

# *Fellowship of the Least Coin*



**2024 Messages and Reports**

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# INTRODUCTION

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

And what happens to our FLC Offerings in a year?

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

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

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

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

Praises to God and thanks be to you!

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

*"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.

I feel so honored to have been part of this movement for so many years and to be at a time like this, Chair of the International Committee. I have experienced first-hand all the emotions that arise from the many conversations across the table about the things that are happening around the world. But it all comes to this, the hope and celebration of women 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, to 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 but 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 Solomon, 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. May we find each other always faithful in the FLC journey to Justice, Peace and Reconciliation!



Rev. Dr. Yamina APOLINARIS  
ICFLC Chairperson, 2022 - 2024

## **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

to the 43<sup>rd</sup> ICFLC Annual Meeting, November 8 – 11, 2023  
Hsinchu, Taiwan

### **INTRODUCTION**

On the first year of my second term and feeling familiar with the work routine, I am looking at the next four years under an anticipated strategic plan that should guide and anchor us in facilitating the FLC in a post-pandemic period and a worsening ecological condition. The future is open and is a leap of faith for the FLC, while witnessing the misery and the pains of our people and of creation. This is our organizational context with this report.

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

Thankfully I had fewer local invitations as resource person in 2023 that enabled me to do an important task of assisting the Asian Church Women's Conference (ACWC) in its organizational life processes as it prepared for its 17<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Assembly. In the process of helping ACWC, I saw how the FLC is thriving with the ecumenical women in Asia, and the gaps that needed a response in terms of systematically organizing a nationally coordinated FLC practice including the collection and submission of Offerings under the leadership of both CCA and ACWC, our Asian members.

The CCA (Christian Conference of Asia) 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Sept. 28 to Oct 3) and the 2023 Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly (Sept. 26 to 28, morning) in Kottayam, Kerala, India was the main event I attended as Ecumenical Partner. As an opportunity to fellowship with the CCA constituents and promote the FLC, I was able to talk to women delegates about their FLC country practice and how to submit their FLC Offerings. Women in the local churches do the FLC, and they are wondering what happens to their FLC Offerings.

##### **Website, FB page and others**

As I reported in 2022, many inquiries about the FLC materials, where to send FLC Offerings and contact persons in the regions were made through our website. This year it is even more. FLC networks are getting used to the FLC as more accessible online.

##### **Publications**

I noted last year that the burden of the cost of printing shifted to our end-users who are not technology skilled. This year I received requests to make our publications easier to print with less color graphics, or to make a separate sheet for visuals so that users have options. Suggestions and comments are welcome to make our publications more useful especially for those in the local communities.

### **II. ADMINISTRATION**



## THE FLC Grants

**Project Grants.** The 2022 FLC Project Grants report is posted on the Google drive for our 2023 Annual Meeting. Two projects were cancelled for some reasons, and there is one project with no report or communication.

**We had four (4) Emergency Grants** given since November 2022, and with Ukraine and Manipur (India) up for reporting.

The 2022 BOW Scholar Elder Wiworn Namthep finished her degree early this year. There was no SAYW applicant in 2022.

Again, I urge us all to use the reports to share how the FLC Offerings are being used in response to increasing queries wanting to know where the FLC offerings are going. This is our way of showing accountability and of sharing inspiring stories and pictures about how the FLC makes its vision of justice, peace and reconciliation a closer reality.

### Office and finance matters

The year 2023 Office budget was managed according to plan, except for an adjustment due to attending the CCA Assembly.

I still recommend maintaining the home office set up as a practical option than renting an office space.

## III. CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I realize that the concrete action happens in the regions, and as Executive Secretary I am responsible in assisting you in your work. As we anticipate the strategic plan, I hope I can assist you well in implementing the plan. The strategic plan is our concrete response to making the FLC movement more vibrant and responsive to challenges at hand.

Recommendations:

- To keep the ICFLC Office home-based, for practical purposes.
- To imagine and promote the FLC as a prayer movement beyond women's groups, in places where it is still exclusively as women's movement. This is a continuing challenge but already is a practice in some countries and should be considered in the strategic plan.
- I still recommended to hold Annual Meetings face to face on the year that ACWC has its assembly, and the years in between, via online.

- I encourage members to be more proactive in asking me how to help them in their regional work of promoting the FLC. Also, to be more visible and involved in our annual Call to Prayer, in which we can be more locally creative.

## IN CONCLUSION

I feel that this time is asking us to be more creative and proactive in doing the FLC, beyond the routine. Personally, I do not know how. But I am confident that as a group of committed, faithful women we can define the next years and work through it.

Through brave and informed prayers and action, we continue to commit to accompany each other, and to be in solidarity with God's people. The FLC is our unique way of expressing love for this world from our own corners.



Dr. Liza B. LAMIS  
ICFLC Executive Secretary  
November 2023

## REPORT OF THE ICFLC TREASURER

To the 43rd ICFLC Annual Meeting, November 2023  
Hsinchu, Taiwan

Dear Sisters,

It continues to be an honor to serve as your Treasurer. I enjoy working with Liza and colleagues in our partner organizations.

Financial transactions for the ICFLC were processed by Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA. While the timeliness and communication are not as strong as I would like, we continue to work together, and experience has taught us how to best manage the relationship. Banking regulations and US Treasury restrictions must be navigated and if recipients of our grants do not have a valid bank account in the name of the organization, we cannot send funds to them. As hostility and conflicts grow around the world, US Treasury controls must tighten, which impacts ICFLC's ability to send funding to some countries, unfortunately, some where help is needed most. Wire transfer fees can be significant. We will continue to deal with these issues which are beyond our control.

At the October 2022 Annual Meeting, the ICFLC changed the fiscal year from July - June to January - December, allowing more time for the annual offerings to be received and project and block grants to be paid within the same fiscal year. This timing also allows ICFLC to set the budget before the start of the fiscal year, rather than one-quarter into the year. An interim, deficit budget for July - December 2022 was approved, and the reporting to the ICFLC at its November 2023 meeting includes the 18 months from July 2022 through December 2023.

Regarding the financial results for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, offerings were \$18,000 above the budgeted income; partner organizations generally gave more than the previous year, although not at their pre-pandemic levels. The strong income allowed ICFLC to maintain the project and block grants at the level budgeted and the ICFLC to meet in person for the Annual Meeting in Taiwan in November 2023. Office expenses continue to be minimal.

As always, I am happy to answer questions or to provide details on any aspect of the FLC funds. The year 2023 completes my fourth year as Treasurer and a replacement is expected within the next year. I will, of course, ensure a smooth transition.

May God continue to bless the work of the ICFLC and all those impacted by the least coins and prayers offered by our sisters around the world.



Blessings and peace,

Mary Martin  
ICFLC Treasurer



# REPORTS FROM ICFLC MEMBERS / REGIONAL ECUMENICAL ORGANIZATIONS



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

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

Year: **2023**

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

The main engagement of the AACC's Gender and Women program is preparation for the AACC's 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and celebration of AACC 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be held in Abuja, Nigeria from 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023. Prior to the Assembly, the AACC Program for Gender and Women has planned to conduct a two-day physical Women's Pre- assembly Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023 on the theme, **"The Love of Christ compels us to Promote Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE)**. The objective will be to gather women delegates to reflect on the AACC 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly theme and identify the issues of concern that affect and undermine women's dignity. The key points gathered from the pre-assemblies will inform the Women's Statement that will be read at the General Assembly. Three virtual Women Pre-Assemblies have already taken place in September and October to begin gathering the Statement.

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

- **Through call for application of project grants**-FLC projects were distributed widely in the entire constituency and we coordinated the reception of the forms and forwarded to FLC secretariat
- **Explaining the process of becoming FLC members to women groups who enquired**
- Sharing the FLC call to contribute to the Circle of Prayer of which at least four (4) women have contributed
- AACC Director, Gender and Women participated at the Annual virtual ICFLC meeting from 10<sup>th</sup> -October 2022
- Three FLC Projects were supported- two in Kenya and one in Uganda. This served to popularize FLC within these churches.

### 3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

- By asking project grant beneficiaries to popularize and support the work of FLC
- Through a reminder circular letter to gender desks raising awareness about FLC
- Distribution of FLC newsletters, messages and report in our network. FLC reports help in publicizing the FLC projects in Africa, through which churches learn about FLC
- We intend to invite all the beneficiaries of ICFLC grant to meet and share brief progress reports and call them to support the work of CFLC

### 4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

**Celebration of International Women's Day, 8th March 2022.** This was a hybrid event with the in-person celebrations held at the AACC Headquarters in Nairobi. It attracted 99 participants (59 physical and 40 virtual) from different regions of the continent including Church leaders, heads of gender programs, AACC Male Champions for Gender Justice, youth, widows, persons with disabilities, officials from disability organizations, and climate and development organizations. The objective was to accelerate and strengthen actions by Church leaders to promote gender equality in the process of adaptation, mitigation, and response to climate change. African leaders were urged to send strong negotiators for the COP27 meeting in Egypt and include both male and female church leaders in government negotiating teams. A statement was issued at the end of the Consultation. The AACC Advocacy toolkit for justice for widows was launched at the same event.



Group photo of participants at the IWD and a section of participants



*The AACC GS Dr Mwombeki launching the tool kit with the Director of Programmes Dr Lesmore displaying it and calling on Churches to operationalize it.*

### **Commemoration of International Widows' Day, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 Lilongwe-Malawi**

AACC in Collaboration with Malawi Council of Churches and AACC Platform of Male Champions for Gender Justice hosted the International Widows' Day in Crown hotel, Lilongwe-Malawi on 23rd June 2022. It brought together seventy six (76) adult participants and thirty two (32) children. This was followed by bilateral meetings in Blantyre to advocate for Justice for Widows and popularize the Platform of Male Champions in Malawi. One of the meetings was held with the former President of Malawi HE Dr. Bakili Muluzi on 24th June. A widows' program was established in Thundu CCAP-Blantyre after the campaign. H.E. Dr. Muluzi embraced and supported the work of Male Champion in Malawi.



*Group photo during IWD and meeting with HE Dr. Muluzi (third middle).*



### **AACC Engagement of Male Champions to Advocate for Gender Justice and Rights Of Widows-Blantyre 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022**

This was a three days workshop that took place from 19-21 July 2022 at the Grace Bandawe Conference Centre. It was a follow up of the successful commemoration of International Widows' Day. At the end of the meeting the Male Champions came up with a statement of commitment to strongly fight for justice for widows, orphans, the girl child and vulnerable children by using the constitutional law through awareness activities and advocate for law enforcement



*Group photo on the left and one discussion group on the right.*

### **All Africa Youth Congress- A side-event on Youth For Gender Justice- 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2022**

Youth for Gender Justice was held on Wednesday 2nd Nov 2022 as a Side Event of the All Africa Youth Congress (AAYC) convened at Pentecost Convention Centre in Kasoa, Accra, Ghana from the 31<sup>st</sup> October to 5th November 2022. It attracted 119 Youth Participants. They committed themselves to champion gender justice, address GBV issues among the youth and engage their peers on the same.



*On the left is a photo of a section of the participants and on the right is a photo of one of the discussion groups.*

### **Conclusion:**

Support from ICFLC both in form of Block Grant and project grants came in handy to support the work of AACC to promote gender justice. After lifting of lockdowns linked to Covid-19 Pandemic, AACC was able to travel across the continent and host in-person meetings. Space could not allow to report on all the meetings, including those held virtually AACC is committed to continued collaboration with FLC and to promote its work.





**Name of EO: ASIAN CHURCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE (ACWC)**

**Author of Report/Position: Supaporn Yarnasarn, President;  
Dorothy Castro, Vice President for South East Asia**

**Year: 2023**

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

A year after the covid 19 pandemic, many people have not fully returned to their face-to-face activities because new variants of covid were still coming out and the fear of infection and spread has remained real. Senior members of our organization are mostly vulnerable and a majority of our members are affected. In fact, ECWUP have lost more than 10 active members to covid and I am certain in other countries more or less their experience is the same. The situation as described above has limited our activities to virtual meetings and gatherings. Thanks to zoom, google meet, messenger, face book our predicaments have been minimized. These platforms have come in very handy for most of us. It goes without saying that travels were not availed of so we rely on updates during our zoom meetings from FLC and ACWC. We also made use of our web sites for updates and so far, we made some headway. So instead of new work we intensified our thrust through our existing structure making sure that those who have not been as active before in their FLC activities are now given more attention.

### **2. Achievement in the last year relevant to the practice of FLC/ new organization/group or new country where FLC started.**

Unfortunately, there are no significant achievements relevant to the practice of FLC due to our limited mobility. However, within our present structure we tried to intensify our campaign for FLC practice of setting aside coins as a symbol of our solidarity to the purpose of FLC. Some organizations have increased offerings while others have decreased their giving. In effect there is a slight decrease in our overall giving. The effect of covid 19 pandemic is somehow still very real: loss of jobs, livelihood is down, medical requirements have increased and has weighed down in the family budget. While the prospect of a brighter future is there, it will take some time to clear the skies of dark clouds. We have replaced our Indonesian National Representative but some countries are not able to participate in our upcoming

General Assembly for one reason or another. We are not happy about this but we cannot do much to change the situation. Maybe we need to pray more about more active participation of our member countries. It is important for the Executive Committee to see for ourselves what is happening in the different countries, to be able to analyze and diagnose the prevailing circumstances.

### **3. Opportunities to promote and strengthen FLC**

Our present situation suggests that there are many opportunities to promote and strengthen FLC. Aside from our consultation with Liza Lamis, when we are able to fully resume our face-to-face meetings, many are the possibilities of strengthening FLC through the creativity and innovative effort of our women. We can re-educate our women about FLC, how it started, the importance of FLC as a long-time partner, the support it has extended to ACWC and the different ministries FLC is engaged in. By the way we now have a distinct identity as disciples of Christ and so we can explore the many possibilities of what it means to be disciples of Christ. These will give us concrete programs to be implemented.

### **4. Result of use of Block Grant**

We have an ongoing scholarship program, we have project grants to support, we help in the relief of calamity victims, and we use some of it for our General Assembly expenses, the travel and accommodation of delegates and other incidental expenses related to our General Assembly.

### **Conclusion:**

We are grateful to FLC for the continued support to ACWC through the Block Grant, through the help of Liza by providing our zoom platform for meetings. We look forward to a sustained and more fruitful partnership in the future by God's grace and love.



Name of EO: **CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA (CCA)**

Author of Report/Position: **Jung Eun Grace Moon, Programme Coordinator, and Arceli Pepito Bile, Programme Staff/ Ecumenical Relations**

Year: **2022 - 2023**

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

In Asia, various continuing challenges such as poverty, human rights violations, discrimination against minorities, authoritarian regimes, and environmental issues have worsened and have created ongoing conflicts and divisions. Women often bear the brunt of these challenges, facing inequalities, gender insensitivity, and discrimination. Churches' ecumenical responses are vital in addressing these complexities. Recognizing the importance of contextualising faith and biblical interpretation with Asia's socio-economic and political realities, especially for women and youth, the CCA has been providing a platform for the Asian women doing theologies to come together and reflect on emerging trends from a gender perspective. The CCA has been committed to addressing gender and women's concerns in Asia and promoting women's leadership development in both the church and society, while advocating for women's issues, revitalizing ecumenical women's networks in Asia to promoting the establishment of inclusive communities and ensuring equal participation in all decision-making levels.

Moreover, to sensitize and mobilize Asian Christian women to engage in 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.

In conjunction with the 15th General Assembly of CCA in September 2023, the Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly (AEWA) was held at Kottayam as one of CCA's pre-assembly events on the theme of "Asian Women: Journeying Towards Renewal and Restoration of Creation" attended by 65 women from Asia and beyond, in which the AEWA participants made their commitment to engage in gender and climate justice advocacy and their integral role of addressing gender inequalities in climate action/ response.

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

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

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

### **2.1 National Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence in East Timor**

20-22 September 2022/ Dili, East Timor

A national consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence at Dili, East Timor was held on 20-22 September 2022, in partnership with the Igreja Protestante iha Timor Loro Sa'e (IPTL) aimed at preventing violence against women and promoting a culture of resistance against violence.

This consultation brought together 35 participants from the members of IPTL from different parts of Timor Leste and some partner churches. The training covered topics such as 'Women's Rights to Full Life', 'Understanding Gender and Gender-Based Violence', 'Gender-Based Violence Challenges in Timor-Leste', and 'Women as Equal Partners in God's Mission'.

The participants have realized the gravity of the sexual violence against women and children and, thus, have committed to generating awareness among the churches and providing a safe space for the victims of abuse in the churches and communities.

## **2.2 Ecumenical Women's Advocacy on Violence Against Women: South Asia Consultation 2022**

11-15 November 2022/ Colombo, Sri Lanka

A four-day sub-regional consultation organized by the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) with a focus on ecumenical women's advocacy on violence against women and girls provided rich experiences for participants to understand the current situation in different countries, as opined by the participants, who represented churches and ecumenical councils from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The programme is part of CCA's ongoing advocacy and capacity-building programme, Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence (EWAAV).

About twenty-five women from South Asian countries attended the programme held at the Ecumenical Institute for Study and Dialogue, Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 11 to 15 November 2022, aimed at strengthening the advocacy for women's empowerment and focused on the collaboration and networking among churches and women's organizations in Asia to combat violence against women.

The participants shared their commitments to strengthening their advocacy initiatives for gender justice and combating violence against women.

## **2.3 Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly**

25 – 28 September 2023/ Kottayam, India

The Asian Ecumenical Women Assembly (AEWA) 2023 was held in conjunction with the CCA's 15th General Assembly on the theme of "Asian Women: Journeying Towards Renewal and Restoration of Creation".

The AEWA-2023 aimed to deepen the commitment and engagement of women of faith across Asia for gender and climate justice advocacy which provided spaces for discussions on



the integral role of addressing gender inequalities in climate action/ response and to strengthen the mobilisation and solidarity of churches in addressing environmental/climate justice.

Specifically, the AEWA provided awareness on the issue of climate justice and its impact through discussions and reflections on the biblical-theological underpinnings of renewal and restoration of God's creation. It also aims to gather recommendations from the participants in strengthening the Asian churches' and councils' programmes and ministries related to ecological/climate justice and sustainable development.

Link to the AEWA Pre-Assembly Communique:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/12tV6JytMhoN63jp6996z5eXYj8mkgWYV/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/12tV6JytMhoN63jp6996z5eXYj8mkgWYV/view?usp=drive_link)

### **3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:**

CCA, as a regional ecumenical organization and facilitator, has played its role in developing and strengthening the prayer movement of Fellowship of Least Coin by encouraging its constituencies to be involved 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 the FLC Block Grant for CCA was used to conduct the National Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence in East Timor and partly for the Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly.

### **Conclusion:**

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

On behalf of CCA, I would like to record my sincere gratitude for the continued support and encouragement of ICFLC for CCA.

Also, I would like to express my thankfulness to Dr. Liza Lamis for participating in the CCA's AEWA and General Assembly, held in Kottayam, India, as a representative of ICFLC.

Indeed, the ICFLC is a unique prayer movement that provides opportunities for women to pray for each other, show solidarity, and be partners in God's Mission. Thank you.



- National Consultation on Ecumenical Women's Action against Violence





## Ecumenical Women's Advocacy on Violence Against Women: South Asia Consultation 2022









## Asian Ecumenical Women's Assembly 2023









Name of EO: **RED CONSEJO LATINOAMERICANO DE IGLESIAS (Red CLAI)**

Author of Report/Position: **Rev. Dr. Yamina Apolinaris/ Regional Representative**

Year: **2022-23**

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

It is with great joy that I greet you all, on behalf of RED CLAI. As many of you know, the Latin America Council of Churches has gone through a major reorganization, as a result of an intensive process of consultation and analysis. As a demonstration of the value that CLAI saw in its relationship with FLC, the special committee elected to lead the process of "reimagination", included the representative of CLAI to this body. Also, Rev. Cecilia Castillo, leader for several years of the Gender Justice Desk and my partner in the work of promoting FLC within the member organizations, also played a significant role in this process.

It is also significant to mention that Gabriela Mulder, one of the women leaders who, was also related to project grants, is the leader of the Team that continues to lead Red CLAI. I find it important to mention because this emphasizes the significance of women's contribution not just to the past, but to the future of the ecumenical movement. We continue to affirm and celebrate that FLC and Red CLAI share values and practices that connect us to our commitment to peace, justice and reconciliation and the care for all of creation.

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

As we reflect on the experiences during this year, we realize that, although the most difficult time of the Covid pandemic has passed, it is very much present. The changes in the meeting patterns as well as the effects of the economic crisis worsened by the pandemic, continues to carry impact all we do.

As in all of our organizations, we have not yet reached the levels of participation or commitment of time and resources that we had prior to the lockdowns. We have come to realize that this new reality of Zoom meetings and dwindling resources, will continue.

And yet, we do have to recognize, that, on the other hand, these very "limitations" have opened new challenges but also opportunities. We never imagined that it was possible to connect and even participate in activities thousand miles away. The first thing we used to

see as an obstacle to our participation in events was the lack of financial resources for transportation, room and board. Today is the effort to find, not only the time but also the internet connection to be able to carry meetings and activities. Although an issue that could be more challenging in some areas than others, it is still less expensive than being in person.

For me it has given me the opportunity to meet the women who are leading project grants or participate in opening as well as closing celebrations of the Grant projects. This has been a completely new experience for me.

COMUNIDAD TEOLÓGICA  
EVANGÉLICA DE CHILE  
Facultad Evangélica de Teología

*"Cuidar de quien Cuida"*  
**TALLER**  
*Juntas celebramos*

**VIERNES 10 DE MARZO**  
de 15.00 a 18.30 horas  
Domeyko 1938 - 3° piso 📍 Toesca

Inscripciones e informaciones, en:

2 22 6970630 ctesantiago@ctedechile.cl

**19:00 horas**  
**Lanzamiento de la cartilla**  
**"Amar es cuidar"**

I want to highlight the FLC call to prayer, that in our context was led by five women from different Latin American Countries. It was refreshing to feel their enthusiasm and the desire to add this to our calendar and to assign it to another group of women for next year.

I also want to say that in Puerto Rico, the women decided to continue with this practice and try to do it more frequently during the year. It is a way to emphasize the importance of prayer and solidarity, as we reflect not only in our particular situations, but also as we pray and accompany our sisters throughout the world that are facing extremely difficult situations.

### 3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

We are grateful for the opportunity to promote our events as well as to share information about and from FLC through the Red CLAI communications team. This allows us to connect

with all the member churches and leaders. I have a special gratitude and recognition for the support of Cecilia Castillo who continues to be an excellent partner and supporter of FLC. She has an extensive network of women and church/community organizations to whom she also shares all things related to FLC. She continues to give of her time to all we do.

I also recognize the support of the Gender and Justice group from Puerto Rico who promote and support us in every way.

#### **4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:**


Thanks to the FLC Block Grant we have been able to continue the communications, links, and promotion of activities from CLAI.

#### **Conclusion:**

My dear sisters, it has been a great to be part of ICFLC for all these years. I have learned so much from each one of you as well as from those that came before. The bonds of friendship continue growing and strengthening. Although most of you I have only met by Zoom, I feel we have a strong sense of sisterhood. And I am looking forward to finally embrace and rejoice together.

As I shared with you at our last meetings, to my surprise, the transition team requested that I continue, until they are able to finish the process and identify a new representative. I believe that will happen this year. I will be sad, but happy that someone else will be part and have the opportunity to contribute to the movement through the work and ministry of this wonderful group of women.

Last, but not least, my gratitude to Red CLAI for their trust and support during all these years. Be assured my sisters, that I will continue to promote, support and practice FLC.

  
November 2023



Name of EO: **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED, INC. (CWU USA)**

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

Year: **2022**

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

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

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

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

As we reflect on Church Women United today, we remain strong in our social justice footprint. Our mission to celebrate unity in diversity and empowering women to work towards a world of peace and justice for all humanity is threaded through our programs, initiatives as we strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

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

- Ongoing communication to support FLC through steadfast prayer and financial contributions and to emphasize the critical work of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.



- The Action and Global Concerns committee created 12 Social Policies to promote advocacy in the following areas: Drinking water, racism, Women's Health, White Supremacy just to name a few.
- Participated in a Global Prayer hosted by CWU USA. Over 100+ participants attended in spirit-filled prayer vigil. We offered various prayers to support our local and global world. Church Women United believes now is the time to pray for peace, hope and justice for all humanity.



### 3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

Church Women United, Inc continues to work effortlessly to support FLC throughout the year.

In 2023 CWU assisted our States/Local units with repurposing after experiencing a setback due to the pandemic. This has been a year of renewal and restoration for our organization. The CWU sisterhood gathers across the nation to collectively pray for God's will and way to guide, lead and direct our path to spread the mission of the Fellowship of the Least Coin. May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands.

- Will create a new brochure to CWU/Fellowship of Least Coin initiative outlining the history, purpose and fund development to help CWU achieve its financial goal.
- Distribution of the FLC newsletters and annual reports to our community.



- Will focus on rebooting the Fellowship of Least Coin campaign by asking our State and Local Units to create decorative small coin jars to collect the least coins and currency.

#### 4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:

Church Women United continues to promote the Block Grant project in the region. We have submitted applications for organizations that promote the physical, mental, and spiritual support of women and girls both locally and globally.

#### Conclusion:

Church Women United continues to support FLC efforts to advocate for peace, justice and hope for women and girls across the globe. We stand in solidarity with our regional partners who collaborate to empower, encourage, and equip women to success. May we the change our world needs to see.

On behalf of the National Board of Directors, members, and partners of Church Women United, Inc we extend gratitude and appreciation for FLC and their mission work and the prayer movement. Let us continue promote FLC through our witness and call to prayer. We pray almighty God release the chains of gender violence, spiritual war, climate change, femicide, poverty and the societal ills that cause women and children to suffer. We stand in unity and faith with our sisters across the globe to make this world a better place.





Name of EO: **EUROPEAN FORUM OF EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN WOMEN (EFECW)**

Author of Report/Position: **Marianna Apreysan, Copresident, and Judit Vincze, CC member in EFECW**

Year: **2023**

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

For the year 2023 of EFECW women's desk is the theme "Let us renew!" that was voiced at the last General Assembly last August in Strasbourg. For a moment in the General Assembly, the EFECW visualised how we wished the Forum to be in the future. Renewal was the essence of visioning. But, why renewal? What does renewal mean? What is the first thing that comes into your mind when thinking of renewal? Which kind of renewal do we think of? How to express this in terms of the structure of the Forum, its content, its activities, etc.? How do we want the Forum to face the present?

The Coordination Committee was discussed this and wants to give space to come into the discussion to find out the overall theme for this work period until 2026.

On 26 June there organized National Coordinators' online meeting on the topic of the „Renewal”.

#### **What else happened:**

**19-20th March, 2023, Athens, Greece**

Workshop organized by EFECW CC member for Greek's Forum Conference on Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women

**27th March 2023, Council of Europe, INGOs Conference**

The Committee "NGOs as advocates of gender equality and women's rights" seeks to enable NGOs to promote the Council of Europe's ground-breaking conventions and recommendations concerning women's rights and gender equality in their respective NGO and in civil society. The objective is to explore and develop concrete strategies, advocacy activities and tools to make the Council of Europe conventions better known and implemented in the member states and the civil society. The Committee encompasses a broad variety of NGOs with focus on women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. EFECW representation work is inspired by Ruth Epting's vision of a reconciled European cohabitation and a common European identity and EFECW's mission priorities to be a recognised voice of Christian women in Church and public life in Europe.

**5<sup>th</sup> April 2023**, Online National Coordinators' Prayer-Meeting,  
Woman and the Good News, *"Go to my brothers and tell them"* John 20:17

**20-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023**, Oradea, Romania

The Coordinating Committee (CC) of the Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women (EFECW) met in Oradea, Romania, and Marianna Apresyan joining us online.

**26<sup>th</sup> June 2023** organized National Coordinators' online meeting on the topic of the „Renewal”.

**16<sup>th</sup> July 2023**, EFECW Open Space Discussion for Young Women:  
The Beginning of a new European Project

**21.09.-24.09.2023** – Neighborhood meeting **in Armenia** for Russian speaking countries on the topic of „The role of women in peacemaking: By steps of Abigail”

**29.10.-31.10.2023**, **EPIL** conference in Vienna, Austria, Women in Dialogue for Peace, Reinhild Traitler Symposium.

For more detailed information see: Newsletters - EFECW | Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women – especially newsletters spring and autumn 2023.

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

After the GA in 2022 Strasbourg two members, Marianna Apreysan, co-president and Judit Vincze CC member of the CC were decided to be EFECW representative in FLC which will impact the relationship of both organizations. The presence of representatives in the FLC helped effectively in project application NGO Asociatia Obsteasca “Soarta” of Moldova,

## **3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:**

Judit Vincze presented the history and activity of FLC to theologian students on May, 2023 in the Transylvanian city Cluj Napoca. She highlighted the importance of prayer service that these women do and the importance of doing that their own congregations. FLC is a very good and a motivating role model to do so. She also emphasized that donating is the basis of charity.

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

**Conclusion:**

We are thankful for this spiritual sisterhood with FLC. We will be involved to keep this collaboration on live in the future.







Name of EO: **PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES (PCC)**  
Author of Report/Position: **Rev Siera Bird, PCC Ecumenical  
Animator for Gender/Women's Desk**

Year: **2023**

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

- High cost of transportation in the Pacific is a forever issue due to geographical locations of islands and a wide ocean that divide these islands. The only means of transportation to work in the Pacific Communities is via boat (which very rare and takes weeks) or by plane which is very expensive. For instance, 2 hours flight from Fiji-Kiribati 1,495FJD and 10 hours flight from Fiji-USA; \$1899 FJD. These figures proven that working with Partners in the Pacific is just as costly as working with other regions in Asia, USA etc. The only avenue to connect with Women's fellowships in the Pacific that affiliated with FLC and those that want to connect with ICFLC programmes is through emails or Facebook or traveling to attend other face to face meetings.
- Internet coverage in the Pacific communities is very poor. The only locations that have better network coverage are those in urban areas and those that closer to network tower satellite. Therefore, having online activities and meetings is workable for minority people in the Pacific while most people are struggling to cope with programmes online. Based on this context, elder people are struggling to use technological facilities while upcoming young leaders are good in innovated technology to do the work. I bet this is one of the reasons why the FLC annual 'Call to Prayer' in the Pacific have very small number of attendance compared to other regions.
- The data of VAWG&C in the Pacific is very high. Statistics showed that 2/3 women experience and disclose violence that cause by their partners in their lifetime and 1/3 women in the Pacific experience and disclose violence that cause by their partners yearly. Which means that the GBV and domestic violence is an issue in the Pacific and need to be address. For this reason PCC is taken this seriously and response to the issue. The PCC Gender Desk and safe hub need to prioritise GBV& VAC and create prevention measures to safeguard women, children, girls and vulnerable adults.
- Priority works of PCC Gender/Women's Officer in 2023 to address GBV and domestic violence in the Pacific as follows:
  - ✓ Gender Equality Theology Awareness
  - ✓ Gender Status Card Trainings to PCC Member Churches to know how to use GSC Self-Assessment Tool
  - ✓ Safe Church Frame as a tool for PCC Member churches to develop their own safeguarding Policies to safeguard church members and workers

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

The Pacific Conference of Churches Gender/Women desk rejoiced over the achievements that happened within the Organisation for the year 2023 that relevant to the practice of FLC such as the following below:

- ✓ Connecting PCC Church leaders and Service Providers that working on EVAWG&C
- ✓ Organising Regional Feminist Theologians, Feminist activist and feminist practitioners to share, learn, encourage and empower each other to bring agent of change to PCC communities.
- ✓ Acknowledging the work of FLC that continue to take place by the United Church Women's Fellowship- PNG (Photo in 3 below), and RAK- Kiribati (will insert photos in next report).
- ✓ Gender Status Card trainings achieved in 8 countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa, PNG and Vanuatu)

## 3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:

- Due to geographical context in the Pacific that mentioned in the 1<sup>st</sup> bulletin in 1 above, therefore planning and team work are very crucial to the Women's Desk and PCC officers' trips. Trips for other programmes are platform to enquire or advocate for FLC in churches through-out the Pacific.



Photos above were United Church Women's Fellowship in PNG praying for women in PNG and other parts of the world for their FLC programme. The Ecumenical Animator roll-out Gender Status Card and an opportunity to enquire, promote and strengthen FLC as well.

- Ecumenical Animator promote or strengthened FLC by introducing the project grant to General Secretary in Tuvalu for the small project they submitted, seeking for assistance.
- United Church in Solomon Islands Moderator aware of young women's scholarship through the website that shared. Therefore sent a request for potential candidature.
- Call to Prayer June 2023. The liturgy was prepared to accommodate the Pacific issues and contexts. The liturgy distributed to PCC Gender/Women's network so they can organise and use the liturgy in their own time.
- PCC 12<sup>th</sup> Women's Pre-Assembly (16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> November, 2023) is a platform to promote and strengthen FLC. About 70 participants representing 33 Member Churches from the region and regional/international partners of PCC are

attending this Pre-Assembly. It is an opportunity to collect information from affiliation members of FLC.

#### **4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:**

The use of the FLC Block Grant 2023 assist some of the work of the PCC Gender/Women's desk such the trips, internet cost to host online meetings, activities such as Call to Prayer, etc.

#### **Conclusion:**

Pacific Conference of Churches realised that FLC is still very much a movement practice within some of the PCC Member Churches that visited in 2023. For instance, PNG, Kiribati, Samoa and Solomon Islands still have programmes that set aside for the FLC- to pray for women in their countries and in the world.

The challenge that PCC Gender/Women desk experience is the communication between these women and the regional desk due to poor network, technological facilities and change of leadership.

The trips managed to understand the context and fill some of these gaps that mentioned above.



# World Council of Churches

**JUST COMMUNITY OF WOMEN  
AND MEN**

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6111  
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## **Name of EO: WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC – JCWM)**

Author of Report/Position: Rev. Nicole Ashwood, Programme Executive, Just  
Community of Women and Men

Year: **2022**

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

Much of the work of the Just Community of Women and Men in 2022 was geared at preparations for the WCC 11<sup>th</sup> assembly: orientation and preassembly activities, ecumenical conversations about inclusion of women in the work of reconciliation and unity and addressing issues of gender justice in our call to transformation.

Post Assembly, our focus is on building on the foundations of the assembly remit, we seek to convene spaces where women and men in community are able to experience life in fullness, and walk with the dignity accorded them as part of God's creation.

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

Intentional reporting of FLC in WCC's Just Community Updates, as well as partial resumption of prayer moments.

### **3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:**

A video featuring ICFLC members present in Karlsruhe was produced by EFECW after JCWM pre-Assembly. It has helped to promote FLC. There has also been promotion of FLC activities/events in monthly updates, and we observed a few monthly prayer sessions.

### **4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:**

Proceeds from the Block grant helped with pre-assembly and general assembly costs. The pre-assembly saw more than 250 participants – women and men – sharing, praying and networking in community. (for more details and pictures see,



Pre-assembly

<https://www.oikoumene.org/events/just-community-of-women-and-men-pre-assembly> Ecumenical Conversations (look for #20)

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/publications/report-on-the-ecumenical-conversations-at-the-wcc-11th-assembly>

Assembly Report

<https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/publications/christs-love-moves-the-world-to-reconciliation-and-unity-report-of-the-wcc-11th-assembly>

Assembly photos

<https://oikoumene.photoshelter.com/galleries/C0000VFYoZ6eMIZc/WCC-11th-Assembly-Karlsruhe-Germany>

### **Conclusion:**

The Fellowship of the Least Coin remains an important ecumenical partner in the WCC work and witness. We remain hopeful about ways in which we might integrate the work of the Fellowship in meaningful ways.

In Christ's Love and Grace,

**Rev Nicqi Ashwood**

Programme Executive

Just Community of Women and Men

**#ThursdaysinBlack** for a world without rape or violence

<https://www.oikoumene.org/thursdays-in-black>



Name of EO: **WOMEN'S INTERCHURCH COUNCIL OF CANADA (WICC)**  
Author of Report/Position: **Cathy Reid, WICC's ICFLC Representative**  
Year: **2022-2023**

WICC is a grassroots Christian prayer movement providing people with small grants to do great things. It is made possible by the passionate and diverse teams working towards its mission and vision. Our approach is rooted in faith and called to action.

In Canada we run Fellowship of the Least Coin alongside our sister organization the World Day of Prayer. We promote FLC through our website and encourage everyone to download the Prayer Devotionals namely the Circle of Prayer booklet. We send out the In-Gathering Service Program which is produced yearly by ICFLC to all registered groups across the country and also offer it as a download on our website. We also create pamphlets and jar labels which can be downloaded. We have noted an increase in the number of requests for the Service this year and note this is probably due to groups starting to meet again after COVID.

WICC spends the block grant to run the FLC program in Canada including:

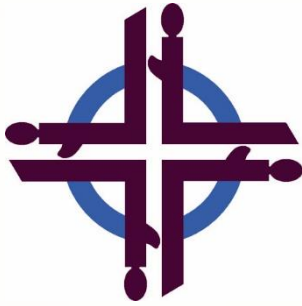
- postage (FLC groups are not email users for the most part)
- Supplies, staff support expenses
- Website updates
- We-Connect promotion
- Processing donations
- Producing tax receipts

These costs were estimated to be more than \$12,000 per year.

There was an increase in FLC in-gathering service last fall as women started to feel more comfortable attending small events. Most donations are coming from people who have been faithful participants for many, many years. We are not aware of 'new' groups. We hope as more people become familiar with using online resources that others will be interested in finding out more about FLC.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Thank you for the opportunity to come together with ecumenical partners. Through prayer and study we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the work of the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.



Name of EO: – **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE (WDPIC)**

Author of Report/Position: **Katie Reimer, Executive Director**

Year: **2023**

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

The World Day of Prayer service in March, 2023, was written by our sisters from WDP Taiwan. Their theme was "I Have Heard About Your Faith," based on Ephesians 1:15-19. It is a powerful gift when someone takes the time to listen deeply to us. We all need people to bear witness to our lives. We need people to see our struggles, and to name how they have seen us overcome those struggles. When others take the time to affirm our faithfulness and resiliency, we are encouraged and strengthened by their words.

Our Taiwanese sisters gave us a special gift with the 2023 liturgy, as they invited us all to give and receive words of encouragement through all the joys and pains of living. In the same way that Paul offers words of encouragement in the letter to the Ephesians, this liturgy invited us to hear and affirm the faithfulness of women in Taiwan. As we heard their stories, we were inspired to notice and name those in our own communities who have been faithful and wise, kind and resilient.

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

We were grateful for the opportunity to gather in person for the ICFLC Annual Meeting at the Presbyterian Bible College in Hsinchu, Taiwan, in Nov, 2023. This followed a spirit filled gathering at the ACWC 17<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial General Assembly, where new relationships and connections were formed and deepened. This concentrated time with ICFLC leadership was particularly helpful to us in better understanding the powerful connection between our organizations.

Many of the women who participate in the WDP movement are also passionate about FLC. This was easy to observe at the ACWC gathering in Taiwan. During many countries' reports to the ACWC, we noticed that the women often commented on their activities with WDP and FLC in the same sentence! This is also true in other parts of our worldwide connection, where women are involved in both organizations.

### **3. Opportunities to promote or strengthen FLC:**

Social media is an excellent way to raise awareness, promote and strengthen the FLC movement. WDPIC has occasionally shared Facebook posts from the ICFLC page. We can do even more in this



area and try to share more regularly. The Circle of Prayer published by ICFLC is one resource that we feel our WDP sisters would be particularly moved by. As ICFLC shares excerpts from this volume on social media, we will be watching out for those posts so that we can re-post them to help them spread.

One other area that we are considering is to add a section in our WDP Journal about the connection with FLC. We publish an annual Journal that summarizes the activities of WDP for that year, and it is often inspiring for women to read about, and see pictures of other WDP celebrations around the world. Adding a section about FLC into our Journal would be another way we can help to promote FLC.

#### **4. Results of use of FLC Block Grant:**

We are very grateful to be recipients of the FLC Block Grant each year. We use this to help coordinate our international movement. This grant helps to cover the expenses for our WDPIC Executive Committee to gather in person. The Executive Committee is made up of 16 women, namely a Chairperson, a Treasurer, and 14 Regional Representatives. These women are all elected to their 5-year terms at the International Meeting. We usually bring together the core leadership team (called the Executive Advisory Group, comprised of 4 women) one or two times in a 5-year term. And we bring together the whole Executive Committee one time in person during a 5-year term. We also use the FLC Block Grant to help support scholarships for women who need financial assistance to attend the International Meeting.

During 2023, we spent \$605.75 from our Block Grant to cover half of the airfare for our attendance at the ICFLC Annual Meeting in Taiwan. The other half of the plane ticket, plus lodging and food, were covered by ICFLC.

In 2024, our Executive Advisory Group is gathering in person, and in 2025, our Executive Committee will gather in person. Our Block Grant from FLC will help to support those expenses.

#### **Conclusion:**

We would like to offer a special thanks to Yamina Apolinaris-Concepción for her graceful and generous leadership of the ICFLC board. She has been a source of inspiration and encouragement as we participate in the FLC movement. We also offer a word of gratitude to Liza Lamis as the Executive Secretary for ICFLC. Liza has consistently kept us organized, while being compassionate in the process.

# THE 2024 FLC PROJECT GRANTS

## AACC - AFRICA

**1) WAKE WA NEEMA**, ACK Diocese of Machakos, Kenya, USD 4,000.00.

*To empower widows for their psycho-social, spiritual, economic and physical wellness.*

**2) WOMEN AND GIRLS, WAKE UP WOMEN, OPEN THE DOOR OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**, United Methodist Church, Women Department, Burundi, USD 4,000.00.

*To mobilize and empower women within churches for their representation and representativity in strategic positions (as pastors, department committee leaders, etc.); and to equip church women leaders and pastors with knowledge of their role in church development and in combating violence.*

**3) BUILDING RESILIENCE IN PASTORS' WIDOWS OF KUMBA, MEME NORTH AND SOUTH PRESBYTERIES THROUGH LIFE SKILL DEVELOPMENT**, International Centre for Research, Inter-religious Dialogue and Development (ICRIDEV) of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS) Kumba, Cameroon, USD 4,000.00.

*To address socio-economic vulnerability of Pastors' widows through rapid plantain multiplication and relief aid.*

**4) RESCUE OUR GIRLS AND STOP GENITAL MUTILATION**, Leadership Improvement and Social Advocacy Centre (LISAC), Cameroon, USD 4,000.00.

*To help end female genital mutilation (FGM), integrate health promotion and ministry counseling against FGM; and support parents who refuse the practice through skills training of girls for economic sustainability.*

## CCA, ACWC - ASIA

**5) PUBLICATION OF in God's image (iGi, a feminist theological journal)**, Asian Women's Resource Centre for Culture and Theology, Taiwan-based, USD 4,000.00.

*To continue encouraging Asian Women to share their experiences of struggle, achievement, reflections, dreams and aspirations, and in doing so, Asian women can learn, grow and be enriched by each other's culture, faith, theology, and to support one another in our living contexts.*

**6) PROJECT MANGAI - ENSURING FULNESS OF LIFE AMONG GIRLS AND WOMEN IN TAMIL NADU**, Forum for Women's Rights and Development (FORWORD), India, **USD 4,000.00**

*To nurture women and girl children about their human rights and human dignity, help them economically independent, educate adolescent girls about functioning of human body and personal hygiene, scholarship helps the girl students to become first generation graduate, to show the love of Jesus in living actions among the vulnerable members of our society- women and girl children.*

**7) LIFE AND EDUCATIONAL CONSULTATION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN OF FOREIGN HERITAGE**, Life and Educational Consultation Center for Foreign Residents in Japan, Japan, **USD 4,000.00**

*To enhance the coping and consultation capabilities of women and children of foreign heritage in facing issues including domestic violence, human trafficking, labor exploitation, precarious legal and visa status, and lack of cultural and linguistic knowledge.*

**8) CHURCH WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: AFFIRMATION OF OUR CALLING, SENT OUT TO BE WITNESSES**, Kapatirang Simbahan Para sa Bayan (KASIMBAYAN)/KASIMBAYAN Women's Collective, the Philippines, **USD 4,000.00**

*To increase church people's awareness on church women human rights defenders whose lives are under threat; engage institutions and agencies to help stop the persecution of those involved in the prophetic ministries of the church and mobilize church women for common a response.*

**EFECW - EUROPE**

**9) HUMANITARIAN AID FOR DISPLACED UKRAINIANS IN SOROCA CITY**, Community Association SOARTA (FATE), Moldova

*To address the immediate needs such as shelter, NFI, hygiene, and education of the refugee population in Soroca district, Moldova, **USD 3,500.00** (Note: Fund to be returned to ICFLC of USD 3,500, shall be used to fund this project.)*

**RED CLAI - LATIN AMERICA**

**10) TRAINING FOR INTERVENERS IN THE ACCOMPANIMENT AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE IN FAITH COMMUNITIES**, Fundación Vasti, Chile, **USD 4,000.00**

*To train people in tools for the accompaniment and prevention of gender violence in faith communities.*



## **CWU USA - USA**

### **11) STITCHING LIVES TOGETHER, Women-SEW Global Foundation, USA, USD 4,000.00**

*To connect immigrant and refugee women, collectively, with a free sewing program, in order to create social programing and peer-to-peer social activities, to ease the stressors of social isolation, which impact their mental health.*

## **WICC - CANADA**

### **12) AFTER THE SCHOOL BELL FOOD PROGRAM, Cumberland County Food Program, Canada, USD 4,000.00**

*To respectfully promote the health of indigenous school children by providing food for the weekend when they are not receiving food from a breakfast or lunch program.*

## **WCC - EGYPT**

### **13) EMPOWERING WOMEN BY MANUFACTURING ENVIRONMENTAL CLOTH BAGS AND DISTRIBUTE THEM TO THE NEEDY WOMEN TO MINIMIZE THE USE OF PLASTIC BAG, Papal Office for Projects (Coptic Orthodox church), Egypt, USD 4,000.00**

*To raise awareness on women's issues to empower women, promote gender equality, highlight the role of women as peace builders and in saving the environment through training poor widows and women in sewing and manufacture of environmental-friendly bags.*

**ICFLC APPROVED BUDGET**  
January to December 2024

***FLC Grants***

Block Grants	USD 52,000.
Project Grants	48,000.
Scholarships (Bursary for Older Women)	3,000.
Emergency Grants	8,000.

***Administrative Expenses***

Annual Meeting	5,000.
Bank Fees	1,000.
Treasurer’s Honorarium	2,000.
Salary, Executive Secretary	27,000.
Pension, Executive Secretary	2,250.
PH Office Administration	5,750.
Staff Travel	2,000.
Circle of Prayer v. 27	500.

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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>USD 156,500.</b>
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## THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN (FLC)

### WHAT IS THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN?

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is a global ecumenical women's movement of prayer for justice, peace 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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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# A Little Bird Told Me



As I was walking down the street. I saw a penny



at my feet. I picked it up but could not see how

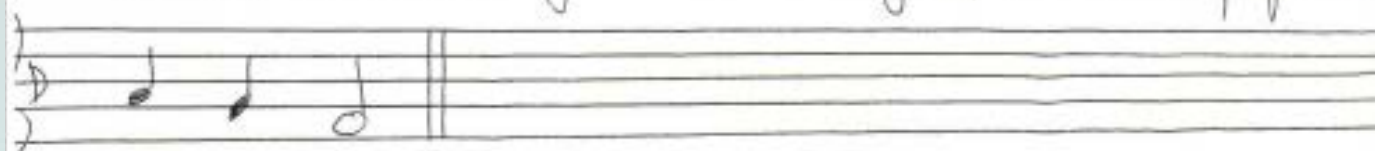


it was any use to me.

chorus



Round and round your least coin goes, love and prayer for



all it shows.

Music © by Donna Danielson 909-621-2011  
559 Harrison Ave  
Claremont CA 91711

