

Joint Working Group
Bernhäuser Forst (Germany)
June 7-12, 1971

MINUTE ON THE WOMEN'S ECUMENICAL LIAISON GROUP

The Joint Working Group expressed appreciation for a report received from the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group and undertook a substantial discussion of the developing place of women in Society and in the Church. Attention was drawn to the new situation created by the access of women to education and culture at all levels and the new possibilities opened up for the contribution of women by the increased human life-span. It was felt that some of the current expressions of this new situation were exaggerated and required critical evaluation; but that nonetheless there is in this sign of the times (as Pope John XXIII described it) a new opportunity for the release of the potential of the Gospel, and also that the Churches' organisms were slow to meet the challenge.

The Joint Working Group takes note of the date set by the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group for reviewing in 1972 the results of its exploration of the possibilities of ecumenical collaboration between women and questions of common concern to Christian women.

The Joint Working Group asks the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group to present not only a report of its activities but also an indication of the questions which require further study of fields of activities in which collaboration might be serviceable, preferably in the form of a limited number of specific projects to be undertaken for a limited period; and of the organisational arrangements desirable (including the question of whether or not the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group itself should continue in its present form).

The Joint Working Group noted that on the WCC side the concerns of the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group should be seen in the wider context of the new Unit III.

The Joint Working Group requests the Cabinet to arrange for a consultation (perhaps in February 1972) between suitable persons from the WCC and appropriate bodies in the Roman Catholic Church at which the report already requested from the Women's Ecumenical Liaison Group could be considered along with other material and recommendations prepared for the Joint Working Group.

The Joint Working Group requests that in the formulation of the agenda of its 1972 meeting, occasion be given for full discussion, for which it may be necessary to invite special consultants to attend the relevant sessions.
