

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

2023 MESSAGES AND REPORTS



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INTRODUCTION

Everyday we pray for justice and peace issues around us, and faithfully set aside our 'least coin' offerings as a symbol of our commitment to make our prayers a concrete reality. This is everyday living-out the FLC spirit of unceasing prayers, and faithful offerings - for justice, peace and reconciliation.

And what happens to our FLC Offerings in a year?

This document – our yearly Messages and Reports from the International Committee for the FLC (ICFLC) that facilitates the global ecumenical movement of prayer we call the FLC or the Fellowship of the Least Coin – will inform us how are the FLC offerings being managed responsibly and with reverence. We are doing our bit to make life fuller especially for those marginalized groups and communities of women and girls around the world.

Together with this document, you need to read and see the reports on the FLC project, scholarship and emergency grants to glimpse and appreciate that bit of 'good news' from our grants partners – small success stories and gratefulness. These reports can be had from our website or from the ICFLC Office via email. Then you would be glad to know that you are concretely part of a movement that works with God in loving this world no matter how small or least you think your offering is.

Do let us know how else we can help you make your local FLC thrive some more and expand widely in your own context. Also, we welcome your own FLC stories to share, so that we can also share these in our FLC Updates newsletter.

Friends, we are the FLC. And this FLC Messages and Reports document is an affirmation that we are praying unceasingly and offering faithfully – globally and ecumenically.

Praises to God and thanks be to you!

Liza B. Lamis
Executive Secretary



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

“My Friends, we are not those who give up hope and so are lost; but we are of the company who live by faith and so are saved.” - Hebrews 10:39

This text is not only interesting, but extremely pertinent. The writer of Hebrews invites the community of faith to remember the past, but does not limit this to a mere invitation to exercise their memory. But rather urges them to look to that past to find the motivation, strength, inspiration for the present and the future.

As a movement of prayer and action, we too remember our past.

It is an invitation to remember because...

- If you remember from where God lifted you up when you were at your lowest, how can you not be grateful?
- If you remember the wonderful ways God has worked in your life, and in the lives of those around you, how can you lose hope?
- If you can recall the precise moment of God’s provision, as manna from heaven at the time of need and God’s protection as an open sea at the time when you felt there was no way out, how then can you doubt God’s promises?

“For we are not of those who give up hope and so are lost, but we are of the company who live by faith and so are saved.”

- Because our hope does not rely on how much we have to sustain us through the rainy days, but on the Spirit that gives us peace even in the midst of the storm.
- Because our hope does not rely on the possibility of convincing others, but on the Spirit that transforms our hearts and opens our eyes so that we may see what is yet to come.
- Because our hope does not rely on what we have the power to do, but on the Spirit that works in mysterious ways and whose power works in us, through us and even despite us.

Amid difficult times, we continue on our mission, for we are not of those who give up hope. We are of the company of those who live by faith, of those who obey, of those who are faithful, of those who rejoice in God’s wonderful creation, of those who do not forget what God has done and continue to do for God’s abundant love and mercy.

Let us join in this hymn of hope and praise as we go on with our task...to heal our World!

Tenemos Esperanza (We Have Hope)
Bishop Federico Padura

Because he came to enter human history
Because he broke the bonds of silent anguish
Because he filled our world with radiant mystery
And brings his warmth and light to where we languish
Because his birth made rich a humble manger
Because he sowed the seeds of life and pardon
Because he shattered hatred of the stranger
And lifted up the weary and disheartened.

Because of this we wait with eager patience,
Persistent in our struggles towards the morning
Because of this our hope and expectations
Look toward the dawn when earth will know his coming.

Because he launched attacks on blind ambition
And he denounced hypocrisy and evil
He honored women and he blessed the children
But left the proud to rage at their own peril.
Because he bore the cross for our transgression
And suffered death that we might face tomorrow.

Because he vanquished fear, deceit and lying
Because the cross could not complete his history
He rose victorious, trampling death by dying
And he will reign in power and in glory.



YAMINA APOLINARIS
ICFLC Chairperson, 2022 - 2024

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

to the 42nd ICFLC Annual Meeting, October 08 - 15, 2022

INTRODUCTION

WORKING HOME-BASED for an international office with all the work done electronically - is my best option this year. I am now in my own small, new home, with an efficient internet line and quiet surroundings since end of July 2022. Personally, I like this arrangement of home-based work because it is less stressful, and I am saner and efficient. From this perspective, I am reporting to you about our work.

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

This area of work is mostly online, in both speaking to ecumenical groups and in producing our FLC materials. Local (Philippines) face to face FLC promotion activities are active again, with some still online. The following are the activities I took part, where I logically must share about the FLC:

- 1) UMC WSCS Biennial Assembly, June 23-25, 2022 (face-to-face), brought greetings and as morning worship speaker
- 2) UMC WSCS World Day of Prayer, March 11, 2022 (online), as preacher on 2022 WDP theme
- 3) National CWA and UCM Joint Assembly (women and men organizations of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines), May 29, 2022 (online) brought greetings
- 4) World Day of Prayer International Committee Meeting, June 2022 (online), brought greetings and brief reflection about sisterhood with WDP
- 5) All-Women Clergy Conference, Iglesia Filipina Independiente, June 14-16, 2022 (face-to-face), as resource person on Feminist Theologizing
- 6) National Priests Organizational Regional Assembly of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, July 13, 2022 (face-to-face), resource person on Gender and Human Sexuality from a feminist theological perspective
- 7) *Women and Mission*, for the School of Mission for Young People course series for Asia and Pacific, under the topic: *People in Mission: Prophetic Engagements and Radical Solidarity (Sharing from people or institutions*

currently engage in mission), UMC – General Board for Global Ministries, July 15, 2022, (online), as session presenter.

- 8) Tri-seminary conference, resource person on teaching feminist theologies, May 18, 2022 (face-to-face)
- 9) ACWC Executive Committee Meetings, October 2021, April 29, 2022 (online)
- 10) St. Paul's Theological Seminary Graduation Speaker, April 5, 2022 (face-to-face)
- 11) Radio Interview, Southern Christian College, March 29, 2022 (online, as part of International Women's Month, where women's groups and movements are featured.)

At the WCC pre-assembly for women of the JCWM, the FLC was represented by Martina Heinrichs. Despite our dire resources we find ways to be able to participate in important global gatherings like the WCC assembly.

Website, FB page and others

I am happy to share that more inquiries about the FLC materials, where to send FLC Offerings and contact persons in the regions are made through our website. I get inquiries almost every day from all over the world. This means more people visit our website and use it to access materials, to connect, to ask how to send their offerings, and to inquire about the FLC.

Our FB page also gets more interaction and promotion by re-posting or commenting on our regular posts like a reflection and prayer every month from the current Circle of Prayer issue, the Thursdays in Black (TiB) campaign, and requests for prayers for countries hit by calamities. Indeed, we are going virtual, and we need to maximize our members' online platforms too, to promote the FLC.

Publications

All FLC publications are already in soft copies. E-mode (soft copy) is a more efficient and practical way of promoting our publications these days. This e-mode gives the Office more leeway for creativity and color in designing publications which makes them more attractive and inviting. I receive more requests to access the publications, and mostly those who do say that they are printing it themselves for their use. I am noting that the burden of the cost of printing shifted to our end-users who are not tech-savvy. I am thinking about groups that do not have internet or power to use e-copies.

In communicating and promoting the FLC to partners and networks, I am interested to learn how do you communicate/promote the FLC with all our materials in soft copies, and with some of our grassroots/community partners having no access to electricity and internet. Also, feedback about our publications would be helpful. I hope to be of significant help to you, as we chart a strategic plan during this Annual Meeting especially in this regard.

II. ADMINISTRATION

THE FLC Grants

Project Grants. Like last year, most projects were delayed in implementation or were cancelled for some reasons. Several partners have not sent their reports or have communicated about the status of their projects. But we do have a good, inspiring report of our 2021 grants.

Only one **Emergency Grant** was given this fiscal year. That is, for Tonga through the care of the Pacific Conference of Churches.

We only have one graduate this 2022 in our past scholars, Eunice Jumalon from the Philippines in her law degree.

Sharing and stories from our Project, Scholarships and Emergency grants partners are in a separate document. You may use them to share how the FLC Offerings are being used. I get many queries from around the world through our website about how the FLC Offerings are used, and this report with inspiring stories and pictures is a response.

Office and finance matters

The ICFLC Office is based in my home, but our postal address remains to be at the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches (CPBC) Headquarters in Iloilo City. This arrangement has made our Office budget workable. Finance-wise and currently when we are not sure yet about the pandemic, home-based work is my best option.

I am into my second term, and I think aside from the yearly routine I am well familiar and getting more efficient in keeping up with the work, while looking into the next years with readiness to engage new ways of being the FLC.

III. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2023 my second term will start. I hope to work with you more efficiently and perhaps smarter after my first term of five years. The following are the challenges I see:

- The re-imagination of the FLC movement in the context of so many shifts/challenges that are happening fast, and the maximization of modern technology. What is our capacity to support our commitments to work with more groups towards our vision? How do we stabilize our financial capacity to support more or broader projects and grants after a pandemic?
- Last year I mentioned our banking concerns regarding sending grants to partners with no bank accounts of their own. Let us hope our recently designed efforts will work out well as we continue to find ways to support partners who truly need our partnership but do not have the legal requirements.

I look forward to our strategic planning session because there must be some clues and handles for the journey.

Meantime, I have the following recommendations:

- ✓ To keep the ICFLC Office home-based. Since the work is international and mostly electronic, being home-based will save us some resources. And it will make me happier and more productive minus the stress of commuting to and from office.
- ✓ To imagine and promote the FLC as a prayer movement beyond women's groups. This is already done in the Philippine churches and ecumenical groups. We can surely do this anywhere.
- ✓ To hold Annual Meetings face to face on the year that ACWC has its assembly, and the rest via online. If financially possible, we may meet next year in Taiwan where ACWC plans to hold its quadrennial assembly.

CONCLUSION

I affirm that we found our way in moving through the pandemic. We are not yet so sure of the next years, but we know we will continue to thrive differently this time. The downtrend in our FLC Offerings did not halt our being FLC. We became more creative in inventing our way of being within a pandemic, and perhaps even richer in our prayer lives through the global Call to Prayer, which we must replicate every year.

We find our way by taking the important step of re-assessing our selves and strategizing the move forward (or the spiral move if you may). For this is the way with God who walks in solidarity and in sisterhood with us through prayers that are brave and informed, through a generous setting aside of our least coin offerings every time we pray, and through gracious and radical openness to journey with each other thru the FLC.

Liza B. LAMIS
Executive Secretary
October 2022



REPORT OF THE ICFLC TREASURER

to the 42nd ICFLC Annual Meeting, October 08 - 15, 2022

Dear Sisters,

Again, it was a challenging year for the ICFLC as with organizations around the world. It continues to be an honor to serve as your Treasurer. I enjoy working with Liza and colleagues in our partner organizations.

Financial transactions for the ICFLC were processed by Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA. While the timeliness and communication are not as strong as I would like, we continue to work together, and experience has taught us how to best manage the relationship. Banking regulations and US Treasury restrictions must be navigated and if recipients of our grants do not have a valid bank account in the name of the organization, we cannot send funds to them. Wire transfer fees can be significant. We will continue to deal with these issues which are beyond our control.

Timing of payments was again an issue. At the October 2021 Annual Meeting, the ICFLC prioritized the benevolence payments in the following order: Emergency Grants, Scholarship & Bursary Grants, Project Grants, Block Grants. It was late Spring – early Summer, 2022 before we knew how much income we would have. Therefore, we began paying project grants in June and block grants in September. We have learned that it is best to send PW a few requests at a time for processing, and the processing time is several weeks. The amount of each block grant was reduced (from \$4,800 to \$4,000) due to reduced offerings. In summary, payment of most benevolences is delayed until the end, or even after the close, of the fiscal year.

One topic for discussion – has the ICFLC considered changing the fiscal year from July-June to January-December? This would allow for more time for the annual offerings to be received and we would be setting the budget before the start of the fiscal year, rather than one-quarter into the year.

Regarding the financial results for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, offerings were \$26,500 below the budgeted income; and as mentioned above, we reduced benevolences to align with the lower income. Closing the office in the

Philippines and producing Circle of Prayer electronically helped reduce office expenses. As we set the 2022-2023 budget, there will be continued uncertainty about the ongoing impact of COVID-19.

As always, I am happy to answer questions or provide details on any aspect of the FLC funds. May God continue to bless the work of the ICFLC and all those impacted by the least coins and prayers offered by our sisters around the world.

Blessings and peace,

Mary Martin
ICFLC Treasurer



REPORTS FROM REGIONAL ECUMENICAL ORGANIZATIONS



Name of EO: ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (AACC)

Author of Report/Position: Rev. Dr. Lydia Mwaniki, Director, Gender and Women
Year: 2022

1. Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk:

- Commemoration of International Women's Day and launch of Advocacy Toolkit for Justice for Widow-8th March, 2022
- Roundtable Dialogue with Male Champions for Gender Justice-May 2022
- Participating at the Consultation of the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Women's Initiative for Leadership and Learning (WE WILL)-Geneva-16-18 May
- Commemoration of International Widows Day in Malawi in collaboration with Malawi Council of Churches and Platform of Male Champions in Malawi-23rd June, 2022
- Participation at the International Association of Women Ministers-Karlsbad-Germany-26-28 August, 2022
- Participation at the WCC Pre-Assembly for Just Community of Women and Men, and WCC Assembly-August 29-9th September, 2022

2. Achievements in the last year relevant to practice of FLC (new organization/group or new country where FLC is started):

- During the AACC Women in Entrepreneurship workshop, FLC was introduced to participants and her support to women projects popularized. A call was made to support the work of FLC
- Through call for application of project grants-FLC projects were distributed widely in the entire constituency and we coordinated the reception of the forms, collated, summarized and forwarded to FLC secretariat
- Sharing the FLC prayer booklet with heads of gender programs in the AACC Constituency
- AACC Director, Gender and Women participated at the ICFLC meeting from 10th -14th October 2022
- Three FLC Projects were supported - two in Kenya and one in Uganda. This served to popularize FLC within these churches.

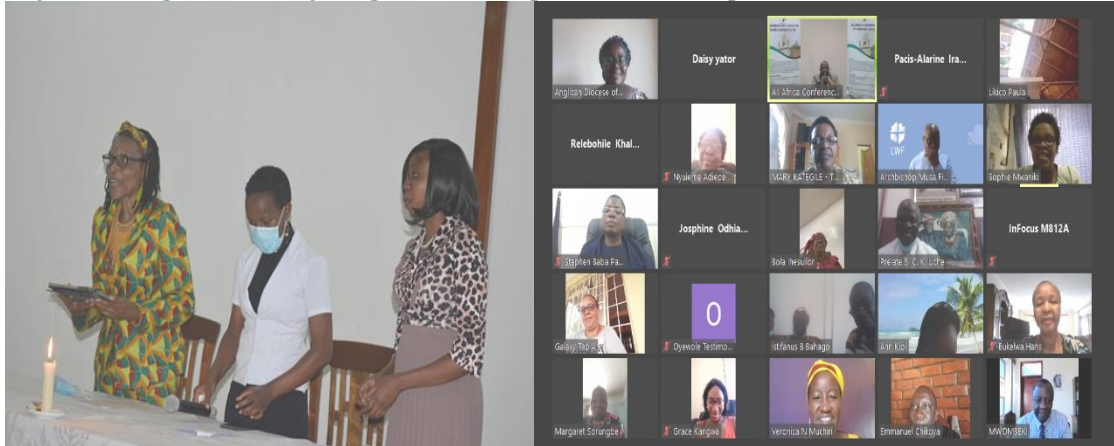
3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

- By asking project grant beneficiaries to popularize and support the work of FLC
- Through a reminder circular letter to gender desks raising awareness about FLC
- Distribution of FLC newsletters, messages and report in our network. FLC reports help in publicizing the FLC projects in Africa, through which churches learn about FLC
- Through AACC Annual Report from Gender and Women program, which partly highlights the work of FLC in Africa.
- Writing a thank you letter to churches which have sent a donation to FLC in order to encourage them to continue with their support

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

4.1 Gender Equality in Church Leadership-International Women’s Day

On International Women’s Day 8 March 2021, AACC organized a webinar on “The Role of Religion in Enhancing Women’s Full and Effective Participation in Leadership”, as part of interventions aimed at promoting gender sensitive interpretation of the Bible. 78-participants attended the webinar from all over the continent. Challenges of women’s full participation in religious spaces were identified and best practices shared. *Selective* interpretation of religious texts and retrogressive social norms were identified among the key challenges. The day began with in-person worship on the theme.



Morning devotion led by the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians *Group photo of the Webinar*

4.2 Establishment of AACC Platforms of Male Champions for Gender Justice-These were established in May and June, 2021 in DRC, Cameroon and Togo consecutively, to increase men’s engagement in advocacy for gender justice and as allies supplement women’s voices.



DRC



Cameroon



Togo

4.3 Commemoration of International Widows’ Day on 23rd June3-AACC commemorates the International Widows’ Day on June 23rd every year and calls its members to find creative ways of celebrating it. In 2021, AACC hosted a Virtual Celebration that brought together about 100 participants including widows, church leaders, gender program officers and AACC Male Champions for Gender Justice. The theme was, “We are Widows: We are not less Human”: Creating Awareness about the Plight of Widows in Africa”. The webinar created a safe space for widows to share their untold stories. Legal frameworks for justice for widows were also shared and participants encouraged using them to protect the dignity and rights of widows.

4.4 Capacity strengthening workshop for Male Champions for Gender Justice -24-26 Nov., 2021-This was an in-person meeting held in Nairobi. It brought together 27 participants, at least 5 from each of the AACC Platforms of Male Champions for Gender Justice-Uganda, Malawi, Nigeria, DRC, Cameroon and Togo for the capacity building workshop. Their capacities were strengthened and a continental network of the champions launched with at least 2 champions from each platform.



Group photo of the male champions at the workshop

4.5 AACC Exchange Program for Women Entrepreneurs-This took place in Nairobi from 29 Nov-3rd Dec. 2021. It brought together Women Entrepreneurs from 17-African countries. The theme was: *'Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship in Africa'*. A platform for exchange of entrepreneurial ideas was established, participants gained knowledge on entrepreneurship, ethical leadership approach to business and recommendations for policy and advocacy actions were given.



Group photo of women entrepreneurs

5. Conclusion:

With surge in SGBV and deteriorating economic circumstances linked to Covid-19 Pandemic, AACC was able to do several gender-related activities to address these issues. Support from ICFLC both in form of Block Grant and project grants came in handy though minimal because of the prevailing global economic circumstances. AACC is committed to continued collaboration with FLC and to promote its work.



Asian Church Women's Conference

Asian Church Women's Conference 9ACWC)
Prepared by: Supaporn Yarnasarn, President

1. **Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk:** Since the onset of the Covid-19 Pandemic we were not able to travel to other countries because of the restrictive health protocols. So, we were confined to zoom meetings. During our Executive Committee zoom meetings where the ICFLC has been giving us updates, ACWC also update the ICFLC on the activities of the different regions. We are happy to report that there is a continuing effort to practice setting aside our least coins after praying for justice, peace and reconciliation. In some areas it has been reported to have an increased collection. Aside from constant reminders through zoom and the ACWC website we have no significant new work regarding FLC.

2. **Achievements in the last year relevant to practice of FLC (new**



organization/group or new country where FLC is started): As stated earlier we have been limited in our activities, but new representatives joined our General Committee came from countries which had no representatives before; for example, Indonesia. We are hopeful that representatives who are new will be able to contribute significantly to the practice of the FLC.

3. **Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:** Through Zoom meetings, through our ACWC website and through the communications and updates from the ICFLC Executive Secretary we are able to update, promote and strengthen the FLC.

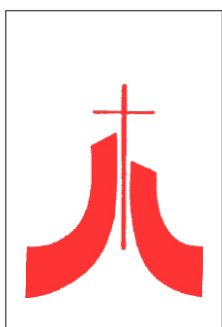


4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant: We have ear marked the Block grant for the following: Scholarship program for young women, for emergency assistance for countries afflicted by calamities, and for the general assembly which we plan to have in 2023.

Conclusion: The FLC block grant has always helped us in our ACWC scholarship grants, project grants and our assembly expenses. We are grateful for this provision. We pray for the continued support from ICFLC. We look forward to a sustained partnership and hopefully a

more fruitful one in the years to come.





Name of EO: Christian Conference of Asia

Author of Report/Position: Jung Eun Grace Moon, Programme Coordinator

Year: 2021 - 2022

1. Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk:

While aiming at sensitising and mobilising Asian Christian women to engage for ecumenical action, CCA has been focusing on increasing the capacities of women in the church for participation in peace- building and prevention of violence against women in Asia, and initiated ecumenical action in combatting violence against women, titled 'Ecumenical Women's Action Against Violence' (EWAAV) which will promote the empowerment of women from oppressive and restrictive social values and traditions that deny their dignity and limit their rights.

Due to the pandemic, all the CCA programmes and activities had to be conducted virtually in last two years of 2020 and 2021. However, as the impact of the pandemic outbreaks has been significantly reduced and the international travel restriction is being relieved, CCA has started to conduct the in-person programmes from this August 2022 , and also resumed the preparation of CCA's 15th General Assembly which will be held in 2023.

2. Achievements in the last year relevant to practice of FLC (new organization/group or new country where FLC is started):

CCA uses every opportunity to strengthen and promote the spirit of ICFLC in its every programme, promoting the dignity of women and their rights and empowering women's leadership to restore peace and justice in Asia.

Here are the CCA's programmes and activities focused on women's issues and women's leadership development.

2.1 Regional Consultation on 'Changing Family Values in Tradition and Modernity in Asia'

3-5 August 2021/ Virtual (Zoom)

The CCA organized an online regional consultation/symposium on 'Family Life and Family Values: Transitions from Tradition to Modernity' to enable the CCA's member constituencies to reflect upon the modern demands and stresses upon the family today, and to develop new insights and intergenerational strategies to increase pastoral attention and engagement with all members on rising concerns on families.

The symposium was held virtually on 3-5 August 2021, with the participation of 50 specially invited representatives comprising clergy, lay leaders, pastoral counsellors, social workers, and family healthcare providers from CCA's constituencies across Asia.

The concept of family had changed and this had been affecting family formation, household structure, marriage, work-life balance, and the wellbeing of all its members, especially the care given to elderly in the family. These changes that have happened in family life – increased divorce and separation, domestic violence, inter-generational conflicts, social problems, and drug abuse – indicated the family’s inability to cope with the pressures of the modern life.

Dr Youn Joo Lee, Director of ‘Maeum’ Psychiatric Clinic in Korea drew parallels between the unit of the family and the Trinitarian model of unity and oneness. She encouraged families to adapt such a model since it would encourage the preservation of the uniqueness, individuality, and autonomy of each member, while also promoting support, empowerment, and full actualization of all family members. She further stated that it could be achieved by focusing on communication and positive cooperation, mutual respect and trust, autonomy, and freedom.

The participants were encouraged to reconsider the church’s approaches to prevent the breakdown of marriage, develop counselling ministry on marriage, respond to challenges of digitalization in family life: parenting and isolation, and provide health promotion for elderly people in the communities.

2.2 Asia Regional Consultation on Freedom of Religion, Rights of Religious Minorities, and Constitutional Guarantees in Asia’

5–8 October 2021/ Virtual (Zoom)

The Christian Conference of Asia organized a four-day Asia Regional Consultation on ‘Freedom of Religion, Rights of Religious Minorities, and Constitutional Guarantees in Asia’ from 5–8 October 2021, which was attended by over 50 participants from across the region.

The respect for the right to freedom of religion is a common good and political virtue, and it is a fundamental prerequisite for a just, peaceful and humane society. The right to freedom of religion or belief is often violated by governments as well as individuals, acting either on their own behalf or as members of majority groups. Widespread and grievous violations of this freedom affect the stability, security and adversely impact the daily lives of individuals, families, and communities, especially their peaceful coexistence and the overall wellbeing of society.

Basil Fernando of the Asian Human Rights Commission in his speech stated that “Religious fundamentalism acts as a camouflage for other deeper sociopolitical realities. In actual fact, there are no religious conflicts but rather conflicts in the name of religion, such as struggles for power, control, or ownership of resources. Ideology must be distinguished from religion as a limited political end, manufactured to support narrow ideas or to claim certain things.”

Ms Wahid who also represented the Gusdurian Network in Indonesia, offered the models of several best practices for sustainable and structural change as implemented in her country. One approach was the 'Integrated Strategic Approach' which involved 'Rights-based (public policy)', 'Respect-based (power of CSOs and FBOs)', 'Resilience-based (grassroots/people level)', and 'Faith-based (theological frameworks)' to promote harmonious life together among diverse religious communities.

The United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues, Dr Fernand de Varennes, encouraged Asian churches to increase their engagement with the UN as part of their advocacy to promote minority rights, while referring to the disproportionate victimization of the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, the Shi in Yemen, the Hazara in Afghanistan, the Kashmiris in India, and the Muslims and Christians in Sri Lanka.

During a plenary session, the participants debated the links between violent extremism, politics, and religion; they called for an increase in engagement with young people through promoting positive youth resilience and youth-led activism against extremism and advocated for the development of counter narratives to encourage critical thinking and self-reliance as well as to raise awareness, foster key relationships, and discredit extremist ideologies and propaganda.

2.3 CCA Statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

25 November

CCA released a special statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which falls on 25 November each year.

The CCA statement called upon member churches and councils to "break the silence, speak out, and most importantly, read the Bible through an 'orange lens' throughout the upcoming 16 days of activism", in keeping with the annual theme of the year, 'Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!'. The colour orange represents a brighter and transformed future which is free of violence against women and girls.

"There is an urgent need in our Asian Christian communities to revisit and reinvestigate episodes of violence—physical, sexual, and psychological—against women in the Bible. If we ignore or consciously refuse to engage with the issues of gender-based violence in the Bible by taking neutral or aperspectival stances, we may run the risk of reinforcing or buttressing such problematic power dynamics," reads the statement.

2.4 Regional Consultation on 'Towards an Effective Advocacy on HIV and AIDS for Upholding Dignity of Gender and Sexual minorities'

24 - 25 March 2022

A two-day Asia regional consultation on 'Towards an Effective Advocacy on HIV and AIDS for Upholding Dignity of Gender and Sexual Minorities' was organized by the Christian Conference of Asia on 24 and 25 March 2022 as part of its Action of Churches Together in Combating HIV and AIDS in Asia (ACTHAA)

programme, which reinforced the need to have dialogue, to open discussions and deliberations aimed at building a community where no one is left behind, and to uphold, on a priority basis, the dignity of gender and the needs of sexual minorities. The participants emphasized the importance of addressing human sexuality in a comprehensive manner so as to initiate effective HIV programmes in churches. The Consultation also discussed that the criminalization in society against people living with HIV and AIDS violated human rights, including the rights to health, privacy, equality, and non-discrimination, thus impeding HIV treatment and prevention and transgender people experience more hardened stigma in health care and discrimination.

The Consultation emphasized that the Christian response or understanding of sexuality needs to take account of the fullness of all these dimensions, balanced with a sense of mystery which God has given to human beings in the domain of sexuality. Like other aspects of creation, sexuality can be misused where people do not recognize or appropriately express personal responsibility.

2.5 National Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence in East Timor

20-22 September 2022/ Dili, East Timor

A national consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence at Dili, East Timor was held on 20-22 September 2022, attended by twenty three women leaders of Protestant Church in East Timor, where the participants discussed the different forms of child sexual abuse, the psychological impacts of sexual abuse on women and children and the legal frameworks in place to access justice. It was agreed that churches must realize the gravity of the issue of sexual violence on women and children, generate awareness among the churches and provide a safe space for the victims of abuse in the churches and communities.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

CCA as a regional ecumenical organization and facilitator has played its role to develop and strengthen the prayer movement of Fellowship of Least Coin by encouraging its constituencies to involve in national level activities of FLC; and in popularizing the FLC movement at all levels such as Sunday schools, women and youth activities.

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

The prayerful support of FLC Block Grant for CCA was used to promote CCA's "Ecumenical Women's Action Violence", conducting consultation on 'Freedom of Religion, Rights of Religious Minorities', and other activities on women's issues.

Conclusion:

ICFLC has been a committed supporter and partner of CCA Programmes especially with regard to gender justice and women concerns.

On behalf of CCA, I would like to record my sincere gratitude for the continued support and encouragement of ICFLC for CCA. ICFLC is indeed a unique prayer movement that provides opportunity to all women to pray for each other, show solidarity and be partners in God's Mission. Thank you.

- Regional Consultation on 'Changing Family Values in Tradition and Modernity in Asia'

www.cca.org.hk



Christian Conference of Asia

Asia Regional Symposium

**'Family Life and Family Values:
Transitions from Tradition to Modernity'**

Virtual Symposium

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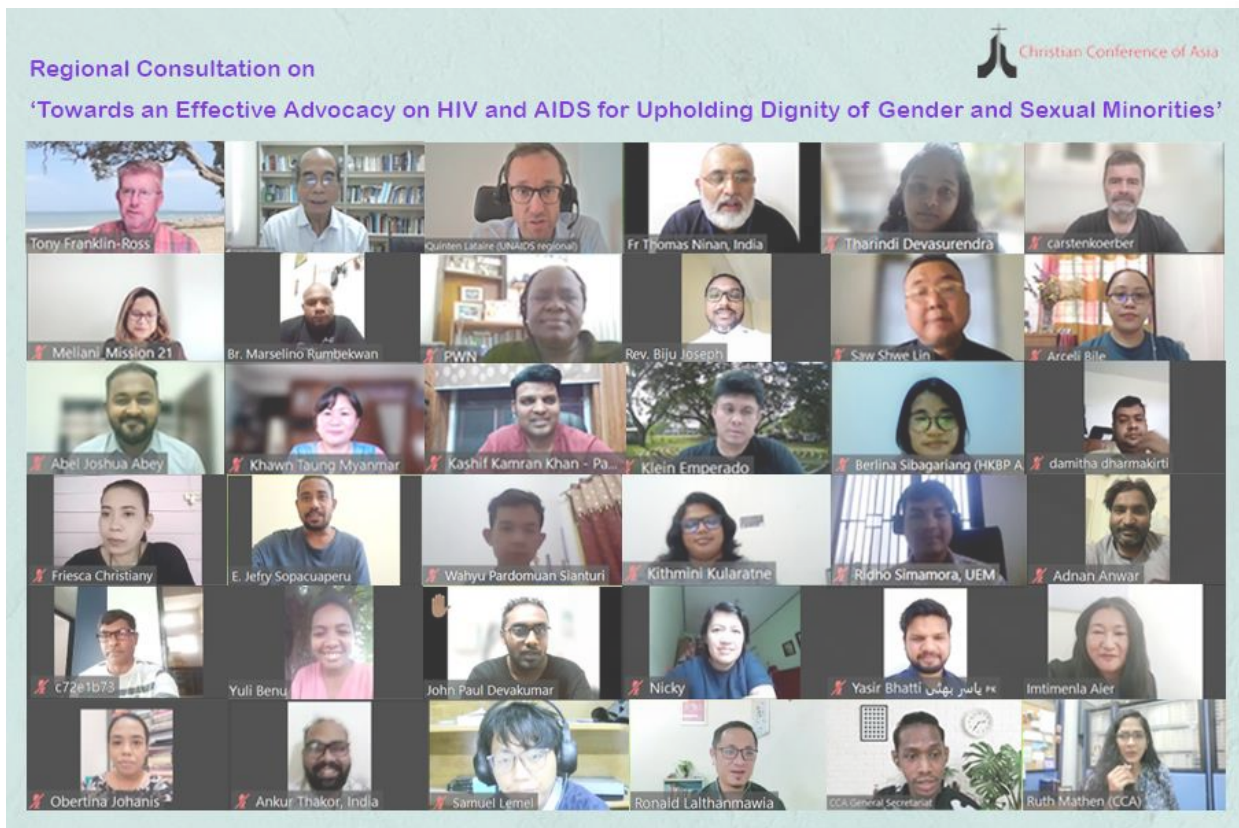
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8 March 2022

- Consultation on 'Towards an Effective Advocacy on HIV and AIDS for Upholding Dignity of Gender and Sexual Minorities'



• **National Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence**



Name of EO Red Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias

Author of Report/Position Rev. Yamina Apolaris/ Regional Representative **Year 2021-2022**

1. Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk:

This was a year of great challenges and opportunities. During all this period CLAI membership identified a representative group of leaders from all the areas and denominational groups, to facilitate a process of "reimagination", that is, to analyze, gather information, and lead the membership in the creation of the new structure that would move CLAI into a new stage. One of the most significant aspects of this team is not only the fact that it has the same number of males as female members but also that the ICFLC CLAI representative was also included as a full member. This demonstrated the significance of FLC in the vision of the future of CLAI. This also means that in the historical records of CLAI, FLC is identified and therefore there is an understanding that both organizations share values and practices that connect us to our commitment to peace, justice and reconciliation for all of creation.

It is also of great significance that the coordinator of the Red CLAI Transition Team, is a woman very familiar with FLC, who has participated as coordinator/recipient of one of our project grants. So FLC is very much present and celebrated in the our leadership.

2. Achievements in the last year relevant to practice of FLC (new organization/group or new country where FLC is started):

It was evident that the situation with the pandemic affected us all, particularly making it very difficult to conduct meetings other than virtually. On the other hand, this opened wonderful opportunities to gather and to participate in ways we never thought possible. I was able to participate of several meetings, both at regional as well as project activities through Zoom. Being at opening activities and gatherings in various countries without having to travel was a wonderful experience that allow me to bring greetings on behalf of ICFLC and invite them to practice prayer and the setting aside of the least coins. In the case of Puerto Rico, I was able to participate both in presence as well as though Zoom to promote FLC.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

It is clear that we have been effective in generating enthusiasm and promoting our practice of prayer and commitment to peace and reconciliation. As part of our moving into this new phase, we are looking at ways to help our sisters not only practice setting aside their least coins but also channeling the coins so that they may participate fully with sisters beyond their particular situations.

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

Block Grant was not requested for the year 2021

Conclusion:

My dear sisters, I count as a great blessing the wonderful experience of being part of ICFLC for all these years. I have learned so much from each one of you and from all the sisters that have been part of our committee for as long as I have been. All have and are a source of inspiration and care. As I shared with you at our last meetings, I was sure this was going to be my last year as part of the committee. But for my surprise, the transition team has requested that I continue, until they are able to finish the process and identify a new representative. So, here I am for one more year, and I thank the CLAI team and all of you also, for continue to make this such a personal blessing.


July 2022



Name of EO: Church Women United, Inc

Author of Report/Position: Mira J. Washington, National President

Year :2022

1. Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk:

Church Women United's mission is to be a racially, culturally and theologically inclusive Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice, specifically for women and children. CWU strives to provide for its members resources and information on a wide range of social justice issues, opportunities for worship and action, and an expansive network of women and women's organizations working to ensure a better world for all.^[3]

In 1941, three organizations – the Council of Women for Home Missions, the Committee on Women's Work of the Foreign Missions Conference, and the National Council of Federated Church Women – combined to form one national organization representing women from seventy Christian denominations. The new organization was originally called the United Council of Church Women (UCCW). The founders of Church Women United met in Atlantic City, NJ in December, 1941, while bombs were dropping on Pearl Harbor and the world was at war. Their first action, upon convening, was to circulate a petition signed by 84,000 church women "urging the United States at the signing of the United Nations Charter, to join and take its full responsibility in a world organization."

The action received wide publicity in the media, encouraging Eleanor Roosevelt to later involve the leaders of CWU in a conference at the White House on "How Women May Share in Post War Policy Making. Such action remains typical for CWU today, as its quest for informed prayer and prayerful action continues. Women in the movement affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

2. Achievements in the last year relevant to practice of FLC (new organization/group or new country where FLC is started):

- Ongoing communication to support FLC through steadfast prayer and financial contributions and to emphasize the critical work of ICFLC.
- Participated in a Global Prayer hosted by CWU USA. Over 100+ participants attended in spirit-filled prayer vigil. We offered various prayers to support our local and global world. Church Women United believes now is the time to pray for peace, hope and justice for all humanity.



3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

Church Women United, Inc worked effortlessly to support FLC throughout the year. However, we are still recovering from the devastation of the pandemic. Many of our States/Local units are operating face to face, virtually or hybrid. We collectively pray for God’s will and way to guide, lead and direct our path to this new normal of ministry. As a regional ecumenical organization its critical we activate our faith

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

- Will create a new brochure to CWU/Fellowship of Least Coin initiative outlining the history, purpose and fund development to help CWU achieve its financial goal.
- Per request of CWU members, we will organize a regular monthly Prayer Call in 2023.
- Distribution of the FLC newsletters and annual reports to our community.
- Will focus on rebooting the Fellowship of Least Coin campaign by asking our State and Local Units to create decorative small coin jars to collect the least coins and currency.

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

Due to the pandemic, we did not submit any FLC Block Grants in 2020/2021. We are pleased to indicate that in 2022 we received a substantial number of applicants and look forward to highlighting their mission work.

The relentless prayer support of the FLC Block Grant for our partners has been previously used to support Farm Workers and we are pleased with the continued progress of NFWM.

Conclusion:

Church Women United continues to support ICFLC in their effort to advocate for peace, justice and hope for women and girls across the globe. We stand in solidarity with our regional partners who are in collaboration to empower, encourage and equip women to success.

On behalf of the National Board of Directors, members and partners of Church Women United, Inc we extend gratitude and appreciation for ICFLC and their mission work and the movement of prayer. Let's continue promote ICFLC so others will join this unique movement of prayer founded in 1956. We pray almighty God release the chains of gender violence, spiritual war, climate change, poverty and the things that cause women and children to suffer. We stand in unity and faith with our sisters across the globe to make this world a better place.





Name of EO; ECUMENICAL FORUM OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN www.efecw.net

Author of Report/Position Martina Heinrichs, EFECW representant to ICFLC

Year 2021/2022

1. **Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk:** For the period 2018-2022 of EFECW the spiritual theme is Hope. The ongoing COVID crisis was still present for the most part of the 2021/2022 period of this report. With well-known consequences: hardly any opportunity to meet one another physically. Nevertheless, other forms of communication at all levels (national, Coordinating Committee, webinars, national coordinator's zoom meetings) took place on internet with the advantage of less costs and less time consuming. Main issue for the CC was the (online) preparation of the **General Assembly** planned for **5 – 9 August 2022**. It was decided for the following title: **Hope & Responsibility** “ ... and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have.” 1P 3,15

What else happened:

- Representation of EFECW in the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe. EFECW has been granted participatory status at the Council of Europe as of 1 February 2021.
- In August 2021 the Swiss Forum closed down because of less and aging members. Individual women will keep contact with the European Forum.
- EFECW online representation during the conference ‘Images of God and (Non) Violence’ of Church and Peace, 3-5 September 2021
- EFECW representation on 9-10 September 2021 International Religious Freedom and Peace conference at the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, in Armenia, based on the biblical message: “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom” (2 Co. 3:17).
- 4 - 10 October 2021 ‘Creating opportunities: Generations in Dialogue’, a hybrid conference of the World Council of Religious Leaders on Faith and Diplomacy, in Lindau/Germany. EFECW was represented.
- General Meeting face to face, German EFECW “Combat poverty with courage”, 15 - 16 October 2021
- Re-launching the Ecumenical Forum of Christian Women in Spain 18th January 2022, online
- February 2022: the Coordinating Committee contributed to the FLC SWOT analysis from their European perspective.

- February 22, 2022 - Open letter to Christian Women in Ukraine by the Austrian EFECW, Vienna. For support and about prayers in the threatening situation as well as a statement against the war of Putin. Publishing similar statements of various other European ecumenical networks.
- March 4th 2022 World Day of Prayer meeting of the Serbian Forum in Zemun, Serbia
- Praying for Peace Online Meeting of the French Forum, 6th March 2022
- May 10, 2022 National Coordinators online meeting 'What can we do in the face of the war in Ukraine?'
- 5 – 9 August 2022, 11th General Assembly of EFECW in Strasbourg, France.

For more detailed information see: [Newsletters - EFECW | Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women](#) – especially newsletters of December 2021 and April 2022

2. Achievements in the last year relevant to practice of FLC (new organization/group or new country where FLC is started):

In 2021/2022 the COVID restrictions had again a great impact on my work as FLC Regional Coordinator for Europe. Due to the ongoing stand-still of nearly all physical events and switching to online or hybrid gatherings of EFECW and of other congregations or women's groups, practically no liturgies could be held and hardly any offerings came in. I still have no exact overview of the groups or individuals who contribute to FLC. This is essential to build up a communication network in Europe and to increase the commitment. EFECW's Coordinating Committee contributed to the FLC SWOT analysis for Europe. Which hopefully helps to give new strength and a new face to the FLC worldwide movement. For the first time at an EFECW General Assembly there has been no ingathering for offerings to FLC. There is a reluctant attitude towards the future of the relation of EFECW to FLC. It is up to the newly elected EFECW Coordinating Committee to decide about this. Because of this unclear situation and because of the COVID restrictions, I could collect only 1 grant application from Europe to bring to the table of the ICFLC Annual Meeting of 2022.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

From 26 to 28 August 2022 I was present at the IAWM International Association of Women Ministers www.womenministers.org meeting in Karlsbad, Germany. Where I gave a well-received presentation of FLC. There was special interest for the Circle of Prayer and the Ingathering Liturgy. A filming team of two South Korean women made an interview with me which they will use for educational purposes back home. At the WCC Pre-Assembly of 'JCWM Just Community of Women and Men' I was present – on the request of the FLC Executive Secretary Liza Lamis - at August 29 and 30, 2022. At August 31 I invited for a meeting of the ICFLC members who were present for the Pre-Assembly before the General Assembly started. The aim was to get to know each other face to face instead of our Zoom meetings of the last two years. 5 out of 7 women were able to take part in this meeting. It has been recorded by Barbara Robra who will prepare a short film-presentation.

The new lay out of the FLC website (made by the outgoing ICFLC president Awit Marcelino, Canada) has been very helpful for my presentations.

4. **Results of use of FLC Block Grant:** see item 1

Conclusion: looking forward to the upcoming ICFLC Annual Meeting and hoping for a good and constructive atmosphere on the base of the common SWOT analysis as well as a creative new vision for the future of FLC.



Martina Heinrichs, Nijmegen/NL, September 3rd, 2022



Name of EO: Middle East Council of Churches

Author of Report/Position: Karineh Sahakian Cholakian/MECC Representative to ICFLC
Year: 2022

In the memory of Mahsa Amini, (22 years-old Iranian woman who was brutally beaten and killed by the moral police because of having improper hijab in Tehran) and all Mahsas whoes blood was shed on the streets of their beloved countries just because they asked for their basic human rights and freedom:

“We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed, always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.”

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

1. Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women’s Desk:

The present situation in many countries in the Middle East stays unstable and even worse than the previous years despite less international media coverage. Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Occupied Palestine and Yemen go through different kinds of miseries and distress. Freedom and basic human rights are presented as luxury in many of our countries and those on power continue their efforts to supress the poor and the marginalized communities among them. Women and children are affected most by the created chaos and are in need of peace, justice and reconciliation all around the region.

The following are women’s projects at MECC:

- Women empowerment/capacity building through life skills, communication skills, mental health

The Service and Relief Department - Diakonia, Beirut’s Office, at the Middle East Council of Churches, was seeking throughout the year, to accompany and support the women refugees in order to overcome their challenges, through various programs.

The Service and Relief Department - Diakonia, Beirut office, at the Middle East Council of Churches, implemented a Women Empowerment program in cooperation with the municipality of Kfartebnite, South Lebanon. The program aimed at supporting women and developing their capabilities through their participation in training courses during which they learned new skills.

Livelihood:

- Vocational training:

The MECC Service and Relief – Diakonia Department, Beirut’s office, under the support of the international humanitarian organization Embrace

the Middle East (EME), was compelled to launch Women Empowerment initiatives so that to mitigate economic burdens. Sewing Training sessions were lunch to empower women.

The Service and Relief Department - Diakonia, at the Middle East Council of Churches, Syria office, implemented a vocational training program aiming at supporting youth to enter the labor market in Damascus and Rural Damascus. 50 young trainees aged 18 to 45 participated in the trainings.

- Food security

The mission of the MECC Service and Relief – Diakonia Department, Beirut’s Office, included many types of aids such as distributing food, hygiene, and dignity kits, mattresses, diaper packs, unconditional vouchers, hygiene vouchers, and cash assistance after Beirut blast in Aug. 2020. In addition, the Diakonia Department launched a program for the rehabilitation of small businesses in Beirut, which witnessed significant damage.

Other:

- Psychosocial support

Some women struggle with mental health issues due to loneliness, violence, and cultural isolation. Luckily, the MECC Service and Relief – Diakonia Department, Beirut’s Office, was able to inspire positive change, with the help of international partners. As such, Psychosocial sessions were given to these women as an attempt to mend wounds. They were divided into two categories: those that can attend art technique sessions, and those that need greater mental health intervention.

- GBV (Gender-Based Violence) awareness and support

During the month of May 2022, the MECC, as part of its effort to provide Humanitarian relief to victims of protracted crises, held several activities at Our Lady Dispensary in Sabtieh, Sad El Bouchrieh. Activities took on themes related to: soft skills, psycho social support, Gender Based Violence, and health awareness. The objective of such endeavors is to allow people to get back on their feet, after several traumas had shaped their lives.

- Healthcare and health awareness

The Middle East Council of Churches continued, during the month of July, to vaccinate children and distribute medication which prices have skyrocketed in Lebanon.

The Service and Relief Department- Diakonia, at the Middle East Council of Churches, Damascus office, distributed various in-kind kits to students in six schools in Rural Damascus, Aleppo and Homs in order to

support the most vulnerable groups. The students of a school in Bloudan and another in Madaya in Rural Damascus received hygiene and school kits in addition to children clothing kits. In addition, the students of other two schools in Homs and two in Aleppo, received school and hygiene kits.

- Recreational activities

The Service and Relief Department –Diakonia, at the Middle East Council of Churches, Syria’s Office, organized a summer club for 200 students aged between 6 and 13 years old, in Al Asieh School in Jaramana in Rural Damascus. The summer club targeted vulnerable children that were affected by the Syrian crisis in order to help them release their stress resulting from social and academic pressures. The summer club helped children to better manage their time, learn new various skills, and make new friendships.

For the detailed reporting of the activities and seminars please visit <https://www.mecc.org/diakonia>

2. Achievements in the last year relevant to practice of FLC (new organization/group or new country where FLC is started):

The work and vision of the FLC was introduced to the leaders of an Evangelical Church in Hasake (a village north of Syria), an Anglican Church in Jordan and an Evangelical Church in Minyara (a village north of Lebanon). The next step would be to share the details of the FLC movement to their communities by organizing programs with their leaders.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

Individual church leaders continue to promote the work of the FLC among their members by encouraging them to pray for peace, justice and reconciliation in the world and collect their least coins.

The camps have been a place where the leaders have also promoted the work of the FLC and prayed and collected offerings. The collected offerings are all being sent to the FLC office every year.

Call to Prayer was held on June 28, 2022 in Armenian language which was a great opportunity to introduce the vision and work of the FLC to younger audience.

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

The FLC Block Grant has not been used for the last two years. The main reasons have been first the unstable and chaotic situation in Lebanon and second late arrival of the Block Grant to the MECC office.

However, there is a plan to print the FLC prayer in three languages Arabic, Armenian and English in order to share them with the new churches and communities that the FLC has been introduced. Moreover, there is a plan to make or buy boxes for the individuals who are going to join the FLC family to collect their least coin. These publications and boxes will be specifically useful for the villages in the region.

May God’s name be glorified in all ministries presented above.



Name of EO: Pacific Conference of Churches

Author of Report/Position:

Rev. Siera Bird /PCC Ecumenical Animator for Women & Gender Desk

Year: 2022

1. Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk:

- 7th April 2022, PCC Ecumenical Animator joined PCC team @ PCC head-office in Suva, Fiji after 1 and half years working remotely in the Solomon Islands. It was a beginning of so many things with much to do (not sure where to start). However since the God's mission with PCC 33 member churches and international partnering such as FLC need to maintain and move forward, this report is outlining the present context and new work of the EO desk that already achieved and need to roll-out to the churches.
- Covid-19 restrictions and borders within the Pacific Countries lifted as of April to July 2022. The virtual meetings, workshops and conferences that taken place since beginning of 2020 shifted to Hybrid (in the room mainly in Fiji and other countries joint virtually). Recently from July onward, programmes and events happening face to face. As Church leaders aware of the PCC Gender/Women's achievements through face to face meetings recently, PCC member churches request the women's desk to organise workshops and programmes in their location which will allow the Ecumenical Animator to promote other responsibilities such as FLC. "Just and Safe Communities of Pacific Women and Men Programme" was a 3 years project , therefore advocacy of EVAWG and Gender Equality by and within Pacific Churches was co-ordinated by PCC in collaboration with WEAVERS programme on behalf of South Pacific Association for Theological Schools to secure and encourage women for theological training.
- Geography and transportation cost in the Pacific is one of the main issue. For instance, return fare Fiji-Samoa; \$1189FJD, Fiji-Australia; \$1099FJD, Fiji-USA; \$1899 FJD or Fiji-Kiribati; \$1495. These figures are to show that working with our Partners in the Pacific is costly just as working with other regions. The only avenue to connect with Women's fellowships in the Pacific that affiliated with FLC and those that want to connect with ICFLC programmes is through emails or facebook or attending other face to face meetings.

2. Achievements in the last year relevant to practice of FLC (new organization/group or new country where FLC is started):

Pacific Conference of Churches Gender/Women desk rejoiced over the achievement that happened within the Organisation that relevant to the practice of FLC. During the International Women's Day in March 2022 and in April 21st & 22nd 2022, PCC organised a 'Regional Feminist Theologian Dialogues' which allow Women Theologians to share their challenges and strategize together to create a space that they can address the challenges

women encounter in their respective context. Such as women in Kiribati and Tuvalu learn how to farm their vegetable in the midst of sea-level rise.

The Ecumenical Organisation Women’s desk celebrated for the year the completion of ‘Gender Status (Score) Card’ for 33 PCC Member Churches that developed by the Gender/Women’s Desk team. This document is a self-Assessment tool and was completed and launched on the 30th June 2022. This self-assessment tool will enable the churches to prioritise areas to strengthen the work that related to women, girls and children.



Figure 1 Gender Status/Score Card Launching on the 30/6/2022.

While advocacy on ‘Thursday in Black campaign’ is spreading in the Pacific, PCC adopted ‘Breaking the Silence Sunday’ that initiated by the Anglican Diocese of Polynesia- one of the PCC member churches. The Breaking the Silence Sunday is a Sunday prior to 25 November (beginning of 16days of Activism). PCC Gender and Women’s Desk is developing a Liturgical service and requested each member churches to write the homily for each year. Last year-2021, a girl from Tonga written a powerful sermon. This year-2022, our sister from West Papua prepare the sermon.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

One achievement that happened this year upon the Executive Secretary suggestion is for PCC to invite Australia and New Zealand members to join the Pacific to connecting in prayer with passion, hope and resilience for the Call to Prayer in June 28th. Australia, NZ and the Pacific share many things in common- the time and all under Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) therefore it is a joy to celebrate the Call to Prayer and other activities together as a way forward.

PCC continue to promote and strengthen FLC by providing contributions to the Circle of prayer 26. PCC Women’s Desk is empowered to have the General Secretary’s (Rev. James Bhagwan) contribution towards Circle of Prayer 26, together with the Ecumenical Animator’s (Rev Siera Bird) and Pastor Leinamau’s contributions.

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

Due to Covid-19 and the only way to reach PCC member churches with women’s desk programmes is through virtually, the FLC Block Grant was use to get the Ecumenical Enabler to assist (who is an IT knowledgeable) in implementing the activities and achievements (some that mentioned above) to the women’s fellowship across the Pacific Conference of Churches Members.



World Council of Churches

Name of EO: World Council of Churches

Author of Report/Position: Rev Nicqi Ashwood, Program Exec. Just Community of Women and Men (JCWM)

Year: 2021

- 1. Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk:** With the end of Covid-19 lockdowns in Europe, much of the WCC efforts have been directed at preparation for the Assembly, as well as providing support for in-person training in Africa (Angola and Nigeria) and online programme in Trinidad and Tobago.

Present Context and Thrust

Coming out of the Commission on the Status of Women and the evaluation of the Covid-response team of 2020, there has been an increased thrust in resuming training and awareness raising re ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. This has manifested in continued online training for 80 stakeholders on Women's Human Rights Advocacy – global and regional – and for SGBV prevention. For the regional training, the focus was Africa, and issues of persons with disability was included.

<https://fabo.org/lwf/Women%27s-Human-Rights-Advocacy-Training-for-FBOs>
(course material)

Online Fora

1. The JCWM has partnered with the Lutheran World Federation and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to host an anti-human trafficking webinar series – ***Stop the Flow***. This can be viewed on the WCC YouTube at <https://youtu.be/IBlcwHaIbI8>
2. The JCWM also collaborated with WCC's Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative and Advocacy (EHAIA) East Africa office to provide mentorship for college students. The programme, entitled '***Love Matters***', helped participants navigate relationships from a Christian perspective, including human sexuality. Launched on Valentine's Day, participants who met in person and virtually with mentors each month. The programme continues in 2022.

Other

1. Through our EHAIA offices in West and Lusophone Africa, trainings on addressing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence were provided for women in Nigeria and Angola. These were internal collaborations with WCC constituencies.
2. Partnership with Church Women United through ICFLC (VP Mira Washington) resulted in participation in the CWU Quadrennial.
3. A for-credit online course on Gender Justice facilitated in collaboration with St Andrews Theological College in Trinidad and Tobago (Sept – Dec 2021). WCC helped to provide international lectures and JCWM Programme Exec was a lecturer and co-ordinator.
4. A joint in-person gathering of all four WCC pre-Assembly advisors met in December to plan for joint sessions during the scheduled 2022 assembly in Karlsruhe. Owing

the Covid-19 constraints, the group of 50 persons met in Geneva rather than in Germany.

2. **Achievements in the last year relevant to practice of FLC (new organization/group or new country where FLC is started):** No new group has been formed.
3. **Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:** We have been more intentional about promoting the FLC in our general updates to our constituencies.
4. **Results of use of FLC Block Grant:** FLC Block Grant has helped us consolidate our in-person work for the Africa meetings. It has also offset production costs for the '**Stop the Flow**' webinar.

Conclusion:

WCC remains committed to supporting the FLC and to exploring collaborative possibilities with the FLC partners. There is an increased intentionality to share news about the FLC in the monthly newsletters.



Name of EO: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Author of Report/Position: Katie Reimer, Executive Director

Year: 2022

1. Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk:

The World Day of Prayer movement brings together over a million women for a common day of prayer on the first Friday of March. Women gather in local groups to celebrate a worship service written by women from a different committee each year. In addition to this worship service, many local groups engage a Bible Study or Children's Program written by the writer country. Women also take time to learn about the context of the writers through a Country Background.

Our motto is "Informed Prayer, Prayerful Action," which guides our prayer movement in powerful ways. We strive for our prayers to be informed by the context of women around the world. And we are committed to acting from a place of prayer and connection to God.

Our 2022 program was written by a group of ecumenical Christian women in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (EWNI). These women spent several years deepening into their theme, "I Know the Plans I Have For You," based on Jeremiah 29:1-14. Out of the time they spent praying and thinking and writing, the women from EWNI brought a powerful program to our worldwide movement. Their service was translated into approximately 90 languages, and celebrated in over 140 countries. This theme was especially powerful in the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, reassuring the world that God still has plans for us to grow and thrive.

2. Achievements in the last year relevant to the practice of FLC (new organization/group or new country where FLC is started):

World Day of Prayer has a long history of partnership with the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC). Both of our movements are global and ecumenical in scope, committed to developing a sisterhood by centering women's voices and experiences. We are grateful for the ongoing relationship and crossover in mission between our two organizations.

Many women who participate in WDP also participate in FLC. And some WDP National Committees are active in promoting FLC in their local communities. During the SWOT analysis undertaken by ICFLC in 2022, the WDP Executive Committee shared their thoughts and ideas with Laurence Gangloff, who brought them to ICFLC. We trust that the Spirit is moving among us and between us to dream and imagine a future brimming over with prayer and connection to God and each other.

Every 5 years, WDPIC holds an International Meeting, bringing together over 200 women representing each National Committee around the world. In 2022, we held our very first virtual meeting. Originally, it was scheduled to be in person in Scotland, but we decided the risks related to COVID-19 were still too high to meet in person. At this year's International Meeting, we invited several sisters from our ecumenical partnerships to record a video bringing greetings to our gathering. We were grateful for messages we received from Liza Lamis (FLC), Siera Bird (Pacific Conference of Churches) and Nicki Ashwood (WCC). These messages helped remind our World Day of Prayer delegates of our commitment to ecumenical partnerships with like-minded organizations.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

We have shared the FLC website on our WDPIC Facebook page. We also occasionally share posts made on the FLC Facebook page. Social media is a powerful tool for promoting and strengthening the partnership between our organizations.

Since both of our organizations are centered on prayer, we also commit to remembering FLC in our prayers when we gather in local, regional and international WDP bodies. We know that prayer connects us to God, and strengthens the organizations that we are involved with. And we trust that our prayers with and for FLC will continue to strengthen both of our organizations.

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

We use the FLC Block Grant to support the gatherings of our Executive Committee. This Executive Committee is comprised of 14 Regional Representatives from 7 regions around the world, elected by the women in the regions. In addition, the Executive Committee has a Chairperson and a Treasurer (elected by the worldwide body). Our Executive Committee met in 2022, and will meet again in 2025. We will use the FLC Block Grant we receive in the next 2 years to support that upcoming meeting in 2025.

We are very pleased to share that in 2022, World Day of Prayer elected our very first African Chairperson, Joyce Larko Steiner (WDP Ghana). Joyce brings many years of experience in ecumenical work through the Christian Council of Ghana, the All Africa Conference of Churches and the World Council of Churches. She has been a strong leader within the World Day of Prayer movement for decades, and we are thrilled she has stepped into this role to guide our movement from 2022-2027.

Conclusion:

We give thanks to God for our relationship with ICFLC, and we know that World Day of Prayer is stronger because of the partnership and support we receive from ICFLC. When we pray and come together in a spirit of ecumenism, we join with the expansive heart of God and move into a future filled with hope.



THE 2023 FLC PROJECT GRANTS

AFRICA

- 1) ZARYA GARDENS, Cannon Wambugu, Kenya, USD 4,000.00
To bring Christian women together for prayers, family teachings, encouragement and counseling.

- 2) MENSTRUAL HEALTH EMPOWERMENT AND PROMOTION, Slum Youth Rehabilitation and Development Organization (SYRADO), Uganda, USD 3,000.00
To empower women and adolescent girls both spiritually and morally through reusable sanitary pad making and telling them more about God.

- 3) UPENDO CRAFT CENTRE, ACK Diocese of Mumias, Kenya, USD 4,000.00
To empower of women both spiritually and morally.

- 4) BEEKEEPING PROJECTS TO EMPOWER YOUTH AND WOMEN, Anglican Diocese of Harare, Zimbabwe, USD 4,000.00
To address the problem of poor household incomes and rampant poverty among the communities that the church serves by engaging youth and women at six parishes of the Diocese in beekeeping as an income-generating project.

ASIA

- 5) ATUTU MYANMAR SUPPORT IN JAPAN, Atutu Myanmar Support in Japan, USD 4,000.00

To support the Myanmar people in Japan and Myanmar after the military coup where civilians, especially women and children are confronted with the danger of their lives.

- 6) EQUIPPING WOMEN USING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM TO EFFECTIVELY REACH AND SEARCH THEIR CONSTITUENTS, Ecumenical

Church Women United of the Philippines (ECWUP), Philippines,
USD 4,000.00

To educate and equip all ECWUP Women Leaders in reaching their own members by implementation of this program using technology.

EUROPE

- 7) EMPOWERING LEARNING OF WOMEN WITH WOMEN FOR PEACE BUILDING, International Academy for Diakonia and Christian and Social Practice, Czech Republic, USD 4,000.00

To empower the women and communities which are affected by different kinds of conflict (personal, organizational, geographical).

MIDDLE EAST

- 8) EMERGENCY RELIEF AID FOR CHILDREN OF SYRIAN REFUGEES AND LEBANESE MINOR GIRLS AT THE PREVENTIVE CENTER OF NABAA, Beit-el-Nour (House of Light and Hope), Lebanon, USD 4,000.00

To support the most vulnerable Syrian and Lebanese girls in order to prevent and protect them against violence, exploitation, and delinquency and ensure education and schooling for them.

USA

- 9) END THE CYCLE – STOP THE VIOLENCE, Angels of Mercy, USA, USD 4,000.00

To prevent domestic violence and human trafficking against women and children in the first place, as well as to help victims out of abusive situations and achieve a healthy and safe life away from abuse by providing referrals to women leaving abusive situations through our Survivor Resettlement program.

- 10) HEAL OUR LAND, The REACH Initiative, USA, USD 4,000.00

To provide training for women to have an ecumenical dialogue about healing through the use of words, by educating women in the faith-based community: arming them with knowledge of adverse childhood experiences, stigmatizing language, and the power of storytelling.

LATIN AMERICA

- 11) EDUCATING FOR INCLUSION, Ingeniero Budge Evangelical Methodist Church, Argentina, USD 4,000.00

To contribute to the improvement of women's, young people's, and children's lives through academic development and studies, in a setting of social vulnerability with the aim of enhancing life quality.

- 12) SPORTS AND INTEGRATION PROGRAM - SEMBRADORES METHODIST COMMUNITY, Iglesia Metodista en el Uruguay, Uruguay, USD 4,000.00

To provide space for teaching and integration of boys and girls between 8 and 11 years old, through a school of pre-sports games and community and educational activities, focused on the perspective of the Gospel.

ICFLC APPROVED BUDGET

January to December 2023

FLC Grants

Block Grants	USD 52,000.
Project Grants	47,000.
Scholarships (Bursary for Older Women)	1,000.
Emergency Grants	8,000.

Administrative Expenses

PH Office Administration	5,000.
Circle of Prayer v. 27	300.
Bank Fees	1,000.
Salary, Executive Secretary	25,765.
Pension, Executive Secretary	2,150.
Treasurer's Honorarium (returned to Budget as a gift from the Treasurer)	

TOTAL **USD 142,200.**

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 women's 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. The Pacific Mission Team 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 in the 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 justice, peace and reconciliation.

On the return of the team, Shanti 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. The second ACWC Assembly in Thailand in 1962 voted to make the promotion of the FLC a basic outreach programme of the ACWC. *Regarding funds allocation, it was decided that the World Council of Churches (WCC) would be*

better placed to disburse the monies that had to be credited around the world. 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 worldwide 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 worldwide 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 coin offerings 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 20 to 25 projects are supported from around the world through the **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 to disaster-stricken countries. Two scholarship grants are given

to women: the **Scholarship Award for Young Women (SAYW)**, and the **Bursary for Older Women (BOW)**.

THE UNIQUENESS OF THE FLC

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

- 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 are in 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) 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) 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; and 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 a 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 – the “least coin” - encourages wider participation and provides resources for making justice and 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**" offering 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 experiences 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 the **FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN**. For details in sending your FLC Offerings, kindly email: [**icflcph@gmail.com**](mailto:icflcph@gmail.com)

You may also visit:

<https://www.fellowshipoftheleastcoin.org/>

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