

AL/2100

6. Stables Rd.

N. W. 3

June 2<sup>nd</sup>. 1936.

Dear Mrs. Roberts.

I am dreadfully sorry that we are doing Box & Cox in this way and cannot see farther. Here are my views in brief -

I think that as far as our work in the Church of England is concerned, what I should desire would be one strong democratically organised Society making a wide appeal.

I should like it to invite to membership all who consider themselves as belonging to the Church of England & who approve of the objects of the Society. I should

like it to have a simple, but quite definite constitution with a limited Executive Committee elected after written nomination, responsible to the Annual Meeting.

Once organised, I think the Society should address itself to ~~getting~~ placing before every incumbent & every parish in the Church, an appeal to consider the question of women's orders in the light of reason & prayer - not as

most people have hitherto, in the twilight of feeling,  
tradition, & practical convenience. This task could, of  
course only be carried out gradually, as funds & other  
resources permitted. But in time & by various methods, meetings,  
letters, pamphlets etc: I should think it might be  
achieved. Only it would I think need more organization  
than we have at present, & perhaps a secretary of rather  
different calibre. So much for our "Group"; it would  
I think be altogether an advantage to widen its  
~~membership~~ basis & increase its membership.

Of course I should hope very much indeed that  
the Free Churches would continue to have a Society, & I  
should be in favour of co-operating whenever possible.  
But I think they are in a different position from ours  
because of their having a different idea of the priesthood  
& also because many of them already have women ministers  
who are theoretically at least the equals of men ministers.

It is all very difficult indeed practically - partly because  
every one's mind is so taken up with international  
affairs & the questions of peace & war, that they

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have no room for any other public question; - partly, I am afraid, because so very few intelligent women, especially among the young, care at all about the Church of England.

I feel I don't know anything about the Society for the Ministry of Women. I have never joined it, because I felt that I had not time for more than one Society and that I would prefer one which was definitely Anglican. When I realised after the meeting the other day, that the group was really so very specialised in its aims, & the Interdenominational Society was largely Anglican too I thought I would join that <sup>as well</sup> - I have delayed because I had mislaid the address. And now I gather that it may be breaking up. I feel I cannot offer any opinion about its value, because of knowing so little. But I do feel it may be a great advantage to the group if all the Anglicans who care at all about this question concentrate in it. <

Please forgive this very hurried

Scrawl & the crude way in which I have put things. I am  
writing against time & with many distractions.

I do hope you will find some peace in Wales.

Yours very sincerely

Ida O'Malley.