

The United Church of Canada

RECORD *of*
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
TWENTIETH
GENERAL COUNCIL

September, 1962

METROPOLITAN UNITED CHURCH
LONDON, ONTARIO

ISSUED BY

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

GENERAL COUNCIL OFFICE

85 ST. CLAIR AVENUE EAST

TORONTO 7, ONTARIO

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY
THE FUNCTION AND FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE ON
THE DEACONESS ORDER AND WOMEN WORKERS

(Page 65)

The present Committee on the Deaconess Order and Women Workers is responsible directly to the General Council or its executive and has duties outlined in *The Manual*, 1960, section 356. These may be summarized under three major headings:

(1) The recruitment, guidance and subsequent recommendation for designation of candidates for the Deaconess Order, and the supervision of members of the Deaconess Order.

(2) The maintenance of fellowship among Deaconesses and other professional Women Workers in full-time service of the United Church other than through the ordained Ministry.

(3) The administration of three Trust Funds and certain properties:

(a) The Deaconess Rest and Relief Fund, carried over from the Methodist Church and steadily diminishing in assets and responsibilities.

(b) The Deaconess Emergency Fund, the interest from which is used for both compassionate and study grants.

(c) The Kaufman House Fund, created by the sale of property in Cheltenham which had been bequeathed to the Committee and the objectives of which are not as yet established.

(d) The Barbara House Club, a self-supporting residence for women in Toronto.

It is the hope of the Committee on the Deaconess Order and Women Workers that the 1962 General Council will authorize steps which will eventually bring the Deaconess under the authority of the Presbytery, relate her placement to the Settlement Committee and the Transfer Committee, and accord her the right of membership in Presbytery as a Deaconess. These developments have necessitated study of the future role of the Committee on the Deaconess Order and Women Workers since such actions by General Council would lead to the removal from the Committee of a major area of its present function.

If the anticipated changes are authorized by the Presbyteries and action is taken by the Executive of the General Council to implement these changes, this committee recommends that:

1. The Committee on the Deaconess Order and Women Workers as it now exists be dissolved as of December 31, 1962, and that an Interim Committee be established to:

(a) Give guidance and direction to the transference of authority and responsibility for guidance and eventually recommendation for designation to the Board of Colleges and Secondary Schools, such transfer to be effected by or about the end of the 1963 Conference Year.

(b) Hold responsibility for present Deaconesses until such time as their future relationship with Presbytery is realized and their supervision is turned over to the Transfer Committee and Settlement Committee.

(c) Study the administration and use of:

i. The Deaconess Emergency Fund in the light of the existence of other funds established under different auspices but for similar purposes, namely, the National Fellowship Bequest Fund and the Alumnae Fund of the United Church Training School; and

ii. the Kaufman House Fund

iii. The Barbara House Club.

2. The Deaconess Rest and Relief Fund be transferred to the Board of Finance through the Department of Pensions.

3. We further recommend that if the 1962 General Council fails to authorize the necessary remit or remits anticipated in the above mentioned changes, or if the Presbyteries fail to authorize the amendments to the Basis of Union involved in the remits, the Committee be authorized to study the resultant situation and recommend suitable action to the General Council or its executive.

FRANK BRISBIN,
Chairman.

Special Committee on the Deaconess Order

The Rev. F. G. Brisbin presented the report of the Committee appointed to study the function and future of the Committee on the Deaconess Order and Women Workers. (Page 255)

It was moved, seconded and agreed, that Recommendations 1 and 2 be adopted.

It was moved, seconded and agreed, that Recommendation 3 be adopted with the provision that the committee mentioned be the interim committee provided for in Recommendation 1.

It was moved, seconded and agreed, that the report as a whole be adopted.