

DIGEST OF THE MINUTES OF THE DEACONESS ASSOCIATION.

First Business Session  
Monday, August 29, 1955.

Ruby Brown Presiding.

OPENING Prayer by Stella Burry opened the meeting.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The following is a summary.

Mrs. Champion expressed her sincere thanks for the B.A. Hood presented to her by the Executive.

Her report contained a few statistics and a number of "concerns".

- two Deaconesses were married last year and three this;
- in 1954, 14 joined the Deaconess Order and in 1955, five new members were added;
- one had been awarded the Kaufman Scholarship in 1953 and one in 1955;
- two had retired from active service and many transfers had been arranged.

The Concerns were -

- How to make membership in the Deaconess Order more meaningful.
- How to keep the ill members from feeling lonely and neglected.
- How to make possible a furlough year for Deaconesses.
- How to be of more practical help to the individual Deaconess.
- How to increase the balance in the Deaconess Emergency Fund so that there would be more interest money available for grants.
- How to better interpret to the Church the contribution of Deaconesses.

Mrs. Champion explained about Government receipts for Deaconess Pension Payments claimed as deductions for income tax purposes, and offered to send to each Deaconess a statement showing the total amount paid by her for the current year to the Pension Fund; she in turn to present the statement to the person issuing the T. 4 forms, that the amount might be noted thereon.

In closing Mrs. Champion thanked the Executive members for their splendid cooperation and support.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE

Mary Urquhart presented a detailed report of the 16 meetings of the Executive since last Conference.

Two annual one day retreats were held at Metropolitan Church, Toronto,  
- one in 1953 with Mdle. Suzanne de Dietrich  
and - one in 1954 with Sister Dorothy Farrar, principal of the  
Methodist Deaconess Training College, Ilkley, England.

In 1953 an experiment of morning meetings for Deaconesses in specific types of work was tried. For two winters a group of congregational workers has met regularly. As a result of the frequent calls for relief all had, their study turned to the unemployment situation. To several meetings the ministers and downtown church workers of other denominations were invited. Statistical information was assembled to present to the municipal Government with request for action.

Members of the Executive were hostesses on three occasions to the staff and students of the United Church Training School for Sunday tea.

Copies of "The Imitation of Christ" were presented to those designated in 1954 and 1955.

The Executive sent a Deaconess representative to the World Conference of Social Workers meeting in Toronto in 1954.

The following steps have been taken to deepen the fellowship of the Deaconess Order.

- Official identity cards were prepared and sent out by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Executive.
- Greeting cards went to members on their birthdays.
- Prayer Partners arranged.
- Possibility of Prayer calendar being explored.

The questions referred to the Executive by the 14th National Conference were discussed. Recommendations for discussion at this Conference were prepared.

The Secretary was commended for her comprehensive report which was adopted on motion of Mary Urquhart and seconded by Sarah James.

#### THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was adopted on motion of Helen Sibbald and seconded by Ruth Glanville.

It was MOVED BY Ruth Simpson and seconded by Phyllis Sykes that the Deaconess Association authorize a grant not exceeding \$50.00 to the Conference fund if required.

CARRIED.

Meeting adjourned.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION  
Tuesday, August 30, 1955.

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Ruby Brown Presiding.

OPENING Prayer by Alison Andrews opened the meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE -

Recommendations from the Executive were considered and the following action taken -

It was MOVED BY Mary Urquhart and seconded by Helen Sibbald that in their study of the Constitution the Committee on the Deaconess Order be requested to make provision for special consideration of the total qualifications of an applicant for admission to the Order before she is rejected on basis of a medical report.

CARRIED.

It was MOVED BY Margery Stelck and seconded by Ruth Simpson that the basis on which Deaconesses of other churches may be admitted to our Order be referred back to the Executive for study and action.

CARRIED.

It was MOVED BY Helen Sibbald and seconded by Sarah James that no fees be collected from retired Deaconesses but that upon retirement they become honorary members of the Association.

CARRIED.

It was MOVED BY Sara Harrison and seconded by Dorothy Young that Deaconesses serving overseas pay fees only for furlough year.

CARRIED.

It was MOVED BY Phyllis Sykes and seconded by Marvel Clapham that the Executive Committee consider how provision may be made for some recognition of a Deaconess upon her retirement.

CARRIED.

It was MOVED BY Mary Urquhart and seconded by Phyllis Sykes that the recommendation of Executive that our Association join "Diakonia", the international Deaconess organization, be endorsed.

CARRIED.

It was MOVED BY Dorothy Young and seconded by Margaret Brown that the question of short-term exchange between Deaconesses of our church and other churches be referred back to the Executive for study and action.

CARRIED.

PRAYER PARTNERS -

It was MOVED BY Sara Harrison and seconded by Margaret Brown that the preparation of a prayer calendar based on type of work be referred to the Executive for study and action.

CARRIED.

It was MOVED BY Margarete Emminghaus and seconded by Etta Hart that last year's list of prayer partners be revised and sent to members of the Order.

CARRIED.

It was MOVED BY Dorothy Young and seconded by Marvel Clapham that the National Executive study the possibility of providing a common discipline of prayer and bible study and present their findings to the Association for consideration at the next conference.

CARRIED.

Mrs. Campion took the chair for the election of officers.

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Miss Marvel Clapham.

President -----	Ruby Brown
Vice-President-----	Marvel A. Clapham
	Esther Highfield
Secretary -----	Margery Stelck
Corres. Secretary ----	Mary Urquhart
Treasurer -----	Mary Mercer
Barbara House Committee -----	Helen Sibbald
	Etta Hart
Board of Management United Church	
Training School -----	Eleanor Gamble
Cemetery Committee -----	Helen Struthers
	Grace Sykes
The Committee on the Deaconess	
Order and Women Workers -----	Ruby Brown
	Marvel Clapham

It was MOVED BY Marvel Clapham and seconded by Sara Harrison that the report be received.

CARRIED.

No further nominations were made from the floor. The secretary was asked to cast a ballot for the above named.

Mrs. Campion welcomed Ruby Brown to the chair and expressed the thanks of all that she had agreed to accept the responsibility of this office.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. on the motion of Louise Cox.