

NOTES FROM BUSINESS MEETING

APW CONFERENCE 1 – 3 MAY 2009

SESSION 1

Rt. Rev. Dr Graham Redding, Moderator of General Assembly of Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, was welcomed to the chair. He referred to Chaplain Sharon Ensor's reference to creating space and added that we are not to be just making space for ourselves, but for God and for one another.

Long-serving members of APW who have died in the past couple of weeks were –

Helen Burney	Manawatu
Betty Buchanan	Ashburton
Valmai Ridler	Bay of Plenty

The Moderator led us in a prayer of thanks for these three women.

STANDING ORDERS

A summary was printed in the blue conference booklet. That Standing Orders be adopted moved Heather Tate/Jill Little.

VOTING REPRESENTATION

Delegates were issued with orange and blue cards, to be used when requested by the Moderator.

Whakatane Presbyterial had asked that Catherine Hollister-Jones be proxy for their vote.

There were 56 voting members – 57 with Catherine as above.

Scrutineers	Pamela Tankersley and Sharon Ensor
Timekeeper	Anne Harris

APOLOGIES

Rev Andrew Bell, Mary North, Lois Robertson, Helen Nixon, Julia Buckingham, Margaret McGregor, Jane Prichard, Allison Kidd.

CONFERENCE REMITS

1. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Recommendation 1.

Where there is no Parish Branch in a region, a member of the Presbyterian Church or Uniting/Cooperating Congregation with a Presbyterian component may become an Individual Member of the APW, by application to the NCG, and hold voting rights at the Presbyterial and the National Business Meetings with this status.

Recommendation 2.

That the NCG be given permission to update the APW Constitution/Guidelines to include

- (a) Status of Individual Members (as in Recommendation 1)
- (b) Responsibilities relating to finance and business in order to facilitate compliance with the Charities Act (2005)

That recommendations 1 and 2 be received moved Jocelyn Hannay/Mary McIntyre. Agreed.

Amendment to recommendation 2 – Charities Act **2008**, not **2005**.

Porirua PIC asked how individual members are going to be supporting APW in relation to fees, projects etc.

Reply – individual members can pay their fee of \$6 direct to the national treasurer or to their parish treasurer, and it will be sent onto the NCG. **Individual Membership** recommendations 1 and 2 agreed.

List of associates to the Conference were read out. Moved and seconded that they be associated. Agreed.

Apologies were read out. Moved and seconded that they be sustained. Agreed.

Minutes of the triennial Conference in Christchurch, 21- 23 April 2006, having been circulated, were taken as read and received. Moved Jill Little, seconded and Agreed

Minutes of Business Meeting in Wellington of 19 May 2007 were taken as read and received. Moved Jill Little, seconded Marjorie Empson. Agreed.

Confirmation of NCG members –	Marjorie Empson	July 2007
	Jocelyn Hannay	October 2007
	Rae Simpson	March 2008
	Lois Diaper	March 2008

Moved Heather Tate/Mary McIntyre. Agreed.

Presentation of NCG Reports –

National Convenor, Heather Tate added that **this is our 45th birthday as APW**. Forerunners were PWMU and Ladies' Missionary Society. She expressed appreciation of Nan Burgess' "Braided River of Faith" publications, and a wish to work more with the PI women. There are also a lot of women over 50 who we need to support. Perhaps a need to restructure APW meetings to include women unable to attend afternoon meetings. What challenges do we have in our communities? What skills can we offer in our communities? What about working with immigrants? We need to be peace makers – support of NCW in combating domestic violence.

Nan Burgess commented that by the time APW is 50 there will be a public history of women's ministry in PCANZ.

Deputy Convenor, Marjorie Empson – her key word was "God-nudge".

United Nations, Mary McIntyre drew attention to the final paragraph of the report and explained about church input at UN. It is a faith based input rather than just a Christian input.

The Moderator thanked NCG for all the pioneering work and especially advocacy done by APW over the years.

Missions Report, Rae Simpson, advised the next project is to be for youth leadership and making the world a better place for young people. Mission is working for the good of people, and APW works with CWS and the Global Mission Office, as well as other groups. She advised that where insufficient money has been received to pay the TMGC bursaries, a top up to nearly \$4000 has been made from Mission Birthday Gift money.

Resources, Lois Diaper advised that three programmes have been produced with a good response. Most programmes are sent by e-mail. The programmes on the resource table were being sold at a 'bargain price', with the proceeds to be added to the conference offering.

Communication, Lafulafu Ekanasio appealed for email addresses, and encouraged members to have a look at the website. She thanked Nan Burgess and the *Gleanings* committee, and advised that old copies of *Gleanings* are available on the website. That the reports be received en bloc moved Heather Tate/Jill Little. Agreed.

SESSION 2

The meeting was reconstituted with prayer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jocelyn expressed thanks from NCG for parishes collecting funds for mission on behalf of the National church. She had good news and bad news – the good news is that the affiliation fee is to remain at \$6 per member; the bad news is the serious drop in interest rates – recent reinvestment dropped from 9% to 4.5%. She advised that the close off date for the special project is now 15 September. Moved Jocelyn Hannay/Heather Tate. Agreed.

The accounts were presented and their adoption moved Jocelyn Hannay/Jean Allen. Agreed.
That the auditors be reappointed for the coming year moved Jocelyn Hannay/Mary McIntyre. Agreed.

REMIT NO 2 TARANAKI APW/MWF

'That APW/MWF concentrate on ONE Special Project Theme per year, with the emphasis alternating annually between Overseas and NZ Special Projects'.

Explanation:

1. The time-limit for focus on our Projects is limited to approximately 8 months with Christmas breaks in between (ie the September launch until May when Project Monies are expected to be paid) – making it difficult to do justice to 2 Themes.
2. The duplicity of focus causes confusion as to which interest is being covered.
3. A feeling of 'competition' between the 2 nominated themes.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF COMBINED TARANAKI APW/MWF

Suggestion that groups be able to choose which project they support. Some parishes already are doing this. **Joyce Wallace**, Knox Christchurch expressed disappointment in the choice of some projects, eg the deaf, as felt such people already have considerable support. **Leatrice McIntyre**, Christchurch, suggested the money should go to the special project as a whole. **Gwen Stoneley**, Manawatu, reminded that the closing date is now September. **Rae Simpson**, convenor Missions Department, suggested that some parishes are only supporting one part of the project. **Natalie Watkin**, Auckland said there had been the occasional request in the past for one part of the project to be supported, but it had not been allowed to happen. The project as a whole should be supported. **Mary Gibbs**, St John's in the City, Wellington said we need to think carefully about long term ramifications of this remit. Reminder that the very important aim of the APW is mission, both in NZ and overseas. **Naomi**, Porirua, said the Porirua Women's Fellowship always send their money for wherever it is needed. **Lynne Milne** said her parish had discussed this quite extensively – needs in NZ as well as overseas. Perhaps Presbyterian Support could give direction towards special needs. The motion was **Lost**.

REMIT NO 3 NATIONAL COORDINATING GROUP

That the Women's Study Grant be known as the APW Study Grant, Diana Croft Memorial.

Rational: Diane was passionate that women should have opportunity for study, and while National Treasurer, she recognised that there was money which could assist. Through the APW National Coordinating Group, she organised the setting up of the Fund.

Nan Burgess asked where does the money for the study grant come from? **Gwen Stoneley** supported Nan's question. **PIC Porirua** also supported Nan, but asked how often the grant is given and who the recipients are. The reply was that an annual study grant is available to any Presbyterian woman taking Christian training. **Wellington Presbyterial** asked how long ago the study grant started. The reply was 2007. **Helen Grimwood, Katikati** said that Diane was passionate about helping young Christian women.

The motion was moved Rae Simpson/Natalie Watkin and was lost. (56/31)

REMITTS 4, 5, 6 NATIONAL COORDINATING GROUP

4. *Gleanings*

1. That the *Gleanings* be enlarged three times a year to include two A4 sides for the purpose of NCG business and NCG members' contact details

Rational:

This will provide the opportunity for NCG news and reports to be included with the *Gleanings* at regular intervals.

In addition the larger, coloured *Gleanings* will continue to be published once a year.

Members have expressed some frustration at not knowing the contact details of the NCG. Agreeing to this remit will mean contacts will be published more frequently.

Nan Burgess – possibly a separate letter could go out, but is it necessary? **Isabel Morgan** – a list has been published three times each year. Do we need more paper? **Jan Veitch** said that *Gleanings* is not meant to be a full news document (Gleanings = bits and pieces). **Heather Tate** said the publication is now much smaller than previously, so it is difficult to always communicate news. A larger publication three times a year would be a big help. Moved Lafulafu/Lois Diaper.

5. That the position of the *Gleanings* Editor and Committee rotate around the regions and serve no more than four years at any one term.

Rationale:

Defining the length of tenure allows the Editor and Committee to know the expectations of the organisation.

The rotation around the regions allows other members to serve and contribute their talents.

Nan Burgess said it was clearly stated in the Christchurch conference that the *Gleanings* committee and editor understood that their three year stint would be finished and new people should be appointed. It does not need to be voted on, but should be recorded.

6. That in the appointment of a new editor for the *Gleanings*, the NCG may receive expressions of interest or approach members from other Presbyterians and/or regions.

Remit 4 Moved Lafulafu Ekenasio/Jan Veitch. Agreed.

Moved Lafulafu Ekenasio/Jan Veitch that it is now not necessary for a vote on **Remits 5 and 6** and they should be withdrawn. Agreed.

REMIT NO 7 NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING GROUP

Hospital Chaplaincy.

That APW write to the Prime Minister and Minister of Health requesting that Government funding for Hospital Chaplaincy be urgently reassessed. increased.

Rationale:

Hospital Chaplains are on 24-hour call ministering to the needs of all patients and their families, as well as hospital staff.

With specialist treatment centralised many people are away from their homes and family support for considerable time.

Defence and Prison Chaplains are 100% funded by the Government and yet the Hospital Chaplains, catering for more people, receive considerably less Government funding.

Heather Tate – if we have a cause, it is regardless of economic times. Perhaps 'Reassessed' is not a good choice of wording – could be reassessed downwards! Perhaps use the word 'increased' instead. There has been an increase in Government funding, though not a lot. **Margaret Sinclair-Jones** said the last increase was not a general increase, but calculated on the number of beds.

An Amendment was accepted.

That after consultation with the Council of the Inter Church Hospital Chaplaincy the NCG write to the Prime Minister and Minister of Health requesting an increase in Government funding for Hospital Chaplaincy.

GENERAL BUSINESS

It is now a lot more difficult to coordinate the Student Support Scheme from Dunedin and it has now been handed over to parishes and presbyteries. There has been a final letter from Carol Pirie and Elizabeth Peterson, and a letter of thanks to be sent to them. Moved Nan Burgess/Enid Waters. Agreed.

Wanganui Presbyterian would like suggestions of new ways to support the students. There is a fear that the scheme might lapse if something is not done soon. NCG help requested. Reply is that the Registrar at Knox Centre would put parishes in touch with appropriate students.

Norma Oliver, Mairangi Bay, North Shore spoke about “fish and chip babies” and told of knitted garments sent to a Kenya Catholic Hospital for HIV babies.

Jan Thomson, Manawatu, brought information to the Conference about the current position of TMGC and the urgent need for funding and other support if the College is to remain open.

Motion from the floor:

Moved Jan Veitch/Jan Thomson

That the National Coordinating Group initiate a Special Project within the whole PCANZ to obtain funds to increase the number of scholarships and refurbish the hostels at Turakina Maori Girls' College.

The Motion was CARRIED.