

Affidavit  
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WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL LIAISON GROUP (WELG)

To the attention of the members of WELG, and  
of Observers presents at the 4th meeting (Cartigny, October 1971).

Please send all comments to : Rosemary Goldie  
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Proposed Survey

"WOMEN IN THE CHURCHES"

- Purpose :
- 1) To reach a "status quaestionis" on the responsible participation of women in the Christian Churches.
  - 2) To formulate questions and recommendations to the Churches on the basis of the findings reached.
  - 3) Ultimately, to improve the participation of women in the life and mission of the Churches; and by so doing to contribute both to the renewal of the Churches and to the furthering of Christian unity.

- Nature :
- A "survey of the field", not a scientific survey, with reference to :
- 1) The participation of women in the ministries of the Churches.
  - 2) Cooperation of men and women and attitudes to women in the life of the Churches.
  - 3) Roles played by women in the renewal of Christian communities.

(Note : The "non-scientific" character of the Survey does not exclude recourse to the help of qualified sociologists, e.g. in drawing up the questionnaire mentioned below.)

Responsibility : WELG, operating through a team of 4 or 5 people, one of whom would be employed full-time (or, at the least, half-time) on the project.

The Survey group would include both lay women and religious or ordained women from different communions (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant). It would be as international as possible, but priority would be given to the availability of the members for frequent meetings - wider contacts being obtained through travel and through the whole network of contacts open through WELG.

The operative person should have international experience and speak English and French (if possible, also German and Spanish).

Method : The project should have a duration of at least one year.

The first period (3 to 4 months) should be devoted to :

- 1) Establishing contacts : with appropriate groups and persons, both organized and non-organized, in all parts of the world, through all available channels.

- 2) Drawing up a questionnaire on the three above-mentioned fields, and disseminating it through official and non-official channels.
- 3) Reading and collating available material (with the help of persons outside the team).
- 4) Approaching Church authorities and other appropriate bodies to explain the purpose of the survey.

(This period might coincide with the fact-finding phase of the second WELG project : the training seminar for an international team of ecumenical "enablers".)

The second period, 3 to 4 months, should be devoted to collating replies to the questionnaire, and making personal contacts through travel?

The third period would be devoted to the interpretation of data; the drafting of the "status quaestionis"; the formulation of questions and recommendations.

Place : The Survey should be based in a centre where contacts would be facilitated and where secretarial facilities would be available. Possibly, Geneva, Rome or Paris.

Budget : (approximate):

Salary for one person, plus incidental help for secretarial work and translation . . . . .	\$ 6000
Travels . . . . .	\$ 4000
Meetings of the team . . . . .	\$ 1000
Secretariat (office, equipment, postage, etc.) . . . . .	\$ 1000
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Total . . . . .	\$ 12000

The actual outlay would depend largely on two factors :

- whether the "operative" person was employed full-time or half-time;
- the facilities available in the place chosen (office space, staff, etc.).

N.B. At the RC Synod of Bishops, meeting in October 1971, the recommendation was made that a Committee be formed - composed of bishops, priests, religious and lay people of both sexes - to make a study of the place of women in Church and society. If such a Committee should be formed, the WELG team should not duplicate its work, but it would be most desirable that contact be established. The WELG Survey would necessarily take into account any findings of the R.C. Committee; and the latter might be helped by the ecumenical dimension of the work done through WELG.