

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

M I N U T E S

of

NATIONAL

COMMITTEE

1968

DEACONESS HOUSE,  
CARILLON AVENUE,  
NEWTOWN, N.S.W.

FEBRUARY 13 - 16.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

MINUTES

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AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of National Committee Meeting held at Deaconess House,  
Carillon Avenue, Newtown, N.S.W., February 13th - 16th, 1968.

PRESENT:

Office Bearers:

President	Deaconess C.I. Ritchie
Vice President	Mrs T.H. Coates
Vice President	Mrs H.W. Saunders (Lt Col.)
Secretary	Mrs G.I. Duke
Treasurer	Mrs H. Stephens

State Representation:

Queensland	Mrs R.S. Dingle	Methodist
N.S.W.	Mrs S.G.C. Cowled Mrs R.H. Dougherty	Methodist Methodist
Sth. Australia	Mrs A.C. Smith Mrs R.W.L. Crosby	Methodist Anglican
Tasmania	Mrs D.C. Hartam Mrs G.A. Wood (apology)	Churches of Christ Presbyterian
A.C.T.	Mrs R. Burmester Mrs K. Johnston	Presbyterian Presbyterian
Victoria	Mrs H.W. Saunders Miss E. Dunn	Salvation Army Presbyterian

Denominational Representation:

Church of England	Head Deaconess Mary Andrews
Methodist	Mrs C.F. Gribble (apology)
Presbyterian	Mrs J. Mullan
Congregational	Mrs H.T. Wells
Churches of Christ	Mrs O.J. Bloore
Salvation Army	Mrs Col. H.W. Saunders

Special Interest Groups:

Y.W.C.A.	Mrs F.G. Engel	Presbyterian
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Representatives from:

ACC Committee on Co-operation of Men  
& Women in Church, Family and Society

Mrs T.H. Coates	Methodist
Mrs H.T. Rogers	Presbyterian

ACC Executive Committee

Mrs H.T. Wells  
Mrs B.R. Wyllie  
Mrs D.J.A. Verco  
Mrs J.F. Dey

Congregational  
Methodist  
Churches of Christ  
*Congregational*

Working Committee:

Mrs J.A. Strack  
Mrs E.L. Williams  
Mrs A.W. Burton

OBSERVERS:

N.S.W. State Denominational Women's Groups:

Church of England Miss D. Mitchell A.B.M.  
Mrs R.A. Jessup

Methodist Mrs R.J. Latham

Salvation Army Brigadier J. Coleman

Women's World Day of Prayer Mrs O. Dixon Methodist

President Elect W.I.C.C. N.S.W. Mrs J.O. Gilbert Baptist

Past Working Committee Members

Mrs A. Dougan Presbyterian  
Lt. Col. H. Cross Salvation Army

Mrs F. Buschmeyer Congregational  
U.S.A.  
Mrs D.G. Badger Congregational

ACC Staff

Mr V.K. Brown  
Rev. Rex Davis

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING - AGENDA

February 13th - 16th.

TUESDAY, February 13th

- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 Opening Worship  
Session 1: Welcomes  
Receiving of Agenda  
Appointment of Committees
- 3:30 Afternoon Tea
- 4.15 Session 2: Report from Working Committee  
Financial Report  
Report from Fellowship of the Least Coin
- 6:00 Evening Meal
- 7:00 Session 3: Reports from State Units  
Reports from Denominational Women's Groups  
Reports from United Churches
- 8:45 Evening Prayers
- 9:00 Supper.

WEDNESDAY, February 14th

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:45 Bible Study - Rev. Rex Davis
- 9:45 Group Discussions
- 10:45 Morning Tea
- 11:00 Group Discussions
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 Group Discussions
- 3:30 Afternoon Tea
- 4:00 Reporting back
- 6:00 Evening Meal
- 7:30 Report on Taize - Deaconess M. Andrews, Mrs J. Dougan
- 8:30 Report of World Y.W.C.A. Meetings held in Melbourne,  
August, 1967 - Mrs A.W. Burton.
- 9:30 Evening Prayers
- 9:45 Supper

THURSDAY, February 15th

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:45 Bible Study - Rev. Rex Davis
- 9:45 Session 4: Special Days  
Winifred Kiek Scholarship  
Women's World Day of Prayer

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING - AGENDA (Cont.)

- 10:45 Morning Tea
- 11:00 Session 5: Committee on Co-operation of Men & Women in Church, Family and Society.
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 Harbour Cruise
- 6:00 Evening Meeting
- 7:30 Broad coverage of A.C.C. including Inter-Church Aid  
Publicity  
Promotion  
General Relationship.  
Leader - Mr Val Brown. Question time.
- 9:30 Evening Prayers
- 9:45 Supper.

FRIDAY, February 16th

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:45 Bible Study - Rev. Rex Davis
- 9:45 Session 6: Recommendations  
Plans for future  
Organizational and Structural business
- 10:45 Morning Tea
- 11:00 Session 6: Continued
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2:00 Session 7: Election of Officers  
Election of Working Committee  
Appointments to related Committees  
Recommendations to A.C.C. Annual Meeting  
Any other business
- 3:30 Closing Prayers
- 4:00 Afternoon Tea.

DEACONESS HOUSE,  
NEWTOWN, N.S.W.

TUESDAY 13th February:

OPENING: The President, Deaconess C.I. Ritchie, led the opening devotions on the theme 'Why are we here'.

WELCOMES: Deaconess Ritchie extended a welcome to all members of the National Committee. A short time was allowed for members to speak to someone else and then to introduce that person to the whole Committee. A special welcome was extended to Mr Val Brown, General Secretary of the Australian Council of Churches and to Mrs F. Buschmeyer, who is a member of Church Women United and is in Australia for a period of two years while her husband is Minister of Pitt Street, Congregational Church.

Thanks were extended to Head Deaconess Mary Andrews, the Principal of Deaconess House, for making it possible for the National Committee Meeting to be held at Deaconess House, and for her warmth of welcome to all members. Appreciation was expressed for the 'extra' attentions given by Deaconess Andrews.

GREETINGS: Greetings were received from Miss Sabita Swarup, 1966 Winifred Kiek Scholarship Holder; Mrs F. Ashton, who had been Secretary of the Working Committee until leaving for Junk Bay, Hong Kong; Mrs S.H. Haynes (S.A.); ladies of the Nightcliffe United Church. It was resolved to send greetings to Miss Connie Tan and to the new United Church of Papua, New Guinea and the British Solomon Islands, Mrs F. Ashton and Miss Swarup.

MINUTES: Minutes of the National Committee Meeting 8th- 10th February, 1967 were taken as read and confirmed.

PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Deaconess Ritchie outlined procedures to be followed:

1. Session 5 Committee on Co-operation in the hands of the Convener, Mrs T.H. Coates.
2. Wednesday Evening To be chaired by Mrs Col. H.W. Saunders. There would be a report on Taize by Deaconess Mary Andrews and Mrs A. Dougan; and on the Y.W.C.A. World Council meeting by Mrs A.W. Burton.
3. Thursday Evening A.C.C. Meeting in the hands of Mr V.K. Brown, General Secretary.

It was planned that Wednesday morning and afternoon sessions be devoted to Discussion Groups. Deaconess Ritchie outlined the plan to be followed and members were divided into four groups. General headings were given for questions to be discussed with the main question being 'How are we fulfilling the purpose of A.C.W.?' A copy of the questions discussed is attached.

Opportunity for relaxation and a time to get to know one another were given with a Yacht Cruise on the Harbour on Thursday afternoon. A sub-committee was formed (Deaconess Mary Andrews, Mrs A. Dougan and Mrs R. Jessup) to complete arrangements.

Bible Study to be led each morning by the Rev. Rex Davis using the W.C.C. Study Book 'All Things New'.

The Agenda, in the Working Documents, was adopted.

A Steering Committee was appointed. Those appointed were: Mesdames H.T. Wells, A.C. Crosby, R.S. Dingle, the President and Secretary. The Steering Committee met on Wednesday night.

REPORT FROM WORKING COMMITTEE:

The Report as produced in the Working Documents was presented by the Secretary (Report attached). The report was adopted.

Thanks to the Secretary were expressed by Lt. Col. H. Cross.

Mrs Dey reported that Ministers and staff of the United Churches of Northern Australia had commended the action of the Women's organizations of the United Churches in becoming affiliated with A.C.W.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial Statement was presented by the Treasurer, Mrs Stephens, and a Financial report was received. Comment was made that the Statement was only covering the period from 6th April to 31st December, 1967. An interim report of the finance from 31st December 1966 to 6th April was tabled.

The Financial Report was received. (Statement attached)  
It was moved that the interim statement be included with the Financial Statement presented in the Minutes. Carried.

The Financial report was adopted.

Appreciation was expressed to the Treasurer for her work.

FELLOWSHIP of the LEAST COIN:

Mrs J. Strack, Convener for this work, reported on the increased interest in this project. Literature had been distributed widely throughout Australia and also New Zealand and Papua.

Leaflets of the talk recorded by Mrs Shanti Solomon had been distributed through the co-operation of Mrs Badger and copies of the tape are available.

Volume III of the Circle of Prayer had arrived from Bangkok and were available at a cost of 30 cents. 800 copies had been ordered. A booklet was also available telling of the allocations and projects for which the money was being used. *at Ray's farm*

Mrs Strack read extracts from letters from Mrs Rathie Selveratnam who was President of the Asian Church Women's Conference and who had been responsible for the work of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Discussion took place on this subject. Mrs Dey commented that groups should be urged to give only the Least coin. Mrs Buschmeyer stressed the prayer aspect of the Fellowship.  
It was resolved that the National Committee emphasise the fellowship of prayer and also the least coin so that the original intention of the fellowship might be honoured.

The report was received and Mrs Strack commended for her faithful work.

REPORTS FROM STATE UNITS:

A representative from each State Unit spoke briefly to the Report which appeared in the Working Documents, commenting on highlights. Speakers were - New South Wales, Mrs Dougherty; A.C.T., Mrs Burmester; Queensland, Mrs Dingle; South Australia, Mrs Crosby; Tasmania, Mrs Hartam; Victoria, Miss Dunn.

The reports were received. It was noted that Mrs A.G. Ogston (C.of E.) of A.C.T., Mrs Box (Presbyterian) of W.A. and Mrs B.R. Wyllie (Methodist) of N.S.W. as a member of the Central Committee, would be attending the W.C.C. Meeting at Uppsala. It was resolved that a letter of good wishes be sent to each of these ladies. *Wyllie*

DENOMINATIONAL REPORTS:

A representative from each Federal Denominational Women's Group spoke Briefly to the report which appeared in the Working Documents. Speakers were: Congregational, Mrs H.T. Wells; Churches of Christ, Mrs O.J. Bloore; Methodist, Mrs R.J. Latham; Presbyterian, Mrs J. Mull Salvation Army (including Southern and Eastern Territories) Mrs Col.H. W. Saunders; Church of England, Head Deaconess Mary Andrews.

The reports were received.

REPORTS FROM UNITED CHURCHES

The reports from the United Churches as included in the Working Documents were received. Thanks were expressed to Mrs N. Faichney who had taken a particular interest in the United Churches. It was stated that Mrs Faichney hoped to visit some of the United Churches during her husband's term as Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church.

The Evening Session concluded with evening prayers led by Lt. Col. H. Cross.

WEDNESDAY 14th February, 1968.

*look at =*

The Rev. Rex Davis of A.C.C. led Bible Study from the W.C.C. Study Book 'All Things New'. Study 1 was taken from Jeremiah 31:31 - 34 and was introduced by a meditation on 'The true measure of time is not the clock - but HOPE'. By careful questioning and study we were led through the passage so that we were able to see that Christ has broken time by giving hope.

### DISCUSSION GROUPS

The morning and afternoon sessions of the Wednesday were devoted to discussion groups under the three main headings:

1. Australian Church Scene
2. Survey of A.C.W.
3. Evaluation of Effectiveness of A.C.W.

(A copy of the headings used by the groups in discussion and a summary of the findings is attached to the Minutes).

The Evening Session was chaired by Mrs Col. H.W. Saunders.

### REPORT ON TAIZE ?

Deaconess Mary Andrews and Mrs A. Dougan reported on the conference at Taize and opportunity was taken to show colour slides of Taize itself. The Rev. Principal A. Dougan also spoke briefly on the difficulties of Christians in France at this time and of the work of reconciliation being done at Taize.

An outline of the report given by Mrs Dougan and Deaconess Andrews is attached.

### REPORT ON WORLD COUNCIL of Y.W.C.A.

Mrs A.W. Burton, National President of Y.W.C.A. of Australia briefly reported on the World Council which had been held in Melbourne in August, 1967. Slides were shown and Mrs Burton gave glimpses of persons present and referred to devotions, as led by representatives of various countries, being one of the highlights.

Mrs Col. Saunders thanked the speakers.

Evening devotions were led by Deaconess Mary Andrews, and were opened with the playing of a tape recording of music of the brothers of the Taize Community.

THURSDAY 15th February, 1968.

Study 2, Luke 23: 35 - 49 was led by the Rev. Rex Davis. By imagining the members to be actors in a T.V. production, Mr Davis patiently enabled us to feel the tension of this passage by asking of us our feelings as people who were involved in the event.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Mrs O. Dixon attended the meetings as an Observer from the Women's World Day of Prayer and was asked to speak briefly to the members. She brought greetings from the World Day of Prayer Committee and expressed her pleasure in being able to attend the National Committee Meeting. Our thanks were extended to Mrs Dixon and she was asked to convey a greeting from A.C.W. to the World Day of Prayer Committee.

The meeting agreed to ask Mrs Buschmeyer to speak on the organization of Special Days as related to Church Women United in America. She emphasised that Orders of Service were prepared a year ahead. Mrs Buschmeyer tabled a considerable amount of literature which was of value to those who studied it.

The discussion on Special Days was deferred to a later session.

COMMITTEE ON CO-OPERATION of MEN & WOMEN in CHURCH, FAMILY & SOCIETY

The Convener of the Committee on Co-operation, Mrs T.H. Coates, introduced the Chairman for the meeting, the Rev. W.G. Coughlan. The Rev. Mr Coughlan introduced the first of three speakers, Mrs B.R. Wyllie. Mrs Wyllie spoke on the Geneva Meeting of the Department of Co-operation and emphasised the following points:

1. Co-operation of Men & Women in Church and Society - Status and Ordination of Women.
2. Marriage and Family Life
3. Roman Catholic Relationships
4. Consultation with other Departments of the World Council of Churches (Younger churches in developing countries)
5. Inter-Church Aid (food and population)
6. Faith and Order (Theological aspects of work e.g. Ordination of women)
7. Mixed marriages (referred to Faith and Order Committee)
8. Christian Sexual Ethics (theological basis)

Mrs Wyllie concluded with a significant passage from the World Council of Churches Minutes of a meeting held in Crete in 1967. The passage read is attached to the Minutes.

The second speaker introduced was Mrs D.G. Badger who had just returned from the Asian Church Women's Planning Committee meeting held in Bangkok. Mrs Badger gave interesting insights of some of the people taking part in the planning committee. Allocations for the Fellowship of the Least Coin had been made for 1968 and it was interesting to note that Australia had received an allocation for work with Migrant Youth. Allocations for 1969 must be received by August 1968 on the appropriate form in the back of the Fellowship of the Least Coin Booklet. It had been suggested that where possible slides and information should be obtained of how money allocated was used.

It had been decided to publish the Circle of Prayer every two years, and that Mrs Selveratnam would continue to promote the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

The next Asian Church Women's Conference would be held in Indonesia in September 1970 with the theme 'Am I My Brother's Keeper?'. Mrs Badger had also attended a Co-operation meeting in Bangkok where the main topic discussed had been family planning. The main difficulties were ignorance and unwillingness. Until Governments were willing to move on this matter the Churches must take the initiative. Mrs Badger gave her impressions of the Bangkok Assembly of the E.A.C.C. which she had attended as an observer.

Spurred to S.A. W.D.P.?

The third speaker was Mrs H.T. Rogers of Blackburn. She told of the congregational activities in The Avenue Church Blackburn, Victoria where the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations worked happily together. Mrs Rogers outlined the way in which the buildings were used and noted that a Director of Christian Education had been appointed. The Blackburn Family centre had also been established where help and counselling was offered to families in need. A Social Welfare Committee had been established. The churches had also co-operated with others in the district in the production of musical dramas which had been written and produced by members of the congregation. Two of these productions 'The Blue Miracle' and 'Folk Elijah' were to be presented in the Melbourne Town Hall during the Moomba Festival.

The Chairman, Rev. W. Coughlan thanked the speakers for their contribution to the Session. Mrs Coates thanked Mr Coughlan and made mention that the Committee was planning the publication of discussion pamphlets on family relationships. The Study Book 'Eve Where Art Thou?' was also tabled and members asked to recommend this for use in groups in local churches.

During Thursday afternoon forty five members enjoyed a Yacht Cruise around the Harbour. This period of relaxation was enjoyed by all. Opportunity was also afforded for members to get to know each other better. Members were grateful to Deaconess Andrews who had done the planning for the cruise.

#### AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL of CHURCHES

The session on the work of A.C.C. was chaired by the General Secretary, Mr Val Brown.

Mr Brown outlined the composition of A.C.C. and also the East Asian C.C. which had been meeting in Bangkok the previous week. Needs are expressed by the churches through the Council Members. Mr Brown introduced the first of the speakers who had accompanied him, the Rev. F.G. Engel, Secretary of the Division of Mission. Mr Engel spoke to us of the denominations coming together to do things ecumenically. Three things were noted:

- a. New thinking about mission
- b. new giving to Mission
- c. new education about Mission.

Urban and industrial missions were new areas where development was taking place.

The second speaker was the Rev. E. Arblaster, the Associate Director of the Division of Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service. Mr Arblaster has returned lately from Africa. He gave a picture of the emerging Africa and outlined to us the problems connected with receiving and administering Inter-Church Aid gifts.

The final speaker was Mr Vaughan Hinton who is the Information and Public Relations Officer of A.C.C. Mr Hinton told us something of the problems of those who are in Vietnam as he had recently spent some weeks in this war-torn country. We were made very aware of the desperate need to support such projects as Force 10. Information of A.C.C. and W.C.C. was tabled by Mr Hinton and members were able to take this. Particular stress was given to the relief projects of W.C.C.

The President expressed our thanks to these gentlemen for their comprehensive coverage of the work which they were doing.

Evening prayers following this session were led by Mrs Hartam.

FRIDAY 16th FEBRUARY, 1968.

Study 3 Romans 8: 18 - 27 was introduced by the Rev. Rex Davis by a quotation from Chardin 'servants far more than masters of the created universe'. Here we traced the major themes of the passage and found that 'the new is created out of the death of the old'.

Thanks were expressed to Mr Davis for his leadership in our Bible Studies.

#### WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

The report was given in the Working Documents and Deaconess Mary Andrews commented on the work that had been done during the year. Deaconess Ritchie told members of the reason for Miss Anna Busina's return to Papua and her subsequent marriage. Appreciation to the Y.W.C.A. and in particular to Mrs A.W. Burton and Mrs F. Ashton was expressed by Deaconess Ritchie. Their sympathetic handling of a difficult situation had been of great help to Anna. Mrs Burton also spoke of the help given by Deaconess Ritchie in her wise counselling of Anna prior to her return.

A letter from Miss Sabita Swarup was read. The thanks of the Chairman of Ba Hospital, where Miss Swarup is stationed, were conveyed to members.

Deaconess Andrews reported that the Girls' Brigade had asked that consideration be given to Miss Jackie Kini, aged 22 years, of Papua, as a candidate for a Scholarship award. The object of her receiving the scholarship would be to train her in Youth leadership as she would return to teach and work among young people. She had already attended the Port Moresby Teachers' College.

The report was received.

It was decided to ask the N.S.W. Scholarship Committee to continue to act. Thanks were extended to Deaconess Andrews for her work as Convener.

Details of the Life Brigade were given as follows - a church inter-denominational group working on the same principles as Girl Guides but more spiritual - similar practical training. The Australian Patron is Lady Casey. Physical skills are developed.

It was resolved that the Scholarship Committee be asked to proceed with the negotiations for the awarding of the Winifred Kiek Scholarship to a member of the Girls' Brigade, Miss J. Kini, for the ensuing year in order that she be trained for youth leadership.

The Scholarship Committee was asked to consider the recommendation of the Working Committee that a Scholarship be awarded to a girl to study in her own country. Report back to the National Committee in 1969.

#### RECOMMENDATION re DRAFT MESSAGE TO CONSTITUENT MEMBERS

Mrs T.H. Coates moved that a draft message should be drawn up containing the main thoughts of the National Committee Meetings and that constituent members be asked to pass this on to the women's organizations which they represented and to Church papers.

A small committee comprising Mrs Coates, Mrs Burton, the President and Secretary was appointed to draw up a suggested draft.

#### SPECIAL DAYS

The Secretary gave a brief report which had been prepared by Mrs N. Anderson who is in charge of publications for the Working Committee. This outlined the numbers of Orders of Service for Fellowship Day and World Community Day. Thanks were extended to the Canberra Church Women and the Australasian Federation of Methodist Women for preparing the Orders of Service.

Discussion of Special days deferred from a previous session was again taken up.

It was resolved that the Treasurer should forward \$2000 to Geneva as our contribution to the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Mrs Verco commented that N.S.W. had difficulty in charging 2 cents recommended for the brochure on Fellowship of the Least Coin and it was resolved that no charge should be made for these brochures in future.

It was resolved that the Working Committee consider retaining a small percentage of Fellowship of the Least Coin Offerings for promotion and administration purposes at the National level.

Suggestions for projects to be considered for allocation from Fellowship of Least Coin for 1969 included:

- a. Australian Frontier project whereby aborigines would be given leadership training.
- b. 'OPAL' (One People of Australia League) Hostel for aborigines in Queensland.
- c. Education of people in New Guinea
- d. Aboriginal Social Worker in South Australia to work with his own people.

It was resolved that the Working Committee should collect information concerning these projects and that the Working Committee be allowed to make recommendations concerning an allocation for 1969.

#### DATES OF SPECIAL DAYS

The Working Committee recommended the following:

That Fellowship Day for 1968 be observed July 31st where practicable.

That World Community Day be observed 25th October and that the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia be asked to prepare the Order of Service on the theme 'Human Rights'. These recommendations were accepted.

It was also resolved that in future we plan Orders of Worship one year ahead and that the National Committee should select the theme. The Working Committee was instructed to do this for this year.

#### DRAFT MESSAGE

The draft message as drawn up by the sub-committee was submitted to the meeting and approved. A copy of this message is attached to the Minutes.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

From Denominational Group

The recommendation from the Churches of Christ (as in the Working Documents) concerning the possibility of receiving offering for Fellowship of Least Coin on Fellowship Day was discussed. As this was an offering to be used in a world context and therefore more in keeping with World Community Day the Committee agreed that no change would be made.

From Working Committee

Location of Working Committee

It was resolved that 1. The Working Committee should be located in Victoria for a further two year period.

2. That the general policy concerning the location and term of the Working Committee be examined by the present Working Committee and recommendations be made to National Committee in 1969.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS

Miss D. Mitchell took the Chair and announced the following officers as elected for 1968:

President: Deaconess C.I. Ritchie  
Vice President: Mrs T.H. Coates  
Vice President: Mrs Col. H.W. Saunders  
Secretary: Mrs G.I. Duke  
Treasurer: Mrs H. Stephens

### Working Committee:

The following were elected to form, with the officers, the Working Committee for 1968.

Mrs A.W. Burton  
Mrs J.A. Strack  
Mrs E.L. Williams  
Mrs N. Anderson  
Mrs N. Faichney

### A.C.C. Annual Meeting

Deaconess C.I. Ritchie was appointed consultant to this meeting.

### Committee on Co-operation:

Mrs J.A. Strack and Mrs H. Stephens were appointed representatives to this related A.C.C. Committee.

### Ecumenical Scholarship Committee

As reported in the Working Documents Deaconess Ritchie indicated that this Committee had gone out of existence. This Scholarship would now be administered by the Rev. Harvey Perkins.

### Auditor:

It was resolved to ask Mrs Allison to audit our books again. A letter of thanks to be sent for her services.

### OTHER BUSINESS:

On the recommendation of the Steering Committee the Working Committee were asked to look at the possibility of altering the name Working Committee to Executive Committee and report back to constituent members for comment and action. It was agreed that it would be necessary to confer with A.C.C. and a legal adviser when considering this matter. The comments from the Presbyterian Women's Association in the Working Documents were referred to the Working Committee for consideration with the findings of the group discussion.

The Working Committee was asked to look at the suggestion of a questionnaire for reports to the National Committee meeting from State Units and Denominational Women's Groups.

It was resolved that the matter of finance of A.C.W. be referred to the Working Committee for further consideration.

It was resolved to send a greeting from A.C.W. to the Women's World Day of Prayer national meeting.

### THANKS:

Mrs A.W. Burton on behalf of all members of the National Committee expressed thanks to Deaconess Andrews and her staff for the thoughtfulness, kindness and hospitality extended to all members of the committee. Thanks were also expressed to the President and Secretart.

### CLOSING:

Deaconess Ritchie led the closing prayers taking up again the thoughts expressed at the opening session.

CONFIRMED:

DATE:

## REPORT OF WORKING COMMITTEE FOR 1967

In accordance with the decision of the 1967 National Committee Meeting, the Working Committee of Australian Church Women has been located in Melbourne. Two of the Committee members elected at the National Committee Meeting, Mrs. D. Wardlaw and Mrs. J. Wright were unable to act and acting on approval given by the National Committee, the Working Committee invited Mrs. S. Duke and Mrs. L. Williams to become members.

The Committee has met regularly throughout the year on the 2nd. Friday of each month in the offices of the Victorian Council of Churches. We express our appreciation to members of the staff of the V.C.C. for hospitality given and rejoice with them in their transfer to their new offices at 100 Flinders Street, Melbourne.

Because of the appointment of her husband, Dr. F. Ashton, as Manager of Junk Bay Medical Hospital for a term of one year, Mrs. Ashton, who had consented to act as Secretary, was given leave of absence. Mrs. S. Duke was appointed as Secretary in her place and took up her duties as from the September meeting. Mrs. B. Burton was appointed to represent the Y.W.C.A. in place of Mrs. Ashton.

At the May meeting the Working Committee decided that in view of the fact that A.C.C. Annual Meeting for 1968 was to be held in Sydney, the A.C.W. National Committee Meeting also should be held in Sydney preceding the A.C.C. Annual Meeting. The Secretary confirmed the booking for the Conference at Deaconess House and we express appreciation to the Principal and the Council of Deaconess House for the hospitality shown in 1967 and for their willingness to accommodate us again in this year 1968.

At the request of the General Secretary of A.C.C. the A.C.W. report has been presented under the three headings; Achievements; Plans; Problems. This report gives figures and factual information concerning the year's work, in particular about projects and special days. We add here our thanks to Canberra Church Women and the Australasian Federation of Methodist Women for their preparation of Orders of Service for Fellowship Day and World Community Day.

The Working Committee is grateful to all Office-bearers and members of State Units, Federal Denominational Women's Groups and United Church groups who have co-operated so willingly during the year.

## ACHIEVEMENTS.

Special Days:

- ✦ Fellowship Day - 8,500 Orders of Service distributed.

Theme: Let the Church be the Church in Daily Living.

Prepared by Canberra Church Women.

- ✦ World Community Day: 6,000 Orders of Service distributed.

Theme: World Community Through the United Nations.

Prepared by the Australasian Federation of Methodist Women.

Offering for Inter-Church Team Work in Vietnam.

Fellowship of the Least Coin:

- ✦ Project: Expanding interest. Gifts received from: New Guinea, Aoba in the New Hebrides, women's groups of United Church of North Australia and from all Australian States.

- ✦ Promotion: Volume III Circle of Prayer prepared in Bangkok now available. Tape recording of Mrs. Shanti Solomon's address.

United Churches:

- ✦ Contact: Through 6 groups. Receive minutes. Personal contact through appointment of liaison member of Working Committee.

Committee on Co-operation:

- ✦ Representation: A.C.W. represented by two members on Committee on Co-operation.
- ✦ Publication: Promotion of "Eve Where Art Thou?" produced by the Committee.

II

PLANS

Special Days:

- ✧ Fellowship Day: Tasmania State Unit preparing Order of Service.
- ✧ World Community Day: To be decided at National Committee Meeting.

Winifred Kiek Scholarship:

- ✧ Candidate: Yet to be chosen. National Committee to recommend procedure.

Asian Church Women's Conference:

- ✧ Representation planned at 1969 Conference.

Publications:

- ✧ Brochure : To be re-designed and re-printed.
- ✧ Study Material: Publication of new material to be considered at National Committee Meeting. Support for Mrs. Rosalie McCutcheon's book, 'Like a Tree Planted'.

III

PROBLEMS

Promotion:

- ✧ National Level: Development of relationship with Federal Women's Organizations.
- ✧ State Level: Development of relationship between State W.I.C.C. Unit and Denominational Women's groups.
- ✧ Local level: Difficulty of expressing ideal of Inter-church co-operation in practice.

REPORT OF WINIFRED KIEK SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

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Although the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Committee began negotiations for a scholarship holder for 1967 in 1966, it was not until October 1966 that an application for a Papuan Y.W.C.A. worker to be considered was received. After considerable delays the application papers were received in May 1967 from Miss Anna Busina.

As I had to leave for an Overseas tour in June, I asked the Committee of A.C.W. to take over the arrangements for Miss Anna Busina's Scholarship in consultation with the Y.W.C.A. as she was going to Adelaide for most of her training, and the Y.W.C.A. wanted her in Melbourne for the Y.W.C.A. World Conference.

The President of A.C.W. Working Committee has kindly agreed to report on the Scholarship holder.

With regard to the Scholarship holder for 1968. The administration of the Girls' Life Brigade has requested that a member of the Girls' Brigade might be considered for a scholarship. I have written to Mrs D. Garrick suggesting she send particulars to the Scholarship Committee concerning a suitable person, but no reply has come so far.

It is good to know that Miss Sabita Swarup, the 1966 Scholarship holder, profited from her training and experience in Australia and is holding a position in the Methodist Mission Hospital at Ba, which was formerly held by a Missionary.

MARY M. ANDREWS,  
Convener Winifred Kiek  
Scholarship Committee.

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The Working Committee as requested by the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Committee appointed representatives to confer with representatives of the Y.W.C.A. Conditions for Miss Busina's Scholarship were agreed upon.

Miss Busina arrived in Melbourne on July 3rd. She spent some days in Melbourne at the Y.W.C.A. National Headquarters. During this time she met members of the W.I.C.C. of Victoria and was entertained at luncheon by members of the Working Committee. On July 15th she proceeded to Adelaide to take up her training as arranged.

Unfortunately Miss Busina was not able to complete the term of training granted under the Scholarship and returned to New Guinea early in September. She has since married and is settled again in Papua where her husband is teaching.

We are grateful to Mrs F. Ashton for the hospitality given to Miss Busina during her times in Melbourne.

C.I. RITCHIE,  
President of Working Committee.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE 1/1/67 to 6/4/67

RECEIPTS

EXPENDITURE

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Balance	853.55	Remission WCC Geneva	853.55
Donations	46.21	Refund to Q.&W.A. for Information folders	8.00
		Balance	38.21
	<u>889.76</u>		<u>889.76</u>

Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund

Balance	624.89	M.B.C.	28.00
Interest	8.22	Nat. Committee Board	8.00
Refund Air Fare	23.20	Travelling	4.00
		Transfer to Investment Fund	100.00
		Balance	516.31
	<u>656.31</u>		<u>656.31</u>

National Committee Meeting (1967)

Registration Fees	34.05	Deaconess House	207.00
Accommodation	207.00	Stationery etc.	30.23
	<u>241.05</u>		<u>241.05</u>

Overseas Travel Fund

Balance	112.02	Balance	132.02
Methodist Women's Federation	20.00		
	<u>132.02</u>		<u>132.02</u>

General Fund (Administration)

Balance	113.73	Stationery	5.00
Interest	19.88	Duty Stamp	.05
		Balance	128.56
	<u>133.61</u>		<u>133.61</u>

Balances as at 6/4/67

Fellowship of the Least Coin	38.21
Winifred Kiek	516.31
Overseas Travel	132.02
General Fund (Administration)	128.56
National Committee	3.82
	<u>818.92</u>

K. DEY.

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FROM 6th. APRIL to

31st. DECEMBER, 1967.

RECEIPTS.

To <u>Balance</u> transferred from Sydney	₹	817.92	
<u>Fellowship of the Least Coin</u>			
Donations	₹	2087.96	
Circle of Prayer Vol. iii		79.50	
Circle of Prayer Leaflets		<u>8.30</u>	
			2175.76
<u>Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund</u>			
Donations		215.00	
Interest on Special Bonds		<u>10.48</u>	
			225.48
Transferred from Fellowship Day. (see Contra)		400.00	
<u>Fellowship Day</u>			
Orders of Service		202.65	
Offerings		<u>572.02</u>	
			774.67
<u>World Community Day</u>			
Order of Service		127.50	
Offerings		<u>678.35</u>	
			805.85
<u>Literature</u>			
"Church Worship"		32.50	
Tape Recording		<u>1.00</u>	
			33.50
<u>Donations etc.,</u>			
W.A. unit "Migrant Women Fund"		13.30	
Mrs. Dey - adjustment		1.00	
Petty Cash - refund		<u>1.12</u>	
			15.42
<u>Bank Interest</u>			2.75

I report having examined the Receipt Books, Vouchers and Books of Account of the Australian Church Women for the period 6th April to 31st December, 1967 and am of the opinion that the above Statement is a true and correct presentation of the transactions of the Australian Church Women for the period according to the information made available to me.

A.E. ALLISON, A.A.S.A., L.C.A.

(Hon. Auditor) 8th January, 1968.

₹4851.35

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FROM 6th. APRIL to

31st. DECEMBER, 1967.

## EXPENDITURE.

By <u>Fellowship of the Least Coin</u>			
Circle of Prayer Vol. iii	\$	79.34	
Leaflets - Postages		4.00	
Postages		<u>2.00</u>	85.34
<u>Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund</u>			
Metro. Business College (Sabita)		12.60	
Air Fare (Anna Busina)		265.20	
Hospitality "		15.00	
H.B.A. "		15.44	
Clothing "		<u>58.17</u>	366.41
<u>Fellowship Day</u>			
Order of Service (8,500)		128.20	
Postages and Petty Cash		8.38	
Che. transferred to Vic. W.I.C.C.		<u>7.16</u>	143.74
<u>World Community Day</u>			
Order of Service (6,000)		90.00	
"Kwikasair" - delivery		7.13	
Inter Ch. team work in Vietnam		<u>500.00</u>	597.13
<u>Literature</u>			
"Church Worship" (500)		75.00	
Study Book Inserts (4,000)		15.60	
"Kwikasair" parcel delivery		<u>2.30</u>	92.90
Transferred to Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund (see Contra)		400.00	
<u>Administration</u>			
1966 National Council Meeting		7.99	
A.C.W. Files - delivery		4.97	
A.C.C. A.C.W. Administration		9.53	
Printing - Letterheads		15.53	
Postages - Minutes		24.00	
Stationery		18.31	
Duplicating A.C.W. Leaflet		1.90	
Petty Cash - Secretary		20.00	
Treasurer		10.00	
Travel - President's and Secretary's Fare to A.C.W.		62.40	
Transfer to Inter Church Aid - "Migrant Women"		<u>13.30</u>	187.93
<u>Balance</u> 31/12/67			3377.90
			<u>\$ 4851.35</u>

ENID G. STEPHENS

(Hon. Treasurer)

FELLOWSHIP DAY OFFERINGS - 1967

Canberra Church Women's Fellowship	30.00
New South Wales Unit	166.50)
	20.29)
Tasmania Inter Church Council of Women	186.79
Victoria Women's Inter Church Council	31.80
United Church Ladies' Fellowship Darwin	300.00
Methodist Federation of Queensland	10.00
	6.27

564.86

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY OFFERINGS - 1967

Women's IntercChurch Council of Queensland	18.00
Darwin United Church Women's Group	8.15
Bombala Presbyterian Women's Association	21.30
New South Wales Women's Inter Church Council	195.30
Victorian Women's Inter Church Council	365.94
Canberra Church Women	27.14
Tasmanian Women's Inter Church Council	16.57
West Australia Church Women	25.95

S/ 678.35

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Balance includes the following:-

Fellowship of the Least Coin	\$2128.63
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	775.38
Overseas Travel Fund	132.02
General Fund)	
Administration)	341.87
	<hr/>
	\$ 3377.90
	<hr/>

ENID G. STEPHENS

Treasurer.

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THESE ARE THE FINDINGS ONLY OF THE GROUP DISCUSSIONS  
AS PRESENTED AT THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

THEY DO NOT CARRY EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY BUT ARE PRESENTED  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND COMMENT.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN = FINDINGS of Day Discussion held at National Committee Meeting Wednesday, 14th February, 1968.

I. AUSTRALIAN CHURCH SCENE

(a) Composition

- (i) The Church a minority group within the community.
- (ii) Diversity of denominations though a growing sense of co-operation
- (iii) Diversity within denominations
- (iv) Migrant peoples establishing own churches e.g. Orthodox, Netherlands Reformed
- (v) Sects active - growing in strength
- (vi) United Churches and United Parishes developed in some areas as a result of experiment in co-operation
- (vii) Growth of counselling centres and of programmes related to specific needs
- (viii) Difficulties of division into States

(b) Pre-occupations and concerns

- (i) Maintaining denominational structures
- (ii) Lack of involvement in community affairs at local level
- (iii) Failure to prepare members for this involvement
- (iv) Lack of communication, especially with youth
- (v) Structures too inflexible
- (vi) Tendency to look inward not outward despite some involvement in social services and overseas work
- (vii) Evidence of moves to unity

(c) Difficulties and problems

- (i) Wastage of finance and personnel because of denominational divisions
- (ii) Special areas of concern and relevance e.g. Youth, flat dwellers (high rise)
- (iii) Communication within the Church, between churches and with the secular world.

(d) Changing situation in present day

- (i) Growing desire for co-operation
- (ii) Lay participation
- (iii) Broadening avenues of service e.g. School chaplains, industrial chaplains, aged people's homes, meals on wheels
- (iv) Women and youth becoming more involved in both Church and community.
- (v) Change in attitude to use of Sunday
- (vi) Higher education has brought problems - the ability of more to question
- (vii) Uniting congregations create new and different problems
- (viii) No permanent solution because change is always there.

## II. SURVEY OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

### (a) Composition

- (i) State Units; Representatives of Federal Denominational Women's Organizations of member churches of A.C.C.; United Churches; Y.W.C.A.
- (ii) Regret expressed that Baptist and Lutheran women are not represented at Federal level, though in some cases at State level.
- (iii) Need for relationship with other groups
  - (a) Women's World Day of Prayer
  - (b) Australian Christian Women (Christian Women's Convention)

### (b) Methods of Organization and (c) Activities and Concerns

- (i) Should name of Working Committee be changed (see reference in Minutes)
- (ii) Commend system of altering location of Working Committee
- (iii) 4 year term in one location proposed
- (iv) Problems of communication through existing channels of State Units and Federal Denominational Women's groups
- (v) Study book suggested for special days
- (vi) Need to encourage Orthodox participation at State level
- (vii) Re-assessment of material used for Community Day. Should be suitable for all groups - men, women and young people
- (viii) Need to implement 'service together' as part of aim of ACW
- (ix) Development of responsible attitude towards social needs of local community e.g. Appointment of social worker (paid by local government authority) as result of social survey conducted following Church and Life Movement.
- (x) Problem of finance for effective working
  - (a) Travel pool to assist delegates with fares to National Committee Meeting
  - (b) To provide adequate public relations promotion
  - (c) Suggestions included public relations committee in State Units and sale of specially marked Biro's.

### (d) Difficulties and Problems

- (i) How to interpret AIMS at local level - little knowledge and understanding of Women's Inter-Church Councils and A.C.W.
- (ii) How to link with the Women's World Day of Prayer
- (iii) Programmes not challenging enough
- (iv) How to make W.I.C.C.'s feel they are units of A.C.W.
- (v) Relationship with Australian Christian Women which is a strong organization in certain states.

### (e) Effectiveness of A.C.W. in performance of its functions for its members and member groups

- (i) Constitution
  - (a) 'Allegiance to Christ' - is evidence of unity
  - (b) 'Co-operation of men and women' 'in Church' isolated instances only  
'in Family' and society' - women's contribution can extend the family interest
  - (c) 'Place in total life and mission of the Church' - limited A.C.W. must develop this through study etc.
  - (d) 'Opportunity to worship, study and serve together'  
Some opportunity e.g. Fellowship Day, World Community Day, Fellowship of the Least Coin and Winifred Kiek Scholarship projects.
- (ii) Representation to International conferences can be effective.

### III EVALUATION OF EFFECTIVENESS OF A.C.W.

#### (a) National Level

- (i) Organization of Special Days
  - (a) Half or full day programme with worship related to service
  - (b) Prepare programmes one year ahead and publicize
  - (c) Flexibility for emergency programme
  - (d) Study and worship material provided but need for simpler presentation
  - (e) Not sufficient help for service projects. Should be more positive concern for world need e.g. Inter-Church Aid, Force 10, Frontier
  - (f) Need to support Aust-Care in 1968
  - (g) Proposed study book for Community Day and Fellowship Day with special theme e.g. Human Rights 1968.
- (ii) No effective link between A.C.W. and Denominational organizations at National level
- (iii) Quiet Day prior to A.C.W. National Committee Meeting
- (iv) International experiences should be shared more
- (v) Suggestion that A.C.W. request appointment of representative to A.C.C. Executive Committee (N.B. This is not possible under present constitution of A.C.C.)
- (vi) Consideration of study material and questionnaires as used in America

#### (b) State Level

- (i) Important to realize that National Level depends on State level and local level depends on State level
- (ii) Community work be undertaken together
- (iii) Wider circulation of W.I.C.C. reports to stimulate interest
- (iv) More uniform naming of State organizations
- (v) Difficulty of getting information back to local groups
- (vi) Difficulty of stimulating interest in special days - key members only attend
- (vii) Concern with Television as medium of Christian witness.

#### (c) Local Level

- (i) Need for service projects
- (ii) Community work to be undertaken together e.g. meals on wheels
- (iii) Need for more interesting reports from W.I.C.C.'s
- (iv) Difficulty in getting information through to local groups and to individual local denominations
- (v) Lack of existence of local groups
- (vi) Studies and discussion questions too difficult
- (vii) Fellowship of the Least Coin and Winifred Kiek Scholarship have caught interest of people
- (viii) Difficulty of stimulating attendance at local level

REPORT OF WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE HELD AT TAIZE, FRANCE  
19th - 24th June, 1967

One hundred women attended the Conference. They represented the Catholic International Organization, members of the Department of Co-operation of Men & Women in Church, Family and Society, set up by the World Council of Churches, and members of the Young Women's Christian Association.

Two earlier smaller conferences which Dr Madelaine Barot had helped to convene, had prepared a questionnaire which was widely distributed during 1966 and the earlier part of 1967. The Conference studied the answers given to these questions. There were also study groups to consider:

- (a) The dimensions and necessities of ecumenical dialogue.
- (b) What can be done in common to make this a meaningful dialogue for all.

The Conference divided into four groups for these discussions and for consideration of a number of other questions, each workshop group taking one of the following problems:

1. The different forms of women's professional life outside their home:
  - (a) Those who work through economic necessity,
  - (b) Those for whom a choice is possible.
2. Remedies to overcome the wastage of women's energies and capacities on the different social levels:
  - (a) The independent professions
  - (b) The working class women,
  - (c) The rural women.
3. How to foster a better and more active participation of women in public life.
4. How to promote better co-operation of men and women in the life of society.

Dr Jean Brothers, a sociologist and a Research Officer in The University of London spoke about the tensions between the home and outside responsibilities.

Dr Lydia Simons, Professor of Theology in the Netherlands, and the Rev. André Dumas, Professor of Ethics at the College of Protestant Theology in Paris, spoke on the subject of attempting a theological answer to the socio-ethical problems posed by the changing role of women.

Few of the things they said were really new to us but the thought of unity - within - difference was constantly stressed; that the easy solutions are - losing our identity in others or isolating ourselves to retain our identity. "We need to be able to maintain a relationship with each other that is uneasy, yet flexible and consistent". This flexibility as Christians and as men and women should be carried over into dialogue with the unbelieving, with the atheist world and the world of other faiths. The theologians and the laity should have opportunities to work together in an attempt to find more ways of breaking down the barriers and to make reconciliation and unity a reality.

This working, thinking and speaking of the things we have in common, rather than those which divide us, together with education, the deepening of our faith and the goodwill shown in our lives to all men, we hope and pray will bring us unity.

It is one thing for one hundred women to attend a conference held in two languages concerned with greater co-operation and understanding of even that small number of people. It is quite another matter for millions of human beings to share these concerns. What, then, can we do?

## WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER

- i) Meet each other  
Let us find ways of meeting each other, especially by inviting each other to our meetings and conferences.
- ii) Learn to know each other.  
Let us seek every opportunity to strengthen our desire to get to know each other better and to exchange our ideas and thoughts freely. Let us ask each other frankly and objectively to explain our faith. Let us join in collecting information, written and printed material making use of such occasions as the Week of Unity and the World Day of Prayer.
- iii) Joint Studies on the origins of our faith.  
We can discover together in a wholly new way, the message and face of Christ, particularly through bible studies in depth, undertaken jointly, calling on all the resources of modern scientific exegesis.
- iv) Rethinking the Catechism.  
It is essential that in each church and at all levels, we should engage in a rethinking of the catechism in the light of ecumenism.
- v) Praying together.  
We can seize opportunities of praying together, such as the Week of Unity and World Day of Prayer, but taking care to avoid sentimentality and euphoria. Liturgies planned for these occasions must be adapted to local circumstances. Richness can come from making these adaptations in co-operation.  
Let us be ready too, to accept what life can bring to our praying together and what we may contribute. If some special event draws us to pray together, if life itself calls us to pray together, then a true and profound dialogue becomes possible. But for this, surely do not let us wait for a catastrophe; let our intuition and sensitivity discern the suffering of the world and translate it into common prayer.
- vi) Engaging in service together.  
We are not entering into dialogue in a kind of Christian Ghetto. Our dialogue has to be nourished by the thought of those who are without belief and by our apostolic vocation.  
There are opportunities for dialogue and dialogue in positive action undertaken together.
- vii) Organization of meetings and encounters.  
Seminars, meetings, conferences and ecumenical year at local, regional, national and international levels can be precious ways of fostering ecumenical dialogue.
- viii) Living together.  
It is essential that we live together; that we live the dialogue and through the dialogue, our daily life and Christian service. The ecumenical dialogue is truly a labour; a hard task, demanding of us time, courage, fortitude, perseverance and realism. It has to be lived step by step as the Holy Spirit guides us, with unity as its goal.  
It bears in itself at the same time, its suffering and its joy, in liveliness of hope and in confidence in God who calls us to unity and who Himself gives it.

Perhaps most of all we want to see the Church in the forefront, leading us along the path of change, not lagging behind the world.

The Nature and Significance of the Work on Co-operation of Men & Women

The Department, looking forward from its activities in the period from the New Delhi to the Uppsala Assemblies, is aware of new and unexplored dimensions in human relationships in changing societies, which challenge its thinking and action.

Earlier statements and declarations on man-woman relationship were dealt with mostly in terms of theology as for example the Davos-Statement, which was accepted by the Central Committee in 1955.

Now, we are emphasising the urgency of the main concerns of the Department of Co-operation in light of the social revolution in our times, and in so doing, far from moving away from them, we continue to base our thinking on the fundamental elements of biblical anthropology and ecclesiology. The distinctiveness and the "togetherness" of men and women as described in the message of Creation and sanctified by Christ's redemption is still and always will be the corner stone of the Department's biblical foundation. Ecclesiology teaches us the fundamental lesson, the wholeness of the Church implies the full and living contribution of all members of the Body of Christ, not for the sake of one group or for private interests but for the complexity of the Church as a whole. So all members wherever and whoever they are, are called to bring their full and complementary contribution to the benefit of the whole Church thus fulfilling Christ's work in the world.

Again and again this has been said and it is our approach for making clear and understood the leading principles of the Department. But challenged by contemporary events, we think it both right and necessary, in looking at the question from a different perspective, and without moving away from the earlier approach, to explain the burning urgency of our concern by relating it to some of the major characteristics of the social revolution of our times.

What is the character of this revolution which has transformed the pattern of relationships between men and women on all levels of society? It is essentially an organisational revolution in which rational processes and technological control become the determining principles of social development. Such an organisational revolution gives another place to sexuality, in the course of elevating rational processes to a decisive place. Sexuality to a vast extent is removed from the position of an organising principle in society.

Sexuality refers to the organic difference and union which permeates all life, and in this sense has been an organising principle in all human societies. This is not the place to postulate a theory of sexuality and society, but it could be suggested that societies move from forms which are dominated by diffuse sexuality to civilisations in which its functions such as paternity, maternity, are lifted up as a "natural order" of human relations.

The organisational revolution removes sexuality from the central function in social order. It thus shakes the foundations on which personal identity has been organised. Worth and human status no longer derive from maternity; in fact, individuals are now urged to curb the impulses of maternity for the well-being of society as a whole. Dignity, too, no longer derives only from the paternal role but from the competence and regularity with which man can participate in a complex world. This generates deep divisions between younger and older generations who feel the impact of this emerging society in different ways.

To cope with the problems and possibilities generated by the organizational revolution is not merely a matter of women. This is a problem of men and women finding a new pattern for their common life. The work on co-operation of men and women has brought this struggle to light where it was hidden and has been working directly with those in many parts of the world who are ready to search out solutions.

There are obvious problems in the technicological and rational forces which have changed the sexually defined orders of society. These forces are breeding their own problems by the suppression of feeling and limitations to personal responsibility. However, these forces are potentially constructive for human life and for individual persons as well, particularly if they are humanised and directed to human needs. Such processes can be discerned as continuing to stress competence and skill rather than maleness or femaleness. The potentialities for realising man's possibilities are present in these organisational patterns, but these possibilities require new expressions for the cultural meaning of sexuality in various cultures and in different forms. Moreover, this emerging pattern of equality and freedom requires moral clarification, again in different ways, and according to the organisational patterns of societies.

The Department has not only ministered to men and women in their struggle to develop patterns of cooperation in Church and Society, but also in the varying relationships involved in family life. This was an inevitable expansion since New Delhi 1961, since the roots of new sexual patterning in the society reach down into the role patterning that is experienced in childhood, sibling relationships, peer groups and schools. Furthermore, the personal tragedies of individuals and families multiply in the disorganising process of the organisational revolution, drawing the churches into specialised tasks of personal and family counselling.

How can these concerns be located amidst the many claims which are now being made on mission and ministry of the churches in an age of revolutionary change? Certainly a just world order in which peace becomes possible would have to be given first priority in the mission of global forms of the Christian community. This means in time, the development of authorities to allocate resources to meet human needs and develop processes of peace which are as competent as our machinery of war. Furthermore, the "progress of the peoples" as the Encyclical of Pope Paul so tellingly expresses it, weighs upon each nation and the whole community of nations, forming a second claim upon our global ministries. Third, and in many ways inseparable from these two stupendous tasks, is the reweaving of a web of community and freedom so that men and women may gain a new sense of worth and love for peace. This third task is brought under the general rubric of community organisation, by which is meant the development of patterns of organisation in family, neighbourhood, and society which sustain human dignity, freedom and public responsibility. The ministry of the churches is interpreted as living in communities of faith within these various communities, nurturing their organisation, humanising the patterns of life within them and bringing prophetic criticism to bear on their deformations of man. The same, of course applies to the work of faith in the organisation of the religious communities which sustain and direct the proclamation of the Christian community.

Man's desperate search for confidence and security in the organizational revolution reflects the crisis of person and community in our time. Thus the work, that has emerged in the Department on Co-operation of Men & Women, in Church, Family and Society is seen as a dimension cutting across the work of community organisation, deepening its sensitivity to the problems of the right relationship between men and women. These tasks interlock with the educational and parapolitical processes through which personal freedom and social participation are developed.

The word "co-operation" in the title of the Department is the key word in any description of its aim. The Department is interested in promoting the right kind of relationship between men and women in all areas of life, private and public. This relationship must free them to complement each other without the exploitation of either one by the other; it must free them to become truly themselves by offering equal opportunities for development of their capabilities; it must free them for self-expression in all phases of life. Christians in both developed and developing nations are aware of the distortions in the relationships between men and women and are conscious that the need to eliminate these distortions is urgent for the renewal of the Church, for the growth of understanding in human relationships within the family and for the fullest possible development of society. Its basic orientation toward "cooperation of men and women" makes the Department unique as compared to secular and rare among Christian organisations concerned with women; and the Department is the recognised point of contact for the creative planning of women's organisations with the WCC on matters concerning the cooperation of men and women. Its purpose is to help the churches rediscover the biblical teaching on, and to reach a common theological and sociological understanding of, the basic relationship of men and women, and it is concerned that a fundamental re-appraisal be made of the old concepts of the man-woman relationship. For it is at this deepest level of personhood that people relate and interact for good or ill to themselves and others, as members of the Body of Christ, as citizens of a national and world community and as members of a family. The Department is concerned with the young and the old, with both single and married. It acts as a centre of information, as an initiator of study, and as a creator of a climate which will free men and women to cooperate in the renewal of Church, family and society.

The mutual involvement of men and women in Church, Family and Society at world, regional, national and local levels, has not yet reached the stage where it can be taken for granted. Moreover, the manifold concerns upon which the Department has been, is, and is increasingly being asked to be engaged, are vital to the ongoing witness of the Church in the world. Each of these concerns will have a relevance to the study and work of more than one of the administrative units in the general structure of the WCC, but, for the period between Uppsala and the next General Assembly, the responsibility for acting as initiator, catalyst, consultant and coordinator, should be entrusted to one such administrative unit. This unit, whatever form it takes, should demonstrate the partnership of men and women in the membership of its Working Committee, in its joint chairmanship by a man and a woman, and above all in its staff, where men and women hold the posts of Executive and Associate Secretaries interchangeably. For the next few years at least, the words "COOPERATION OF MEN AND WOMEN" should appear in the title of whatever part of the structure of the WCC to which these concerns are committed.

Increasing consultation and cooperation between this administrative unit and the other units of the WCC is essential for the relationships between men and women to be recognized and accepted as the total concern of the WCC, its member churches, and of other manifestations of the ecumenical movement, and, within the WCC itself, specific arrangements should be made to see that this is achieved.

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MESSAGE TO AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

From the 1968 meeting of the National Committee of Australian Church Women we send this message through our State units and Federal bodies to the women we represent.

WE URGE THEM

- + to face the great issues of our time, in the light of their Christian faith, especially keeping in mind the Fourth Assembly of the World Council of Churches at Uppsala in July, 1968
- + to deepen their faith by prayer and Bible study
- + to increase their knowledge of the world in which they live, beginning with local and municipal affairs, and extending to questions of national and international importance
- + to do all they can to ease racial tension, poverty and hunger, near at hand and in other parts of the world, and in particular to support Inter-Church Aid and its Force Ten project
  - Particularly in 1968 to remember the desperate need in Vietnam, and to support whatever efforts are made to send relief to the victims of the war
  - to give support to United Nations Human Rights Year
- + to join in creating a climate of opinion in which our Government can do more to help developing countries
- + to support Women's World Day of Prayer and to promote wherever possible Fellowship Day and World Community Day, with their associated service projects; and to support other inter-church activity under the Australian Council of Churches
- + to extend Christian fellowship to women of all denominations, including those which are not already linked with Australian Church Women, and in particular to take up the challenge of meeting Roman Catholic women
- + to bring sympathetic understanding into all personal relationships, especially with young people
- + to ensure as far as we are able, that young people have an opportunity to participate fully in the life of Church and nation
- + to encourage women to play a full part, not only in their homes, but in Church and community, working alongside men as Christians and as citizens.