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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA

- SYNOD MINUTES -

-- 1978 --

— 1978 —

ACTS OF SYNOD 1978

ACT 1. STANDING ORDERS.

The Synod adopted the following Standing Orders, while reserving the right to suspend Standing Orders upon a resolution of the Court, and any motion to do so shall take precedence over other business that may be before the house.

I. MOTIONS.

- (1) Every motion, whether original or amended, if not already in the hands of the Clerk, shall be given in writing to the Clerk as soon as it shall have been made to the house.
- (2) Every such motion shall be legibly written in ink, and any alterations or deletions shall be initialled by the mover of the motion.
- (3) When a motion has been duly seconded, it shall not be competent to make any alteration upon it without the permission of Synod, excepting in the shape of an amendment, or second or third or subsequent motion as the case may be, regularly proposed to Synod.
- (4) The person who makes the first motion shall be entitled to the privilege of giving a reply, in which new matter may not be introduced; and thereafter the debate shall be held to be definitely closed and no other person shall be entitled to speak except with regard to the manner of putting the vote.
- (6) When the recommendations of Standing Committees are in the hands of members as prescribed by Synod, any amendments, alternative proposals or additional motions relevant to the business of that Committee shall be given in writing to the Clerk not later than the evening Sederunt on the day preceding that on which the business of that Committee is taken up by Synod and shall be read to the Court before the close of Synod on that same day.

- II.
- (1) That in the discussion of any question the proposer of each motion may address the house for not longer than twenty minutes, in proposing his motion and the seconder for ten minutes; and no subsequent speaker including the proposer shall address the house for longer than ten minutes; and that these limits shall only be exceeded when the Moderator shall have ascertained that the house desires any speaker to continue, and shall intimate the ascertained desire to that effect.
  - (2) When a Convener not being a member of Synod is permitted to present his Committee's Report, the Convener and the mover of the Deliverance shall be required to come to an arrangement by which their combined speeches shall not exceed the time normally granted to the mover of a motion in terms of Standing Order II (1) or as that Order may be amended by this or any subsequent Synod.
  - (3) A member of Synod in moving or seconding an Amendment shall confine himself to the matter of the Amendment and shall have the right to speak at a later stage to other matters in the Report and other amendments, provided that the total time taken in speaking shall conform to Standing Order II (1).

### III. DISSENTS.

That no Dissents against any Deliverance of the Synod shall be given in until the minute in which it is pronounced is, for that Sederunt, disposed of, the Minutes are completed and adjusted, and the house is ready to proceed to other business.

### IV. LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE MODERATOR.

That all letters addressed to the Moderator for the purpose of being communicated to the Synod shall, in the first instance, be laid by him before the Bills and Overtures Committee who shall advise the Moderator as to the way of disposing of them.

### V. THE CONDUCTING OF CAUSES.

- (1) That as far as may be possible, a separate Sederunt shall be set apart for Causes, and that it shall be understood that Friday forenoon shall be mainly devoted to that purpose.
- (2) That in no case shall there be more than two speeches for each party at the Bar, including the reply to which the appellant or complainant shall be entitled; and when there are more than two parties, there shall be only one speaker, and one speech for each, besides the reply - it being understood that where there are more than one complainer, each shall be considered as a different party only in case of it appearing to Synod that the complaints rest upon distinctly different grounds.
- (3) That previously to hearing the parties in any Cause, the Clerk shall read the following announcement, viz:- The members are reminded that justice requires the pleadings at the Bar to be heard by all those who vote in the Cause, and that, in particular, no member ought to vote against either side of the Bar who has not heard the pleadings on that side."
- (4) That the Clerk of Synod shall not issue papers to the members of Synod with reference to cases which he thinks require to be conducted with closed doors until specially instructed by the Synod to do so; but he shall report such cases to the Synod Administration Committee for its information.
- (5) That the Synod Administration Committee shall, in their first Report, specify any case which, in their judgment, requires to be conducted with closed doors; and any case which does not appear to them of that character, although the Clerk may have reported it as such.
- (6) That in every case which the Synod appoints to be conducted with closed doors, any instruction to issue the papers shall be accompanied by a special exhortation to the members to keep them private.

N. B. Where there is a reference in the foregoing recommendations to the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland, the reference is the edition of 1964.

ACT 2. ACT ANENT CONSTITUTIONAL POSITION RE TEXT AND VERSIONS.

WHEREAS the constitution of this Church is identical to that of the Free Church of Scotland in 1843 (see Basis of Union with Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 1953) which constitution cannot lawfully be violated without overthrowing the bond enabling harmonious and united action

AND WHEREAS the Fathers of the Disruption Free Church of Scotland as Chalmers, Candlish, Cunningham, Fairbairn etc as well as such later Constitutionalists as George Smeaton, held views such as lead to a Greek text of the New Testament similar to that employed in the NASB

AND WHEREAS the like may be said of our own revered Rev William McIntyre (as witness his Token of the Covenant, 1869 edition, p 45 in reference to Colossians 2:11) as well as other of our ministers now deceased, not to speak of the consensus of Reformed scholars throughout the world over the past 150 years

AND WHEREAS the pre 1843 Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland and this Church have never defined authoritatively exactly how the original text is to be ascertained from the specially providentially preserved manuscripts, deeming liberty of opinion on this matter to be permissible subject to confession of the reliability for normal purposes of honestly executed translations by Protestant scholars holding sound views on revelation and inspiration

AND WHEREAS this Church has been disturbed by diversity of viewpoint on the matter of Bible versions as a result of strong feelings and lapses from proper order and procedure

THEREFORE

Synod declare and ordain that, whilst declining to authoritatively define the exact principles to be employed in ascertaining the best text, she requires of all her office-bearers

- (1) a hearty recognition of the right of individuals to their own opinions on this matter
- (2) a complete cessation of the use of arguments, expressions and conduct which would cast odium on either the AV or NASB or NIV-NT as reliable translations of the word of God for all ordinary purposes of ordinary Christians
- (3) a like cessation of the use of arguments, expressions and conduct calculated to bring the decisions of the Church on the subject into disrepute.
- (4) a candid recognition that the language of the AV does now require some revision to fully meet the requirement that Scripture be in the language of the people.

ACT 3. ACT ANENT RECEIVING EXCOMMUNICATED MEMBERS OF OTHER CHURCHES.

That in the case of a person applying for membership in our church, who has been excommunicated from another church, that

1. The Session should request from the church concerned, reasons for such discipline.
2. If after examination of the matter in the light of the scriptural process of discipline as set forth in our Practice under the head of Discipline, p.76 ff, the Session find the action to be justified, they cannot receive the applicant into membership, but should exhort the party to make their peace with the church exercising discipline.

3. However, if Session is satisfied that excommunication was improperly administered in the light of the said section of the Practice, and if satisfied with the applicant's profession of faith, they may proceed to receive such into full membership after the Session obtains the acquiescence of its Presbytery.
4. The Session ought then to inform the other church of the action taken and the reasons why.

ACT 4. ACT ANENT RELATIONSHIP OF PRESBYTERIES AND THE  
TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE.

The Synod reminds presbyteries that they have to exercise a general supervision over theological students who are members of congregations within their respective bounds; and that the Training of Ministry Committee appointed by the Synod is responsible for administering the decisions of Synod in regard to the academic course of students; and that presbyteries should ensure that any decision they may take which would affect the course of study of a student must have the acquiescence of the Training of Ministry Committee.

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
EASTERN AUSTRALIA  
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WAUCHOPE

ANNUAL SYNOD 1978.

SEDERUNT 1.

At Collaroy on Tuesday, 9th May 1978, Synod met and was constituted.

The Retiring Moderator, The Rev. D. R. Nibbs, conducted public worship, reading from Exodus, Ch. III, and basing his message on verse 2 - and spoke of the Church, Indestructible - in Old Testament and in New.

The Clerk presented the Roll of Synod, as attested by Clerks of Presbyteries.

It was resolved that the Roll be allowed to stand as presented.

Northern Presbytery

Ministers

A. L. Tripovich (Moderator)  
A. R. Beaton  
G. M. Bradbeer  
D. R. Nibbs  
D. E. Nicholds  
R. W. Murray (Clerk)  
J. C. Andrews  
W. P. Gadsby

Representative Elders

G. R. Anderson (Grafton)  
W. J. W. Hanna (Brisbane)  
A. L. Bosanquet (Hastings)  
J. H. Brammah (Richmond-Brunswick)  
K. D. Causley (Maclean)

Central Presbytery

Ministers

Edwin R. Lee (Moderator)  
A. D. McIntosh  
S. N. Ramsay  
J. A. Webster

Elders

Donald Kerr  
Campbell P. King  
James Cromarty

Southern Presbytery

<u>Charge</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Representative Elder</u>
Geelong	J. M. Cromarty	J. R. B. Webster
St. Kilda	E. S. Turnbull	J. Simpson
Hamilton	G. L. Weber	J. Hill
Ulverstone	R. S. Ward	N. G. Triffett
Winnaleah	-	T. M. J. Peters
(Synod appt)	A. M. Harman	

The following absences were recorded:- Northern Presbytery:  
Dr. W. J. W. Hanna. Mr. N. Triffett.

The Clerk reported that the Rev. A. R. Beaton of Maclean was Moderator-Elect. Mr. Beaton was duly elected, and welcomed to the chair, and addressed the Court, his theme being the Church's Unity, Effectiveness and Prosperity - Past and Present.

Examiners of Records were appointed as follows:-

Northern Presbytery - Mr. John Cromarty. Mr. Peters.  
Central Presbytery - Mr. A. Tripovich. Mr. K. Causley.  
Synod Records - Mr. P. Gadsby. Mr. R. Ward.  
Southern Presbytery - Mr. C. P. King. Mr. Jas. Cromarty.

The thanks of the Court to the Retiring Moderator for his Sermon and to the Moderator for his address was moved, seconded and carried, and conveyed by the Clerk.

### SYMPATHY.

The Sympathy of the Synod was extended to the relatives of the late Mrs. H. Ramsay, the late Mrs. I. L. Graham, and the late Mr. D. S. Harman. It was also conveyed to Mr. Gordon Anderson, Mr. Campbell King and Mr. A. L. Tripovich who were bereaved during the past year. The sympathy of the Court was also conveyed to all those who had been bereaved within our Church in the past year. Mr. Webster led the Court in prayer commending those bereaved to the grace of God.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 1.45 p.m.

The Sederunt closed with Prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

### SEDERUNT 2.

At Collaroy on Tuesday, the 9th May, 1978 at 1.45 p.m. Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the first Sederunt were read and confirmed.

### REPORT: ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.

The Clerk, Mr. Ramsay, presented the Report. The Report was taken as read and received.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### ITEM

1. From Southern Presbytery - Petition drawing attention to confusion and difference of opinion re the constitutional position of the church on use of versions of Scripture and seeking advice on the constitutional position thereanent.
2. From Southern Presbytery - Petition expressing concern over certain aspects of position of Reformed Ecumenical Synod and requesting Synod to examine our relationship thereto.
3. From Central Presbytery - Overture "That Synod provide that any revision of the Psalter that may be contemplated be referred to lower Courts for investigation, consideration and approval or otherwise."
4. From Southern Presbytery - Extract of Minute anent expunging of minutes of that Presbytery as directed by Synod 1977 and craving clarification of Synod's instruction to Presbytery.
5. From Southern Presbytery - Extract of Minute anent application of Mr. Peter Bloomfield to be received as a student: "... we accept the application ... and advise him that we will recommend his formal acceptance as a student of our church to Synod 1978."
6. From Central Presbytery - Overture: That since Presbytery has formed the opinion in favour of admitting the Penrith preaching station as a fully sanctioned charge, may it please your venerable Court to take such steps as are necessary to this end.

7. Overture from Northern Presbytery to:-
- (i) Grant Stipend Relief to Grafton-Brushgrove Congregation - \$2,400.
  - (ii) Grant Stipend Relief to Richmond-Brunswick Congregation - \$2,000.
  - (iii) Grant appropriate Finance to Church Extension Charges within its bounds.
8. From Northern Presbytery - Overture: Subject to appropriate application and Presbytery approval, Synod grant Brisbane up to \$3,000 to support continuing work of Church Extension within that Congregation for calendar year 1979.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the Printed Order of Business be followed, except that
  - (i) Friday evening be reserved for consideration of matters relating to Missions and Church Extension.
  - (ii) Religion and Morals to be dealt with on Wednesday evening.
2. That normal meeting times be as follows:-
  - 9 - 12.30; 1.30 - 5.30; 7 - 9 Monday to Friday
  - 9 - 12.30 Saturday.
3. That Synod close not later than 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 16th May.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Items 1 - 8 be received, and that Recommendations 1 - 3 be adopted.

The Supplementary Report relating to standing Orders was taken as read and received.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That all office-bearers be instructed to study the basic rules governing procedure and debate in Church Courts.
 

An Amendment was moved and seconded that the following words be added: and that Sessions ensure that elders elect are familiar with Presbyterian procedure prior to induction.

On being put to the vote, the Recommendation became the finding of the Court.
2. That all Church Courts adhere to the rules of procedure laid down in the "Practice of the Free Church of Scotland" except where such adherence would be inappropriate in our situation as an Australian Church.
3. That Synod reserve the right to suspend Standing Orders upon a resolution of the Court, and that any motion to do so shall take precedence over other business that may be before the house.
4. That the following Standing Orders be adopted:-

STANDING ORDERS.

## I. MOTIONS.

- (1) Every motion, whether original or amended, if not already in the hands of the Clerk, shall be given in writing to the Clerk as soon as it shall have been made to the house.
- (2) Every such motion shall be legibly written in ink, and any alterations or deletions shall be initialled by the mover of the motion.
- (3) When a motion has been duly seconded, it shall not be competent to make any alteration upon it without the permission of Synod, excepting in the shape of an amendment, or second or third or subsequent motion as the case may be, regularly proposed to Synod.
- (4) The person who makes the first motion shall be entitled to the privilege of giving a reply, in which new matter may not be introduced; and thereafter the debate shall be held to be definitely closed and no other person shall be entitled to speak except with regard to the manner of putting the vote.
- (5) Where an amendment, or second or third or subsequent motion is involved, the manner of taking the vote shall be that laid down in the "Practice", except that, when only one motion remains, the vote shall be taken For or Against that motion.

An Amendment was moved, and seconded That Rec. 5 of Standing Orders be referred back to the Committee for clarification.

On being put to the vote the Amendment became the finding of the Court.

- (6) When the recommendation of Standing Committees are in the hands of members as prescribed by Synod, any amendments, alternative proposals or additional motions relevant to the business of that Committee shall be given in writing to the Clerk not later than the evening Sederunt on the day preceding that on which the business of that Committee is taken up by Synod and shall be read to the Court before the close of Synod on that same day.
- II. (1) That in the discussion of any question the proposer of each motion may address the house for not longer than twenty minutes, in proposing his motion and the seconder for ten minutes; and no subsequent speaker including the proposer shall address the house for longer than ten minutes; and that these limits shall only be exceeded when the Moderator shall have ascertained that the house desires any speaker to continue, and shall intimate the ascertained desire to that effect.
- (2) When a Convener not being a member of Synod is permitted to present his Committee's Report, the Convener and the mover of the Deliverance shall be required to come to an arrangement by which their combined speeches shall not exceed the time normally granted to the mover of a motion in terms of Standing Order II (1) or as that Order may be amended by this or any subsequent Synod.

- (3) A member of Synod in moving or seconding an Amendment shall confine himself to the matter of the Amendment and shall have the right to speak at a later stage to other matters in the Report and other amendments, provided that the total time taken in speaking shall conform to Standing Order II (1).

### III. DISSENTS.

That no Dissents against any Deliverance of the Synod shall be given in until the minute in which it is pronounced is, for that Sederunt, disposed of, the Minutes are completed and adjusted, and the house is ready to proceed to other business.

### IV. LETTERS ADDRESSED TO THE MODERATOR.

That all letters addressed to the Moderator for the purpose of being communicated to the Synod shall, in the first instance, be laid by him before the Bills and Overtures Committee who shall advise the Moderator as to the way of disposing of them.

### V. THE CONDUCTING OF CAUSES.

- (1) That as far as may be possible, a separate Sederunt shall be set apart for Causes, and that it shall be understood that Friday forenoon shall be mainly devoted to that purpose.
- (2) That in no case shall there be more than two speeches for each party at the Bar, including the reply to which the appellant or complainant shall be entitled; and when there are more than two parties, there shall be only one speaker, and one speech for each, besides the reply - it being understood that where there are more than one complainer, each shall be considered as a different party only in case of it appearing to Synod that the complaints rest upon distinctly different grounds.
- (3) That previously to hearing the parties in any Cause, the Clerk shall read the following announcement, viz:- The members are reminded that justice requires the pleadings at the Bar to be heard by all those who vote in the Cause, and that, in particular, no member ought to vote against either side of the Bar who has not heard the pleadings on that side."
- (4) That the Clerk of Synod shall not issue papers to the members of Synod with reference to cases which he thinks require to be conducted with closed doors until specially instructed by the Synod to do so; but he shall report such cases to the Synod Administration Committee for its information.

An Amendment was moved and seconded (4) That the Clerk of Synod shall not issue papers to the members of Synod with reference to cases which he thinks require to be conducted with closed doors until specially instructed by the Synod to do so.

On being put to the vote the Recommendation became the finding of the Court.

- (5) That the Synod Administration Committee shall, in their first Report, specify any case which, in their judgment, requires to be conducted with closed doors; and any case which does not appear to them of that character, although the Clerk may have reported it as such.
- (6) That in every case which the Synod appoints to be conducted with closed doors, any instruction to issue the papers shall be accompanied by a special exhortation to the members to keep them private.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Recommendations, with the exception of Standing Order I (5), be adopted.

It was moved, seconded and carried That where there is a reference in the foregoing recommendations to the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland, the reference is the edition of 1964.

It was moved and seconded That this 1978 Synod receive no reports from Conveners not authorized by their committees, or which have not been received by members of Synod 8 days or more before May 8.

The motion was defeated.

#### LAW AND ADVISORY.

Dr. Harman presented the Report and Recommendations of the Law and Advisory Committee. The Report was taken as read and received.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the Synod enact that when the General Treasurer and the Convener of the Finance Committee are not already members of the Synod they be associated with the Synod and allowed to speak on financial matters.
2. The Synod reminds presbyteries that they have to exercise a general supervision over theological students who are members of congregations within their respective bounds; and that the Training of Ministry Committee appointed by the Synod is responsible for administering the decisions of Synod in regard to the academic course of students; and that presbyteries should ensure that any decision they may take which would affect the course of study of a student must have the acquiescence of the Training of Ministry Committee.
3. That the Committee arrange a presentation dinner and gift for Mr. Bradshaw at the time of the next meeting of Synod.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Recommendations of the Law and Advisory Committee be adopted.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

ITEM 1. It was resolved that Item 1 be regarded as an Overture. Mr. Ward appeared in support of the Overture.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 7 p.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

SEDERUNT 3.

At Collaroy on Tuesday 9th May 1978 at 7 p.m. Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the afternoon Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Court took up consideration of Item 1. It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the Overture be granted in the following terms:-

WHEREAS the constitution of this Church is identical to that of the Free Church of Scotland in 1843 (see Basis of Union with Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 1953) which constitution cannot lawfully be violated without overthrowing the bond enabling harmonious and united action

AND WHEREAS the Fathers of the Disruption Free Church of Scotland as Chalmers, Candlish, Cunningham, Fairbairn etc. as well as such later Constitutionalists as George Smeaton, held views such as lead to a Greek text of the New Testament similar to that employed in the NASB

AND WHEREAS the like may be said of our own revered Rev. William McIntyre (as witness his Token of the Covenant, 1869 edition, p 45 in reference to Colossians 2:11) as well as other of our ministers now deceased, not to speak of the consensus of Reformed scholars throughout the world over the past 150 years

AND WHEREAS the pre 1843 Church of Scotland, the Free Church of Scotland and this Church have never defined authoritatively exactly how the original text is to be ascertained from the specially providentially preserved manuscripts, deeming liberty of opinion on this matter to be permissible subject to confession of the reliability for normal purposes of honestly executed translations by Protestant scholars holding sound views on revelation and inspiration

AND WHEREAS this Church has been disturbed by diversity of view-point on the matter of Bible versions as a result of strong feelings and lapses from proper order and procedure

**THEREFORE**

Synod declare and ordain that, whilst declining to authoritatively define the exact principles to be employed in ascertaining the best text, she requires of all her office-bearers

- (1) a hearty recognition of the right of individuals to their own opinions on this matter
- (2) a complete cessation of the use of arguments, expressions and conduct which would cast odium on either the AV or NASB or NIV-NT as reliable translations of the word of God for all ordinary purposes of ordinary Christians
- (3) a like cessation of the use of arguments, expressions and conduct calculated to bring the decisions of the Church on the subject into disrepute.
- (4) a candid recognition that the language of the AV does now require some revision to fully meet the requirement that Scripture be in the language of the people.

A second motion was moved and seconded that a Committee be appointed to seek (a) from the Procurator, through the Law and Advisory Committee, and (b) from the Principal Clerk of the Free Church of Scotland, through the Inter-Church Relations Committee, a qualified opinion upon the constitutional position involved in this matter.

A third motion was moved and seconded That this Synod informs the Southern Presbytery that the Constitution of this Church since its formation has required the subscription to the Authorised Version and the text from which it has been translated to be the pure word of God written and therefore directs that only the Authorised Version be used in all public meetings of our denomination.

The Court adjourned to meet here at 9 a.m. on Wednesday.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

#### SEDERUNT 4.

At Collaroy on Wednesday the 10th May 1978 Synod met at 9 a.m. and was constituted.

The Synod resumed debate on the matter before it at the close of Sederunt 3.

The Moderator vacated the chair in favour of Mr. J. A. Webster.

The vote was taken, and the first motion became the finding of the Court.

#### DISSENTS WITH REASONS

I wish to dissent on the grounds that the Authorised bible was the bible of our reformed church. A. Bosanquet.

J. Simpson. That the motion opens the door to heresy in allowing the private opinions of men to be paramount, and I find it odious to stifle discussion of doctrinal matters.

Reasons for Dissent. 1. Too many assumptions - not proved. 2. Tends to curb freedom of speech. 3. Is divisive in the extreme because it rejects the doctrinal purity of the Textus Receptus and the A. V. C. P. King.

#### SIMPLE DISSENT -

D. R. Nibbs; G. R. Anderson; D. Kerr; S. Ramsay; J. Hill; E. Turnbull; T. Peters; A. Tripovich; A. McIntosh.

It was moved and seconded that Synod receive the dissents and proceed to further business.

A second motion was moved and seconded: That a Committee consisting of Messrs. Harman, Murray and Beaton be appointed to consider the implications of the dissents submitted with a view to advising the Synod before it takes up any further business.

The first motion was carried.

Mr. Ward dissented for the following reasons:-

1. There is no room for any other procedure against the decisions of the Supreme Court than that of dissent with reasons (pages 69/70 of Practice, 1964 edition) therefore the simple dissents are out of order.
2. The deliverance of Synod declares the constitutional position of this church and thus dissents which may strike at the constitution are not lawful.
3. The course of action in receiving the dissents without inquiring into the nature of the dissents is a failure to properly exercise Presbyterial oversight in view of opinions expressed in the debate.

It was moved and seconded: That a Committee consisting of Dr. A. Harman, Mr. Murray and Mr. Beaton be appointed to answer the dissents with reasons, against the deliverance of Synod regarding the overture from Southern Presbytery their conclusions to be presented to a later Sederunt of Synod '78.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk

J. A. Webster Pro Tem.  
Moderator Pro Tem.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

#### SEDERUNT 5.

At Collaroy on Wednesday afternoon, 10th May 1978 Synod met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted.

It was agreed that Correspondence Item 2 be dealt with under Inter-Church Relations; Item 3 with Psalter Revision; Item 5, with Training of Ministry; Item 6 under Church Extension; and Items 7 and 8 under Finance.

ITEM 4. Dr. Harman appeared in support of the Reference. The Reference was sustained.

It was moved, seconded and carried that A Committee consisting of the examiners of Southern Presbytery Records, the Clerk and D. Kerr examine the Victorian Presbytery records with reference to the expunging of minutes as decided by last Synod and report back to the Synod.

#### MISSIONS.

Mr. Lee presented the Report and Recommendations of the Missions Committee. The Report was taken as read, and received.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That our people be thanked for their financial and prayerful support for the work of Foreign Missions.
2. That the greetings of the Synod be sent to our missionaries and to the Free Church Missions Board.
3. That copies of Synod minutes be sent to the abovementioned.
4. That our people be urged to pray for the pouring out of God's Spirit upon our Missionaries and their work.
5. Should funds permit, that the Convener or a Representative be asked to visit our Indian and South African fields.

6. That the following payments be made:-

Dr. Helen Ramsay special fund (for emergencies and furlough fares)	\$ 500
Mrs. Colville car allowance (including petrol)	1300
Christian Witness to Israel	600
	<hr/>
Total	\$2400

7. That all funds in the specified account be forwarded to the Free Church Missions Board with exception of Mrs. Colville's car replacement and the Jewish Mission. The latter to be forwarded to the C. W. I.
8. That the Synod's thanks be conveyed to Mrs. Elsie Cromarty for her assistance to our missionaries this year and that thanks be also conveyed to Mr. and Mrs. John Milligan for their services to our missionaries during their holiday in India in 1976. (This matter was overlooked at last Synod).

The Recommendations were adopted.

It was resolved that a sum of \$108.92 from the General Missions Fund be added to the amount in hand for the Chhapara appeal and the total forwarded to Rev. I. J. McKenzie.

The Convener presented the Church Extension Report. The Report was received.

### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That Synod express its thankfulness to God (in prayer) for all the work done in His Name in the cause of Church Extension during the year.
2. That Synod thank our people for their loyal support, prayers and giving in connection with Church Extension, and ask for their continued support.
3. That Synod note with satisfaction the opening of the new Church building in Ulverstone and the additional work of Church Extension undertaken in Sydney and Brisbane.
4. (a) Urge our people, Congregations and Presbyteries to make a determined effort during this year to eliminate the deficit in the Church Extension fund (\$7, 000) and meet the current demand (\$15, 000).  
 (b) Authorise the Convener to prepare illustrated talks on Church Extension and to visit Churches for the purpose of encouraging interest in the work of Church Extension.  
 (c) Authorise the Committee: (1) To make regular appeals in Our Banner for the work of Church Extension, and (2) Produce a pamphlet on Church Extension and its funding for distribution in the Congregations.
6. That Synod direct Presbyteries to continue to furnish to the Convener of this Committee reports of Church Extension work within their bounds.

Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 were adopted.

5. That Synod agree that (a) Should the Northern Presbytery agree to the continuance of the additional work of Church Extension in Brisbane, and (b) Should there be a significant improvement in the state of the Church Extension Fund, Brisbane Congregation be given a Special Grant of \$5, 000 per year as from January, 1979 to facilitate this work, this amount to be reviewed annually.

Recommendation 5 was referred to the Finance Committee.

It was moved and seconded That Synod revise the standing in the Church Extension charges as follows:-

- (a) Ulverstone be taken off the Church Extension and placed on Stipend Relief.
- (b) Armidale be placed on Stage 3 of the Church Extension Scheme.

An Amendment was moved and seconded: That Synod revise the standing in the Church Extension charges as follows:-

- (a) Ulverstone to be taken off the Church Extension and placed on stipend relief.
- (b) Armidale be placed on stage 2 of the Church Extension scheme.

The Amendment was carried.

Synod took up consideration of Correspondence - Item 6.

Mr. D. Kerr appeared in support of the Overture, and moved:- That the prayer of the overture be granted. Synod authorise the establishment of the preaching station at Penrith as a fully sanctioned charge. That Presbytery be authorised to take the necessary steps to implement this decision.

The Motion was carried.

It was resolved That Synod request Sessions through Presbyteries to investigate the possibility of conducting Daily Vacation Bible Schools within their respective congregations, and that the Church Extension Committee be instructed to confer with the Welfare of Youth Committee and other competent persons concerning the production of guidelines for the running of such Bible Schools.

The Convener Mr. Turnbull presented the Report of the Training of Ministry Committee.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 7 p.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

#### SEDERUNT 6.

At Collaroy on Wednesday the 10th May 1978 at 7 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the afternoon Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Convener presented the Report of the Religion and Morals Committee. The Report was received.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That Synod note the suggestions contained in this report and disseminate the proposals to church members.
2. It is recommended that more action be taken at a political level by church members and Church Courts to ensure that politicians take note of our stand on matters of religion and morals.

An Amendment was moved and seconded:- That Synod recommend that more action be taken on a political level by members and church courts to instruct politicians as to the requirements of God's word in accordance with the Establishment Principle.

The Recommendation became the finding of Synod.

3. That Synod recommend to sessions through presbyteries that a day of humiliation and prayer be held one day in August 1978.

An Amendment was moved and seconded: That Synod recommend to Sessions through Presbyteries that a day of humiliation and prayer be held one day in August 1978 with special reference to our own church.

The Amendment was carried.

4. That congregations pay greater attention to the social needs of our young people, who find difficulty finding social outlets in today's world.
5. That the booklet "Cry My Country" be published.

The Recommendations as amended were adopted.

It was resolved:- That the time set aside for Mission and Church Extension concerns on Friday evening be changed to Thursday evening, provided this be acceptable to the speakers.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

#### SEDERUNT 7.

At Collaroy on Thursday 11th May 1978 at 9 a.m. the Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the previous sederunt were read and confirmed.

Synod resumed Training of Ministry business.

The Report was received.

It was resolved that Synod meet in closed court.

Synod resumed in open court.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

#### SEDERUNT 8.

At Collaroy on Thursday 11th May 1978 at 1.30 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

Business of Inter-Church Relations was taken up, and the Report was received.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That Synod invite representatives of other Reformed Churches to address the Synod, at times convenient to the parties concerned.

The Convener introduced the Rev. Pellicaan, of the Reformed Churches of Australia, and the Rev. A. McEwen of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Mr. Pellicaan, in bringing greetings from the Reformed Churches of Australia, reminded us of the need for awareness of the task of the church

to-day in an environment where the whole structure of Christian life is being broken down. He referred to some of the work of the Church he represents, in the field of Christian schools; and in evangelical outreach. He made reference to our feeling of belonging together. We stand for the same truths and we are united in the area of the authority of God's infallible Word.

The Rev. A. McEwen brought greetings from the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and recalled our brotherhood in Christ, standing as we do for the truth of the Reformation. He commended Matthew IX, 36-38, and spoke upon the need for us to look, and to see the needs of a lost world.

The need for us to have compassion; to care about the condition of the lost, and the need to pray and at the same time to accompany prayer with action.

Synod resumed Committee business, and in accordance with Synod arrangement, dealt with Correspondence Item 2 - Overture re our relationship to the RES. Mr. J. Simpson stated the Overture.

It was moved and seconded:- That the prayer of the overture be granted. That Synod direct the Inter Church Relations Committee to obtain the relevant copies of "The Banner" and "The Calvinist Contact"; that the Convener write to Dr. Schrotenboer for his comments on the correctness or otherwise of the reports in the aforementioned magazines, making enquiries as to the capacity in which Dr. Schrotenboer visited the Pope. And that the Inter Church Relations Committee prepare a full submission for next Synod in reference to the matter brought before us.

A second motion was moved and seconded:- That the prayer of the Overture be granted and that we discontinue our present association with the R. E. S. on the basis of the reported visit of the R. E. S. Secretary to the pope and that further investigation of this matter be immediately undertaken.

The first motion was carried.

2. That our annual membership fee be paid to the RES (\$401.18), and that notice be given that no further fees will be paid until certain difficulties in connection with the Synod are resolved.
3. That Prof. A. Harman and Rev. J. Cromarty be appointed as representatives of our Church to the Council of Reformed Churches.
4. That the remit to this Committee be continued to correspond with the Reformed Churches of Australia concerning world wide relief.
5. That the remit to continue discussion with the Reformed Presbyterian Church be continued.

An Amendment to Rec. 5 was moved and seconded:- That the remit of 1975 to continue discussion with the Reformed Presbyterian Church be continued.

The Amendment was carried.

3. That Fraternal Greetings be sent to the following Churches:-
  - The Free Church of Scotland.
  - The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.
  - The Presbyterian Reformed Church.
  - The Reformed Churches of Australia.
  - The Reformed Churches of New Zealand.
  - Presbyterian Church in Australia Continuing.
  - The Reformed Baptist Conference.
  - Evangelical Church in Peru.
  - Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

An Amendment was moved and seconded: That fraternal greetings be conveyed to the Free Church of Scotland and two copies of Synod 1978 reports and minutes be forwarded with these greetings with request for a like favour. That fraternal greetings be conveyed to The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru, The Free Church of South Africa, The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia and also to the following member churches of the RES - Reformed Churches of Australia; Reformed Churches of New Zealand. That Christian greetings be conveyed to The Westminster Presbyterian Church (WA), The Free Reformed Churches of Australia and The Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia inviting each church to indicate what relationship it would desire to sustain to the PCEA.

A second Amendment was moved and seconded That we discontinue the practice of sending Fraternal greetings.

The first Amendment became the finding of the Court.

Mr. Tripovich dissented for the following reason: Because this practice discriminates against some Reformed Churches, and this is contrary to the christian spirit of brotherliness as indicated in the term 'fraternal'.

A. L. Tripovich.

It was moved and seconded That we write to the Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia indicating that whilst this church has never denied their church to be a true church nor intended to give that impression, and therefore desires the blessing of Christ upon their labours, yet the impression has been conveyed to many of our people through statements in certain publications of their Presbytery that the EPC does not regard the PCEA as a true church. As some members of this Synod understand this to be a false impression, Synod respectfully requests the EPC Presbytery to clarify the position.

The Motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded:- That the I. C. R. advise a later sederunt of this Synod about the propriety of receiving into membership a person excommunicated by another church.

The motion was carried.

Mr. Kerr tendered dissent for the following reasons:- On the ground that matter could have been first remitted to the Presbytery and referred back to Synod at a later Sederunt, which action would have upheld the practice as set out in Chp IV Part II (1).

Simple dissent was tendered by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Turnbull.

The Recommendations as amended were adopted.

It was agreed to meet in closed court.

Synod resumed Training of Ministry business, and met in closed court.

It was agreed to meet in open court.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 7 p. m.

The sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

SEDERUNT 9.

At Collaroy on Thursday 11th May 1978 at 7 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Convener of the Missions Committee, Mr. E. Lee gave a verbal report, supplementing the formal Report issued in print to members.

Mr. Lee introduced Mrs. E. Cromarty, who recently gave three months voluntary service on the mission field in India. Mrs. Cromarty gave an informative talk on her visit, with special mention of Jubalpur, Lakhnerdon and Chhapara. The address, which touched upon the work of the McKenzies, Dr. Ramsay and others, the challenge of the need in India, the daily meetings, hospital visits, school instruction, home visits and services, was received with great interest by Synod.

The Moderator expressed thanks to the speaker.

The Church Extension Convener gave a supplementary verbal report, and spoke of the encouragements and of the problems associated with the work.

The Rev. Brian Dole, by invitation of the Moderator, gave an account of the work at Werrington. He traced the origin and development of the new work in an area holding some 75,000 people, with a high proportion of children. The aim is to make new contacts in a new area. In conclusion Mr. Dole entered a plea for the prayers of our people.

Mr. G. Bradbeer gave an enthusiastic account of the work in Armidale. The aims are: To grow; to reach out, and to give practical expression to social concern. The work of the Sabbath School is encouraging. Parents are invited and homes visited, and people have responded in an encouraging way to the interest shown in them and in their problems. He appealed for prayers that those people would come to know Christ.

Mr. Gadsby outlined the experiences of pastor and people in the fast-growing area of Rochedale, south of Brisbane. The work began on 16th October 1977. Commodious pre-school accommodation is available. House calls had been discouraging, but literature distribution had brought some response. Daily vacation Bible school has brought a few children to Sabbath School as regular attenders, while attendance at Sabbath services is encouraging.

A separate meeting has been started on the north side. Tribute was paid to Mr. Milligan and son who had done much work in constructing a suitable place of meeting below the manse.

The overall picture in Brisbane is encouraging. The great need is for prayerful support.

Mr. Ward brought greetings from North-West Tasmania. The work in Ulverstone formerly under Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Beaton and now under Mr. Ward goes on among a united, warm-hearted people, where responsibility was seen as something to be shouldered by all.

Synod adjourned to meet here on Friday morning at 9 a.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

SEDERUNT 10.

At Collaroy on Friday 12th May 1978 at 9 a.m. Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Training of Ministry business continued.

It was agreed to meet in closed court.

Synod resumed in open court.

The Court adjourned to meet here at 1.30 p.m.  
The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

SEDERUNT 11.

At Collaroy on Friday 12th May 1978 at 1.30 p.m. Synod met and was constituted. Training of Ministry business was resumed in closed court.

Synod moved into open court.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That we record our thankfulness to God for His enabling grace for our students.
2. That we congratulate Mr. Brian Dole on the successful completion of his studies, note with pleasure his licencing and present work in the Sydney area and commend him to the grace of God in his ministry.
3. That the Synod approve of the Committee's action in regard to Mr. Varnes and with regret note that he is no longer a student for the ministry of this church.

An Amendment was moved and seconded That Synod note with regret the failure of the committee to fulfil the directions of Synod 1977 in reference to Mr. Varnes.

The Recommendation was carried.

Mr. D. Kerr tendered dissent, giving reasons:- Dissent on the ground that the action of the Committee exceeded its remit, and hence the Committee failed to prosecute the Synod's objective during the year that intervened between the close of the one Synod and the opening of another - which is the Committee's responsibility as set out in The Practice Chp. IV Part II 7(2) page 69.

Mr. Tripovich tendered simple dissent.

4. That Synod grant that an ex gratia remission of bond monies be made to Mr. Varnes in consideration of his past services to the church.

A second motion was moved and seconded:- That this matter be referred to the Committee for further consideration and report to Annual Synod 1979.

The second motion was carried.

Mr. Tripovich tendered simple dissent.

It was moved and seconded That the Training of Ministry Committee meet with Mr. Varnes to convey to him the mind of Synod as expressed in Recommendations 3 and 4 and inform him that if he so desires he meet with Synod forthwith to discuss his future.

The following amendment was moved and seconded:- That (i) Mr. Varnes be invited to meet with Synod in closed court at this time. (ii) Should he do so, the Moderator intimate to him the decisions of Synod (Rec. 3 and 4), and give him the opportunity to briefly address Synod should he desire.

The Amendment became the finding of the Court.

5. That we note with pleasure Mr. John Cunningham's perseverance in his studies and his acquisition of a further two subjects of his B. A. degree. We pray that the Lord will graciously guide him for the future.
6. That we welcome Mr. Peter Bloomfield as a student for the ministry and assure him of our interest and prayer.
7. That Mr. Bloomfield be given a living allowance of \$50 per week for 9 months of the year, and a book allowance of \$60.
8. That we send greetings to Mr. S. Tamata from this Synod and encourage him as he pursues the remainder of his studies and assure him of our prayerful interest.
9. That we express our appreciation for generous congregational contributions and request that these might be continued so as to enable us to build up a reasonable working capital.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Synod remit to Training of Ministry Committee Mr. Bloomfield's course of training for report to later sederunt of Synod.

It was moved, seconded and carried that copies of reports and minutes of Synod '78 be forwarded to student(s) by the Clerk.

The Recommendations as amended were adopted.

### CHURCH PRINCIPLES.

The Moderator called for the Church Principles Committee Report. It was moved and seconded That Church Principles Report be deferred until the end of other Synod business.

The motion was lost.

Mr. Tripovich presented the Report and Recommendations of the Committee. The Report was received.

### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the remit of Synod '77 re Principles of Church Growth, be continued, and presented to next Synod.
2. That brethren in full communion with another church or congregation, and wishing to retain such, be welcomed into the fellowship of our own congregation, to enjoy all the privileges thereof, with the exception of voting rights.

An Amendment was moved and seconded that the Matter of Associate membership be referred back to the Committee for report to next Synod.

The Amendment became the finding of the Court.

The Recommendations as amended were adopted.

PSALMODY.

Mr. Weber presented the Psalmody Committee Report. The Report was received. It was moved and seconded that in paragraph 3 of report the words beginning "others have attributed" - and ending "lacking conviction" - be deleted.

The motion became the finding of the court.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That where possible the suggestions of the Report be implemented.
2. That particular emphasis be given to the possibility of holding Psalmody Conferences to promote the quality of singing and knowledge of the Psalter.

It was moved, seconded and carried That Sessions be informed of the availability of an excellent tape entitled "The Exclusive Use of Psalmody" by Professor Norman Shepherd of Westminster Theological Seminary.

The Recommendations were adopted.

PSALTER REVISION COMMITTEE.

The Convener of the Psalter Revision (Special) Committee presented his report. The Report was received.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 7 p. m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. Beaton  
Moderator.

SEDERUNT 12.

At Collaroy on Friday 12th May 1978 at 7 p. m. Synod met and was constituted. The Synod resumed Psalter Revision Committee business.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the Psalter Revision report and accompanying Draft of alternative versions be referred to lower courts for consideration, with the request that Presbyteries make written report to the Psalter Revision Committee by January 15, 1979, in order that such reports, with the Psalter Revision Committee's comments, may be presented to Synod 1979.

A second motion was proposed and seconded That we thank the Committee for its report in relation to revision of psalms, but as the introduction of other versions may tend to divide our church further, that we pass from the matter.

A third motion was moved and seconded:- That the Synod send down to Presbyteries the report of the Psalter Revision Committee and the draft prepared by Rev. R. S. Ward; they ask presbyteries to consider this material and in addition study the 1950 and 1973 editions of the Psalter of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America and also the new edition of the Psalter of R. P. Church of Ireland; all observations to be sent to the Psalter Revision Committee by 31st January, 1979, which is asked to report back to next Synod with the reports from Presbyteries and its own observations.

The recommendation became the finding of the court.

The following dissents were recorded:- Mr. Turnbull with the following reasons:- Reasons for dissent. 1. That any suggestion of revision or recasting of the present Psalter is divisive and disturbs our congregations. 2. That our congregations are content with the inspired Psalms as they have them. 3. That such revision and alternate versions may be construed as touching our vow as ministers and office bearers "to observe uniformity of worship and of the administration of all public ordinances within the church as the same are at present performed and allowed". Sect. 5 Appendix 2. page 124 Blue Book.

Mr. Simpson adhered to the dissent with reasons.

Mr. D. Nibbs dissented for the following reason That the passing of this motion will prove to have an unsettling effect upon our church at this critical point of time.

Mr. D. Kerr dissented with reason:- That it is wiser for the church not to proceed further with this revision now.

Mr. C.P. King tendered Simple Dissent.

3. That Synod appoints as the Committee for Psalter Revision Professor Allan M. Harman, Rev. W. Peter Gadsby and Rev. Rowland S. Ward (Convener), with power to consult with other qualified persons and to seek suggestions and/or co-operation from them as individuals or as representatives of their denominations.
4. That Synod urge members of our congregations to forward suggestions to the Revision Committee, in order that the proposed Psalter may have the benefit of the experience and gifts of all concerned with the praise of our God.

The Recommendations were adopted.

The thanks of the Court were conveyed to Mr. Ward for his work on Psalter Revision.

Correspondence Item 3 was fallen from.

#### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE.

Mr. Cromarty presented the Publications Committee Report.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

#### SEDERUNT 13.

At Collaroy on Saturday 13th May 1978 at 8.30 a.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed. Synod resumed business of the Publications Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Synod thank all those who have helped with the production and distribution of "Our Banner" during the past year.
3. That the Synod commend the tract, "Coming to Faith in Christ" by John Benton printed by Banner of Truth Trust and urge its use by individuals and Sessions.
4. That the Committee be authorised to purchase a typewriter for the use of the Publications Committee.
5. That the Synod approve of the Committee's desire to build up the general publication fund of the Church to enable material to be published.
6. That Publications Committee give consideration to producing a series of Tracts bearing the Church's name to be useful for pastoral and general usage.

It was moved and seconded That the Publications Committee draw up Editorial Policy guidelines and submit such to Synod 1979 for consideration.

A second motion was moved and seconded: That Synod commend the Editor of Our Banner for his work over the past years, and endorse the broad principles of editorial policy adopted by him, without necessarily agreeing with particular applications of these principles.

The second motion became the finding of Synod.

It was resolved:- That the committee consider a suitable new title for our magazine and present a recommendation relating to this to next Synod.

The foregoing recommendations were adopted.

Training of Ministry Committee business was resumed.

RECOMMENDATION.

That Mr. Bloomfield be allowed to continue at the Reformed Theological College, and in addition, from his 2nd year he be prescribed work on our church principles and practises and on the history of our church and that the Training of Ministry Committee appoint tutors for the subjects.

The following amendment was moved and seconded That Mr. Bloomfield be allowed to complete the 1976 year at Geelong Reformed College and that the situation be then reviewed by the Training of Ministry Committee in conjunction with the Southern Presbytery.

The recommendation was approved.

The Convener presented Provident Fund Report, which was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That Rev. Brian Dole be admitted to the Retirement Fund.
2. That after allocations to members' accounts, the available balance of the Superannuation Fund be transferred to the Long Service Leave Fund.
3. That Provident Fund Regulations (relating to the Retirement Fund) of 1965-66 Synod minutes be amended by the following insertion: Should more than one minister be inducted to a congregation, such congregation is

required to make an additional annual contribution (10% of the minimum stipend) for each such minister.

The following amendment was moved and seconded:- That the matter of levy assessment be remitted for re-consideration by the Committee for report to Synod 1979 and that for the year 1978 Brisbane charge be levied  $1\frac{1}{4}$  times the standard levy and General Funds  $\frac{3}{4}$  thus covering the total otherwise payable for Messrs. Murray and Gadsby.

The amendment was carried.

4. Congregations who have not made the necessary payments be requested to do so as soon as possible.
5. That the Convener's resignation be accepted and the thanks of Synod be conveyed to Mr. King.
6. That members requesting approval to pay their own insurance premiums be advised, in their own interests, to pay an equal amount into the Retirement Fund as an employee contribution.

The Recommendations as amended were adopted.

Mr. Gadsby dissented from Rec. 6, for the following reason This recommendation is ambiguous seeming to require a double contribution.

Mr. Ward dissented for the following reason:- Because the motion intends to state "that members desiring to pay their own reducing insurance premium be advised to pay the amount direct to the Retirement Fund" but does not state so clearly.

It was moved and seconded That Synod adjourn to meet after lunch until 4 p.m. in an endeavour to complete unfinished Synod business - the afternoon business to commence at 1.30 p.m.

An amendment was moved and seconded That Synod close not later than 4 p.m. Monday, 15th.

The amendment was carried.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 9 a.m. on Monday.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

#### SEDERUNT 14.

At Collaroy on Monday 15th May 1978 at 9 a.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The Convener presented the Report of the Finance Committee and the General Treasurer submitted his report. The Reports were received.

Synod noted with gratitude that Mr McPherson will continue as Treasurer.

It was resolved that the Auditor's Report be received, and that the warm thanks of Synod be conveyed to him.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the delegates' travel expenses be paid.
2. That the following honorariums be paid: Clerk \$30; General Treasurer \$30; Moderator \$15; Assistant Clerk \$15; Assistant General Treasurer \$15; Banner Editor \$30; Assistant Editor \$15.
3. That the levy for the Synod Administration Fund be raised to \$125 per sanctioned congregation, \$100 per aid-receiving congregation.
4. That the minimum stipend be raised to \$130 per week from 1st June, 1978, and to \$140 per week from 1st January, 1979, with the child allowance remaining at \$4 per dependent child per week.
5. That the Synod grant stipend relief to Grafton of \$1700; to the Richmond-Brunswick of \$1700; and to Ulverstone of \$3000, and that Grafton and Richmond-Brunswick may make application through Presbytery for a further amount of \$700 and \$300 respectively, if necessary.
6. That payments be made to the various Church Extension charges as follows:
 

Armidale	\$4,666	plus \$386 for Provident Fund
Brisbane	\$3,500	
"	\$3,000	(special grant for 1978).
7. That the Synod agree that (a) should the Northern Presbytery agree to the continuance of the additional work of Church Extension in Brisbane, and (b) should the Church Extension and Finance Committees both be assured that the financial situation permits it, that the Brisbane congregation be given a special grant as from 1st January, 1979 equivalent to that of a church extension congregation Stage 1.
8. That the following transfers from the General Fund be authorised:
 

\$ 627.48	to the Church Principles account
\$ 89.74	to the Port Macquarie Youth Centre Account
\$3000.00	to the Stipend Fund
\$2077.60	to the Church Extension account.
9. That the sum of \$47.86 in the Suspense Account be transferred to the Training of Ministry Account.
10. That all our people be encouraged to give at least \$1 per week to the Synod General Fund to cover the budget for committees such as Church Extension, Missions, Training of Ministry, Stipend Assistance, Widows & Orphans/Retired Ministers, and that Deacons' Courts be asked to implement this in their congregations.
11. That to assist in financing the provisions of the Church Extension and Stipend Assistance recommendations that the various Presbyteries be asked to aim at the following amounts: Northern - \$4,000; Central - \$10,000; Southern - \$6,000.
12. That the Synod direct that in future all requests for assistance from the Church Extension and Stipend funds, once they have been approved by presbyteries, be forwarded directly to the Finance Committee, who must report on the requests with relevant recommendations to the Synod; Presbyteries also to forward a copy of the request to the Clerk of Synod.

13. That the Finance Committee prepare a report to be published in "Our Banner" in March - June - September and December outlining the degree to which the Church is meeting its financial needs. The report to indicate the annual need, amounts received and amounts outstanding.

The Recommendations were adopted.

The Convener presented the Report of the Titles and Property Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That thanks be expressed to St. George's Deacons' Court for the payment of the rates on the Castlereagh property.
2. That thanks be expressed to Rev. A. D. McIntosh for acting as custodian of the NSW deed box; that the box be now placed in the care of the Trustees for NSW of the Synod of Eastern Australia and lodged at the Drummoyne Branch of the Bank of NSW.
3. That the Synod ask the Trustees for NSW and the Trustees for Victoria to provide an annual report for Synod, this to include a list of the contents of the respective deed boxes.
4. That the Synod call for the report from the Hunter-Barrington representatives regarding the sale and proceeds of the Aberdeen property.

The Recommendations were adopted.

The Convener submitted the Report of the Fellowship Committee. The Report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the Fellowship Rally 1980 be held on the Richmond.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 1.30 p.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.

SEDERUNT 15.

At Collaroy on Monday 15th May at 1.30 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

Fellowship business was resumed.

RECOMMENDATION.

2. That Synod now take up consideration of the decision of Synod anent sale of the property at Port Macquarie in accordance with the finding of last Synod.

An amendment was moved and seconded: That Synod remit this matter to the Committee for consideration and report.

It was moved and seconded that the motion be now put. This motion was carried.

The vote being taken, the recommendation was carried.

Synod took up consideration of the matter of the sale of the land at Port Macquarie.

It was moved and seconded: 1) That the block of land at Port Macquarie be sold for cash at the best available current price, but not less than \$20,000 the proceeds to be invested temporarily, and 2) That the interest from such investment be, for the time being, credited to the Fellowship funds subject to later decision or decisions of Synod.

The motion was carried.

Mr. King tendered dissent, for the following reason:- 1977 Synod instruction has not come by regular channel to 1978 Synod, viz., via the Synod Fellowship Committee.

Mr. Turnbull tendered simple dissent.

The Inter-Church Relations convener, in response to Synod remit and for the Committee presented a report and recommendations, and moved that the same be adopted and engrossed in the record. The motion was seconded and carried. The Report was adopted, as follows:-

That in the case of a person applying for membership in our church, who has been excommunicated from another church, that

1. The Session should request from the church concerned, reasons for such discipline.
2. If after examination of the matter in the light of the scriptural process of discipline as set forth in our Practice under the head of Discipline, p.76ff., the Session find the action to be justified, they cannot receive the applicant into membership, but should exhort the party to make their peace with the church exercising discipline.
3. However, if Session is satisfied that excommunication was improperly administered in the light of the said section of the Practice, and if satisfied with the applicant's profession of faith, they may proceed to receive such into full membership after the Session obtains the acquiescence of its Presbytery.
4. The Session ought then to inform the other church of the action taken and the reasons why.

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

The Committee Appointed to Answer Reasons for Dissent Anent Versions gave their Report. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Report be received and engrossed in the permanent record. It was as follows:-

#### Report of Committee Appointed to Answer Reasons for Dissent Against Decision of Synod Anent Versions.

1. It allows private opinions of men to be paramount.  
Reply: All signatories of the Confession and Formula are committed to the doctrine expressed in Chapter 1: Section 8 and that doctrine is not imperilled by the divergence of opinion on the assessment of the providentially preserved manuscripts as acknowledged by the translators of the A. V. in the Preface in the full editions of that version.

2. It prohibits discussion on doctrinal matters and curbs freedom of speech.

Reply: The finding does not prohibit discussion of doctrinal matters, but prohibits their discussion in a way that contravenes Biblical and Presbyterian procedure.

3. It rejects the doctrinal purity of the textus receptus and the A. V.

Reply: The phrase "doctrinal purity" is ambiguous, and, therefore, two replies are possible:-

- (a) If by 'doctrinal purity' is meant 'correctness and reliability for all ordinary purposes', the decision of Synod specifically acknowledges this.
- (b) If by 'doctrinal purity' is meant an identity between the A. V. and the original autographs then the reason given is clearly at variance with the statement of the Confession itself, since if it were correct there would be no reason for final appeal in controversies to be made, not to translations, but to the original Greek and Hebrew manuscripts.

A. R. Beaton  
A. M. Harman  
R. W. Murray.

The Committee Appointed to Examine the Southern Presbytery Records Anent the Expunging of Minutes was called to present its Report.

It was agreed to meet in closed Court.

It was agreed to meet in Open Court.

It was moved and seconded that the Report be received.

An Amendment was moved and seconded That the report of the Committee be not received but that the remit be continued for report next year.

The Amendment became the finding of the Court.

Mr. Bradbeer, Convener of Welfare of Youth, moved as follows That (i) Mr. Tripovich be thanked for deputizing as Convener of the Welfare of Youth Committee during the Convener's absence and (ii) Mrs. McIntosh be thanked for undertaking responsibility for and overseeing the "Search Work".

The motion was seconded and carried.

**REPORT: EXAMINERS OF RECORDS.**

Examiners reported on Presbytery Records:-

Central Presbytery  
Southern Presbytery  
Northern Presbytery  
Permanent Record.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Northern and Central Presbyteries' Records be attested.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Minutes of the Southern Presbytery be attested when the relevant minutes be expunged.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Permanent Record be attested subject to the following emendations:-

The words in brackets in Recommendation 6 on page 159 of the permanent record (page 13 as circulated) be deleted.

The words "view of the fact" be struck out in the motion re Lindfield on pages 166 and 175 of the permanent record and pages 332 and 347 of the scroll minutes.

The word 'its' be substituted for 'the' on page 173 permanent record.

That the dissent by Mr. Ward to Recommendation 3 of Provident Fund Committee be inserted in the records as follows:-

- 1) The regulations do not represent an adequate guide as to the benefits and method of operation of the Fund and therefore are unsettling to potential beneficiaries, likely to be confusing to Deacons' Court, and tending to bring charges of inefficiency upon our church by members of the public.
- 2) The regulations leave far too much to be decided by each Synod and therefore are likely to be a fruitful means of needlessly occupying the time of Synod, whilst at the same time they will tend to leave decisions in the hands of the Committee to the possible detriment of the Presbyterian government of this church.
- 3) If Synod undertake legislation conferring legal entitlement to money benefits, it behoves them to express that legislation in a clear, concise and legally enforceable manner.

#### NOMINATION OF MODERATOR.

It was moved and seconded that Dr. J. C. Andrews be nominated as Moderator 1979. Dr. Andrews declined.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Murray be nominated as Moderator. This was agreed to.

#### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

Finance	)	A. Harman (Convener of Finance) N. McPherson,
Property	)	E. Turnbull, R. Ward (Convener, Provident Funds)
Provident	)	St. Kilda Elder
Mission	)	A. R. Beaton (Missions) W. P. Gadsby (Church
Church Extension	)	Extension) Lismore, Brisbane Elders.
Publications	)	John Cromarty (Publication) G. Weber (Psalmody)
Psalmody	)	A. Harman, Hamilton/Geelong Elders.
Welfare of Youth	)	D. Nicholds (Welfare of Youth); D. Nibbs (Fellow-
Fellowship	)	ship) Grafton, Maclean Elders.
Church Principles	)	A. L. Tripovich (Church Principles) E. R. Lee
Inter-Church Relations	)	(Inter-Church Relations) Manning, Hastings Elders.
Religion and Morals	:	J. A. Cromarty (Convener) A. D. McIntosh
		Werrington; Hunter Elders.
Training of Ministry	:	R. Murray, S. N. Ramsay, Dr. J. C. Andrews,
		Dr. W. J. W. Hanna (Brisbane Elder), J. D. Ramsay.
Administration	:	Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Moderator
		Elect, Convener: Law/Advisory.
Law/Advisory	:	A. Harman, Clerk, Assistant Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK.

It was moved seconded and carried that Rev. J. M. Cromarty be appointed Assistant Clerk Pro-Tem.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING.

It was moved, seconded and carried That the matter of determining the time and place of next Synod be remitted to the Administration Committee and that investigation be made of the possibility of meeting at St. Kilda or elsewhere in Victoria.

PRINCIPAL ACTS OF SYNOD.

The following list was agreed to -

- Act 1 : Standing Orders of Synod.
- Act 2 : Act anent Constitutional Position re Text and Versions.
- Act 3 : Act anent Receiving Excommunicated Members of Other Churches.
- Act 4 : Act anent Relationship between Presbyteries and Training of Ministry Committee.

AN APPRECIATION

THE SYNOD OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA desires to place on record its sincere appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. A. M. McLean as Convener of Finance extending over a period of many years.

His unsparing devotion of time and talents in voluntary service; his energetic performance of his duties; his conscientious coverage of every aspect of the Church's finances; his meticulous attention to detail; his unyielding yet gracious insistence upon conformity with Synod's recommendations at every level of administration - in short, his cheerful and systematic discharge of his stewardship - coupled with his own particular acumen in the field of finance moves the Synod on its own behalf and on behalf of the church at large to acknowledge and to place on record the debt of gratitude that is his due.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Remit to the Administration Committee Anent Standing Orders Section 1:5 be continued.

The thanks of the Court were conveyed to Mr. and Mrs. McPherson for their work in preparing Synod Reports. The thanks of the Court were also conveyed to Mr. McPherson for his oversight of the accommodation for Synod members.

The Minutes of this Sederunt were read and confirmed. The Moderator addressed the Court.

Synod adjourned to meet at a time/place to be arranged whereof the Moderator made Public Intimation.

Annual Synod, 1978 closed with prayer.

S. N. Ramsay  
Clerk.

A. R. Beaton  
Moderator.