

A THIRD WAY ?

From a Presbyterian Women's Organisation to A Women's Ministry in Aotearoa New Zealand.

A TRANSITION structure 2015-2016

This proposal considers a transition structure that will move from the old way to a different way for Presbyterian women. It provides an opportunity for a Coordinator/ Spiritual Leader, and a Paid Position in Administration/ Finance from the younger generation to begin moving PW from an organization to a new women's movement.

Rationale

It is now of the highest priority to engage the next generation and allow them to build a Women's ministry that includes their way of sharing and witnessing their Christian faith, their way of serving, their way of being women with the challenges of global empowerment, gender equality and their response to extreme poverty in the world and the desire for sustainable economic and social development for everyone.

Recent History

During 2006 through 2009 APW groups were decreasing but were encouraged to continue to fellowship together

2008 - An APW Survey: *Striving Towards a Thriving Organization of Presbyterian Women for the 21st Century*

It was concluded that APW seek opportunities to communicate APW issues to a broader range of Presbyterian Women. To improve access to the PCANZ website, seek recognition by PCANZ leadership, raise awareness with women clergy and encourage individual APW membership.

APW groups have continued to decrease.

2011 PWANZ Conference in Christchurch – a new name with a focus on attracting younger women.

2013 February, A Consultative Workshop, Seatoun, Wellington. “ The Way Forward for Presbyterian Women , Aotearoa New Zealand”.

‘The young women were very interested but didn't want this to be just another group as they wanted to be able to unpack their faith, to enable each other to grow.....The young women recognized that it was difficult to fit new wine into old wine skins. They valued the wisdom of the older generation and wanted to be part of an intergenerational group but discovered there were gatekeepers.’

(Gleanings No. 66 March/ April 2013)

There was concern of how to bring this group into the lifestyle of the young.

2013 May “A Way Forward” a paper by Nola Stuart presented to the PWANZ National Business Conference, Wellington.

This excellent paper paid special tribute to the outstanding contribution made by Presbyterian women first with PWMU and then Association of Presbyterian Women. However the paper suggested we needed to explore further a new future. Women in the 25- 50 year old age group have a style that is different and does not fit with the present PW model. It was concluded that it was now a time for “new beginnings” a transition time with a detailed structure of moving forward with Taonga/ Treasures being handed over to the next generation.

2014 -2015 Some structural changes in the organization have been made.

A paid Administrator was appointed for one year and NCG was elected for one year. These have been extended for a second year.

Recently the P&A has been discontinued and the NCG now meets as one decision making body.

Two proposals are now on the table for discussion.

1. A new PWANZ structure has been proposed for the September 2015 National Business meeting.

2. A Notice of Motion has been received to have PWANZ wound up as soon as possible.

Is there A Third Way ?

Can we move forward to enable a Women’s Ministry/Movement to emerge?

A proposed Transition structure for the coming year:-

Coordinator / Spiritual Leader / Media Convener

**Administration/ Finance
(20 hours per week paid position)**

Mission

United Nations

A Coordinator /Spiritual Leader (a voluntary position)

For the transition to succeed there needs to be a LEADER. This position must be filled by a younger woman, a dynamic spiritual leader, able to make a Christian witness in the world, in the home, community and Church. A mission - oriented woman with the vision to lead and enable a new movement of women in the Presbyterian Church. This role would include seeking the interests and needs of the women through face-to-face meetings and various electronic media, e.g. Facebook.

A paid worker for Administration and Finance (20 hours per week.)

It is recommended that the task of managing finances be included in the portfolio of this current position.

With the introduction of a coordinator's/leaders role, the Administrator's paid position could now allow the management of finances to be included.

Over the next 12-15 months the Transition Team would :-

- *Review all finances. Make a priority the suggestion of an annual subscription/donation to all PCANZ churches and cooperative ventures to support a vibrant Women's Ministry (an excellent suggestion from the NCG.)*

***CWM (Council for World Mission) has generously provided a \$10,000 grant (August 2015) to enable capacity development for women in PCANZ to be used over the next 12 months.**

- *Empower all women in PCANZ by giving the highest priority to a Women's Ministry Conference in 12 months time. The conference could be modelled on the style of Connect (PCANZ Youth Conference) with inspiring worship teams, two keynote speakers, workshops and prayer ministry. The conference would be led by a new generation of women and include their interests, passions and learning needs. This CWM funding will enable the Coordinator to lead a team to make it happen.*
- *Alternatively, the Co ordinator could be funded for a Roadshow to tour the regions over the first six months and meet up with gatherings of younger women. There would be the opportunity for dialogue to discover what a Women's Ministry may look like and discern whether the PCANZ should include Women's Ministry alongside Kids Friendly and Youth Ministry. The General Assembly meets in October 2016.*

- ***Complete the 2015-16 Special Project. Then transition to a new and different role where a Women's ministry could assist Global Mission by promoting mission projects and encouraging parishes in nation-wide fundraising.*** Mission Birthday Gift fund and Used Stamp fund may continue as popular ways for parishes to raise mission funds.
- ***Continue to fund a representative to participate in CSW at the United Nations and provide feedback throughout the PCANZ. Maintain links to NCWNZ***
- ***The coordinator would build a team to initiate a media strategy around a Women's Ministry including Facebook; PCANZ website by creating links specifically to women in PI, Maori and Asian Ministries; SPANZ and Presbytery Newsletters.***
- ***Ensure that the continuation of groups of Presbyterian Women in parishes or presbyterials would be of their own choice. There is no suggestion in this proposal that groups of Presbyterian /Cooperating women or regions of Presbyterian women should stop meeting together.*** Any funds held by presbyterials/groups would need to be discussed by them and decisions made. ***Continue relationships with Methodist women as desired.***
- ***Recommend that at the Women's conference there be an opportunity for – a time of THANKSGIVING, proudly celebrating the past achievements of Presbyterian Women (PWMU and APW) and praying for God's abundant BLESSINGS on a new generation of women.***

A proposal contributed by: Pamela Tankersley, Nola Stuart, Jill Little and Heather Tate.