

# Fellowship of the Least Coin



*Messages & Reports*  
2018



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## *Message From The Chairperson And Vice Chairperson*

Dear Sisters,

It's only the second month of the new year and already there have been 32 mass shootings in the USA. It's been five months since Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico and 450,000 residents are still without power and basic necessities. It's been 150 years since Canada was "founded" and Indigenous reserves are still without clean drinking water and quality education.

In Poland, hundreds of thousands of people die prematurely because of excessive air pollution from coal production. In the French Alps, migrants flee from economically-depressed homelands and face frostbite and hypothermia for a chance at a brighter future. In Turkey, thousands of citizens, including teachers, journalists, and civil servants, are detained for what they say on social media, in newspapers, and in private communications.

These are snapshots of our corners of the world. What does it look like in yours?

In so many parts of the world, human beings made in God's image are denied their worth and basic rights to life, justice, and peace because of the colour of their skin, place of birth, culture, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and socioeconomic status. Today, we ask you to uphold life in the face of injustice like the Hebrew midwives protected babies from Pharaoh's death sentence. Today, we ask you to reach out and heal those who suffer like the woman with hemorrhages reached out to touch Jesus' robe. Today, we ask you – wherever you are and with whatever you have – to stand up for human dignity.

Your neighbours depend on you. Your sisters are with you. Our world is waiting.

In solidarity and in love,



**Martina Heinrichs**, ICFLC Chair, Representative of Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women (EFECW)



**Awit Marcelino**, ICFLC Vice-Chair, Representative of Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC)



## *Message From The Executive Secretary*

*Manale, 33, is a mother of three, a survivor of domestic abuse, lately accused of adultery. Rejected by family and condemned to jail for 1.5 years in a Women's Prison in Lebanon. She was totally demoralized, depressed and sometimes hysterical. She sat down with a social worker and psychologist for several sessions sharing her story and seeing a way through her lot. A lawyer is helping to shorten her prison stay. She joined a computer class and jewelry making workshop while in jail. Upon release from jail, she hopes to find a safe place to stay and possibly reunite with her family, and find a job.*

Manale does not know women from around the world are praying with her to find her way and to be whole again. She does not know that many women offered not only prayers, but what they have in the least amount, to help her anonymously. Women in the FLC movement just know, that they are moving with women needing some help and ardent prayers towards justice, peace and reconciliation.



*Manale receiving her vocational  
course certificate*

Indeed, the movement is us. Manale may not know who are her sisters praying and working with her, but here we are fully aware that through the FLC we are connected in prayer for justice, peace and reconciliation.

As I receive from Corazon Tabing-Reyes the position of stewardship in the ICFLC as the next Executive Secretary, I cannot but praise and thank God that I am really doing something that is

not just a job, but truly a Joy Of Being or JOB. I am passionate about gender justice and as such I am everyday curious how to work with women for self and social transformation. Working with the ICFLC is a great challenge I am learning the job on-the-go, while members of the ICFLC are closely accompanying me and Marilyn Lariviere, the new Honorary Treasurer in our early months into the work.

On February 21, 2018 we held our Thanksgiving Service for a decade of ICFLC Office in the welcome of the Philippine ecumenical movement. We took the time to recognize Corazon for her achievements as an ecumenical worker and declare her a Crone – a woman who has come of age and is acting upon her received wisdom. As many were blessed by her life and witness, it was also a time to bless Corazon for the next lap of her life's journey.

The Thanksgiving Service was also an occasion to look forward to the next five or so years for the ICFLC Office, and to charge the next Executive Secretary as the succeeding chief steward of the FLC movement. I hope and pray I will live up to the challenges laid before me with humility and grace, courage and kindness.

This booklet is our way of strengthening our interconnectedness and stewardship of the FLC spirit and its resources. As fellows in the movement let us be a blessing for each one and for the world as we are generously blessed.

This is who we are – a global ecumenical movement of gracious receiving, giving and praying with each other, and with our God of Justice, Peace and Reconciliation.

**Dr. Liza B. Lamis**

Executive Secretary

January 2018



## *Report Of The Executive Secretary,*

With this final report, I take my bow for my eight years of service as representative of the Christian Conference of Asia and ten years as Executive Secretary of ICFLC. They were eighteen years of blissful and momentous times with my sisters who come from all regional and global ecumenical organizations of the world. Eighteen years of promoting and administering the Fellowship of the Least Coin global prayer movement for justice, peace and reconciliation. Eighteen years of learning encounters and friendship with sisters from different parts of the world virtually or personally...The journey was not always pleasant and agreeable but always a time to experience God's presence and blessing amidst turmoil.

### **FLC as a Movement of Prayer with Token of Least Coin: Structure and Relationships**

#### **Regional Ecumenical Organizations Women Desk**

From 1979, when the ICFLC was formed, until 2017, we have heard and/or seen the challenges ecumenical organizations, both regional and global, have been facing. There are contextual challenges and financial crisis which led to changing programme priorities and restructuring affecting Women's Desk/Programmes. Either Women's Programme is changed to Gender Justice, or amalgamated with other areas of work such as with Education, Family, Youth, Theology, Mission, Diakonia and Social Justice; or just scrapped.

When the ICFLC was formed in 1979, it was to have a team to administer and promote the growth of the FLC from Asian ecumenical women's prayer movement to a global one, using the regional and global ecumenical organizations' Women's Programme or structure. As ecumenical organizations changed, such as the Caribbean



Conference of Churches, and Middle East Council of Churches and Pacific Conference of Churches, we have experienced difficulties with our expectations on them as participating organization.

We remain to have contact with the Bahamas where an FLC Committee was formed after the ICFLC Annual Meeting in 2012. However, without a point person, we lost contact with the rest of the Caribbean after 2013.

Within the Middle East countries, it is the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, which serves as hub, with the leadership of Esther Kilaghbian. She continues to link FLC with the churches in Lebanon, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Jerusalem despite the difficulties with communication.

In the Pacific, Rev. Dr. Asinate Samate and I tried last year to activate the Pacific FLC Regional Committee while maintaining the connection with the Pacific Conference of Churches through the Women's Program Animator, Ethel Suri. Unfortunately we are losing the grip again as Ethel Suri finished her term and is now back in the Solomon Islands.

Having an FLC local, national, regional and international committee is stated in the ICFLC Constitution, By-Laws and Guidelines. We have focused on the international level and have met annually but we do not know whether there is FLC Committee at different levels—local, national, regional – to assist in the administration and promotion of FLC.

FLC connections need to be reviewed.

### **WDP and FLC/WDPIC and ICFLC**

In the 1982 Minutes of ICFLC AM, p. 3, It was stated that “these sister movements of prayer are seen as complementary – one focusing on the prayer of the individual woman for peace and reconciliation throughout the year; the other focusing on prayer in community, with special emphasis on the first Friday of March.”

I have received questions like: What is the relationship between WDP and FLC? Can we have FLC Ingathering Service right after WDP Service?

In some countries where there is no structure for FLC, the WDP Committee serves as the structure. WDP Jamaica did it; WDP Scotland is doing it. Where else? How can the complement between the two prayer movements be strengthened?

### **ICFLC and Oiko Credit**

Oikocredit (in full Oikocredit, Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society U.A.) is a cooperative society that offers loans or investment capital for microfinance institutions, cooperatives and small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries. It is one of the world's largest private financiers of the microfinance sector. The idea for Oikocredit came from a 1968 meeting of the World Council of Churches. Following this, Oikocredit was established in 1975 in the Netherlands.

In 1984, the "ICFLC decided that the amount of US\$100,000 be invested with the Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society (EDCS) (Minutes of the 1984 Meeting, p. 3). It was another way of assisting the work for justice and peace.

The ICFLC receives annual reports and statement from the Oikocredit. The ICFLC also receives invitation to the AGM but in which I never attended due to my work priority.

### **ACWC and ICFLC**

The ICFLC gives value to the historical link with ACWC. ACWC is the regional ecumenical church women's organization in Asia formed in 1958 and agreed to launch the FLC movement. 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. Thus, the ICFLC Executive Secretary is an ex-officio member of the ACWC Executive Committee and attends its meetings. In return

the ACWC Executive Secretary sits as an ex-officio member of the ICFLC. ACWC has two official representatives to the ICFLC and receives a block grant twice bigger than what other organizations receive.

Furthermore, ACWC always invites the ICFLC to its quadrennial general assembly as guests, after which the ICFLC holds its annual meeting. The ACWC General Assembly provides learning encounter and solidarity among Christian women from all parts of the world. In 2018, the ACWC is having its 16th Quadrennial General Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand. How can the learning encounter and solidarity be strengthened?

## **WCC and ICFLC**

It is worth noting that by 1961, FLC contributions had been collected from women in Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Lebanon, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Venezuela. Over US\$86, 000 had been allocated to 24 projects in five continents in the world in less than 6 years from the inception of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. (Many Prayer, One Prayer, p. 20, compiled by Lakshmi K. Daniel.)

“By 1962, the 2nd Asian Church Women’s Conference General Assembly held at Petburi, Thailand decided that “the World Council of Churches (WCC) would be better placed to disburse the monies that now had to be credited around the world. The EACC (now CCA) would still have the final approval of where the allocations were to go, and that list would be forwarded on to Geneva for disbursement.” (*Many Prayer... p. 22*).

Madeline Barot, Executive Secretary, Department on Cooperation of Men and Women in Church, Family and Society of the WCC, wrote: “*We simply must pass on the story of this chain of prayer and generosity, this joyful surprise at experiencing once again the reality of Christian fellowship. These things cannot be kept secret between a few women and a few organizers of help-projects. They come from God. They are part of the common*

*history of Christians, and everyone must share the joy of knowing about them, and give thanks for them.*" ("Preface" The Fellowship of the Least Coin, ed. By U Kyaw Than , 1962, iv)

Madeline Barot played a very important role of keeping the list of the gifts received at Geneva, communicating with the East Asia Conference of Churches (now CCA), suggesting suitable projects to the working Committee of the EACC, and encouraging ecumenical exchanges between Asian and non-Asian groups, which are in the Fellowship with them. ("Procedures on the Funds of the Fellowship" in *The Gift of Prayer, Bangkok: 1964, PP. 7-9*)

ICFLC is a recognized partner organization of WCC, although ICFLC does not have a legal identity. Many years have passed and the ICFLC remains thankful to the Finance Team of WCC for having served as custodian of FLC Fund.

The work that the WCC Finance Team is not easy. It takes a lot of love. In a letter sent by the Finance Director, Elaine Dykes, she wrote:

*"The World Council of Churches is not a bank, fiduciary or account service organisation, set up in order to receive transfers in on behalf of a third party, and to make payments on behalf of that third party, recording all of these transactions in a separate current account. As you know, the services offered to FLC, in which you work through another organisation's bank account, are quite unusual. The transactions are unusual because although they appear in the WCC bank statements, these transactions are not those of WCC; and that means also that processes related to WCC transactions do not apply for those of FLC."*

*Our systems are designed to report transactions of income and expenditure automatically in over 300 multi-currency fund accounts. None of the related automated processes, including payment register and approval, exchange of data files with the bank, or report delivery, is adapted to the needs of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. It has to be considered that FLC transactions will not be reported as either income or expenditure of the WCC."*

*Time is spent on every single transaction, which is recorded manually. There is no suitable automatic statement. The statement which you receive will be downloaded from our records from a basic transaction list, and must be formatted, and set out with formula in excel, introducing risk of error. The statement has to be checked carefully.”*

With such explanation, we are most grateful for all the hard work that WCC Finance team does on behalf of ICFLC. I cannot thank them enough for the services they did on our behalf and for the sake of God’s reign.

### **Executive Secretary’s ecumenical involvement**

You probably know I always enjoy the opportunities to speak about FLC even extemporaneously in 2017. Sometimes just spot news or comment!

- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the Philippines
- Church Women United Philippines Board Meeting
- Iglesia Unida Ekyumenikal General Assembly Celebration
- ACWC Executive Committee meeting, Sri Lanka
- National Conference of Sri Lankan Church Women’s Association in Subodhi, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- CCA Regional Consultation on Revitalizing Ecumenism in Asia in Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Ingathering service of Iglesia Unida Ekyumenical in San Pablo City, the Philippines
- FLC Ingathering Service of Union Theological Seminary, the Philippines
- FLC Ingathering Service and Forum with the Church Women’s Association of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines Batangas Associate Conference
- I enjoyed communicating with everyone about FLC, through email—ICFLC Sisters, Officers, FLC Country Convenors, Regional FLC Committee such as in the Pacific, Ecumenical Organizations, FLC sisters and some brothers. I was always blessed.

That the Episcopal Women in the Philippines have committed themselves to the practice of FLC in all their churches and dioceses is remarkable! They hosted the Ecumenical Ingathering Service attended by Episcopal and United Church of Christ in the Philippines local churches in Kalinga, Northern Philippines.



## **ICFLC Publications**

### ***Shanti Means Peace***

The Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (ISPCK) published 2500 copies of *Shanti Means Peace* which were ordered by Malaysia, Japan Australia, Philippines and India. These books were sold, and the money was put into their FLC Fund.

Women's Ministry Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan has published a Chinese version of *Shanti Means Peace* and will be out by October 20 this year!

Anna Hanson Bedford wrote a script for play of *Shanti Means Peace* and Susan Jackson-Dowd passed it on to me while she was attending the Biennial Conference of the Australian Church Women Inc. on October 2-5 in Richmond, Victoria. It is now uploaded on our website.

Anna is looking forward to hearing what will come out of this play script. She wrote, "I realized when reading it aloud in Louisville with Scott Dowd, it could easily be adapted to dramatic

presentation. I promised the women I would do so. It gives me so much joy to think that perhaps something I have written is of potential use to women in other countries.”

### **Circle of Prayer (CoP)**

Our Circle of Prayer Volume 24 on the theme “Stand Up for Human Dignity” is going through the process of the ICFLC CoP Committee and will soon be ready for printing and distribution in 2018. With the cost of mailing in the Philippines, which has kept increasing, shall we keep printing it in the Philippines? The big bulk in 2016 went to USA (CWU -1,000 copies; Presbyterian Women-8,000) and Canada (WICC, 700). These were sent through DHL. There was a decrease in the requests from these organizations from that of the year 2014 (CWU-2,500; PW-9500 and WICC, 1500).



*Rural women in Uruguay using the Spanish-translated version of the CoP in their reflection gatherings.*

### **FLC Messages and Reports**

The FLC Messages and Reports remains to be a major way of showing our accountability to FLC Women. This is uploaded in our website and e-copy is shared with many friends. In 2017, we printed only 1000 copies. What we put in this booklet deserves a review.

### **Project Grants**

#### **The 2016 Report**

The project of the Asian Women’s Resource Center (AWRC), Feminist Theological Consultation was not implemented due to the changes in the AWRC structure and staffing. The FLC grant was returned to WCC FLC Fund.

Project “Women Empowered by God” of the Near East School of Theology was moved from August 2016 to September 2017.

Project Young Women Together on Pilgrimage of World Day of Prayer Committee in Slovenia (I.S.E.) was moved to 2017 due to youth’s tight schedule and despite interest, there was lack of number in registration.

Aside from the above, out of 29 projects, 2 were for the World Day of Prayer International Meeting held recently in Brazil. Seventeen sent in their report. We did not receive reports from Latin America despite follow-up emails. Is it because of language?

**Narrative: Women Stories: See Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x4h3ISdDW48&feature=youtu.be>

## **2017 Update**

The grants for the following projects have not been received for some reasons

1) Project Empowering Women, Managua, Nicaragua. The Managua project was already processed in the April Batch and was paid by WCC on May 1. On my April 25 circular to all the project holders I wrote that they check with their bank between end of April and mid-May. From the report from WCC which I received on August 14, it was May 15 when it was returned.

It was on June 14 that, Rev. Alfredo Joiner of Managua Central Moravian Church, informed me that the bank returned it because they failed to claim it and their bank has a policy that moneys not claimed within 3 days will be returned.

I decided not to include Managua project in the August Fund request so as to focus on the ICFLC AM Budget request and resending of ACWC Grants.



HYSOY grant was also returned because the bank details were changed and I was not informed.

2) Project Build Women's Arts and Craft Skills, Lebanon. There was a change of leadership and communication was slow.

These unpaid projects will have to go with the Block Grants request in November. I have communicated with them about the situation and reason for the delay.

### **All About FLC Grants Binder**

Thirteen copies of **All About FLC Grants binder** for ICFLC have been prepared to serve as orientation documents for those who are new and a reminder for those who will remain with the ICFLC. All of these are in soft copy but having a hardcopy binder makes it easy.

### **Invitations**

WDP International Meeting in Brazil. Dorothy Castro who was there as representative of CWU Philippines, greeted on behalf of ICFLC. I apologize for my inability to attend.

CCA Diamond Jubilee & Asia Mission Conference, in Myanmar, which coincides with our meeting today.

On its 70th Anniversary WCC is inviting for prayers and stories to be submitted in December 2017.

ACWC invites the members of the ICFLC as guests to the 16th Quadrennial General Assembly of the ACWC in Bangkok in 2018 and requests for the usual gift of US\$5,000.

### **In conclusion**

Despite all the monstrous sufferings and darkness in the world, there is a reason to have faith and hope. There is a

reason for us to be grateful every time we are gathered, every time we share FLC stories, every time we are renewed in our commitment to the ecumenical movement, every time we do a task to administer FLC, every time we promote FLC in our communities. God is ahead of us.

My heart is full of gratitude, words are not enough to express my thankfulness to all of you!

## *Corazon Tabing-Reyes*



*Bestowing the cloth of Wisdom and Grace to Corazon  
at her Croning Ritual on February 21, 2018*



## *Report Of The Honorary Treasurer*

“One could almost fear that with the need around the world for prayers and aid and financial support, our sisters in the FLC may have found they were unable to be as generous as in the past. The fiscal year being reported at this meeting shows no indication of a major slowing of support for the living out of Shanti’s dream. Our sisters in Asia, and particularly the Philippines have, in fact, increased their offerings over recent times, for which we are all incredibly grateful. We will, however, be prepared for all eventualities.

The Financial Reports presented at this Annual Meeting cover the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016 and ending June 30, 2017. When reviewing the Financial Report of the ICFLC account held and managed by the World Council of Churches Finance Department, you will see the very generous total amount of offerings forwarded by organizations and individuals this fiscal year. When reviewing the disbursements from this account, you will see we continued to fund our partner organizations with Block Grants, and we carried out Project Grants as approved at our 2016 Annual Meeting.

As discussed and planned at the 2016 Annual Meeting, the amount of Project Grants awarded was in answer to the Finance Committee’s recommendation that some of the balance of funds left each year in reserve be granted rather than sitting in the ICFLC account in Geneva. This has now been accomplished and at this 2017 Annual Meeting, the Finance Committee will review all anticipated offerings and expenses and present a new Budget accordingly.

It is always important in this annual report to officially thank the staff at the World Council of Churches Finance Department. Elaine Dykes and Yasmina Visinand work with us throughout the year issuing requested fund transfers and receiving offerings into our account from around the world. This year more than 47 individual funding requests were made through the WCC office for

Block Grants, Project Grants, Scholarship Awards, administrative accounts, and others.

Since our meeting in 2016, we have awarded two Emergency Grants. The first was in the amount of \$2,000 to South Sudan through the All Africa Conference of Churches. An estimated 26,000 civilians were being sheltered in churches, having fled their homes due to civil unrest and humanitarian assistance was critical. The second emergency grant was also in the amount of \$2,000 to express our solidarity with the Ministry of Women and Gender Justice, Christian Ecumenical Council of Guatemala in their work with the families of around 40 girls who died in the fire in the orphanage in San Jose Pinula, Guatemala on March 8, 2017.

On a happier note, Scholarship Awards to Young Women totalled \$10,000 this year and were distributed among five worthy recipients: Eunice Jumalon of the Philippines \$1,800 towards her Bachelor of Law; Fasike Fayisa of Ethiopia \$2,400 towards her Bachelor of Theology; Monica Mngodo of Tanzania \$2,200 towards her Bachelor of Arts in Applied Theology; Alexandra Marie Roman of Puerto Rico \$1,000 towards her Masters in Sacred Theology; and Raimy Esperanza Jimenez of Colombia \$2,600 towards her studies in Midwifery.

For nine years now I have always completed this Annual Report, and other types of reports, with my deep gratitude to our Executive Secretary, Cora. With each passing year, my admiration and love for this extraordinary woman has grown. It is hard for me to believe that this will be my final opportunity to put into writing, for the record, the gift and blessing to the ICFLC of Cora Tabing-Reyes. We all know that Cora will remain in our lives as she mentors our new Executive Secretary and that she will stay in touch for many years to come.

As I end my nine years as your Honorary Treasurer, may I thank everyone with whom I have served for their support and trust. It has been one of the blessings of my life to have worked alongside the wonderful women of the ICFLC. I will miss you and will cherish every moment we shared together.”

**Pat Allinson**

# Updates From Ecumenical Organizations



## ALL AFRICA CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (AACC)

Nine projects and 2 scholarship grants were approved for women in Africa. A wider promotion of the FLC to help ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment are at the forefront of the AACC work in the next 5 years.



## ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC)

The ACWC National Bodies are always encouraged to continue celebrating ACWC Day to strengthen unity in Asian countries in one liturgical service, where the history and meaning of the FLC movement is in focus. There were recent remarks about setting aside the least coin as outdated.



ACWC remains committed to widely promote and nurture its strong sense of connection to the FLC movement, and to continuously encourage people to participate by telling stories of its beginnings and meaning.



## CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA (CCA)

The FLC funds was used to support the National Consultation on "Ecumenical Women's Action Violence" in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and the sub-regional consultation on "Ecumenical Women's Action Violence and Building Peace" in Bangkok, Thailand, all in 2017. CCA uses every opportunity to strengthen and promote the spirit of ICFLC with accompanying offerings as it facilitates and empower its constituencies toward gender justice, empowerment of women and overcoming violence against children.



## **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED (CWU-USA)**

All of States participate and celebrate the FLC ministry. CWU USA continues to use the FLC funds to develop new venues to promote the FLC, and cultivate the spirit that FLC embraces.



## **ECUMENICAL FORUM OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN (EFECW)**

The EFECW continues to strengthen the FLC spirit during its events, conferences and any other European or national women's meeting. The FLC funds help finance meetings of the Coordinating Committee. Europe could contribute more to FLC, thus EFCEW continuously promotes through media, meetings and /conferences the FLC movement and spirit.



## **مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط** **The Middle East Council of Churches**

## **MIDDLE EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (MECC)**

Funds from the FLC goes towards the MECC's Our Lady Dispensary general operations continuing medical services, vaccinations and medications for refugee and vulnerable Lebanese families; "Strong Kids, Strong Emotions" project teaching child refugees resilience through structured play. FLC is continually promoted and practiced in some churches.



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

WICC continues to support the FLC by promoting the FLC, its ministries, and resources to Christian women and churches throughout Canada. Council members take part in multiple FLC Ingathering services in their areas across Canada. Members are usually connected with local WICC chapters that coordinate services or they are asked to present the story of the FLC. The WICC website promotes the FLC on its home page beside the World Day of Prayer. The website includes the story

of Shanti and her vision, the current year's Ingathering Service booklet, monthly prayers, project grant recipients, FLC items for sale, and links to FLC's website.

WICC council members agreed to work on reaching younger women and new groups of women by being creative about World Day of Prayer services. Council members agreed to maintain and continue to plan World Day of Prayer services as they always have but, they also had to have an additional alternative service. Some of their ideas for new services and gatherings can also be used to reach new women and connect them with FLC.



## **World Council of Churches**

### **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

strengthen the FLC by intentionally building the ICFLC members' potential in influencing government policies and laws through gender advocacy trainings. WCC nurtures its partnership with the ICFLC for its important support to women's peace building movements.

The WCC Just Community of Women and Men (JCWM) continues to



### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE (WDPIC)**

WDP worship service and resource materials always includes information about the partnership with ICFLC as well as promotion of the FLC materials. ICFLC was represented at the International Meeting by ACWC President Dorothy Castro who brought greetings at the plenary and to connect with networks across regions. The program and activities of WDP 2017 Philippines has been an avenue to spread news about ICFLC, and to support our jointly leadership at the local context. This ecumenical sisterhood with ICFLC is WDP's response to the call and answer it with Informed Prayer; Prayerful Action.

# FLC Project Grants 2018

## AFRICA

### 1) **Enabling Women to Promote Peace and Reconciliation During Elections**, Sierra Leone, US\$ 4,500

A Women's Network of the Methodist Church (WNMCSL) project to foster better relations within communities through trainings, awareness-raising among women of different political parties to work together especially during election period.

### 2) **Ghana Young Ladies Empowerment and Gender Sensitisation Project**, Ghana, Volta Region, US\$ 4,500

A young women's project of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana Women Ministry on gender based violence (GBV) and women's rights, leadership skills development and self-confidence building.

### 3) **Widows' Empowerment Programme**, Osun State, Nigeria, US\$ 4,500

A Baptist Women's Missionary Union of Nigeria project to support, counsel and empower widows.

### 4) **The Africa Brotherhood Church (ABC) – Women Empowerment Project**, Kenya, US\$3,500

A project of ABC Women Desk to build awareness on gender-based violence and ways to end it.

### 5) **Women Empowerment Program**, Rwanda, US\$ 4,000

A project of Association of Baptist Church in Rwanda (AERB) Women and Family Department for gender justice, leadership skills development and economic empowerment of women and girls through loans and savings, and self-help group association.

### 6) **Methodist Church in Kenya Women Fellowship Rehab Program/Project**, Coastal Region, Kenya, US\$ 4,500

A project of the Methodist Church in Kenya for the spiritual and physical wellbeing of women and girls affected by radicalization and drug abuse.



**7) Enhancing Women's Capacity to Prevent Poverty and Respond to Gender Based Violence, Tanzania, US\$ 4,000**

A project of ELCT Angaza Women Center which aims to enhance women's capacity to prevent and reduce poverty through skills training in advocacy work and income-generating projects.

**8) Ending Child Marriage Zimbabwe, US\$ 4,500**

A project of the United Methodist Church, Ministry with Women Children and Youth aimed at raising awareness on the negative effects of child marriage and related human rights violations against women and girls.

**ASIA**

**1) Forum for Asian Young Church Women: "Now Choose Life, Change Our Ways and Actions", Asia-wide, US\$ 5,000**

A project of the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) to develop Asian young church women's leadership for reforms and sustainability of the Asian church women's ecumenical movement.

**2) "Women Rise-Up" Gowrie Court Government Housing Complex Australia, Canberra A.C.T., US\$ 4,000**

A project of the Missionaries of God's Love in Australia to empower women "locked up" and subject to domestic violence, drug and alcohol addiction and prostitution to leave their homes and enter the community, towards self-actualization and empowerment.

**3) Midwives of Peace, Justice, Healing and Reconciliation India, US\$ 4,000**

A project of National Council of Churches in India aimed to revive and revitalize women's ecumenical movement in India through the nurture of the FLC spirituality, promotion of the WDP active prayer, and wider promotion of ACWC among Indian church women.

**4) Kid's Care Park Fukushima**, Japan, Fukushima City, US\$ 4,000

A project of Kid's Care Park Fukushima Promotion Committee which aims to protect children's health, nurture hope and protective strategies to parents and guardians, and help build solidarity in facing the future with joy in the low level radiation exposure of the environment.

**5) Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) for Enabling Economic Empowerment of Women**, Nepal, US\$ 2,000

A project of ACWC Nepal for economic empowerment and leadership development through trainings of the next leaders and trainers.

**6) Shirt & Skirt and Christmas Decoration by Ethnic Groups (Lao Song, Plang, Akka and Karen)**, Thailand, US\$ 1,000

A project of Christian Women of Park 11 Nakhon Pathom aimed to support the women of Nakhon Prathom Province in building their self-esteem through economic empowerment.

## **EUROPE**

**1) Pop-up Monastery Romania**, Romania, US\$ 4,000

A project of the Ecumenical Forum of Romanian Christian Women which aims to build community of all generations, develop ecumenical spirituality, share life stories and experiences, learn new skills, work and worship together, and experience traditional and modern spirituality.

**2) Byzantine Singing and Icon Painting in Crete: Ecumenical encounter and cultural study trip of a group of Dutch Protestant and Catholic women to meet with people of the Greek Orthodox Church**, Crete/Greece, US\$ 4,000

A retreat project of the Dominican Priory Huissen for ecumenical learning and encounter in the OAC Orthodox Academy of Crete, to broaden horizons, gain ecumenical awareness, grow in mutual understanding and to enjoy the beauty of Byzantine arts.

**3) Christian Inter-confessional Dialogue for Women Empowerment**, Republic of Moldova, US\$ 3,500

A project of the Ecumenical Forum of Moldova Christian Women (EFMCW) to help women develop ecumenical networks and strengthen ecumenical relations through sharing of inter-confessional faith and women's stories.

**4) Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women – Young Women's Strategy Seminar**, European-wide Project, US\$ 4,000

A project of EFECW focused developing young women in their self-awareness, leadership, spiritual growth and resilience.

**5) Constructing Intergenerational Bridges**, Serbia, (Soko Grad St. Nikolas Monastery), US\$ 5,000

A project of EFECW to provide young women with an introduction to the ecumenical women's movement, help them develop leadership skills and knowledge through the stewardship program at the 10th General Assembly of EFECW.

**6) Give Me hope for New Life**, Armenia, US\$ 4,300

This project aims to help Syrian immigrant women's integration into Armenian society by helping them develop psychological, social and spiritual skills in coping.

**LATIN AMERICA**

**1) Ethic-environmental Rights of Traditional Black Communities**, Brazil, US\$ 4,000

A project of KOINONIA which aims to train women of the quilombolas communities on issues of environmental protection and assertion of rights.

**2) Women in Action to Learn**, Chile (Biobio Region), US\$4,500

This Corporacion Metodista SEDEC (Servicio para el desarrollo y la educación comunitaria) project aims to support women from the Gran Concepcion, with very little financial resources, to become economically self-sufficient.

**3) Caring for Our Entrepreneurship, Chile (Temuco), US\$ 4,000**

This project will provide tools for entrepreneurship and self-care to 30 women of their Community, through craft workshops and care for the mind, body and spirit.

**4) Transforming Conflict, Spinning Health, for the Construction of Justice and Hope, Guatemala, US\$ 4,000**

A project of the Iglesia Evangélica San Juan Apóstol that aims to accompany 4 women community groups for the transformation of conflict in communities and gender justice advocacy work.

**5) Educ\*Arte Argentina, US\$ 4,500**

A project of the Iglesia Evangélica Metodista Argentina de Flores helping women living alone and women with children in high-risk conditions through awareness-raising on issues confronting women, and development of skills for self-reliance.

**6) Empoderamiento a madres adolescentes víctimas de violencia y abandono, Ciudad, Lima, Peru, US\$ 4,000**

A PROCESO KAIROS PERU project which aims to empower 16 institutionalized teenage mothers to exercise their citizenship, build their future and set the bases for the growth and wellbeing of their children.

**MIDDLE EAST**

**1) Young Women Vocational Training Project, Egypt, US\$ 4,500**

This human resource development project of the Presbyterian Women's Union, Synod of Nile aims to equip 60 poor young women from three rural areas with skills for economic empowerment and spiritual nurture.

**2) Story Telling and the Bible, Lebanon, US\$ 4,250**

A project of Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches Sunday School Teachers that aims to touch the hearts of the children of the Sunday Schools through creative and fresh ways of the Bible story-telling method.

**3) Educational Support for Helpless Displaced and Refugees' Children, Baghdad, Iraq, US\$ 5,000**

This project of norek hovsepien, Baghdad- al-battaween responds to the needs of children to sustain their schooling and veer them away from the lures of violent activities.

**4) Empowerment of Women Within the Church, Palestine, Jordan, Jerusalem, US\$ 4,000**

A project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) which aims to raise awareness on women's rights and empowerment, and gender justice.

**5) Saturday Morning Playground, Lebanon, US\$ 3,000**

A project of the Armenian Evangelical Social Action Committee—Trad-Bourj Hamoud, Lebanon which aims to gather the children in a secure environment for play, worship and harmonious community relationships.

**WICC**

**1) Zoongide'e ( He/She is Brave), Canada, US\$ 4,000**

A project of The Burning Stone Program, a program of Cadence Leadership Resource which aims to ignite hope in Indigenous youth through safe and healthy opportunities to discover their Creator -given identity and potential to change their world.

**USA**

**1) "D.I.A.P.E.R. Project of Community Presbyterian Church, Charlestown, USA, US\$ 4,000**

D.I.A.P.E.R. Project aims to provide diapers, wipes, and essential baby items to low-income families with infants and small children so they can keep their children clean, dry, and healthy.

**2) WOCOTOMADI First Rural Women Farm Project Cameroon, Africa, US\$ 2,500**

A project of WOCOTOMADI which aims to provide healthcare for everyone in Cameroon, promote the agricultural yield of the farms, culture and education in Cameroon through networking particularly in the USA to help their home villages back in Cameroon.

## ICFLC APPROVED BUDGET FOR JULY 2017 TO JUNE 2018

Block Grants	100,000
Out-going Executive Secretary Salary & Pension	18,200
In-coming Executive Secretary Salary	12,500
Office Administration	22,000
Annual Meeting Hosting	18,000
Annual Meeting Travel	7,000
Young Women Scholarships	5,000
ACWC General Assembly Grant	5,000
Honorary Treasurer's Honorarium	2,000
Circle of Prayer	8,000
Auditor's Fee	500
Emergency Grants	10,000
Project Grants	139,550
	<hr/>
	US\$ 347,750

## **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](http://www.flc.net.ph).

## **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 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) 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; 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 to  
World Council of Churches

***Send your FLC Offerings to FLC Fund c/o WCC:***

Name of Bank: **UBS SA**

Address: **1211 GENEVA 2, SWITZERLAND**

Account Name: **World Council of Churches**

Address: **150 route de Ferney, Box 2100, CH-1211 GENEVE 2**

Account No.: **For USD: 240-695149.60X; For CHF: 240-695149.00A**

IBAN USD: CH85 0024 0240 6951 4960 X;

IBAN CHF: CH37 0024 0240 6951 4900 A

BIC SWIFT CODE: UBSWCHZH 80A

***Note:***

Email or reference text with the transfer should include the words  
"Fellowship of the Least Coin" or "FLC" to easily identify in-coming funds.

***Contacts at WCC Finance Department:***

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