

SYNOD MINUTES

- 1979 -

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
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ANNUAL SYNOD 1979

SEDERUNT 1.

At St Kilda Church on Saturday, 12th May at 7 p.m., Synod met and was constituted.

The Retiring Moderator, Rev. A.R. Beaton, conducted public worship reading from Isaiah Ch. 1 and I Corinthians 11:22 - Despising the Church of God. Factionalism and formalism within the Church at Corinth called forth the rebuke of the Apostle Paul, "Do you despise the Church of God?" Mr Beaton considered the relevance of this rebuke for our Synod today and warned that if we do despise the Church of God by factionalism and formalism, we will find that Synod will be despised by our people and by our God. (Isaiah 1:13,15)

The Roll certified by Clerks of Presbyteries was presented and allowed to stand as follows:

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY:

Ministers:	Prof. A.M. Harman	Elders:	Mr. J. Hill
	Mr. E.S. Turnbull		Mr. J. Simpson
	Mr. J.M. Cromarty		Mr. N. Triffett
	Mr. R.S. Ward		Mr. P. Bloomfield

CENTRAL PRESBYTERY:

Ministers:	Mr. J.A. Webster	Elders:	Mr. J.A. Cromarty
	Mr. A.D. McIntosh		Mr. C.P. King
	Mr. S.N. Ramsay		Mr. A. Steel
	Mr. E.R. Lee		Mr. Niall McIntosh
	Mr. B. Dole		

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY:

Ministers:	Mr. D.E. Nicholds	Elders:	Mr. G.R. Anderson
	Mr. A.L. Tripovich		Dr. W.J.W. Hanna
	Mr. A.R. Beaton		Mr. A.L. Bosanquet
	Mr. G.M. Bradbeer		Mr. M. Moore
	Mr. D.R. Nibbs		Mr. J. Greensill
	Mr. W.P. Gadsby		Mr. K. Dawson
	Mr. R.W. Murray		
	Dr. J.C. Andrews		

The Clerk reported that Mr. R.W. Murray of Brisbane was Moderator Elect. Mr. Murray having been duly elected, was welcomed to the chair and addressed the Court on the subject "Thomas Chalmers, the Forgotten Leader". After mentioning how Thomas Chalmers' death was lamented by his contemporaries, he went on to speak on: 1. His Spiritual Pilgrimage. 2. His Pastoral Service. 3. His Scholarly Achievements. 4. His Social Philosophy. He concluded by calling on his successors to imbibe his spirit.

The Moderator made a presentation on behalf of Synod to Mr Alf McLean in recognition of many years of service to the Church especially as Convener of Finance. Mr McLean responded in suitable terms.

The Moderator called for amendments to recommendations of Committees, and those submitted were read to the Court.

Synod adjourned to meet at 9 a.m. on Monday morning at 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 2.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Monday, 14th May 1979, at 9 a.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the first Sederunt were read and confirmed.

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.

It was moved, seconded and carried That in view of the Moderator's appeal that a Committee be set up to produce literature on the life and work of Thomas Chalmers to commemorate the bicentenary of his birth, this Synod appoint the Moderator, Rev. Rowland Ward, Rev. Brian Dole, Rev. Edwin Lee as a Committee to effect this task, in consultation with the Publications Committee.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the sympathy of the Court be extended to Sister Heather Beaton, a missionary of the Church, in the loss of both of her parents, and that these expressions include the other members of the family.

The sympathy of the Court was also conveyed to all those who had been bereaved within our Church in the past year. Mr Nibbs led the Court in prayer commending those bereaved to the grace of God.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Rev. Douglas Milne of the Free Church of Scotland and now Visiting Professor of New Testament Studies at the Presbyterian Theological Hall, Victoria, be associated with this Court for the duration of its sitting.

It was agreed that the following members be appointed as examiners of records:-

Northern Presbytery:	E. Turnbull; J. Hill.
Central Presbytery :	D. Nicholds; G. Anderson.
Southern Presbytery:	G. Bradbeer; A. Steel.
Permanent Record :	B. Dole; J. Simpson.

REPORT: ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Recommendations 1-6 were adopted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the printed Order of Business be followed and Items dealt with according to the Timetable.
2. That the Timetable as stated be followed, with Correspondence taking up unallocated time, and the Business listed in each Sederunt being taken as the first Business of the Sederunt.
3. That normal meeting times be:-

9.00 - 12.30
1.30 - 5.30
7.00 - 9.00
4. That Synod close not later than 4 p.m. on Friday, 18th May.
5. That the appreciation and thanks of the Court be conveyed to Mr and Mrs McPherson for their work in producing and distributing Synod Reports, that all their expenses be met and that a token of Synod's gratitude be given them.
6. That Standing Order I (5) be adopted.

It was proposed and seconded that Synod be asked to express its mind as to the location of Synod 1980. The proposal was defeated. Recommendation 7 was adopted.

7. That the venue for Synod, 1980 be Collaroy should this be practicable; otherwise the decision be left in the hands of the Synod Arrangements (Administration) Committee.

It was moved and seconded That Synod reject any Reports of Standing Committees which are merely convenor and not committee reports. The motion was defeated.

The Clerk read the Correspondence:

CORRESPONDENCE

Item

1. Northern Presbytery - Overture (i) Clarify immediately our Constitutional position to satisfy the legal requirements of the Queensland Government, and (ii) Take immediate steps toward incorporation in Queensland.
2. Northern Presbytery - Overture - Grant permission for the sale of the Church property at Brushgrove.
3. Southern Presbytery - Petition from Winnaleah Deacons' Court for leave to sell Manse property, Winnaleah.
4. Southern Presbytery - Overture - Statement of benefits to be paid to ministers.
5. Northern Presbytery - Copy of (a) Request finance Richmond-Brunswick \$2,000 Stipend relief; Grafton-Brushgrove \$3,200 Stipend relief.
6. Central Presbytery - Overture - Synod to approve special appeal in 'Banner' to aid cost of a Church building at Jhalpur.
7. Southern Presbytery - Overture - 'Synod to instruct the Church Principles Committee to prepare both a statement and a reading list for the guidance of our Church in the matter of the charismatic movement'.
8. Southern Presbytery - Overture - 'Synod to lay down clear guidelines governing the right to membership of Presbytery and Synod'.
9. Northern Presbytery - Overture - 'Synod to place before the Church Principles Committee articles "Ezra 3. Union with Christ, and Exclusive Psalmody" - contained in Westminster Theological Journal 1975 Vol. xxxvii Nos. 1 & 2 with a view to their responding to the challenge the conclusions sets forth..'
10. Southern Presbytery - Overture: Synod 'remind all office-bearers of the church that the law of the church requires the features of worship to be as set out in our subordinate standards...'
11. Central Presbytery - Overture: Synod 'authorize the publication of Mr Bradshaw's comments re the subscription of the whole doctrine of the Confession, in particular, the Memorandum anent the Antichrist...'
12. Central Presbytery - Overture: 'That Synod 1979 rescind Act V, Section 2A and 2B (2) of Synod 1975, where reference is made to the Reformed Theological College'.
13. Central Presbytery - Overture - That Synod rescind Act II, 1978.
14. Central Presbytery - Overture - That Synod consider matters covered in a Report to Central Presbytery dealing with parity of representation on Higher Courts.
15. Rev. R.S. Ward - Dissent and complaint against decision of Southern Presbytery not to overture Synod to 'consider the reception of Mr Varnes as a student by the Central Presbytery...'
16. Southern Presbytery:- Referee anent difference of opinion on status of Authorised Version.
17. Mr C. Mackechnie - Resignation as a Trustee for Victoria.
18. Report - Trustees for Victoria.
- 19-21(a),(b) Replies to Greetings forwarded to other Churches.

The above correspondence was received with the exception of Item 10.

The Clerk then read late correspondence.

Item 22.

From Mr R.S. Ward: Reasons for Dissent and Complaint against a decision of Southern Presbytery anent Moderator's ruling of 26/3/79.

Item 23.

From Mr J.M. Cromarty: Petition to Synod seeking clarification of matters which have occasioned difficulty in the Southern Presbytery.

Item 24.

From Dr W.J.W. Hanna a) Resignation as a Trustee for Queensland.
b) Apology for absence from Synod.

Item 25.

From Mr H.C. Nicolson - Resignation as Trustee for Victoria.

Items 22-25 were received.

RECOMMENDATIONS RE ORDER OF CORRESPONDENCE

Items 1-4. Taken as they stand.

Item 5. Finance.

Item 6. Missions.

Items 7,8,14,9,11. Church Principles.

Item 10. Not transmitted.

Reason: As the Overture concerns the practice of a particular Congregation and as there is no evidence that the Presbytery of the Bounds has been approached in regard to the matter it is not competent for the Synod to deal with it.

Items 12,15. Training of Ministry.

Items 13,16,22,23. To be taken in this order.

An amendment was moved and seconded that Item 16 be dealt with prior to Item 13.

The Court adjourned to meet here at 1.30 p.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 3.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Monday, 14th May 1979 at 1.30 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the second Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Synod proceeded with the business that was before the Court prior to the adjournment.

The recommendation was adopted.

Synod agreed that Items 17,18,24,25 be remitted to Finance and Property Committee for report.

Items 19-21. To be taken at a convenient time.

Dr Harman explained the reason for the absence of the Law and Advisory Committee Report.

Synod proceeded to deal with Correspondence.

Item 1.

It was moved, seconded and agreed That the prayer of the petition be granted, and that Synod instruct the Law and Advisory Committee to consult as soon as possible with the Procurator, and any others, with a view to reporting to a subsequent sederunt of Synod 1979 in order that the request of Northern Presbytery be granted this year.

Item 2.

It was moved, seconded and agreed That the prayer of the overture be granted, and that the Trustees be empowered to sign and seal all necessary documents.

Item 3.

It was agreed that this item of correspondence be treated as an overture.

It was moved, seconded and agreed That the prayer of the overture be granted in the terms requested and the Trustees be empowered accordingly.

Item 4.

It was moved, seconded and agreed That the overture be remitted to the Finance Committee for report to a later sederunt.

Notice of Motion: That Presbyteries be allowed to meet between Synod sessions.

Item 13.

It was moved and seconded That Synod now rescind Act II 1978, and obtain qualified legal opinion on the matter of the Church's constitutional position in respect of Versions of the Holy Scripture before taking any steps toward a definition thereof.

An amendment was moved and seconded. 1. That the prayer of the overture be not granted. 2. That Synod through the Law & Advisory Committee request the Procurator to give his opinion of the legality of Act II Synod 1978; the Law and Advisory Committee to report to a later sederunt of this Synod. 3. Whereas Act II Synod 1978 declares existing Church Law and hence does not require Barrier Act procedure but nevertheless such procedure might be conducive to a more exact obedience, Synod remit to Presbyteries Act II Synod 1978, requesting them to report their approval or otherwise of the said Act being passed under the Barrier Act by an ensuing meeting of Synod.

Committees were granted leave to meet between sederunts.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 7 p.m.

The sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 4.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Monday, May 14th 1979 at 7 p.m., Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of Sederunt 3 were read and confirmed.

The Moderator called upon the Convener of the Religion and Morals Committee to present the report.

The report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That Sessions give earnest consideration to the establishment of branches of the Lord's Day Observance Society. (Information can be obtained from C.P. King, 29 Valaud Cresc., Highfields. 2289).
2. That Sessions discuss matters raised in this report and take action to bring relevant matters to the attention of those in Government.
3. That Presbyteries and Office Bearers be urged to consider the problems besetting our Church and attempt to solve major problems by informal meetings.
4. That Christians be urged to take an active part in the social and political life of the nation, so that the Christian point of view can be stressed.
5. That each congregation make extra efforts to spread the gospel in their local region.
6. That Session Clerks be requested to forward at the end of December each year the number of communicant members in their respective congregations. That this information be included in the report of the Religion and Morals Committee.
7. That the Religion and Morals Committee be requested to prepare a written report on the "Children of God" sect and present such to the next meeting of Synod. This with the object of having such printed.

It was further moved, seconded and carried That the Religion and Morals Report be printed in Our Banner and also be sent to such magazines as Evangelical Action and New Life as well as daily newspapers.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that the recommendations be adopted and the thanks of the Synod be conveyed to the committee and especially the Convener.

On notice given it was agreed that Presbyteries be allowed to meet between Synod sessions.

The Synod resumed the business of the previous Sederunt relating to Item 13.

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

The following dissents were recorded.

Mr Gadsby with reasons: 1. Act 2 1978 in my opinion does accurately reflect the constitutional position of our Church, and simply to rescind it does not give the clarification on this issue that was sought by the Southern Presbytery in 1978; but returns us to the situation which existed before Synod 1978. 2. The amended motion would have satisfied the objections of Central Presbytery in that a. legal advice would have been sought. b. the Act would have been sent down to Presbyteries under Barrier Act 1697, and so c. the Act would then have been adequately discussed by brethren in the lower courts. 3. The claim that Act 2, 1978 binds free interchange of ideas is a gross and wilful misrepresentation of the Act's intent, yet this was the major argument in favour of rescinding the Act. I believe that the Act simply restricted the usage of extreme and unwarrantable assertions whether in reference to the A.V. or other versions. To remove this restriction as clearly stated by the Act will not prove to be helpful in the ongoing discussion on the subject of texts and versions of the Scripture.

Adhering to the dissent with reasons: Mr Beaton, Mr Bradbeer, Mr J.A. Cromarty, Mr Bloomfield, Mr Nicholds, Mr Moore, Mr Murray. Mr Ward adhered to the dissent with reasons and added a further reason, namely Even though the decision does not change the law of the church, opinions expressed in debate indicate that there are "surroundings" to the matter and that disunity will be furthered, not lessened and that erroneous views on the constitution of the church will be spread, to the possible disruption of the Synod.

Simple dissents were tendered by Professor Harman, Mr Greensill, Mr Lee, Mr J.M. Cromarty.

It was moved and seconded that Whereas the constitution of the Synod is subject to such diverse interpretation that its unity is seriously threatened Synod instruct the Law and Advisory Committee to confer with the Procurator with a view to urgent clarification on the versions issue prior to the close of this Synod.

An amendment was moved and seconded that all words after '...versions issue...' be deleted.

A further amendment was moved and seconded: That to the original motion be added the words 'if possible' between the words 'versions issue' and 'prior to'.

The first amendment, namely 'that all words after '...versions issue...' be deleted', became the finding of the Court.

Mr Ward dissented with the following reason That Synod ought to have been willing to do more to meet the conscientious difficulties of members of Synod and to preserve the unity thereof.

Mr Bloomfield, Mr Moore and Mr Nicholds adhered to the dissent and reason.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 15th May.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 5.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Tuesday, May 15th 1979 at 9 a.m. Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Synod took up Training of Ministry business. The previous Moderator, Mr Beaton took the chair as the Convener, Mr Murray presented the Report. The Report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Synod record its gratitude to God for His grace in providing men to train for the ministry, and pray that He will bless them in their studies.
2. Synod thank our people for their interest and support in the Training of the Ministry and ask them to continue to support the training of ministers in prayer and giving.
3. Synod recognise the continued need for Funds in this area and
 - (a) Authorise appeals to be placed in 'Our Banner' from time to time on behalf of the Fund; and
 - (b) Ask ministers to be diligent in keeping the importance of ministerial training and the support of Students before the people.
4. Synod:-
 - (a) Note with satisfaction the progress made by Mr Sam Tamata in his studies, and
 - (b) Assure him of our continued interest and prayer as he pursues his course.
5. Synod:-
 - (a) Note with satisfaction Mr Peter Bloomfield's completion of his first year at the Reformed Theological College.
 - (b) Assure him of its continued interest and prayer.
 - (c) Grant him the normal Living Allowance and Book Allowance for 1979.
 - (d) Authorise the payment of his Class Fees.

It was agreed that Items 6 and 7 be deferred till later.

8. Synod amend Section 7, (b) and (c) of Act 5, 1975, to read 50% in (b) and 60% in (c) - and fulfil the amended provisions of the Act.
9. Synod instruct the Clerk to write to Mr John Tripovich to remind him of his obligations to repay monies advanced by the Church, and urge him to make greater efforts in this direction.

It was agreed that standing orders be suspended.

It was moved and seconded

10. That Synod appoint the following tutors for Mr Bloomfield:-
 Church Principles and Practice - Rev. J.M. Cromarty.
 Australian (PCEA) Church History - Rev. R.S. Ward.

An amendment was moved that Rev. B. Dole's name be placed in lieu of the name of Rev. R.S. Ward as tutor of Church History.

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

Synod took up the business of Item 12 Correspondence.

Mr King appeared in support of the overture. No motion was offered by the Presbytery.

Synod addressed itself to Recommendation 11 of Training of Ministry Committee.

11. Synod amend Act 5, 1975, Section 2(a)(2), and Section 2(b)(2) as follows:-
 Section 2(a)(2) Omit the words "or the Reformed Theological College, Geelong".
 Section 2(b)(2) Substitute for the words, "Reformed Theological College, Geelong", the words "Free Church College, Edinburgh".

Mr. Gadsby dissented with reasons.

Dissent Against Synod's Adopting Rec.11 of the Training of Ministry Committee (1979 Reports, p.29)

Whereas (1) the legislation enacted as Act 5, 1975 was based on a great deal of consideration; and
 (2) problems experienced with the Reformed Theological College since that time have largely been resolved in a manner which we should approve; and
 (3) Act 5, 1975 constitutes a binding part of the law of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, and no substantive changes may be made to former legislation except under the provisions of the Barrier Act, 1697; and
 (4) it is advantageous for students to be trained in Australia where they can be involved in the life of our Church, and be subject to the direct supervision of Presbytery and the Training of Ministry Committee;

I dissent from the Synod's amendment of Act 5, 1975.

Adhering to Mr Gadsby's dissent with reasons:- Mr Moore; Mr Nicholds.

Adhering to points 1, 2 and 4, Mr Ward.

Mr Lee dissented with reasons i. That Synod has not yet conveyed to the Reformed College the reasons for its withdrawal. ii. That Synod has lost a chance of working for the Christian good of Australia.

Adhering to Mr Lee's dissent with reasons:- Mr Harman; Mr Bradbeer; Mr Nicholds; Mr Ward; Mr Beaton.

Simple dissent - Mr Webster.

12. Synod convey its thanks to the Free Church of Scotland College for its assistance in training our students.

It was agreed to take additional motions.

It was moved and seconded pro forma That Synod pass down to Presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure Act 5, 1975 as amended to date requesting their approval or otherwise of the said Act 5 with a view to the said Act 5 being passed under the Barrier Act at an ensuing Synod.

A notice of motion was tendered That standing orders be suspended and that the afternoon Sederunt continue until 6.00 p.m.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 1.30 p.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

A.R. Beaton (pro tem)
Moderator R.W. Murray

S. Ramsay
Clerk...

SEDERUNT 6.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton at 1.30 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

On notice of motion given it was agreed that standing orders be suspended and that the afternoon Sederunt continue until 6.00 p.m.

The Synod resumed the business of the Training of Ministry Committee viz. the motion that Synod pass down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act procedure Act 5, 1975 as amended to date, requesting their approval or otherwise of the said Act 5 being passed under the Barrier Act, at an ensuing Synod.

The motion was defeated.

It was moved and seconded That the Training of Ministry Committee investigate the possibilities for training students in Australia and make a definite recommendation to Synod 1980.

An amendment was moved and seconded, Synod request the Training of Ministry Committee to investigate the facilities available for training of students in the Presbyterian Theological Hall, Melbourne, with a view to informing the Synod of 1980 accordingly.

The motion was preferred to the amendment, and was defeated on being put to the vote.

Mr J.M. Cromarty dissented with reasons:- That in defeating the motion this Synod has determined that the best training for our students for ministry in an Australian context is in Scotland. This is a principle which I cannot and will not accept.

Mr Ward, Mr Jas. Cromarty, Mr Bloomfield, Mr Nicholds and Mr Gadsby adhered to the dissent with reasons.

Mr Gadsby dissented for the following reason:- The rejection of this motion is a forsaking of the vision of our founding church fathers that our students should be trained in Australia.

Mr Bradbeer, Mr Harman and Mr Moore adhered to the dissent and reasons.

Mr Nicholds dissented for the following reason:- The Training of Ministry Committee ought to be free to consider training for students which will ensure their usefulness to the Australian Church during their years of training.

It was moved and seconded That, should the Training of Ministry Committee, in consultation with Mr Bloomfield, agree that his present training is incompatible with the standards of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, the Committee be authorized to seek a course of training consistent with the afore-said standards, and direct Mr Bloomfield thereto, the Committee to keep in mind the financial and domestic situation of the student.

An amendment was moved and seconded:- That the relevant provisions of Act 5, 1975 (as amended) be set aside in the case of Mr Bloomfield so that he be permitted to complete his studies in the Reformed Theological College, Geelong, subject to the continuing approval of the Training of Ministry Committee.

Synod met in closed court to deal with Item 6 Training of Ministry business, and Dissent and Complaint against Finding of the Southern Presbytery. Synod resumed in open court.

6. Synod:-

- (a) Note with satisfaction Mr John Cunningham's progress towards his degree,
- (b) Assure him of its continued interest and prayer for the coming year of study.

The court took up a Dissent and complaint by Mr Ward against a Finding of the Southern Presbytery.

Parties were called to the bar and heard for their interest, and removed from the Court. After deliberation - It was moved, seconded and carried That the complaint be dismissed and the decision of the Southern Presbytery be upheld.

Parties were recalled, and the Finding intimated by the Moderator.

The Complainant tendered dissent from the Finding.

Mr J.M. Cromarty dissented for the following reason That Central Presbytery had a Christian obligation to communicate with the Southern Presbytery prior to the reception of a student previously under the jurisdiction of the Southern Presbytery.

The following simple dissents were recorded:- Mr Gadsby, Mr Nicholds, Mr J.A. Cromarty, Mr Moore, Mr Lee, Mr Beaton, Mr Bradbeer.

Southern Presbytery acquiesced in the decision.

Parties were removed from the bar.

The Moderator called for amendments to recommendations which were read to the Court.

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

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 7.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Wednesday, 16th May 1979 at 9 a.m Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

It was moved and seconded that Standing Orders be suspended.

2. A Motion to withdraw this motion was seconded and carried but not unanimously.
3. Mr Dole raised a point of order to the effect that one dissent against withdrawal would rule it out of order.
4. The Moderator ruled to this effect.
5. Mr Ward then dissented and the motion to suspend standing orders was discussed and carried.

The Missions Convener presented the Committee's Report.

The Report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That representatives of congregations express the thanks of Synod to our people for their prayerful and financial support of the work of foreign missions, and highlight the implications of some of the following recommendations.
2. That greetings and a copy of Synod Minutes be sent to Dr Ramsay, the Free Church Foreign Missions Board and Mr Tamata.

The Synod took up Item 6 of correspondence. Mr J.A. Cromarty appeared on behalf of the overture.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted and that this matter be remitted to the Missions Committee for consideration, and report to a later sederunt of Synod 1979.

The amendment became the finding of the Court.

3. That Synod endorse the Committee's action in forwarding to India \$260.50 given for the building of a combined house and meeting-place in Jabalpur.
4. That the following payments be made:

Mrs Colville's Car Allowance	\$2,020.00
" " Return Fare	\$1,010.00
" " Deputation Expenses	
Dr Ramsay's Special Fund	\$1,000.00
(for furlough fares and special needs)	
5. That Synod (a) note with interest the appointment of Rev. John Graham to work among the Jews in Australia.
 - (b) contribute \$1,500.00 to C.W.I. for work in Australia.
 - (c) appoint Rev. A.D. McIntosh and Rev. B. Dole as official representatives of our Church to A.M.J.
6. That Synod note that \$600.00 is to be forwarded from the J.A. Harman Memorial Fund to the Dimbaza Reformed Bible School, South Africa.
7. That (a) Mr Tamata and his family be brought to Australia at the conclusion of his course.
 - (b) he spend at least one year in Australia, part of which would be under the supervision of a Minister of our Church, such arrangements to be made by the Missions Committee.
 - (c) during this period he and a representative of our Church visit Fiji to make a first-hand assessment of the situation and present a report and recommendations to Synod 1981.
8. That in view of changes noted in the Report, Synod rescind Rec. 5, Synod Minutes 1978, p.9.
9. That Wednesday evening be devoted to a Missionary/Church Extension Meeting and Mrs Colville be invited to address the Synod.

It was agreed that Recommendation 10 be dealt with later.

11. That the Reports from our Missionaries, together with the Committee's Report be duplicated and forwarded to each congregation, together with an appeal for additional prayerful and financial support for our growing missionary responsibility.

Amendment to Recommendation 11 (1979 Reports, p.11) That the Reports from our Missionaries, together with the Committee's Report and Recommendations be duplicated, and sufficient copies be forwarded to Sessions for distribution to all our people, together with an appeal for additional prayerful and financial support for our growing missionary responsibility.

The Recommendation was carried.

It was agreed to meet in closed court to deal with Recommendation 10.

10. That Synod take advantage of the presence of Mrs Colville to express our profound appreciation for her sacrificial labour over many years in Africa, and also to give fresh consideration to our responsibility to her and her work in Africa.

Synod resumed in open court.

The Court resolved that a presentation be made to Mrs Colville, in the form of a book and a cheque for one hundred dollars for the purchase of a camera.

The recommendations as amended were adopted and the thanks of the Court conveyed to the Committee, and especially to the Convener.

The Convener presented the Church Extension Committee Report.

The Report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That Synod acknowledge its gratefulness to God for the Church Extension work which we have been able to do in His Name during 1978/79.
2. That Synod instructs all delegates to convey to our people the Synod's sincere appreciation for their loyal support of Church Extension, and its encouragement for continuing and yet greater effort in this area during 1979/80.
3. That Synod commends the Southern Presbytery for its initiative in beginning a second work in Melbourne, and notes with satisfaction the continuing work in Armidale and Brisbane.
4. That the 1971 Church Extension legislation which appears as Recommendation 7 on page 11f of the Synod 71 Minutes be rescinded and replaced by the following amended legislation:

In order to facilitate and encourage the work of extension, Synod lays down the following guidelines and stages of development:

A. Stage 1 Development Charge

A new work without a Session, and therefore coming under the general oversight of the Presbytery of the bounds, to which the minister would be linked. During the period as a Development Charge, the congregation will be expected to contribute at least 25% of the minimum stipend and 25% of the Provident Fund levy, and to meet all the normal working expenses of the congregation. The remaining balance of contributions shall go towards the purchase of property.

B. Stage 2 Church Extension Charge

When the work is strong enough to have its own Session, request may be made to become a Church Extension Charge, and the congregation will be expected to contribute at least 33.3% both of the minimum stipend and of the Provident Fund levy, as well as meeting normal working expenses.

C. Stage 3 Sanctioned Charge

When the congregation is able to contribute at least 50% of the minimum stipend and the full Provident Fund levy as well as meeting normal working expenses, and is also able to proceed with the purchase of necessary property, it may be reclassified as a Stage 3 Sanctioned Charge. Subject to satisfactory arrangements being made with the Synod Finance Committee, it may now call a minister, and may expect the stipulated amount of subsidy until the building debt has been cancelled.

The continuation of a Charge at any stage of development shall be subject to annual review by the Presbytery of the bounds which shall make appropriate recommendation to Synod.

5. That Armidale Congregation be now reclassified to a Stage 3 Sanctioned Charge, and that its delegates inform the Congregation of its right now to call a minister.

On being put to the vote Recommendation 5 was defeated.

Two notices of motion were read to the Court.

Synod adjourned to meet in this place at 1.30 p.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 8.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Wednesday, 16th May 1979 at 1.30 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes of the previous Sederunt be confirmed.

An amendment was moved: That the confirmation of the minutes be deferred until a later sederunt.

The amendment became the finding of the Court.

It was moved on notice In view of the urgency of the matter standing orders be suspended and item of Correspondence Number 16 be taken as first business this afternoon.

The motion was defeated.

Mr Ward dissented with a reason.

Mr J.A. Cromarty, Mr P. Bloomfield, Rev. J.M. Cromarty, Rev. D. Nicholds adhered to Mr Ward's dissent (hereunder) with reasons

That Synod's refusal to take up Item 16 at this time suggests a failure to realize the gravity of the situation and the need for it to be resolved urgently if the unity of the Synod is preserved.

Mr Gadsby and Mr Moore tendered simple dissent.

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 extra copies of 'Our Banner' sent to congregations be used as much as possible as a means of outreach and with the hope that new subscribers may be attracted.
4. That we commend to all Sessions and people the booklet entitled "The Carnal Christian" by Ernest Reisinger which adequately deals with the second blessing teaching current in neo-pentecostal and other circles.

From Rec. 4 Mr Bradbeer tendered simple dissent.

5. That the Church Principles Committee be asked to contribute 5 articles on our distinctive principles to be published at regular intervals in 'Our Banner' during the next twelve months. We include 'The Regulative Principle', 'Exclusive Psalmody in Worship', 'Why no instruments?', 'The Sabbath Day', 'The Establishment Principle' as suggestions.

It was moved, seconded and carried:

1. That the resignation of the Editor of 'Our Banner' be accepted and that Synod take steps to appoint another editor with immediate effect.
2. That the Synod convey its sincere appreciation to Dr Harman for four years of devoted and scholarly work as editor of Our Banner.

It was moved and seconded:-

1. That Rev. E.R. Lee, Mr James Cromarty and Rev. John Cromarty be appointed as the editorial committee of 'Our Banner'.

An amendment was moved and seconded: That Rev. R. Murray be appointed as Editor of the Magazine and Rev. Gadsby as Assistant Editor.

The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded:

2. That Rev. E.R. Lee and Mr James Cromarty be appointed co-editors and that Rev. J.M. Cromarty continue as Assistant Editor.

The motion was withdrawn.

It was moved, seconded and carried That Mr Lee be appointed Editor, and Mr James Cromarty and Mr John Cromarty Assistant Editors.

6. That 'The Young Ambassadors' Section of 'Our Banner' include a consecutive Bible reading course with notes for the use of our young people.

Recommendation 6 was defeated.

7. That the title, 'Our Banner', be retained at present but that the matter of a new title be kept before the committee.

Recommendations were adopted as amended.

The thanks of the Synod was conveyed to the Committee, and especially to the Convener.

The Psalmody Committee report was presented, with recommendations:-

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the Report be received.
2. That Sessions avail themselves of the literature recommended hereunder for use within and beyond our own congregations.
 - (a) 'The Second Commandment' - an article dealing with the regulative principle - William Young, Th.D. (available in Blue Banner of Faith & Life, Vol. 27 No.2 April-June 1972. Also in Symposium on Worship produced in 1974 by The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, p.307ff).
 - (b) 'The Biblical Basis for the Regulative Principle of Worship' - Professor Norman Shepherd (p.42ff - in above mentioned Symposium).
 - (c) 'The Singing of Psalms in Worship' - G.I. Williamson (in booklet form and in above mentioned Symposium, p.316ff).
 - (d) 'Instrumental Music in Worship: Commanded or not Commanded?' - G.I. Williamson (Symposium, p.338ff).
 - (e) 'Why Psalms' - a tract - G.I. Williamson.
 - (f) 'Minority Report of the Committee on Song in the Public Worship of God' - O.P.C. of U.S.A. (Prof. John Murray, Prof. William Young).
 - (g) 'A special exegesis of Col. 3:16 and Eph. 5:19', by Prof. John McNaugher. (photo copies available).
 - (h) A cassette tape by Prof. Norman Shepherd entitled 'The Exclusive Use of Psalmody in Worship'.
3. That our people avail themselves of the excellent cassettes and records available from Scotland and U.S.A. in order to learn new tunes and assist in congregations where little help is available.
4. That Sessions positively encourage our people to use the psalms in personal and family praise.
5. That Sessions encourage and train young men who have vocal gifts in the art of presenting.

6. That Mr Doug. Hamilton be encouraged to press on in his fine work of collating material relating to:
 - (a) Tunes.
 - (b) Theory relating to tonic solfa and staff notation.
 - (c) General hints for precentors.
7. That Synod consider changing the name of this committee to the Committee on Worship, thus enabling a number of related matters to be dealt with by the one committee.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the recommendations be adopted and the thanks of Synod be conveyed to the Committee, and the acting Convener.

The Convener presented the Report of the Psalter Revision Committee.

Reports from Presbyteries and Sessions were tabled.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the report be received.
2. That the Committee for Psalter Revision be reappointed (Prof. Allan M. Harman, Rev. W. Peter Gadsby and Rev. Rowland S. Ward) with power to consult with other qualified persons on textual and musical aspects, and to seek suggestions and/or co-operation from them as individuals or as representatives of their denominations.

Mr. Simpson dissented with reasons: That to continue the Psalter Revision Committee will broaden the division in our church and unsettle our congregations.

Adhering to the dissent and reasons : Mr Nibbs; Mr N. McIntosh; Mr B. Dole; Mr J. Hill; Mr A. Bosanquet; Mr G. Anderson.

Mr King dissented with a reason: The time is not ripe for continuation of the Remit.

Mr Turnbull dissented with reasons: The reappointment of this committee will continue to create division and endanger uniformity of worship. The committee ought to be disbanded and the matter passed from in the interests of the peace of our church and faith in the purity of the Psalter we have. Many of our people do not want changes to our present Psalter, but receive them in their entirety by faith as the inspired songs of the Holy Spirit.

Mr Tripovich, simple dissent.

3. That Synod direct the Psalter Revision Committee to continue their labours with a view to submitting to Synod 1980 specific proposals for a supplement of alternative versions to be used in conjunction with the 1650 Psalter.

Mr Simpson tendered simple dissent.

4. That members of our congregations be urged to forward suggestions to the Revision Committee.

The recommendations were adopted.

The thanks of the Synod was conveyed to the Committee and especially the Convener.

The Synod adjourned to meet at St Kilda at 7.00 p.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 9.

At St Kilda within the Church, Chapel Street on Wednesday, 16th May at 7 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the morning Sederunt, as amended, were confirmed.

The Minutes of the afternoon Sederunt were read and confirmed.

A notice of motion was read That standing orders be suspended and that Item 16 of Correspondence be dealt with as first business in the morning Sederunt of Thursday, 17th May 1979.

The Moderator invited Mr Beaton, Convener of the Missions Committee to address the Court.

Mr Beaton gave a warm welcome to Mrs Colville our missionary from South Africa and formally introduced her to the Moderator.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Colville in the name of the Synod and asked Mrs Colville to address Synod.

Mrs Colville read a letter of greeting from the Christian women amongst whom she labours and proceeded to speak on the topic, "The Believer Amongst Unbelievers". This topic was treated as the theme of an Easter Convention in South Africa prior to Mrs Colville's departure from South Africa. Mrs Colville emphasised the faithfulness of the Lord to her in times of necessity, and then related certain aspects of the life of the Mission. She exhorted us to prayer for the new projects recently undertaken by the Mission.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Synod to Mrs Colville for her address and asked Mrs Colville to thank the Women's Christian Association for their greetings and requested that she return our sincere greetings to the brethren in South Africa.

Dr Andrews presented Mrs Colville with a book and cheque on behalf of the Synod and spoke appropriately of Mrs Colville's untiring and devoted work in the cause of Christ.

Mr Beaton led in prayer.

In the absence of the Convener of the Church Extension Committee, the Moderator introduced Mr Bradbeer who addressed the Court on the work of our congregation in Armidale. Mr Bradbeer emphasised the centrality of Bible reading and study in the life of the church, and sought the prayers of our church for the work of the Congregation in spreading the Gospel in Armidale.

Mr Nicholds spoke of the work in Lismore and told us of the numerous contacts made in the district. He urged us to pray fervently that the Lord would give the increase as the Word is sown, especially amongst those of the 'alternate society' in Nimbin. The radio ministry is a great encouragement and has opened a very real door of opportunity in the region.

Synod adjourned to meet at 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Thursday morning at 9 a.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 10.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Thursday, 17th May 1979 at 9 a.m. Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

It was moved on notice That standing orders be suspended and that Item 16 of Correspondence be dealt with as first business in the morning Sederunt of Thursday 17th May 1979.

The motion was carried.

Synod proceeded to deal with Item 16 - a Reference from the Southern Presbytery.

The Southern Presbytery was called to the bar to state the reference. Mr Ward and Mr Turnbull appeared in support of the Reference.

It was moved and seconded that the Reference be sustained. The motion was carried, and the Southern Presbytery dismissed from the Bar.

It was moved and seconded

1. That this Synod repudiates the concept that any translation of the Scriptures possesses equal inerrancy and authority with the original manuscripts.
2. It regards as self evident and in accordance with the Confession that all human compositions are liable to error.
3. It declares that no translation is inspired in the sense that it possesses the infallibility of Scripture.
4. It maintains that to receive by faith as infallible any translation of the Scriptures is to be guilty of serious error in conflict with the vows taken by ministers and office bearers in this Church.
5. It calls upon all ministers and office bearers to repudiate and cease to teach such views.

1. It was moved pro forma and seconded pro forma that This Synod affirms 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, infallible word of God written; Synod therefore instructs all courts to abide by the constitutional position of our Church.

The Moderator ruled that all other amendments must be submitted forthwith.

On being put to the vote the Moderator's ruling was set aside.

2. A further amendment was moved and seconded that the Synod affirms that it has the obligation to uphold the Confessional position in reference to the original text of Scripture, to which appeal is to be made in all controversies in religion, and that translations from the original texts are not by the Confessional teaching to be placed on the same level as the original Scriptures, and instructs all Presbyteries and Sessions to ensure that office-bearers adhere to the Confessional doctrine.
3. A third amendment was moved and seconded that Synod cannot vote intelligently because the Synod is not in agreement as to what the original Scriptures were. Therefore Synod must implement investigation into the question, 'What are the original Scriptures'.

The Moderator was asked to rule whether the third amendment was in order. The Moderator ruled in the affirmative. The ruling after being challenged was upheld.

Leave was granted for Mr Ward to circulate a document relevant to an amendment that he was about to move.

4. It was moved and seconded:-

That WHEREAS assertions have been made about the status to be given a translation of Scripture and in particular the Authorized or King James Version, THE SYNOD declare as follows:

1. Chapter 1 Section 8 of the Westminster Confession of Faith is adhered to by this church as not disagreeing in sense with the following propositions -

1. Divine inspiration and authority as the absolute rule of faith and the ultimate standard of appeal in all controversies of religion belongs to the Scriptures in the original autographs and not to any translation.
- ii. The original autographs have been transmitted and preserved in the copies in full purity by God's singular care and providence.
- iii. Although the providentially preserved manuscripts are not free from copyists errors yet the church may attain to a sufficient knowledge of the text of the autographs in the ordinary use of the means of manuscript comparison and textual analysis.
- iv. The original autographs as represented in the manuscripts are to be used in preparing and judging translations.
- v. While the church does not authoritatively declare the precise weight to be given to different manuscripts when ascertaining the original text - provided that individual opinions are not at variance with the clear teaching of the Confession on related points - she does not consider the textual differences behind such translations as she recommends to be of such importance as would warrant any breach whatever in the harmonious co-operation of her officebearers and congregations.
- vi. Translations, being the work of uninspired men, are not perfect and there is always room for improvement. Despite imperfections translations carry the inspiration of the autographs insofar as they correctly represent the meaning of the autographs, and thus translations are entitled to be called the word of God.
- vii. Translations from the original languages are to be made in the common language of the people.

2. Chapter 1 Section 5 of the Westminster Confession of Faith is adhered to by this church as not disagreeing in sense with the following proposition
The inward witness of the Holy Spirit is not to be understood as involving the direct communication of truth divorced from the truth, evidences and character of the Scriptures themselves, but is a conviction wrought by the Holy Spirit "by and with the word", and therefore not contrary to the evidences as ascertained by natural reason.

Synod therefore instructs all presbyteries and sessions to ensure that office bearers adhere to the Confessional doctrine.

It was agreed that standing orders be suspended to allow a delegate from a sister church to bring greetings.

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

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 11.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Thursday, 17th May at 1.30 p.m. Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Convener of the Inter Church Relations Committee introduced Rev. L. Blakston to the Moderator who in turn welcomed Mr Blakston on behalf of the Synod.

Mr Blakston proceeded to address Synod. He brought greetings from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia and encouraged Synod to press on in its work towards a closer relationship with the church which he represents. He assured Synod that the prayers of the Reformed Presbyterian Church were that our church may know God's blessing upon its labours in the cause of Christ.

Mr Blakston was thanked for his words.

The debate resumed on Item 16 of the Correspondence.

5. It was further moved and seconded That we reaffirm our adherence to the Confessional statement of Chapter one of the Confession of Faith, and that the Southern Presbytery be advised accordingly.

The Moderator was asked to rule amendment 5 out of order. The Moderator ruled that it was acceptable.

It was moved and seconded that the Moderator's ruling be set aside. The motion was defeated.

Mr Ward tendered his dissent for the following reason: I dissent from the Moderator's ruling since the motion will do nothing to resolve difficulties on the doctrine of the Confession which the Southern Presbytery and Synod have already agreed are irreconcilable.

It was agreed to receive the Law and Advisory Committee's Report from the Procurator anent the Constitutional position re the Versions.

It was moved and seconded That the substance of the report of the Law & Advisory Committee be inserted in the minutes on the understanding that the written opinion of the Procurator will be available in due course.

Leave was granted for Mr Beaton to distribute a circular.

The Court proceeded to deliberate on the Reference from the Southern Presbytery. The vote being taken, the fifth or final amendment became the finding of the Court.

It was moved and seconded That Synod adjourn at this time to meet in this place at 7 p.m. this evening.

The motion was defeated.

Mr Gadsby tendered dissent for the following reason: That in view of the seriousness of the matters involved, as conveyed to the court, Synod should have permitted time for sane consideration.

Adhering to Mr Gadsby's dissent were Mr J.M. Cromarty, Mr Nicholds, Mr Moore, Mr J.A. Cromarty, Mr E. Lee, Mr Ward, Mr Beaton, Mr Bloomfield, Mr Bradbeer.

Simple dissent was tendered by Mr Harman and Mr Murray.

Against the finding of Synod anent Item 16, Mr A. Harman tendered Dissent and Protest:

We the undersigned dissent and protest against the finding because the Synod has in effect by its action failed to uphold the position of the Westminster doctrine of Scripture in the light of a reference from the Southern Presbytery, and in particular has failed to uphold the position that no translation may be elevated to the same level as the original manuscripts; furthermore we reserve to ourselves the right to take whatever steps may be open to us to maintain the Confessional position.

A.M. Harman
 W.P. Gadsby
 John M. Cromarty
 A.R. Beaton
 Graham M. Bradbeer
 James A. Cromarty
 Donald E. Nicholds
 Malcolm S. Moore
 Peter Bloomfield
 Rowland S. Ward
 R.W. Murray

Reasons for dissents lodged by R.S. Ward: I consider the decision amounts to a failure to uphold the constitution of this church seeing that irreconcilable differences on the doctrine of the Confession on Holy Scripture existed in Southern Presbytery and hence could only be resolved by an exposition of the meaning of the disputed portions of the Confession. I consider that whilst the decision is not formally contrary to the constitution of the church, in view of opinions expressed by Rev. E.S. Turnbull before the Synod as well as in

Southern Presbytery, that the Synod has departed from the obligation to maintain the doctrine of the Confession and tolerated serious error.

It was moved and seconded That standing orders be suspended so that the court can take up consideration of unconstitutional statements made and beliefs held, by the Rev. E.S. Turnbull of St Kilda, Victoria.

It was further moved and seconded That Synod treat the motion as notice of motion to be taken up at a later Sederunt.

The Motion became the finding of Synod.

It was moved and seconded that Mr E. Turnbull be required to present, at the next sederunt, copies of the paper presented by him to Southern Presbytery re his attitude to the versions question.

It was resolved that the motion be put.

The motion was lost.

Mr Ward dissented for the following reason Failure to require the production of Mr Turnbull's paper is, I believe, an utterly irresponsible act calculated to prejudice the interests of truth and justice in dealing with the case.

Mr Bloomfield adhered to this dissent.

Mr Nicholds dissented with the following reason There ought to be no possible objection to the presenting of a paper formerly presented to a lower Court.

Simple dissents were tendered by Mr J.M. Cromarty, Mr J.A. Cromarty, Mr M. Moore, Mr A. Beaton.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 7 p.m. The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator.

S. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 12.

At 97 Rathdowne Street Carlton on Thursday, 17th May at 7.00 p.m., Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Synod took up the business of the previous Sederunt.

It was moved and seconded

1. That the Synod direct the Southern Presbytery (along with Rev. R.W. Murray, Rev. A.L. Tripovich, Rev. A.R. Beaton and Rev. S.N. Ramsay as special assessors for this purpose) to take up with Rev. E.S. Turnbull his expressed views in relation to Chap. 1 of the Westminster Confession and to deal with the matter in accordance with the laws of the Church.
2. That the expenses incurred by the special assessors be met from the Synod General Fund.

The motions 1 and 2 were carried.

It was moved, seconded and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended and that Synod take up the business of the Inter Church Relations Committee.

The Convener presented the Report.

The Report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a copy of Synod Act 3 (1978) be forwarded to the Presbyterian Reformed Church to inform their Presbytery what is our practice with regards to receiving members of other Churches.
2. That Professor Harman and/or Rev. John Cromarty be asked to represent us at the Synod of the Reformed Churches of Australia.

An amendment was moved and seconded That a member of the Inter-Church Relations Committee represent the Synod at the Synod of the Reformed Churches of Australia.

The amendment became the finding of the Court.

3. That Rev. Rowland Ward be asked to contact the nominated delegate of the Free Reformed Churches regarding fraternal relationships between our Churches.
4. That Synod note the explanation of the Rev. Paul Schrotenboer, General Secretary of the R.E.S. anent his visit to the Vatican and pass from it.

An amendment was moved and seconded That in place of the phrase 'and pass from it' in Recommendation 4, the words 'and express our dissatisfaction with the explanation because it does not answer precisely the question that was asked of Rev. Schrotenboer in terms of the motion recorded on p.13, 1978 minutes', be added.

The amendment became the finding of the Court.

Mr Bradbeer tendered a simple dissent.

5. That Synod note the reply of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to Synod's letter - See Synod 1978 Minutes, p.14 - and pass from the matter.

An amendment was moved and seconded That Synod continue to seek good understanding and fellowship with the E.P.C. of Tasmania.

The recommendation became the finding of the Court.

6. That delegates of the R.E.S. member Churches be asked to address Synod at an appropriate time.
7. That the Synod continue the remit for discussions with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.
8. That Professor Harman and Rev. John Cromarty continue as representatives of the Council of Reformed Churches.

An amendment was moved, seconded and carried That in the absence of any evidence that the Council of Reformed Churches is still operative, any appointment to this committee be left in abeyance.

9. That (a) the membership fee (401 dollars 8 cents) be paid to the R.E.S.
(b) 24 copies of the R.E.S. bulletin be obtained for circulation among our people.

The following amendment was moved and seconded:-

That as the requirements of Recommendation 2, Synod minutes 1978 of the Inter Church Relations Committee have not been met, that Recommendation 9(a) be passed from.

That the Convener be asked to inform the R.E.S. through its General Secretary, of our church's dissatisfaction with:

- (a) the explanation given by Rev. Schrotenboer re his visit to the Pope.
- (b) the R.E.S. tolerating the continued membership of another church within its Synod whilst this particular church is also a member of the World Council of Churches.

The Recommendation was carried.

The following recorded simple dissent:- Mr J.A. Cromarty, Mr Simpson, Mr Dole, Mr N. McIntosh, Mr King.

10. That the practice of sending fraternal greetings from Synod to other Churches be discontinued.

Mr Ward dissented from Rec. 10.

11. That Synod place the business of this Committee in the hands of the Southern Presbytery.

This matter was remitted to Synod Arrangements Committee for action.

The following motion was proposed and seconded and carried: That Synod appoint Revs. R. Murray and P. Gadsby to liaise with representatives from the Presbyterian Church of Queensland for discussion about matters of importance which affect our respective Churches.

It was moved, seconded and carried That representatives of this Synod, to be named, accept the invitation extended by the Reformed Inter-Church Study Committee on Theological Education, to meet with them on Friday, June 1st, 1979 at the Evangelical College of Biblical Studies.

The recommendations as amended were adopted, and the thanks of Synod conveyed to the Committee, and especially the Convener.

Notices of motion were read to the Court.

Synod adjourned to meet in this place on Friday, 18th May 1979 at 9 a.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S. Ramsay
Clerk.

SEDERUNT 13.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on Friday, 18th May 1979 at 9 a.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Moderator introduced the Rev. A.I. De Graaf, representing the Reformed Churches of Australia. Mr De Graaf brought greetings from the Reformed Churches, and spoke of the advantages of close relationship between the reformed churches in times of ecumenical tension, and the need for effective communication on a Biblical basis, and the blessedness of fellowship in the faith.

It was resolved That we suspend the order of Synod business and accept the adjusted order set out hereunder:

1. Finance business.
2. Items of Correspondence 23, and 22.
3. Remainder of Training of Ministry Report.
4. Remainder of Church Extension Report.
5. Supplementary report of Advisory Committee re Queensland Corporation.

Report of the Finance Committee was received.

The General Treasurer presented his Report, which report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the current minimum stipend payable to ministers (\$140) be increased by \$8 per week as from 1st July, 1979, and by a further \$8 per week from 1st January, 1980, the dependent child allowance (\$4 per child) remaining unchanged.
2. That stipend relief of the following amounts be paid for 1979-80:
Richmond-Brunswick (\$1,500), Grafton (\$2,500), and Ulverstone (\$2,500).

Amendment to Recommendation 2 Finance Committee Report "That the words 'Richmond-Brunswick (\$1,500)' be omitted and replaced by the words 'Richmond-Brunswick (\$2,000)'. The amendment was carried.

3. That the budget amounts for church extension and stipend relief (\$14,248 - adjusted to take account of proposed stipend increase, and \$7,500 respectively) be allocated to the various presbyteries as follows: Northern 25% (\$5,437); Central 50% (\$10,874); Southern 25% (\$5,437).
4. That congregational contributions to the General Fund to cover administrative costs be set as follows for 1979: aid-receiving congregations, \$100; self-supporting, \$150.
5. That a sum of \$166.00 be paid from the General Fund towards the cost of a concrete crossing on the block in Table Street, Port Macquarie owned by the Synod.
6. That in view of the decision in 1975 to take no further steps to recover the money due by Mr A. Home this amount be now written off.
7. That payments be made to the church extension charges in accordance with the current regulations as follows: Brisbane (North Side), Stage 3 -- 50% stipend; Brisbane (South Side), Stage 1 -- 66.6% stipend plus provident fund levy; Armidale, Stage 2 -- 66.6% stipend.
8. That the following honorariums be paid: Clerk \$30; General Treasurer \$30; Moderator \$15; Assistant Clerk \$15; Assistant General Treasurer \$15; Banner Editor \$30; Banner Assistant Editor \$15.
9. That the General Treasurer be authorised to pay the expenses of accommodation of Synod members at the Evangelical College of Biblical Studies, and for the dinner and presentation to Mr Bradshaw.
10. That the travelling expenses of Synod delegates be paid at the usual rate (i.e. 2nd class rail travel, or 1st class with sleeper for those requiring to travel overnight, or air fare for Tasmanian delegates).

The recommendations as amended were adopted.

It was resolved: That the resignations of Mr C. Mackechnie and Mr H. Nicolson as Trustees for Victoria be accepted and the Synod do now appoint James Greaves Simpson and John Macintosh Cromarty as Trustees for Victoria of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia under the terms of the Free Presbyterian Church Property Act 1953.

It was moved, seconded and carried that In view of the likelihood that Penrith congregation may require to purchase property for a manse during this coming year, that this Synod authorise the NSW Trustees to sign such mortgage documentation as may be required and in accordance with the Property Act 1918 subject to the financial viability of such a purchase being demonstrated to the satisfaction of Central Presbytery.

It was moved and seconded That Synod take appropriate measures to have all church properties insured in one company so that all our property could be insured at a cheaper rate.

The motion was defeated.

Mr Roberts, Principal of the Evangelical College of Biblical Studies brought greetings from the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Evangelical Synod). As Principal, Mr Roberts invited Synod to return, either as a Synod or in a private capacity.

The Moderator on behalf of Synod presented a book to the College library.

Synod took up Item 23 of Correspondence, Petition of Mr J.M. Cromarty anent matters in the Southern Presbytery.

The Petitioner appeared at the bar to be heard for his interest, and answered relevant questions and was removed from the Bar.

It was moved, seconded and carried:- That Synod grant the prayer of the petition in the following terms:- The pro-re-nata meeting of 26/3/1979 is ruled invalid and is to be deleted from the Presbytery minute book and the Presbytery is directed to deal with any other irregularities in accordance with the law of the church.

The petitioner was recalled, and the finding intimated to him by the Moderator. Petitioner acquiesced in the decision and was dismissed from the bar.

The Synod resumed Training of Ministry business - Recommendation 7.

Synod met in closed court.

7. Synod:-

- (a) Receive and welcome Mr Hugh Varnes as a student for the ministry.
- (b) Convey to him the assurance of its interest and prayer in his studies,
- (c) Approve his course of studies at the Free Church College, Edinburgh,
- (d) Endorse the Committee's action in asking him to sign the Bond and in granting him the normal living allowance as from December 1, 1978.
- (e) Authorise the payment of the Book Allowance and his Class Fees.

It was moved and seconded:-

1. That Synod note the precedent established by the action of Central Presbytery in receiving Mr Hugh Varnes as a student for the ministry without any appearance or examination before the Presbytery, after his being present only a few weeks within the bounds of Presbytery, and without reference to the Southern Presbytery where Mr Varnes had formerly been a student. And this, despite the disintegration of the congregation where Mr Varnes had previously supplied in the Southern Presbytery, and the prior departure of Mr Varnes from Australia.
2. That Synod lament the divided state of the Church which has occasioned such irregular action on the part of a Presbytery.
3. That Synod direct the Central Presbytery to regularise the reception of Mr Varnes as a student by correspondence with the Southern Presbytery and the Edinburgh Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland, within whose bounds Mr Varnes is now resident.
4. That subject to a satisfactory conclusion of the above arrangements Synod
 - (a) Receive and welcome Mr Hugh Varnes as a student for the ministry.
 - (b) Convey to him the assurance of its interest and prayer in his studies.
 - (c) Approve his course of studies in the Free Church College, Edinburgh.
 - (d) Endorse the Committee's action in asking him to sign the Bond and in granting him normal living allowance as from Dec. 1, 1978.
 - (e) Authorise the payment of the Book Allowance and his class fees.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 1.30 p.m.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

A.M. Harman
Moderator pro tem

S.N. Ramsay Clerk.

SEDERUNT 14.

At 97 Rathdowne Street, Carlton on 18th May, 1979 at 1.30 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

Synod resumed debate in closed court on Rec. 7 and amendment on the same.

It was resolved that the motion be put.

Dissents were tendered by Mr Nibbs, Mr Ward, Mr Lee, Mr Bradbeer.

Recommendation 7 became the finding of the Court.

Mr Ward dissented with reasons: I dissent from this finding for the reasons self evident in the amendment proposed by Mr Beaton, and for others which would have become evident if opportunity had been provided to answer assertions made in the debate.

Mr Nicholds, Mr Moore and Mr Beaton tendered simple dissent.

The recommendations as amended were adopted and the thanks of the Court were extended to the Committee and especially the Convener.

The Synod resumed Church Extension Committee recommendations.

6. That Synod notes the decision of Northern Presbytery approving the continuation of the additional Brisbane (Rochedale) work, and reaffirms the special arrangement agreed to by Synod 78. (See 1978 Synod Minutes, p.22, Rec. 7).
7. That Synod requests the Southern Presbytery to investigate the possibility of reviving the work in Adelaide, South Australia, and to liaise with the Synod Church Extension Committee in this matter so that a report shall be made to Synod 1980.

Rec. 7 was defeated.

8. That Synod directs Presbyteries to furnish to the Convener of the Synod Church Extension Committee reports of Church Extension work within their bounds, such reports to be forwarded no later than 21 March 1980.
9. That Synod authorises the Church Extension Committee to make reports and appeals for funds from time to time through the pages of Our Banner.
10. That the amount of the Robinson bequest be accounted within the Church Extension Fund as interest-bearing capital for the time being, which however, may be drawn upon to defray temporarily any deficit which may arise in the Fund from time to time.

The recommendations as amended were adopted.

The thanks of Synod were extended to the Committee and especially the Convener.

A report was received from the Law and Advisory Committee anent Incorporation in Queensland. The report was received and appears hereunder:

It was moved by Dr A.M. Harman, seconded by Rev. S.N. Ramsay and carried that for the purpose of effecting incorporation in Queensland the following resolutions be adopted:

STATEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA

A.

1. The religious denomination in Queensland known as the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia holds the same principles and adheres to the same standards of doctrine, worship, discipline and church government as did the religious denomination in Scotland known as the Free Church of Scotland in the year 1843 following the event in Scottish history known as the Disruption. The supreme governing body subject to its constitution of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia is known as the Synod of Eastern Australia.
2. The basic doctrinal standard of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia is the Westminster Confession of Faith as explained by the Acts of the Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1647, and of the Synod of Eastern Australia in 1952., together with the Formula and the Questions set out by the Synod of Eastern Australia in 1952.
3. The other standards of the Church are as follow:

Church Government

Second Book of Discipline 1578

Westminster Form of Presbyterial Church Government 1645

Worship

Directory for Public Worship 1645

Directory for Family Worship 1647

Catechisms

Larger 1648

Shorter 1648

These standards are to be understood in the light of the Acts passed by the Assembly of the Church of Scotland when they were adopted.

4. The by-laws governing procedure in Church courts are set out in the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland, Revised Edition 1964, except where adherence to this practice would be inappropriate in the Australian situation of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.
- B. That the Synod agree to the following resolutions:
1. That the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia petition for incorporation in Queensland under the Religious Educational and Charitable Institutions Act 1861-1967.
 2. That the Moderator, Clerk and General Treasurer be appointed to petition for the issue of Letters Patent.
 3. That the Moderator be authorised to make all such affidavits as may be required and to attend to all other matters necessary to obtain the issue of Letters Patent.
 4. That the nominated Trustees in Queensland and elsewhere for the Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia be directed to do all things necessary to divest themselves of the assets of the Church in Queensland, and vest them in the Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia when incorporated in Queensland.
- C. That the Synod appoint a special commission consisting of the Moderator, Clerk, General Treasurer, Rev. W.P. Gadsby and Dr W.J.W. Hanna (with the Moderator as chairman, and any three to form a quorum) and instruct and empower the commission to take all necessary steps to effect incorporation in Queensland under the appropriate legislation in that state.
- D. That the costs incurred in effecting incorporation be met from the Synod General Fund.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Committee for its work in relation to the abovementioned report.

Synod addressed itself to correspondence from Dr W. Hanna. It was moved, seconded and carried that Dr Hanna be asked to defer his resignation until incorporation is effected in the immediate future.

The Synod received a Special Report on Inter Church Relations. The Report was held 'in retentis'.

It was moved, seconded and carried That the General Treasurer arrange for the placement of the deed of St Georges manse in the N.S.W. Deed Box.

Synod took up Missions recommendation 12.

It was moved, seconded and carried:-

12. That Rev. Ian McKenzie be invited to visit the congregations of our Church during his furlough in Australia. That after payment of his deputation expenses, the offerings contributed during his congregational visits be forwarded to the General Treasurer to be applied to the building fund at Jabalpur.

Inter Church Relations.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Rev. R.S. Ward and Mr Peter Bloomfield be the delegates to the Theological Studies Conference passed under Inter Church Relations Committee business.

Mr Nibbs tendered simple dissent.

Synod took up the business of the Provident Fund.

The report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Report be received.
2. That the attention of Deacons' Courts be directed to the requirements of the various funds, and to the levy of \$654 payable for 1979.
3. That 75% of the 1979 levy for the second minister in Brisbane be met from Church Extension Fund.
4. That Synod endorse the Committee's suggestion re Superannuation for Messrs Weber, Varnes and Campbell.
5. That the adjustment of underallocation of superannuation be proceeded with and that the Provident Funds Committee confer with the Missions Committee accordingly.
6. That Rev. E.R. Lee be granted accumulated Long Service Leave upon the production of a presbytery certificate granting him leave of absence.

An amendment was moved and seconded, that Synod direct Mr Lee to make application for accumulated Long Service Leave to Central Presbytery in accordance with Act 2, Long Service Leave Fund, 1977 minutes.

The recommendation became the finding of the Court.

7. That Synod request Presbyteries to consider the present regulations re Superannuation and Long Service Leave and a tentative draft of amended regulations, and to forward their comments and suggestions to the Convener (Rev. R.S. Ward) by 28.2.1980.

The recommendations were adopted and the thanks of the Synod were expressed to the Committee and especially the Convener.

Report - Examiners of Records:

Examiners reported on Presbytery Records.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Northern and Central Presbyteries be attested. The motion was carried.

It was resolved that the Minutes of Southern Presbytery 28/7/1978 to 1/12/1978 inclusive be attested.

It was resolved that a committee consisting of Mr Ramsay, Mr Murray, Mr Beaton and Mr Tripovich be formed to attend to the expunging of the Minutes of Southern Presbytery as per Minutes of Synod 1977, and report to next Synod.

It was resolved That further examination of the Permanent Record be left in the hands of Mr Dole and Mr Niall McIntosh, the report to be made to Synod 1980.

Appointment of Committees

Finance and Property: N. McPherson (Convener), A. Webster, A. Steel, J.A. Cromarty.

Provident: R. Ward (Convener), Ulverstone and Geelong Elders.

Missions and Church Extension: A.R. Beaton (Missions), W.P. Gadsby (Church Extension), Lismore, Brisbane Elders.

Publications and Psalmody: J.M. Cromarty (Publications), P. Bloomfield (Psalmody), E. Lee, J.A. Cromarty.

Welfare of Youth and Fellowship: D. Nicholds (Welfare of Youth), D. Nibbs (Fellowship), Grafton and Maclean Elders.

Church Principles and Inter Church Relations: A. Tripovich (Church Principles), B. Dole (Inter Church Relations), Werrington and Hunter Elders.

Religion and Morals: J.A. Cromarty (Convener), E. Lee and Hastings Elder.

Training of Ministry: R. Murray (Convener), S.N. Ramsay, Dr J.C. Andrews, Dr W.J.W. Hanna, J.D. Ramsay.

Administration: Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Moderator Elect, Convener of Law and Advisory Committee.

Law and Advisory: S.N. Ramsay (Convener), B. Dole, J. Simpson.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Mr E.R. Lee be nominated as Moderator.

It was resolved that the Moderator and Clerk be empowered to prepare a list of principal acts of Synod and incorporate the same in the minutes.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Annual Synod 1980 be at the call of the Moderator and Clerk.

The minutes of this Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Moderator briefly addressed the Court.

Intimation of Annual Synod 1980 was made.

Annual Synod 1979 closed with prayer.

R.W. Murray
Moderator

S. Ramsay
Clerk.

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