared by Mrs. Golding and is posted with the Minutes to all groups and Federal bodies entitled to attend N.C.M. Thank you too for the packet of material for World Community Day which was sent to Mrs. Connell and forwarded to me, this has been given to Mrs. Rowston who handles publication etc.

I do trust that I haven't rambled on too much and if there is anything of interest relating to our work here in Australia that you want to know about, please let me know and I'll do my best to supply the answers.

With warm Christian Greetings,

Sincerely,

P.S. I forgot to mention that Mrs. Kain is responsible for the purchase and distribution of Scribal Pens. The money received from this source is used to help finance fares for delegates to attend N.C.M.

Could you please tell me if you operate a Travel Fund which is used to enable delegates to attend Regional or National Meetings? We are in the throes of introducing a scheme for N.C.M. and are looking to ways and means of financing such a Pool. Would appreciate any information - thank you.

Olive.A.



recd. 16/12.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

CLARIE COLLINS HARVEY · PRESIDENT
MARGARET SHANNON · EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Box 134 · MANHATTANVILLE STATION · NEW YORK, NY 10027
Cable: CHWOMENUN New York

October 17, 1973

Mrs. D.E. Ackland
Australian Church Women
1a Avenue Road
Highgate 5063
South Australia

Dear Mrs. Ackland:

We write to you as secretary assuming that you continue your same role since the retreat on September 17. The women of Australia are certainly "about their Father's business." You are a very active group and are no doubt picking up influence in Australia as you go. It was good to know that you had a request for information from the General Secretary of the Girls' Brigade in Sydney. We are sending a copy of "On Our Way Together." We are fairly certain that we have sent this on to one of the women, but perhaps in an organization as farreaching as yours, one is not enough. We understand that we'll continue to send the materials for the three special days whenever they are ready.

The news of the induction of Mrs. Doreen Strack as president of the Victorian State Unit of Australian Church Women is certainly good news. The day may come when the two units of women's concerns, prayer and unity, will become a force of influence for you. We are very happy here to have the Committee of the World Day of Prayer as part of the work of Church Women United in the U.S.A.

Do give our warmest greetings to the women of Australia. I plan to see Myrna Buschmeyer within the next few weeks. Some of your colleagues will remember her as a vivacious woman living in your midst for two years. Let us pray together for the peoples of the Middle East that we may continue to search for ways to bring peace to the entire world. May God bless our efforts.

Truly yours,

Gladys Naylor/s-c

Gladys Naylor

GN:slk

Enclosure: "On Our Way Together"

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

12th March, 1974.

Mrs. Gladys Naylor,
Secretary,
Church Women United,
Box 134, Manhattanville Station,
NEW YORK. NY 10027

Dear Mrs. Naylor,

Thank you very much for the greetings expressed in your letter dated 17th October, 1973. These were passed on to the National Committee Meeting which met in Adelaide last month.

Details of the themes for Special Days for 1975 were passed on to the meeting and we would be grateful if you could advise us of your 1976 themes as soon as they are available.

As you can see, I have taken over as Secretary from Mrs. Ackland who has written to you previously and am still feeling my way in this new job, not having had any close connection with the work previously.

We have been pleased to receive copies of "On Our Way Together" and more recently orders of service for the three Special Days. These have been passed on to the Convener for Special Days, Mrs. Rowston.

With warm Christian greetings,

Sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
Room 812
475 Riverside Drive
New York, N. Y. 10027

April 9, 1974

Mrs. D. E. Ackland
Secretary, Working Committee
Australian Church Women
1a Avenue Road
Highgate, South Australia 5063

Dear Mrs. Ackland:

An envelope for the Celebrations packet, which was addressed to the Australian Church Women at 15 Burns Parade, Chapel Hill, Brisbane, and which was mailed in early December has been returned.

We have now corrected our records to show your address and under separate cover are sending a new celebrations packet just in case another was not sent before.

We are very sorry for this error and trust that you have not been inconvenienced by this delay.

Cordially yours,

Milda A. Garner
Milda A. Garner, Secretary to
Dorothy C. Wagner, Coordinator
International Community

MAG:hs

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

19th April, 1974.

Secretary,
Coordinator International Community,
Church Women United,
475 Riverside Drive,
New York. N.Y. 10027

Dear Madam Secretary,

Thank you for your letter dated 9th April, which arrived this morning, after being re-addressed to me by Mrs. D. E. Ackland to whom it was addressed. I have taken the position of Secretary of Australian Church Women, following Mrs. Ackland's retirement and have already advised Mrs. Gladys Naylor of this change.

We did receive what I assume to be the "celebrations packet" - i.e. details of the services for Women's World Day of Prayer, Fellowship Day and World Community Day about two months and these have been handed to the Convenor of Special Days on our Working Committee.

We certainly seem to have caused some confusion for you, and for this I apologise. My term of office will cease in August, 1975, so I hope we can maintain some continuity at least until then.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

23rd April, 1974

Secretary,
Coordinator International Community,
Church Women United,
475 Riverside Drive,
NEW YORK. N.Y. 10027

Dear Madam Secretary,

Further to my letter of 19th April, the celebrations packet which you posted airmail has now arrived and we thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

At our Working Committee meeting, it was suggested that I should write to you to see whether there is any resource material available that would assist our groups in preparing services for the themes set. Do you provide aids for those who plan your days, or is this left completely in the hands of those responsible for the service? We are in the process of approaching groups to prepare these services for 1975 and if you have anything which may be of assistance we would be pleased to receive it. It may be advisable if it is sent air mail as they will be making their initial plans before very long.

Could you please advise us as soon as the 1976 themes have been chosen.

Thanking you and may God bless you in the work you are doing.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
Room 812
475 Riverside Drive
New York, N. Y. 10027

April 17, 1974

Mrs. J. B. Murchland, Secretary
Australian Church Women
Working Committee
33 Wilson Terrace
Glenelg East
South Australia 5045

Dear Mrs. Murchland:

Your letter addressed to Gladys Naylor has been received. Mrs. Naylor left for California the end of October, and I now have the privilege of serving as Corresponding Secretary for the International Committee for World Day of Prayer and as Coordinator of International Community for Church Women United.

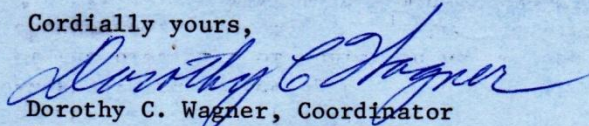
We have been pleased to have word about the meeting of the National Committee last month and are glad the greetings were passed on there.

It is good to know you have received the copies of "On Our Way Together" and the orders of service for the three special days.

We are looking forward to seeing Doreen Strack when she comes for the meeting of the Disciples of Christ in August and to seeing Mrs. Hall when she comes for the meeting of the International Committee for World Day of Prayer in Mexico in Seminar. We hope that she can stay for the Ecumenical Assembly of Church Women United which will meet in Memphis, Tennessee, October 10-13.

Though we are so far separated in space, we feel very close to our sisters in Australia as we share common concerns and join in the same celebrations.

Cordially yours,


Dorothy C. Wagner, Coordinator
International Community

DCW:mg

Recd
24/4

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Gudrun Diestel, Chairman
8504 Stein über Nürnberg 2
Deutenbacher Strasse 1
Germany

Esther Coker, Sierra Leone
Michiko Okuda, Japan
Eileen Sheard, New Zealand
Margaret Sonnenday, U.S.A.
Sylvia Talbot, Guyana

Margaret Shannon
Administrative Secretary
Dorothy C. Wagner
Corresponding Secretary
475 Riverside Drive, Room 812
New York, N.Y. 10027

May 9, 1974

Mrs. J. B. Murchland
33 Wilson Terrace
Glenelg East
Southern Australia 5045

Dear Mrs. Murchland:

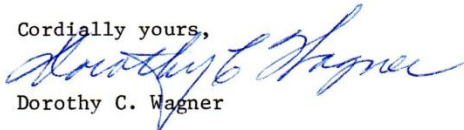
Thank you for your letters of April 19 and 23. We are sorry that during the change in personnel in the offices here, there was some confusion about requests for materials that had come from our good friends in Australia.

We are now working on the celebrations materials for 1975 and will make a note to send word of 1976 themes when they are chosen.

Since the only mailings that go regularly overseas are those sent by the International Committee for World Day of Prayer for that celebration, please do not hesitate to remind us of your interest in the whole packet of materials nearer the time if you wish those on the May Fellowship Day and World Community Day celebrations.

We are looking forward to receiving a number of friends from Australia in the next few months.

Cordially yours,



Dorothy C. Wagner

DCW:mg

Recd
2/5

replied

13 Longwood Ave.,
Launceston....7250.
15th. November 1973.

The Secretary,
Australian Church Women,
Adelaide.

Dear Mrs. Ackland,

As an Australian church woman, I want to bring before the National Committee Meeting, a protest on behalf of individual christian women against the constant and heavy handed use of masculine terms for generic nouns in all aspects of our church life.

A significant number of intelligent and thoughtful women are discovering a restlessness and an irritation over the unrelenting and continuous use of such masculine terms as everyman, churchmen, laymen, fellowman, brothers etc., which incidentally, fall thick and fast throughout the 1974 World Community Day Order of Service.

1973
I personally protested to the ministers of my church when a notice for theology lectures appeared as 'Theology for Churchmen'. I inquired among some of the women as to what this said to them and they replied that they didn't read it as including them. As I knew that the lectures were available to all I requested that the notice be altered to Theology for lay men and women. Shortly afterwards at a mission '75 gathering, it was listed that the church needed 'New Men'. When I asked that new women be included I was told frostily that 'New Men' was an all-embracing term and included women. It did not 'embrace' me and I said so and 'New People' finally replaced the original listing.

It would seem that while the term 'churchmen' may be all embracing when the entire congregation is needed to support a project, it ceases to be so when we come to such areas as church policy making, leadership and so on.

Clare Randall, Program Co-ordinator for Church Women United has said, and I quote:

'The use of male descriptive terms enforces the concept of women as secondary beings. The very use of masculine terms in this way (generic nouns) serves to emphasize and maintain the symbolism of the female being subsumed within the masculine. We might indeed begin to think of ourselves as non-existent. The use of male descriptive terms in the generic sense, enforces and re-enforces the concept of women as secondary beings. LANGUAGE GROWS OUT OF OUR IMAGES AND SHAPES OUR IMAGE.'

Would the committee for the co-operation of men and women make some contribution to a means of eliminating sexist language and examine possibilities for new terminology for God's people. The language barrier may not separate us from Christ but it may separate us from the Church.

My warmest wishes for the success of the National Committee Meeting in Adelaide in February 1974.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Rhodes

President of Launceston C'Tee
Tas. Women's Inter-Church
Council

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGHGATE. S.A. 5063.
30th November, 1973.

Mrs. D. Rhodes,
President Launceston W.I.C.C.
13 Longwood Ave,
LAUNCESTON.

Dear Mrs. Rhodes,

Thank you for your letter of the 15th November, this was received and discussed at the Working Committee meeting last Monday the 26th.

It was decided that a copy of the letter be forwarded to the A.C.W. representatives on the committee of Co-operation and Men and Women and that they present same to the National Committee Meeting next February.

Trusting that this suggestion meets with your approval.

Warm greetings and best wishes for the Christmas Season.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. E. Ackland.
Secretary, Working Committee
A.C.W.

1/23 Barnstaple Rd

Barnstaple

Dec 3, 1933

Dec 4th

Dear Mrs Oakland

Your letter came this morning and I have had some discussion with Fran. Downs about it. The Cooperation Committee does not meet until Dec 13th & I expect she will write to you after that. The future of that Committee is uncertain because most of us feel that at present its function is not clear nor its line dividing it from Christian Education. It is proposed to have a proper discussion about what it ought to do or could do & then report to A.C.C. Because I have been elected an elder in my local congregation I shall have to give up some other activities and representation on the Cooperation Committee is one. However if you appoint a new representative at the National Committee meeting I would be prepared to attend any meeting which the committee holds to determine its future as a new representative would be unfamiliar with it.

I sympathize with what Mrs Rhodes says as I realize that while these things do not bother me they are a worry to a lot of people & ought gradually to be put right. The only comment I have is that I feel that what needs to be done is mainly at the local level. I'd suggest that A.C.W. might officially ask A.C.C. to make representations about it to all member churches asking that the matter be treated seriously, and ^{that it be} passed on to state Council of churches asking them to do the same. But more importantly I think strong representations should be made to all women's groups associated with A.C.W. asking them to watch the situation in all local churches. This is where the real work needs to be done.

But do let us do it sensibly and quietly and not in any protesting way. Probably the term "laypeople" would best cover most cases, or "church people", "friends" for "fellowmen," & for "brothers". I think that it would be foolish to try to use complicated terms like "brothers & sisters", "laymen & women".

Fran tells me that Mrs Howie brought this up some time ago but then was at the time not much support.

With Christmas greetings to you all

from

Margaret Macneil

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGHGATE. S.A. 5063.
30th November, 1973.

Mrs. A. R. McNeill,
1/23 Barnsbury Rd,
BALWYN. VIC.

Dear Mrs. McNeill,

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter received from Mrs. D. Rhodes, earlier this month.

This letter was presented and discussed at the Working Committee meeting last Monday. Mrs. Rhodes obviously, is most concerned about this matter and is looking to A.C.W. to give support to her claim. It was decided that I should write to you and Mrs. Downes as the A.C.W. representatives to the Committee on Co-Operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, enclosing a copy and ask that you confer with each other re same.

It would be appreciated if you would contact me at your earliest with any suggestions or recommendations that you feel ought to be brought up and dealt with at either a Working Committee meeting or the National Committee Meeting next February. We meet as a W.C. on Monday the 10th December at 10 a.m. in the C.M.M. Board Room, Franklin Street, Adelaide, to finalise details for the N.C.M.

Trusting to hear from either you or Mrs. Downes at you earliest.

With Christmas greetings and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. E. Ackland.
Secretary, Working Committee
A.C.W.

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGHGATE. S.A. 5063.
30th November, 1973.

Mrs. H. A. Downes,
1 Sherwood Rd,
MT. WAVERLEY. VIC.

Dear Mrs. Downes,

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter received earlier this month from Mrs. D. Rhodes, President of the Launceston W.I.C.C.

This letter was presented and discussed at the Working Committee meeting last Monday. Mrs. Rhodes is obviously, most concerned about this matter and is looking to A.C.W. to give support to her claim. It was decided that I should write to you and Mrs. McNeill as the A.C.W. representatives to the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, enclosing a copy and ask that you contact Mrs. McNeill and confer on the matter. I have written a similar letter to Mrs. McNeill with the copy.

It would be appreciated if you would contact me at your earliest with any suggestions or recommendations that you feel ought to be dealt with at either a Working Committee meeting or the N.C.M. We meet as a W.C. next Monday week the 10th at 10 a.m. in the C.M.M. Board Room, Franklin St, Adelaide to finalise details etc. for the N.C.M.

Trusting to hear from either you or Mrs. McNeill at your earliest - thank you.

With best wishes and Christmas greetings.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. E. Ackland.
Secretary, Working Committee
A.C.W.

Dec 5th 1973

Dear Mrs Ackland

Thank you for your letter of 30th Nov. Mrs Macnail has spoken to me about Mrs Rhodes' concerns and is writing to you separately. I feel that so long as we women stay in the confines of H.C. Women with no more towards co-operation with the men, what else can we expect? Of course this concern of Mrs Rhodes is no new problem, as you will see by the marked section of the enclosed S. Australian State Report 1972. My recollection of the discussion on this was that it was just "shelved".

I would like to recommend that women take all steps possible through Rev to carry out protests in a similar manner as set out by Mrs Rhodes in her letter, especially keeping in mind the last sentence of Mrs Rhodes quite from Clare Randall "Language Grows out of our Images and shapes our Image".

Co Operation of Men and Women etc — you will find enclosed a copy of the ^{September} ~~October~~ minutes from co/op - Men & Women, just in case you have not received them direct, because there is relevant material marked on page 2 supporting Mrs Rhodes' concerns. I would like to suggest you write to Australian Council of Churches

3

for information on "Family Ministries".

As you will see, at our next meeting Dec 13th on Co/op men & Women we are to discuss the Future of this Committee and as far as I am concerned I hope it goes out of business because it is so nebulous.

Would you please send an official letter to Rev. B. Reddrop, 26 Moorhouse Street, Camberwell, Vic 3124 regarding Mrs Rhodes' concerns.

yours sincerely
Frances Dowds

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGHGATE. S.A. 5063.
10th December, 1973.

Mrs. H. A. Downes,
1 Sherwood Road.,
MT WAVERLEY. VIC.

Dear Mrs. Downes,

Many thanks for your prompt reply to my letter of the 30th ult. I have also heard from Mrs. MacNeill and as time is fast running away from me, I would appreciate it if you would, on my behalf, thank Mrs. MacNeill for her reply received in the same mail.

I am enclosing two copies of the letter written to Rev. Reddrop wherein I have suggested that he contact you re Mrs. Rhodes' letter. As there are two copies of Mrs. Rhodes' letter already in Victoria, I can see no reason for supplying a third, when you will all no doubt be at the meeting on the 13th. December.

In addition I am most grateful for the information enclosed re the S.A. Unit Report of '72 and for the various matters on the Minutes of Co-Op Men and Women etc. of the 6th September, '73. Much discussion followed the reading of your letter and portions of the minutes and we are most anxious to hear of the outcome of the meeting on the 13th.

Due to an oversight (and lack of time) these matters were not presented at the last Working Committee meeting, but most certainly should have been brought to the notice of members. May I suggest that the delegates (if they are appointed to this committee or a new committee) of A.C.W. to A.C.C. be asked to write to the secretary of the Working Committee informing her of any matters relating directly to or concerning A.C.W. Perhaps another person may not require this help but for my part I would find it invaluable. What thinkest thou?

Our thoughts will be with you on the 13th and I will look forward to hearing from you at your earliest - thank you.

With best wishes and thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. E. Ackland.
Secretary, Working Committee
A.C.W.

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGHGATE. S.A. 5063.
10th December, 1973.

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With best wishes and thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. E. Ackland.
Secretary, Working Committee
A.C.W.

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGHGATE. S.A. 5063.

10th December, 1973.

Rev. B.H. Reddrop,
Chairman,
Committee on Co-Operation of Men and Women
in Church, Family and Society,
MELBOURNE.

Dear Mr. Reddrop,

Thank you for your letter received in today's mail re the Report for inclusion in the Working Documents for the National Committee Meeting next February.

At today's Working Committee meeting discussion followed after reading portion of the Minutes of the committee on Co-Operation of Men and Women in Church, Family, and Society of the 6th September, '73. Concern was expressed re the note, Next Meeting:- Future of this Committee.

Mid November I received a letter from Mrs. A. Rhodes, President of Launceston W.I.C.C. (State Unit of A.C.W.) expressing concern at the use of masculine terms for generic nouns in all aspects of our Church life. I quote from the last paragraph of her letter which reads - 'Could the committee for the co-operation of men and women make some contribution to a means of eliminating sexist language and examine the possibilities for new terminology for God's people. The language barrier may not separate us from Christ but it may separate us from the Church.'

A copy of Mrs. Rhodes' letter was sent to Mrs. Downes and also to Mrs. MacNeill the A.C.W. representatives on the above committee. It was suggested in one reply that I write to you re this matter. As your committee is to meet on the 13th inst. and time is against me, it would be appreciated if you could contact Mrs. Downes for her copy of Mrs. Rhodes' letter - thank you. I will be pleased to have any comments and/or suggestions re this letter so that consideration can be given to this matter at the appropriate time during the N.C.M. next February.

I would also appreciate your comments re the following:

1. Re the future of this committee ; if this is disbanded will the Family Ministries embrace the work and aims of same? Is there any overlap between the committee on Christian Education and the Committee on Co-Op. of Men and Women etc.?
2. Has the A.C.C. adopted the name of Family Ministries as yet?
3. Will A.C.W. have representation on the committee of Family Ministries should it take the place of the present committee?
4. If not, how and where do we (A.C.W.) fit into the structure pattern of A.C.C.?
5. Would it be possible for you to give me a structure pattern or family tree or whatever of A.C.C. please.

- 2 -

cont./

The members of the Working Committee are under the impression that A.C.W. has representation on A.C.C. through the committee on Co-Operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society only, is this correct?

If there is no such committee where exactly does A.C.W. stand?

As we are not a Church but a National Organization how would we become a member of A.C.C. if not represented on a committee?

I trust that this epistle isn't too demanding in requests at such a busy time of the year.

With thanks and Christmas greetings.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. E. Ackland.
Secretary, Working Committee
A.C.W.



1 BIRCHWOOD ROAD,
MOUNT WAVERLEY,
VIC. 3149

14 Dec 1973

Dear Mrs Ackland

As you can imagine there was much discussion at Co/m/W meeting yesterday on the letter you wrote and Mrs Rhodes - unfortunately Margaret Macnail was not able to be there, however to make a long story short, Rev Bruce Reddrop is writing off to you and I expect you have received his letter by now!

I hope he will send me a copy of what he has sent to you!

3

so surely this means Awomen are an integral part of Aust Council of Churches structures!

I noticed in one lot of Awomen minutes, Rev Frank Engel had written asking for the name of Aust Working Committee!

With best wishes to you & yours for Christmas & the New Year

yours sincerely,
Brian Dodder

2

In regard to Mrs Rhodes letter on generic ^{needs} it was thought by all present Australian Council of Churches Christian Education set up would be the place to take up this second question!

By the way, in answer to your first two questions on page 2

As Awomen sends a person as a consultant to Aust Council of Churches meetings (Ray Smith represented us this year) same as Co/m/W - they too, are only consultants

1a Avenue Road.,
HIGHGATE. S.A. 5063.

17th January, 1974.

Rev. F. Engel,
General Secretary,
Australian Council of Churches,
BRICKFIELD HILL. N.S.W.

Dear Mr. Engel,

Late November last year I received a letter from Mrs. Dawn Rhodes of Tasmania and I am enclosing a copy of same for your information.

At the Working Committee meeting in December it was decided that I send a copy of Mrs. Rhodes' letter to the Chairman of the Committee on Co-Op of Men and Women, the Rev. Reddrop, trusting that this committee would come up with some suggestions or a solution to the problem concerning Mrs. Rhodes. I also, upon recommendations of the Working Committee asked pertinent questions about A.C.W.'s role in relation to this committee and to A.C.C. This was because of a notice in the 6th September, '73 Minutes of the Committee on Co-Op, which stated that the next meeting was to look to the future of this committee re its function, structure etc.

Rev. Reddrop wrote on 12th December and suggested that I contact the A.C.C. re my questions and I am therefore quoting from my letter to the Rev. Reddrop of the 10th December:-

1. Re the future of this committee; if this is disbanded will the Family Ministries embrace the work and aims of same? Is there an overlap between the committee on Christian Education and the Committee on Co-Op?
2. Has the A.C.C. adopted the name of Family Ministries yet?
3. Will A.C.W. have representation on the committee of Family Ministries should this take the place of the present committee?
4. If not, how and where do we (A.C.W.) fit into the structure pattern of A.C.C.?
5. Would it be possible for you to give me a structure pattern or family tree or whatever of A.C.C. please.

The members of the Working Committee are under the impression that A.C.W. has representation on A.C.C. through the committee on Co-Op of Men and Women - is this correct?

If there is no such committee where exactly does A.C.W. stand?

As we are not a Church but a National Organization how would we become a member of A.C.C. if not represented on a committee?

- 2 -

Rev. F. Engel cont./

I still do not know the answer to the first question re the future of the committee on Co-Op of Men and Women so would appreciate any help you may be able to give re this and the other questions.

The Working Committee is to meet on the 5th February to finalise details for the National Committee Meeting and as the answers relate in no small way to the Future Plans of A.C.W. I would be grateful if you could reply before that date - thank you.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. D. H. Ackland.
Secretary, Working Committee
A.C.W.



Australian Council of Churches

ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

President: The Revd. Neil Gilmore

General Secretary: The Revd. Frank G. Engel

THIRD FLOOR, 401A PITT STREET, SYDNEY 2000

TELEPHONE: 26 2901 (STD AREA CODE — 02)

POSTAL ADDRESS: BOX J111, BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

TELEGRAMS: "ECUMENICAL," SYDNEY

29th January, 1974.

Dear Mrs. Ackland,

Thank you for your letter and for the enclosed copy of the letter from Mrs. Rhodes.

I am glad to see that Mrs. Rhodes has taken up this matter of masculine terminology in church circles. It is an excellent letter and it seems to me that your National Committee might well take it up and seek to find ways in which you could awaken church people to the need to be aware of, and be rid of, the dominance of masculine terms in church literature, public speaking and conversation.

In regard to the questions about the committee on the co-operation of Men and Women:

1. I have not as yet been advised as to that committee's views about its future. If it continues, care would be taken to ensure there was not an overlap with the Commission on Christian Education. The involvement of the Commission has been entirely in terms of the conference it ran in November on The Future of the Family. It is not clear yet how much continuing involvement they will have in this field.
2. The A.C.C. has not adopted the name "Family Ministries". The function of the Committee on Co-operation is, of course, wider than the Family.
3. What the future A.C.C. structure in this whole field will be is something that has yet to be considered. The question of the Status of Women is a related aspect. So far, only the N.S.W. State Council has a Commission on the Status of Women. We would need to consider whether there should be a national commission. When these re-structuring matters are considered, we could certainly discuss the relation of A.C.W. to whatever is set up. I take it that, at this stage, A.C.W. is particularly interested in the family ministries field.



✓ 4. A.C.W.'s present relationship to the A.C.C. is expressed in several ways:

- a) the A.C.C. Executive appoint, as you know, four members of your National Committee;
- b) the time and place of the National Committee meeting is determined in consultation with the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. In the past, this has often resulted also in close collaboration in relation to the programme of the meeting;
- c) the A.C.W. appoints representatives to the Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women;
- d) the A.C.W. appoints two consultants to the A.C.C. General Meeting;
- e) State units of A.C.W. have the possibility of co-operating with the State Councils of the A.C.C. in whatever types of activity they decide on mutually;
- f) the A.C.W. can make direct approaches to any of the divisions and commissions of the A.C.C. for information, advice or help as, for example, is done with the Division of World Christian Action in relation to the Winifred Kerek Scholarship;
- g) there is direct relationship to the General Secretary of the A.C.C.;
- h) A.C.C. staff have usually been involved as speakers, Bible study leaders, etc., at your National Committee meetings.

Through these various relationships it is possible for A.C.W. to raise issues with the A.C.C. General Meeting, Executive Committee, Divisions, Commissions or Committees. Your views and concerns about particular issues would be welcome.

5. Similarly, we would hope that A.C.W. as a body related to the A.C.C., might do what it can to promote financial support for the A.C.C. itself and for its overseas aid programme. The former can be done by encouraging individuals to become members of the World Council of Churches Fellowship (\$5 or more p.a.), the latter through World Christian Action and Force Ten.



In June-July, we shall be having a special drive to promote membership, in N.S.W., Victoria and the A.C.T. At that time, the W.C.C.F. will be changed into "Christians One: The Fellowship of the Australian Council of Churches". We would hope very much for active support from A.C.W. and its constituents.

6. Enclosed is a diagram showing the present structure of the A.C.C.

7. It is correct that A.C.W. has representation on the Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women, and that this gives it direct relationship to an A.C.C. Committee. But remember all the other relationships listed in paragraph 4 above. If the Committee on Co-operation were replaced with something else, I assume the matter of A.C.W. representation would be considered in relation to the new committee. If no new committee was established, A.C.W. would still have the other relationships to the A.C.C.

I hope this gives you the information you are seeking. I hope also that it helps you to see and feel that the A.C.W. has a real relationship in a variety of ways to the A.C.C.

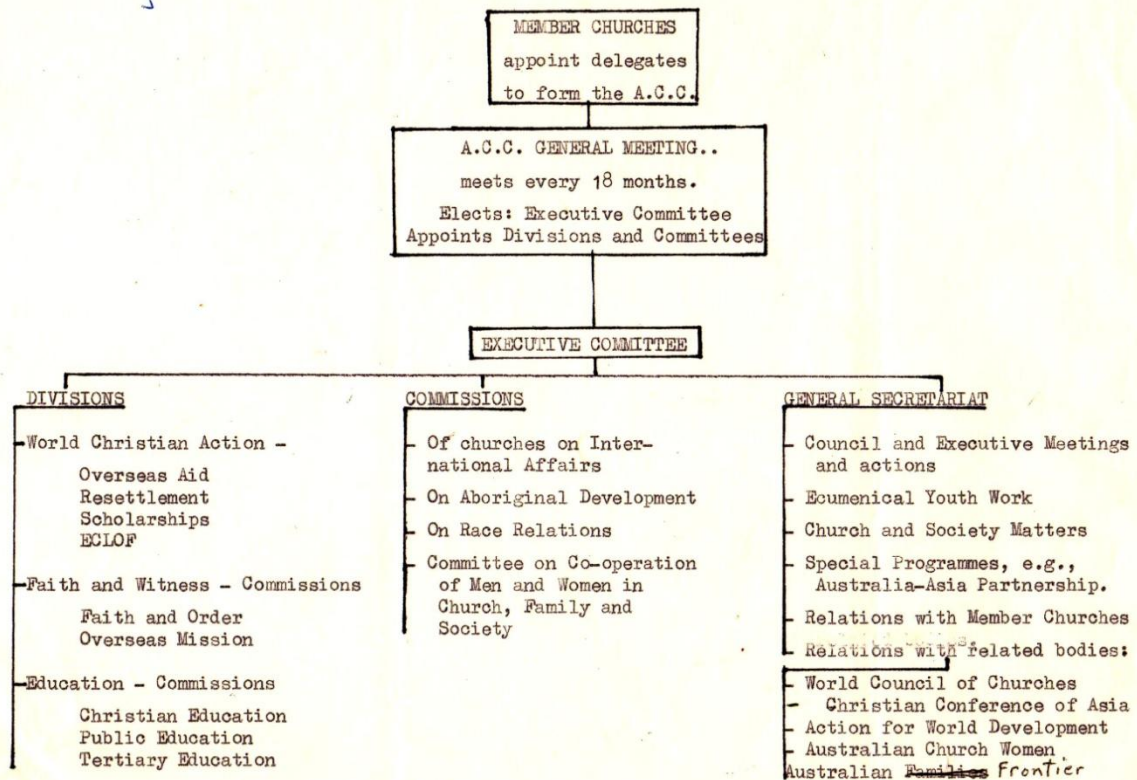
With all good wishes for your National Committee meeting and for the years work,

Yours Sincerely,

Frank R. Engel



STRUCTURE OF AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES





Australian Council of Churches' N.S.W. State Council

President:
REV. F. L. CUTTRISS

P.O. BOX 111
BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

THIRD FLOOR
401A PITT STREET, SYDNEY
TELEPHONE: 26-2901

Executive Secretary:
MISS JEAN SKUSE

6th February, 1974.

Mrs. O. Ackland,
1A Avenue Road,
HIGHGATE. 5063

Dear Olive,

Thank you for your letter and suggestions.


Frank had shown me Dawn Rhode's letter and also the one from the A.C.W. We had discussed them both and I think it will be good for the A.C.W. to put ~~some~~ pressure on the churches about language. Also I've had talks with Frank on the relationships with A.C.C. Since he wrote his letter to you the Department of Co-operation between Men and Women has gone out of existence. I think Frank is convinced that A.C.W. has to be taken seriously and we have an opportunity at Adelaide to decide how we wish this to be done.

Originally for the Wednesday evening session I was told that there would be a film "The Parable" and discussion. Now I see by the Agenda the focus is on A.C. W's. role and I think this is good. I presume the session is open for me to plan. I have a short two minutes cartoon film that really gets at the language matter. I thought we might start with this, and then use ways to get the women to identify A.C.W.'s role and goals, and in particular, the unique roles of women's organisations, relationships with A.C.C. or other bodies. I'm glad to have your letter to stimulate my thinking and if you and Joy or others think of anything else to be emphasised you can let me know on Tuesday.

You must all be very busy this week with final preparations.

My thoughts are with you.

Yours sincerely,


JEAN SKUSE
Executive Secretary

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

12th March, 1974.

Mrs. D. Rhodes,
13 Longwood Ave.,
LAUNCESTON. TAS. 7250

Dear Mrs. Rhodes,

Further to our letter of 30th November, 1973, following correspondence with the Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women, it was decided that your letter should be presented to the National Committee Meeting in February with the hope that some action could be initiated to find ways in which we could awaken church people to the need to be aware of, and be rid of, the dominance of masculine terms in church literature, public speaking and conversation. It was intended that this should be introduced in a session which we entitled "Future Plans".

Some discussion on the subject took place during a session led by Miss Jean Skuse. This was an open session and we hope that as a result of the discussion that took place some will return to local churches and bring pressure to bear on this issue.

Unfortunately, our "Future Plans" session barely got started due to an overabundance of "housekeeping" and I can assure you no one was more disappointed about this than the members of the Working Committee. As a result, no special resolutions were passed and no particular plans of action have been made. However, the Working Committee is hoping to prepare a "new look" "Women at Work" and plan to use your letter to (wehope) stimulate discussion and action on this matter. We will let you know of any further developments later.

It was interesting to note that during a Bible study conducted by Fr. Augustine, C.P., he made mention at the outset that he was using the word "man" to represent "mankind" and so cover people of both sexes and it was quite obvious throughout the study that he went to some effort to refrain from using masculine terminology.

With warm Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

11th April, 1974

Miss Jean Skuse,
Executive Secretary,
N.S.W. Council of Churches,
Box 111, P.O.,
BRICKFIELD HILL. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Jean,

At the last meeting of the Working Committee, we had considerable discussion about the role of 'Women at Work', and are wondering whether you have any information on the Commission on Status of Women that could be included in future editions. We are wondering, also, whether there is any way in which A.C.W. can assist the Commission. We are not sure what is being done, but would be glad of any comments you would like to make as to ways in which we could perhaps help.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)



Australian Council of Churches' N.S.W. State Council

President:
REV. F. L. CUTTRISS

P.O. BOX 111
BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

THIRD FLOOR
401A PITT STREET, SYDNEY
TELEPHONE: 26-2901

Executive Secretary:
MISS JEAN SKUSE

9th May 1974

Mrs. J.B. Murchland
33 Wilson Tce
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

Dear Gwenda,

It was an unexpected pleasure that we were able to meet in Melbourne and talk over some matters of concern for us all.

Briefly, the matters which we would appreciate being drawn to the attention of A.C.W. are these:-

We invite church women and church women's organisations to make submissions to the N.S.W. Commission on the Status of Women's Enquiry into the Role of Women in the Church. It is a useful educational process if church women's groups discuss this together. While the main focus of the enquiry is in N.S.W., we would welcome written responses from women in other states and would appreciate having these as soon as possible, but no later than June 30th, 1974.

There are two parts to the enquiry. Heads of Churches and Executive Committees have been asked to make a formal statement on the official position of women in their churches. These leaflets refer to the second part of the enquiry when we ask how church women feel about their role. It is hoped the report will be published in August.

National Church Women's Conference

Church women from all denominations and from all states are invited to a Conference on "Women's Liberation in the Church" in Sydney from August 16th-18th. Application forms are enclosed and as numbers will be limited spaces will be allocated in order of the reception of registration. Ms. Ellen Kirby, Staff Member for Women's Ministries from the United Methodist Church, U.S.A., will be guest at the Conference and assisting with its planning.

Recd 19/4

.../2


- 2 -

Theology Packet

The N.S.W. Commission on the Status of Women has produced a packet of outstanding articles written by feminist theologians from around the world. They deal with such subjects as the male images of God perpetuated through the Judo-Christian tradition, Biblical attitudes to women and the role of women in the Church. The articles are solid reading to stimulate Australian theological discussions of these subjects. The packet includes a paperback edition of Dr. Barbara Thiering's book "Created Second" and seals for \$2 plus postage, from the Australian Council of Churches, Box J111, Brickfield Hill, 2000.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


JEAN SKUSE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

6th June, 1974

Miss Jean Skuse,
N.S.W. Council of Churches,
Box J111, P.O.,
BRICKFIELD HILL. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Jean,

Thank you for the data on the Commission on the Status of Women. This has been sent out to the State Units and we hope there will be some useful response from them.

We had another look at Dawn Rhodes' letter on generic terminology at the last Working Committee meeting and wondered whether it should be presented to the Commission. Since then, I have received the February and April issues of "Magdalene" and recognised an excerpt from it in the February issue! Mention was also made at the said meeting of the fact that the new National Anthem is written in male terms. What can be done about that?

Have you heard anything from Ailsa Webber with regard to help with her fares to go to Bangkok? We are finding it rather difficult to make contact, but have tried to impress on her the need to make the application as soon as possible. If a grant is made from the funds you are holding, will it be paid direct to her? We will soon have to make arrangements for flights etc. and are trying to work out how best to pay the money. It would seem simpler to handle it all from here, but if she has to receive that particular grant personally, we will have to make plans accordingly.

A few of the Working Committee are hoping to get over to the Conference in August, so will look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)



Australian Council of Churches

information

THIRD FLOOR 401A PITT ST., SYDNEY Ph. 26 2901
POSTAL ADDRESS: BOX J111 BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CP 24/74
2nd July 1974.

LEADING AMERICAN ACTIVIST AND WRITER ON
WOMEN'S LIBERATION IN THE CHURCH VISITS
AUSTRALIA

Ms. Ellen Kirby, Executive Secretary of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church of U.S.A. arrives in Australia today as a guest of the New South Wales Council of the Australian Council of Churches.

Ms. Kirby will be in Australia for eight weeks during which time she will mainly be working with the Commission on the Status of Women of the N.S.W. Council.

Ms. Kirby has a Masters Degree in Religious Education from Union Theological Seminary in New York and is a leading writer on Women's Liberation within the church in the U.S. She is returning from reporting on the World Council of Churches Conference on discrimination against women, "Sexism in the 1970s", held in West Berlin.

While in Sydney, Ms. Kirby will help in planning the national church women's conference, "Women's Liberation and the Church" to be held at Coogee, Sydney from 16th to 18th August 1974. She will also instigate a study course on Feminist Theology. Ms. Kirby will be speaking at University functions, a Student Christian Movement seminar and a Y.W.C.A. conference entitled "What is the Christian Woman's role in the Women's Movement."

For more information: Ms. Jean Skuse Phone 262901
Executive Secretary, N.S.W. Council, A.C.C.

Mr. Russell Rollason
Assistant General Secretary.
Phone (Bus.) 262901 (Pvte). 8074482



Australian Council of Churches

information

THIRD FLOOR 401A PITT ST., SYDNEY Ph. 26 2901
POSTAL ADDRESS: BOX J111 BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CP 25/74
2nd July 1974.

Women in Australia less free than in other Countries

"Women in Australia are less free than women in many other countries. The nuclear family in Australia is more isolated than in other countries with the result that women bear greater burdens in terms of housework and child rearing."

Thus said Mrs. Marie Tulip, on returning to Australia from the World Council of Churches international consultation on "Sexism in the 1970's" held in West Berlin from June 15th to 22nd.

Mrs. Tulip, President of the Australian Council of Churches' Commission on the Status of Women, and Miss Jean Skuse, Executive Secretary of the N.S.W. Council of the Australian Council of Churches attended the consultation as Australian participants sponsored by the Commission on the Status of Women.

The consultation, attended by 154 women from 49 countries, was the most broadly representative group of church women ever assembled. A concerted effort had been made to have equal numbers of women from each continent. Members of parliament, barristers, psychologists, social workers, teachers, theologians, and church workers shared experiences of discrimination, and mapped strategies for eliminating it in church and nation.

Mrs. Tulip pointed to the restriction of the role of women to that of wife and mother. "I think it is important that women develop their capacities and potentials. I also think it is important for men to understand that, to allow women to participate more in public life will help them too."

Both Miss Skuse and Mrs. Tulip express strong feelings regarding the oppression of women in the church. "Theology, church history, biblical interpretation, even liturgy and hymns are written almost exclusively by males and only reinforce patriarchal attitudes," explained Miss Skuse. "For example, the well known hymn 'Faith of our fathers, Rise up O men of God,' and some others have very sexist overtones." Mrs. Tulip agreed that there was a necessity for women to see that their voices are heard at all levels and in all aspects of church life. "It's shameful to see decision making bodies mostly composed of men. Women have allowed themselves to be confined to the exclusion of the use of their insights and abilities. Theology is so one sided; women's experience has not been spoken in theology yet," said Mrs. Tulip.

- 2 -

As theologian, Nelle Morton of the U.S.A. said at the conference:

"Perhaps the greatest pain women bear from the church is the verbal offer of liberation while being pushed to the periphery of the church's life and ministry."

C1 C2 CS F S1 S2 O1

For more information

Miss Jean Skuse Phone (bus.) 262901
Executive Secretary, N.S.W. Council, A.C.C.

Mrs. Marie Tulip Phone (pvte.) 866777

Mr. Russell Rollason
Assistant General Secretary
Phone (bus.) 262901 (pvte.) 8074482



Australian Council of Churches

information

THIRD FLOOR 401A PITT ST., SYDNEY Ph. 26 2901
POSTAL ADDRESS: BOX J111 BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NP
CP 36/74 9 August 1974.

Church Women's Group Cables Support to Eleven new
Women Priests in U.S.A.

The Australian Council of Churches Commission on the Status of Women today cabled a message of support to the 11 women priests in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and to the three Bishops who ordained the women on July 29 in what has been called an "irregular ordination".

These 11 women who range in age from 27 to 75, were deacons in the Episcopal Protestant Church in U.S.A. and due for ordination as priests when the triennial convention of the Episcopal church last year voted against the ordination of women as priests. Three retired Bishops of the Church decided to perform the ordinations out of a sense of "obedience to the Lordship of Christ" and in solidarity with all people struggling for the freedom, liberation and dignity. The executive director of the American Church Union, the Anglo Catholic wing of the church, lodged a strong protest against the action, thus initiating a storm of protest within the church hierarchy.

Among the congregation at the inner city Black Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia, were representatives from dissenting sections of the church, one of whom said "Yes, our Lord Jesus Christ did break some laws. But there is one law which you are breaking today that he never broke and that is the one which says that God shall be called Father, and so shall his priests."

For more information Mr. Russell Rollason, Assistant General Secretary.
Phone (Bus). 26 2901 (Pvte). 807 4482

For more Information:

Mrs. Marie Tulip. Phone 86 6777

Miss Jean Skuse. Phone (Bus). 26 2901 (Pvte).

Reporters note:

Delegates at the conference will be available for interview at the following times:

Friday 16th	5 p.m.
Saturday 17th	3.30 p.m.
Sunday 18th	4.15 p.m.

Arrangements for such meeting should be made through Mrs. Bette Marshall, who is acting as Press contact for the conference.



Australian Council of Churches

information

THIRD FLOOR 401A PITT ST., SYDNEY Ph. 26 2901
POSTAL ADDRESS: BOX J111 BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NP
CP 9 August 1974.

WOMEN TO DISCUSS WOMENS LIBERATION AND THE CHURCH

One hundred and twenty church women from most Australian states will meet in Sydney on August 16th to 18th to discuss "Women's Liberation and the Church".

Women from Protestant, Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, including professional women, representatives from church womens' organisations and students will be attending the national conference organised by the Australian Council of Churches Commission on the Status of Women.

Delegates to the Conference will include a group of 20 women coming from Adelaide, two Aboriginal Women from Weipa and sisters from several Roman Catholic Orders. Topics planned for discussion include, the Role of Women in Church and Society, Discrimination against women in the Church structure, Aboriginal women and the church, Abortion, Feminist Theology and Human Sexuality.

The President of the Commission organising the Conference, Mrs. Marie Tulip, said in Sydney today:

This Conference will be a chance to talk out our understandings of a theology of liberation and wholeness. We will be taking an honest look at the realities of the role and status of women in the church and hope a vision of new possibilities and an opportunity to work out ways of making them happen will emerge."

The conference will commence on Friday night with a panel discussion on the theme of the conference. Members of the panel will include Sister Maureen Flood, a well known Catholic theologian from the Eucharistic Community, Mrs. Estelle Gobbett a young active church woman from Adelaide, Mrs. Marjorie Spence Convenor of the Presbyterian Assembly Committee on Abortion and Ms. Ellen Kirby, Executive Secretary of the Women's Division of the United Methodist Church in the U.S.A.

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

16th September, 1974

Mrs. Margaret Shannon,
Executive Director,
Church Women United,
475 Riverside Drive,
NEW YORK. N.Y. 10027.

Dear Mrs. Shannon,

It gives members of Australian Church Women much pleasure in introducing to you Mrs. Alder Hall who is the National Convenor of the Fellowship of the Least Coin in Australia, and also the National Liaison Officer of Women's World Day of Prayer.

May we take this opportunity to send sincere Christian greetings to all members of Church Women United, particularly as you meet for your Ecumenical Assembly. We do pray that all attending the Assembly may be aware of the Living Presence of the Risen Christ and may realise His power to unite across the denominational and international barriers which so often divide those who profess His name. We welcome this opportunity for one of our members to share in your fellowship.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

N.S.W. STATE COUNCIL

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

SUBMISSION FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR SECRETARIAT

The Commission on the Status of Women was set up by the N.S.W. State Council of the Australian Council of Churches in June 1973. The pressure to set up the Commission came from women within the Churches who wished to call attention to, and combat, the institutional oppression of women in the Church's structures. Whilst forming a large percentage of the population of the Church, women have been excluded from its decision-making bodies and from many aspects of the Church's ministry. Moreover, the teaching and practice of the Church has taught women to assume inferior roles and to internalise inferior opinions of their own worth and personhood.

The aims of the Commission are:

- 1) To investigate the status and role of women in the Church and society
- 2) To publish reports on the results of these studies
- 3) To promote action to remove discrimination on grounds of sex
- 4) To stimulate the full participation of women in the church and society
- 5) To encourage in all women as individuals an awareness of their full personhood.

Achievements:

In its first eighteen months the Commission has accomplished a great deal. Briefly it has produced a packet of writings on feminist theology and the Biblical interpretation of the Role of Women, pointing out the discrepancy between this and the practice of the Church; it has conducted a series of discussions in the city on the themes "Women Challenge the World of Work", "The Sexuality Revolution", "Alternatives to the Nuclear Family", "How Religion Has Treated Women", etc.; it has sent a representative to a World Council of Churches Conference in Berlin on "Sexism in the 1970's"; it has administered a scholarship fund for leadership training for Aboriginal women; in August this year it organised a National Conference for 120 Church Women on the theme "Women's Liberation and the Church"; it has produced a packet of consciousness raising exercises; some members have worked on a media presentation "I am Woman" (production still to be financed). The Commission has studied many major issues including the Family Law Bill which it has welcomed. Increasingly demands are being made on the Commission for resource material.

The major project this year was an Enquiry into the Status of Women in the Church. This has now been completed and should be of major interest in the general community as we believe this is the first time such an Enquiry has been conducted in Australia.

Funding:

All this has been achieved with a minimum of financial assistance and a maximum of enthusiasm. There has been no full-time staff assistance. The only income has been an initial grant of \$1,000 from the N.S.W. State Council of the A.C.C., donations and contributions from members, a grant from German churches for the Aboriginal Training Fund, and sale of literature. The A.C.C. has also provided secretarial assistance, postage and administrative expenses.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, 1975

The overall theme for the Commission's work in 1975 will be:

TOWARDS A WHOLE COMMUNITY

The Ultimate consequence of Sexism is a Community which lacks wholeness. This is expressed in a number of ways:

- * In the individual lives of both women and men who are pushed into limiting sex roles, stifling the potential within them and reducing their chance of living fully
- * In relationships which break down, or never develop to maturity, because of the alienating character of sexism
- * In the symptoms of ill-health which develop when people live lives of tension and frustration, unable to freely be who they are
- * In high level consumerism - the search of a people for happiness in things when they cannot find a deeply satisfying pattern of life
- * In the gap in the life of a community which discourages one sex from contributing all its gifts and denies its place in history
- * In the absence of celebration which can only emerge from the life of a society which is happy, healthy, at one with itself, and nearer a state of justice for all those who live within it.

IN PLANNING OUR PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR, WE SEEK TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THE POSSIBLE WHOLENESS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY. WE WILL TAKE "TOWARDS A WHOLE COMMUNITY" AS OUR OVERALL THEME TO BIND OUR PROJECTS TOGETHER AND TO OFFER A POSITIVE APPROACH TO THE TASK OF REDUCING SEXISM IN OUR SOCIETY. IN PARTICULAR WE WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN THE CHURCH ONE OF THE MOST OPPRESSIVE INSTITUTIONS IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN.

1) Publication of an Enquiry into the Status of Women in the Church:

Earlier this year the Commission conducted an enquiry into the Status of Women in the Church. Over 600 women made submissions and the results are quite revealing. We believe many will be surprised by the feelings expressed by women as to how they have been defined by the Christian Church.

The material has been collated and is now in the process of publication. We have obtained loans of money for the printing costs, but will have to repay these within six months.

2) Media Presentation:

A group has produced a 35 minute media presentation on the Role of Women in Church and Society. It is a useful "consciousness-raising" package of slides and tapes. This was so successful when it was shown at our recent Conference that we have had requests from all over Australia from women wanting to use it in their local groups. We hope to reproduce three sets for use by Church Women's groups and other organisations. The background tape needs to be re-recorded under sound-proofed conditions.

3) Pamphlets:

During the year there will be task forces and discussion groups relating to different topics such as "Abortion", "Nuclear Family or Community", "Human Sexuality", and "Homosexuality". It is hoped to publish some of this material in pamphlet form to present a broader point of view than is often presented in and by Churches.

4) Resource Centre:

The Commission has collected a great deal of literature some of which it has produced itself and the rest it has received from other sources, including overseas. It is also receiving requests for articles and information from many people and institutions, including universities, church groups, women's liberation publications and research workers. At the present time the material is not well-displayed or sorted. We have some librarians willing to assist in cataloguing and display and believe the existing service could be made much more effective and expanded to meet the growing needs.

5) National Conference:

In August 1974, 120 women came from all over Australia to participate in a conference on "Women's Liberation and the Church". There was such a response that it has been decided to hold another one in 1975. We were fortunate in that in 1974 the Commission had the services of Ellen Kirby on loan from the U.S.A. for 6 weeks before the conference to involve groups of women in planning various aspects of the Conference programme including the media show. The Conference was an outstandingly successful event.

The 1974 Conference revealed the need for women to come together for much more discussion and interchange of ideas and experience regarding their involvement in church and society. Women who are emerging from the traditional limited roles need each other's support as well as a chance to see more clearly the variety of options and possibilities for future action and life-style. We plan therefore to have another conference in 1975 and hope to involve more women from lower income brackets and from interstate.

6) Women in Development:

In keeping with the second stated aim of International Women's Year - "to ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort, especially by emphasising women's responsibility and important role in economic, social and cultural development at the national, regional and international levels, particularly during the Second United Nations Development Decade" the World Council of Churches is involving women around the world in supporting projects which will raise the status of women as well as encourage women of "developed" societies to look at their own life-style as it affects the lives of women in other nations. An international fund will be set up for the advancement of women living on the subsistence level with special focus on the political, social and cultural development of women in both urban and rural areas.

We, in Australia, intend to invite Church women to contribute to this fund and at the same time wish to develop an educational programme for Australian women on vital world issues, such as international trade, aid to developing countries, the economic system, the monetary system, the study of national legislation on tariff barriers and all other discriminatory measures against primary and manufactured products from developing countries and their effect on the lives of women in the Third World.

Whilst we will encourage some of our members to do the necessary research and writing we will need financial assistance to publish a series of studies.

7) Seminar for Ministers:

In spite of an awakening consciousness among church women of the ways in which they have been oppressed there has still been little change in the attitudes of church men, particularly clergy. Preaching, language, traditional definitions of roles and church structures perpetuate the violence done to women by the churches, and for this reason we plan to have a seminar for ministers, organised by women,

to create in them an awareness of the effect of the Church's teaching on the lives of women. We will use simulation and conscious-raising exercises as well as studies of feminist theology as part of the learning process.

We realise if we ask them to pay for the full fee they won't come so we are seeking some financial assistance for this seminar to subsidise them financially and to ensure an effective representation.

8) Proposed Study on a History of Women in the Church in Australia:

Throughout Australia's history the role of women in the churches has been considerable. Women have contributed to missionary work in many countries, especially in Asia. Church women, both individually and through the many church women's organisations, have engaged in a number of social welfare and educative activities within Australia. Differences between churches have given place at times to co-operative activity through interdenominational women's groups, to some effect. There is no doubt that despite the appalling status of women in the churches as revealed by this Commission's Enquiry (shortly to be published) that the contribution made by church women to the development of some aspects of Australian society has been considerable.

At times for example through missionary work, the contribution of women has helped shape Australian attitudes towards Asian peoples. (Recent research carried out on Australian attitudes to China has shown this). At other times this contribution has perhaps promoted and extended social work or political and educational activities. There are many questions to be asked, or which arise in such a study:

How and what have Australian church women contributed?

How have these women been promoted or retarded by their churches?

Has the Church promoted or retarded the status of women in society generally?

There is no doubt that with the proliferation of Women's Studies at Australian Universities and other tertiary institutions that a study of this kind would make a useful contribution. We envisage that the person engaged in this task would be at the same time involved in some University teaching and would therefore require a research assistant. A work of this kind would involve at least one year's research and some period up to six months of writing and preparing for publication.

9) Special Request for Consideration of a Regional Conference:

Not only are we aware of the effect of the churches on the status of women in Australia, but we are also alarmed at the effect the Australian churches have had on the lives of women in the areas which have been "missionised". At the same time we know that women in Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, New Hebrides and other parts of the Pacific are questioning their status and are seeking bonds of sisterhood as they do so. Many of them, too, are playing significant roles in the development of their countries.

As we have talked with some of these women and realised how much we have to say to each other regarding the sexism of our churches, political and economic exploitation, tourism, employment of women and other problems of development, we have dreamed of the possibilities of having a Conference in Sydney involving women from Papua New Guinea, Pacific Islands, New Zealand and Australia to talk with each other around the themes and aims of International Women's Year.

There would need to be an adequate number of women from countries outside Australia to facilitate meaningful participation. We would expect the women from Australia and New Zealand to pay their own expenses and would also approach Mission Boards to assist with administrative and accommodation costs. The assistance we would be seeking from the Secretariat would be for fares for women from the Pacific.



Australian Council of Churches' N.S.W. State Council

President:
REV. F. L. CUTTRISS

P.O. BOX 111
BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

THIRD FLOOR
401A PITT STREET, SYDNEY
TELEPHONE: 26-2901

Executive Secretary:
MISS JEAN SKUSE

Mrs. J.B. Murchland,
Secretary,
Working Committee, A.C.W.,
33 Wilson Terrace,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

19th December 1974

Dear Gwenda

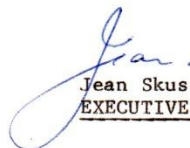
Yesterday we were delighted to be advised that the Commission on the Status of Women is to receive \$30,000 towards its programme for International Women's Year 1975.

We submitted a programme to the Government in October for assistance and I am enclosing a copy of this submission for your interest. The original submission outlined a budget for all these items and also showed how we expected to receive other money from sales and donations to help us in our task. Now we will be able to go ahead with our plans and although \$30 000 seems a lot of money we will be working within a tight budget to reach our goals of achievement.

We would welcome any opportunity to have the support of members of the A.C.W. in carrying out these tasks and will keep in touch. International Women's Year provides us all with a great opportunity to ensure the participation of women in church and society. Under separate cover I will send six more copies of this submission for members of your committee. Comments, of course, will be welcome.

With very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,


Jean Skuse
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Encl:



Australian Council of Churches

information

THIRD FLOOR 401A PITT ST., SYDNEY Ph. 26 2901
POSTAL ADDRESS: BOX J111 BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

CP 55/74

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

19.12.74

CHURCH WOMEN RECEIVE \$30,000 GOVERNMENT GRANT

The Australian Council of Churches (NSW) Commission on the status of Women has received a grant of \$30,000 from the Australian Government for a 1975 International Women's Year programme. The commission has proposed a programme on the theme "Towards a Whole Community".

Miss Jean Skuse, Executive Secretary of the A.C.C. N.S.W. Council, said in commenting on the grant, "We are delighted to receive this grant from the Government as it will enable us to work further with the problems our recent Inquiry into the Status of Women in the church revealed. In planning our participation in International Women's Year, we are seeking to contribute something to the possible wholeness of the Australian community. In particular we plan to focus on changing the attitudes which limit the role of women in the church and society".

This grant is one of the 12 announced by the Australian Government earlier this week to help finance activities during International Women's Year.

The Commission's programme as outlined in the submission to the Government includes a National Women's Conference to include women from lower income brackets and from all States of Australia; publication of a series of pamphlets on "Human Sexuality", "Nuclear Family or Community" and other topics; publication of study material on Women in Development; and a planned seminar for Ministers.

Two major items in the submission are a study on a History of Women in the Church in Australia, and a Regional Conference for women in the Pacific Islands/Papua New Guinea, Australia and New Guinea. This grant will now enable both of these proposals to become a reality.

The Historical study would examine such questions as

"How and what have Australian church women contributed?
How have these women been promoted or retarded by their churches?
Has the church promoted or retarded the status of women in society generally?"

The proposal for a Pacific Conference for women has arisen out of concern for the effect the Australian churches may have had in these former mission areas. The conference would enable women from a variety of developed and developing situations to share their experiences and concerns around the themes and aims of International Women's Year.

The Commission on the Status of Women was set up by the N.S.W. State Council of the A.C.C. in June 1973. In its first eighteen months, the Commission has accomplished a great deal - including

- * production of a Theology Packet on the Role of Women
 - * conducted a series of workshops on aspects of Women's oppression in Sydney
 - * sent a representative to the W.C.C. Conference "Sexism in the 1970's" in Berlin.
 - * organised a National Conference on the theme "Women's Liberation and the Church".
- and * conducted an Inquiry into the Status of Women in the Church, the report of which has now been published.

For more information:

Miss Jean Skuse
Phone: 26 2901 (W)
81 3491 (H)

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLENNELG EAST. S.A. 5045

10th September, 1974

Rev. F. Engel,
General Secretary,
Australian Council of Churches,
Box J111, P.O.,
BRICKFIELD HILL. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Mr. Engel,

The matter of A.C.W.'s relationship with A.C.C. is causing us some concern. In discussions earlier this year, we had felt a strong need to forge closer and more realistic bonds, so that A.C.W. could in fact, become a vital avenue for bringing the work of A.C.C. before Christian women throughout Australia.

We appreciate all the information which has been sent by the Executive and have used our State Units to pass it on to the women in the Churches.

A further step came when the National Committee Meeting requested representation on the Commission of Christian Education. We are delighted to hear that we can nominate two representatives to that body. A letter has been sent to the Victorian W.I.C.C. asking for their selected personnel as soon as possible. This we understand from Mrs. Smith's meeting with you, will be sent by the Commission on Christian Education to the Executive for approval.

Mrs. Smith also reported that information from the New South Wales Commission on the Status of Women would be passed to both the A.C.C. and A.C.W. as it became available for distribution.

However, we now note that reports bearing the title "Australian Council of Churches Commission on the Status of Women" are being issued. This is a change of name and status which has caused us some concern. We write to ask if this is correct and if the Executive has decided that the Commission is to be undertaken on a national basis. If this is so, we are anxious to know what consideration the Executive gave to the relationship of A.C.C. and A.C.W. as its national women's organisation with Units in all States with regard to this vital question.

Our next meeting is on Monday, 30th September, and we would appreciate a reply by the 20th inst. so that it can be circulated to members of the Working Committee and can be discussed at that meeting.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J.B. Murchland, Sec. Working Committee, A.C.W.)



Australian Council of Churches' N.S.W. State Council

President:
MRS. MARIE TULIP

P.O. BOX J111
BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

THIRD FLOOR
401A PITT STREET, SYDNEY
TELEPHONE: 26-2901

COMMISSION ON THE
STATUS OF WOMEN

8 August 1974

Commission Members
Uniting Church
Joint Constitution Commission
139 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY. 2000

Dear Commission Member,

With the exciting news of the formation of the Uniting Church and the preparations being made for its inauguration, a wide cross-section of women members of the three Churches have expressed interest in the new possibilities for community for us all, and in the new structures that are being worked out, particularly with regard to women.

As requested by a meeting arranged by the Commission on the Status of Women of the Australian Council of Churches on August 3, may I convey to you the enclosed Resolutions and the Submission regarding the Place of Women in the Uniting Church.

We look forward to the opportunity of discussing these important matters with you.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Marie Tulip
President

TO: MEMBERS OF THE JOINT CONSTITUTION COMMISSION AND THE JOINT CONSTITUTION COUNCIL OF THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA.

Resolutions of a Meeting of Church Women, August 3, 1974.

On 3 August 1974 a meeting arranged by the Commission on the Status of Women of the Australian Council of Churches was held in the Epping Congregational Church Hall to discuss the place of women in the Uniting Church. There were thirty-five women present, including members of the Congregational Women's Fellowship, Methodist Women's Federation, Presbyterian Women's Association, the Joint Working Committee of the three Churches, the Commission on the Status of Women of the A.C.C. and other interested women. The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

That this group, consisting of Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian women, actively participating in the life and service of the Church,:-

- (1) welcomes the steps being taken by the Joint Constitution Commission to encourage preparation for the inauguration of the Uniting Church and to ensure that the Uniting Church will represent a worthy response to the leadings of the Holy Spirit
- (2) is mindful of the heavy responsibilities of the Joint Constitution Commission and the Joint Constitution Council in making preparations for the inauguration of the Uniting Church and desires to draw to their attention considered views which it believes should be taken into account if the Uniting Church is truly and worthily to respond to the new insights of this day
- (3) approves and adopts the attached Submission regarding the Place of Women in the Uniting Church
- (4) requests the Commission on the Status of Women to convey the Submission and these resolutions to the members of the Joint Constitution Commission and to the Executive Officer of the Joint Constitution Commission with the request that they also be placed before the Joint Constitution Council
- (5) urges that the Submission be incorporated in an early issue of Countdown to stimulate discussion upon the important issues raised by the statement
- (6) seeks to have the statement publicised as widely as possible through church papers and other means
- (7) asks that representatives of this meeting be able to attend the next meeting of the Joint Constitution Commission to present the Submission in person.

SUBMISSION REGARDING THE PLACE OF WOMEN IN THE UNITING CHURCH

As members of the three Churches coming together to form the Uniting Church, we look forward with joy and enthusiasm to the day when our union becomes a reality. We welcome the chance for the people of God in the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches to participate in the creation of a new church, and we see it not as an amalgamation of three existing organisations, but as a movement forward to bring into being a new community in response to the Holy Spirit.

As women we are concerned that the contribution of women should be adequately considered in the total life and ministry of the Uniting Church. In the past, women have been regarded as full members of the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, and the three churches have regarded the ministry of the whole people of God as a participation in the ministry of Christ. Nevertheless the structures of the church and the relations between women and men within the church community have not reflected the full acceptance of women into this ministry. Women have been confined to particular aspects of the churches' life and ministry, in spite of the fact that Christ promises to make all equally heirs to the Kingdom.

It is important now to examine how this has happened and whether it can be overcome in the Uniting Church.

Let us recognise that in many important ways women have already had the same rights and responsibilities as men. First, there is no biblical or theological barrier to the full participation of women in all aspects of the life and ministry of the church, including ordination. Second, there has been no legal discrimination against women except in the case of the Presbyterian Church which excluded women from the ordained ministry until May 1974. Third, there is no longer any valid argument about differences of ability based on sex. Women are capable of every type of responsibility just as men are, and this has recently become more apparent to all with the growing numbers of women in the ordained ministry, in Assemblies, in leadership, and on committees of all kinds.

Where, then, have the barriers been? Why have so few women gone through the doors which are legally and theologically open?

First, there has been the tradition of men doing certain things and women doing certain things, for example, men the preaching, planning, administering and decision-making, and women the work with children, the supportive, money-raising and catering tasks. This tradition has weighed heavily on the church and has been supported by centuries of male-dominated theology, patriarchal structures of society, sexist church language, fear of change, fear of female domination, inflexibility towards the new, fear of financial cost if women change their role, male tendency to dominance and female tendency to dependence. It is no longer necessary for us to suffocate under the weight of this tradition. In the Uniting Church we have the chance to create a community of true freedom, equality and full acceptance of each other.

Second, the structures of the churches have acted as barriers to women's full participation since they have been created and dominated by men and have been geared to traditional male life-styles, e.g. committee meetings of the church's departmental councils being held at 6.30 p.m. in the city, an almost impossible time and venue for many women. The sexist system tends to perpetuate itself, so it is not enough to remove discriminatory laws and procedures, although this is a necessary first step. For the true integration of women into the total ministry of the church, positive steps will need to be taken to overcome the habits and stereotypes of centuries.

One such step we feel is necessary is for regulations to stipulate that the councils and committees of the Uniting Church should include a set proportion of women members. There are several reasons for this recommendation. Women have for so long been unfamiliar with working in committees with men, and so little practised in speaking and fully participating in such committees, that they need active encouragement to take their place at all levels of the church's work. Traditionally men do not vote for women representatives and committee members. Unless there is a regulation requiring women's participation, it is easy for women to fail to volunteer, and for women nominees to fail to gain selection. It will take time for women to learn to take their full part in such positions of responsibility. It will come in time as they become fully accepted in all types of committees and leadership roles, and as they themselves become more confident and experienced in the procedures and with the nature of the work being undertaken.

WE ASK THAT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES BE ADOPTED BY THE UNITING CHURCH AND THAT REGULATIONS BE WORKED OUT TO ENSURE THAT THEY BECOME PART OF THE CHURCH'S PRACTICE:

1. That at least 60% of the members of Presbyteries, Synods, and the Assembly be lay people, and that all age groups be represented.
 2. That at least 50% of the lay members of Parish Councils, Presbyteries, Synods, and the Assembly be women, so that these bodies may be truly representative of the church membership.
 3. That the committees set up by these bodies include at least 30% women and that women be given equal opportunities in leadership.
 4. That administrative and staff positions at all levels be open to women and men, and special efforts made to recruit women in order to overcome the present imbalance.
 5. That positive steps be taken to actively seek out and encourage women to become candidates for the ordained ministry.
 6. That the participation of women in the theological processes of the church be actively encouraged at all levels, including teaching in theological colleges.
- 4 -
7. That care be taken to use all-inclusive language (i.e. the use of such terms as "Men and women", people, persons) on all occasions and in all documents, including liturgies, rituals, and orders of service.
 8. That the Church take positive steps, with the necessary support staff, to prepare and encourage the women of the Uniting Church for involvement in the life of the Church and of society and for the recognition and development of their potential as people.
 9. That times of meetings be arranged so that full lay participation is possible.
 10. That lay participation in all aspects of the Church's life, including worship, pastoral care, education programmes, developing church policy, and general church administration, be encouraged, so that full use is made of all lay resources.
 11. That a limitation on the consecutive years of service of a member of any Assembly committee be seriously considered in an effort to widen opportunities for participation and for continuing renewal of the decision-making areas of the church.



Australian Council of Churches

ASSOCIATED WITH THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Division of World Christian Action (formerly Inter-Church Aid)

Secretary/Director of the Division:
GEOFFREY LAMBERT H. CROFT
Director of Resettlement, Southern Region:
DR. LASZLO BENYME
Director of Resettlement, Eastern Region:
MISS ELSIE NEDHAM

THIRD FLOOR, 401a PITT STREET, SYDNEY
TELEPHONE: 26 2901 (STD AREA CODE - 02)
POSTAL ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 111, BRICKFIELD HILL 2000
TELEGRAMS: "ECUMENICAL," SYDNEY

16th September, 1974.

Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary,
Australian Church Women,
C/- 33 Wilson Terrace,
GLENELG EAST S.A. 5045

Dear Mrs. Murchland,

I was surprised to receive your letter concerning the relationship of ACW on the ACC, as I thought Mrs. Smith and Deaconess Norris and I had sorted that out satisfactorily.

The ACC Executive has not made any other decision on the matter.

It seems as if confusion has arisen, as it does from time to time, between the ACC and one of its related parts. For example, the ABC and the press have not distinguished between the NSW State Council and the ACC, but have used the latter as a shorter, better known name. One problem in NSW is that there is a N.S.W. Council of Churches which has no relation to the ACC, so our state body is called the N.S.W. State Council of the Australian Council of Churches. Such a name tends to get reduced to ACC.

Similarly, when dealing with a N.S.W. situation only, it is not uncommon for people to recognize that they are talking within a State context, and so use the shorter, generally-known names. I enclose an example. It is a document relating to the Uniting Church planning. You will see that not only the ACC, but the other organizations are referred to by their Federal (national) names, it being understood that this was a N.S.W. discussion entirely within a N.S.W. discussion about the ^{the} Unity Church.

I also enclose a copy of the letter which accompanied that document. You will see that it is on State Council letterhead, and speaks of the Australian Council of Churches in that context.

As far as I can ascertain these are the only occasions on which the name, Australian Council of Churches, has been used without specific reference to N.S.W. I cannot identify any others.

2.

In any case the ACC Executive has not taken any action to alter the status of the N.S.W. Commission of the Status of Women. It would not make a radical change without consulting with A.C.W. and the N.S.W. State Council.

It may be that, as interest develops in the Status of Women, the N.S.W. Commission could be asked to exercise a co-ordinating function between groups or activities in various states.

A basic difference between this Commission of the A.C.W. is that it is a body dealing with one specific issue, whereas the role of ACW is that of linking together in fellowship the work and membership of women's organizations which have a variety of activities.

I hope this letter clarifies matters and that it reaches you in time for your meeting.

With Good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

F. G. Engel
FRANK G. ENGEL
General Secretary

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AY21 ,adofas0 tai

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLIMWELG EAST. S.A. 5045

1st October, 1974

Rev. P. Engel,
General Secretary,
Australian Council of Churches,
Box J111, P.O.,
BRICKFIELD HILL. N.S.W. 2000

Rev. P. Engel
General Secretary
Australian Council of Churches
Box J111, P.O.
BRICKFIELD HILL
N.S.W. 2000

Dear Mr. Engel,

Thank you for your prompt reply to our letter concerning
the use of the title "A.C.C. Commission on the Status of Women" instead of
"N.S.W. Commission on the Status of Women". We quite appreciate the point
you have made. We have only recently learned of the two Councils that exist
in N.S.W. and can see that confusion could easily arise.

It is recognised that radio and press would certainly find
it easier to use the terms quoted. However, we still feel that care should
be taken to use the correct title on information being distributed by the
A.C.C. itself. Much of this literature is being distributed interstate
(e.g. your news release No. 36/74 of the 9th August, 1974) where many are
unaware of the situation in N.S.W. and confusion soon arises.

Those of us who attended the National Conference in Sydney
in August became very aware of the difference in the status of women in the
various States. What applies in N.S.W. is not necessarily so for the rest
of Australia. It would seem important that when the N.S.W. Commission speaks,
it is clear that it is speaking in the main on behalf of women in N.S.W.

A seminar on the Status of Women is already being planned
in South Australia by the State Council of Churches and the State Unit of
A.C.W. (with our encouragement). It could well be that other States have
plans for similar ventures. We are writing to the Commission to suggest
that we can initiate further action through State Units.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLEBELG EAST. S.A. 5045

3rd October, 1974

Miss Jean Skuse,
Secretary,
N.S.W. Commission on the Status of Women,
Box J111, P.O.,
BRICKFIELD HILL. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Jean,

We have had some discussion on the question of the status of women at both Working Committee meetings held since our return from Sydney after attending the National Conference arranged by the N.S.W. Commission.

It seems very apparent that this question is one which concerns women throughout the whole of Australia (as it does throughout the whole world). However, it is also apparent that the situation in every State varies considerably. It seems important to us, therefore, that this subject should be taken up in each State. With this in mind, we propose writing to each of our State Units suggesting that this is a matter they could well raise with their local Council of Churches so that, ultimately, the Australian Council of Churches would have access to sufficient research to be able to speak effectively for women right throughout Australia.

I am enclosing a draft of a letter which we plan to send to the State Units and would be grateful for your comments as soon as possible as we are anxious to send out the letter before the end of the month.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)



Australian Council of Churches' N.S.W. State Council

President:
REV. F. L. CUTTRISS

P.O. BOX 111
BRICKFIELD HILL 2000

THIRD FLOOR
401A PITT STREET, SYDNEY
TELEPHONE: 26-2901

Executive Secretary:
MISS JEAN SKUSE

14 October 1974

Mrs J.B. Murchland,
33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST: S.A. 5045.

Dear Gwenda,

Thank you for your letter of October 3rd. We are delighted to think that Units of Church Women will be working on this issue.

I cannot necessarily agree that the situation is very different from one State to another. This didn't become apparent to me at the National Conference or in the Enquiry. Nor is there much difference in the representation of these States of women on the Joint Constitution Council for instance. At Berlin we were conscious of the common problems on a world-wide basis, and although manifestations are slightly different and maybe a minimal difference in numbers essentially we all seemed to be engaged in the same struggle.

The action is the important part and the more people we have working on this the better. It will certainly be good to have a number of contributions.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


Jean Skuse
Executive Secretary

5 Wycombe Road,
ALDGATE. S.A. 5154

22nd February, 1975

Miss Jean Skuse,
A.C.C. N.S.W. State Council,
Box J111, P.O.,
BRICKFIELD HILL. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Jean,

Members of the Working Committee were very pleased to learn of the grant of \$30,000 for the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. It is most encouraging. We were very interested in your submission and I was asked to pass on two comments which were made at our meeting on Monday.

1. Would it be possible to consider holding a Conference arranged by the Commission in another State, e.g. Victoria so that a wider group of people could be involved.
2. Is it envisaged that men will be invited to attend any conferences planned. It was felt that this could be a positive step towards better understanding of the women's movement. We note that you plan a seminar with the clergy (presumably mostly men) but the laity should not be overlooked.

Further to Joy's phone call regarding Brigalia Bam, we wonder whether you could give us a profile on her. We seem to have very little about her at our disposal over here.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' N.S.W. STATE COUNCIL
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

International Women's Year

Mrs. J.B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee,
Australian Church Women,
5 Wycombe Road,
ALDGATE. S.A. 5154

24th March 1975

Dear Gwenda,

Thank you for your letter written on behalf of the Members of the Working Group of A.C.W. expressing pleasure about the grant received for the work of the Commission on the Status of Women.

We appreciated your comments and considered them very carefully. We would find it difficult to hold a conference in another State because our core of workers are here and we are a State Commission. However, we do want to be in touch with people who are working interstate. I believe they had an excellent Conference in Melbourne at the beginning of March.

For many reasons it seems that the three Conferences we are planning for this year will be in or around Sydney. The Pacific Conference will be in the week preceding the National Conference so that the participants can go to both. For the Pacific one to be able to really grapple with their common concerns we will limit the Australian participants to less than six I think, but the National Conference will give more people a chance to meet with the Pacific women. The two Conferences need to be in the same locality.

The proposed Clergy Conference is still being considered. Again it was to be in Sydney because there are three major theological conferences to be held in Sydney in August. One in particular will involve clergy from Australia and New Zealand, Catholic and Protestant, and they are interested in our providing speakers and conducting workshops.

/.....

PRESIDENT: Marie Tulip
6 Durham Street
Epping 2121
Phone: 86 6777

SECRETARY: Jean Skuse
P.O. Box J111
Brickfield Hill 2000
Phone: 26 2901

The problem of having men and women together in the planned Conferences is always a dilemma. It definitely alters the dynamics and in the three Conferences we have in mind we have to stick to the Submissions made to the Government. However, we do believe women and men should be talking about their liberation together and are encouraging local groups to do this. Perhaps this is a task for A.C.W. too.

Enclosed is a photocopy of a profile of Brigalia Bam. I hope you are successful in bringing her to Australia. We are bringing a leading Roman Catholic theologian, Rosemary Ruether, from the United States to our National Conference in September. We had hoped she would come for the theologians conference but couldn't. She has been a professor at Harvard and Yale Divinity Schools and Princeton Theological Seminary, and has written numerous books and articles. She is 38, married with three children, and deals ably in a theological way with the status of women. We are encouraging her to consider visiting other States but suspect her schedule is too full.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,


Jean Skuse
SECRETARY

Encl:



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' N.S.W. STATE COUNCIL
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

International Women's Year

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR GROUP

In International Women's Year, many groups are planning special activities. Your group may have done this but we thought you might be interested in some resources prepared by our Commission and now available from the Secretary, address below.

Maybe you would like to share in the development efforts of women in other countries -

Send for our project leaflets:

WOMEN TO WOMEN
(Sample accompanying)

Available free

Perhaps you are thinking of some personal development in relation to the pressing problems which confront us all -

Send for our WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT
Study Packet
which contains brief readable leaflets on:

- * DEVELOPING COMMUNITY
- * CONSUMERISM
- * CONSERVING ENERGY RESOURCES
- * LOOKING AT THE FOOD CRISIS

These leaflets were written especially for women and include practical ideas which each woman can put into effect in her own home.

Leaflets available shortly and moderately priced.

Are you needing help in setting up a sharing group for one or two of your meetings?



This is the name of a series of leaflets.

The first two are now available and are titled:

- *IMAGES OF WOMAN (what are women really like?)
- *ONE IS ONE AND ALL ALONE (a discussion on singleness)

They are not position papers but discussion-starters with a personal approach.

Price: 25 cents each. 5 for \$1.00

Then there is our audio-visual 'I AM WOMAN' - a 25 minute slide set and tape which was produced by a group of church women looking at the role and status of women in the church.

It is accompanied by discussion questions.
Hiring charge \$5. Book well ahead.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE on "WHERE WE ARE WITH LIBERATION"

To be held at Eleanora Heights from 26th to 28th September this year.
Send us your name if you wish to hear more about it later.

GREETINGS FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR!

PRESIDENT: Marie Tulp
6 Durham Street
Epping 2121
Phone: 86 6777

SECRETARY: Jean Skuse
P.O. Box J111
Brickfield Hill 2000
Phone: 26 2901



Women to Women



You are beautiful
serene and dark
in the calm night
that covers your tired body.
Your bare feet
have walked over rocks
and long roads ...
Your eyes have seen
what mine could never dare
to look at ...
for they are open
and innocent --
I full of pain
that only you have known.

Be strong, my sister!
I feel your oppression
in my gut ...
in my heart.
I long to keep your image
forever in my sight
-- not a mirage
but a reality that pricks
my easily lulled conscience
from its apathy.

From "African Sister"
by Joy Wilkes.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
CAN BE A YEAR OF HOPE FOR
ANOTHER WOMAN IF YOU AND I
CARE ENOUGH TO EXPRESS OUR
SISTERHOOD IN A PRACTICAL
WAY.

The second aim of International Women's Year is "To ensure the full integration of women in the total development effort ..."

The Australian Council of Churches (N.S.W.) Commission on the Status of Women, in its International Women's Year Programme offers to the women of Australia the following opportunities for assisting the development efforts of women in other countries.

We believe that, particularly this year, Australian women will be looking for ways to stretch out their hands in sisterhood to women around the world - women who have so much to offer us in courage, endurance and careful use of the earth's resources, but who need from us the caring concern which moves us to give of our plenty.

When these projects were first considered, the idea of aiming for adequate water for every woman in the world was put forward. Then we realised that some women in desperate situations would have other priorities. So two of our projects include water for women, in Ghana and India, one relates to Family Planning in the Philippines and the other to the needs of families of political prisoners in Chile.

You may wish to support all four projects, or select. Should a particular project be oversubscribed, the Commission will ensure that your gift goes to a similar project in an equally needy area.

Project 1

GENERAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELL
DIGGING PROJECT FOR THE
WOMEN OF GHANA.

This project was initiated
by the Chereponi Evangelical
Presbyterian Church in Ghana
and has now been put forward
by the African National
Council of Churches.

It is a self-help programme
with each village contribut-
ing substantially to the
cost and labour of work done.



Already 19 wells have been started or deepened and, of these, 17 are now yielding water. Many more wells are needed, particularly due to very dry seasons experienced recently with about half the normal rainfall. The Church, reporting on the progress of the wells said "Seeing the smiles and expressions of appreciation on the faces of the women in the villages who helped to dig wells makes all our efforts very rewarding to us".

The reasons for the smiles and expressions of appreciation?

Those women had to walk four miles and back to the nearest well every time they needed water!

Added to the well-digging project is a programme of farmer education with instruction in animal husbandry, better agricultural methods plus the introduction of new equipment and fertilizer. The situation for families in this area is desperate. Annual per capita income is less today than 10 years ago. The people are keen to help themselves but initial capital and education is vital if they are to begin.



Project 2 ~~~~~

A FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC FOR THE WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Emmanuel Hospital in Manila is asking for the capital expenses to expand its Family Planning Centre.

This project is situated in a slum section of Manila. It was started as a small Midwifery School in 1970 which has expanded progressively, gradually becoming self-supporting. When family planning organisations became more accepted by the people, the Emmanuel Hospital set up a modest Family Planning Clinic. This Clinic has been a success, mainly due to its nearness to the Hospital School of Midwifery.

It now urgently needs the capital funds to expand and up-date its facilities. The running expenses will be covered by the International Child and Maternal Health organisation.

FOR MANY WOMEN IN THE WORLD, ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION IS A VERY BASIC NEED.

Project 3 ~~~~~

FOOD THROUGH WATER FOR THE WOMEN OF INDIA

The people of India are at present suffering from a very serious food shortage due to flood and drought.

The Church's Auxiliary for Social Action has called for a response to this desperate situation. They report that "CASA staff have personally seen people eating weeds and roots normally not even eaten by the animals"...The only responsible reaction to the food shortage is longterm development work, especially in the field of food production "related to improved management of water resources".

women of India and their families need water for their very survival and the project we can support involves work on many more catchment tanks, small dams and wells. The work will be done by people who would otherwise have no employment.



Project 4

AID FOR FAMILIES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN CHILE

Whenever there is a political upheaval, particularly a military coup d'etat, there is sure to be a large new group of political prisoners. The prisoners themselves need help but a group of people that are often forgotten are the families of these prisoners deprived of a key member of the family, usually the breadwinner, often without a home and living in fear of further action against them.

In Chile a group has been set up to help families like this. It is the Churches' Committee for Co-operation for Peace, headed by Pastor Helmut Frenz, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Rev. Fernando Ariztia, Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Santiago.

The Committee said in a recent report - "The primary aim is to meet the needs of the families of people who have been arrested or condemned, or who have disappeared and been killed. These needs are many and varied. Most of these people have no social security and they have urgent and critical needs primarily for food, clothing, and medical attention. The health situation, particularly of children, is critical - there is a great deal of malnutrition. In the next months the possibilities are endless and are limited only by the financial resources available".

WE, WHO WATCH OUR COUNTRY'S CHILDREN GROW FREE AND WELL-FED, WHO DO NOT FEAR THE KNOCK ON THE DOOR, HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER SISTERHOOD TO THE WOMEN OF CHILE IN THEIR VERY DIFFERENT SITUATION.

WOMEN TO WOMEN AID PROJECTS FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR

Enclosed please find \$..... to support project

NAME

ADDRESS

.....POSTCODE

Send to: Australian Council of Churches (N.S.W.)
Commission on the Status of Women,
P.O. Box J111, Brickfield Hill 2000



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' N.S.W. STATE COUNCIL
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

International Women's Year

Mrs. Joy Smith,
President,
Australian Church Women,
360 Marion Road,
PLYMPTON. S.A. 5038

27th May 1975

Dear Joy,

You will recall our conversation regarding the circulation of the accompanying material through A.C.W. Presuming that you feel able to help us through your mailing, could you let us know how many letters and leaflets you would be needing? They are ready now and we can send them to you as soon as we know numbers.

It was very good to see you again the other week. Hope you and your husband had a good trip home and felt a little restored by your break from the home routine.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Dorothy McMahon

PRESIDENT: Marie Tulip
6 Durham Street
Epping 2121
Phone: 86 6777

SECRETARY: Jean Skuse
P.O. Box J111
Brickfield Hill 2000
Phone: 26 2901

5 Wycombe Rd.,
ALDGATE. S.A. 5154

27th May, 1975

Miss Jean Skuse,
A.C.C. N.S.W. State Council,
Box J111, P.O.,
BRIENFIELD HILL. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Jean,

Enclosed please find the A.C.C. mailing list as requested. I expect that there will be quite a number of changes to this after the N.C.C. in August. Perhaps the new Working Committee can let you have the revised list later.

Kind regards,

Sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.C.)

5 Wycombe Road,
ALDGATE. S.A. 5154

2nd June, 1975

Ms. Dorothy McMahon,
C/- Aust. Council of Churches,
Box J111, P.O.,
BRICKFIELD HILL. N.S.W. 2000

Dear Dorothy,

Joy has asked me to let you know that following discussions with you and Jean in Sydney recently, she reported to the Working Committee at their recent meeting the Commission's request for the A.C.W. mailing list. It was agreed that A.C.W. should be encouraging the distribution of study and other material prepared by the Commission and I have accordingly forwarded a copy of our mailing list to Jean. The Working Committee would appreciate receiving a copy of material that you intend to distribute.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)

5 Wycombe Road,
ALDERSHAM. S. 5154

1st May, 1975

Ms. Dorothy Wagner,
Coordinator International Community,
Church Women United,
Room 812,
475 Riverside Drive,
NEW YORK. N.Y. 10027

Dear Ms. Wagner,

Greetings from Australian Church Women! Mr. Alder Hall brought greetings from C.W.U. and news of your Ecumenical Assembly at the end of last year. We were pleased to learn that you had such a successful meeting.

We are currently planning our National Committee Meeting which will be held in South Australia at Lincoln College, North Adelaide, from 19th-22nd August, 1975. The Working Committee which has been centred in Adelaide for the past 2½ years will complete their term of office at this meeting. The incoming Working Committee will be centred in Perth, Western Australia for the next 2 years. This is the first time that W.A. has had the Committee there and already it has stimulated interest in A.C.W. and we look forward to further growth under their guidance.

W.A. will be responsible for planning Fellowship Day and World Community Day, 1976 and we would be grateful if you could let us know the themes you have chosen for those occasions.

With warm Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary, Working Committee, A.C.W.)



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Box 134 · MANHATTANVILLE STATION · NEW YORK, NY 10027

PRESIDENT
MARGARET L. SONNENDAY
(Mrs. J. W.)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARGARET SHANNON

Mrs. J. B. Murchland
Secretary, Working Committee
Australian Church Women
5 Wycombe Road
Aldgate South Australia 5154

Dear Friend:

It is always good to hear from our friends in Australia. Thank you for your letter of May 1 with word about your National Committee Meeting.

In regard to the 1976 celebrations of Church Women United, May Fellowship Day and World Community Day are geared to our Bi-centennial Celebration in 1976. It would be wonderful to have our sisters in Australia alongside us as we look toward the Third Century of our national history, but you will probably want to make adaptations of these celebrations. We will send them to you as soon as they are ready.

The theme for May Fellowship Day is "Valiant Woman" and includes the story of some of the women who pioneered in our history -- women like Anne Hutchinson and Sojourner Truth. The World Community Day program looks ahead in history using the theme, "Into the Third Century Unafraid".

The end of the Indo China War and the Bi-Centennial Celebration are both occasions for reassessment and a careful look at values, life styles and priorities.

The World Day of Prayer Services has already been sent out, and I assume you have this service written by women of Latin America on the theme, "Education for All of Life".

It was a joy to have Alder Hall at the meeting in Mexico and at our Ecumenical Assembly in Memphis. Each personal contact with the women of Australia is another thread in the cord that binds us together in Christ.

Faithfully yours,

Dorothy C. Wagner
Dorothy C. Wagner, Coordinator
International Community

DCW:mg

P.S.: Enclosed are some excerpts from the May Fellowship and the World Community Day services used at a seminar we had last week in Washington, D. C.

Enclosure



**Young Women's Christian Association
Australia**

68 Powlett Street
East Melbourne
Victoria 3002
telephone: 41 2131
telegraphs & cables:
"Emissarius" Melb

Patroness:
~~Her Excellency Lady Hasting DSO~~

President:
Mrs S Watson

Executive Director:
~~Mrs J Prendergast~~

Mrs. Jean E. Keen

25th July, 1974

Mrs. J. B. Murchland,
Secretary of the Working Committee,
Australian Church Women,
33 Wilson Terrace,
GLENELG EAST,
South Australia 5045

Dear Mrs. Murchland,

Thank you for your letter of 19th July and I quite understand that you, yourself could not attend our reception. I did enjoy meeting Mrs. Downe, from the Victorian State Unit of A.C.W., and the reception gave me a great opportunity of meeting people from the other Associations with whom we have a close relationship.

Thank you also for your good wishes on taking up my new post. I look on it as a challenge, but one to which I look forward.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jean E. Keen'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs. Jean E. Keen
National Executive Director

*Recd
29/7*

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

19th July, 1974

Secretary,
Y.W.C.A. of Australia,
68 Powlett Street,
EAST MELBOURNE. VIC. 3002

Dear Madam,

Your invitation to attend one of the informal receptions to meet Mrs. Jean Keen has just reached me. Unfortunately the Working Committee of A.C.W. is now situated in Adelaide and it will be impossible for anyone to be present on either of these occasions.

It may well be that an invitation has already been sent to the Victorian Women's Inter-Church Council, which is the State Unit of A.C.W. in Victoria. The Secretary is Mrs. L. O. Ackland of 23 Kingsford Ave., North Coburg, who might be able to arrange for someone to represent Australian Church Women if the State Unit is not already doing so.

Please convey to Mrs. Keen our congratulations on her appointment and every good wish for the future in the important task she has undertaken.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland, Sec. Working Cttee)

33 Wilson Tee.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

19th July, 1974

Mrs. L. O. Ackland,
23 Kingsford Ave.,
NORTH COBURG. VIC. 3058

Dear Olive,

I have just received an invitation from the Y.W.C.A. of Australia to attend one of two receptions to be given to meet the new Executive Director, Mrs. Jean Keen. As no one is able to attend from the Working Committee, I have suggested that someone from your W.I.C.C. may be able to do so. I realise that you have probably already received an invitation in your own right and would be grateful if someone is going if they could pass on our good wishes and congratulations to Mrs. Keen.

I thought I would just drop you a line in case they decide to ring you about it, so that you will know what is going on. I presume the receptions will be held at their headquarters, 68 Powlett Street, East Melbourne. The dates given are:- Wed. 24th July at 3 p.m. or Thurs. 25th July at 10.45 a.m. I realise this is very short notice and will quite understand if no one is able to attend.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland)

The Australian Council of Catholic Women

(DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS)

Affiliated with:
World Union of
Catholic Women's Organisations
(W.U.C.W.O.)
PARIS

48, Golden Grove,
Red Hill,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2603.

26th June, 1974.

Mrs J.B.Murchland,
Secretary,
Working Committee,
Australian Church Women,
33, Wilson Tce,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045.

Dear Mrs Murchland,

Further to my letter of 30th April, 1974 regarding
your kind invitation to the Australian Council of Catholic Women
into full membership of Australian Church Women.

It has occurred to me that before your kind
invitation is put before the delegates at the next Biennial
Conference in 1975 (date to be determined), it would be most
beneficial if we could have a copy of your Constitution so that
we can answer all questions etc put to us.

From all accounts most of our State organisations
are familiar with Australian Church Women, but we in Canberra
are not so fortunate.

Apologising for any inconvenience this may cause
you.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs M.T.Mitchell)
Hon.National Secretary.

The Australian Council of Catholic Women

(DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS)

Affiliated with:
World Union of
Catholic Women's Organisations
(W.U.C.W.O.)
PARIS

48, Golden Grove,
Red Hill,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2603.

30th April, 1974.

Mrs J.B. Murchland,
Secretary,
Working Committee,
Australian Church Women,
33, Wilson Tce,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045.

Dear Mrs Murchland,

Thank you for your letter of 9th April.
We appreciate the invitation, and at our next National
Conference which will be towards the end of 1975, this
matter will be brought up and discussed by delegates
from all States in Australia.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,



(Mrs M.T. Mitchell)
National Secretary - A.C.C.W.

Recd 6/5

33 Wilson Tce.,
GLENELG EAST. S.A. 5045

9th April, 1974

Mrs. M. P. Mitchell,
National Secretary,
Australian Council of Catholic Women,
48 Golden Grove,
RED HILL. A.C.T. 2603

Dear Mrs. Mitchell,

As a result of a resolution passed at the recent National Committee Meeting of Australian Church Women, I am writing to invite the Australian Council of Catholic Women into full membership of Australian Church Women.

In speaking on the motion, Mrs. Kain pointed out that because of the date of your next National meeting, it will not be possible for a decision to be made for some time. However, we would be glad if this invitation could be presented at that meeting and we await advice of your decision.

With warm Christian greetings,

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. J. B. Murchland, ~~mittee~~, A.C.W.)
Secretary, Working Com

"The Methodist People are one in all the World"

WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST WOMEN

PRESIDENT: Mrs. A. B. Pfeiffer
523 Kingsway Drive
Aurora, Illinois 60506
U.S.A.

VICE-PRESIDENT: Dr. Faith Rolston
Lal Bagh Girls
Intermediate College
Lucknow, U.P.
India

AREA PRESIDENTS & VICE-PRESIDENTS

South and East Africa:
Mrs. V. J. Mvusi
P.O. Box 270
Umtata Transkei, South Africa

West Africa:
Mrs. Esther Sarr
P.O. Box 467
Bathurst, The Gambia, West Africa

Latin America:
Alicia Pak de Monti (Pres.)
Rivadavia 4044
Buenos Aires, Republic of Argentina
Mrs. Ada F. Sucasas (Vice-Pres.)
Avenue Liberdade 659
Sao Paulo, Brazil

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5151 Franklin Avenue
Hollywood, California 90027, U.S.A.
Miss Doris M. Handy
3350 McNeill Place
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219, U.S.A.

East Asia:
Mrs. Elisa R. Otero
P.O. Box 756
Manila, Philippines

West Asia:
Mrs. Myrtle Gunasekera
19A Abeywickrema Avenue
Mount Lavinia, Ceylon

Australasia:
Mrs. George Nash (Pres.)
45 Cadell Street
Auchenflower
Queensland 4066, Australia

Mrs. Vera Dowie (Vice-Pres.)
26 Braemar Road
Rothersay Bay, Auckland, New Zealand

Europe:
Miss Bernice Haver (Pres.)
Kristins vei 29
Oslo 6, Norway

Mrs. Maria Wunderlich (Vice-Pres.)
34 Grillparzerstrasse
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Rev. 22.2.

45 Cadell St.,
Auchenflower, 4066.
Jan. 14th, 1974.

Mrs. A. C. Smith,
Pres., Australian Church Women.

Dear Mrs. Smith,

Women of the Australasian area of the World Federation of Methodist Women, i.e. women from Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, New Zealand and Australia, will be gathering in Christchurch, New Zealand to attend an area Seminar, commencing on May 15th and concluding May 18th, 1974 and, on behalf of members of the area I extend to you and fellow members of Australian Church Women, a very warm invitation to join us.

The theme of the Seminar is "Our New Era demands Education, Renewal, Action" our leaders being Rev. Dr. Phyllis Guthrie as Bible Study leader, Rev. Miss Norma Spear, one of a world team of 5 women who recently attended meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations, this team being sponsored by the W.F.M.W., and Miss Jean Skuse, World Secretary of the W.F.M.W.

I'm sure you will agree this is an impressive team of leaders and, together with their leadership, we believe our theme provides opportunities for exchange of thought and challenge, not only to women, who will meet by day, but to men too, for we will welcome any men who care to join us in the evening sessions, these being planned having men and women in mind.

Some men will be accompanying wives from Australia in order that, following the Seminar, we may all be able to do a short tour of the country, thus enabling us to take advantage of concession tour rates.

The return journey will be made on May 25th.

The cost, as quoted at present but subject to alteration, is in the vicinity of \$350.00, Sydney to Sydney.

It is possible to attend only the Seminar but we are told, at present, that the air fare would be at normal cost, \$209.00 and the cost of accommodation at Christchurch college, on the University campus, \$8.50 per day.

To my invitation may I add that we would consider it a very real honour to have a special representative of Australian Church Women at our Seminar.

I do hope that your Annual meeting proves rewarding in that it is stimulating and refreshing as well as challenging and I wish for your Committee, continued progress in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mayone Nash
Area Pres. W.F.M.W.