



*Fellowship of the
Least Coin*

2022 Messages and Reports

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MESSAGE

Renewing the Journey

“Do not be conformed to this world, but continuously be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you may be able to determine what God’s will is-what is proper, pleasing and perfect.” Romans 12:2

Greetings my sisters! It’s so good to be able to connect with all of you. As sisters in and of the journey, we have been on the road for over 65 years, and although these last couple of years have been quite challenging, we don’t lose hope, and so, we keep on.

We are passionate women of faith. And as such, we move, observe, listen and touch with our prayers and least coins. As followers of Jesus, we intersect with people in need because we are not afraid to walk on the periphery and come face to face with pain, suffering and a need for a renewed sense of hope.

To be part of such a movement also means being opened to respond in new ways. As I read the Gospels, I am surprised, but most of all inspired, by the many times that Jesus decided to modify plans, change his agenda, even take a different route, and bring new opportunities for healing and transformation. The apostle Paul in that same line of thinking, challenges us not to be conformed but to be opened to the transformation that is possible in those who don’t stay static, but on the contrary, are opened to the guidance of the Spirit.

As followers of a similar journey, the International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin has been involved in a process of prayer and reflection. A well-used time to ask questions, listen and take a good look at the changes that have been taking place around us. This process has allowed us to affirm many of our practices and has also inspired us to identify new ways to respond to an ever-changing global community.

We are opened to the movement of the Spirit, for the same Light that illuminated Shanti to invite us to start the journey towards peace; the same faith that moved our sisters to believe in the transforming power of prayer; and the same hope that was at work in those who believed what a least coin could do - is present in us all today. FLC is our inheritance. And so, in every corner of our global home we find new and creative ways to continue the journey.

Rev. Yamina Apolaris
Chairperson, ICFLC



INTRODUCTION

Dear Sisters and Friends –

We are happy to share with you the 2022 FLC Messages and Reports (M&R) - our way of showing trusted leadership and responsible stewardship in dispensing the FLC resources every year. This is one of the many strengths of the FLC that we are proud of, and commit to maintain as we journey on to attaining the FLC vision.

The pandemic was a big challenge that led us to discover we can do things differently, and efficiently as well, and for sure not without difficulties. The ICFLC is very happy to have continued to partner with various groups in different places around the world through the 2021 FLC project grants and scholarships despite the challenges of covid. We have affirmed that we are indeed a prayerful people with a vow to accompany our prayers with action, and with our substance and gifts. And, that our God is a generous and magnificent one who never fails to see and hear us in our prayers!

Cynthia Manuela Bautista Pijal, a Lutheran from Ecuador studying in Pedagogy of National and Foreign Languages at the University of Ecuador is our 2021 young woman scholar. The ICFLC members are excited and happy to accompany her in her pursuits, as we mean to privilege young women in their endeavors to empower themselves. You are invited to pray with Cynthia for success in her studies.

The Messages and Reports in this booklet are part of the bigger picture of what the FLC is doing every year. You may want to see the yearly grants (projects, emergency and scholarships) reports in pictures and small stories at our website (fellowshipoftheeastcoin.org), or email icflcph@gmail.com directly for your copy.

Ours is the joy and blessings in knowing that we have you – our faithful and committed companions in the FLC journey to justice, peace and reconciliation. Abundant blessings and joy be yours!

Liza B. Lamis
Executive Secretary, ICFLC



REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

INTRODUCTION

...WITHIN A RAGING PANDEMIC. It is not clear when can we get out free of this rage. Fear and panic are real everywhere. While the already rich seize pandemic to get even richer. Grave corruption and killings continue in my country the Philippines. The way we do the FLC have changed a lot, consequently also changing the way we make the FLC vision of justice, peace and reconciliation a closer reality.

But we are not daunted or stymied. Perhaps we stopped a while for being caught off-guard, but we now seem to find our way through this pandemic – by changing the way we continue to live out the FLC spirit and make the FLC a thriving movement of prayer that is able to support initiatives to make peoples' lives better.

Our networks and reach have changed, too. More number of groups ask how they can be supported by the FLC in facing the pandemic, and in responding to urgent issues that have been impacting women and girls even before the pandemic. This juncture in our herstory is the time we need to pray more often, to give more generously, and to reach out more widely.

At the ICFLC Office, we altered in several things. Work has become home-based and has gone more electronic and downsized. Expenses were down. The yearly routine of work stays the same, with the challenge of making our promotion of the FLC spirit more challenging and multi-faceted.

In three major areas, let me share the following:

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

The FLC website has a new and contemporary look, constructed gratis as a token of love by immediate past ICFLC Chair Awit Marcelino. With Awit's assured assistance when needed, I maintain and update the website which I like doing.

The FLC Updates, Messages and Reports, the yearly In-gathering Liturgy and Circle of Prayer (CoP) are downloadable materials that can be accessed from the new FLC website.

The FLC Facebook page have more engagements and is updated regularly with ecumenical campaigns like the Thursdays in Black, Time for Creation, and prayers for disaster-stricken countries. Also, every month a reflection and prayer from the last CoP issue is published there. I noted that writers whose works were posted share the publication widely, and sometimes we receive feedbacks and request for materials.

The **2020 FLC Messages and Reports** (M&R) was not published in May, but will be issued towards the end of 2021, and only in soft copy.

Local virtual FLC promotions happened in the Philippines especially during September when churches, not just

the church women in the Philippines celebrate the FLC. I was asked twice to greet, and once as preacher for the worship in a conference-level gathering.

I did an FLC presentation at the CWU USA assembly this October, and in mid-October with the Australian Church Women (ACW). ACW is thinking to disband, but they are serious in looking at keeping a national women's movement that embraces the FLC, through the Australian Council of Churches.

Kindly take note that I can help the ICFLC members in the FLC promotion in their regions when needed.

I always make it a point to attach FLC materials when needed to email communications particularly to new contacts, potential FLC network partners, and current FLC grants recipients. And, a deliberate reminder particularly to FLC grants recipients, that the FLC is able to support projects because it is a prayer movement where every time members pray, they set aside their least coin offerings to symbolize their commitment to accompany their prayers to reality.

II. ADMINISTRATION

THE FLC Grants

Project Grants. Most projects were delayed in implementation or were postponed to 2021 due to delayed payments, thus reports and sharing were also late to come in. The project Young Heroes in Syria was not paid because there is no way of sending the grant. I recommend cancelling this project and informing Syria to re-apply if they so wish in the next years.

The following **Emergency Grants** were given this 2020 and early 2021:

1. Lebanon, thru MECC (September 2020, for the explosion in Beirut)
2. Myanmar, thru Women's Desk, Myanmar Baptist Convention (provision for health workers and their families who took part in the Civil Disobedience Movement)
3. Timor Leste, thru The Protestant Church in East Timor or IPTL (floods in April 2021)

The 2020 SAYW and BOW were a success, basing on the sharing from recipients. It is a good idea to support only one SAYW in full than giving small amounts to two or three recipients. This way ensures more success for the scholar.

Sharing and stories from our Project, Scholarships and Emergency grants partners are in a separate document.

At the moment, project grant reports from Ghana, Timor Leste and Sri Lanka are on the way. Due to late payment of grants, these recipients requested for an extension.

Office and Finance matters

The ICFLC Office has moved out of Union Theological Seminary (UTS) in Dasmariñas City in August 2021. Our postal address is temporarily at the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches (CPBC, my national church) Headquarters in Iloilo City, an hour flight from the Philippine capital city of Manila.

Office expenses were reduced significantly in the past year. I now work home-based, and the Office Assistant is also home-based, on-call and is paid per hour. This new arrangement is due to the pandemic.

We have fully withdrawn and closed our investment account with OikoCredit International in the Netherlands as per decision at the April 20, 2021 ICFLC meeting.

III. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I believe this pandemic will not stifle our lives from fervent and unceasing prayer. The pandemic surely reduces our generous giving and offerings, but we never cease to pray. In fact, this pandemic should bring us down to our knees more often and inspire us to give more generously in our Offerings. **A big challenge I see for us now is how to continue to thrive as a movement through the world wide web.** The pandemic has challenged us to work differently utilizing the net. It is not sure when are we are returning face to face in meetings and when would our economies recover. From the regions, we need to hear how to do and how to promote the FLC efficiently. I propose a **three-year plan**, and I will be here to help you in your regions.

Promoting the FLC further as a prayer movement beyond women's groups. This will surely translate into increased (or stabilized) capacity to sustain our commitment to support groups and initiatives thru grants. To make the FLC a local or national church, or an all-auxiliary organizations commitment. A local or national church can embrace the FLC as a main mission commitment. A Sunday or any day in September (or in any other month) as an FLC Sunday. This is being done in the Philippines ever since. This can be done anywhere else.

Having the Annual Meetings face to face, or online. Face to face meetings are always beneficial for the ICFLC. These times allow us to nurture and strengthen our ecumenical sisterhood and broaden our perspectives in doing our tasks. However, our resources to support physical meetings and the pandemic that makes everything open and uncertain will make us think hard. Perhaps we can meet face to face once in four years, which is every ACWC assembly that happens every four years.

The challenge related to our banking concerns. What can we do to continue helping small, community-based groups who would like to access the FLC grants, but do not have the legal entity to open a bank account to their name? What can we do to help prevent the further discrimination of the already marginalized groups? We need to consider in approving project grant applications the viability of sending money (grant payments) to Project Grant partners, with the rules for banking in the USA in the background.

For our publications, **I propose to go soft copy for the Messages and Reports.** In 2020 and this 2021 there was no request for a hard copy of the M&R, except from Japan and Taiwan for translation to their languages. The CoP will be still in printed copy but reduced in number. Many of our networks and members still require a hard copy for the CoP.

For the ICFLC physical office, I am recommending that we stay home-based for the meantime. The pandemic situation from the Philippine perspective is very volatile with no clear outlook for a better future. And perhaps, of equal

weight as a reason is to save on funds from paying office rent (approx. 3,000 USD per year).

I continue to commit myself to helping ACWC in its organizational work. Let this be part of our commitment to the Asian ecumenical women's movement that nurtured the FLC in its early years.

CONCLUSION

Challenges are in front of us. I feel personally daunted, but I also feel brave because of you – this committee that will work as a team in sisterhood and in solidarity. I especially thank Mary Martin for her meticulous work, patience and wisdom in doing our finance work. With her there is confidence that we are clear and well directed in our decisions related to the FLC funds.

May I also take this time to thank you all for your prayers and for accompanying me in my healing journey from an accident. God is amazing for seeing me through my impatience!

This time of the pandemic is a radically open one, and it behooves us to be more creative and to be even more trusting that God's work thrives no matter what. I hope and pray with you - that God's blessings of divine guidance, clarity and grace, courage and kindness, joy and beauty continue to pour on us!

May this report give you a perspective in going through this Annual Meeting.

Liza B. LAMIS
Executive Secretary
October 2021



REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Dear Sisters,

It has been 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.

In late 2019 and into 2020, ICFLC transitioned our banking relationship from a separate account at Rockland Trust to an account held on our behalf by Presbyterian Women (PW) in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Operationally, this relationship has improved over the initial start-up issues we experienced. The ICFLC Treasurer has online access to the bank (PNC) on-line information, so we can easily track transactions. PW does not always process our requests as quickly as we would like and the information flow is sometimes limited, but we continue to adapt to each organization's needs.

Banking regulations and restrictions in many countries have impacted ICFLC's ability to execute wire transfers through PW. Extensive documentation is required for every transaction, including precise wording in minutes, etc. Some countries are restricted, so funds cannot be sent from the USA. The name of the organization to which funds are sent must be the same as the ultimate recipient, e.g., we are prohibited from sending funds through a regional organization for an affiliated, but different, local organization. Some groups (partner organizations, project grant recipients) and individuals do not have bank accounts. Also, wire transfer fees are increasing. We will continue to deal with these issues which are beyond our control.

Timing of payments is also an issue. At the October 2020 Annual Meeting, the ICFLC prioritized the grant payments in the following order: Emergency Grants, Scholarship Grants, Project Grants, Block Grants. The Scholarships were paid in early 2021. It was late April before we had received most of the offerings, at which time we could initiate payment of the project grants. These are slow to process due to verification by PW, so most were paid in June and July. In mid-August, the ICFLC officers made the decision to reduce the block grants from USD 6,700. to 5,700. due to available cash and most block grants were paid in September, with a few remaining. In summary, payment of most grants is delayed until the end, or even after the close, of the fiscal year.

Regarding the financial results for the 2020 - 2021 fiscal year, FLC Offerings were USD 53,000. below the budgeted income; with reductions in grants, ICFLC achieved "break-even" budget results. When the budget was developed in October 2020, it was very hard to predict the impact that the pandemic would have on FLC Offerings. Reduced offerings will undoubtedly continue in 2022, as some groups are not meeting in person yet, and there is significant lag time in groups sending offerings to us. Hard decisions about the budget will be required and uncertainly about the continuing impact of COVID-19 is a significant complicating factor in our planning.

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
October 2021





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

Author of Report/Position Rev. Dr. Lydia Mwaniki-Director, Gender and Women **Year: 2021**

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

The Gender and Women program at the AACC has been heavily engaged in championing gender justice and women's empowerment in the midst of challenges caused by Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, Covid cases in Kenya are at 4% although the numbers keep fluctuating. We have been working from office often time except a few times when the Government restricts movement. Most of our conferences have been held through Webinars. The present context and new work of EO/Women's desk related to ICFLC include:

- Virtual Commemoration of International Women's Day on 8th March, 2021
- Virtual Commemoration of International Widows' day on 23rd June
- Establishment of Platforms of Male Champions for Gender Justice in DRC, Cameroon and Togo. Dr. Mwaniki visited Cameroon during the establishment of the Platform in May 2021 and had a chance to promote ICFLC to the National President of the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon Mrs May Saleh
- Participation in the Consecration and Enthronement of the first woman Bishop in the Anglican Church of Kenya on 12th September, 2021
- An exchange workshop for High-Level women entrepreneurs in Africa will be held in November, 2021
- Development of advocacy toolkit for Justice for Widows is ongoing. The toolkit will be launched on 25th November, 2021, when we will also launch the campaign for 16 Days of Activism against GBV

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

- A circular letter was written to churches to encourage them to strengthening the work of ICFLC by praying and setting aside the least coin every time they pray
- FLC projects were distributed widely and we coordinated the reception of the forms, collated, summarized and forwarded to FLC secretariat

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen 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, Women and Youth Department 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:

a) International Women’s Day (IWD)/World Day of Prayer-6th March 2020

In collaboration with Christian Aid, Side by Side Faith Movement for Gender Justice, and WCC, AACC held half-day hybrid workshop which brought together 67 faith actors representing 14 religious and civil society organizations. The workshop focused on the theme of the IWD #Each for Equal#. The role of religious actors in achieving gender equality was highlighted, and issues of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) discussed.

b) Women’s Zoom meeting on “Gender Based Violence & Child Abuse: Focus on Teenage Pregnancy and the Role of the Church”- 19th May, 2020

The department organised a Webinar on May 19, 2020 to explore the gender dimension of COVID-19 and ways in which women leaders in the AACC Constituency were responding. The aim was to share best practices in addressing the challenges including the escalating forms of GBV and child abuse in order to ensure that gender justice is maintained even in circumstances posed by the pandemic. Some of the best practices included-Continuous awareness raising on domestic violence and child abuse through information sharing, providing emotional support, engaging men and boys through messages geared towards challenging gender stereotypes and unequal gender roles, use of peer education and advising victims to seek legal help from human rights lawyers.

c) Commemorating International Widows’ Day, 23rd June, 2020

The AACC marked this day by creating awareness through a letter circulated to member churches, a brochure. An eight min video recorded by the Director – Rev. Dr. Lydia Mwaniki and one church leader Rev. Canon Emmanuel Chikoya was also shared. It highlighted the challenges facing widows during COVID-19 pandemic and ways in which church leaders were responding. <https://youtu.be/P07txW4cA9w>. AACC also gave small grants to support a few churches which ran widows’ programmes. Some churches carried out training and workshops to equip widows with skills of entrepreneurship for wealth creation.



Widows’ Training workshop on soap and detergent making in Zimbabwe, 2020



Projects for widows in oil making (left) & rice processing for sale (right) in Burundi, 2020

(d) Consultation on The Role of Men in Enhancing Gender Justice In Africa - July 28, 2020

The department organized a 2 hours Zoom Consultation on the “Role of Men in Enhancing Gender Justice in Africa. The meeting held on July 28, 2020 brought about 33 male participants from across the continent. The keynote speaker highlighted the issues and the significant role of men in addressing issue of gender justice. In addition, there were regional presentations and recommendations. The main objective was to mobilize and engage men in a Consultation to accelerate actions against all forms of gender injustice and domestic violence during and beyond the pandemic.

(e) Setting-Up A Platform of Male Champions For Gender Justice In Pilot African Countries

One of the outcomes of the above consultation of 28th July was to establish platforms of male champions for gender justice in identified three countries during the 16 days of Activism, 2020, namely, Uganda, Malawi and Nigeria in order to accelerate actions against all forms of GBV disproportionately affecting women and girls during and beyond Covid-19 pandemic. Individual male champions have been engaged in serious advocacy for gender justice including prison ministry, composition of songs calling for gender justice and training the congregation on gender justice.



Nigeria launches her Platform of Male Champions for Gender Justice with the lead Champion His Eminence Rev. Dr. Samson Ayokunle (in red cap) being commissioned first by the AACC Director of Programmes-Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel (left)-10th Dec., 2020 His Eminence Rev. Dr. Samson Ayokunle (in red cap),

(f) Collaboration with AU

AU Civil Society Organizations Consultation Meeting on Accelerating Actions Against Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This virtual meeting held on 14 July 2020 was organized by AU Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) in partnership with Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) & ECOSOCC. Dr. Mwaniki was invited to speak to the theme, representing Religious Leaders. The meeting provided a platform for CSOs to review and consolidate a common position on the gender responsiveness of AU and Member States COVID-19 response strategies. She also participated in CSO's workshop on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) on 28th August, 2020. In this meeting, Dr. Mwaniki gave recommendations to the AU on the topic, from a religious perspective

(g) International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC)-9th -16th Oct

This annual meeting was held virtually from 9-16 October, 2020. All the Three application forms for women's projects submitted by the AACC to ICFLC were funded. These were from Malawi, Togo and Zambia. Each received a total of \$3200. MS Tumaini Rutta (Dodoma-Tanzania), who had applied for the 2020 FLC Scholarship Award for Young Women (SAYW) received an approval of USD 3,000.

(h) 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence 2020

The department in collaboration with WCC-EHAIA, WCC- EDAN, ACT Alliance, Christian Aid, Faith to Action Network, FECCLAHA, CAPA and World Vision held half-day hybrid 27th October, 2020. The facilitators will highlighted the impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on gender justice and Child protection, bringing out practical Actions/Interventions by Faith Actors to eliminate GBV and child abuse during and beyond the pandemic.

Conclusion:

AACC is very grateful to ICFLC for her unwavering support through the Block Grants, Project Grants and Scholarships for women. The impact of the grants is felt all over the continent especially in ways through which AACC continues to actualize activities that lead to gender justice and women's empowerment. The funds have been particularly very handy during Covid-19 Pandemic when families have been economically challenged. We thank ICFLC that even in the midst of the pandemic, she was still able to share the little she had to support women including widows.

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Name of EO: Christian Conference of Asia
Author of Report/Position: Jung Eun Grace Moon, Programme Coordinator
Year: 2020 – 2021

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



Name of EO: Christian Conference of Asia

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

Year: 2020 – 2021

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

Women's empowerment and participation are essential for social and cultural change in Asia. CCA believes that women and girls around the world are striving for a violence-free world and playing a vital role in building peaceful communities and societies. 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.

COVID-19 pandemic crisis across the world has been gravely affecting women, with its impacts and consequences. Women and girls are bearing the brunt of disproportionate care burdens, disruptions in income and education, poor access to health and other essential services, greater risk of being dispossessed of land and property, and gender digital and pay gaps. For women already living in poverty, these impacts can be a shock to their economic stability overall and impede their ability to purchase critical necessities, such as medicine and food. Imminent effects and potential threats to the wellbeing of women have been reported in the form of preventable maternal deaths, unavailability or limited access to family planning means, and increases in the incidence of gender-based violence and domestic abuse, in addition to other harmful consequences.

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.

2.1. 'Webinar on the Impact of Growing Religious Extremism on Women in Asia'

15 December 2020 / Virtual (Zoom)

The CCA organised a virtual conference on 'The Impact of Growing Religious Extremism in Asia' on 15 December 2020. The webinar was attended by fifty registered participants on Zoom and was viewed over 1,000 times on the CCA's social media channels. The webinar aimed to analyse the cases of growing religious intolerance and extremism and its deep socioeconomic impacts on the status of women in different countries in Asia; deliberate on the growing trend of violence against women and girls from religious and ethnic minorities, and find ways to combat such inhuman and cruel acts; and strategise means of advocacy and collective action for the protection of women from marginalised groups.

The panellists of the webinar, representing the United Nations (UN), the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC), as well as leading human rights defenders, activists, and academicians from different countries observed, “The menace of religious extremism and intolerance has once again reared its ugly head as extremist and fundamentalist groups create dangerous fault-lines within communities in Asia.” “In recent times, there have been severe affronts to the wellbeing and dignity of religious minorities in many Asian countries, where violence and discrimination have been justified in the name of ‘protecting’ certain religious tenets. A strong tendency towards patriarchy is dominant in extremism, irrespective of the religion.”

2.2. ‘Transformational Leadership of Women in a Post-COVID-19 World’: Webinar on International Women’s Day–2021

8 March 2021 / Virtual (Zoom)

The CCA organised a webinar on ‘Transformational Leadership of Women in a Post-COVID-19 World’, in conjunction with International Women’s Day on 8 March 2021. The virtual event, which was led by panellists representing UN Women, Asian churches, and women’s organisations echoed the message, “Instead of seeking to ‘get back to normal’, we need to ‘build back better’, by recognising women’s leadership and promoting the empowerment of women in all sectors of society.” “The need to empower women’s leadership had never been more evident and important as now. It is critical to promote women’s transformational leadership that builds capacity and resilience and brings people together. Women must be recognised as co-partners and co-workers with God to bring peace, freedom, and justice in church and society,” observed the panellists.

2.3. Regional Consultation on ‘Ensure Gender Equality; Empower Women and Lift Up Humanity’

8–9 July 2021

The CCA organised a two-day online Consultation on ‘Ensure Gender equality; Empower Women and Lift Up Humanity’, which affirmed that instilling hope and positive attitude for gender equality was a way to build a just society and empower women and men, and also asserted the need for stronger commitments from every corner of society to promote the empowerment of women through “attentive solidarity and radical inclusion”.

The participants collectively expressed, “We must unite and stand with the disenfranchised women who are undergoing multiple forms of oppression during the COVID-19 pandemic.” They further noted that the involvement and increase of women’s participation in decision-making within churches was the best strategy for churches and church-related organisations to address gender equality and prevent other forms of discrimination. The participants, who represented a wide cross-section of organisations across Asia, opined that special efforts were to be supplemented with the nurturing of women cadres among church leaders, re-interpreting certain texts of the Bible, and transforming cultural traditions or social norms that prevented women from being able to exercise their leadership to the fullest of their potentials and capacities.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

CCA as a regional ecumenical organization and facilitator will play its role to develop and strengthen the prayer movement of Fellowship of Least Coin by encouraging 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:

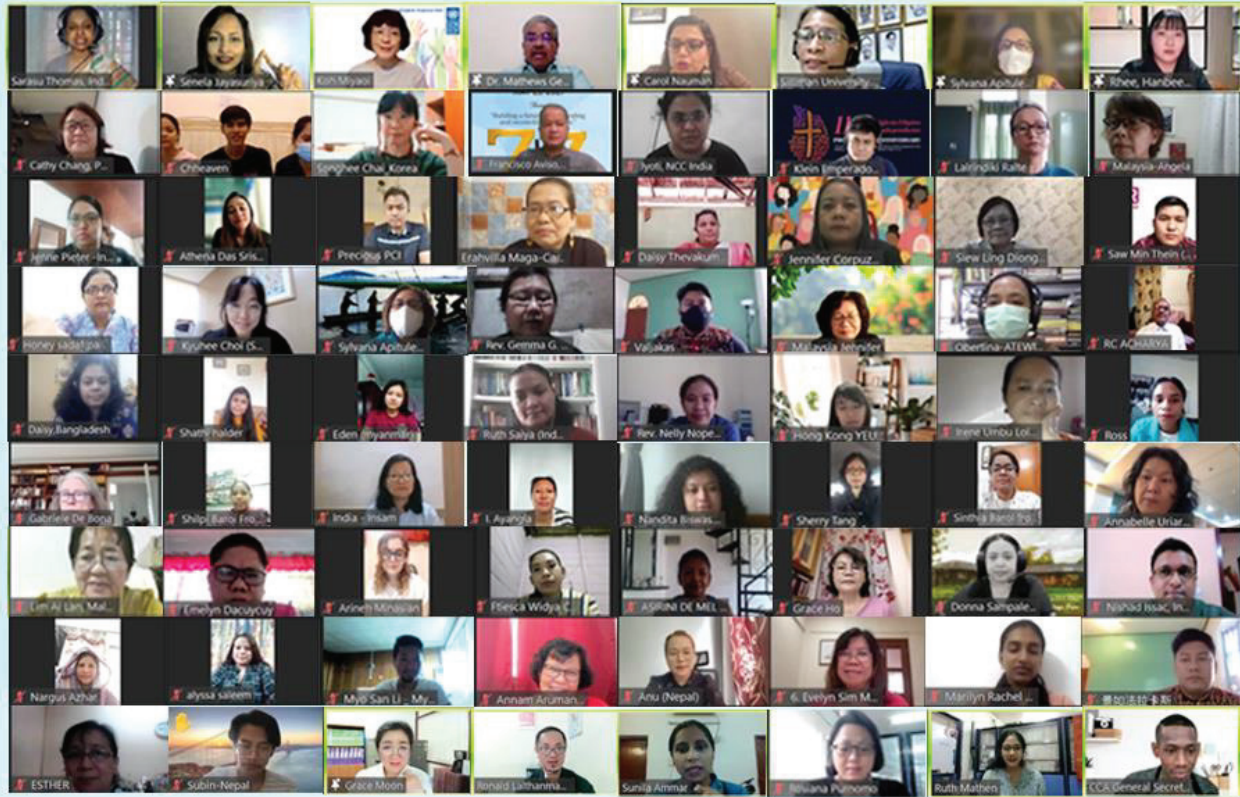
The prayerful support of FLC Block Grant for CCA was used to organize national consultations on “Ecumenical Women’s Action Violence”, Asian Ecumenical Women’s Assembly and leadership development programmes for Asian women .

Conclusion:

ICFLC has been a committed supporter and partner of CCA Programmes especially with regard to gender justice and women concerns. In the coming year CCA will continue to play its role as facilitator of empowering its constituencies in promoting gender justice, women’s leadership development and ecumenical action to combat violence against children and women.

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 ‘Ensure Gender Equality; Empower Women and Lift Up Humanity’ 8–9 July 2021

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International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin

CLAI Report 2020-2021

“Didn’t I tell you that you would see God’s glory if you believe?”
 (John 11: 40)

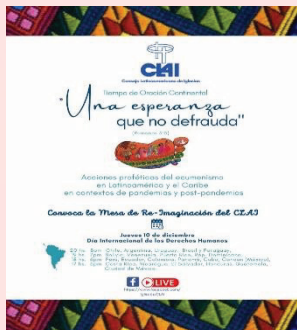
As we look back to 2020 – 2021, one word that could be used to summarize the year would be crisis. The Latin American Region, has experienced turmoil, pain and loss due not only to the all-embracing effects of the Covid pandemic, but also an escalation of violence, topped by domestic / gender violence, the impact of a worsening economic crisis, coming face to face with the effects of the climate changes due to global warming and the clash between the people, who are fed up with the corruption and injustices, and those who continue using their elected positions for their own benefit and to dominate and oppress. Yes, we all have experienced similar situations in our own contexts. And many of us, on the one hand, have wondered when will it all end, but also,

questioned where are we headed.

As women of faith, we know that in spite of this harsh reality, pain death and despair are not the final words. We are very much aware of a different reality. For we are reminded and challenged by Jesus' words to Martha at the tomb of her brother Lazarus; "didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believe?"

YES INDEED, WE HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF GOD!

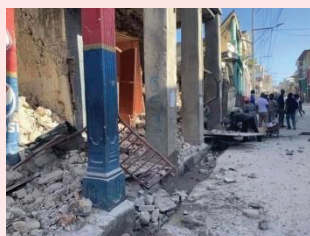
We have found new ways to continue praying and working together, giving testimony of our hope that is in Christ Jesus. As CLAI works on a new model to respond in new ways to the challenges



and opportunities that are before us. This has been an enriching experience that has involved a group of leaders (women and men equally represented) to Re-imagine CLAI, so that we grab hold of the opportunities to learn from the past and move to the future with renewed strength and hope. FLC has been an important component of this process as partners in mission and ministry in a global partnership. The date for our Assembly (virtual) for the final vote for the new structure and election of representatives will be March 25, 2022.

YES INDEED, WE HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF GOD!

We have seen that new opportunities have opened up, and have made it possible to get together and support one another through virtual means. This has allowed for women from different countries in Latin America to come together and strengthen our common bonds without having to travel afar or even leave our homes. Another benefit is that human resources can be shared without additional expenses as well as a good stewardship of our time and personal challenges. I personally have appreciated the opportunity to be present to bring greetings and promote FLC as part of the opening ceremonies of these projects and activities.



YES INDEED, WE HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF GOD!

We are grateful for the prayers, and support through special offerings and articles of first need to countries facing disasters. Two of the most significant in this year have been Chile and Haiti. Financial contributions were channeled through the ecumenical partners as well as specific articles requested by the churches as well as non-for-profit organizations.

We rejoice in the sorority that manifests itself in concrete ways, with human and economic resources in the face of the current situation that we live in our countries as well as our ecumenical organization.

YES INDEED, WE HAVE SEEN THE GLORY OF GOD!

An important part of the work we highlight the sharing of updated reports, information, and forms for projects and scholarships for young women, with wide dissemination through our various networks of churches and civil society in 20 Latin America and Caribbean counties, where CLAI has a presence. Among the commitments made by CLAI is the continued promotion of the FLC movement and the specific projects, incentivizing faith communities and civil society beneficiaries to accompany, collaborate and promote the practice of prayer, the setting aside of the least coins, and work for justice, peace and reconciliation.



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

We give thanks to God for God's love and mercies. We continue forward with hope for we have seen and experienced the glory of God.

As one in Spirit and Love,

Rev. Yamina Apolinaris, CLAI Representative

Vo. Bo. Jorge Daniel Zijlstra Arduin, CLAI Acting President

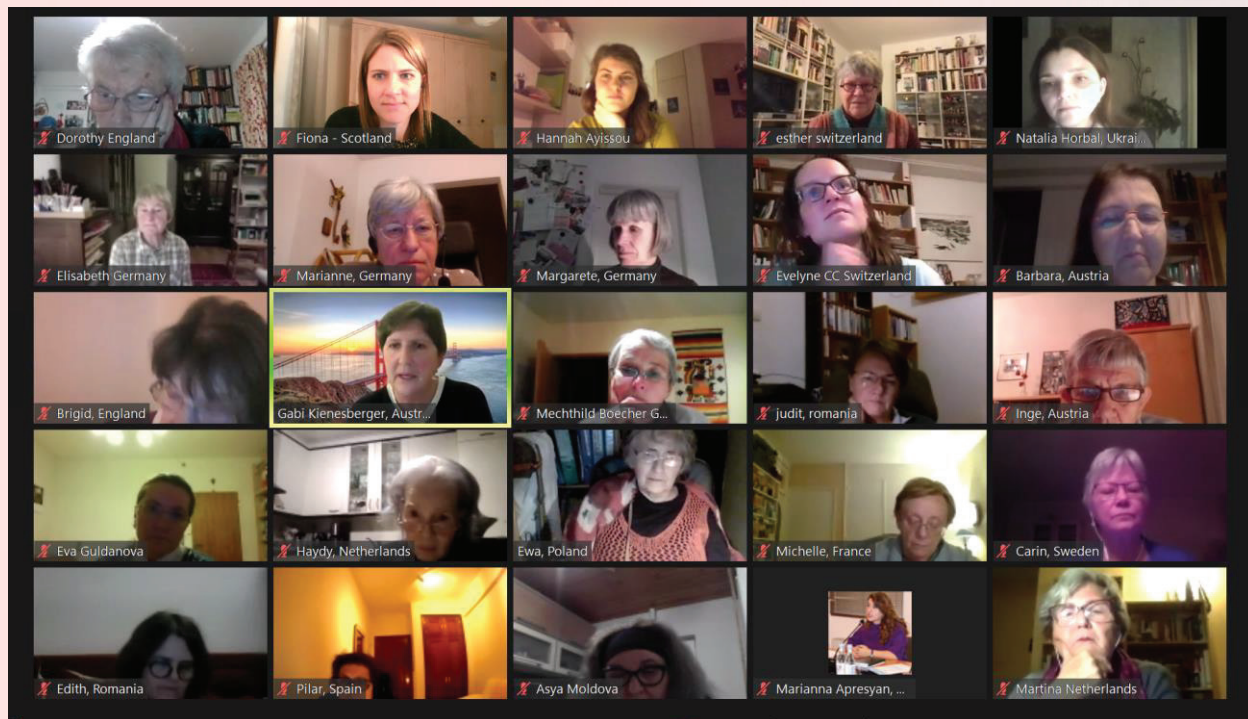
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Name of EO ECUMENICAL FORUM OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN www.efecw.net

Author of Report/Position Martina Heinrichs, EFECW
Representant to ICFLC **Year** 2020/2021

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



2020/2021 stood under the worldwide consequences of the pandemic COVID19. Apart from a short period of stillness when the first lock-downs were announced all over Europe and all over the world, women of EFECW at local, national and European level, took the initiative or followed others' initiative, in proposing alternative ways of being together, connecting and supporting each other. The amazing feeling of sisterhood, after our first online EFECW National Coordinators' (NC) meeting (September 2020) where representatives of most of EFECW member organisations were present, was a statement of hope and faith that we all needed from each other. A second online NC meeting was organized in December 2020. Both meetings have demanded a lot of preparation work because of the restraints an online meeting has, namely restricted time, tiring way of communicating, only one person talking at a time, adapted forms of moderation, etc.

All physical meetings were cancelled but more frequent meetings of the Coordinating Committee (CC) were organised online. In one of those meetings, the CC decided not to make use of the Jacqueline Stuyt Legacy Fund for projects in 2020 and 2021. Representation of EFECW by members of the Co-ordinating Committee was intensified. A highlight was when EFECW was granted the participatory status at the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe. Cancelling physical meetings has reduced some of our planned expenses as explained in the Financial Report that closes our annual report which will be published soon.

At the absence of physical meetings, efforts were focused in organizing more frequent meetings online of the Coordinating Committee, the National Coordinators and between Coordinating Committee members and national members.

EFECW also published more newsletters in 2020 – in total 6 – in an effort to keep the ecumenical women's community of the Forum connected and emphasized news from the national level, as well as information from the international level of sister organisations, like ICFLC.

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

Due to the stand-still of all physical events and switching to online gatherings of EFECW and of other congregations or women's groups, no liturgies could be held and no offerings could be gathered. For me personally it was very unclear until only a few days ago if I should continue to represent EFECW to the ICFLC as my second term expired already in 2020. Or if somebody else would be sent as my successor. Very recently the EFECW Coordinating Committee decided to accept my offer for an extraordinary third term.

Nevertheless I was able to collect grant applications from Europe as well as European contributions to the Circle of Prayer volume 26.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

The next opportunity to promote FLC on a broader scale will hopefully be the 11th EFECW General Assembly taking place physically in the summer of 2022.

We also plan to organise an online meeting with NCs who are interested to discuss the future and connection of EFECW to FLC both at national and European level.

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

The block grant for 2019 was received only late in 2020. Therefore EFECW had a loss of about € 5.500 in 2019 (see: financial statement of the Annual Report 2019 under 'publications' on www.efecw.net).

It was planned to use the block grant for 2019 for the CC meeting in Corfu, Greece (27 February - 3 March 2019).

For 2020 EFECW did not (yet) receive any block grant from ICFLC.

Conclusion:

It is amazing how many creative ways women have found to keep contact during the lockdowns in the last year. We learned a lot about the advantages of online gatherings – less costs, no travel times, more participants - but also about the disadvantages like tiring and thus shorter, less direct or spontaneous contact, no body language, different time zones. We hope very much to be able to have physical meetings again, especially with respect to our next General Assembly 2022 in Strasbourg/France. Probably we can alternate online and offline meetings in the future according to effectiveness.

Martina Heinrichs
Nijmegen/The Netherlands, September 16th, 2021



Name of EO: MECC

Report/Position: Karineh Sahakian Cholakian/MECC
Representative to ICFLC **Year:** 2021

Ever since the August 4, 2020 Beirut port blast, a lot has been rebuilt in Beirut, yet in so many ways, Lebanon has been and still is on a downward spiral. The 2020 financial and Covid 19 crises have been left in the shadow, by the strong shockwaves of the fuel, electricity and medicine crises. Lebanon, is now –and for months— living in near-total blackout, so much so that at some point even markets were unable to store and sell dairy or meat products. People are now forced to wait in line for as long as half a day to fill their cars with fuel (that is, if they ever get the chance to get their share). The sick (and especially those suffering from chronic diseases) are unable to find medicines in pharmacies –even the very basic over-the-counter ones—and many have to personally find means to bring them from abroad. Yes, such is the situation in Lebanon for the past almost one year. In the first week of September, a long-awaited new government was at last formed which in its turn sparked new hopes for a better future. Yet, for now, not much has changed on the ground. We keep on praying and working for and with the people to sow hope and help the people around us continue living life with dignity.

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

The following are women’s projects at MECC:

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

Livelihood:

- Vocational training: home care (such as child and elderly care), soap making, make up, cooking...
- Food security

Other:

- Psychosocial support (Group Trauma healing)
- GBV (Gender-Based Violence) awareness and support
- Parenting
- Health awareness (concerning Covid-19 pandemic)
- Recreational activities

For the detailed reporting 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):

Due to continuous instability in financial, health and political realms in Lebanon most of the church activities, gatherings and even worship services became online. This situation did not help to introduce the FLC to new organizations or groups or countries.

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. Moreover recently during a Day camp the work of the FLC was promoted and the offerings were collected. The offerings were sent to FLC office during March 2021.

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

The FLC Block Grant financial report will be sent as soon as it is ready.

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Name of EO __Pacific Conference of Churches

Author of Report/Position:

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

Year _2021

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

- Implementation of the Just and Safe Communities of Pacific Women and Men Programme, Advocacy of EVAWG and Gender Equality by and within Pacific Churches, Coordination of WEAVERS programme on behalf of South Pacific Association for Theological Schools (as per JSCPWM Programme)
- Connecting ICFLC with Women’s fellowships in the Pacific that affiliated with FLC and those that want to connect with ICFLC programmes that can impact and transform their communities to enjoy life in all its fullness.

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

- All work within the Pacific Region pause since Covid-19 Pandemic. Most church activities and organisations focus within their own areas to make sure people are safe and protected.
- Therefore, no new organisation/group or country where FLC is started since last years or so.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

- Some of Women’s Fellowship groups who are affiliated to FLC urged PCC to continue and strengthen the programs of FLC within their groups. One group is faithfully collected annual offering for the FLC which was allocated in their calendar.
- Fiji National Council of Churches GS was asking PCC to introduce FLC within their member churches for collaboration and partnership.

Now that Women/Gender Desk personnel are in place within PCC since 2018, I believe that potential to promote or strengthen FLC within the Pacific Region is there.

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

- Pacific Theological Women’s Programme benefited by expanding their skills and reached out to other women to learn how to print and design own fabrics as a result of FLC Block Grant in 2018.
- More will be updated when I locate to the office.

Conclusion:

I acknowledge that I been working from my home due to Covid-19 Pandemic since I got the job with PCC. It is very likely that I will join my colleagues at the end of this year and will have access to historical information and files of FLC at our PCC office.

Thank you for your understanding.

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Name of EO Church Women United, Inc
Author of Report/Position Mira J. Washington, National President
Year 2020

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

Church Women United, Inc focused on creating a THREE-YEAR Strategic Plan that developed a new Vision, Mission and Core Values for the organization. The Strategic Plan will guide CWU for key areas to further assist the sustainability of the organization. The Strategic Planning team consist of 30 women from different regions, expertise and knowledge.

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

Church Women United, Inc did not start any new work and/or efforts regarding FLC. Due to the pandemic all programs/initiatives are suspended until January 2022.

3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC: Church Women United, Inc will evaluate the FLC within the Strategic Plan to ensure the sustainability, advocacy and financial support remain strong. CWU would like to engage with FLC to create innovative brochures and programs to ensure future success of the partnership.

1. Annual Presentation/Gathering
2. Create innovative financial campaign
3. Create a collaborate Prayer Campaign

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

Conclusion:

The ICFLC partnership continues remain strong. However, there are strong opportunities for new programs needed. The pandemic has caused the nation and globe to reset our life, work and family. Our partnership emphasis is financial support of the Fellowship of the Least coin. How do we help women, children and families to build a steadfast prayer life in this unprecedented time? We can't continue operating in the norm while there are more hungry, lost, and oppressed individuals increasing daily. It's my hope and prayer that we recalibrate our focus during the upcoming meeting to assess a new way forward.

Celebration 2021: "Becoming One in 2021"
Human Rights Celebration – "Experiencing Hope at the Table"
May Friendship Day – "Making Room at the Table"
World Community Day – "New Places, New Faces at the Table"



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Name of EO World Council of Churches
Author of Report/Position Rev Nicqi Ashwood, Program Exec.
Just Community of Women and Men (JCWM) **Year** 2020

1. Present Context/Thrust and new work of EO/Women's Desk: the globe is still attempting to recuperate from the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic which all but ground the work and

business of the world to a halt. The impact of the pandemic necessitated physical distancing and ‘lockdowns’ which resulted in persons managing all socio-spiritual functions from home. The impact was immediate and widespread – economic downturn, rising cases of infections and of domestic violence all around the world.

Present Context and Thrust

The threat of increased cases of incest and Gender based Violence (GBV/SGBV), as well as the rising gap between the rich and poor eventuated in the World Council of Churches’ constituencies identifying ways to provide support and assistance to the newly and long-term vulnerable communities. Through the WCC’s Covid-19 Task force/support group, member churches and ecumenical partners were able to stay in touch and identify new ways of being church. This included use of social media and technology meeting platforms in lieu of face-to-face meetings and other events.

Online Fora

The JCWM has been more intentional in providing accompaniment to those addressing issues of SGBV, using electronic media in our toolkit, webinars and the work of the *Thursdays in Black* movement. Using the blessing/burden of the pandemic which prohibited face-to-face meetings, the WCC was able to host its first *hybrid Women’s Pilgrim Team Visit* with Member churches in the Korean peninsula. This event impacted both hosts and participants and set the tone for a series of general WCC hybrid Pilgrimages of Justice and Peace to North America under the theme of Racism and Xenophobia planned for 2021.

We maintained our training on Women’s Human Rights alongside our global partners using an online format, providing training for 50+ participants from our joint networks. This information can be sourced through the FABO learning site.

Our consideration for the impact of Covid-19 on victims of trafficking in conflict situations was highlighted through the Covid-19 webinar series – *Perspectives from the Margins*.

Other

Further, we have widened our scope to prepare curriculum material (in French) to help children understand their human rights and to affirm their worth in Christ. Relationships with the WCC fellowship was more directly cultivated through monthly updates and check-ins with some of our partners, as well as intentional work being done during the 16 Days of Advocacy in November-December.

For more details of our work, especially our trademark Thursdays in Black (and ambassadors) program; please consult: <https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black#thursdays-in-black-ambassadors>

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 work with member Churches for online programs and meetings. It has also offset production costs and adjustment to new technological frameworks. This was especially helpful for the establishment of the Women of Faith Pilgrim Team visit to the Korean Peninsula in July and for the Covid-19 perspectives webinar.

Conclusion:

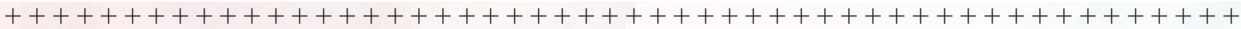
Peacemaking pilgrims, sisters are we
 Marching and musing each in our way
 Breaking the barriers, bridges we build
 Becoming, beholding, One Body fulfilled
 Entwining our arms, enfolding our hands
 Serving together throughout our lands
 Folding enfolding the Spirit of Three
 Not me, my, mine, but only WE
 Peacemaking pilgrims
 shining
 our light
 dancing
 together
 Full of delight



July 15, 2020

Today, it is an honor and privileged moment for Women of Faith Pilgrim Team of World Council of Church as we join you via online the Wednesday Demonstration. We also congratulate you for this long lasting 1448th day since 1992, gathering every Wednesday and demanding Japan to redress the Comfort Women problems.

Our pilgrim team members come from various countries around the world; England, Germany, Finland, Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi Jamaica, and USA. We are Christian women who hold the perspective of Jesus on the Cross of justice, peace, and love. In our midst, our culture and denominational background of Christian faith are diverse, but we work together struggling and striving for the world that justice and peace flows like river with responsible freedom.



Name of EO: WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
Author of Report/Position: ROSÂNGELA OLIVEIRA, Executive Director
Year: 2021

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

“Build on a Strong Foundation” is our theme for 2021 developed by the Christian women of Vanuatu. It was based on the comparison made by Jesus at the end of the Mount Sermon about a

life grounded on God's word (Matthew 7:24-27). It was a call to return to what is essential in life and discipleship. This was meaningful as we completed a full year of pandemic in March 2021. The response to COVID-19 was no longer a temporary adjustment, but an intentionality in how to live healthily and sustainably. It is imperative to recognize wisdom on the common good because only in relationship we can be fully human as God's creation.

As I read the reports of this year WDP celebration, I hear the words of faith of Christian women around the world. While they struggled with technology to hold virtual celebrations or organized small services according to the health guidelines, the common thread was the eagerness to be together. It was not about to hold a service because we always do it on the first Friday of March; but it was about being a glimpse of hope in the midst of suffering; to hold on to each other during physical isolation; and to build on our strong foundation which is #WDPUnitedInPrayer.

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

We do not have a particular initiative to report in terms of organizing FLC in new countries. What we consider relevant to the practice of FLC to report is in the realm of our common ecumenical efforts to empower women and bring peace to the communities.

WDP at local level was deeply affected by the several waves of lockdown, however many responded by creating intergenerational opportunities, opening space for new leadership, crossing the technological gap, and developing a strong sense of commitment to the needs of the suffering. It was amazing to see several celebrations hold on Zoom and broadcast live on YouTube, Facebook, and program broadcast on TV channels and radios, and even services done on Whatsapp's audio. Many local activities became international celebrations as people were invited to or were searching for opportunities to experience WDP celebration in another context.

WDP executive committee together with WDP Vanuatu committee recorded a worship service that was used by many local groups. Click here to watch it - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edQMgNFdRdo>.

A few of the celebrations recorded by local or national WDP committee can be seen on WDPIC YouTube channel playlist : <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCadJuRhUQBdboNTFzFCfqbw>.

WDPIC is promoting a series of virtual Global Conversation with representatives of the WDP national committees. We had a conversation with representatives of Vanuatu talking about some of the issues raised in the program like children malnutrition, natural disaster and violence against women. We heard three WDPIC chairpersons from the last decade (2012-2022) – Annette Poitier, Corina Harbig and Laurence Gangloff. They shared about their leadership experience while in this role, which includes participating in the ecumenical sisterhood with FLC, which by the way was highlighted in the conversation. And recently we had an exercise of spirituality on how art and prayer built resilience during the pandemic, led by WDP Cuba president and the creator of the WDP 2016 artwork - Ruth Trueba. Some of those Global Conversations are available on WDPIC YouTube channel.

We continue functioning virtually, which means no in person workshop with the writer committees. Taiwan had completed the writing process and the worship service was distributed this week, and now Palestine is in progress, both committees are working under very hard circumstances due to the pandemic. Their commitment and dedication to the ecumenical movement is amazing.

3, Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

During the pandemic, we started to post a prayer on Friday under the hashtag #WDPUnitedInPrayer. We are collecting prayers from WDP members and ecumenical partners. We welcome prayers from ICFLC sisterhood. Please, just email to wdpic@worlddayofprayer.net

When FLC new website was launched, we posted the link on our social media - WDPIC Facebook and Instagram. It was well received and shared among WDP and FLC friends (Facebook reach 757, shared 9).

4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

FLC Block Grant supports the international coordination of WDPIC. Usually, we reserve the block grants to partially cover the cost of the meeting with the executive committee, which happens every two years and the annual representation at ICFLC meeting. The last executive committee meeting was 2019, when we used all the Block Grant, and the next one will be on 2022; and ICFLC meetings are virtually since 2020. Even though, we changed the way we are operating during the pandemic, we have not re-designated the expenses use of the Block Grant to the general operating expenses of the WDPIC international coordination. For now, we are reserving the Block Grant for next year expenses.

We have received the \$ 10,000 Block Grant on 1/2/2021, and this is the funds that is on reserve for next year.

Even though WDP committees were very creative and active to keep the program running, many has reported that the offering response to virtual program has not reached the amount expected. We see that impact on the annual contribution we received from the committees, which are the funding source of WPDIC.

We are very thankful to the continuous support of ICFLC.

Conclusion:

We appreciate the opportunity to sit at this table of ecumenical partners. It is a table of accompaniment and prayers. Together we build on what makes us strong; we place our foundation on God's love, Jesus' action for justice, and empowerment by the Holy Spirit.

Report made by Rosangela Oliveira, WDPIC Executive Director.
Sep 15, 2021

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Name of EO: Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada/Conseil oecuménique des chrétiennes du Canada
Author of Report/Position: Lynn Mitchell, WICC's ICFLC Representative
Year: 2021

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) is the only national ecumenical women's organization in Canada. Founded in 1918, its Council is presently made up of representatives from eleven church partners: the United Church of Canada, the Christian Reformed Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church of Canada, Canadian Baptist Ministries, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda, Disciples of Christ Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, African Methodist, and the Mennonite Central Committee. WICC is based on a dialogue and collaboration between different Christian denominations. We appreciate our commonalities and the unique perspective that each denomination brings to the table. Together, we represent the diverse body of Christ seeking to bring hope to those touched by injustice.

WICC's vision is to restore hope to women touched by injustice. Its mission is to empower Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in prayer and action. WICC stands for faith, justice, prayer, solidarity, and respect, and also strives to be intergenerational, fostering partnerships and catalyzing grassroots initiatives.

WICC's activities include the promotion of the work of the World Day of Prayer (WDP), and the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) in Canada. This is accomplished by producing and distributing materials, and coordinating with organizations and volunteers across the country. Responding to the challenges of the COVID-19 global pandemic, WICC moved its organization to be more fully online, with materials (print materials, posters, videos) made accessible and available through the WICC website. In the past year, WICC was able, through donations received from WDP, to distribute \$100,000 CDN in grant monies to 22 projects in Kenya, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and across Canada, as well as providing an emergency grant to the Bahamas, in the wake of hurricane Dorian.

COVID-19 has meant a decline in least coin offerings from FLC groups. As well, in Canada we are finding that our faithful FLC members are becoming quite elderly, and connecting with younger generations of women is proving to be a challenge. That said, we are women of prayer, and we know that we will receive the guidance as to how best to move forward. May God's grace enfold, animate, and uplift us as we continue to work together as sisters in Christ towards the realization of Shanti's vision of justice, peace, and reconciliation for all creation.

Your Sister in Christ,

Lynn Mitchell+

Restoring hope to women touched by injustice

MISSION

Empowering Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by standing together in prayer and action.

VALUES

What do we stand for?

- Faith
- Justice
- Prayer
- Solidarity
- Respect
- We also strive to be intergenerational, foster partnerships, and catalyze grassroots initiatives.

SUMMARY OF 2022 FLC PROJECT GRANTS

AFRICA

1) RAISING THE VOICE OF SINGLE MOTHERS, WUFF Burundi, Burundi, USD 3,000.

To empower single mothers thru spiritual formation and socio-economic aid towards regaining their hope and faith.

2) DISADVANTAGED WIDOWS OF THE NORTHWEST REGION OF CAMEROON ARE SELF-RELIANT, Women's Work

Department, Presbyterian Church Cameroon, Cameroon, USD 3,000.

To improve the status of disadvantaged widows by training them for socio-economic livelihood and sustainability.

3) EMPOWERING COMMUNITY ON CHALLENGES FACING WOMEN, Evangelical Lutheran church in Tanzania

Iringa Diocese, Tanzania

To aid the work of the ELCT Iringa Diocese for gender justice and equity for Church sustainability and growth.

4) PURPOSING RELIGIOUS APPROACH IN SUSTAINABLE ENGAGEMENT (PRAISE), Anglican Church of Kenya,

Kenya, USD 3,000.

To help improve the social, economic nutritious status of 115 women households in Ngeroche, Kabare ward, Kirinyaga County by 31st December, 2022.

5) FEMALE-HEADED LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT THROUGH LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, Amazing Grace Sisters, Malawi, USD 3,000.

To promote harmony, integrity and empower less privileged women householders towards climate change adaptation and self-reliance.

ASIA

1) FEEDING THE BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT: A HOLISTIC SHELTER FOR FOREIGN DOMESTIC HELPERS, The Bethune House Migrant Women's Limited, Hong Kong SAR, USD 3,000.

To provide migrant women workers in Hong Kong safe, temporary shelter and nourishing food, education and training to cope with their labor and employment problems, and through regular Bible studies, reflection and other faith-based activities work to promote their spiritual welfare.

2) RECONCILING DISTRESSED WOMEN TO THE GOD OF DEPTHS (Trauma Healing/Mental Health Seminars), Christian Women's Association, UCCP, The Philippines, USD 3,000.

To aid pandemic-stressed women thru Trauma Healing/Mental Health Seminars.

3) KKBC's YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN MAE LA REFUGEE CAMP, Kawthoeli Karen Baptist Church (KKBC), Thailand, USD 3,000.

To provide opportunities for the youth of KKBC to deepen their fellowship and strengthen their leadership in the church and in the Karen society in Thailand.

4) WOMEN DOING THOLOGY: ECUMENICAL THEOLOGICAL TRAINING FOR FEMALE PASTORS AND LAY EVANGELISTS IN LAOS, Women's Desk, Lao Evangelical Church, Laos, USD 3,000.

To equip women pastors and lay evangelists of Laos Evangelical Church in developing holistic sense of ministry and for leadership empowerment.

EUROPE

1) UNMUTE NOW – EMPOWERING GEN Z SEASON, UK Pivot td., United Kingdom, USD 3,000.

To enable UnMute Now podcast to dedicate a season to mentoring young women from the migrant community in Northern Ireland.

2) NEW BEGINNING AFTER PANDEMIC, Ecumenical Prayer Chain, Romania, USD 3,000.

To revive the prayer fellowship for mutual support, with guests from Slovenia, Serbia, Ukraine, Hungary, Slovakia and from Romania.

3) ECONOMY IS CARE, Swiss Women's Synod, Switzerland, USD 1,000.

To contribute to the change of mind regarding Care-Economy, which means caregiving is work and an economic factor in a nation's growth, consequently improving the position of women in society.

MIDDLE EAST

1) WE NEEDDLE, Armenian Evangelical Boarding School of Anjar, Lebanon, USD 3,000.

To empower the women of the community and the boarders of the Armenian Evangelical Boarding School by giving thru learning and teaching various types of embroidery (Sevaz, Marash, Aintab . . .) and needle work for income generation.

2) MONTESSORI MATERIALS FOR THE VULNERABLE STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AT BLESSED SCHOOL, Benevolent Lebanese Evangelical School for Special Education and Development (Blessed School), Lebanon, USD 3,000.

To allow poor students with special needs (Autism, Down Syndrome and Mental Retardation) exploration and experiences in learning their senses, making room for building their independence, skills, and life education.

3) PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT TO CHILDREN AND MOTHERS, Karagheusian Association, Lebanon, USD 3,000.

To provide parenting skills to mothers and psycho-social support sessions to low socio-economic status families and their children.

4) EMPOWERING REFUGEE AND LOW-INCOME WOMEN IN ASHRAFICH-AMMAN, JORDAN, St. Paul Arab Episcopal/Anglican Church, Jordan, USD 3,000.

To help equip and empower refugee women to face economic and refugee challenges.

PACIFIC

1) STOP GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ALL FORMS VIOLENCE, Bongol Women's Group, Papua New Guinea, USD 3,000.

To raise awareness and facilitate campaigns among community leaders, councilors, women, men, boys; and to call for actions on ending gender-based violence across the six (6) districts of the province.

2) STOP HIV-AIDS STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS – (PLWA) INCLUDING VIOLENCE, Singamanga Community Women's Group, Papua New Guinea, USD 3,000.

To build public awareness and education campaigns towards ending stigma, violence and discrimination against women, girls and people living with aids.

3) WOMEN AND GIRLS ACCESS TO EDUCATION, Mitna Women's Group, Papua New Guinea, USD 3,000.

To promote and create education opportunities for girls and women to help them realize their full potential and improve the general status of families, community and their future.

WCC - JCWM

1) COMMUNITY ESSENTIALS, Community Essentials, South Africa, USD 3,000.

To mitigate against Sexual and Gender based Violence by providing Emergency Response Technology* to vulnerable communities of women, girls and men. (*This technology provides location-based transmission and a point of reference to police or other authority in a discreet manner if someone feels threatened.)

WDPIC

1) ASPI FOR AUTISTIC WOMEN, Association ASPI (Association for Supporting Youth and Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders), Slovenia, USD 3,000.

To support women with autism between the ages of 19 and 40 to improve their social and communication skills to better overcome the challenges of life.

CANADA - WICC

1) THRIVING MOMS PROJECT: PREGNANCY AND PARENTING SUPPORT FOR AT-RISK MOMS, Beginnings Family Services Care Centres, Canada, USD 3,000.

To provide practical, tangible and educational support and resources to pregnant women and new mothers.

ICFLC APPROVED BUDGET

July 2021 to June 2022

FLC GRANTS

Block Grants	USD 61,400.
Project Grants	64,000.
Scholarships	
(Young Women Scholarship Award)	3,100.
Emergency Grants	8,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

PH Office Administration	6,000.
Circle of Prayer Booklet	1,000.
Bank Fees	500.
Salary, Executive Secretary	25,765.
Pension, Executive Secretary	2,150.
Treasurer's Honorarium	
(returned to Budget as a gift from the Treasurer)	

TOTAL	USD 172,000.
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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

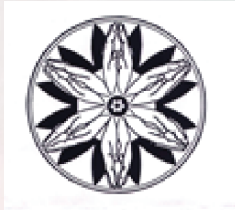
The idea for the Fellowship of the Least Coin emerged as a vision from God to **Mrs. Shanti Solomon** of India. She was part of the Pacific Mission Team of seven women from different countries that traveled in Asian countries after World War II, in September 1956. The Pacific Mission Team was organized 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/>

<https://www.facebook.com/icflc.FLC>

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