

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Working Committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 27th, 1966, at 16 a.m. in the A.C.C. Meeting Room, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

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- OPENING: The meeting was opened with prayer led by Mrs. A.G. Ralph.
- PRESENT: Mrs. M.G. Wyllie (chair), Mesdames J.F. Dey, A.G. Ralph, D.J.A. Verco, D.G. Badger, Deaconess M. Andrews, Miss T. Skillier, Lt. Col. H. Cross.
- APOLOGIES: Mesdames F. Stafford, A. Dougan, C.F. Gribble, S.M. Barrett.
- MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting held in March were taken as read and confirmed.
- ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Post-Meeting Reaction forms - National Committee Meeting.

It was reported that some forms had been received. It was agreed that a consideration of these be left until the next meeting as more forms may by then have been received.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from Mrs. T.C. Rentoul was received, with appreciation. Mrs. Rentoul indicated her willingness to continue to represent Australian Church Women on the Commission of Christian Marriage and Family Life, and that a meeting of the Commission has been planned for 7th July.

It was reported by Mrs. Verco that she had received a letter from Miss Helen Turnbull, Director of Leadership Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Miss Turnbull spoke of the possibility of her visiting Australia during the latter months of 1966 and that, if this eventuated, she would be happy to visit some Women's Groups. Mrs. Verco will be replying to this letter, and it was agreed that, in the event of Miss Turnbull visiting Australia, she be invited to participate in Australian Church Women's meetings.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Financial Statement, as shown hereunder, was received.

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| Credit balance brought forward | \$ 1255.08 | |
| Fellowship of Least Coin | <u>91.15</u> | 1346.23 |
| Remitted to Geneva - Fellowship of the Least Coin | | <u>768.79</u> |
| Cr. balance | | <u>\$ 577.44</u> |

PUBLICITY:

Discussion was a follow-up from the meeting of March 23rd, as recorded on page one of the Minutes of that meeting - 'Arising from the Minutes (c)'.
(c)'

1. Brochure on Australian Church Women.
It was resolved that the Secretary prepare this, and that Mr. Vaughan Hinton be asked to edit it.
2. Newsletters - State Units.
Copies of the first Newsletter of the N.S.W. Inter-Church Council were received.
3. Australian Church Women News. See Minutes -
Fellowship Day - Page 3, par. 1.
Fellowship of Least Coin - Page 5, par. 2.
From N.S.W. Newsletter - Inter-church Women's Groups at Strathfield/Homebush and Wagga have become branches of the Council. Women's Inter-Church Groups have been formed at Caringbah, Hurstville, Kingsford, Auburn/Lidcombe and Parramatta.

4. It was resolved that each month News Items in the Minutes be marked and handed to Mr. Hinton.

5. Links with Denominational Women's Groups.

It was resolved -

- a) That an up-to-date list be compiled of Presidents and Secretaries of Federal Denominational Women's Groups, and that this list include centres where there are United Churches.
- b) That the Presidents and Secretaries of these Groups be placed on Australian Church Women's mailing list to receive a copy of Minutes of the National Committee Meeting and Working Committee Meetings, and News items as issued.
- c) That a letter accompany the first copy of Working Committee Minutes to be sent, explaining our desire to keep them more fully informed concerning the activities of Australian Church Women, and that further letters follow from time to time.
- d) That we ascertain dates when the periodical meetings of Federal Women's Organisations will be held, also the place, so that Australian Church Women representation may be **arranged**.
- e) That we ascertain the names and addresses of Ecumenical Affairs Convenors of the various denominations and supply them with information concerning Australian Church Women, asking that they channel this through to their members.
- f) That State Units be asked to -
 1. Develop links with State Secretaries of Denominational Women's Groups concerning the activities of Australian Church Women, especially in connection with Special Days, seeking their co-operation in getting information through to Local Women's Groups.
 2. Ascertain dates when the various State Denominational Women's Groups will hold their periodical meetings, and the place.

Note: Concerning (1), it is recognised that in some States this may already be your procedure; this may also apply with (2) - it would be appreciated if, when you have a list of these dates compiled, you would let the Working Committee have a copy.

It was reported that Mrs. D.J.A. Verco will be visiting Papua/New Guinea for a week, commencing June 28th, Port Moresby and Rabaul being included in Mrs. Verco's itinerary. Resolved that we write to the United Church at Port Moresby, advising them of Mrs. Verco's visit. It was also reported that Mrs. M.G. Wyllie will be visiting Papua/New Guinea during August.

LOCATION OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE:

There was discussion based on the Working Paper which had been issued to members of the Working Committee. This discussion was regarded as of an exploratory nature, but the need for working to target dates was recognised. It was agreed that these should be -

1. The Working Committee reach a definite opinion at its next meeting - June 1st.
2. That a document be prepared for presentation to the following meeting, which it is expected will be held towards the end of June.

LOCATION OF WORKING COMMITTEE cont'd.

3. In early July this document be sent to each member of the National Committee Meeting, Leaders of Federal Denominational Women's Groups, and State Units, giving each an opportunity to give an expression of opinion.
4. August: In the event of the opinion of the majority being that the Working Committee should be transferred to another Capital city in 1967, that a Committee be set up in that city in August to weigh up the matter from their standpoint.

It is expected that the outcome of this will provide a balanced basis for a recommendation to the next National Committee Meeting.

FELLOWSHIP DAY:

It was reported that draft of Order of Service had been received from the Rev. Edwin Robertson, the title of which is "New Horizons". Mr. Robertson suggested this be edited as desired, and this has been done by the Rev. Rex Davis. Draft copies of Order of Service were presented and discussed.

Study Questions had not been included. It was agreed that we ask Mr. Davis to supply one or two questions for Group Discussions, where these are desired, related to studies of the Church and Life Movement and the theme of the Order of Service.

In view of the number of programmes ordered, and pressure of work at the A.C.C. office, particularly having to do with the production of material for the Church and Life Movement, it was agreed that a quote be obtained for printing of the programmes. Miss T. Skiller undertook to do this and follow this matter through.

Two letters were received from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria.

1. Enquiring the date when Orders of Service will be available.
These will be made available to all States at the earliest possible date.
2. Advising that Fellowship Day material should be sent to Mrs. O. Keen, who will become Convener of Fellowship Day after June, 1966.

REPORTS:a) National Scholarship Committee.

It was reported that four nominations had been received, one from Tonga and three from Fiji. The one from Tonga was from a lady 48 years of age, who had filled in a set of application forms which had been sent to the Rev. V. Toma when a further nomination was requested. The three nominations from Fiji had been received through the Free Wesleyan Conference in Tonga as a result of initiative taken by Mrs. E.A. Pitman, of South Australia, who referred information to the Working Committee.

It was reported that the application from Tonga had been referred to the Rev. C.F. Gribble, who did not recommend acceptance of this application.

Of the other three nominations, Miss Satyadevi Bali appears to be the kind of person Australian Church Women would like to help through the Winifred Kiek Scholarship. Miss Satyadevi Bali is an Indian lady, age 31, who is Assistant Welfare and Probation Officer with the Department of Social Welfare, with a background of Nursing experience, being a triple certificated nurse.

REPORTS cont'd

It was resolved -

1. That application forms be sent to Miss Satyadevi Bali.
2. That the Rev. V. Toma be advised that ACW has not found it possible to accept the applications received through him.

Mrs. J.F. Dey reported that she had received a letter from Miss Connie Tan, which included the information that Miss Tan had been bereaved of her father. In this letter Miss Tan had expressed some further anxiety concerning the report expected of her concerning her Scholarship Course in Australia. It was the opinion of the meeting that at this stage there was not a great deal of value in pursuing this any further, so Mrs. Dey was asked to convey to Miss Tan word that we would not require anything further from her in this respect.

b) 3rd Asian Church Women's Conference.

Travel Fund: It was reported that 70 dollars had been received to date.

Progress reports were received from the Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria and the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council.

Delegate: Mrs. D.G. Badger reported that she had received a further letter from the Asian Church Women's Conference, with which were enclosed study material and information concerning Workshops to be held.

Observer: Two nominations were received.

1. From Mrs E.A. Pitman, Secretary of State Unit in South Australia, stating that the Rev. Winifred Kiek would very much like to attend and had asked that her name be submitted for consideration. The unusual nature of this nomination from the standpoint of age was recognised, but it was stated the Doctor had said Mrs. Kiek was well enough to make the trip, and the fact that ACW's Scholarship bears her name was a factor in her name being submitted.
2. From the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council, submitting for consideration the name of Mrs. Ronald Stewart, whose husband is for a period of three years Second Secretary with the Australian Embassy in Tokyo. Mrs Stewart is a member of The Salvation Army and has been active in Women's Work over a considerable period. The three year period of Mr. Stewart's appointment commenced at the end of last year.

After discussion it was agreed -

1. That we write to the Rev. Winifred Kiek, Provisionally accepting her offer to represent ACW as an observer, but think before this is finalized it would be wise for us to communicate with the Asian Church Women's Conference, telling them of her and enquiring as to whether suitable accommodation would be available, as we would not like her to face, e.g. the rigours of dormitory accommodation as sometimes happens at these Conferences.

REPORTS cont'd

2. That we write to the Asian Church Womens Conference, in terms of the foregoing, and also mention the name of Mrs. R. Stewart and the conditions which obtain, and ask as to whether they would favour Mrs. Stewart also attending as an observer, if this should be acceptable to her.

c) Fellowship of the Least Coin:

It was reported that Mrs. S.M. Battett had acknowledged the invitation to be present at Working Committee Meetings. She will be happy to do this when possible.

It was reported that Mrs. H.J. Lilley had been appointed State Convener of the Fellowship of the Least Coin in N.S.W.

It was reported that at present Fellowship of the Least Coin labels are out of stock and the machine for the printing of these will not be available for approx. one month. Orders already on hand will be executed as early as possible.

d) Committee on Co-operation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society:

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday, 3rd March, were received.

Programme for 1966:

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|---------------|---|
| 5th May | The Role of Women in Australian life. Mrs. Smart |
| 7th July | Joint meeting with committee on Marriage and family life. |
| 1st September | Follow up of May meeting. Possibly a psychological aspect of relationship between men and women. The Rev. Lloyd Phillips, Director of Marriage Guidance Council would be a good person to speak. To be decided after May meeting. |

A.C.W. REPRESENTATION:

Mrs. Wyllie reported that she had received an invitation, as President of Australian Church Women, to attend the Annual Congress Women's Rally of The Salvation Army at the Sydney Town Hall on May 2nd. As she will be unable to attend, Mrs D.J.A. Verco will represent ACW.

NEXT MEETING: The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, June 1st, at 10 a.m.

CLOSING: The meeting closed with prayer led by Mrs. Wyllie.

CONFIRMED Mabel G. Wyllie

DATE 1. 6. 68