



Fellowship
of the
Least Coin

**MESSAGES
& REPORTS
2020**

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Message from the ICFLC Chairperson

Dear Sisters,

How is your Lent going so far? Is there something that you've committed to giving up for 40 days?

When I was in my teens and early twenties, Lent meant restrictions. It was a season of giving up something that I really loved so that whenever I thought of it I would instead think about God. For one year, I gave up rice. In another year, I gave up chocolate. In another year, I gave up soft drinks. In another year, I gave up Korean dramas. It was hard to give these things up. Sometimes, I was able to go a full 40 days without them. Other times, I stumbled and had to start and re-start my Lent.

But for the past few years, I've been trying to journey through Lent in a different way. Rather than giving something up, I've decided to take something on. Last year, I committed to giving part of my lunch to anyone on the street with their hand out. This meant making sure I always packed a lunch and then stopping, saying hi to the person, and offering a sandwich or piece of fruit to them. This year, I committed to generosity in another way – by giving people that I know and don't know the benefit of the doubt. This means not jumping to conclusions when someone has a different opinion than me or reacting negatively when I hear criticism. For 40 days, I've committed to praying before difficult conversations. For 40 days, I've committed to pausing, noticing how I'm feeling, and responding with curiosity and patience. This means breathing in and out before I speak, answer an email, or reply to a Facebook comment that would normally frustrate me.

This means wondering what a person means and really trying to understand them rather than assuming I know what they mean and assuming that it's negative.

This is what I'm taking on for Lent this year to remind me that everyone is a beloved child of God. Similarly, as you read the Messages & Reports, I hope you will see how the Fellowship of the Least Coin movement treats all women and girls as beloved children of God. More importantly, I hope you will feel how beloved you are as a participant, leader, and change-maker in this movement for justice, peace, and reconciliation for all.

With love and sisterhood,

Awit Marcelino

AWIT MARCELINO

ICFLC Chairperson



Introduction

The effort to share with you what the FLC is doing through this Messages and Reports (M&R 2020) is an important gesture of keeping our connection and accountability to each other, and especially to God. There is always joy in knowing that we are working together to keep this movement vibrant and relevant. Through this document, we are inscribing our story through time and space, by keeping written records of our plans and experiences.

So please take time to read, and perhaps, be blessed in learning that we really are actively participating in God's project of making this world a place where justice and peace reign.

Any idea or query that you may have arising from this document is most welcome. Do let us hear from you!

Wherever you are and whenever, always remember that we are companions to each other in actively praying for justice, peace and reconciliation.

DR. LIZA B. LAMIS
Executive Secretary

*“Go up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news!
Lift up your voice in strength, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news! Lift
up your voice, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah,
‘Behold your God!’*

- Isaiah 40:9



Report of the Executive Secretary

to the 39th AM, ICFLC,
October 12-18, 2019, Accra, GHANA

INTRODUCTION

I am into the second year of my five-year term and I feel that I am now familiar with the pacing and phasing of office and yearly routine of the work. With the opportunities to touch ground with the local women's groups, I am learning more about our ecumenical women, and all the attending challenges that our times bring. Thus I raise some questions and/or reflections that need not be responded to soon, but they need more serious imagination and mulling over.

This report covers three areas, namely: Communicating the FLC; Administrative Work; and, some Recommendations.

I. COMMUNICATING THE FLC (liaison and promotion work, in cooperation with the ICFLC, Publications)

Every venue presenting itself as opportunity to promote the FLC as a prayer movement is taken, locally and globally. Locally I was able to share or explain or respond to queries about the FLC to:

Ecumenical CWU Philippines National Assembly, November 17, 2018, ECP, Quezon City, where I responded to queries about the FLC.

ECWUP World Day of Prayer Service, Quezon City, March 2, 2019, where I was asked to share about the FLC.

On this same date, I paid a courtesy visit to the Women's Ministries of the Salvation Army –Philippine Territory head, Col. Elsa Oalang. I brought her FLC materials and the FLC wall décor that now hangs in her office. TSA had been inactive in the CWUP for some years in the Philippines and now they are becoming more visible.

UMC WSCS World Day of Prayer Service, Manila, March 23, 2019, where I facilitated a Biblico-theological reflection on the WDP theme.

Installation of the first woman bishop of the Philippine Independent Church (IFI), May 5, 2019, in Batac City, Ilocos Sur.

United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) National Founding Celebration, UTS, May 25, 2019. I gave greetings and said a prayer for the UCCP. The FLC is recognized as a partner in mission of the UCCP.

Lecture on Human Sexuality and Gender to the “Do No Harm: Prevention of and Response to Sexual Misconduct – A UMC Sexual Ethics Trainer’s Training for Philippine Central Conference of the UMC, June 24, sponsored by the UMC General Commission on the Status and Role of Women. This was an opportunity to promote the FLC to participants composed of Bishops, chairs of the Board of Ordained Ministry and the UMC Women.

On the international level:

ACWC Executive Committee Meeting, April 07 – 11, 2019, Chiang Mai, Thailand. As an ex-officio member of the ACWC General and Executive Committees, I attend these meetings to help Asian church women strengthen their ministries. The FLC is one of the major mission ministries that the ACWC embraced in the late 1950s.

United Church of Christ in Japan (KYODAN) National Federation of KYODAN Women’s Societies 50th Anniversary, June 6 – 08, 2019, Chiba, Japan, that happens once in ten years. I gave greetings and participated in the global solidarity group session, where I shared a small story about the reception of Filipinos of Japan 10 years after WW2. An older woman with disability came up and thank me for sharing about that small story Filipino women. I think our Japanese sisters are very committed in seeking justice and reconciliation after Japan inflicted so much harm in Asia during WW II by faithfully and seriously living out the spirit of the FLC.

Promotion at Women (WoW) on Wednesdays of Kobe Union Church, Japan, June 12, 2019. KUC is an expat church that immediately responded to the FLC challenge by collecting their Least Coins on that Wednesday I shared about the FLC. They find the concept of praying and knowing more about the world beyond them interesting and very unique.

Australian Church Women, 27th National Conference, 09 – 12 September 2019, Brisbane, Australia.

The Australian women were very flattered to be the first to see the 2018 Project Grants report. They asked a copy in ppt for sharing in their fellowship services which happen this October in all over Australia with the different Units. They are as well happy to see a 'face' of the FLC!

Let me share that there is a feeling that ACW is ageing and getting smaller. Getting the younger women to be part of ACW is a challenge, as anywhere. However, let us note that we have a young woman at her mid-thirties Chairperson in our midst. We deliberately do steps to bring in younger women in our midst, like having 3 local young women with us in this AM. We have a younger set of leaders and members in the Ecumenical CWU Philippines, and most of them are professionals. What is it that would bring in younger women to our church women's organizations?

At the ACW, someone responded to this question by saying that we (ACW) have not talked in this conference about issues that matter to the younger generation and to the wider world, like refugees and migration, poverty, violence against women, religious fundamentalism. How can we expect the younger ones to be interested?

I met Vala Palu, former ICFLC Chair, in Sydney, on Sept. 2. We had conversations about the ICFLC, and I connected her with the ACW NSW Unit, to help strengthen the group. My host in Sydney was a Baptist, Martha Noel, and when I arrived that Sunday, I was supposed to give a short greeting at the Concord Baptist Church where Martha and her husband David go to worship. I arrived late but I was able to talk to the local church women, where I was connected to a young Australian woman missionary named Christine, now assigned to Peru as a missionary family with her husband and children, connected her with CLAI thru Cecilia, to help her find ecumenical women friends in Peru.

After church I met Sr. Julie Anne Adlawan of the Missionaries of God's Love congregation, of the Rise Up Project in Gowrie Court for homeless people, a 2018 PG partner in Canberra. It is good to see face-to-face some of our PG partners whenever possible. Sr. Julie asked me if they could involve the men as well in their project. They could not turn

away the homeless men, and they are struggling very hard with the people they help.

I share about this meeting with Sr. Julie to the ACW when I had my FLC presentation, and the women from New South Wales Unit confirmed that the congregation is doing a great work with the displaced people; and that helping displaced people find resources for daily living is a big challenge. The Sisters are known to have always assured the people they help that “God always provides.” So far, they have never been wanting in helping provide the people.

Sr. Julie was profusely thankful for the PG support, because according to her, it is a significant help for them. Thinking to myself how small the amount is, we truly cannot underestimate how much this small amount of PG fund we are giving to accompany our prayers, mean to the needy people on the ground. I feel sad that we may have to reduce the PG amount again.

I feel that it is also a gift to be gracious in receiving thanks from our partners, and to be amazed at how prayer works, and how small things could do great in people’s lives.

Connecting people and groups is another way of strengthening the FLC movement. I think we just need to be more conscious in doing this.

Publications and Promotion

We keep our website updated, as well as the FB page. I notice a livelier engagement than last year through FB and Messenger, through more queries coming for example, about the In-gathering liturgy.

The Circle of Prayer Vol. 25 that comes out in 2020 has 26 reflections already received. Not all will see print, but they will be posted on the website. I encouraged some writers to write in their language but nobody did! I believe we have a good turnout of reflections from around the world, with all the areas we want covered with a reflection or two.

Sometimes I wonder how are you – as ICFLC members - personally using the CoP booklet. The reflections are edifying and bringing joy that I get to connect with women around the world.

II. ADMINISTRATION

Completing the International Committee members around the FLC Table

This year 2019, we are supposed to be complete with the representations from the Caribbean, the Pacific and from the WCC.

Deaconess Temalesi Makutu was appointed by the Pacific Conference of Churches as its ICFLC representative. Tema, as she is fondly called, is the Vice Moderator of the PCC.

Rev. Nicole Ashwood was finally appointed as Program Executive of the WCC Just Communities of Women and Men.

Praise God for Nicole and Tema, we are almost complete!

I did my best to connect with Dr. Linda Banks, former Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) representative to the ICFLC, to find out about the status of CCC with regards to the FLC, with no progress. Thus I requested the help of Rev. Nicole as someone coming from the Caribbean herself, about who to connect with. It was suggested we could possibly work with the Caribbean Women for Theology and Transformation (CWTT), to be represented by Rev. Marvia Lawes, its Co-coordinator.

Two months ago, I was very sure the representation is complete. But due to care responsibilities of her ailing mother, Marvia is unable to come to this meeting. Perhaps in the year 2020 AM we will be complete, and able to officially welcome and accept the CWTT as ICFLC member.

THE FLC GRANTS

Project Grants

There was a long delay this year 2019 in PG payments from the end of our Funds steward, the WCC, and because of that the office was deluded with emails (some of them nasty) inquiring about the late payments to which I gladly replied to apologetically, and with request to be patient with and to pray for WCC for its work overload.

Three (3) PGs were postponed in implementation PG due to delay in receiving the PG payments. They are:

- 1) The *Women Empowerment Program* of the Africa Brotherhood Church in Kenya
- 2) The *Empoderamiento a madres adolescentes victimas de violencia y abandonado* of the Proceso Kairos Peru in Peru
- 3) The *Women in Action to Learn* by Corporacion Metodista SEDEC in Chile
- 4) The *Christian Inter-confessional Dialogue for Women Empowerment* in Moldova, by the EFMCW.

The *Women's Strategy Seminar* by EFECW Scotland was also postponed due to low register turn-out of interested participants.

The *Midwives of Peace, Justice, Healing and Reconciliation* project in India by the NCC India is also postponed due to staff movement.

The good news is that some PG reports for 2019 have already come in.

Scholarship Award for Young Women (SAYW)

This 2019 no SAYW recipient has graduated yet. Angelique Mukankumburwa from Rwanda, a recipient in 2018, is still asking for help in finding further support for her studies. If you know of any potential help, kindly tell me. I am also looking out for that.

The following Emergency Grants were given this 2019

- 1) Laos, c/o Christian Women of Church of Christ in Thailand, July 2018
- 2) Philippines, c/o National Council of Churches in the Philippines, September 2018
- 3) Indonesia, c/o PERUATI (national ecumenical organization of ordained women ministers), October 2018
- 4) Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi, c/o AACC, March 2019

Publications

Should we go more paper-less for the yearly Messages and Reports (M&R)? Should it be made available only upon request? I think we should opt for this.

So far, no one has asked for a hard copy of the M&R, but we give anyway. Probably for documentation and for specific requests, we can print by ourselves in the Office and send by post. The soft copy is posted at the FLC website, and also can be had by email.

Finance and related matters

ICFLC Honorary Treasurer Marilyn Lariviere tendered her resignation in May 2019, due to her care-giving responsibilities to Ed Lariviere, her Good Husband. This is also the reason why Marilyn is unable to attend this AM.

In 2018 the ICFLC approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee that says:

“To honour the historical relationship between the Presbyterian Women of PC-USA and the FLC movement, in which the PW USA has served as a midwife, the Committee recommends that we invite a financially-skilled and capable woman from the PW USA to serve as ICFLC Honorary Treasurer. We can still elect a financially skilled and capable woman from the ICFLC, but we will prioritize the nominee from PW USA. It is noted that the stipulations in the bylaws and constitution would remain the same for this position.”

I have asked PW through its Executive Director, Susan Jackson-Dowd, to nominate someone to be the next ICFLC Honorary Treasurer. Now we have Mary Martin, who accepted the nomination. Thanks and praise God for Mary!

The Annual Meetings (AM)

From my end as Executive Secretary and one who oversees the yearly activities of the FLC, I think we need some re-thinking about our Annual Meetings to save up on funds. If we decide to meet once in two years, what happens is:

- 1) In between meeting years, we can deliberate the Project Grants and SAYW applications online.
- 2) We can save funds around USD 2,750 during a year we are not having the AM.
- 3) To be more cost-efficient, we can request for the host of the AM to put in some local counterpart, if feasible. I heard this from Vala Palu.

However, this suggestion of meeting once in two years is not possible until after 2021. I have been informed by Yamina Apolaris that Puerto Rico (PR) is already ready and excited as well to host the ICFLC AM in 2020. In 2021 the WCC Assembly is in Germany. In support to our global partner the WCC, it is highly advisable that we also meet in Germany before or after WCC Assembly.

III. CHALLENGES AND MOVING ON

I challenge the ICFLC to imagine some more about the creative promotion of the FLC as a movement. In the Philippines particularly with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), the FLC is a church-wide mission event and movement. All sectors participate in the In-gathering services and praying with the Least Coins. In many cases, a big Conference (jurisdiction) gather for a common FLC service (they call it Fellowship of the Coins – the Biggest, Love, Faith, Golden, etc.). How about promoting the FLC not only a movement predominantly by women, but also by the youth, children, the men, the young adults, clergy? I am posing this challenge in the Philippines especially to churches other than the UCCP.

The FLC was born, raised and nurtured by the ACWC women in Asia. ACWC right now is at the crossroads of making a decision on how to move on towards self-reliance in doing the ecumenical work, in supporting itself financially, and in helping animate the local ACWC in each country. Let us hope and move that the FLC as a prayer movement that is able to do many great things through the Least Coins, would be a very potential force in strengthening the ecumenical women's movement in Asia. How to proceed from here, we Asians have to put our hearts and heads together.

I also recommend to the ICFLC to act on the following:

- 1) To accept and approve the nomination of Mary Martin from PW USA, to be next ICFLC Honorary Treasurer.
- 2) To think some more on the possibility to meet once in two or three years.

To conclude, may I say that after almost two years in office I am quite attuned to the rhythm and pulse of the FLC. I am now comfortable managing my time and energy in work, and I get lots of time to reflect on what more the ecumenical women can do to continually change their Selves and the world around them.

This FLC Table is indeed very unique, for the sisterhood and solidarity in the journey to justice, peace and reconciliation. Honestly, I thank and praise God for the FLC as my JOB (Joy Of Being), because it perfectly suits my temperament, passions and state of health at the present.

Thank you very much.



Narrative Report

ICFLC Honorary Treasurer

ICFLC 39th Annual Meeting, 08 – 12 Oct. 2019

Dear Sisters,

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you meet to guide our special movement. As you know, my husband's Alzheimer's has progressed to the point where I can't leave him and so I have sadly given my resignation as Honorary Treasurer. It has been a gift to be a part of this sisterhood and I will always treasure the memories of our meetings and of all of you. Mary Martin is our new Honorary Treasurer-Elect and I have been in touch with her and will continue to work with her through the end of 2019, and will close my USA ICFLC account once all the checks and deposits have cleared. I have been working hard to try to get reports from our World Council of Churches (WCC) account.

Financial reports attached include:

1. Rockland Trust Bank, January 2018 - October 2019
2. World Council of Churches Account Report
3. OIKO Credit Account 2019
4. Budget for July 2019 – June 2020

The Auditor's report was completed in September but I have included the bank statements up to October for you to see. Mary Martin has hard copies of the Auditor's report and the bank statements.

Throughout the year I have requested funds from the WCC account to cover Liza's salary, Emergency Grants, and travel expenses for the Annual Meeting.

With the approval of the Executive Committee we wired emergency grants to three countries in Africa, namely: Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique, through the AACC (US \$3000) in April 2019; Indonesia, through PERUATI (US 3,000), in October 2018; the Philippines, through the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (US 3,000) in September 2018; and to Laos, c/o Christian Women - Church of Christ in Thailand (US \$3000) in July 2018, for a total of US \$12,000. Liza's salary is paid in April, July, October, and January. Unfortunately we again had a delay with the July payment due to an issue in receiving the wire transfer from WCC.

Liza prepared the request for the Project Grants approved at the last Annual Meeting of ICFLC which were then sent to the World Council of Churches to be processed. We are still processing the return of the funds from Moldova by sending a letter from the ICFLC Chair, duly sealed and notarized.

Despite repeated requests to Elaine Dykes at the World Council of Churches we have not received reports on our account as promised. As I write this I have not yet received any report since April of 2019.

I have some of the same suggestions for the Finance Committee that I presented last year.

1. I propose that we request that the North American members (CWU, PC-USA and WICC) send their donations directly to the new USA account which will be opened by Mary Martin, thus saving the wire transfer fees and allowing the money to be available for immediate use for Liza's salary and emergency grants.
2. We continue to keep the grants at \$4,500 rather than \$5,000.
3. We do not give the approved grant recipients a date for reception of the grant. None of them were able to be completed as hoped by WCC even though we had the funds in place in March. This resulted in many calls and emails to Liza looking for the money. If the recipients know in advance that it may be July before the funds are received that could help.
4. We ask that each member of ICFLC come to the Annual Meeting with a report for the Finance Committee of their FLC Offerings.
5. We continue our conversation with WCC in hopes that we can get information in a more timely manner.

I especially want to thank Liza for all her help and spirit - I have looked forward to her late night and sometimes early morning emails. I will definitely miss that contact but perhaps I will stay connected "electronically!" My prayer and best wishes to all of you and know that I will keep you all in my heart as you move ahead with this wonderful sisterhood of prayer.

Marilyn Lariviere
Honorary Treasurer

Updates from Ecumenical Organizations



ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (AACC)

The AACC developed its new Strategic Plan (2019-2023) in January 2019, in line with the recommendations of the 11th AACC General Assembly in July 2018, with the department of Gender, Women and Youth as one of its 4 Programmatic Pillars. It has the thematic areas in the section on Gender and Women: Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Widows, Women's Rights, Gender Equality in Church Leadership, and Women and Entrepreneurship. The activities at hand include:

- Participating at the Commission on Population and Development CPD in New York, USA on the role of AACC in enhancing Gender Equality and Sustainable population
- Conducting a research on the persistence of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Africa;
- Workshops on the Plight of Widows and finalizing with the documentary on the launch of AACC campaign for the Plight of Widows carried out in Zambia on the International Widows' Day, 23 June, 2019;
- Preparations for Faith Actors' participation at the 25th Anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25) - *The Nairobi Summit*, to take place in Nairobi from 12-14 Nov. 2019.

In collaboration with WCC and UNICEF, AACC will carry out workshops on ending child sexual abuse and exploitation in Nigeria, and Tanzania from 23-28th Sep. 2019.

- Preparations for the International AIDs Day on 1 Dec. and 16 Days of Activism against GBV (Nov. 25-10th Dec.)

AACC promoted the FLC during the Women's pre-assembly at the AACC's 11th General Assembly, where the FLC Executive Secretary was invited to popularize FLC. The Pre-Assembly was held in Kigali Rwanda on 2nd July, 2018.

A circular letter to women leaders from the AACC Member Churches was issued, inviting them to join the FLC prayer movement. FLC newsletters, Messages and Reports were distributed. FLC projects were distributed widely and we coordinated the reception of the forms, collated, summarized and forwarded to the ICFLC secretariat at the end of June 2019.

AACC wrote a circular letter to the leaders in-charge of gender desks as a follow-up reminder and to inform them about the opportunity for Africa to host ICFLC Annual Meeting in Ghana in October, 2019.

During the General Committee meeting at the AACC in February 2019, a separate meeting was held with women in the General Committee. They were asked to support the work of FLC by encouraging women to set aside least coins every time they pray.

Use of the FLC Block Grant:

Women and Youth Sensitization Forum on Entrepreneurial Culture for Self-sustainability and Wealth Creation, in Nairobi, Kenya, 14-18 May 2018; Lomé, Togo, 26 to 30 November 2018.



Women participants trained on entrepreneurship at the DTCC Nairobi-14-18 May, 2018

The Women's Pre-Assembly, 2 July, 2018, Kigali, Rwanda. A communique was developed and issued at the Assembly, and its content fed into the final recommendations of the Assembly.

Consultation on the Role of Religion in Advancing Gender Equality and the Promotion of Women, Peace and Security, 5-9 November 2018.

SGBV Conference in Ghana, 9–12 October 2018. The AACC was invited by the Christian Council of Ghana to participate in this conference and make a presentation on the general Africa perspective on SGBV. The visit *was also an opportunity to inspect the proposed venue for the ICFLC AM in 2019.*



ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC)

Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2018, the ACWC decided to change the way it works to revitalize the Asian church women's ecumenical movement. As part of the shift we have four (4) Vice-Presidents as coordinators of their own sub-regions in the Executive Committee. The 2019 ACWC Executive Committee meeting held in April included a workshop to develop in-depth how to further the ACWC work efficiently and productively.

ACWC promoted the church ecumenical movement to several women minister groups in southern part of South Korea, including the FLC as one of the biggest global church women's prayer movement for peace, justice and reconciliation.

At a monthly meeting for "Peaceful Reunification of Korean Peninsula" the FLC was introduced as a prayer movement to promote peace in the world. As a result, several churches in South Korea with women pastors have now begun to practice the FLC.

The FLC Block Grant for 2019 has covered the ACWC activities and airfares of the ACWC's representatives to the ICFLC-AM.

The origins of the FLC should be told over and over so that the FLC spirit may move people to work together for justice, peace and reconciliation.



2019-2022 ACWC Executive Committee: more than one third are young women.





CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA (CCA)

Churches in Asia are still slow to acknowledge and accept gender and women's concerns as a critical issue within the church. Many churches are still faced with situations where women are not accepted as leaders; women are often denied prominent roles in the church. The space that women occupy in the church is often perceived to be an extension of their home life instead of involvement in mainstream church activities and decision-making bodies. The struggle for inclusive communities and the household of God urges churches in Asia to come out of their state of nominal involvement and participation of women, and ensure full use of their abilities and equal participation at all decision-making levels.

Churches Together in Empowering Women in Asia

The followings are CCA's actions and programmes to uphold the dignity of women in Asia: Women's leadership development; Women's ecumenical action against violence; Upholding rights and dignity of women; Prevention of violence against women; Women's Participation in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution; Protecting the Rights of Women Migrant Workers; Preventing Trafficking of Women; Women combating HIV/AIDS.

Regional Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence (EWAAV), 15-17 November 2018/ Bangkok, Thailand, on the theme 'Transforming the World and Building Peace' held at the YWCA in Bangkok, Thailand. The Consultation was the third in a series of annual regional consultations organized by CCA as part of a new programme initiative – Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence (EWAAV). Follow up programmes also took place in **Cambodia, Pakistan and India.**



EWAAV in Bangkok, Thailand

Women's Leadership Development Training in Laos,

29 November – 1 December 2018/ Vientiane, Laos. Attended by 65

selected participants from rural congregations in 17 provinces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR).



Advocacy at UN Women Regional Office, 30 May 2019 / Bangkok, Thailand

Fellowship Gathering of Women in Pastoral Ministry and Women Doing Theology, 7 August 2019/ Medan, Indonesia.

Women Doing Theology is one of CCA's strategic programme priorities to promote a collective effort of study, analysis, and reflection among committed Asian women theologians to address pertinent



Asian issues and contextual theologizing from a feminist perspective. During the ninth Congress of Asian Theologians (CATS), which was held at Medan, Indonesia in August of 2019, women participants of CATS had a special evening together to have a fellowship gathering encountering each other, sharing their lives and pastoral ministries and encouraging each other to strengthen their capacities as leaders of their own churches/ communities and societies.

On-going & Up-coming Programmes

1. *Sub-Regional Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence in Dhaka Bangladesh from October 4-6, 2019*
2. *Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly in Taiwan from November 21-27, 2019*

CCA uses every opportunity to strengthen and promote the spirit of ICFLC in its constituencies during visits, programs and communication through email and disseminating the ICFLC Prayer Circle. During weekly devotion with all the staff members of CCA, offerings are set aside for Fellowship of Least Coin



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED (CWU-USA)

The Church Women United continues to work on expanding the mission of Fellowship of the Least Coin. National Church Women United has been very busy working to increase our giving. We've established two new chapters one in Upper New York state and the other in Wisconsin. We've requested that our members turn in their FLC contributions monthly and not just wait until our May Friendship Day.

Our FLC Block Grant last year has been helpful but the conditions are getting worse. We have advised our chapters, especially those in that area to continue to help as much as possible. We have used our Block Grant to purchase Shanti's story and for each of the students that participate. Church Women United National will continue to do our best to increase FLC funding.



LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (CLAI)

During 2018-2019, the Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) has continued to strengthen its networks of cooperation and dialogue with the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin, through the communication and ongoing dialogue with the Executive Secretary, Ms. Liza Lamis, as well as with the International Committee.

We would like to emphasize that our participation and representation as CLAI in the ICFLC has been given within the framework of a collaborative working model between our representative

Rev. Yamina Apolinaris and Cecilia Castillo Nanjari, member of the Voluntary Support Team to CLAI, who remains in communication networks with CLAI Executive Committee.

As an important basis of the work carried out in the last period we highlight the dissemination of updated reports, information, and forms for projects and scholarships for young women, with wide dissemination through our various networks of churches and civil society in 20 Latin America and Caribbean countries, where CLAI has a presence ensuring the timely application of projects and scholarships. We also work hard to follow up on the process of application and approval of the projects, as well as the accompaniment to them, until the process of sending reports of their realization to ICFLC. Among the commitments made by CLAI is the continued promotion of the FLC movement and the specific projects, incentivizing faith communities and civil society beneficiaries to accompany, collaborate and disseminate the practice of prayer and the setting aside of the least coins, exercised by women around the world.

Again, we highly value the networks and sororal work generated between ICFLC and CLAI over many years, as they have allowed us to maintain active support networks for the benefit of women and faith communities with an impact on civil society in Latin America and the Caribbean.



ECUMENICAL FORUM OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN (EFECW)



The EFECW General Assembly in August 2018 was held in Serbia, where Liza Lamis and Martina Heinrichs facilitated an FLC workshop. The FLC was promoted in morning prayers at other conferences and meetings of EFECW. The next opportunity will be National conference in August 2020.

The FLC Block Grant is mainly used to support the meetings of the coordinating committee which take place twice a year. In 2018 FLC money was also used for the General Assembly in Serbia.

To date it is still a challenge to keep FLC under the attention of European women's networks.



مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط
The Middle East Council of Churches

THE MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (MECC)

The MECC is based in Lebanon which is host to over 1.5 million registered and unregistered refugees. Due to years of ongoing crisis in the Middle East focused in Syria and Iraq, there are an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees and approximately 6,000 Iraqi refugees living in many areas of Lebanon. Most of these refugees have now resided in Lebanon for up to 8 years, barely able to earn income. According to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) 2017-2020 (a joint plan by the government of Lebanon and the UN), **the health facilities at the primary healthcare level are strained due to such an increase of population and need. If primary healthcare needs are not met, mortality and morbidity will increase as well as the rates of communicable and vaccine-preventable disease.**

Our Lady Dispensary (OLD) is a socio-medical center supported by the MECC that has existed for over 15 years. The dispensary provides primary health care, medicine, vaccinations, health education, mental health and protection services mainly to women in addition to children and men. It is located in the Mount Lebanon area – a vulnerable district of the Lebanon and suburb of Beirut. **OLD is** recognized by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) as a primary care center.

The FLC grant to MECC was used to support OLD as part of the MECC ministry and commitment to uplift the wellbeing of women and children in the Middle East.



PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES

The PCC ecumenical women have successfully hosted the ICFLC Annual meetings in 1993, 2000 and 2007. These meetings showed that FLC was promoted in different islands through the years.

Women writers have contributed to Circle of Prayer through the years. It is worth noting that Rev. Valamotu Palu, while serving as General Secretary of PCC, served as ICFLC Chair in 2003-2004 and helped a lot during the Jubilee celebration of FLC in Malaysia and in hosting the annual meeting in Tonga in 2007. With the change in leadership and structure of PCC came the setting up of regional FLC Pacific conference Committee in 2008, with Rev. Dr. 'Asinate Samate as representative of the Pacific. She did her best to serve as ICFLC member representing the region, faithfully attended meetings from 2009-2015, served as Vice Chair of ICFLC in 2013 and 2014, and ably contributed to the many tasks of ICFLC.

In the ICFLC annual meeting in 2015, Dr. Samate shared "As FLC is in its 60th anniversary in 2016, it is also timely for FLC Pacific to review its existence and to work together towards a more active and effective organization in terms of fulfilling its vision, mission and action plans". Thus a workshop was organized in the Pacific, in Fiji in April. In 2016 on, April 9th to 11th Fellowship of the Least Coin Regional representative for Pacific Rev. Dr. 'Asinate Samate organized a meeting for women from the region with the Pacific Conference of Churches in Nadi. Women leaders from Tonga, Vanuatu, Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands participated at this meeting. PCC is the mandated host of the Pacific FLC Desk and the Women's Animator represents the region at any International meetings of the FLC. The convenors of the member churches who met in Nadi are the Executive: Fiji Ms. Ani Tokalaulevu, Vanuatu Mrs. Ruth Dovo, Papua New Guinea Lady Tagana Kapi, and Tonga Dr. 'Asinate Samate, Solomon Islands Ms. Ethel Suri FLC Committee Secretary Mrs. Laisani Baleloa.

Note: only in 2019 AM was PCC represented at the Annual Meeting, in the person of Deaconess Temalesi Makutu, Vice Moderator of PCC.





WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE (WDPIC)

In this present time of increasing exclusion and xenophobia, to set an open table to welcome all can challenge the constructed message of the fear of others. In Vinkovci, Croatia, the WDP leaders literally set the table on the streets and invited passers-by to worship together. Slovenia, the neighboring country of Croatia, wrote the service. Both countries have a long standing common history in the former Yugoslavia, and are relatively new to the WDP movement. Slovenia was the focus country of the 2019 program under the theme “Come, everything is ready!” based on the Parable of the Great Dinner in Luke 14:15-24.

Over the summer, WDP leaders had two main opportunities to get together:

WDP European Conference and WDPIC Executive Committee. In Lunteren, the Netherlands, on June 12-18, around 75 women coming from 28 European countries gathered together under the theme, “A Story to Tell, a Call to Act.” We learned about the roots of WDP history in the missionary movement and in the world ecumenical conferences; experienced prayer walk and the healing of the crippled women (Luke 13:10-17) through our own body movement; and contextualized the WDP Guiding Principles on our local experiences and interacting with community leaders in the Netherlands.

In New York, the Executive Committee of the WDP International Committee met on July 28 to August 3, to review our regional experiences and plan the next International Meeting to be held on June 12-19, 2022, in Edinburgh, Scotland, under the theme “New heart. New mind. Called to hope” (Ephesians 1, 18). We are planning to launch the 100 years (1927 to 2027) of uninterrupted prayers and action led ecumenically by women at the International Meeting in 2022.

WDPIC promoted the Thursdays in Black Campaign at the International Meeting in 2017, and many committees are raising awareness at the local level. In all activities organized by WDPIC executive members, *Thursdays in Black* is in the agenda. We also share the campaign on our social media (Facebook, Instagram), and repost messages from WCC or other ecumenical partner organizations.

WDP executive members represent the seven regions of the world. Some of them come from organizations where we overlap leadership with FLC, for example, Joyce Larko (Council of Churches Ghana), Lauren Wilks (WICC Canada), and Susan Jackson-Dowd (Presbyterian Women). At the national level, we can mention, for example, the WDP Scottish Committee who also promotes FLC.

In many countries in Asia, WDP and FLC are placed in the same organization, usually the women's desk of the ecumenical council, or promoted by the same leaders. WDPIC is taking the opportunity to strengthen this relationship in Asia by sponsoring two representatives for the Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly (AEWA), in Taiwan, from November 21-28, 2019: Rosangela Oliveira, executive director and Moumita Biswas, Asia Regional Representative. Moumita Biswas will represent WDPIC on the panel with ICFLC and other organizations to reflect 'Towards Revitalizing Ecumenical Movement and Role of Asian Ecumenical Women's Organisations'.

Laurence Gangloff and Rosangela Oliveira contributed to the Circle of Prayer 25 with reflections and prayers on the environment emphasis.

Once again, WDP members are actively involved in hosting ICFLC Annual Meetings. WDP is convened by the program Joyce Larko coordinates at the Council of Churches, and she is one of WDPIC Africa Regional Representatives. We appreciate this opportunity of partnership. Our word of recognition to the sisters in Ghana.

The FLC Block Grant is used to support the international coordination of WDPIC and participation at the ICFLC annual meeting. We used the grants to cover the expenses of the Executive Committee Meeting in New York in the summer of 2019.





WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (WICC)

WICC's vision is Restoring hope to women touched by injustice. Our MISSION is empowering Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in prayer and action. WICC is in 10 provinces and 3 territories. It is already 101 years old, with 10 partner denominations and

approximately 285 FLC groups.



WICC was able to:

Provide Washable Reusable Menstrual Products for School Girls

Facilitate a Workshop about self-defense and hygiene for Girls



Organize Workshops about consent, respect, and intervention for boys.

FLC Monthly prayer requests are edited, converted to articles on WICC website, promoted in the monthly We-Connect online newsletter and Facebook posts. The FLC page is updated each year with downloadable files; and the WICC web store with FLC items.

The FLC Block Grant was used for ICFLC annual meeting expenses; Postage expenses, FLC workshops, materials; FLC Resource costs; Supplies, staff support, website, tax receipts, donation processing, etc.





**World Council
of Churches**

**WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES –
JUST COMMUNITY OF WOMEN AND
MEN (JCWM)**

In early 2018 Dr. Fulata Mbana Moyo completed her 10 years of service as the JCWM programme executive. Rev. Nicole (Nicqi) Ashwood of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands was appointed as of November 2018. She is also the current liaison for the ICFLC.

The WCC Gender Advisory Group (GAG) is currently in the process of finalizing a proposed Gender Justice Policy, which is officially intended as a guiding principle for operations at the WCC Secretariat; for staff, commissions, reference groups and governing bodies. The final draft is expected to be presented to the central committee in 2020 for adoption by the WCC central committee in 2020.

Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) – The Thursdays in Black campaign for a “world without rape and violence” continues to be adopted by more and more churches and ecumenical partners. It has become a highly visible campaign with countless ambassadors. An online Valentine’s Day campaign, ‘Love Heals, Not Hurts’ was launched in February 2019. This was in relation to a Thursday February 14 and an appeal for non-violent actions on Valentine’s Day.

Just Community of Women and Men in Church and Society. In the context of the 70th anniversary of the WCC, a global consultation to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women, took place from 1 to 5 October 2018 in Kingston, Jamaica. Framed within the pilgrimage of justice and peace and the 2030 sustainable development agenda, visits were made to two spaces which address the needs of victims and survivors of sexual and gender based violence, which provided a practical engagement for many on addressing SGBV.

The following recommendations were proposed:

- Create concrete and measurable policies that support gender equity in its structures, salaries, leadership, member churches, including codes of conduct that prohibit sexual harassment and assault
- Empower local organizations and groups in their opposition to all forms of gender-based violence and support for women,

- girls, and the vulnerable in their communities
- Create new and more effective ways for communication and collaboration among WCC, member churches, local advocacy groups on gender justice issues
- Develop urgent action networks to stop assaults, abuse, jailings, killings of women, girls, and other vulnerable people
- Name and develop responses to this political moment of backlash
- Enable member churches and WCC to support boys and men's organizations in becoming spaces for resistance to patriarchy and affirmation of non-toxic and anti-violent masculinities
- Audit institutional budgets through gender justice lens at all levels of operation
- Encourage research on gender justice in member churches in partnership with theological institutions and networks to influence multi-dimensional, transcultural and trans-religious curricular development

Under Nicqi Ashwood's leadership, the following have been accomplished to date:

- Centering the experience of women in the WCC (T301) – meeting of the Gender Advisory Group to finalise draft Gender Justice Policy for presentation to Executive Committee
- Gender Justice in International Affairs – participation in the UN Commission on the Status of Women; and Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians 5th Pan African Conference in Gaborone, Botswana
- Overcoming Sexual and Gender Based Violence (T303) – Thursdays in Black campaign (see above) and launch at the German Kirchentag in Dortmund and also at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ChurchWide Assembly; as well as promotion at the United Church of Christ's General Assembly

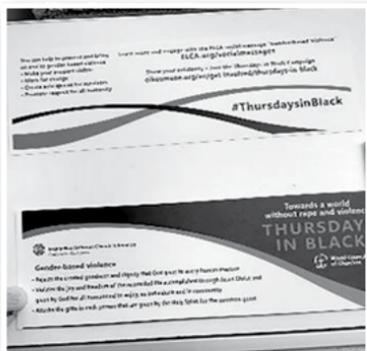
There has been a conversation with the WCC Spiritual Life Committee to heighten awareness of the work and ministry of the Fellowship of the Least Coin during the Wednesday noon prayers. When this comes on board, women and men who participate will be invited to reflect and contribute to the work of the ICFLC.

Additionally, the continuation of the relationship with FLC and ICFLC members through –

- Programmatic collaboration to strengthen policy development for gender justice by exchanges of best practices and collaboration on advocacy training.
- Strengthen collaboration among women's prayer and peace movements to combat racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination in all its forms and particularly against women and migrants.

The block grant provided by the FLC, along with its project grant support, helps to achieve the overall work of the JCWM with regard to key areas:

- Advocacy and policy development – particularly within ecumenical structures as reflected in the work of Gender Advisory Group with the WCC executive committee and commissions in 2018 and 2019.
- Gender justice training – approximately 42 participants from around the world were trained in September 2018 on UN mechanisms for the Elimination of Violence and Discrimination Against Women, in collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Mission 21, Dan and Finn Church Aid.
- SGBV resistance – in 2018 Thursdays in Black was the highlight of the papal visit to the WCC in July, and was (re)launched by several member churches and ecumenical partners including the Jamaica Council of Churches and the Jamaica Baptist Union, as well as the Botswana Council of Churches.



2020 FLC PROJECT GRANTS

AFRICA

- 1) **Women in the Promotion of Gender Justice in Northern Ghana**, Ghana, US\$ 4,000.

To support the capacity of selected women leaders in Northern Ghana to respond to gender injustice especially bad widowhood practices and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence.

- 2) **Chiseke Women Development Centre in Lusaka**, Zambia, US\$ 4,000.

To encourage and help develop self-employment and self-dependency among girl-child headed homes, guardians of orphans and vulnerable children of poor women.

- 3) **Hope Volunteers Women Empowerment**, Zambia, US\$ 4,000.

To help empower widows, girl-child headed homes, orphans and vulnerable children, with a permanent place to call home as they stop depending on unfaithful relatives who sexually abuse them at night and make do hard labor during the day.

- 4) **Combating Gender Based Violence (GBV) Among the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) Women Pastors, and Building their Capacity as Church Ministers**, Tanzania, US\$ 4,000.

To close the gender gap, strengthen and support the CCT women pastors for gender equality and empowerment towards eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in the CCT member churches and beyond.

- 5) **Gender Studies in Ministry**, Ghana, US\$ 4,000

Sensitizing seminarians on the need for gender justice.

ASIA

- 6) **Women Doing Theology, Engaging in the Struggle for Liberation: A Conference cum General Assembly**, Philippines, US\$ 4,000.

To strengthen the organization, Association of Women in Theology (AWIT), by engaging women to do theology amidst the challenge of misogyny, tyranny and unpeace; foster deeper sense of camaraderie and sisterhood among its members; and develop a plan of action for the next 4 years.

- 7) **Enhancing Women’s Capacity to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence**, Bangladesh, US\$ 4,000.
To increase women’s capacity and hone their skills to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.
- 8) **Dining Room for Children**, Japan, US\$ 4,000.
To construct a dining and fellowship place for kids who cannot afford to eat three meals a day in Atago area.
- 9) **Memories Children’s Camp**, Sri Lanka, US\$ 4,000.
To create happy memories for child survivors of abuse and provide a space to build healthy relationships in order that they may achieve holistic healing.
- 10) **Training of Trainers for Church Leaders and Personnel on Child Safety and Rights**, Pakistan, US\$ 4,000.
To further enhance skills of church leaders to end violence against children, and to promote the holistic development and upholding of the dignity and rights of children.
- 11) **Ecumenical Formation and Women Leadership Development (WLD) in East Timor**, Timor Leste, US\$ 4,000.
To enhance women leadership skills in church and society; to strategize collectively on promoting Gender Justice and Peace in the Church; and to enhance women Leadership in IPTL to be part of the mainstream of the Asian Ecumenical Movement.

CWU - USA

- 12) **Gender-based Violence: Standing Against Fear in the Fields Video and Resources**, USA, US\$ 4,000.
To produce presentations of 10-minute video called “Gender-based Violence: Standing Against Fear in the Fields” to spread the word and engage more people to support farm worker women and girls.

EUROPE

- 13) **European Project for Inter-religious Learning – Study Course V in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Bosnia & Herzegovina, The Netherlands, US\$ 3,600.
To educate and inform 10-15 EPIL female students from Bosnia

and Herzegovina of various age and professional background, Christian and Muslim women, and strengthen their capacities in the field of open and constructive interreligious dialogue and broaden the international network of Muslim and Christian women in interreligious dialogue in Europe.

- 14) **Material assistance to homeless women seeking asylum, French courses, "family moments" and outings**, France, US\$ 4,000.

To provide material and psychological support to women seeking asylum and being suspended from State cover - i.e. social assistance and reliable accommodation during a part or the whole of the procedure.

- 15) **Prevention of breast and cervical cancer in women in rural areas of Vojvodina**, Serbia, US\$ 3,370.

To provide breast and cervical examinations to help protect women's health and prevent breast cancer in Serbia.

MIDDLE EAST

- 16) **Young Women Transforming Power Structures for Gender Equality**, Palestine, US\$ 4,000.

To facilitate the participation of six Christian young women from the YWCA of Palestine in the World YWCA Council meeting that will be organized in South Africa in November of 2019.

- 17) **Young Heroes**, Syria, US\$ 3,225.

To provide children from 4 to 18 years old the venue and opportunity to learn spiritual and social values to become responsible citizens and light of the world.

LATIN AMERICA

- 18) **Caring for Those Who Care**, Chile, US\$ 3,200.

To raise the gender awareness with delivery of self-care tools for 30 women linked to the Evangelical Theological Community of Chile.

- 19) **Espacio de Mujer**, Puerto Rico, US\$ 1,250.

To provide a place to support homeless women with humanitarian and basic services, e.g. shower, food, workshops, learning and spiritual activities to share with God and other women.

ICFLC APPROVED BUDGET
July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

Block Grants	US\$ 120,000
Salary & Pension, Exec. Secretary	27,915
PH Office Administration	25,000
Circle of Prayer (2020)	10,000
Hosting of 2020 AM	18,000
AM Travel Expenses	7,000
Administration Expenses	250
Wire Transfers and ATM Fees	2,000
Scholarship Award for Young Women	4,210
Auditing Fees	200
Project Grants	69,145
Honorary Treasurer's Honorarium	2,000
Emergency Grants	10,000
GRAND TOTAL	US\$ 295,720

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (FLC)

WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN?

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a global ecumenical movement of prayer for peace, justice and reconciliation. Through this movement women around the world seek fellowship with each other and are reminded to live a reconciled and forgiving life with others.

HOW AND WHEN IT BEGAN

The idea for the Fellowship of the Least Coin emerged as a vision from God to Mrs. Shanti Solomon of India. She was part of the Pacific Mission Team of seven women from different countries that traveled in Asian countries after World War II, in September 1956. It was organized by Dr. Margaret Shannon on behalf of the women of the Presbyterian Church of the USA. Shanti Solomon, who was refused a visa to Korea, went to Manila, Philippines while other members of the team proceeded to Korea. She reflected on the experiences of their travel in the war-torn countries of Asia and was inspired to promote reconciliation, justice and peace.

On the return of the team, she suggested that prayer could transcend every national boundary. She challenged the Christian women of Asia and the women from the Presbyterian Church USA to combine their efforts and resources and launch a project of justice, peace and reconciliation on an international level. It was to be a project of Christian prayer and positive action in which every Christian woman could participate, no matter what her economic position was. Every time a woman prayed she was to set aside a "least coin" of her currency. It was an encouragement to the women of the team to demonstrate their unity in Christian faith, regardless of their country or economic circumstances. They all accepted it as their sincere desire to express their solidarity with suffering humanity and with women of every nation.

In 1958, at the first Assembly of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) held in Hong Kong, the ACWC agreed to launch the Fellowship of the Least Coin. At the second Assembly in Thailand in 1962, the Assembly voted to make the promotion of the FLC a basic outreach programme of the ACWC. The East Asia Christian Conference (EACC), now known as the Christian Conference of Asia

(CCA) administered the FLC fund from 1958 to 1970. In 1970 Mrs. Shanti Solomon, the founder, was named the Executive Secretary of the FLC and of the ACWC. From then on ACWC took the responsibility to administer the FLC Fund.



THE FLC LOGO

The idea for the FLC logo came from the late Mrs. Rayann Ma from Hong Kong, the first Chairperson of the first Assembly of the ACWC. The actual design was the gift of her brother-in-law, James Ma, a commercial artist. It is folded hands in prayer, encircling a small plum flower, and which form a lotus flower. Lotus plant grows in the muddy pond but its flower rises above the murky water and opens beautifully and without blemish, fit as offering to God. As the movement has grown global, the praying hands are now in different colors of the races.

CIRCLE OF PRAYER

Feeling the need to reaffirm prayer as the vital element of the FLC, the ACWC asked the women of Hong Kong to prepare a booklet of prayer: "Circle of Prayer" to be used as prayer is offered and the least coin is set aside. Since then, the "Circle of Prayer" has become an important part of the FLC. Twenty to twenty-four meditations and prayers are written by women around the world and published by the International Committee for the FLC every two years.

IT'S GROWTH

The idea of the FLC quickly gained acceptance not only among the women of Asia to whom it was first presented, but among women of all the continents in the world. In 1966 when the FLC celebrated its 10th anniversary, women from 24 countries participated in the movement. By 1980, at the time of its Silver Jubilee, women from 75 countries had already joined the FLC. In 1986, women from over 80 countries around the world celebrated the 40th anniversary of the FLC; and in 2006, its Jubilee Anniversary.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FLC (ICFLC)

Because the FLC prayer movement became truly world-wide and the grants were made to the programmes and projects all over the

world, an International Committee for the FLC (ICFLC) was formed in 1979 to administer the promotion, the interpretation of the movement and the allocation of the FLC grants. The International Committee comprises representatives of world-wide ecumenical women's organization and of regional ecumenical Conferences/Councils of the Churches. The ICFLC decides what programmes and projects are to be funded each year. Year after year the ICFLC learns to trust God more and more and to work in faith. The Committee meets every year to share the miraculous work of the FLC around the world and to decide on FLC grants for the following year. Application forms for project grants are received four months prior to the meeting. The members of the Committee study the application forms, pray about them, and discuss and decide on each project without knowing how much FLC funding will be available for the grants they wish to allocate for each year. The least coins from around the world come in with prayers, quietly and gradually, to meet the needs for each year. Our gentle, loving and compassionate God never fails us. God does great work through the humble, the least, the marginalized and the poor. That's the strength, the promise, the beauty, and the surprise upholding the FLC prayer movement.

Every year ICFLC is invited by different regions to hold its meeting in their country. An exposure and a visitation programme is added to the regular business meeting in order for the representatives to know more about the region and to be aware of the issues and the concerns of the people there. The ICFLC considers linking its meeting every 4th year with the Quadrennial Assembly of the ACWC.

FLC GRANTS

Each year about 35 to 50 projects are given Project Grants. Regional ecumenical organizations women's programme, the World Council of Churches Just Community of Women and Men and the World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC) are given Block Grants to enhance their work and to strengthen ecumenical solidarity. Emergency Grants for disaster relief and rehabilitation are given to show loving concern. And the latest is FLC Scholarship Award for Young Women. For bulletin insert and guidelines for these grants and reports, see www.flc.net.ph.

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE FLC

The FLC Prayer Movement is simple, yet significant and unique.

- 1) 1) It brings Christian women together in a fellowship of prayer without any discrimination of race, nationality, culture or denomination. The Christian women of the world have solidarity with each other through their common concern and love for humankind and creation. Women throughout the world are bound together in both giving and receiving.
- 2) 2) The offering is unique because all, whether rich or poor, educated or illiterate, urban or rural women, give only the smallest coin of their currency. All are within the same discipline and share the common concerns of women around the world.
- 3) 3) It is stewardship, both of the idea as well as of the Fund. These least coins, when put together, become a large amount in the same way individual prayers offered by many members throughout the world become a strong force in bringing about reconciliation, peace and justice.

The uniqueness of the Fellowship in prayer, which binds us together in both giving and receiving, teaches us to appreciate differences; to understand and forgive one another; to live and work together inter-dependently as equal partners. The Least Coin teaches us to be humble, to value the least and to trust that nothing is impossible for God who can do great things from out of the least and the unexpected.

Our concern and yearning for peace in the wounded and broken world, which moves us to spontaneously pray and give, becomes a powerful healing source for our own pain as well as for the pain of those whose lives have been touched by our prayers and gifts.

The inclusiveness of the Fellowship, which embraces us in a simple, yet profound act of prayer accompanied by a gift of love - "least coin", encourages wider participation and provides resources for making peace and restoring broken relationships.

The God who promises to be with us always provides for our needs and never fails to love, to guide and protect us.



YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE
with Christian Women, Men, Youth and Children
of every continent in the
FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN.

THE BASES OF BELONGING

are concern for justice, peace and reconciliation; and
intercession for those in special need of God's grace.

THE TOKEN OF PARTICIPATION

is a **"Least Coin"**

set aside whenever Prayer is offered and contributed annually
to a common Fund which is given in the name of Christian women
without identification of its original source.

This fund is used as **"gifts of love"** for ministries of mercy on every continent;
for experience which creates Christian community
among those of different national, racial, cultural,
economic and denominational backgrounds.

The least coins are tangible token of our prayers
offered individually and collectively. Those contributions—**"Gifts of Love"**
however small or large, may be sent in the name of
Fellowship of the Least Coin.

Send your FLC Offerings to:



FLC BANK DETAILS, as of April 2020:



<i>Bank Name:</i>	Rockland Trust
<i>Bank Address:</i>	288 Union Street, Rockland, MA 02370 USA
<i>Tel. Nos.:</i>	+1 598-668-7372; fax: +1 508-732-7133
<i>Routing number:</i>	011304478
<i>SWIFT code:</i>	RTCOUS33
<i>Account Number:</i>	2980812061
<i>Name of Account Holder:</i>	CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF CAPE COD
<i>Full Name of Beneficiary:</i>	Mary Martin, ICFLC Honorary Treasurer marymckeemartin@outlook.com; icflcph@gmail.com
<i>Full Address of Beneficiary:</i>	4176 Neely Meadows Court, Norcross, GA 30092 USA

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