

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Toward Ensuring an Inclusive Leadership in Church and Society**

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The ecumenical movement ensured the unity of churches of various regions, peoples, religions and denominations. During *the Edinburgh World Missionary Conference* in 1910, many women were included Leadership in Church and Society. This conference moved the concept of ecclesiology from missionary to church centered in mission through the formation of WCC, However, the ecumenical movement also did not include women from the beginning. Rather early ecumenical movements reduced and weakened the role of women in the church gathering.

Because of the structure of the churches, the overwhelming majority of the policy makers of the new council were men. *WSCF* and *YWCA* were the primary training ground for women but as the Council took on in inevitable ecclesiastical character, the chances for female participation were even less.<sup>1</sup> In response to these changes in ecclesial circumstances, women have devised strategies to expand women's positions in church and society. As a result, in today's WCC, not only the commissioner, but also the leading groups and the central communities are almost in a balance of male and female leadership.

Therefore, this study will examine women's responses to the changes in the ecumenical movement situation from 1910 to 1948. I will introduce women leaders who were active at the beginning of the WCC

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<sup>1</sup> Betty Thompson, *A Chance to Change*, (Geneva: Fortress Press, 1982), 11.