

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA
SYNOD MINUTES 1982

INDEX

Administration	3
Church Extension	1, 2, 13, 14
Church Principles	15-19
Committees - Appointment of	22, 23
Correspondence	4, 5, 13, 25, 27
Fellowship	26
Finance and Property	6
Inter-Church Relations	15
Law and Advisory	--
Missions	9-13, 25
Provident Funds	7, 8
Psalmody	26
Psalter Revision	20
Publications	19, 20
Religion and Morals	9
Training of Ministry	20, 21, 22
Victorian Trust Corporation	23, 24
Welfare of Youth	8, 9

PRINCIPAL ACTS OF SYNOD 1982

1. Anent Reporting of Ministerial Changes (Recommendation 7, Administration Committee)
2. Anent Amendment to Act 1 Synod 1977 re Committee Reports (Recommendation 9, Administration Committee)
3. Anent Communion Rolls and Membership Statistics (Recommendation 10, Administration Committee)
4. Anent Amendment to Act of Synod 1970 re Seats in Presbytery (Correspondence Item No. 9)
5. Anent Authorized Signatories (Recommendation 5, Finance Committee)
6. Anent Requests for Finance (Recommendation 8, Finance Committee)
7. Anent Missions Relief Fund (Recommendation 4, Missions Committee)
8. Anent Regulations re Missions and Missionaries (Recommendation 17, Missions Committee)
9. Anent Fraternal Greetings (Recommendations 3, 4, Inter-Church Relations Committee)
10. Anent Roman Catholic Baptism (Recommendation 2, Section 2, Church Principles Committee)
11. Anent Unity in the Church (Recommendations 2, 4, 5 and 6, Section 1, Church Principles Committee)

12. Anent Supply Fees

13. Anent Copies of Synod Minutes

ANNUAL SYNOD 1982

SEDERUNT 1

At Taree Church on Saturday, 8th May at 7.30 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The Retiring Moderator, Rev. E.R. Lee conducted public worship. Ephesians Chapter 5 verses 1 to 21 were read and Mr Lee proceeded to speak on the subject "The Spirit of successful Presbyterianism." He said that as a church Presbyterianism is the church order found in God's Word. We must have the right spirit to make it work successfully. We find this spirit in Ephes. 5:21. "Submit yourselves one to another."

Implications of such a spirit:

1) There will be a willingness to obey. Decisions by majority vote call for obedience of all. This is illustrated in the Bond of Union 1840.

2) There will be a working for Consensus. Decisions by majority vote call for consensus. The alternative is partisanship with its attendant evils. The Confession of Faith is a consensus document.

3) There will be an avoiding of litigiousness. i.e. Eagerness to resort to law for sanctions or protection. It is an evil. 'Lawyers' and disgruntled minorities take over the Church.

4) There will be an abhorrence of controversy. A spirit of controversy is the desire to win the victory of words rather than reach the truth. The controversialist sacrifices his integrity.

Our Synod and all our church courts will be a success if the true spirit of Presbyterianism is in our hearts.

The duly certified Rolls of Presbyteries were presented and allowed to stand as follows:

Southern Presbytery

Rev. John M. Cromarty, Moderator
Rev. R. S. Ward, BA, Bth (Hons) Clerk
Rev. David R. Nibbs, LTh
Rev. Edwin Lee, MA Assessor

Rev. Dr J.C. Andrews, MA, NB, ChB, Assessor
Mr Neil Triffett
Mr Peter Bloomfield, BEc, DipEd, BD
Mr John C.H. Cunningham.
Mr Cliff Cumming, MA.

Central Presbytery

Mr E. R. Lee
Mr S.N. Ramsay
Mr H.C. Varnes
Mr J.A. Webster
Mr J. Graham

Mr J. Milligan
Mr C.P. King
Mr A. Neil
Mr K. Kerr

Northern Presbytery

Dr J.C. Andrews
Mr W.P. Gadsby

Mr R.L. Campbell
Mr K.D. Causley

Mr D.E. Nicholds
Mr S.R. Tamata
Mr A.L. Tripovich

Mr K.A. Dawson
Dr W.J.W. Hanna
Mr J.E. Hockett
Mr J.D. Ramsay

The Clerk reported that Rev. Rowland S. Ward BA, BTh(Hons) was Moderator Elect. Mr Ward having been duly elected was welcomed to the chair and addressed the Synod on the subject of "The Church."

1. As God's Confessing Community
2. As God's Charismatic Community.

He stated that the church was the 'called out' of God in his grace, called out to confess Jesus is Lord with all that involves individually and corporately. He drew Synod's attention to several wrong attitudes to the Westminster Confession. The church is also called to possess the gifts and graces of the Spirit. The twin aspects of organism and organisation were referred to and it was emphasized that the former is primary. As a living body, the life of the church is to be expressed in an orderly way. The place and task of each member - none being redundant, was stressed. The Court was reminded that our church is not a machine nor even a movement due to the foresight of William McIntyre and James Forbes, but part of the Church of Jesus Christ, the creation of God's grace and called to confess His name and glorify Him in the world.

The following notices of motion were read:

That item No.21 be advanced to Wednesday if possible.

That the following Honorariums be paid - Clerk \$300; Assistant Clerk \$100; General Treasurer \$300; Assistant General Treasurer \$100; Banner Editor \$300; Assistant Editor \$100; Moderator \$100.

Leave was granted for Presbyteries having urgent business, to meet outside Synod's normal meeting hours during this Synod.

Synod adjourned to meet at 9am on Monday morning in the Taree Church.

The sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 2

At Taree Church on Monday 10th May 1982 at 9.10 am. Synod met and was constituted.

The minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The minutes of the pro-re-nata meeting of Thursday 22nd October 1981 were read and confirmed.

The Moderator welcomed new members to Synod namely: Rev. H.Varnes, Mr C.Cumming and Mr J.D. Ramsay.

An apology was received from Dr W.J.W. Hanna.

It was agreed that Rev. J. Heenan be associated with Synod.

The following examiners of records were appointed:

Northern Presbytery	Mr N. Triffett, Mr J. Graham
Central Presbytery	Mr John Ramsay, Mr W.P. Gadsby
Southern Presbytery	Mr C.P. King, Mr S.Tamata.
Permanent Record	Mr H. Varnes, Mr A. Neil.

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.

The sympathy of the Court was conveyed to the families of the late John Brammah and Lachlan McKinnon. Rev. J.A. Webster led the Court in prayer commending those bereaved to the grace of God.

It was agreed that this Court express its sympathy with Rev. Alvan McIntosh in his present illness, its wishes for his recovery and its appreciation for his services to the Court.

REPORT: ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk of Synod Mr Ramsay, presented the report. The report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.(a) That the printed Order of Business be followed, except where otherwise resolved by Synod.
- 1.(b) That as Fellowship, Psalmody and Law & Advisory Reports have not been received within the prescribed time, they be taken after Item 21 if time permits.
- 1.(c) That appointment of Committees be taken after Item 19.
2. Tuesday evening be devoted to Mission and Church Extension interests.
3. Business requiring the presence of the General Treasurer be taken at a time convenient to him.
4. Wherever possible, business of each item be taken up and completed before passing on to the next, thus providing a more coherent Record of proceedings.
5. Synod take timeous note of the Clerk's notice of resignation tendered to Synod 1981, and proceed to the appointment of a successor.
6. Synod survey progress on Wednesday evening with a view to setting apart time for prayer, fellowship and recreation.
7. Clerks of Presbyteries report to the Clerk of Synod in February each year any ministerial changes within the bounds.
8. Conveners of Committees list for the information of this Committee those Resolutions which they consider warrant inclusion in the list of Principal Findings (or Acts) of Synod.
9. That Act 1, Synod 1977 Section 6 be amended to read as follows:

That in addition to any other meetings throughout the year, all Committees shall meet or correspond in the New Year prior to Synod so that all Reports and Recommendations can be in the hands of the Clerk of Synod 45 clear days prior to the opening of Synod so that they may be distributed prior to Synod.

10. That Synod remind Presbyteries to ensure regular updating of communion rolls, and that membership statistics be inserted in the Presbytery record and that these be forwarded each year to the Synod Clerk. The statistics should be as at 31 December, and should be forwarded at least 45 days before Synod.

11. That a decision book be produced showing the decisions of Synod which have an ongoing significance, grouped according to each Committee.

12. That those Committees which have not recently presented a comprehensive updating of their regulations be invited to do so to Synod 1983.

The recommendations were adopted.

Correspondence Items 1 - 11 were transmitted to Synod.

It was agreed that Rev. William Peter Gadsby, BSc. Bd, of Armidale be appointed Clerk of the Synod of Eastern Australia from the rising of the Synod.

Mr Gadsby took the oath of fidelity and was welcomed by the Moderator. It was agreed that Mr Gadsby assist the Clerk at the Clerk's table.

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that whereas Rev. S.N. Ramsay has resigned as the Clerk of the Synod of Eastern Australia effective from the rising of Synod, the Moderator, Dr Andrews, and Mr K. Kerr be a committee to make necessary arrangements to suitably recognize Mr Ramsay's services as Clerk.

The Moderator expressed the sincere thanks of Synod to Mrs Beth McPherson for her untiring efforts in the production of Synod Reports. This vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

CORRESPONDENCE

1.(a) and (b) were read. It was agreed that the correspondence from the General Secretary of the R.E.S. be received, its contents noted and the report tabled.

2. Northern Presbytery - Overture seeking Stipend Relief for Richmond/Brunswick - \$1,500.

It was agreed that the correspondence be received. Mr John Ramsay spoke in support of the Overture.

It was agreed that the request be remitted to the Finance Committee.

3. Northern Presbytery - Overture seeking Stipend Relief for Grafton - \$2,500.

It was agreed that the correspondence be received. Mr D. Nicholds spoke in support of the Overture.

It was agreed that the request be remitted to the Finance Committee.

4. Southern Presbytery - Overture seeking Stipend Relief for Ulverstone - \$4,500.

It was agreed that the correspondence be received. Mr N.Triffett spoke in support of the Overture.

It was agreed that the request be remitted to the Finance Committee.

5. Central Presbytery - Overture seeking leave to expunge Reason 3 from Mr Lee's Dissent with Reasons 28/1/1982.

It was agreed that the correspondence be received.

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

It was further moved and seconded pro-forma that the prayer of the overture be not granted.

It was agreed that the motions be put.

The first motion became the finding of the Court.

6. Northern Presbytery - Recommendation that Armidale and Brisbane remain at Stage 3 Church Extension Charges.

It was agreed that the report be received.

It was moved and seconded that this matter be taken up at the time of the Church Extension Report.

7. Northern Presbytery - Overture - That Synod extend the jurisdiction of the Training of Ministry Committee to include the period from completion of training to the time of the student's first appointment.

Mr Nicholds appeared on behalf of the Overture.

It was agreed that the Overture be sustained.

It was moved and seconded that the Overture be remitted to the Training of Ministry Committee and the Law and Advisory Committee for consideration and report to a later Sederunt.

The motion was carried.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 3

At Taree Church on Monday 10th May 1982 Synod met and was constituted.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read and confirmed.

Synod took up Item 8 of Correspondence. Southern Presbytery elected to fall from this matter as it is adequately covered in a recommendation of the Training of Ministry Committee.

9. Southern Presbytery - Overture - That Act of Synod 1970 be amended so as to apply also to ministers in fully sanctioned charges under the same conditions as specified for those serving Church Extension Charges.

The overture was sustained.

It was moved and seconded that the matter be remitted to the Law and Advisory Committee.

It was further moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted and that the Act of Synod 1970 be amended as requested so as to read: "Synod rule that an ordained Minister of our Church giving residential supply in a Church Extension or Fully Sanctioned Charge be associated with, and under the general oversight of the presbytery of the bounds, or of the most conveniently

situated presbytery, and if he give extended service of more than 3 months duration he have a seat upon the presbytery, provided he sign the formula".

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

Simple Dissent: Mr Nibbs, Mr Varnes, Mr Neil, Mr Tripovich.

Dissents with Reasons:

Mr J. Cunningham. "The doubtful nature of the situation because of the kind of residence expressed."

Mr K. Kerr, on the ground that a basic principle of presbyterianism is thwarted by the automatic granting of a seat to a minister on the basis of a short residential supply situation. Mr King adhered to the dissent, and reason of Mr K. Kerr.

10. Central Presbytery - Overture requesting Synod to clarify the 1981 Law and Advisory Report in the interests of consistency.

Mr King appeared on behalf of the overture.

It was moved and seconded that the overture be sustained.

It was further moved and seconded that the overture be dismissed.

The second motion became the finding of the court.

Dissents: Mr J. Cunningham, Mr C.P. King.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr McPherson presented the report. The report was received.

Moved that hearty vote of thanks be afforded to the General Treasurer, to the Auditor and the Assistant Treasurer. This notion was seconded and carried by acclamation.

THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Auditor's report was received.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

The convener presented the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The report be received.

2. That the following honorariums be paid: Clerk \$45; Assistant Clerk \$25; General Treasurer \$45; Assistant General Treasurer \$25; Moderator \$25; Banner Editor \$45; Assistant Editor \$25.

An amendment was moved and seconded, pro forma, that the following honorariums be paid; Clerk \$300; Assistant Clerk \$100; General Treasurer \$300; Assistant General Treasurer \$100; Banner Editor \$300; Assistant Editor \$100, Moderator \$100.

The recommendation became the finding of the Court.

3. That travelling expenses of Synod delegates be paid at the usual rate - economy class rail travel, or first class with sleeper for necessary overnight travel, or air fare for Tasmanian delegates.

4. That \$2,111.20 be transferred from the General fund to Church Extension fund to cover the deficit at 1.1.82.

5. That the following be authorised signatories to all Synod Bank accounts and/or other relevant financial documents, any two signatures to be sufficient: D.L.McIntosh; N.A. McPherson; S.N. Ramsay; A.H. Steel; A.L. Tripovich; R.S. Ward; W.P. Gadsby.

6. That the following amounts be provided for stipend assistance, Richmond/Brunswick \$1,500; Grafton \$2,500; Ulverstone \$4,500.

7. That the Committee give guidance to Deacons Courts, at a later sederunt, for a recommended rate of ministerial supply; extended and occasional.

8. That previous legislation be rescinded to the extent of allowing that henceforth all requests for finance from Synod shall be forwarded by Presbyteries directly to the Finance Committee not later than 50 days prior to the meeting of Synod, and that Synod do now so resolve. And further, that the Committee bring appropriate recommendations to Synod.

9. It was resolved that the matter of the Castlereagh Property be taken up at a later sederunt.

The General Treasurer advised that the percentage increases in the Consumer Price Index over the two previous quarters were 4.1% and 1.9%, thus increasing the minimum Stipend to \$203 per week as from July 1st 1981.

PROVIDENT FUND

The Convener presented the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Report be received.

2. That Synod reaffirm that the Levy is now termed the Superannuation and Long Service Leave Levy.

3. That Provident Funds Regulations B 1.(a) be amended to read:
"an annual levy of 9% of the minimum stipend for the year to 30th June, such levy to apply to every vacant and settled sanctioned charge as a preference burden after stipend, and to be paid before the close of the calendar year. Aid to aid receiving charges is to allow for payment of the levy."

4. That Deacons' Courts be thanked for meeting the 1981 Levy, and that they note that the Levy for 1982 is \$875, with three congregations to make up small shortfalls.

5. That the following words be added after the first sentence in Section C4 of the Provident Funds Regulations:

"The general intention is that the benefit for a married man at retirement be not less than 3 and a half times the then minimum stipend (and pro-rata for those of other marital status), but this is not and cannot be guaranteed."

6. That to Section B1.(e) of the Provident Funds Regulations be added the words
"all allocations to be made by the General Treasurer upon the written authorization of the Provident Funds Committee."

7. That the following section be added to the Provident Fund Regulations:

SECTION E: REGULATIONS CONCERNING WIDOWS / ORPHANS / AGED / RETIRED MINISTERS

1. From time to time Synod shall fix a Maximum rate of payment from this fund to retired/infirm ministers, widows, and dependent orphans of ministers, subject to such person being in receipt of a Social Security pension and desiring a benefit from this Fund.

2. The Maximum rate will be reduced by the % which the benefit received from the Retirement Fund bears to the targeted benefit (e.g. 3 and a half times annual minimum stipend at retirement for a married man), and the resulting amount will be further reduced by the same % as the applicable Social Security pension is reduced by reason of any means test.

8. That the Maximum rate of pension to widows be raised by \$2 pw to \$17 pw with effect from 1st June 1982.

9. That the Maximum rate of pension to retired ministers be increased by \$3 pw to \$23 pw with effect from 1st June 1982.

10. That Mr Beaton's accumulated benefit with the Retirement Fund be paid to him, together with the sum of \$75 for the period 1/7/1981 - 17/8/1981.

11. That Mr Turnbull's accumulated benefit with the Retirement Fund be paid to him.

Recommendation 11 was approved. Simple dissent by Mr J. Cunningham.

12. That in Provident Funds Regulations D2 the following words be added -
"In respect of service after 1.1.1982 long service leave shall accrue at the rate of 15 weeks per 15 years."

13. That copies of the Provident Fund Regulations 1981 as amended be circulated by the Committee to those concerned.

Recommendations 1 - 13 were adopted.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 4.

At Taree Church on Monday 10th May, 1982 at 7 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

It was agreed that Mr J.D. Ramsay prepare a report of Synod proceedings for Our Banner.

WELFARE OF YOUTH

The Convener presented the report. The report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the thanks and appreciation of Synod be conveyed to Mrs McIntosh for 21 years of superintending the Search Work programme, and that the Convener and the Treasurer form a Committee to report to a later Sederunt concerning this.
2. That Synod express its thanks to Mrs Jenny Causley for her work in currently caring for the Birthday Roll.
3. That information concerning materials and methods currently in use for the teaching of our children and youth be forwarded to the Committee for the purpose of compiling a report on this before, or for, Synod 1983.
4. That all Sessions be asked to ensure that the names, addresses and dates of birth of all children in their care, up to age 14, be forwarded to the Convener, so that the children can each receive a birthday card.
5. That congregations be invited to request certificates for any completed prescribed Memory Work during, not just at the end of the year, perhaps on a term basis.
6. That Synod adopt the suggested re-grouping of the Shorter Catechism questions in six divisions, namely Questions 1-10; 11-22; 23-38; 39-62; 63-88 and 89-107.
7. That Synod thank Mr and Mrs A.H. Steel for undertaking the setting and correction of the Search Work.
8. That Sessions be asked to encourage all their children to do the Search Work, and prescribed Memory Work.

Notices of motion and amendments were read to the Court.

Synod adjourned to meet here on Tuesday at 9 am.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 5

At Taree on Tuesday 11th May 1982 the Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Notices of motion and amendment were read to the Court.

Welfare of Youth Business was resumed:

9. That congregations arrange collection of funds for the Welfare of Youth Committee. There is ongoing expense, and there are book prizes to be purchased for 1981 and subsequent years.

Recommendations 1 to 9 as amended were adopted.

It was moved and seconded - That Synod take note of the work of Mrs Ken Causley with the Birthday Roll and express warm appreciation of her gracious service: regretting the delay in taking this action.

The motion was carried with acclamation.

RELIGION AND MORALS

The acting Convener Mr C.P. King presented the Report.

The report was received.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report be circulated amongst our people.

The recommendation was adopted.

MISSIONS

The Convener Mr E.R. Lee presented the report.

The Missions report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Synod acknowledge its gratitude to our God for the provision of the Margaret Nicolson Bequest and Missions Relief Fund for the furtherance of Mission work.

2. That we express our gratitude to our people for their givings to Missions and urge them to continue more and more in this good work.

3. That Synod convey its gratitude through the appropriate solicitor, to the anonymous donor of the Missions Relief Fund and assure him that the Fund will be strictly administered according to his wishes.

4. That Synod adopt the regulations governing the administration of the Missions Relief Fund as contained in Appendix 111. viz:

MISSIONS RELIEF FUND REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

An anonymous gift of \$85,326.52 was received in June 1981. Synod records its gratitude to God for this gift and its appreciation of the generosity of the donor, and affirms its resolve to use the gift in accord with the desire of the donor as expressed through his solicitor to Rev. Dr Campbell Andrews for the relief of physical need.

(i) The gift is to be known as the Missions Relief Fund and is to be held by the corporate trustees and to be administered by the Synod through the Missions Committee who are to submit recommendations to each ordinary meeting of the Synod.

(ii) The terms of the gift permit the dispersal of the capital as well as the interest for the objects of the Missions Relief Fund, but for the time being, and in the interest of maximizing the value and usefulness of the Fund, sufficient interest is to be added to the gift to raise the sum invested to not less than \$100,000 by 31st December 1984. In order to endeavour to preserve the Fund against inflation and exchange effects, at the earliest convenient opportunity 50% of the invested sum is to be invested in a suitable equity-linked investment such as a suitable property trust.

(iii) Information concerning the several fields and mission activities of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and the Free Church of Scotland was provided to the donor through his solicitor by Dr Andrews, and suggestions were made by Dr Andrews for the employment of the Fund. Accordingly

(a) after any addition to the invested sum the interest is to be disbursed for the relief of people suffering from illness and malnutrition, and from the effects of natural disasters such as fire, famine, flood, drought, earthquakes, civil disorder, war, etc., in areas where the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and/or the Free Church of Scotland and/or other recognized evangelical relief agencies are engaged.

(b) salaries, travelling expenses and equipment of personnel employed in relief activities as well as the provision and maintenance of the buildings and vehicles they use, and the cost of medicines, protective foods, clothing, building materials, implements, seeds, etc., for people in need may be met from the Fund.

(c) for the present the Community Health Project initiated and being extended by Dr Helen Ramsay in the Chhapara area of the Indian Mission Field is to have first claim upon the Fund.

(iv) In administering the Fund in the several fields of the Free Church of Scotland the closest co-operation is to be sought with the Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland.

(v) The financial transactions of the Missions Relief Fund are to be accounted for as a distinct fund in the Synod accounts.

Mr W.P. Gadsby tendered Dissent with Reasons on the grounds that the Regulations are vague in a number of respects. In particular, it would appear that the Committee has imposed a narrow and restrictive view of the donor's expressed desire that the Fund should be used for the relief of physical need. The regulations would appear to preclude aid to individuals who, as a part of their work, also engage in relieving the physical need of those with whom they come in contact. Further discussion should have been permitted on this matter.

A Committee consisting of Mr Lee and Dr Andrews was appointed to answer the Reasons.

5. That Sister Heather Beaton on receipt of her visa to India be supported from the Missions Relief Fund; that her salary and allowances be in accordance with the Free Church of Scotland Schedule, (See Appendix II) and that her travelling arrangements and Farewell be left in the hands of the committee.

6. That Synod approve of the allocation to Chhapara from the Missions Relief Fund the following amounts: \$3,500 for buildings and furnishings, \$7,000 for the purchase of a new ambulance.

7(a). That Rev. S. Tamata commence his work in Fiji in late December of this year. That the exact date be left in the hands of the committee as well as the date and location for his farewell.

7(b). That Mr Tamata visit the congregations of our church prior to his departure. Arrangements to be left to the Convener.

8. That a special appeal be made for the provision of a vehicle for the use of Mr Tamata in Fiji.

9(a). That the Convener or Mr John Milligan and Mr Tamata be authorised to proceed to Fiji and arrange accommodation for the Tamata family of a nature and in a location consistent with our Mission policy - See Rec. 5a, p.9 Synod Minutes 1981.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 1.35 pm.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 6

At Taree on Tuesday 11th May 1982 at 1.35 pm. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the forenoon Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Missions business was resumed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9(b). The Committee in conjunction with the Trustees purchase a property if deemed necessary.

10. That Synod express its felicitations to Rev. and Mrs Andrews and Mrs Lex Colville on their proposed visit to South Africa and ask them to convey our fraternal greetings to the brethren and sisters of the Free Church in South Africa.

11. That Synod ask Dr Andrews to take up with Rev. W. Graham of the Dimbaza Bible School the ongoing use of the Joseph Harman Memorial Fund.

12. That, in the event of his visiting Scotland in 1983, Dr Andrews be asked to visit the Indian Mission Field and that the Committee be responsible for any extra expenditure involved.

13. That Synod commit itself to support from the Missions Relief Fund, for their first term of service (four years), - Miss Barbara Humphries \$250 annually; Mr and Mrs Dennis Muldoon and family \$750 annually.

14. That the sum of \$2,000 be sent to Christian Witness to Israel, (Australia).

15. That a Missions night be held on Tuesday night of Synod week commencing at 7.30 p.m. That the Speakers be Rev. S. Tamata, Rev. J. Graham and Miss Barbara Humphries.

16. That specified Missions Funds be disposed of as follows: South Africa (Mrs Colville) - to Dimbaza Bible College; Car Replacement (Mrs Colville) - to Rev. W. Graham, South Africa; South African, South American, Indian and Jabalpur - to the Treasurer, Free Church of Scotland; Jewish Missions - to C.W.I. Australia; Dr H. Ramsay - to Dr Ramsay for Hospital Ward furnishings.

17. That Synod adopt the draft regulations in Appendix 1 as the regulations pertaining to missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia subject to the advice of the Procurator.

18. That Synod note with interest Mr Nicholds' desire to serve with C.W.I. (Australia).

19. That Synod sends its greetings to Daryl and Jeni Milligan. Assure them of our prayers and express our sympathy at their recent bereavement.

20. That Synod enquire of Dr William McClean, Taree if he would be willing to be the medical referee for our missionaries.

The Recommendations 1 - 20 were adopted.

It was resolved: That congregations be invited to send books (preferably of a Christian nature) and suitable for primary and secondary children, to the Geelong Deacons Court for transhipment to the South African Mission. The books may be either new or second hand.

CHURCH EXTENSION

Synod took up the Church Extension Report, presented by the Convener Mr Gadsby.
The Report was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Synod acknowledge its gratitude to the great Lord and Head of the Church for the Church Extension work which we have been able to do in his Name during 1981, and that this gratitude be now expressed in prayer by the Moderator.
2. That Synod instruct all delegates to convey to our people the Synod's encouragement for a greater interest in, and support of, the work of church extension during the year.
3. That Synod note with satisfaction the progress which has been made in Armidale and Brisbane, and express its commendation to these Congregations for their effort.
4. That Synod direct the Church Extension Committee to continue to withhold subsidy payments from Brisbane Congregation until it is satisfied that such subsidy should be resumed following a placement of a minister within the charge.
5. That the amount of the Robinson bequest continue to be accounted within the Church Extension Fund for the time being, and be available to defray temporarily any deficit which may arise in that Fund from time to time.
6. That the Synod authorise its Committee to make reports and to publish appeals for funds from time to time both through the pages of Our Banner, and directly through Deacons' Courts.

The Recommendations were adopted.

ARMIDALE AND BRISBANE: CORRESPONDENCE 6

It was resolved: That, in accordance with the recommendations of Northern Presbytery, Synod declare that Armidale and Brisbane charges shall remain at Stage 3 Church Extension status for the current ecclesiastical year.

It was moved and seconded: That Synod in regularly assuring our students of its 'continued interest and prayers' take practical steps to open up either new areas of work or consolidate in older areas which have no resident minister, and that immediate arrangements be made for the placement of Mr Peter Bloomfield in such an area.

Furthermore

(a) that the Church Extension Committee be asked to meet with Central Presbytery with a view to making a recommendation to a later sederunt of this Synod with regard to the placement of Mr Bloomfield in Newcastle or another area of similar opportunity.

(b) that the Church Extension Committee be asked to meet with Northern Presbytery with a view to making a recommendation to a later sederunt of this Synod with regard to the placement of Mr Bloomfield in Port Macquarie or another area of similar opportunity.

(c) that the Church Extension Committee be asked to meet with Southern Presbytery with a view to making a recommendation to a later sederunt of this Synod with regard to the placement of Mr Bloomfield in an area such as the Eastern Suburbs of Melbourne or one of similar opportunity.

The Motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded and carried that the forenoon Sederunt on Wednesday begin at 11 a.m.

The Court adjourned to meet here this evening at 7.10 pm.

After the reading of Notices of Motion the Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 7

At Taree on Tuesday, 11th May 1982 at 7 pm. Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the afternoon Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Moderator welcomed visitors to the Synod for the special Church Extension and Missions Evening.

Mr W.P. Gadsby, Convener of the Church Extension Committee, was invited to address the gathering. Mr Gadsby in turn invited Mr Sam Tamata of Brisbane to speak on the work being done in Brisbane.

Mr K. Dawson, Elder from Armidale, gave an informative talk on the life and work of the Church in that city.

The Moderator invited Dr J.C. Andrews to address the meeting on behalf of the Missions Committee. Dr Andrews drew attention to some of the decisions of Synod with regard to our Missionary activity.

He then invited Miss Barbara Humphries to speak. Miss Humphries delivered a most informative address on the work of B.M.M.F. in Asia.

Mr Tamata was next, and he set forth some of the challenging implications of the Great Commission, as well as informing the gathering of his proposed work in Fiji.

Mr John Graham, of C.W.I. Australia, spoke on his work among the Jewish people and indicated some of the difficulties that the missionary encounters and urged that we pray that the veil be taken from the hearts of those who are Abraham's seed according to the flesh.

The Moderator expressed the sincere thanks of Synod to those who had addressed Synod. Synod adjourned to meet on Wednesday at 11am.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 8

At Taree on Wednesday 12th May 1982 at 11 am. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Convener Church Extension Committee reported on the meeting with the several Presbyteries called for by Synod at a previous Sederunt.

The report was received.

It was moved and seconded that Synod request the Northern Presbytery to place Rev. Peter Bloomfield in the Brisbane Congregation to serve as an assistant to Rev. Sam Tamata till the latter's departure to Fiji and to continue thereafter as resident supply in that congregation and that necessary steps be taken to implement this decision viz. the Northern Presbytery and Missions Committee to meet and report back to a later sederunt.

The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded and carried that Synod ask Southern Presbytery to give an account of its failure to provide a recommendation along the lines requested by Synod.

The Moderator of Southern Presbytery, Mr J.M. Cromarty addressed the Court.

It was moved and seconded that as positive efforts are underway to provide supply for Mr Bloomfield, in the interest of unity at this Synod, we note the report of Southern Presbytery and pass from it.

An amendment was moved that discussion of Mr Cromarty's report be deferred until after the Church Principles debate is completed.

It was moved that the motion be put.

The motion was disallowed.

Mr Tripovich recorded dissent with reason - I dissent from the Moderator's ruling that he would not allow a motion that the motion be put.

The amendment was seconded, and became the finding of the Court.

Simple dissents were tendered by E.R. Lee; A.L. Tripovich; J. Cunningham and C.P. King.

Mr K. Kerr dissented with the following reason with Mr Varnes adhering: Dissent on the ground that to take up consideration of a matter properly within the province of a presbytery without a regular reference is ultra vires.

After Notice of Motions had been read the Synod adjourned to meet here at 1.45 pm.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

Rowland S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 9

At Taree on Wednesday 12th May 1982 at 1.45 p.m. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the forenoon Sederunt were read and confirmed.

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

Synod took up Inter-Church Relations business.

The Convener presented the Report and recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received.
2. That the question of including Inter-Church Relations with the Synod Administration be considered when committees are appointed.
3. That it be standard practice for the Clerk to forward a letter of fraternal greeting in time to be received by the annual Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, and that we also forward each year to the Clerk of Assembly a copy of our accounts, reports and minutes, with request for a like favour.

It was resolved: That standing orders be suspended in order to permit the following motion: That Inter-church Relations recommendation No.10, 1979 be rescinded. The motion was moved, seconded and carried.

4. That the above provisions also apply to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru, the Free Church in South Africa and the Indian Mission.
5. That we convey our fraternal greetings to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia (Clerk, 20 Fenwick Street, Geelong 3220) and send them a copy of our Synod reports and minutes, and advise them we have continued the remit of 1975 for the Southern Presbytery to meet with them to discuss closer relations, and that we would welcome opportunity to share together in areas such as publications and statements on public questions.
6. That we convey our greetings to the Free Reformed Churches of Australia (C/o Rev. K. Bruning, PO Box 12, Armadale W.A. 6112) and send them a copy of our Synod reports and minutes.

The Recommendations were adopted.

CHURCH PRINCIPLES

It was agreed to take Part II of the Report, with Section I to follow.

The Convener presented Section II anent Roman Catholic Baptism. Section II was received.

Rec. I. That Synod notes the failure of Central Presbytery to furnish a report on time on the subject of the validity of Roman Catholic baptism, and that Synod recognises that this has hindered the Committee in adequately fulfilling its remit as instructed by Synod 1981.

Rec. II. That whereas there is nothing inconsistent in either Scripture or our subordinate standards with the view that Roman Catholic baptism is invalid, and whereas the evidence we do have in Scripture and our subordinate standards supports the view that such baptism is invalid, Synod now agrees that Roman Catholic baptism is not Christian baptism and is therefore invalid.

The Moderator ruled thereanent:

(Ruling of Moderator) Inso far as Recommendation 2 would require Office Bearers to accept the invalidity of Roman Catholic baptism, the Moderator holds it of at least doubtful constitutionality, and accordingly is not prepared to allow it in such a form, unless and until the opinion of the procurator is obtained, nor is he prepared to accept a motion which would require Office Bearers to accept the validity of Roman Catholic baptism.

It was moved and seconded: That one hour's debate be allowed on the question of Roman Catholic Baptism. Carried.

The debate proceeded. The hour having expired. ordinary business was resumed.

Synod adjourned to meet here at 7.10 pm. The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 10

At Taree on Wednesday 12th May 1982 at 7.10pm. Synod met and was constituted. The Minutes of the afternoon Sederunt were read and confirmed.

CHURCH PRINCIPLES

Church Principles business was resumed.

Rec. 2. It was moved and seconded: That Synod expresses the opinion that it is not inconsistent with the Scripture or our subordinate standards to hold that Roman Catholic "baptism" is invalid. However, given the long-standing consensus of the Reformed and Protestant Churches on this matter, together with the conscientious scruples of some members of this court, Synod resolves to refrain from further determination of the matter at this time, and to seek the opinion of other Presbyterian and Reformed bodies, both in Australia and overseas.

The motion was carried.

Mr Kerr dissented with reason: It is undesirable for Synod to declare an attitude on matters left undetermined by our Confessional Standard.

Mr Cunningham dissented with reason: Rigid application of invalid R.C. Church baptism in receiving into communion of the faithful Protestant Church appears to be of a doubtful nature.

Mr Lee dissented with reason: 1) That this Synod in its official capacity has made a statement that our Fathers in their wisdom forbore to make. 2) That the words "Refrain from... at this time" raises the spectre of future legislation in this matter.

Mr Neil dissented with reason: The simple nature and intent of the sacrament of baptism according to Holy Scripture has been clouded by observations on the nature of the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr Nibbs dissented with reason: That legislation on this matter, will introduce further problems into our church.

Mr Varnes dissented with reason: Because of the longstanding consensus of the Reformed and Protestant Churches regarding the validity of Roman Catholic baptism.

It was moved, seconded and carried that a Committee consisting of Messrs Cromarty, Bloomfield and Gadsby be appointed to answer these reasons.

The time being 8.45 p.m., it was moved, seconded and carried that Synod now adjourn to meet here at 9.00 a.m. in the morning.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 11

At Taree on Thursday 13th May 1982 the Synod met and was constituted.

The minutes of previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

ANSWERS TO REASONS FOR DISSENT WERE READ TO THE COURT:

(1) Synod must periodically declare or express its attitude on matters that are perhaps left undetermined by our confession simply because there are many important truths outside a formal confession which require a church opinion. The consequence of not doing so is a church irrelevant to its age and unable to give Biblical guidance at Synod level on a whole range of theological and moral issues.

(2) The question of whether or not it is wise to be rigid on the issue of validity of Roman Catholic baptism depends on whether Scripture plainly consigns it as invalid. Any doctrine clearly consistent with Scripture may be held rigidly. However it is another question as to whether it should be part of our confession. The motion does not make it part of our confession. Moreover the motion does not express a rigid opinion binding to the conscience.

(3) It is gratuitous to assume that "our Fathers" were unwilling to make such a decision primarily out of wisdom. Historical circumstances change. They were not faced with the identical pastoral problems. Furthermore the failure of a past generation to make a decision does not commend to us the same policy. It is often the silence of past generations that calls for the voice of the present generation.

It is true that there is the possibility of future legislation on this matter but such a possibility does not come about because of the motion. Even if Synod had passed from the issue entirely, passing no motion at all concerning the validity of Roman Catholic Baptism, the possibility would still remain for future legislation.

(4) The nature of the Roman Catholic "church" does indeed cloud the simplicity of Biblical baptism. The church principles committee report tried to show that the cloud was so thick as to render Roman Catholic baptism invalid because Romanism is in fact not a true church. No one in the debate even attempted to argue that it was a true church with the true gospel and true ministers.

(5) Synod has not legislated on this matter. It has simply expressed an opinion and called for the opinions of other reformed and protestant bodies. It has left the matter of legislation open to the future. Such was always the case even before Synod passed the motion.

(6) If the intention is to appeal to the consensus of the reformed protestant churches over time, thus concluding that we should stay in that stream, then we answer that neither consensus nor tradition nor any thing besides Scripture determines truth, and we repeat, that no attempt was made in the debate to rebut the Biblical arguments adduced by the church Principles committee.

Finally, the motion passed by Synod is a genuine expression of desire to simultaneously air the issue and yet avoid the danger of over-legislation.

The business of the Church Principles Committee was resumed.

The Convener presented Part I of the Report, concerning "The Unity of the Church".

RECOMMENDATION No. 1

Part I was received.

Mr Kerr tendered dissent with reason: that the Committee had received no remit from Synod 1981 to take up the question of unity of the church.

It was moved and seconded: That the Church Principles Committee be informed that as the Committee received no remit from Synod 1981 to take up consideration of the question of the unity of the Church, and further that as the question has already been referred to in the Religion and Morals Committee report Synod pass from consideration of the matter and further, that recommendations 2 to 6 inclusive be passed from.

The motion was defeated.

Mr Nibbs dissented with reason: Dissent With Reasons: That we should go out of our way to discuss in conference these matters with one another, and not debate them in open court.

RECOMMENDATION No. 2

2. That Synod urges all of our people to engage in a careful study of Ephesians chapter 4 and parallel passages as well as chapter 26 of the Westminster Confession of Faith entitled "Of Communion of Saints," with a view to the practical application of the principles contained therein.

Consideration of Recommendation 3 was deferred.

RECOMMENDATION No. 4

Synod remind office-bearers that while they may exercise their right to vote against or dissent from findings of any court of our church, yet such does not exempt them from their ordination vow to submit to and concur with the government of this church.

An amendment was moved and seconded: That Synod recognise that recommendations 3,4,5 and 7 all concerning the statement of unity, 1981, are not binding upon office bearers because this statement of unity is at variance with the Confessional Statement, Chapter 1, sect.8, part 2, and sections 9 and 10.

The Moderator indicated that he declined to accept this amendment for the following reason: The amendment moved by Mr Cunningham and seconded by Mr Neil says that the statement of unity 1981 is at variance with certain parts of the Confession. I reject this since there is nothing in the doctrinal content of the statement of unity at variance with the Confession as subscribed in terms of the Formula and we have had advice from the Procurator previously to this effect.

Motion M.1: It was moved and seconded that the Moderator's ruling be set aside.

The Retiring Moderator, Mr E.R. Lee, was called upon to occupy the Chair.

Motion M.2: It was moved and seconded that Synod meet in closed court.

Motion M.3: It was moved and seconded that the motion (M.2) be now put. This motion (M. 3) was carried.

The motion (M.2) to meet in closed court was carried.

The permission of the Court to permit the mover and seconder of the motion (M.1) to withdraw their motion was granted, and they did so.

It was agreed to meet in open court.

It was moved, seconded and carried that we adjourn at this time (12.23 p.m.), to meet here at 1.30 p.m. this day.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 12

At Taree, on Thursday 13th May 1982 at 1.45 p.m. the Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the previous sederunt were read and confirmed.

It was moved and seconded: That the Synod adjourn for 1 hour so that

- 1) the Moderator, Dr Andrews and Mr Nibbs and Mr John Ramsay may confer with Mr Cunningham and Mr Neil, and
- 2) Northern Presbytery may meet with the Missions Committee anent placement of Mr Bloomfield.

Notices of motion were read at this point.

The above motion re adjournment was put to the vote, and carried.

The Synod adjourned to meet here again at 3.00 p.m. The Sederunt was closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 13

At Taree, on Thursday 13th May 1982, at 3.00 pm. the Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Moderator reported on the meeting held with Messrs Cunningham and Neil.

It was reported that Mr Cunningham and Mr Neil were now prepared to accept the Statement of Unity of Synod 1981.

Mr Hockett led the Court in prayer, at the Moderator's invitation.

Synod resumed the business of Church Principles.

Recommendation Number 4 was accepted.

RECOMMENDATION No. 5

Synod urges all office bearers to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and to seek earnestly the forgiveness of Almighty God for past sins which have grieved the Holy Spirit and caused much hurt to the body of Christ.

RECOMMENDATION No.6

Synod affirms that there is no deficiency in the Gospel of Christ as it is transmitted to us in the Authorised Version, the New International Version and the New American Standard Bible, each of these versions having Synodical approval.

The Convener intimated that Recommendation No.3 was fallen from by the Committee.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Recommendations 1-2, 4-6 be adopted.

It was further moved and seconded: That in view of trouble that has plagued this denomination in recent years and in the identification of this sin as the spirit of disunity and in view of the great desire of this Synod that a spirit of unity be restored this Synod welcomes and commends the Church Principles Committee that in spite of the obvious dangers of proceeding in this area they have exposed the sin and called upon the Synod and through them the people of God to repent of this great sin.

The motion was carried.

PUBLICATIONS

Synod took up the Publications Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report be received.

2. That thanks be expressed to the Editor, Assistant Editor, contributors of articles and all helpers in the preparation and despatch of Our Banner during the past year.
3. That Deacons' Courts note that no special financial assistance is needed for Our Banner at this time, but gifts to the Publications Fund would be welcomed (suggested at \$3 per member).
4. That the name of the church magazine be changed to "The Presbyterian Banner" with effect from 1.7.1982.
5. That the Committee be thanked for producing the small booklets, and that our people be encouraged to use these items in their endeavours to extend the cause of Christ.
6. That the resignation of Mr Triffett as Assistant editor be received.

Recommendations 1 to 6 were adopted.

It was moved and seconded: that The Presbyterian Banner be published bi-monthly in an improved format.

The motion was defeated.

It was moved and seconded that Rev. J. Heenan be appointed Assistant editor.

The motion was carried.

PSALTER REVISION

The convener presented the report. The report was received and noted.

EXAMINERS OF RECORDS made their reports.

Records of Northern Presbytery, Southern Presbytery and Central Presbytery were approved for attestation by the Moderator.

It was resolved that the remit to the examiners of the Permanent Record be continued.

Mr Gadsby submitted the report of the meeting between the Missions Committee and the Northern Presbytery. He intimated that the following decisions had been taken by the Presbytery:

1. That Presbytery invite the Rev. P. Bloomfield to labour in Brisbane as assistant to the Rev. S. Tamata until the latter began his itinerary (about 31.07.82). And that thereafter, Mr Bloomfield be resident supply, subject to the discretion of the Interim Moderator of Brisbane Session.
2. That Presbytery request the Church Extension Committee to provide financial assistance to cover the removal expenses, stipend, car and child allowances, and accommodation expenses of Mr Bloomfield, this to take effect from the rising of Synod. It is understood that when Mr Tamata begins his itinerary, his expenses will be fully born by the Missions Committee, while those of Mr Bloomfield will then be assumed by the Congregation.

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

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 14

At Taree on Thursday 13th May 1982 at 7.30 pm. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY

Training of Ministry Report was presented by the Convener Mr Gadsby.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Synod record its gratitude to God for the provision of men to take up the work of the ministry within our Church.

Amendment to Rec.1 moved, seconded pro-forma: That recommendation 1 be altered to read..."That Synod record its gratitude to God for the provision of men to take up the work of the ministry within our Church and earnestly repents in shame and sadness for having failed adequately to deal with a sinful situation which in practical terms actually has resulted in this provision being denied, obstructed and treated with shameful disrespect to the hurt, not only of God's people as a body, but also to those whom Synod had regarded as God's gift to His Church as witnessed to in previous Synod decisions."

Recommendation 1 was approved.

2. That Synod extend its congratulations to the three who successfully completed their courses of study at Edinburgh and Geelong during 1981.

An amendment was moved and seconded: That Recommendation 2 be altered to read.. "That Synod extend its congratulations to the three who successfully completed their courses of study at Edinburgh and Geelong during 1981 and assure them that Synod gratefully recognises and receives them as God's gift to his Church and affirms that in accord with this fact and with the 'Statement of Unity' accepted by the 1981 Synod and in view of Item 4 of the 1982 Religion and Morals Committee Report, that it repudiates and calls upon all congregations and Sessions to repudiate the action whereby certain pulpits of our Church have been and continue to be closed to at least two of the above mentioned three students."

Recommendation 2 was approved.

Synod adjourned to meet here on Friday 14th May at 9 am.

The Sederunt closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator

SEDERUNT 15

At Taree on Friday 14th May 1982 at 9 am. Synod met and was constituted.

The Minutes of the previous Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Synod continued with Training of Ministry business.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Synod endorse the Training of Ministry Committee's approval of Mr Paul Cornford's course of study as being equivalent to the "Normal Course" required by the Synod's Regulations (Act 5, 1975 as amended), and declare him to be eligible to be taken on trials for license by the Presbytery in whose bounds he resides, subject to the concurrence of the Southern Presbytery (refer Act 6, 1976 re Licensing of Students).

4. That Synod grant Mr Brian Leslie Dole 76.6% remission of the amount which he owes the Synod in terms of the Student Bond which he signed, which remission corresponds to the proportion of the statutory five years' service which Mr Dole actually rendered to the Church before his resignation.

5. That Synod instruct its Clerk to write to Mr Dole, reminding him of his commitment to reimburse the Synod in the amount as determined by the Treasurer, in the light of Synod's resolution.

6. That Synod instruct its Clerk to write to Mr Jon Tripovich, reminding him of his commitment to repay to the Synod monies advanced to him by the Church.

7. That Synod record its debt of gratitude to the St Georges Deacons' Court, and to the many others who have contributed the amount for the return fare from Scotland for Mr Hugh Varnes and his family.

8. That Synod affirm that the Free Church of Scotland College in Edinburgh provides the most suitable course for theological training, and continue to regard it as the normal course to be taken by our students.

9. That Synod express its deep gratitude to the Free Church of Scotland for generously receiving and training our students in its College.

10. That Synod, considering the special needs and circumstances of some students, also allow for an alternative course, or alternative courses, of studies in Australia, and instruct its Training of Ministry Committee to approach the Faculty of the Presbyterian Theological Hall in Melbourne, and the Board and Faculty of the Reformed Theological College in Geelong, with this in view; the Committee to make report and recommendations to the next ordinary meeting of the Synod.

Recommendations 1 to 10 were adopted.

It was resolved: That the Training of Ministry Committee be instructed to bring to the next Annual meeting recommendations providing for

(a) A period of service under bond of not less than seven years in place of the present five.

(b) A schedule of repayment of money advanced to students in training according to which the proportion of indebtedness would decrease on a sliding scale with each completed year of service.

It was moved and seconded and carried: That in the light of certain statements made at the Church Extension and Missions evening, Synod review its decision to adopt Missions Committee Recommendation No. 13.

It was moved, seconded and carried: That the amount committed to Miss B. Humphries be paid from the General Mission Fund not the Missions Relief Fund.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

It was resolved: That Committees be rearranged as follows:

- 1) Finance and Property to become Finance Committee. (Property to be covered by annual reports by the corporate trustees).
- 2) Church Principles/Religion and Morals to be combined under the name Faith and Life Committee.
- 3) Fellowship and Welfare of Youth to be combined under the name Youth and Fellowship Committee.
- 4) Church Extension also to be responsible to co-ordinate supply in consultation with Presbyteries and to be renamed Church Extension and Supply Committee.
- 5) Administration Committee also to have responsibility for Inter-Church Relations and to be renamed Administration and Inter-Church Relations Committee.

Other Committees to continue as previously.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Committees be appointed as follows:

FINANCE: N. McPherson, A. Webster, A. Steel, H.C. Varnes.

PROVIDENT: R.S. Ward, N.G. Triffett, P. Bloomfield.

MISSIONS: E.R. Lee, J.C. Andrews, A.L. Tripovich, E. Hockett, Manning elder.

CHURCH EXTENSION/SUPPLY: J.D. Heenan, K. Macleod, Maclean and Grafton elders.

PUBLICATIONS: A.L. Tripovich, J.D. Heenan, C.P. King (Editor ex officio).

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP: J.D. Ramsay, D.E. Nicholds, P. Bloomfield, K. Dawson.

FAITH AND LIFE: D.R. Nibbs, J.M. Cromarty, Ulverstone, Hamilton and St Kilda elders.

PSALMODY: J.M. Cromarty, J.A. Cromarty, S.N. Ramsay, N. McPherson.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY: R.S. Ward, J.M. Cromarty, B. Webster.

LAW AND ADVISORY: W.P. Gadsby, S.N. Ramsay, R.S. Ward.

ADMINISTRATION/INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS: Clerk, Moderator, Assistant Clerk, Moderator elect, Convener of Law and Advisory.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 7.

Church Extension/Law and Advisory Report.

It was reported that there was no report. The Committee was discharged.

VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION REPORT

The Secretary (Mr R.S. Ward) presented the report. (Mr E.R. Lee occupied the Chair). It was agreed that the report be received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Deacons' Courts and Congregations continue to review the use of their property with a view to maximizing its use in the furtherance of the Gospel.
2. That the Synod Accounts be prepared in such a manner as to indicate which trust corporation holds particular investments.
3. That a list of investments with relevant certificates be kept in the appropriate deed box, and particular report on this aspect be made to Synod 1983.

4. That Synod affirm the following guidelines for Insurance arrangements;
 - a. Insurances are to be effected in the name of the relevant trust corporation, with the addition of the local Deacons' Court where appropriate in respect of liability coverage.
 - b. It is strongly urged that each congregation employ a common due date for general insurances to facilitate regular review of cover by the Deacons' Court.
 - c. Where obtainable cover on manses is to be in terms of replacement conditions, and the sum insured and policy wording set accordingly. Where replacement cover is not obtainable or is not effected for what seem good and proper reasons, the cover in every instance is to be not less than depreciated replacement cost (indemnity value).
 - d. The Trustees in conjunction with Deacons' Courts are to carefully consider the basis of cover which should apply to congregational property other than manses (ie. replacement cost or depreciated replacement cost), and cover in every instance is to be not less than depreciated replacement cost, or a sum sufficient to rehouse the congregation whichever is the less. If an amount less than depreciated replacement value is insured, parties are to have regard to any penalty which may apply to partial loss claim settlements.
 - e. Deacons' Courts ought not to overlook carpets and other contents, and it is recommended that Committees possessing property belonging to the Church, and which must therefore be covered if of value, cover the same by arrangement with the local Deacons' Court through the manse household policy.
 - f. Deacons' Courts are to ensure that Motor Vehicles are suitably covered to the extent of having at least third party property damage cover (as well as the statutory injury cover) even if not owned by the church but supplied by the minister.
 - g. Cover for liability to the general public is to be effected in every case for not less than \$250,000 and caretakers or other employees are to be covered under the appropriate Workers Compensation legislation if required by the civil law.
 - h. Particulars of the size and age of buildings are to be lodged with the relevant trust corporation and to be entered in their minutes so as to assist in the oversight of the patrimony of the church. Insurance details are to be furnished each year and details of municipal valuation provided as they are made.
5. That the corporate trustees in New South Wales and Victoria be authorized to investigate a group insurance scheme for each state and to make such arrangements with Deacons' Courts as may be mutually satisfactory.
6. Synod direct the Finance Committee to liaise with the Trustees for Victoria so that as monies invested in Victorian bequests mature they be reinvested in Victoria in authorized trustee investments.
7. Synod note with deep appreciation the bequest in the name of Margaret Nicolson, and commend the method of giving to the Lord's work by bequest to our people.
8. Synod direct the General Treasurer and Finance Committee to revert to that method of preparing the accounts which identifies each investment as for the benefit of a particular fund, and expresses its willingness to seek clerical or other assistance for the General Treasurer should he desire same.

9. Synod express its concern that the real value of bequests be preserved so as to maximize the intention of the deceased and to provide for the sound financial future of the work dependent on these bequests, and accordingly authorizes a substantial portion of maturing investments to be invested with the Common Fund No.4 conducted by The Perpetual Executors and Trustees Association of Australia Limited or an equivalent fund which is an authorized trustee investment in terms of the Victorian Property Act.

10. Synod request Clerks of Church Courts to make diligent search for old records and report to Presbytery Clerks who in turn are to make written report to Synod 1983.

11. For the purpose of clarification and ease of citation by extract minute, Synod declare the following persons to be members of the body corporate The Trustees for Victoria of the Presbyterian church of Eastern Australia, the commencement of their appointment being indicated by the date in brackets:

Alfred Malcolm McLean, retired insurance officer
5 Hartwell Place, Cheltenham 3192 (6.10.1953)

James Robert Bruce Webster, engineer
4 Daisy Street. Geelong 3220 (4. 4.1966)

James Hill, retired farmer
123 King Street, Hamilton. (1.5.1969)

John Macintosh Cromarty, minister
12 Myers Street, Geelong 3220 (18. 5.1979)

Rowland Skipsey Ward, minister
88 Alma Road, East St Kilda 3182 (15.5.1981)

It was moved, seconded and carried that Recommendations 1 - 11 be adopted.

The Moderator (Mr R.S. Ward) resumed the Chair.

The Court called for a report from the Clerk of Synod anent the Incorporation of the Church in Queensland, for presentation to Synod 1983.

CASTLEREAGH PROPERTY

The Moderator ruled that it was not appropriate to take up this matter at this Synod.

The General Treasurer presented a report which had been called for anent pulpit supply, and it was then moved that the recommendations embodied in the report be adopted. The motion was seconded, and carried. The report was as follows:

PULPIT SUPPLY

1. That all previous relevant decisions be rescinded.

2. That the minimum rate payable for Pulpit supply:

(a) For Ministers, Probationers or Students who have other sources of income be 10% of the weekly minimum stipend per service, plus travelling allowance.

(b) For short term supply and limited Pastoral work (e.g. by retired Ministers or Missionaries) be 50% Minimum stipend per week, plus accommodation and travelling expenses if necessary.

(c) For resident supply and full Pastoral work by a Minister, be minimum stipend plus accommodation and travelling expenses.

(d) For resident supply and Pastoral work by Probationers, or other supply, be 90%, minimum stipend, plus accommodation and travelling allowance.

(e) For resident supply and Pastoral work by a Student with no other source of income be - married 85% minimum stipend; single, 60% minimum stipend, plus accommodation and travelling expenses if necessary.

NOTICE OF MOTION - LAW AND ADVISORY BUSINES

It was moved, seconded and carried: That the Law and Advisory Committee press on with the revision of the Church Practice to render it more clear, concise and appropriate to Australian conditions, and that the Committee be authorized to seek the assistance/advice of the Procurator in discharging this remit.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 11

It was moved and seconded that the Item of correspondence be received and noted. That Synod note also the explanation and apology of the Clerk of Central Presbytery regarding his failure to provide the necessary documentation in time. That Synod request all Presbyteries to ensure that a similar failure does not occur again. And, in the absence of the appellants, Synod now pass from the matter.

The motion was carried.

NOTICE OF MOTION -- ASSESSORS TO SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

That the term of service for the Assessors of Southern Presbytery be extended until close of Synod 1983. The motion became the finding of the Court.

ANSWERS TO REASONS OF DISSENT BY Rev. W.P. GADSBY AGAINST ADOPTION OF MISSIONS RELIEF FUND REGULATIONS

Dr J.C. Andrews presented the answers, as follows:

Reason One – “they are too vague.”

It must be recognised that "physical need", the directive term used by the donor, is a term with wide ramifications. The regulations are general but not necessarily vague for there are varying aspects of human physical need.

Reason Two - that the regulations express a “narrow and restrictive view of the donor's expressed desire.”

The regulations follow closely the suggestions made to the donor for the application of the Fund, and his transfer of it confirms his approval of them.

The responsibility for the salary, allowances and accommodation of ordained missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland rests upon that Church's Board of Missions.

To the extent that a missionary is involved in relief as part of his work he may claim and obtain assistance from the Fund.

REPORT ANENT RECOGNITION OF SERVICES OF MRS A.D. McINTOSH

Mr N. McPherson presented the report which had been requested by Synod.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the report be received and engrossed in the record.

Notice is taken of Mrs AD. McIntosh's service with Search Work. It has been a work of over 21 years carried out graciously and with love. It has stimulated our children and helped them to gain knowledge of the Scriptures. The ultimate fruit of this labour of love only eternity will reveal. Synod expresses and places on record sincere appreciation of her service and in conveying it to her requires that it be accompanied by a token of Synod's esteem and affection.

REPORT ANENT EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO RETIRING CLERK

It was moved, seconded and carried by acclamation that the report be received, and the following Minute of Appreciation be engrossed in the Record:

MINUTE OF APPRECIATION

The Synod of Eastern Australia place on record its deep appreciation to Rev. Stewart N. Ramsay for his work as Clerk of Synod 1966-1982. In this capacity he displayed diligence in carrying out the onerous duties, a capacity for understanding and making allowance for the ignorance of those with less experience in procedure; a desire to ensure that no injustice was done to any petitioner, and an unhurried demeanour which contributed to a sense of calmness when circumstances became difficult.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. D.R. Nibbs presented the Report of the Fellowship Committee. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Report be received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That we give thanks to God for the fine young people God has given to us, and seek to do everything in our power as a Church to rise to the challenge presented to us by them, to meet their needs.
2. That the Courts of our Church do everything in their power, to organize Fellowship Rallies within their bounds, for our young people.
3. That the venue for next year's Fellowship Rally, be left in the hands of the Youth and Fellowship Committee, and that they notify the Courts of our Church of the location as soon as possible.
4. That the Sessions of the respective congregations of our church be thanked for organizing rallies on behalf of our young people.
5. That a Report of each Annual Fellowship Rally held, be forwarded to the Convener of the Youth and Fellowship Committee along with reports of other rallies held within the bounds of the respective congregations, so that a comprehensive report can be compiled of all Fellowship Rallies conducted.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the recommendations be adopted.

PSALMODY COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. A. L. Tripovich, presented the Report of the Psalmody Committee. It was moved and seconded that the Report be received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Ministers consider giving their congregations a series of studies on the Psalms with a view to increasing the understanding and appreciation of the rich variety of redemptive truth in the book of Psalms, and in particular to show how Christ and his salvation is evident throughout the Psalms.
2. That the people of our Church be encouraged to make use of the Psalms in daily devotions, both in reading and singing.
3. That congregations be encouraged to organize Psalmody classes if at all possible - even if only to practice singing together and learning more tunes.
4. That the two booklets by the late Rev. M.C. Ramsay, "Purity of Worship" and "Psalms Only" be recommended to, and made available for our congregations.
5. That articles on various aspects of Psalmody be included in the Banner from time to time.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the recommendations be adopted.

NOTICE OF MOTION - GREETINGS TO DR HELEN RAMSAY

It was moved, seconded and carried: That Synod's greetings be sent to our missionary Dr Helen Ramsay.

LATE CORRESPONDENCE - from Clerk of Presbytery, Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.

It was moved, seconded and carried that this item be received, noted and referred to the Administration and Inter-Church Relations Committee for appropriate action.

MOTION ANENT SYNOD MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and carried: That copies of Synod minutes be made available to our people at a nominal charge.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL ACTS OF SYNOD 1982

Synod agreed to the following list of Principal Acts of Synod 1982:

1. Anent Reporting of ministerial changes. (Rec. 7, Administration Committee)
2. Anent Amendment to Act 1 Synod 1977 re Committee Reports. (Rec. 9, Administration Committee)
3. Anent Communion rolls and membership statistics. (Rec. 10, Administration Committee)
4. Anent Amendment to Act of Synod 1970 re seats in presbytery. (Correspondence No. 9)
5. Anent Authorized signatories. (Recommendation 5, Finance Committee)

6. Anent Requests for finance. (Rec. 8, Finance Committee)
7. Anent Missions Relief Fund. (Rec. 4, Missions Committee)
8. Anent Regulations re Missions and Missionaries. (Rec. 17, Missions Committee)
9. Anent Fraternal Greetings. (Recs. 3, 4, Inter-Church Relations Committee)
10. Anent Roman Catholic Baptism. (Rec. 2, Section 2, Church Principles Committee)
11. Anent Unity in the church. (Recs. 2, 4, 5 and 6, Section 1, Church Principles Committee)
12. Anent Supply fees.
13. Anent Copies of Synod Minutes.

NOTICE OF MOTION ANENT ST GEORGES MANSE DEED

It was moved and seconded that: motion p.26, Synod 1979 minutes viz, "That the General Treasurer arrange for the placement of the deed of St Georges manse in the N.S.W. Deed Box" be rescinded.

The Moderator ruled this motion out of order.

NOMINATION OF MODERATOR FOR 1983

It was moved and seconded that the Rev. John M. Cromarty be appointed Moderator-elect for Synod 1983. The motion was carried.

APPRECIATION TO THE MANNING CONGREGATION

It was moved and seconded: That the Taree Congregation be sincerely thanked for the warm and generous manner in which they have hosted the Synod.

The motion was carried by enthusiastic acclamation.

TIME/PLACE OF SYNOD 1983

It was moved, seconded and carried that Synod 1983 meet at Taree, at a time specified by the Administration Committee, to commence on a Saturday evening, and to conclude no later than the following Friday at lunchtime.

The Moderator addressed the Court.

The Minutes of this Sederunt were read and confirmed.

Synod engaged in brief devotional exercises.

The Annual Synod closed with prayer.

S.N. Ramsay
Clerk

R.S. Ward
Moderator