

# MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE W.M.F. OF THE LUTHERAN FREE CHURCH (not merged)

The organizational meeting of the W.M.F. of the Lutheran Free Church (not merged) took place at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, on October 27, 1962, as a noon dinner meeting.

Mrs. Ole K. Ose acted as chairman of the meeting and called on Mrs. T. F. Dahle to lead in singing our table prayer. Mrs. J. Hermunslie returned thanks after our meal.

The group sang together one stanza of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", after which Mrs. Ose led us in a time of meditation and sharing based on John 17:21-22. We were reminded that we can have true unity of purpose only as our wills become His will. A short prayer session followed.

We then turned to business, with many ladies taking part, asking questions or giving suggestions. It seemed generally agreed that we should have an entirely new program. Our thoughts turned first to our mission projects. Suggestions given and questions raised were as follows:

- My Missionary for a Day, as such, will be discontinued; would it be possible for us to give to our MMD missionaries through a headquarters of our own?
- It was pointed out that in one case, gifts previously sent directly to a catechist had to be stopped because of the feeling it caused there on the field, and in the same way it may not be wise to send our gifts directly to our missionaries.

Mission Projects suggested were:

- World Mission Prayer League
- A church extension fund to aid congregations needing home mission support
- A mission to the Jews

It was suggested that the conference may be able to suggest a mission field for us. It was also suggested that we have a page in the new paper to be published as the official organ of the church.

We were reminded that we are responsible for our MMD missionaries' salaries for this year of 1962, but were told that what contributions come in over and above what is needed for support of the missionaries will go into the Merger and Missions Fund. It was suggested that each local aid keep their MMD money until the year nears end and then check at headquarters to see if our obligations have been met before sending in any more money. If it is not needed for MMD salaries, our money will be very useful in starting our new W.M.F. work.

Discussion on possible Bible Study materials followed. It was pointed out that if we are not committed to God, our planning is guided by the Devil. Some suggestions for Bible Study material were:

- Use the Bible alone
- L.B.I. correspondence courses
- That we have a literature committee to investigate and suggest material that would be suitable for Ladies Aid work.

A motion was made that we elect a committee to look into Ladies Aid Bible Study Material. It was second and carried.

We then went to election of temporary officers who were to act until the Annual Conference of June, 1963.

Nominations for President were: Mrs. John Strand (who requested that her nomination be retracted. Request granted.)

- Mrs. Ole K. Ose
- Mrs. R. Snipstead
- Mrs. J. Hermunslic
- Mrs. Torkel Ose
- Mrs. Presteng

Mrs. Ole K. Ose was elected.

A motion was made that the forgoing nominees act as officers according to votes received. It was seconded and carried.

A motion was made that the executive board as elected act as a working committee until June. It was seconded and carried.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

The executive committee met for a short session after the Saturday afternoon conference sessions, October 27, 1962.

A literature committee was appointed as follows:

- Mrs. Chester Halvorson, White Earth, North Dakota
- Mrs. Robert Bursheim, Winger, Minnesota
- Mrs. William Svano, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Mrs. Ole K. Ose, Thief River Falls, Minnesota

It was agreed that the committee would next meet at the same time as the Conference Committees have their meeting.

Mrs. R. Snipstead, Secretary, pro-tem

## History

-- As recorded in "The AFLC, Twenty Years of Beginnings & Blessings 1962-1982" p.28-29

Women's Missionary Federation, The AFLC Women At Work

"And on the Sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. And a certain woman names Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us; whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul." Acts 16:13, 14

On October 27, 1962 during the convention of our church, not merged, about 30 women met for a noon luncheon in Our Saviour's Free Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls to fellowship about the Word and to get acquainted in order to organize the work of the women within the AFLC.

The following were elected to promote the work of the Women's Missionary Fellowship:

President – Mrs. Ole Ose

Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Vice President – Mrs. Herbert Presteng

Grafton, North Dakota

Secretary – Mrs. Torkel Ose

Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Treasurer – Mrs. Richard Snipstead

Greenbush, Minnesota

Advisor – Mrs. Julius Hermunslie

Spicer, Minnesota

So that area WMF women might become better acquainted with each other and encouraged in the work of the AFLC, we were divided into districts. It became the goal that each WMF district conduct a spring and a fall rally. Each district elects its own officers who plan the district meetings.

The WMF endeavors to assist the AFLC in meeting its financial obligations and in promotional work. In order that we might help keep our women informed and united in purpose we support the following projects:

My Missionary For A Day (World Missions)

Church Extension (Home Missions)

Cradle Roll

Junior Missions

Praise Program

AFLC Schools

Mission Scholarship

Honorary Membership and in Memoriams (World Missions)

General Fund

The women are very faithful in their support of these projects. We are amazed to have had our budget goals met and exceeded every year. For this we praise the Lord!

One of the resolutions presented at the first Annual Convention expressed concern for desirable Bible Study literature. It was not long before the WMF was able to contact men and women who consented to write our monthly Bible Studies. These are printed in the Lutheran Ambassador. Articles are also written for the Women's Page in the Lutheran Ambassador. Women write promotional literature on the WMF projects and a devotional service for the World Day of Prayer.

Two opportunities are provided for the WMF women to meet on the National level. On Friday evening of the Mid-Winter Bible Conference, the women of the WMF make provisions for an evening meal and a general workshop. A discussion is held on the WMF projects. Also on the Wednesday preceding the AFLC Annual Convention, the women assemble for an all day session. They also plan for and preside over the Mission Festival Service on Thursday night.

In 1963 the first set of resolutions was presented to the Annual Convention held in Fargo, North Dakota. The women who served on this committee were:

Mrs. Reuben Ivesdal  
Edmore, North Dakota  
Mrs. Roy Mohagen and  
Mrs. Herbert Presteng  
Grafton, North Dakota

It is with gratitude to our Heavenly Father that we can joyfully report that these resolutions have been prayerfully and carefully considered these twenty years. We can say with thankfulness that we are remaining true to our calling. Through twenty year the WMF has advanced under the leadership of these women who have served as National WMF Presidents:

1962-1965 Mrs. Ole K. Ose  
1965-1969 Mrs. Herbert Presteng  
1969-1973 Mrs. Melvin Walla  
1973-1977 Mrs. Robert Dietsche  
1977-1981 Mrs. Eugene Enderlein  
1981 - Mrs. Grace Syverson

## History

- - Excerpts from “1962-1992 The AFLC At 30, Growth and New Challenges”  
p.33-34

### Encouraging Women at Home and Abroad

In God’s Word, women were also called to serve in kingdom work. Therefore the women of the Women’s Missionary Federation dedicate themselves to the Great Commission that Jesus Himself gave His followers: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15).

From the very beginning of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, the women of the church have been actively involved in promoting missions, financially supporting the various areas of AFLC work, as well as organizing Bible studies and serving in many capacities within their local congregations.

*(A brief account of the first meeting, officers and designated projects as described in the “Twenty Years” book followed at this point.)*

All the printing, mailing and distribution of literature for the WMF is handled by the WMF executive secretary. Two diligent women have served in this capacity:

Miss Judith Wold (to Sept., 1987)

Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig (from 1987 to present)

Each year our WMF national convention is held on the Wednesday before the AFLC annual conference in June. In addition to this all-day session, the women also meet for a fellowship breakfast on Thursday morning, and the WMF organizes and leads the Mission Festival Service on Thursday evening.

*(The listing of WMF Presidents was expanded from the “Twenty Years” book)*

1981-1985 Mrs. Grace Syverson

1985-1989 Mrs. Wendell Johnson

1989-present Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen

We thank God for all the women who have given of their time and talents to serve the Lord, whether here in America or on the mission field, whether as a WMF officer or an encourager, a Bible study leader or a prayer warrior. We all need each other. We give God all the praise and glory.

In our world of changing values and confusion over women’s roles, may our WMF encourage women to stay true to God’s word and put God’s priorities and Christ-like character first (Titus 2:3-5).