

DRAFT

CONSTITUTION OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

14/10/65

1. NAME: Australian Church Women

2. The AIM of AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN is

"To unite Australian Church women in their allegiance to their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; to promote co-operation of men and women in the Church, family and society; to help Christian women to take a more effective place in the total life and mission of the Church; to provide opportunities for Christian worship, study, fellowship and service across the present divisions of the Church; and to encourage fellowship and service across national boundaries." The programme of Australian Church Women shall be planned to serve this aim.

3. RELATIONSHIPS:

(a) Through the Australian Council of Churches, Australian Church Women shall be linked with the World Council of Churches and the regional conferences of churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific.

(b) Australian Church Women shall function in relationship with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

4. COMMITTEES:

(a) The National Committee shall consist of representatives who shall be appointed annually:

i. one representative of the Federal women's organization of each church, appointed by whatever means is appropriate to the particular church.

ii. two representatives of each State women's inter-church organization which is recognized by Australian Church Women as its State unit.

iii. one representative of the Federal organization of any special interest group which is granted representation by the National Committee.

iv. two representatives appointed by the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society.

v. four representatives appointed by the Executive Committee of the Australian Council of Churches.

The National Committee shall meet at least annually at a time and place, to be determined in consultation with the Australian Council of Churches' Committee on the Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society. Fifty percent of representatives under 4 (a) i. and ii. shall constitute a quorum. Alternates may be appointed for all representatives to the National Committee.

(b) A Working Committee shall be appointed by the National Committee to carry out its work between meetings. The Working Committee shall consist of 10 members of the National Committee resident in one State and shall include the office bearers. The location of the Working Committee shall be determined by the National Committee.

5. OFFICE BEARERS:

The office bearers shall be (1) A President; (2) Two Vice-Presidents; (3) A Secretary; (4) A Treasurer. They shall be elected annually by the National Committee provided always that the President shall not hold the office for more than two consecutive years. The office bearers shall serve as an Executive between Working Committee meetings.

6. STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATION:

- i. There shall be a Committee in each State to serve as the State unit of Australian Church Women. (See Para. 4 Clause 2). Each State Unit shall co-operate with the Council of Churches associated with the Australian Council of Churches in the State.
- ii. Committees in local areas which carry out the purpose of Australian Church Women shall be affiliated with the State Unit.

7. PROGRAMME OF AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN:

The National Committee of Australian Church Women shall prepare a statement of its programme each year.

8. FINANCE:

- i. Collections taken at special days and services included in the Australian Church Women programme (after local expenses have been met) shall be divided, as determined each year by the National Committee in consultation with its State Units, between (i) the administration of the affiliated State Women's Inter-Church Council organization (ii) the administration of the National Committee of Australian Church Women and (iii) national projects sponsored by the National Committee in co-operation with State Units.
- ii. The funds of the Fellowship of the Least Coin shall be paid annually by the State units to the National Committee for remittance to the Department of Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society, in the World Council of Churches.
- iii. (a) Accounts shall be kept as determined by the National Committee in consultation with the Honorary Treasurer of the Australian Council of Churches.
(b) Bank accounts shall be operated by the President, Secretary and Treasurer and such others as may be appointed, the signatures of any two of whom shall be sufficient discharge.
(c) Statements of accounts shall be presented to the meetings of the Working Committee, and audited annual statements to the National Committee and to the Australian Council of Churches.
(d) The financial year shall end on December 31.

9. AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION:

The Constitution shall be amended by a vote of a two-thirds majority of members of the National Committee present. Notice of motion to amend the Constitution shall be given to the Working Committee by any organization having representation on the National Committee. All constituent bodies shall be notified in writing of the proposed amendment not less than three months before the meeting of the National Committee. Amendments shall be operative upon ratification by the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches.

10. DISSOLUTION:

In the event of the dissolution of the National Committee, its project and trust funds shall be paid to the purposes designated and its administrative funds to the Australian Council of Churches.

SYDNEY
OCTOBER 1964.