

MINUTES OF 136TH ANNUAL MEETING
THE SYNOD OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA 1983

Principal Acts of Synod 1983

(being a listing of some of the more important decisions with on-going significance)

CLASS 1 (Barrier Act procedure)

nil

CLASS 2 (Other)

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2. Act interpreting Act anent seats in Presbytery 1970 (as amended 1982).....7
3. Act declaring the bounds of Southern Presbytery amending Act of Synod 25/11/1953.....8
4. Act anent Bequests & Legacies replacing legislation of Synod 1965, 1966, 1967 & 1968.....19/20
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16. Act anent Student Training and Allowances; repealing the Act of Synod of the same name 1975 as amended and all previous Acts thereanent, excepting so far as they may be embodied in this Act.21/23
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ANNUAL SYNOD 1983

SEDERUNT 1

Within the Taree Church building on 7 May 1983, at 7.33 pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted.

The Moderator, the Rev. Rowland S. Ward conducted public worship.

II Corinthians 3:1 - 5:10 was read, and formed the basis for the Moderator's address: Portrait of a Faithful Minister. This was handled under three headings:

- 1) The Glory of the New Covenant - the content of our ministry (II Cor 3:1 – 4:6)
- 2) The Treasure in Jars of Clay - the utter weakness of the minister (II Cor 4: 7-16a)
- 3) The Consummation of Redemption - the minister's hope and accountability (II Cor 4:16b – 5:10)

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

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

MINISTERS

Dr J.C. Andrews (P)
 Mr P.J. Bloomfield (Clerk) (P)
 Mr W.P. Gadsby (P)
 Mr K. Macleod (Moderator) (P)
 Mr S.R. Tamata (A)
 Mr A.L. Tripovich (P)
 Mr J. Heenan (A)

ELDERS

Mr J.E. Hockett (Hastings)(A)
 Mr R.L. Campbell (Maclean) (P)
 Mr K.A. Dawson (Armidale)(A)
 Dr W.J. Hanna (Brisbane)(A)
 Mr K.D. Causley (Grafton)(A)
 Mr J.D. Ramsay (Lismore)(P)

CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

MINISTERS

J. Graham (A)
 E. Lee (P)
 S. Ramsay (P)
 H. Varnes (A)
 J.A. Webster (P)

ELDERS

J.Cromarty (P)
 K. Kerr (A)
 C. King (A)
 A. Neil (A)

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

MINISTERS

Rev. David Nibbs, LTh (P)
Rev. Rowland Ward, BA, BTh(Hons) (P)
Rev. John Cromarty (P)
Rev. Edwin Lee, MA (P)
Rev. J.C. Andrews, MA, MB, ChB (P)

ELDERS

Mr Neil Triffett (P)
Mr J.R. Bruce Webster (P)
Mr G. P. Cahill (P)
Mr George Alford (P)

Note: P = Present; A = Absent

The Clerk reported that the Rev. J.M. Cromarty, Minister at Geelong, was Moderator-elect, and moved formally that he be appointed Moderator for the current ecclesiastical year. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr Cromarty was introduced to the Court, and welcomed to the Chair by the retiring Moderator.

Mr Cromarty addressed the Synod on the theme found in Colossians chapter 3 verse 24 "You serve the Lord Christ."

He was pleading for a practical response to this great assertion of the Apostle in terms of our testimony in the world.

The foundation of our witness was established DOCTRINALLY. And it is this. God is, and He has spoken.

We are called to serve the Lord Christ EDUCATIONALLY. The false assumptions of humanistic education were highlighted and a challenge was given to parents to become involved in their schools. A further word was addressed to the Church. What should we be doing to establish thoroughgoing Christian education for our children?

We are called to serve the Lord Christ POLITICALLY. We are to remind legislators that they do not exist to uphold people's rights to pursue whatever patterns of behaviour that takes their fancy. Governments are to promote righteousness. They are answerable to God. What is called "law reform" is in many instances law demolition. And governments are defacing themselves on the principle of letting the people rule.

We are called to serve the Lord Christ SOCIALLY. Galatians 6:10 "...while we have opportunity let us do good to all men." We must show compassion to the needy and be known in the world as people who love men, not in word only but in deed.

We are called upon to serve the Lord Christ EVANGELISTICALLY. If we do not, our church will die. We have been commissioned to take the gospel to all nations. We must bring the gospel to people and bring people to the gospel.

And what is our testimony MINISTERIALLY? And what are our great motives in the ministry? They are "zeal for the honour of God, love to Jesus Christ and the desire of saving souls". This is question 7 in our ordination vows. We must examine our present ministry in the light of this solemn vow.

And we are to serve the Lord Christ PERSONALLY. The world must see that we are not servants of our own pet theories, but we serve God. We are new creations in Christ Jesus and we live as salt and light in the world. And why? We serve the Lord Christ.

EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

It was moved, seconded and carried that the following examiners of records be appointed:

PERMANENT RECORD: Messrs Bloomfield and Campbell
NORTHERN PRESBYTERY: Messrs Nibbs and Triffett
CENTRAL PRESBYTERY: Messrs Macleod and Causley
SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY: Messrs S.N. Ramsay and Neil.

ASSISTANT CLERK PRO. TEM.

The Rev. R.S. Ward was nominated to act as Assistant Clerk pro tem. The nomination was seconded and carried. Mr Ward undertook to discharge faithfully the responsibilities of this position.

NOTICES OF MOTION

One notice of motion for Sederunt 2 was read.

The Moderator indicated that he would be prepared to accept further notices of motion on Monday morning.

MEETINGS OF LOWER COURTS

Leave was granted for Presbyteries having unfinished business, and the St Kilda Session to meet outside normal Synod meeting times.

ADJOURNMENT

Synod adjourned to meet again on Monday 9 May 1983 at 9.00 am.

The sederunt was closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 2 : Monday 9 May 1983, 9.00 a.m.

The sederunt was constituted at 9.00 a.m.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read and confirmed.

CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT

A letter from the Clerk of Southern Presbytery was read, intimating that Presbytery had sustained a commission from Geelong Session in favour of Mr G.P. Cahill, in lieu of Mr C. Cumming.

It was agreed that the Roll of Synod be amended accordingly.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of motion pertaining to forthcoming Synod business were read to the Court.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were tendered on behalf of, and received from:

Dr W.J.W. Hanna, Brisbane
Mr K.A. Dawson, Armidale

Apologies for absence from Sederunt 1 were tendered by

Mr J.D. Heenan
Mr A. Neil
Mr H. Varnes
Mr K.D. Causley

The Moderator extended a welcome to a new member of the Synod, Mr G.P. Cahill, and a welcome back to Mr K. Macleod.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Rev. D.E. Nicholds be associated with Synod.

Clerk moved that the thanks of the Court be expressed to the Moderator for his address, and the retiring Moderator for his sermon, and that the addresses - or summaries of them - be published in the Presbyterian Banner. The motion was seconded, and carried.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

It was moved that the sympathy of the Court be conveyed to the families of the late Mr D.L. Macleod and the late Reverend A.D. McIntosh, who had passed away during the year past. The motion was seconded and carried.

Messrs G. Alford and J.A. Webster led the Court in prayer.

It was moved, seconded and carried that a copy of the Memorial Minute of the Revd A.D. McIntosh be engrossed in the minutes, and a copy forwarded to his widow.

MEMORIAL MINUTE: ALVAN DONALD McINTOSH

Alvan Donald McIntosh, a senior minister of our Church and member of this Synod for thirty seven years passed away on Wednesday 20th April, 1983.

Synod expresses its deep sympathy with his widow, Eva; his sons, John, David, Peter and their wives and children; and with his sister, Florence, Mrs Greensill.

Alvan McIntosh was born on 12th Dec. 1912 of godly parents, John Charles and Sarah McIntosh of Chatsworth Island. As a youth he assisted his parents on their farm and was favoured with the ministry of Rev. T.M. McClean. Converted to Christ in early manhood he was accepted as a student for the ministry of our Church in 1934 and proceeded to Scotland where he studied at Skerry's College, the University of Edinburgh, and the Free Church College, Edinburgh.

His studies completed he was licensed to preach the Gospel by the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh in 1943 and later that year was inducted and ordained to the Free Church of Scotland Congregation of Aberdeen. The same year he also married Miss Anne Rattray of Edinburgh who, till her death in 1961, was a true and loving helpmeet.

When World War II ended he returned to Australia, gave supply to the Geelong Congregation and on 17th July 1946 was inducted to the Grafton Congregation. He was translated to Hamilton (3.5.51), thence to Geelong (31.7.53), again to Grafton (14.8.57), and finally to St Georges, Sydney (19.1.61). He resigned his charge owing to ill-health on 31st Aug. 1981. He married again in 1967, Miss Eva Kearns of Grafton, who lovingly supported him during the subsequent years of his ministry and his long and distressing illness.

Alvan McIntosh was a warm-hearted, generous and dedicated man, who from the day of his call to the ministry gave himself to the service of Christ and His Church, first as a student and then as a minister.

He was a faithful pastor concerned for all of his flock and sought to have their lives conform to the teachings of the Word of God, and visits to homes were directed to this end.

He favoured expository and extempore preaching, preparing himself for the pulpit by much thought on his subjects and wide reading from his large and useful library. He was warmly experimental in his application of the Word pressing its relevance upon his hearers in their present circumstances. The earlier years of his ministry were marked by preaching of a warm, winning, evangelistic presentation of the Gospel. The blessing received by many upon the Hastings River after he conducted Communion Services there in 1947 is still remembered by those who lived through that "season of refreshing".

He served Synod well in its annual meetings and on its several Committees. He was most conscientious in attendance at meetings of Presbytery and Synod. He held firmly to the subordinate standards and principles of our Church, and stood strongly for what he believed was right in issues raised in Synod. He spoke to questions with sincerity, courtesy toward his fellow members, and respect for the Court. At no time did he allow even strong differences of opinion disrupt his fellowship with his brethren.

Synod, therefore, places on record its gratitude to God and its deep appreciation of the warm Christian character and long and faithful service of Alvan Donald McIntosh.

It was moved that the sympathy of the Court be expressed to all those who have suffered bereavement in the past year. The motion was seconded and carried.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the Report, which was received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the proposed Agenda be adopted.

It was moved and seconded that in the proposed Agenda the designations "NSW Trust Corporation" and "Vic. Trust Corporation" be replaced by "Trustees of Synod of Eastern Australia (NSW)" and "Trustees for Victoria of Synod of Eastern Australia".

The Committee's recommendation was preferred, and thus it was resolved that the proposed Agenda be adopted.

2. That the Tuesday evening sederunt be devoted to Missions and Church Extension business.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words be added: "and Thursday morning sederunt be devoted to prayer and conference on the state of the Church."

The recommendation as amended became the finding of the Court.

3. It was resolved that the commemorative lecture on Martin Luther be delivered on Wednesday 11.05.83 at 20.00hrs (8.00 pm).

4. That previous pertinent legislation be rescinded, and that Synod enact as follows:

(1) That Synod Committees (except Administration and Inter-Church Relations) be composed on a regional basis unless otherwise decided in a particular case.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words be added: "Committees shall be based in different presbyteries on a three-year cycle".

The Committee recommendation became the finding of the Court.

It was resolved

(2) That no Synod Committee shall consist of more than five members, it being recognised that committees may nominate officebearers for committee membership for Synod's approval.

(3) That the Treasurer of Synod shall forward his report and annual accounts to Synod members at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled opening of Synod.

(4) That all documents and Committee reports for transmission to Synod shall be lodged with the Clerk of Synod at least fortyfive (45) days prior to the scheduled opening of Synod. Any document or report presented after that date must be accompanied by a letter showing cause why it could not be presented by the due date. The Administration Committee shall judge whether the reasons advanced are sufficient, and if there are extenuating circumstances shall transmit the same to Synod, reporting accordingly. If the Committee shall refuse to transmit the material, it must state reasons to those concerned. Appeal or complaint against the decision may be made to Synod in the usual way, without conforming to the above-mentioned deadline.

(5) Requests for finance from Synod funds are to be forwarded by presbyteries direct to the Finance Committee, to reach the Convener at least forty-five (45) days prior to the scheduled opening of Synod, and a copy shall be forwarded by the Presbytery Clerk and to any other Committee concerned.

It was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow the word "sixty" (60) to be substituted for the word "forty-five" and the recommendation as so amended became the finding of the Court.

(6) The Clerk of Synod shall arrange for Committee Reports and Recommendations to be printed, after he has made any needed adjustments to give them correct form, and shall distribute them so that they shall be in the hands of members of Synod not later than fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled opening of Synod, extra copies being produced for binding with the minutes in due course.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words "after he has made any needed adjustments to give them correct form" be deleted. The amendment was carried.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words "twenty one" be substituted for "fifteen". The amendment was lost.

The amended recommendation became the finding of the Court.

It was resolved

5. That the 1982 membership statistics be engrossed in the minutes.

6. That Conveners of Committees, and Clerks of Presbyteries be instructed to comply with Synod legislation anent submission of reports, etc. to Synod 1984.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the word "requested" be substituted for the word "instructed". The Committee recommendation became the finding of the Court.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER TO FREE CHURCH ASSEMBLY

It was moved and seconded that Revd Dr J. Campbell Andrews be appointed corresponding member to the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland pursuant to the Federal Relations Act 1954 of this Synod, and that he be asked to convey the greeting of the Synod to the General Assembly.

The motion was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE;

Item 1. From Free Church in Southern Africa. The item was received.

Item 2. Overture from Northern Presbytery. The item was received.

Mr Ward recorded his dissent with reasons to be given in.

Item 3. Overture from Northern Presbytery. The item was received.

Item 4. Overture from Southern Presbytery. The item was received.

Item 5. Overture from Southern Presbytery. The item was received.

Item 6. Letter from Southern Presbytery. The item was received.

Item 7. Letter from Central Presbytery. The item was received.

It was moved and seconded that copies of correspondence formally received by Synod be made available to all Synod members as soon as possible and before final determination of the various matters raised in the correspondence.

The motion was defeated.

Reasons for Dissent anent reception of item 2.

For the present purposes

An overture is a formal written proposal with reasons submitted to a court for the enactment, repeal or amendment of a rule or regulation or for the interpretation or declaration of any part of the law of the church.

The overture from Northern Presbytery asks the Synod "to clarify the legislation of 1982 (Synod minutes page 5) anent seats on Presbytery." That is all. It states no reasons and does not enable the Synod to readily ascertain precisely the grounds of difficulty and the change sought. As such it ought not to be received.

R.S. Ward

The sederunt closed with prayer at 12.32 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 3: Monday 9 May 1983, 1.34 pm.

The sederunt was constituted at 1.34 pm.

The minutes of Sederunt 2 were read and confirmed.

It was moved and seconded that Training of Ministry Committee be taken immediately following item Correspondence. The motion was defeated.

MOTION ON NOTICE

It was moved and seconded that correspondence numbers 2 and 5 be taken in that order before any other business. The motion was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2. RE CLARIFICATION OF SYNOD LEGISLATION.

Mr Gadsby stated the overture on behalf of Northern Presbytery.

It was moved and seconded that the overture be sustained. The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted in the following terms: The Synod regards "residential supply" as used in the legislation as meaning regular full-time pastoral duties, but resolves that Revd J.D. Heenan be confirmed in his membership of Northern Presbytery on the ground of his previous ministerial service and present duties.

An amendment was moved and seconded, That the prayer of the overture be granted in the following terms, that Synod interprets residential supply as being regular full time pastoral duties.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was preferred, and was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 5: RE SEAT ON PRESBYTERY FOR D.E. NICHOLDS

Mr Ward occupied the chair, while Mr J.M. Cromarty stated the overture on behalf of Southern Presbytery. It was resolved that the overture be sustained.

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

It was further moved and seconded, That Synod respond to the prayer of the Overture by granting Rev. D. Nicholds a seat on the Southern Presbytery for the current year, it being a condition that he sign the Formula on his admission to that Court.

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

Mr Kerr dissented on the ground that a basic principle of presbyterianism is violated in that the people of the church are being denied their right of electing those whom they desire to be their officebearers and form part of the regular government of the church.

Messrs Varnes, Heenan and Tripovich adhered to the dissent.

Mr Neil dissented on the ground that the principle of election of elders (ministers) as shown in Acts 14:23 to hold office and called by a congregation of the church has been violated.

A committee comprising Messrs Bloomfield, Lee and Ward was appointed to answer the reasons.

The Moderator resumed the Chair.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 1: FROM CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

It was resolved to remit this matter to the Missions Committee for report to later sederunt.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3: RE STATUS OF BRISBANE AND ARMIDALE

It was resolved that this item be taken with Church Extension business.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4: RE BOUNDS OF SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

Mr Ward stated the overture on behalf of the Southern Presbytery. It was resolved that the overture be sustained.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the prayer of the overture be granted and the Synod do now declare the bounds of the Southern Presbytery to be the boundaries of the States of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 6: RE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY RECORDS

It was resolved to note this item, and that the Clerk hold it in retentis.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 7: RE APPLICATION FROM J.A. CROMARTY

It was resolved to refer this matter to the Training of Ministry Committee, and that it be considered together with their report.

TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

It was resolved that the Treasurer's Report be received.

The Treasurer responded to various questions and comments.

Notices of motion for tomorrow's business were read to the Court.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 5.35 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 4: Monday 9 May 1983, 7.01 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 3 were read and confirmed.

MOTION ON NOTICE

It was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended so as to allow that Training of Ministry Committee business be taken as an order of the day in the first sederunt on Tuesday.

Synod resumed consideration of the Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports.

It was resolved that the Auditor's Report be received, and that the thanks of the Synod be expressed to Mr Walker.

It was further resolved that the Treasurer organize a suitable gift as a tangible expression of Synod's gratitude to Mr Walker.

A vote of thanks to Mr McPherson for his work as treasurer was carried by acclamation.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr McPherson submitted the report. It was moved and seconded that the report be received.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the report be received with the deletion of the paragraph beginning "Group Insurance..."

The amendment was preferred and became the finding of the Court.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved

1. 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.
2. That the travelling expenses of Synod delegates be paid at the usual rate.
3. That the following transfers be made from the General Fund to: Church Extension Fund \$1,956.82; Widows & Orphans - Aged Retired Ministers Fund \$364.31.
4. That the following amounts be made available for Stipend assistance for the ensuing year: Grafton \$3,750; Richmond-Brunswick \$2,000; Ulverstone \$3,000.
5. That the Grafton, Hamilton, Manning and St Georges Deacons' Courts be requested to pay the nominated contribution to Synod General Fund as soon as convenient.
6. That the administration levy made on Synod funds be suspended for the time being.
7. That the amount of child allowance payable under the stipend formula be increased to \$5 per dependant child per week and be payable while the child continues to attend school (i.e. to year 12). Payment to commence in the first week of June and be reviewed by Synod 1984.
8. That Synod express appreciation to all Deacons' Courts and church members for the support given to Synod funds during the year.
9.
 - i) That there be established a special fund, based on the principle of 2 Corinthians chapter 8 verse 14 and known as 'The 8:14 Foundation' and referred to in these regulations as 'the fund'.
 - ii) The object of the fund is to provide a source of finance and/or credit for capital expenditure in the work of the church.
 - iii) The fund shall consist of money and property of any nature, which is either a gift to the fund, or placed on deposit with the fund, or which is made available to the fund.

iv) Deposits with the fund may be free of interest, or at an agreed rate of interest or at such rate as may from time to time be determined by the Synod; and for such periods as may be agreed upon.

v) The fund shall be applied, both as to capital and income, in making available loans, or credit, or gifts for such capital expenditure in the enterprises of the church, including presbyteries and congregations as may from time to time be approved by the Synod.

vi) The fund shall be administered by a Committee consisting of the Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of the Synod, together with one representative from each presbytery. The cost of administration shall be a first charge on the fund.

vii) The Committee shall examine and report on contributions to and disbursements from the fund, the administration and promotion of the fund, interest rates to be charged on loans and paid on deposits, reserves to be maintained, and on such other matters as may affect the fund.

viii) All loans and credit from the fund shall be subject to such arrangements for repayment as are approved by Synod.

ix) Applications for loans or assistance from the fund shall be submitted to the Clerk of Synod in accordance with ordinary administrative procedures and be accompanied by all such information as may be necessary for the Synod to make a determination.

x) When not immediately required for the purposes of the fund, the assets of the fund may be invested in suitable authorised trustee investments.

It was resolved, That standing orders be suspended in order to permit a motion that the meal expenses of Mr Cornford, and the meal and travelling expenses of Mr P.W. Swinn, be paid.

The motion was proposed, seconded and carried.

The thanks of the Court were expressed to the Committee and especially the Convener.

STIPEND ADJUSTMENT

The Treasurer reported that in accordance with the formula as from 1st July 1983 the minimum stipend will increase from \$216 per week to \$228 per week.

REPORT FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER

It was moved, seconded and carried that standing orders be suspended in order to permit a motion that Mr Bloomfield be appointed to write an account of Synod proceedings for The Presbyterian Banner.

The motion was proposed, seconded and carried.

EXAMINERS OF SYNOD MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and carried that standing orders be suspended in order to permit a motion to rescind the previous appointment of examiners of Synod permanent record and to appoint Mr Bloomfield and Mr Jim Cromarty.

The motion was proposed, seconded and carried.

NSW TRUST CORPORATION

Mr Gadsby presented the majority report. The report was received.

Mr McPherson presented the minority report. The report was received.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.15 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 5: Tuesday 10 May 1983, 9.05 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read.

It was moved and seconded, The minutes be amended to read Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia Minority Report in lieu of N.S.W. Trust Corporation Minority Report.

The motion was defeated.

It was resolved that the minutes of Sederunt 4 be confirmed.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ward, presented the Committee's Report. It was resolved that the Report be received.

The Convener responded to various comments and questions by members of the Court.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Synod enacted as follows:

ACT ANENT RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

In addition to particular remits made from time to time by the Synod, the responsibilities of the Synod's Training of Ministry Committee are:

- a. To give guidance in preparatory studies to intending students having the ministry of the PCEA in view, to exercise general supervision of provisionally and fully recognized students at all stages of their studies, to conduct examinations, and to authorize payment of monies for the purposes of the Committee; all in accordance with Synod regulations as in force from time to time.
- b. To receive and consider all applications from ministers of other churches for ministerial status in the PCEA, referred from Presbyteries to which such applications have been made and to obtain whatever further information is required and to make appropriate recommendations to Synod.

c. To prepare and implement, with the approval of Synod, a course of training in biblical subjects, theology and church history, suited for elders and other interested persons, to be conducted by correspondence and/or lectures, certificates to be issued upon successful completion of each section.

d. To maintain such liaison with other committees and presbyteries as may contribute to the effective discharge of its responsibilities, including making appeals for finance from time to time as may be necessary.

2. Synod enacted as follows:

CONSOLIDATING ACT ANENT RECEPTION STATUS AND OVERSIGHT OF STUDENTS AND HOME MISSIONARIES: repealing Act of Synod 16/04/1962 and Act 4 Synod 1978 and all previous Acts thereanent, excepting so far as they may be embodied in this Act.

Home missionaries

1. The church does not encourage the exercise of the pastoral office by those not set apart to it, but does permit the needful provision in special circumstances of home missionaries, whose duties are those performed by an ordained pastor except for the dispensing of the sacraments and presiding over church courts. Permission to celebrate marriage may be granted by resolution of Synod, subject to civil requirements.

The moral and spiritual requirements required in a home missionary are those expected in a minister, and such a person should be an elder in good standing or a recognized student for the ministry. The end in view for those recognized as home missionaries is ordination to the ministry, the requirements of Synod as regards studies, licensing and ordination trials being always observed.

Role of Presbytery re students/home missionaries

2. To the presbytery belongs the right and duty of judging of the fitness or otherwise of men within its jurisdiction who apply to be accepted as students for the ministry or home missionaries, examining them as to their qualifications at any stage of their progress, and of determining in due time, after examination, whether they may be licensed to preach the gospel or not. As the presbytery is exercising its discretion, not dealing with a point of law, there is no regular provision for an applicant to appeal against the presbytery's decision, but the right to petition Synod remains.

How reception regulated

3. In view of the present smallness of presbyteries, and because the general interest of the church at large is so vitally bound up with the exercise of its functions in this area, reception of students and home missionaries is so regulated by Synod that Synod must confirm the acceptance by a presbytery before the presbytery's acceptance is effective.

Free Church of Scotland students

4. By virtue of the Federal Relations Act, Synod 1954, recognized students for the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland are recognized by the PCEA, subject to satisfactory evidence of their status being produced to the presbytery of the PCEA within whose bounds they reside or intend to reside, their membership being with a congregation in the bounds, and their coming under the oversight of the presbytery and the Synod's Training of Ministry Committee as if a local student.

Preliminaries to an application

5. Those contemplating the ministry of the word should discuss the subject with their own pastor and seek guidance in preparatory studies from the Synod's Training of Ministry Committee, from whom application forms may be obtained.

Specifically, the PCEA is looking for a man with the scriptural qualifications of mature Christian character - thus "not a novice" but "apt to teach", married to a believing wife and "ruling his household well", and "of good report among outsiders". University training or its equivalent is required of ministers, and at least two years' membership in the PCEA is considered desirable at time of recognition. While not an inflexible rule, it is considered that the level of maturity required is such that a candidate will be at least 21 years of age at the beginning of his course.

Application/examination/supervision

6. a. In considering the acceptance of students for the ministry, the presbytery shall bear in mind the seriousness of the decision it is called upon to make and its bearing on the welfare of the whole church, and shall exercise every care in the matter of the application. The presbytery must not assume that the applicant is called by God, but must discern the outward evidences of God's call in the character, gifts and graces of the applicant;

The Committee recommended:

b. The applicant shall appear in person before the presbytery together with his wife or fiancée (if applicable);

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words, 'together with his wife or fiancée' be deleted as well as the same requirement appearing under the same recommendation. (Rec. 6b and 6f).

The amendment was carried and the amended recommendations 6b and 6f became the enactments of Synod.

Synod then enacted as follows:

c. From the information in and with the application form and by personal examination, the presbytery shall satisfy itself as to the following points:

- i) the maturity of the applicant's Christian character and conviction, and his sense of God's call,
- ii) the applicant's knowledge of the Reformed Faith and familiarity with the principles of the PCEA,
- iii) the stability of his background, the nature of his domestic life, his satisfactory length of membership in and service to the PCEA,
- iv) his experience and ability in public speaking and/or lay preaching, and his aptness to teach,
- v) his reputation among outsiders, former employers, etc., and his capacity of making and maintaining satisfactory personal relationships,
- vi) his emotional and general health,
- vii) his plans for financing himself during the course of study.

d. After examination of the candidate, the presbytery deliberates in private and resolves either to receive the application or decline it. The presbytery communicates its decision to the Synod's

Training of Ministry Committee with any additional relevant information. If the presbytery decline the application, the matter goes no further unless complained against in due form. If it receives the application, the Training of Ministry Committee arranges whatever interviews it considers appropriate, and it then reports its finding to the presbytery.

e. On receiving the recommendation of the Synod's Training of Ministry Committee, the presbytery shall follow it unless it sees good cause to decide otherwise, in which case the application is held in abeyance pending reference by presbytery to the Synod (see 6.6).

f. If the Training of Ministry Committee is favourable to the request of the applicant, the presbytery admits him to provisional recognition, the period of probation being for a minimum of one year. Thereupon, the presbytery must exercise regular oversight of the student and meet with him in private at least once in the ensuing year. At the end of the year of provisional recognition, the presbytery may extend the period of provisional recognition by a maximum of one further year, or it may admit him to full recognition, provided that the presbytery is satisfied with him, and the Training of Ministry Committee report that his studies are satisfactory. The presbytery continues oversight in the manner already described until the course of study is completed and the Training of Ministry Committee certified accordingly. When this occurs, he may be taken on trials for licence to preach the gospel and, if he passes satisfactorily, is licensed and is then eligible for a call. Throughout his course, the presbytery are to provide that counsel and encouragement appropriate to the case. If serious personal or spiritual problems arise, the presbytery seek the advice of the Training of Ministry Committee, and this done, may withdraw recognition, advising other presbyteries accordingly. The Training of Ministry Committee constantly monitors study progress, and arranges, where desirable, for the person's expenses in attending annual Synod meetings as an observer, to be met from Committee funds. If at any stage, the Training of Ministry Committee judges that the person's studies are not satisfactory it consults the presbytery and, this done, may withdraw recognition or impose special conditions.

g. Although having responsibility to the presbytery and the Training of Ministry Committee, until a student is licensed he remains under the direct supervision of the session of the congregation to which he belongs, and the session must certify each year to the presbytery and to the Training of Ministry Committee its continued satisfaction with his character and conduct.

At this juncture it was moved and seconded that we adjourn the business of Training of Ministry and proceed to Church Extension business. The motion was carried.

CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE

The Court proceeded to take up the business of this Committee. The Convener, Mr Heenan, presented the Committee's Report. It was resolved that the Report be received.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.30 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 6: Tuesday 10 May 1983, 1.40 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 5 were read and confirmed by the resolution of Synod.

Synod resumed the business of the Church Extension and Supply Committee. The Convener responded to questions and comments.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Synod resolved

1. That Synod acknowledge its indebtedness and thankfulness to the Lord of the harvest for his enabling grace to carry on the work of Church Extension during 1982, and that this gratitude be now expressed in prayer by the Moderator.

Accordingly, the Moderator then led the Court in prayer.

Synod resolved

2. (a) That Synod note with thankfulness the encouragements accorded Armidale and Brisbane where settled ministries are being blessed with the addition of new families, and which are meeting with the appreciation of God's people.

(b) That Synod notes with satisfaction the continuous supply accorded both the Lismore and Grafton charges.

3. (a) That Synod encourage our congregations to engage in parish evangelism, and support the work of church extension by prayer and systematic giving.

(b) That Synod authorise its Committee to keep our people informed in the work and aims of church extension through the pages of 'The Presbyterian Banner'.

The Committee recommended:

4. (a) That Synod grant the request of the Church Extension Charge of Brisbane for the acquisition of the Kalinga Church property.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that: Synod authorize the purchase of the Kalinga Presbyterian Church property at Brisbane for the sum of \$65,000 by the body corporate Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia to hold the same in trust for the Brisbane congregation, and authorize and direct the said body corporate to execute all necessary documents to effect the purchase.

The amendment was preferred, and became the resolution of Synod.

Synod resolved further:

4. (b) That the Robinson bequest be made available to help effect the purchase.

(c) That the amount in the Church Extension Building Fund be also made available.

At this juncture, the Court granted leave for the introduction of the following motions.

It was moved and seconded Synod authorize the borrowing from Synod, and/or from a bank or like institution a sum not exceeding \$30,000. If from a bank or like institution the security to be a registered first mortgage on the security of the manse at 61 North Street, Kedron and/or the security of the Kalinga church property, and the Body Corporate is authorised and directed to execute all necessary documents. If from Synod, a written agreement is to be signed by the Brisbane Deacons'

Court the question of the rate of repayment of the principal to be reviewed by Synod from time to time. The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that, noting that the sum of \$20,000 in the Fellowship Fund Investment account is the proceeds of sale of portion of the Port Macquarie land purchased about 30 years ago from the McLean bequest which was not subject to any express trust, Synod loan the said sum to the Brisbane congregation without registered security to aid the purchase of the Kalinga church property, the loan to be interest free for one year and the position to be reviewed by Synod 1984.

An amendment was moved and seconded, Synod recognises that the proceeds from the sale of the Table St Property Port Macquarie belongs to the Fellowship Committee but agrees that money be made available to the Brisbane Congregation at a reasonable rate of interest to be determined by the Finance Committee. The interest to be devoted to the Fellowship Fund of the Church.

An amendment to the amendment was moved and seconded, That the following words be added: That the decision of Synod 1977 "that the Port Macquarie Hall and the block of land on which it stands be henceforth regarded as held in trust by the Synod Trustees for the Hastings Congregation subject to the payment of the sum of \$200 by the Hastings Deacons Court" be rescinded and that the Port Macquarie hall and land on which it stands be offered for sale to the Hastings Congregation for 50% of a current sworn valuation, the proceeds to be held in trust for Fellowship Committee.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment to the amendment was eliminated. The amendment was preferred to the motion, and became the resolution of the Court.

Mr Ward dissented for reasons: Whilst having no objection as such to the decision, it ought to be emphasized that the monies from the vacant block are the proceeds of land purchased by the McLean Estate about 30 years ago, and the monies given by our people at large are represented today in the Port Macquarie Hall Building which was transferred for \$200 to the Hastings Congregation by Synod 1977. Consistency therefore requires that the decision of 1977 be rescinded and that the Port Macquarie Hall and the remaining land be still regarded as in trust for Fellowship purposes and that suitable financial arrangements be made with the Hastings Congregation so that the value of the asset be recovered for Fellowship purposes.

Mr Heenan adhered to the dissent. A committee comprising Messrs E.R. Lee and S.N. Ramsay was appointed to answer the reasons for dissent. At the Moderator's invitation Dr Andrews led the Court in prayer.

At this juncture it was moved and seconded that the business of this Committee be adjourned and that we take up consideration of Missions Committee business. The motion was carried.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Lee, presented the Report. It was resolved that the Report be received.

The Convener responded to questions and comments by the Court.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved:

1. That we express our thanks to God and to our people for their generous support of our Mission work by prayer and giving.

2. That we send our warm greetings to Dr Helen Ramsay, Sister Heather Beaton, Rev. and Mrs Sam Tamata and family, to Rev. Ian and Mrs Mackenzie and family.
3. That we endorse the Committee's action in meeting two-thirds of the cost of the Chhapara Community Health Project from Missions Relief Fund; the sending of a deposit for the Waggonette Ambulance; and for sending \$F2000 for the Fijian disaster - also from Missions Relief Fund.
4. That we bring before our people the increased costs of the Fijian Mission and ask for increased support for the work.
5. That Missions Night be held on Tuesday evening of Synod and that the speakers be Dr Campbell Andrews, Rev. John Graham and Rev. Don Nicholds.
6. That Synod note with pleasure that Rev. Don Nicholds is now working as a Missionary with the Christian Witness to Israel.
7. That Synod donate the sum of \$2,500 to the work of C.W.I.
8. That Synod take note of its undertakings to support Barbara Humphries (\$250) and Dr Dennis Muldoon (\$750), the latter from Missions Relief Fund.
9. That Synod Minutes be sent to our Missionaries and that expenditure of providing and sending the Banner to them be met by the Missions Committee.
10. That our people be asked to send all monies for the Mission Field through the General Treasurer and not privately.
11. That a grant of up to \$1300 be made to the Tamata's to meet Education Costs for their children for this year.
12. That Convener's expenses (\$25) be paid.
13. That money in 1982 account of Joseph Harman Memorial Fund be sent to Scotland for use in Dimbaza Bible Training College.
14. That Synod endorse the Committee's action in paying Rev. Dr. Campbell Andrews' air fares to South Africa in lieu of the furlough stipend and housing allowance that should have been paid on his retirement from the Mission Field in 1975.
15. That the sum of \$500 be sent to the Free Church in South Africa to meet part costs of the revised Xhosa Psalter. (See Correspondence Item 1)
16. That Committee have the authority to adjust Mr Tamata's salary when necessitated by currency fluctuations.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 5.40 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 7: Tuesday 10 May 1983, 7.00 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 6 were read, and after correction, were confirmed by resolution of Synod.

CHURCH EXTENSION AND MISSIONS EVENING

The Moderator welcomed visitors to this special evening. He made reference to our Lord's statement to Peter. "I will build my church", emphasising the point that in all our evangelistic and missionary endeavours, it is Christ who builds his church. And he does so through our obedience to his Kingly commission "Make disciples from all the nations".

Mr Heenan, Convener of the Church Extension and Supply Committee addressed the Court. He in turn invited the Ministers of Armidale and Brisbane to address the Synod on the work of the Lord in these centres. The Moderator thanked the speakers, and after the singing of a psalm, invited the Convener of the Missions Committee to address the gathering. Mr Lee drew attention to the salient points of a "prayer letter" lately received from the Tamatas in Fiji. The Moderator then called upon Dr J.C. Andrews who addressed the assembly on the subject of his recent observations of the state of South Africa particularly referring to the developing black states, and the indigenous church. Next, Synod was addressed by the Rev. John Graham of Christian Witness to Israel Australia, who spoke about the work of that society. Finally, the Rev. Don Nicholds addressed the gathering on his recent trip to Israel, in company with Dr Allan Harman.

The Moderator addressed the gathering, and gave several public announcements.

Notices of motion were read to the Court.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 9.38 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 8: Wednesday 11 May 1983, 9.05 am

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 7 were read and confirmed.

CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE (Cont'd)

Synod resumed consideration of the Committee's recommendations. The Convener introduced Recommendation 5. It was resolved:

5. (a) That Synod introduce a long-term scheme to fulfil the needs of outreach in our own land by making it possible to meet future requests for church buildings.

(b) That such a scheme be implemented by an appeal through Deacons' Courts to members and all interested to contribute on a weekly basis an amount suggested by Synod.

(c) That Deacons' Courts report back to Presbyteries on the matter.

At this juncture, it was reported that, as a result of the decision of this Synod, the Rev. Don Nicholds now had a seat on Southern Presbytery, and thus on this Court.

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

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3

It was resolved that Armidale and Brisbane continue at Stage 3 Church Extension status for the forthcoming year.

TREASURER TO REPORT

It was agreed to invite the Treasurer to address the Synod on overall financial needs at a later stage.

NSW TRUST CORPORATION

Synod resumed consideration of the NSW Trust Corporation Report and the Minority Report. After discussion, it was resolved:

1. That the General Treasurer be thanked for his work in retaining the Synod NSW Deed Box, and keeping the contents in order.
2. That the NSW Deed Box be relocated to a safe custody deposit in a branch of the Westpac Bank convenient to the residence of the Clerk of Synod for the time being, who shall act as secretary of the NSW and Qld Trust Corporations.
3. That Messrs W.J.W. Hanna, K.G. Anderson and W.J. McClean be thanked for acting in the capacity of trustees for Qld of the Trustees of Synod for the last 11 years.
4. That the St Georges delegate be invited to explain why the St Georges Deacons' Court failed to provide the information about bequests and legacies which was requested by the Synod Trustees.

Mr K.H. Kerr indicated to the Court that a response from the St Georges Deacons' Court to the Clerk's letter might be expected.

It was further resolved:

5. That the legislation anent bequests and legacies listed in the body of the foregoing report be rescinded.
6. That Synod enact as follows:

BEQUESTS AND LEGACIES

(1) Bequests automatically vest in the relevant trust corporation. The disbursement and/or investment of the same is a legal responsibility of the trustees.

(2) Notwithstanding, a bequest to a congregation, or congregational organization, in terms which allow the capital to be spent, may be retained and administered locally on the following conditions:

- (a) certified copies of the relevant documents shall be lodged by the Deacons' Court, or other organisation, with the Presbytery of the bounds;
- (b) Presbytery shall determine whether the sum shall be held locally or not;
- (c) in any event, the trustees shall be kept fully informed so that they be assured that they will not be held to be in breach of trust.

(3) In all other cases bequests are to be held and administered by the relevant trust corporation in consultation with the congregation or committee concerned, and a full report made by the trustees to the ensuing Synod.

7. That copies of Rec.6 above be furnished to all lower courts, and through them, to all organisations which may be affected.

It was moved and seconded: That the St George's Deacons' Court be requested to refund the Synod the sum of \$54 being fees on discharge of the mortgage on the St George's Manse.

The motion was defeated.

It was further moved, That Central Presbytery be directed to ascertain the value and marketability of the vacant land at Castlereagh held by the Corp. Trustees with a view to making suitable recommendations to an ensuing meeting of Synod.

The motion was carried.

VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

The Secretary, Mr Ward, spoke to the report; it was resolved that the report be received. Mr Ward responded to various questions and comments by members of the Court.

RECOMMENDATION

It was resolved:

1. That the remit of Synod 1982 re a group insurance scheme be continued.
2. That the permission to sell the Ulverstone manse be now held to have lapsed.
3. That our people be encouraged to support the work of the church by means of bequests.
4. That the corporation The Trustees for Victoria of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, hold a watching brief on the matter of property of The Free Presbyterian Church of South Australia, under the general oversight of Southern Presbytery, but with no power to incur other than nominal expense.

The thanks of the Court were conveyed to the Vic. Trust Corporation.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Cont'd)

Synod resumed consideration of this Committee's recommendations.

3. Synod enacted as follows:

ACT ANENT STUDENT TRAINING AND ALLOWANCES; repealing the Act of Synod of the same name 1975 as amended and all previous Acts thereanent, excepting so far as they may be embodied in this Act.

Training

1. Those contemplating the ministry are to be urged to give early indication of possible intention and sessions and presbyteries are to give counsel and oversight to all such whether they have received formal recognition as students or not.

2. Formal recognition as a student is not given unless the applicant holds the Higher School Certificate, or its equivalent, securing matriculation into a recognized Educational Institution, and the first year of recognition is always provisional.

3. The normal course requires

- (1) the successful completion of a 3 year degree course at a recognized University or like institution, and
- (2) the successful completion of a 3 year theological course at the Free Church of Scotland College, Edinburgh, or an alternative Synod approved College where a comparable standard is maintained. Tertiary and Theological studies need not be taken in the order stated, subject to Synod's Training of Ministry Committee approval and any requirements of the Theological College. Students who acquit themselves well in the normal course may, subject to approval of Synod, proceed to Postgraduate study.

The Committee recommended:

4. The modified course involves

- (1) the successful completion of 2 years of a 3 year degree course at a recognized University or like institution, and
- (2) the successful completion of a 3 year theological course as for the normal course, but with the opportunity to seek Synod approval for exemption from the Hebrew language. This course is intended for men over 35 years whose practical experience in industry and commerce and in the life of the church suggests modification of the normal course.

An amendment was moved and seconded: That Recommendation 3 (4) be amended to read..."The modified course involves

- (1) the successful completion of 2/3 of a tertiary course at a recognised University or like institution, and
- (2) the successful completion of a 3 year theological course as for the normal course, but with the opportunity to seek Synod approval for exemption from any subject in which the student is deemed to be already reasonably competent by virtue of his experience. This course is intended for men over 35 years whose practical experience in industry and commerce and in the life of the church suggests modification of the normal course."

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.37 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 9: Wednesday 11 May 1983, 1.33 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 8 were read and confirmed.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Cont'd)

Debate on Committee Recommendation 3(4) continued. On being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated, and the recommendation became the enactment of Synod.

Mr Bloomfield dissented with the reasons: that no theological subject should be singled out for exemption for any student and particularly not Hebrew, which is not only an important subject in its own right, but it is a basic tool for other subjects such as exegesis, hermeneutics and homiletics, and

that our church requires in its Licensing Procedures that all students be examined in Hebrew and Old Testament.

The Clerk adhered to the dissent with reasons, as did Mr Tripovich and Mr Nicholds.

The Committee recommended:

5. The course may be further modified, at the discretion of the Synod, in the case of elders over the age of 35 years whose family or other circumstances are such as render attendance on the normal course impractical and where it is considered that their background and gifts are such that they can meet licensing requirements (with exemption in Hebrew if requested and granted by Synod) while they labour as home missionaries for a period of from two to four years. Very careful examination and report is made to the Synod in respect of such a proposed course since it is not granted automatically but only in special cases where Synod, through its Training of Ministry Committee, is fully satisfied with all aspects.

It was suggested that the Moderator should rule this recommendation out of order since it was inconsistent with the Act anent Licensing of Students. The Moderator declined to do so.

An amendment was moved and seconded, That Recommendation 3(5) be amended to read as it is with the omission of the words..."with exemption in Hebrew if requested and granted by Synod".

The amendment was defeated, and the Committee recommendation became the enactment of Synod.

Synod enacted further as follows:

6. Recognized students must have the written approval of the Training of Ministry Committee before embarking on any course of study, or before taking on additional studies to the ones the Committee has specified.

Allowances

7. Financial support in the provisional year and in subsequent years to the divinity stage is derived by the student from government allowances and vacation employment, with the Synod meeting fees for approved courses (not otherwise reimbursed) and a grant of books to the value of one week of minimum stipend for ministers as set from time to time. If a further living allowance is necessary at the predivinity stage it will be at the discretion of the Synod and on a needs basis, hence early notice by a (recognized or intending) student to the Committee is necessary in order that Synod approval may be sought.

8. At the divinity stage the fees and annual grant of books continues, and in addition a living allowance on a needs basis together with fares to the city where study is to be undertaken (for student only, not family) and return to point of licensing if applicable. Fares paid are based on the most economical and practical mode of transport and do not include cost of transporting personal or household effects.

The Committee recommended that:

9. Only recognized students are eligible for allowances, and then only after entering into a bond agreeing to return 25% of the amount received from the Synod if they do not proceed to licensing or give less than 5 years service from date of license, subject to a reduction of 20% of the aforesaid 25% for each completed year of active service, and subject to the proviso that if the sum owing is not repaid within one year of leaving the church's service interest at normal bank overdraft

rates as set from time to time will accrue from date of cessation of service, and the whole sum due must be paid within two years of cessation of service. The bond does not apply to monies paid for pulpit supply to home missionaries or students in vacation, but only to allowances granted by Synod through the Training of Ministry Committee.

It was moved and seconded that Standing Orders be suspended in order to permit an amendment that Rec. 9 be amended by the omission of the words "25% of" in line 2, and of the words "25%" in line 5, substituting the word "amount" in the latter case.

The motion was carried, and the proposed amendment was seconded. The amendment was carried and the amended recommendation became the enactment of Synod.

Synod enacted:

10. Any student who desires to engage in paid employment during the course of the academic year (with the exception of occasional weekend supply) must have the written approval of the Training of Ministry Committee, and the pastoral load for home missionaries is to be a matter of agreement between the Training of Ministry Committee and the presbytery concerned, so as to ensure adequate time is given to study.

4. Synod enacted as follows:

ACT ANENT REGULATIONS FOR LICENSING OF STUDENTS; amending Act 6 of Synod 1975.

a. That the word "they" in Act 6 1975 when referring to the presbytery, be replaced by the word "it".

b. The words beginning "satisfactory answers" and concluding "in the presence of the presbytery" in paragraph 6 of the said Act be deleted and replaced by the following:

Satisfactory answers having been obtained, he is then required to sign the Formula. Then the moderator, in the name and by the authority of the presbytery, shall license the student to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Thereafter the moderator shall briefly address the newly-licensed preacher in suitable terms, and the presbytery shall engage in prayer. At the conclusion of this procedure, the moderator and other members of the presbytery shall give the right hand of fellowship to the licentiate.

It was moved and seconded:

4(C) That paragraph 5(g) be added to the Act to read as follows:

(g) Church Principles, with attention to the Regulative Principle embodied in W.C.F. 21:1 and how it bears on Public Worship. The student should be able to demonstrate competent exegetical grounds for exclusive psalmody.

The motion became the enactment of Synod.

5. Synod enacted as follows:

ACT ANENT ADMISSION OF MINISTERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES

Application for admission being made by a minister of any other denomination not embraced by an Act of Synod creating mutual eligibility, the presbytery concerned arranges to confer with him in reference to, inter alia,

- a) his character and status,
- b) the reasons which have led him to the application,
- c) the course of professional education he has pursued,
- d) the body by which he was ordained, and the manner of ordination.

The presbytery has no power to admit him, but transmits its report to the Synod's Training of Ministry Committee, together with any remarks or recommendations it may see fit to add. The Training of Ministry Committee make such further enquiries as seem appropriate and the case is reported to the next meeting of Synod for its decision.

Authority to admit him having been granted by Synod, the presbytery requires the applicant to answer the questions prescribed in Act of Synod 1952, and to sign the Formula. After prayer and a suitable address by the moderator, he is admitted into communion and declared a Minister (or probationer) of the church eligible for call.

It was resolved further:

6. Synod notes with concern that solemn obligations to repay monies advanced by the church to Messrs B.L. Dole and J. Tripovich have met with no response from these men in 1982, and Synod resolve to take up the matter of the debts (respectively \$2,358 after 76.6% remission and \$1,325) under the Law and Advisory report.

7. Synod notes with pleasure the application of Mr Peter W. Swinn to Southern Presbytery to be granted the status of a minister of the PCEA, approves the action of the Southern Presbytery, and looks forward to receiving a report and recommendation at its meeting in 1984. Synod also directs the Training of Ministry Committee to examine Mr Swinn with a view to ensuring he is thoroughly conversant with our distinctive position, the Committee to arrange for any supplementary studies that may be necessary.

8. Synod notes with pleasure the reception by Southern Presbytery of Mr Greg Cahill as a student for the ministry, assures him of its interest and prayer, notes that no financial assistance is required at the moment and approves his pursuing an Arts course with a view to training at the Free Church College on successful completion of the degree.

9. Synod notes with pleasure and confirms the reception by Central Presbytery of Mr James A. Cromarty, elder, as a Home Missionary with a view to the regular ministry and the Synod assures Mr Cromarty of its interest and prayer.

10. Synod commends to our people the claims of Training of Ministry and urges generous support, and authorizes the Committee to provide assistance along the lines indicated in the last paragraph but one of the report, subject to all other applicable requirements of Synod.

11. That Synod now express its praise and thanks to the Lord.

MOTION ON NOTICE

It was moved and seconded: that students training in Australia train at the Reformed Theological College rather than at the Presbyterian Theological Hall, Melbourne for the following reasons:

1. That the Melbourne college is bound to a constitution qualified by the Declaratory Act.

2. That the Church to which it is responsible allows the admission of women to the offices of her courts.

3. That the training of our students at Melbourne would give the impression that the points of difference between our denomination and the Continuing Presbyterian Church would tend to minimise their importance, thus passing off denominational affiliation as an open option.

The motion was defeated.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 5.30 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 10: Wednesday 11 May 1983, 7.00 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 9 were read and confirmed.

The Clerk of Northern Presbytery intimated that the Rev. J.D. Heenan no longer had a seat on Presbytery, and foreshadowed an overture to Synod by Presbytery that he be granted a seat as a minister emeritus.

PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ward, spoke to the report. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr Ward responded to questions and comments by members of the Court.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved;

1. That Deacons' Courts note that the Superannuation/Long Service Leave levy for 1983 is \$980, and that remittance in two half-yearly instalments would be of assistance in meeting obligations.

2. That Deacons' Courts and our people generally be thanked for their contributions to the Widows/Retired Ministers Fund, and be encouraged to contribute the amount of \$1400 required for this year.

3. That the maximum rate of pension to widows be increased by \$1 to \$18 per week effective 1/07/1983, and the maximum rate of pension to retired ministers be increased by \$1 to \$24 per week effective 1/07/1983.

4. That Synod ratify the admission of Mr Bloomfield to the Retirement Fund effective 29/10/1982.

5. That Synod amend the second sentence of Reg C 4 to read: The general intention is that the benefit for a married man at retirement be not less than 10% of the average annual stipend for the three years preceding retirement (and pro rata for those of other marital status) in respect of each year of service, but this is not and cannot be guaranteed.

6. That Synod amend Reg C 5 to read:

Contributions are allocated to members' accounts as follows with effect from 1/07/1983:

Married Men 8% of minimum stipend

Women & Single Men 5% of minimum stipend

On change of marital status by men allocations for the future are adjusted accordingly.

Contributions made for the period to 30/06/1983 are unaffected, and in respect of S.N. Ramsay and E.R. Lee contributions will continue at the rate of 11% and 15% respectively.

7. That Synod delete Reg C 9 a b & c and replace it by the following:

a. Payment of Retirement Fund benefit will not be made in respect of those who have given less than 5 years active service, but 50% of the benefit (to which are added insurance premiums paid out) vests in the member at the conclusion of 5 years active service and a further 10% for each completed year of service thereafter until full vesting is reached after ten years. It is understood that a member must make arrangements to meet any undischarged financial liability to the church before any amount will be paid to him by virtue of this clause. It is also understood that insurance premiums paid out will be deducted from the amount available to the member. Amounts forfeited by reason of this clause will be applied towards contributions by the church on behalf of other members, and an equivalent amount taken from the levy on congregations and placed to the credit of the Supplementary Benefits Fund (see Reg E 3).

b. Active service in the ministry of the Free Church of Scotland will count as service with the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia for the purpose of the vesting of the benefit accumulated from church contributions while in the service of the Australian church.

8. That the following sentence be added to Reg D 2:

Long Service Leave is a benefit granted to assist recuperation from the strains of ministerial life and to aid ministerial efficiency. Accordingly, it ought to be taken when due or within a short time thereafter, if not taken in broken periods.

Synod adjourned consideration of the Provident Funds Committee business at 8.00 pm.

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Peter W. Swinn to the Synod. After the singing of Psalm 46, Mr Swinn spoke of the appropriateness of considering Martin Luther in this year which recalls the 500th anniversary of his birth, outlined the life of the reformer, giving extracts from his writings, and then drawing lessons for today.

1) Life of Martin Luther. He was born on 10th November, 1483 in the town of Eisleben (Saxony). The events which led to his entry into the Augustinian monastery were related, and the spiritual struggle which preceded his discovery of the great doctrine of Justification by Faith. The background to the Indulgence controversy was then described, leading on to the publishing of Luther's 95 Theses - extracts of which were given to the Synod.

The events leading to Luther's break with Rome were outlined - the Augsburg and Leipzig debates, and the issuing of the Papal Bull on 15th June 1520. An account of the Diet of Worms followed, with the subsequent outlawing of the Reformer. It was noted that his year in the Wartburg prison was used for writing and commencing translation into German of the New Testament. Violence in Wittenburg caused the Reformer to return to the city in 1522. Luther's polemic during the Peasants' War was considered, and it was noted that his marriage to Katherine von Bora took place during these troublesome years. The controversy with other Protestant Churches on the subject of the Lord's Supper was recognised, and Luther's unfortunate complicity in the Affair of Philip of Hesse. Ill health marked the closing years of the Reformer's life, during which he wrote his violent attack

upon the Jews. His death took place on 18th February 1546. Following his account of the Reformer's life, Mr Swinn turned to

2) Extracts from the Writings of Martin Luther. Doctrinal statements on the Scriptures, the Sufficiency of Christ's Atonement, Justification by Faith, the relation of Faith and Works, and on The Church, were followed by Pastoral extracts relating to the Ministry, Divisions within the Church, and an evangelical application of Galatians 2:20, "the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me". The third collection of quotations from Luther were of a personal nature, designed to show that the Reformer was quite sensitive when pastoring members of his family - a dying daughter or an anxious wife. Mr Swinn was not content to leave the memory of the Reformer with an account of his life and quotations from his writings, but went on to consider some

3) Lessons for Ourselves from Martin Luther. He called upon the Church, and its individual members, to follow Luther in maintaining in a practical way the Supremacy of Holy Scripture in every area of life, in holding fast to the doctrine of Justification by Faith, and applying it to the area of modern evangelism; in setting forth the Sanctity of Marriage in a permissive age; and in holding fast to the concept of National Sovereignty. Four warnings to be heeded by the churches closed the address: the necessity of maintaining the Purity of the Church in days of ecumenical unions, and to guard against the popular glamorising of the Roman Catholic Church; the danger of compromise; the need to guard against extremism; and the danger and tragedy of breaking the bonds of the Gospel.

Mr Swinn called upon the Church to give thanks to God for the life of Martin Luther and to recognise that Luther's God is the same God - our God - today. The address closed with Luther's translation of Psalm 130:1,3.

At the conclusion of the address, the Moderator called on the Rev. E.R. Lee, who expressed Synod's thanks to Mr Swinn for a talk characterised by simplicity, clarity and practical application.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 9.23 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 11: Thursday 12 May 1983, 9.07 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

It was resolved that the Revd J.D. Heenan be associated with the Court.

Pursuant to its decision of Sederunt 2, Synod resolved to meet in closed court for "prayer and conference on the state of the Church". It was agreed to meet in open court.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.35 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 12: Thursday 12 May 1983, 1.40 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 11 were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended in order to receive an overture from Northern Presbytery. It was resolved that the overture be received. Mr Bloomfield, Clerk of the Presbytery, stated the overture. Synod resolved that the overture be sustained.

It was moved that Synod grant the prayer of the overture, and authorise the Presbytery to grant Mr J. Heenan a seat on the Presbytery in terms of paragraph 38 on page 37 of the 1964 edition of the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland. The motion was seconded and carried.

PROVIDENT FUND COMMITTEE (Cont'd)

Synod resumed consideration of the Committee's recommendations.

It was resolved:

9. That Synod amend Section E 2 as follows: delete all words after "targetted benefit".

10. That Synod add the following to Section E of the Regulations:

3. From amounts arising by reason of the provisions of C 9 a Supplementary Benefits Fund is established and accounted for as a distinct fund. Transfers from this account whether interest or otherwise are made on the authorization of the Provident Funds Committee in accordance with rules or decisions of Synod as made from time to time.

11. That Peter John Bloomfield be appointed a Trustee of the Pres Church of Eastern Aust Retirement Fund in place of Rev. A.D. McIntosh (deceased).

INTER CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Gadsby, presented the report. The report was received.

Synod resolved:

1. 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.

2. That we advise the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia of our pleasure at learning of the approach of their Presbytery to the Southern Presbytery, and indicate that we have authorized and do now authorize the Southern Presbytery to meet with them to discuss a closer relationship or organic union, and that we would meantime welcome the opportunity to share together in areas of common concern.

An amendment was moved and seconded That portion beginning "and indicate that" to "organic union" be omitted.

Upon being put to the vote the amendment was defeated and the recommendation became the finding of the court.

It was resolved:

3. That we convey our fraternal greetings to the Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, and send them a copy of our Synod reports and minutes, and advise them that we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter of the International Conference of Reformed Churches, and other matters of common interest.

4. That we ask the Free Church of Scotland to keep us informed about the proposed International Conference of Reformed Churches.

5. If the projected visit of Prof. D. Macleod to Australia sometime from July to September materialise, the Interchurch Relations Committee is authorised to take advantage of Prof. Macleod's offer to help the PCEA in any way by arranging a conference at a place convenient to members of Synod and Synod bear the expense.

6. That Interchurch Relations Committee, acting on behalf of Synod, send suitable greetings to the General Assembly of the Free Church in Southern Africa on the occasion of its Constitution. That the Committee examine the desirability and possibility a) of recognition of the General Assembly of the Free Church in Southern Africa as a sister Church, b) Establishing a Federal Relations Act with this Church.

FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Nibbs, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr Nibbs responded to questions and comments by members of the Court. The Committee recommended:

That the attention of our people be drawn to the corrupting influences at work in individual life, home life, Church life, community life, and national life; that we might positively seek to arrest this tide of corruption by diligent use of the means of grace in every area of life.

The recommendation became the finding of Synod. The Moderator thanked the Committee, and especially the Convener.

It was moved on notice: That in view of the real consequences for Faith and Life of certain ethical issues the Committee be invited to prepare a Reading List and a report on the principles of Scripture as they relate to such matters as

- a) "in vitro" fertilization
 - b) surrogate motherhood
 - c) contraception within marriage
- and to report the same to Synod 1984.

The motion was seconded, and carried.

It was further moved on notice, That Synod direct the Faith and Life Committee

- (i) To prepare a paper on the principles and practice governing the right of the Superior Court to grant seats on the Presbytery
- (ii) To confer with the appropriate persons, or Committees including the Free Church of Scotland in preparation of the paper and,
- (iii) To report to next Synod.

The motion was seconded, and carried.

It was further moved on notice, and seconded, That a Ministers' Conference be convened during each year for the following reasons:

- i. That pastoral problems and other matters promoting the interests of Christ's Church be reviewed.

ii. That such a Conference would be very useful to provide the opportunity for such Committees as Training of Ministry to enter into consultations.

The motion was defeated.

LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Gadsby, spoke to the report. The report was received. The Moderator gave leave to the Committee to introduce new recommendations as follows:

It was resolved:

1. Synod commend the draft revised Practice as a useful adjunct to the Free Church of Scotland Practice, subject to the necessary adjustments to it in the light of decisions of this Synod.
2. That Lower Courts carefully consider the draft revised Practice, and report criticisms and suggested amendments to the Law and Advisory Committee by 31st Jan, 1984.

The sederunt closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 13: Thursday 12 May 1983, 7.04 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 12 were read and confirmed.

The Moderator intimated that Mr J.D. Heenan had been granted a seat on Northern Presbytery.

LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (Cont'd)

Synod resumed consideration of the Committee's recommendations.

It was resolved:

3. That a copy of the draft revised Practice be forwarded by the Law and Advisory Committee to Principal Emeritus W.J. Cameron of the Free Church of Scotland with *requests* for his comments.
4. That the Law and Advisory Committee meet to give thorough and careful consideration to all suggestions so as to enable the circulation of a clear and concise report to Presbyteries, Sessions and Deacons Courts at least 2 months prior to Synod 1984.
5. That Synod meet in closed court in order to discuss the matter of Mr Brian Leslie Dole's unpaid debt to the court.

It was moved on notice and seconded, That the Committee be sincerely thanked for having prepared the draft of the revised Church Practice and that Synod notes with appreciation the clear and well set out form and the considerable time and energy involved in the preparation.

The motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and seconded, That the Law & Advisory Committee be directed to incorporate in their report to Synod 1984 a summary pro and con of the case for seeking an amended Property Act in New South Wales, with appropriate recommendations.

The motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and seconded, Synod notes that as a result of a drafting error the 12th word in clause (a) of the Federal Relations Act 1954 reads "ministers" rather than "members." Accordingly Synod remits the proposal to correct this error to Presbyteries in terms of Barrier Act procedure, and meantime passes the same into an interim Act.

The motion was carried.

The Rev. Alan L. Tripovich was given leave to address the Court, and gave an explanation for the continuing debt to Synod by his son, Mr J. Tripovich, indicating that repayments could be expected.

Synod met in closed court, pursuant to Rec. 5 of the Law and Advisory Committee. It was agreed to remit the matter of Mr Dole's debt to the Training of Ministry Committee.

It was agreed to meet in open court.

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr J.D. Ramsay, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener responded to questions and comments by members of the Court.

Synod resolved:

1. That appreciation be expressed to Mrs A.H. Steel for conducting the Search Work and to Mrs J. Causley for sending out the birthday greetings.
2. That Ministers and Sessions be asked to develop programs which aid the progression of the young people from Sabbath School to Fellowship to involvement in the adult activities of each congregation.
3. That Sabbath School teachers be encouraged to share ideas with other teachers and that reports of materials and methods used by the subject of reports to Presbyteries.
4. That Sabbath School teachers be encouraged to include reference to all prescribed work, including Search Work, in their lessons.
5. That Fellowship activities be examined to ensure that they promote the development of those spiritual and leadership qualities which are desirable in the adult life of the congregation.
6. That Presbyteries and Sessions take positive steps to encourage young people to become acquainted with people in other Presbyteries and Congregations.
7. That where problems of distance exist the Committee be authorised to approve concurrent Rallies.
8. That the venue for next year's Fellowship Rally be left in the hands of the Youth and Fellowship Committee.

It was moved on notice and seconded, That all Fellowship Rallies be programmed so as to fill in the Sabbath Day with activities consistent with Lord's Day Observance as set out in our Catechisms.

The motion was carried.

It was moved on notice, seconded and carried that the Finance Committee be requested to report to a later sederunt of this Synod on the possibility of Synod's allocating funds for the extension of the church's witness to Adelaide and, in the event of a favourable report, Synod proceed to authorise such an allocation.

Notices of motion for Sederunt 14 were read.

The sederunt closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator

SEDERUNT 14: Friday 13 May 1983, 9.07 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 13 were read and confirmed.

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE (Cont'd)

It was moved on notice, and seconded: That in view of the fact that Synod has accepted the view that the whole property in Table Street, Port Macquarie was held in trust for Fellowship purposes, Synod therefore rescinds its decision of 1977, to wit: "That the Port Macquarie hall and the block of land on which it stands be henceforth regarded as held in trust by the Synod Trustees for the Hastings Congregation, subject to the payment of \$200 by the Hastings Deacons Court". That the Hastings Congregation and Deacons Court continue to enjoy the benefits and privileges which they do at present without prejudice, but provided that this arrangement shall be subject to review by Synod upon request from the Fellowship Committee.

During the debate, it was resolved that standing orders be suspended so as to permit Mr Tripovich to speak for an extra five minutes. The debate concluded. The motion was defeated.

PSALTER REVISION COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ward, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

The Committee recommended, That the publication "Psalms for Singing" be commended to our people as a supplement to the Scottish Psalter of 1650.

The recommendation was defeated.

The Committee further recommended, That up to \$500 be made available to the Psalter Revision Committee from Synod General Fund as an advance against sales of 'Psalms for Singing'.

The motion was carried.

It was moved on notice and seconded, That the Synod express sincere thanks to the Committee members and others who have spent valuable time and energy aimed at making our Psalmody more meaningful and accurate, and encourages them to continue their efforts to the glory of God.

The motion was carried.

PSALMODY COMMITTEE

The former Moderator, Mr Ward, occupied the chair, and the Convener, Mr J.M. Cromarty, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved:

1. That Sessions study the Psalmody reports and recommendations of the last 5 years with a view to the ongoing implementation of the principles which they set forth .
2. That the booklets of Mr Ward and Mr Bloomfield namely "Instrumental Music in Scripture and History" and "Instrumental Music in Public Worship" be commended to our people for their study.

The Committee recommended:

3. a) That Sessions avail themselves of "The Psalms in Metre" (Scottish Metrical Version - with tunes, supplement and additional versions - split leaf edition) published for the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland 1979, and obtainable from Mrs K.R. Wright, 13 Upper Captain St, Coleraine, Co. Drry. N. Ireland. BT51 3LY.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the following words be added to recommendation 3a: "As well as 'The Book of Psalms for Singing', prepared by the Board of Education and Publication, Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America".

On being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated, and the recommendation became the resolution of Synod.

It was resolved

3. b) That Sessions make a study of this psalter with a view to use in our church.
c) That Session reports be submitted to and discussed by Presbyteries.
d) That a summary of Session and Presbytery opinion be forwarded to this Committee prior to March 10th, 1984.
4. That the great principle in the latter part of this report be set before our people continually, with the plea that the praise of God be intelligent, spiritual and wholehearted.

The Moderator, Mr J.M. Cromarty, resumed the chair.

MODERATOR'S CLOSING ADDRESS

At this juncture, the Moderator intimated his intention to introduce some remarks, and proceeded to speak on "The Model Church and the Ideal Minister," referring to Acts 11:19-26.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Tripovich, presented the Committee's report. It was resolved that the report be received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved:

1. That the thanks of the Synod be recorded for the work of all who have aided in the preparation and production of our church magazine.
2. That ministers of our church in particular, be urged to make regular contributions of articles for inclusion in our church magazine.
3. That the Committee be instructed to prepare suitable publications for recommendation to Synod 1984.
4. That no equipment be purchased or sold without consultation with, and consent of, the Committee, and that any substantial expenditure be made only with Synod approval; the definition of such expenditure to be determined by Synod.
5. That Synod bear in mind its formerly established policy of proximity of members when forming committees so as to enable them to meet for discussion.

The Moderator thanked the Convener and his Committee.

It was moved on notice, and seconded, That the editor of The Presbyterian Banner act jointly with a co-editor and working members of a regional committee as to the suitability and the nature of the articles submitted for publication, and that in the sharing of the work-load, members be delegated to approach ministers, elders and members for the submission of sermons, articles on the doctrine, worship and government of our Church, biblical expositions, anecdotes and a children's page etc.

The motion was carried.

At this juncture, it was resolved that standing orders be suspended, and that we resume business after the luncheon break.

An urgent notice of motion was read.

Following the luncheon break Publications Committee business continued.

It was moved on notice, and seconded, That the amount of \$780 be granted to the Banner Fund from the Synod General Funds to meet the outstanding capital expense.

The motion was carried.

It was moved on notice and seconded, That the position of Editor of the Church magazine be reviewed at this and future Annual Synod meetings.

The motion was carried.

It was moved on notice, and seconded, That the Presbyterian Banner be published bi-monthly.

An amendment was moved on notice, and seconded, That the Denominational magazine be published quarterly.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated, and the motion was carried.

THE 8:14 FOUNDATION ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was resolved:

1. That N.A. McPherson be appointed Convener of the Committee.
2. That deposits made with the Fund be accepted upon the following basis:
 - a) Interest free and available on 30 days notice.
 - b) At an agreed rate of interest up to 8% p.a. and repayable on 30 days notice - or for any other agreed period up to 3 years.
3. That interest be paid on all loans from the Fund for the first year and shall be at cost plus 1%.
4. That when sufficient monies are available in the Fund approval is given for loans to Brisbane, Penrith or Armidale with repayments to be made at a minimum of \$50 per week.
5. That these provisions be reviewed by Synod 1984.
6. That initial Administration expenses be met from the Synod General Fund.

The Moderator intimated certain matters concerning Southern Presbytery. It was moved and seconded: That Synod's thanks be conveyed to Dr Andrews and Mr Lee, Assessors to Southern Presbytery and that Synod re-appoint Mr Lee for the current ecclesiastical year.

The motion was carried.

REPORTS: EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

1. PERMANENT RECORD 1977-1981

Report of the Examiners of the Permanent Record. After attending to minor corrections following comparison of the Scroll and Permanent Record, we report that sentences "The Moderator communicated the decision to Mr Turnbull and asked whether he acquiesced. Mr Turnbull responded in the negative" are included in the Permanent Record minutes for 13 October 1979 (Page 243) but do not appear in the Scroll Record (Page 123).

Motion: That the Synod Minutes for the period 10 May 1977 to 22 October 1981 be attested by the Moderator after deletion of the sentences "The Moderator communicated the decision to Mr Turnbull and asked whether he acquiesced. Mr Turnbull responded in the negative" in the Permanent Record for 13 October 1979 Page 243 which does not appear in the Scroll Record Page 123.

The motion was seconded and carried.

2. PERMANENT RECORD 1982

The examiners recommended that the record be attested.

3. NORTHERN PRESBYTERY RECORD

The examiners recommended attestation of the records, subject to some minor adjustments.

4. CENTRAL PRESBYTERY RECORD

The examiners recommended attestation, after drawing attention to several matters.

5. SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY RECORD

The examiners reported, and recommended attestation with one or two modifications.

It was resolved that the records of Synod and Presbyteries be attested subject to any needed adjustments.

STANDING COMMITTEES

The Administration Committee recommended that standing committees be appointed as follows:

LAW AND ADVISORY

W.P. Gadsby, S.N. Ramsay, R.S. Ward

MISSIONS

E.R. Lee, K. Macleod (Vice-Convener), A.L. Tripovich, J.C. Andrews, J.E. Hockett, Manning elder.

PROVIDENT FUNDS

R.S. Ward, N.G. Triffett, P.J. Bloomfield.

CHURCH EXTENSION/ SUPPLY

J.D. Heenan, K. Macleod, Maclean and Grafton elders.

FAITH AND LIFE

J.M. Cromarty, D.R. Nibbs, Ulverstone and Geelong elders. Messrs J.A. Cromarty and P.J. Bloomfield.

PSALMODY

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

PUBLICATIONS

J.A. Cromarty, E.R. Lee, W.J. McClean, A. Weber.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY

R.S. Ward, E.R. Lee, W.J. McClean, J.C. Andrews, W.P. Gadsby, W.J.W. Hanna.

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP

J. Ramsay, R.L. Campbell, P.J. Bloomfield, K.A. Dawson.

FINANCE

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

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Finance Committee become The Finance and Property (N.S.W. and Queensland) Committee.

The motion was defeated.

Mr Lee declined to serve on the Publications Committee, and it was agreed that Mr Tripovich serve on this committee in his place. Mr Kerr was appointed to Faith and Life in the place of J.A. Cromarty and to the Finance Committees. Mr C.P. King was appointed to the Publications Committee.

It was resolved that the amended committee structure be confirmed.

At this juncture, the Rev. R.S. Ward tendered his resignation as Editor of The Presbyterian Banner.

It was moved and seconded that we decline to accept Mr Ward's resignation, thank him for his work, and appoint him for a further twelve months. The motion was carried.

It was further moved and seconded, That the Convener of the Publications Committee, Mr J.A. Cromarty, be appointed as Co-editor of The Presbyterian Banner. The motion was carried.

FURTHER CHURCH EXTENSION COMMITTEE BUSINESS

It was moved on notice and seconded, That whereas Synod accepted the Recommendation to a scheme involving our members and other interested persons contributing funds on a weekly basis and whereas a request in the said Recommendation requesting Synod to nominate a suitable amount was overlooked, it is recommended that the amount of \$1 per capita be nominated. The motion was carried.

MR GORDON ANDERSON

It was moved on notice, and seconded that Synod takes this opportunity of extending its deep gratitude to God for the services rendered by Mr Gordon Anderson, Elder Maclean, to the several courts of this Church over the last 48 years and do hereby express its appreciation and prayerful good wishes to Mr Anderson for continued good health. The motion was carried.

FURTHER FINANCE COMMITTEE BUSINESS RE ADELAIDE

Pursuant to an earlier decision of Synod, the Treasurer reported that up to \$10,000 could be made available for extending our church's witness in Adelaide.

Synod resolved that in light of the report of Finance Committee Synod allocate the sum of \$10,000 for the extension of the work to Adelaide should the Southern Presbytery deem it advisable to do so.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PROPERTY

Mr Ward reported that he had received advice from the South Australian Attorney General that the South Australian Government would not entertain legislation until the claims of the different parties were agreed among themselves.

It was resolved that Synod request and authorize Revd R.S. Ward to publish a history of The Free Presbyterian Church of South Australia, the cost to Synod not to exceed \$200.

It was moved by Mr E.R. Lee and seconded by Mr N.G. Triffett that Synod hereby appoint and authorize the Rev. ROWLAND SKIPSEY WARD and/or Mr JAMES ROBERT BRUCE

WEBSTER and/or the Rev. JOHN McINTOSH CROMARTY to negotiate on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia with all other parties interested in the property of the Free Presbyterian Church of South Australia. Synod further authorize the said Rev. R.S. Ward, J.R.B. Webster and J.M. Cromarty to execute an irrevocable settlement of all claims to the said property by the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia on such terms as they see fit; and Synod further authorize and direct the body corporate, The Trustees for Victoria of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, to execute any documents which may be necessary to bring to finality any settlement which may be effected.

The motion was carried unanimously.

FURTHER TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that financial commitments by this Synod were around \$85,000 of which \$27,000 was available from interest leaving about \$58,000 to be raised by givings and other donations. He referred to Acts 11:29-30 and urged accordingly.

ANSWERS TO DISSENT ANENT THE GRANTING OF A "SEAT" ON S. PRESBYTERY TO MR. NICHOLDS

1. It is quite misleading to accuse this court of violating a basic principle of Presbyterianism. This would mean that the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland must itself be in violation of basic Presbyterianism because it specifically provides for the granting seats by a higher court. The same would apply to the long practised appointing of assessor elders which involves oversight by men not elected by those whom they rule.

2. The appeal to Acts 14:23 is hardly germane because it refers to an Apostolic appointment of elders "in every church". It does not refer to an election of elders by a congregation. If anything, this text supports the principle followed by Synod in its decision, namely, the authority for elders to rule over a congregation can indeed rightly be granted by a superior Presbyterial authority.

ANSWERS TO DISSENT RE PORT MACQUARIE PROPERTY

Mr Ramsay indicated that there was no report and indicated that one would be presented to Synod 1984.

LUTHER ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS

It was resolved That Rev. P.W. Swinn's address on Martin Luther be printed and made available to our Congregations.

TIME/PLACE OF SYNOD 1984

It was moved on notice and seconded, That Synod 1984 convene to meet for Ordinary business on Monday, 9th April, 1984 at 7.00 p.m. in Maclean Church.

An amendment was moved and seconded that Synod 1984 meet at Maclean, at a time to be specified by the Administration Committee to commence on a Saturday evening, and to conclude no later than the following Friday at lunchtime.

The amendment was preferred, and became the resolution of Synod.

NOMINATION OF MODERATOR FOR 1984

The Rev. Alan L. Tripovich was nominated as Moderator for Synod 1984.

APPRECIATION TO THE MANNING CONGREGATION

On behalf of Synod, Mr Tripovich moved the vote of thanks which was carried by acclamation.

The minutes of the final sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Moderator addressed the Court briefly.

Synod 1983 was closed with. the singing of Ps. 121 and prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

John M. Cromarty
Moderator