

**GFS WORLD COUNCIL
SWITZERLAND
1956**

Minutes of the second meeting of the GFS World Council, held in Les Diablerets, Switzerland, on Saturday 4 August 1956.

Present: Chairman: Mrs Woodward, President of USA, Mrs Barry, President of England and Wales, Miss Trangmar, Australia, Mrs Le Messurier President of Newfoundland, Miss Murkin Scotland, Mrs Marks Ireland.

As observers: Mrs Walters, USA, Mrs Kirby and Mrs Garland, Newfoundland, Secretary, Miss A E King, England and Wales.

The meeting opened with prayers.

Chairman's Address:

Mrs Woodward told the delegates that the need of the GFS throughout the world to bind itself together had found expression in the formation of the World Council and the signing of a simple Charter by the six countries of England and Wales, Australia, Ireland, Newfoundland, Scotland and the United States of America.

The first project undertaken was the introduction of a GFS World Day of Prayer held on 29th of September, the Feast of St Michael and All Angels. This day had been observed by GFS throughout the world.

Secondly, the first Newsletter, edited by the GFS in the USA was produced in January 1956 and copies had been circulated to GFS groups working in the different countries.

I had not originally been thought possible to call a meeting so soon after the Council inauguration but when it was found that representatives were coming to the International Conference arranged in Les Diablerets it was decided to call the second meeting at rather short notice with no previous agenda papers.

Term of Office of the Chairman

At the first meeting in 1955 it had been decided that each term of office should be of one year's duration and that the USA, England and Wales and Australia, in that order, should provide the Chairman of the World Council.

Mrs Woodward asked that this should be discussed further in the light of experience gained. There was a full discussion in which the questions of representatives, travelling and finance were raised. It was finally proposed by Miss Trangmar, seconded by Miss Murkin and resolved: "that the decision of the first meeting should stand".

Statement of Purpose and Constitution:

The Chairman asked the meeting to consider a statement of purpose and the formation of a simple Constitution. The words of the Charter were read aloud and later some discussion it was decided

that for the present no alteration or restatement was required. It was also decided that the representatives should meet again to consider rules by which the business of the Council might be carried on and thus postpone the making of a formal Constitution until some further material experience had been gained. At the suggestion of Mrs Barry these rules were termed "directives".

World Emblem:

Three different designs obtained by the GFS in England and Wales were shown to the Council and after some discussion it was decided to obtain the opinions of delegates attending the Conference.

Application for Membership

An application for membership of the World Council had been received from the GFS in Ceylon which was sponsored by the Society in England and Wales. Before taking this particular case, a general discussion was held on condition of membership and it was decided to put this question to a full meeting of the conference. The sponsoring Society stated that the work of the GFS in Ceylon was at present in the Diocese of Colombo and fulfilled the requirements of the Charter in that its purpose was in fundamental agreement with those of the signatory countries.

It was proposed by Mrs Barry, seconded by Mrs Le Messurier and resolved "That the GFS in Ceylon be admitted to full membership of the World Council and that the document as presented to the meeting be signed, pending the production of a parchment form".

Invitations:

Invitations had been received from the GFS in the United States of America to hold a meeting of the World Council during their National Assembly in New York in June 1957 and from the GFS in Australia to hold a meeting in Australia at the time of their Commonwealth Council in 1958. It was agreed that both these invitations should be accepted gratefully.

Finance:

The Chairman said that she had been considering this question for some time, as, if the World Council were to fulfil its purpose; it would need funds available for use in connection with its projects. She said that she had several enquiries in hand in the USA and would also like to put forward the suggestion that a freewill offering might be combined with the World Day of Prayer and the money used for training leaders in countries new to GFS or any other purpose decided on by the World Council. This idea was enthusiastically received and was fully discussed. It was thought that under the present currency restrictions, the sums collected would have to be held in different countries and it was finally proposed by Mrs Barry and seconded by Mrs Marks and resolved "That it be suggested to member countries that a freewill offering should be made on the World Day of Prayer and that this collection might form the basis of a fund from which grants could be made to delegates attending meetings of the GFS World Council".

There being no further business, the meeting terminated with prayers.

Signed M H Woodward, Chairman, August 4, 1956.

A Second Session of the World Council to which members of the International Conference were invited – 5th August 1956.

It was decided to ask the Planning Committee to arrange for a Conference Session in which matters concerning the World Council might be discussed. A service of re-dedication and a ceremony of handing over the Chairmanship of the Council from the GFS in the USA to the GFS in England and Wales took place.

Minutes of the supplementary meeting of the GFS World Council held in Les Diablerets, Switzerland on 9 August 1956.

Present:

Chairman: Mrs Woodward, President of GFS, USA, Mrs Le Messurier, President of Newfoundland, Miss Trangmar, Australia, Mrs Marks, Ireland, Miss Murkin, Scotland; Secretary Miss A E King, England and Wales.

Observers: Mrs Walers, Miss Heald, USA; Mrs Kirby, Mrs Garland, Newfoundland.

World Emblem

It was agreed to accept the choice of the majority of the Conference which was for design "B" with the addition of the cross and the map of the world on the globe. It was also agreed to leave the final arrangements with the GFS Headquarters in London. The colour of the emblem to be blue on white.

Application for Admission

Since the meeting on August 4th an application for membership of the GFS World Council had been received from the Society in British Guiana. Although there was not a Central Council controlling the work it was decided to admit British Guiana to full membership particularly as their representative, Miss Irma Chase had been present at the signing of the Charter and at the first meeting of the Council.

It was proposed by Mrs Marks and seconded by Mrs Le Messurier and resolved "That the GFS in British Guiana be admitted to full membership of the GFS World Council".

Suggested Directives

The meeting agreed to the following principles governing the operation of the World Council.

- 1 That the duration of the office of Chairman of the Council should after 1957/58 be extended to not less than two years and should coincide with the interval between Council meetings.
- 2 That GFS in countries seeking membership of the Council should each be considered separately, and that the policy should be one of inclusion rather than exclusion.
- 3 That the chairmanship of the Council after Australia in 1957/58 should go to each country in turn in alphabetical order and that there should be the right of refusal.
- 4 That the office of Chairman of the Council need not be filled by the President of the GFS in the country concerned but might be chosen by that country.
- 5 That is the Chairman of the Council were not the President of the GFS, then the President should be an ex-officio member of the Council but that the country could only cast one vote.

- 6 That representation on the Council should be extended to two delegates from each country won of whom should be ideally between the ages of 16 and 20 years.
- 7 That the agenda for a meeting of the Council should be circulated to member countries as long as possible in advance to allow for discussion and suggestions.
- 8 That the Newsletter be edited by the country providing the Chairman and that, if possible, it should contain signed articles.

Projects

It was suggested by Mrs Walters that the GFS World Council might undertake some definite project in promoting peace throughout the world. There was no time for discussion, and this was deferred to a later meeting.

The meeting then closed with prayers.

Signed

M H Woodward, Chairman

August 5th, 1956.