

AUSTRALIAN CHURCH WOMEN

Minutes of Working Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, June 1st, 1966, at 10a.m., in the AGC Meeting Room, 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

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OPENING: The meeting was opened with prayer led by Mrs. F. Stafford.

PRESENT: Mrs. M.G. Wyllie (chair), Mesdames F. Stafford, D.J.A. Verco, A.G. Ralph, D.G. Badger, A. Dougan, Deaconess M. Andrews, Miss T. Skiller, Lt. Colonel H. Cross.

APOLOGIES: Mrs. J.F. Dey.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and confirmed.

ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

a) Information folder concerning Australian Church Women  
It was reported that the proposed basic material for this had been prepared by the Secretary, and between meetings copies of this had been sent to the President, Mrs. Verco, and Miss Skiller, for their consideration. There was discussion concerning this basic material and, with minor alterations, it was agreed that this be now passed to Mr. Vaughan Hinton for him to edit this prior to it being printed. It was agreed that 10,000 copies should cover immediate needs and allow for some period of the future.

b) Links with Denominational Women's Groups  
It was reported that members of the Working Committee attached to the respective Denominations, and Mrs. Grenville of the Armenian Apostolic Church, had been asked to supply the information required in respect of Federal Denominational Women's Groups. Some of this information had been received, and a Mailing List had been prepared, which can be added to as complete information is received.

It was noted that the biennial meeting of the Women's Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia will be held in Melbourne on Monday, 17th October, and it was agreed that we write to the President, Mrs. J. Strack, asking that in some way Australian Church Women be highlighted in their programme.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence, as follows, was received.

- a) Women's United Church Association of South Australia, intimating
1. that they are working on the Order of Service for World Community Day, and hope to send two drafts shortly;
  2. that their annual 'Musical at Home' will be held in the Adelaide Town Hall on 29th June, and the project which will benefit this year will be the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund. Mrs. Kiek will speak briefly concerning the Scholarship.

Also, information has been supplied concerning State Secretaries of Denominational Women's Groups.

b) A copy of the Programme and material covered at the Second Annual Conference of the Federation of Methodist Women of Sth. Australia. It was noted that this is a very fine production and includes material which is related in theme and purpose to the programme of Australian Church Women. This was tabled, and it was agreed that we express our appreciation of the quality of the material and courtesy shown in sending ACW a copy.

c) Women's Inter-Church Council of Queensland, commenting on several current items, and stating that some discussion had taken place concerning a Council Newsletter, but no finality had been reached.

CORRESPONDENCE, contd:

- d) Women's Inter-Church Council of Victoria, intimating that they would be having morning coffee and a meeting with the Rev. Edwin Robertson on June 7th.
- e) Australian Church Women - Western Australia Unit -
  - 1. enclosing copy of proposed Constitution. It was resolved that this Constitution be accepted, and the Western Australia Unit be now officially recognised.
  - 2. requesting any informative literature available concerning ACW.
  - 3. stating that attention has been given to a form or newsletter being forwarded to each Women's Group in Western Australia, in conjunction with the W.A. Council of Churches office, in their monthly paper, "Brought Together".
  - 4. stating that there is reason to believe the W.A. Unit is beginning to make its mark on the programme of the Church Women's Fellowships in that State.

It was agreed that we write, expressing our great pleasure concerning the development of the W.A. Unit, and pointing out that it was noted in their Constitution that they state that one representative shall be appointed to the National Committee of Australian Church Women, whereas they are entitled to appoint two.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Financial Statement for period ended May 31st, 1966, was adopted.

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
Fellowship of the Least Coin	871.82	Winifred Kiek Scholarship	
less exps & paid to Geneva	<u>788.79</u>	invested through the ACC Association Ltd.	200.00
	83.03	Secretary's expenses and travel	42.00
Winifred Kiek Scholarship	1036.15	Stationery	18.55
less 1965 Scholarship	<u>624.36</u>	Postage	3.65
	411.79		<hr/>
Winifred Kiek Scholarship received for investment	200.00	credit balance c/f	650.78
Asian Church Women's Conference - travel fund	65.00		<hr/>
General receipts (including bank interest)	151.16		
1966 Fellowship Day - sales	4.00		
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	\$ 914.98		\$ 914.98
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It was reported that, after this Statement had been prepared, the sum of \$ 414 had been received from the Congregational Women's Fellowship of Nauru. This represents donations given in their Easter Service collection, and it was stated that it was the unanimous decision of the Fellowship that this money be donated to the work of Australian Church Women.

It was resolved -

- 1) that we write and thank the Fellowship for this gesture, which we are glad to accept.
- 2) that the money be allocated, three quarters to the Winifred Kiek Scholarship Fund, and one quarter to the Asian Travel Fund, and that we advise the Fellowship that it is proposed to use the money in this way.

- 3) that we furnish the Fellowship with information concerning Australian Church Women, and place the Fellowship on our mailing list.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING:

a) Post-meeting Reaction Forms - 1966 Meeting

It was reported that thirteen forms had been received from a fairly representative cross section of the participants, and that the detail of these forms had been read by the President, Secretary and Miss Skiller. A summary was presented at the meeting and discussed, and it was agreed there was value in the information thus received, which should now be filed for future reference.

b) 1967 Meeting

It was reported that the Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Churches will be held in Sydney during the week commencing Monday, February 13th, and that a Consultation will be held during the week-end immediately preceding.

It was resolved that the dates for the National Committee Meeting of Australian Church Women be February 8th, 9th and 10th, commencing with Lunch on Wednesday, February 8th, and concluding with the Afternoon Session of Friday, February 10th, and that the Meeting be held at Deaconess House, Newtown, Sydney.

A suggestion was made that it could be in the interests of the National Committee Meeting to invite an International visitor - say a lady from Asia - who could be a speaker at the Open Session and conduct Devotions and/or Bible Study; if not for 1967, to some later meeting. The opinion of the meeting was that this was a very good suggestion for some future meeting, but for 1967 meeting it would be expected that Mrs. Badger's report of the 3rd Asian Church Women's Conference would figure prominently.

LOCATION OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE:

After discussion, it was resolved

- 1) that the Working Committee recommends that the location of the Working Committee move in 1967, and thereafter biennially.
- 2) that the Working Committee recommends that for the period 1967 and 1968 the Working Committee be located in Melbourne.

The President, Secretary and Miss Skiller were authorized to proceed with preparation of the document to be presented at the next meeting.

FELLOWSHIP DAY:

It was reported that 10,000 copies of the Order of Service had been printed, at a cost of \$ 190. Orders received to date totalled 7,620, and these had been sent out.

It was agreed that Mrs. Wyllie make an opportunity of speaking with the Rev. Edwin Robertson to express appreciation for the Order of Service, and that a letter of thanks also be sent to him.

It was agreed that consideration should be given to the preparation of an Order of Service for Fellowship Day, 1967, and that this be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting.

REPORTS:

National Scholarship Committee

Word had been received that Miss Satyadevi Bali would not be able to avail herself of the proposed scholarship, and that this also applied with another of the three names which had been submitted from Fiji.

REPORTS contd:

A complete set of forms had been received in respect of the third person nominated, Miss Sabita Devi Swarup, an Indian young woman, 23 years of age.

Miss Swarup is of Hindu parentage, and is an active Christian attached to the Methodist Church at Lautoka, where she is a Sunday School teacher and Scripture Instructor. Miss Swarup has basic typing and shorthand knowledge, and the recommendation is that, through the scholarship, she gain business experience, which would be of great value to the work of the Church in Fiji.

It was resolved that the Winifred Kiek Scholarship be offered to Miss Swarup, for a period of five or six months, to do a Secretarial Course, with opportunities also to work in the ACC and Church offices.

3rd Asian Church Women's Conference

- a) Mrs. Badger reported that she had received word that accommodation would be at a Christian University in Tokyo; also information concerning arrangements for her being received at the Air port on arrival.

Mrs. Badger also reported that Mrs. E.G. Beales, who attended a previous Conference of Asian Church Women, had given her some token gifts - Australian polished stones - for passing on to those who would provide hospitality, etc.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks from the Working Committee be sent to Mrs. Beales.

- b) Travel Fund: Progress reports were given concerning the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council and the Congregational Women's Fellowship. A Social Afternoon had been planned by the N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council to be held on Monday, 6th June. The speaker at this meeting was to be a visitor from Asia - Captain Marie Handryo - a Salvation Army Officer from Indonesia, who is in Australia for six months to gain experience in social services.

It was reported that the ACC office had sent a letter to Qantas, authorizing Mrs. Badger's fare to Tokyo.

- c) Observer: A letter had been received from The Rev. Winifred Kiek; also a letter from the Women's United Church Association of Sth. Aust. Appreciation was expressed for enquiries which were being made concerning accommodation, and the expression of Mrs. Kiek's continued interest in the Tokyo Conference.

As no reply had been received from the Asian Church Women's Conference, it was agreed that we should write again, asking for an early reply, to be followed, if necessary, by a cable.

Study Book

It was reported that the Rev. A. Dougan had written an Introduction and two Studies.

The appreciation of the Working Committee was expressed concerning this.

It was proposed by Mrs. Dougan that she invite some ladies from St. Stephen's Church to join with Mrs. Wyllie, Mrs. Dey and herself to 'try out' the studies, Mr. Dougan being present to assess reaction.

It was agreed that this be done, and a report be brought to the next meeting.

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Mrs. D. Thomson has been appointed State Convener for South Australia.

State Units in South Australia and Western Australia would like further information concerning the Fellowship of the Least Coin, including uses to which the 'coins' are put.

It was agreed that request be made of the National Convener, Mrs. S.M. Barrett, that thought be given to the production of a new Information Leaflet, which would include some information concerning Australian participation in the Fellowship of the Least Coin.

ACW NEWS:

See Minutes -

- Page 1 - Correspondence (a) 2
- 2 - Correspondence (e) 1 & 4
- 3 - Fellowship Day
- 4 - 3rd Asian Church Women's Conference (b)

Recent appointments -

Canberra Church Women: President - Mrs. R. Burmester  
N.S.W. Women's Inter-Church Council: President - Mrs. D.G. Badger  
Women's United Church Association of Sth. Aust.: -State Convener  
for Fellowship of the Least Coin - Mrs. D. Thomson.

After discussion, it was resolved that Mrs. A.G. Ralph be asked to accept responsibility for gathering ACW News and being the link between the Working Committee and Mr. Vaughan Hinton, and others as the need arises.

Mrs. Ralph agreed to do this - Mr. Hinton to be advised of this arrangement.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The date of the next meeting will be Wednesday, June 29th, at 10a.m.

CLOSING:

The meeting closed with prayer led by Mrs. Wyllie.

CONFIRMED

DATE

Mrs. A.G. Ralph  
29. 6. 66.