

**MINUTES OF THE 137<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
THE SYNOD OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA  
May 1984**

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ANNUAL SYNOD 1984

SEDERUNT 1

Within the Maclean Church building on 5 May 1984, at 7.32 pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted.

The Moderator, the Rev. J.M. Cromarty, conducted public worship. Galatians 6:1-18 was read, and the Moderator preached on v.14, "Glorying in the Cross".

He spoke out of personal experience of blessing in Geelong in recent days and indicated that the preaching of Christ and Him crucified is the only sure context for the Spirit's operation in the soul. "If we pray for the Holy Spirit's power then let us see to it that Christ is preached and that He is preached for His sake".

It was pointed out that the issue at Galatia was not just intellectual, or doctrinal but it was spiritual and personal. It focused on this central issue "In what were they glorying? Was it their pride, their self love, their practices, or was it Christ alone?"

We are to glory in the Truth of the Cross. It declares the character of God and it is the means by which the believer can say "Not I but Christ". (Galatians 2:20)

And as preachers of the gospel we must constantly be aware of the possibility of obscuring the

Cross in the eyes of our people because of a preoccupation with other things. If we glory in any other thing than the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ then we will know nothing of the power of God either personally or communally. Our church's statistics force upon us the question "In what are we glorying?" Are we saying "He must increase but I must decrease?"

Following prayer, the Moderator called for the certified Rolls of Presbyteries, which were presented as follows:

#### NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Ministers Elders

Dr J.C. Andrews Mr J.E. Hockett (Hastings)

Mr P.J. Bloomfield (Clerk) Mr R.L. Campbell (Maclean)

Mr W.P. Gadsby (Moderator) Mr K.A. Dawson (Armidale)

Mr K. Macleod Mr R.J. Law (Grafton)

Mr S.R. Tamata Dr W.J.W. Hanna (Brisbane)

Mr A.L. Tripovich Mr J.D. Ramsay (Lismore)

Mr J. Heenan

Mr R.W. Murray

#### CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

Ministers Elders

H. Varnes A. Neil

S. Ramsay K. Kerr

E. Lee C. King

J. Graham J. Cromarty

J.A. Webster

#### SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

Ministers Elders

J.M. Cromarty (Geelong) G. Cahill (Geelong)

D.R. Nibbs (Ulverstone) N.G. Triffett (Ulverstone)

R.S. Ward

(pursuant to Act of Synod 1970 J.R.B. Webster (St Kilda)

as amended 1982, 83)(St Kilda) D. Hamilton (Hamilton)

D.E. Nicholds

(pursuant to enactment of Synod 1983

"for the current year")

E.R. Lee (assessor)

Apologies for inability to attend were tendered on behalf of:

Rev. E.R. Lee; Rev. J.A. Webster; Rev. S.N. Ramsay; Rev. J. Graham; Rev. J.D. Heenan; Mr K.A. Dawson.

The Clerk reported that the nominee for Moderator was the Rev. A.L. Tripovich, of Hastings Congregation. It was resolved that this appointment be confirmed. The retiring Moderator welcomed Mr Tripovich to the chair.

He proceeded to deliver the 1984 Moderatorial Address "A Solemn Charge and Challenge to Church Leader", based upon Acts 20:28. He said:

As a part of Christ's church we are blessed with - the Possession, Preservation and Persuasion of the 'Faith once delivered.' We have a highly trained ministry - Purity of Worship - the advantages of Presbyterian Government - An evangelical gospel ministry - and an interest

in Missions etc. Yet with all our Orthodoxy and activity, the Lord may have somewhat against us (Rev. 2:1-4) - If we have moved away from our first love - depending on our orthodox activity rather than the power of God through godly lives.

To be honest we may have to confess there is much to be desired in the life of our congregations by way of indifference, worldliness and the want of godly, spiritual lives. Paul's charge to the elders of the church is appropriate for us as we gather to consider the work and witness of Christ's church.

There is an order of Church growth evident in our text:

1. Take heed to yourselves, first of all in reflection and reformation of life so as to be living examples of the transforming power of Christ crucified. Be what you pray and labour for the flock to become.

2. Then take heed to all our flock by caring, instructing, correcting, encouraging, comforting and praying, according to each individual need.

Conclusion: With such a 'home-care program', a spiritually developed and vigorous congregation and church will become an efficient and far-reaching witness, blessed by God throughout the community, as illustrated by the godly converts of Acts 2:41-47 and I Thess. 2 and 3.

It was resolved that the following examiners of records be appointed.

Northern Presbytery: E.R. Lee and C.P. King

Central Presbytery: R.S. Ward and D. Hamilton

Southern Presbytery: R.W. Murray and W.J.W. Hanna

Synod Permanent Record: S.N. Ramsay and J.D. Ramsay

Resolved that Presbyteries having unfinished business be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.

Resolved that the Rev. R.W. Murray be appointed to prepare a report of Synod's proceedings for The Presbyterian Banner.

Synod was adjourned with prayer at 9.24 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 2. Monday 7 May 84, 9.05 am.

The sederunt was opened by singing, prayer and the reading of I Timothy 1:1-20.

#### CONSTITUTION OF THE COURT

The Clerk of Northern Presbytery reported that the Presbytery had sustained a commission in favour of Mr K.D. Causley, Grafton. (substituting for Mr R.J. Law). Mr Causley took his place in the court.

The minutes of the preceding sederunt were read and confirmed.

It was moved by the Clerk that the thanks of the Court be expressed to the Moderator for his address and to the Retiring Moderator for this sermon. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

It was moved that the sympathy of the Court be conveyed to the family of the late Mr D.D. Campbell who passed away during the last year. The motion was seconded and carried. Dr Andrews led the Court in prayer.

Synod took up the matter of the status of Mr D.Nicholds with regard to a seat on Presbytery.

It was moved and seconded that Synod note that Mr Nicholds is not a member of Southern Presbytery as at the commencement of this Synod, but agrees that Mr Nicholds be associated with Synod. The motion was carried.

#### CORRESPONDENCE (9)

Synod received a letter from the Clerk of Presbytery of the Northern Rivers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia re fraternal greetings to Synod. The Moderator welcomed Mr Campbell of Lismore, Mr Ransom of Maclean and Mr Morrow, Clerk of Presbytery. Mr Campbell addressed the Court in appropriate terms making reference to the adherence of the Free Church to the Reformed doctrine, worship and government of the church and spoke to the Court making reference to Psalm 129.

Synod expressed its thanks and good wishes by acclamation.

#### PRO RE NATA MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the Pro re nata meeting of the second of February 1984 were as printed and circulated confirmed.

#### ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the report of the Administration Committee.

Synod resolved:

1. That the Agenda as proposed be adopted.
2. That 1983 congregational statistics be engrossed in the minutes.
3. That at the close of this evening's sederunt, Synod give consideration to setting apart period or periods for activities such as physical recreation, psalm singing, brotherly conference about church growth, and other pastoralia.
4. That Synod Standing Orders Para 1(5) be deleted and replaced by the following:

Where an amendment, or second or third or subsequent motion is involved, the manner of taking the vote is to put the amendment against the motion or the second and third motions against each other in the first instance. The one of these which is carried by a majority is then put against the first motion. When only one motion remains, or if an amendment has become the motion, the vote shall then be taken for or against that motion.

5. That Mrs B. McPherson, Mr R.S. Ward and Mrs A. Ward be thanked for their work in preparing last year's minutes, and this year's Reports in bound form.

### CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported on correspondence, indicating that two items (from Messrs Nibbs and Triffett) were not transmitted, having been submitted late and without - in the Committee's opinion - sufficient reasons being advanced. He said that the two brethren intended to appeal against the decision.

At this juncture Mr Macleod occupied the Chair; Synod took up the matter of the appeals against the Committee's decision.

The appellants and the Administration Committee were called to the bar.

Mr Triffett stated his appeal, followed immediately by Mr Nibbs. The Assistant Clerk responded on behalf of the Committee. Members of Synod addressed questions to parties at the bar. Parties were removed from the bar. Synod proceeded to deliberate on the case. It was moved and seconded that Synod uphold the appeal and direct the Administration Committee to transmit the documents to Synod.

It was further moved and seconded that the decision of the Administration Committee in not transmitting the documents to Synod be upheld by the Synod and the appeal dismissed.

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

Parties were recalled to the bar and the decision intimated to them. The appellants and the Committee acquiesced in the decision. The Moderator resumed the Chair.

### ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk read an item of correspondence of which the Committee was uncertain as to what to do with it, and hence had referred it to the Synod.

It was moved and seconded that the Administration Committee be advised not to transmit to Synod the item of correspondence from Mr John Cunningham. The motion was carried.

### CORRESPONDENCE

1. Dated 23.02.84/Rec'd 27.02.84. From Clerk of Northern Presbytery. Return under Barrier Act procedure - affirmative.

The correspondence was received and remitted to Law & Advisory Committee.

2. 27.02/84. From Clerk of Northern Presbytery. Overture seeking repeal of Synod legislation anent seats on Presbytery for supply ministers.

The item was received, and deferred to be taken up following Faith & Life Recommendations.

3. 23.02.84/27.02.84. From Clerk of Northern Presbytery. Reference simpliciter anent the matter of the licensure of a student whose trials have been sustained by Presbytery.

The reference was received.

4. 05.03.84/07.03.84. From Clerk of Southern Presbytery, providing 1983 statistics, and the information that the roll stands as at the pro re nata meeting.

Synod agreed to receive and note Correspondence 4.

5. 05.03.84/07.03.84. From Clerk of Southern Presbytery.  
Return under Barrier Act procedure - affirmative.

The return was received and remitted to Law and Advisory Committee.

6. 13.03.84/16.03.84. From Clerk of Southern Presbytery, recommending that remittent draft revised Practice be continued for another year.

The item was received and remitted to Law and Advisory Committee.

7. 17.4.84/24.4.84. From the Clerk of Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Received and deferred to be taken up with Inter-Church Relations.

8. 27/3/84-3/5/84. From Secretary of the International Conference of Reformed Churches.

Received and deferred to be taken up with Inter-Church Relations.

9. Synod noted that this item had been dealt with earlier in the day.

10. 9.4.84/12.4.84. From Mr N.G. Triffett

(a) Dissent and complaint relating to Southern Presbytery meeting of 28.10.83;

(b) Dissent and complaint relating to Southern Presbytery meeting of 24.2.84.

11. 11.4.84/13.4.84. Dissent and complaint relating to Southern Presbytery meeting 24.2.84.

The Sederunt was closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

### SEDERUNT 3. Monday 7 May 84, 1.40 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read, and confirmed.

The Clerk intimated that the Administration Committee had declined to transmit two items of late correspondence from Central Presbytery.

### CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3 - Reference from Northern Presbytery.

Northern Presbytery was called to the bar, and Mr Macleod stated the reference. Members of Synod addressed questions to those at the bar. It was moved and seconded that the reference be sustained. It was further moved and seconded pro forma that the reference be dismissed. Upon being put to the vote, the reference was sustained. Presbytery was dismissed from the bar.

Synod now proceeded to deliberate upon the matter referred to the Court.

It was moved and seconded that Synod endorse the Presbytery's decision of 4/11/84 to license Mr Paul Cornford, and they be advised to proceed with the same at the earliest convenience.

It was moved and seconded pro forma that: Whereas it is the prerogative of the Presbytery to declare a candidate eligible for call, and since there is some doubt as to such eligibility in this case, therefore the question be decided by this Synod.

It was further moved and seconded that

Whereas Mr Cornford states clearly that "the singing of uninspired (though Biblical) compositions is not contrary to the Regulative Principle of worship as founded upon the second commandment", and,

Whereas the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia understands the application of the Regulative Principle to involve, inter alia, "the exclusion from public worship of instrumental music, and from the praise portion thereof, of all composition other than the Psalms of the Word of God", which position it states is the purity of worship presently authorised and practised in the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia; and

Whereas the Formula of the Church requires of Office-bearers

- (1) To own the purity of worship presently authorised and practised in the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia as "founded upon the Word of God and agreeable thereto";
- (2) To the utmost of their power "assert, maintain and defend the said worship,
- (3) To follow no divisive course from the said worship,
- (4) To renounce all doctrines, tenets, and opinions whatsoever contrary to, or inconsistent with,

the said worship; and

Whereas the Confession of Faith to which all Office-bearers bind themselves expressly forbids making conscience of any "doctrines and commandments of men which are in any thing contrary to his Word, or beside it, in matters of faith and worship" (Chapter 20:2); and

Whereas the same Confession of Faith expressly requires that decrees and determinations of the Church are to be received "if consonant to the Word of God" (Chapter 31:3), and that decisions of Synods and councils "are not to be made the rule of faith or practice, but to be used as an help in both", (Chapter 31:4)

Therefore the Synod now direct the Northern Presbytery to resume its endeavour to convince Mr Cornford of the Scripturalness of the Church's position on worship, failing which it is to allow the matter to rest.

It was moved and seconded that the Moderator's allowance of this motion be reversed. The motion was carried, and thus the foregoing motion was disallowed.

The sederunt was closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 4: Monday 7 May 1984, 7.05 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read and confirmed.

Synod resumed consideration of the two motions before the Court, anent the reference from Northern Presbytery. Upon being put to the vote, the second motion was eliminated, and the first motion became the finding of the court.

Mr King dissented with reason, The candidate does not appear to have a clear view of the implications of the regulative principle. Thus he cannot consistently renounce the singing in public worship of uninspired song. C. King.

Mr Varnes dissented with reason, Mr Nibbs and Mr Tripovich adhering: That in view of the terms of the Formula of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and in view of Declaration 2 of the Synod Act anent Questions and Formula 1952 (which in turn is founded solidly in Scriptural teaching) and in view of the Regulative Principle of worship which is plainly taught in Deuteronomy 12:32 and is fully formulated in the Confession of Faith XXI(i) and the Larger Catechism Question 109 and in view of the Confession's teaching on liberty of conscience in Chapter XX(ii) I do not believe that we are entitled to license a candidate for the ministry who does not hold as a matter of conscientious principle to the position of the 1952 Synod Act anent worship.

Mr Neil dissented with reason: That proceeding to license without a clear understanding on the obligation of exclusive Psalmody in worship, is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Formula and the whole doctrine of the Confession of Faith on worship and liberty of conscience.

Mr Murray dissented with reasons to be handed in.

Resolved that a Committee consisting of Messrs Bloomfield, Macleod and Ward be appointed to answer these reasons.

#### ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION 4

Pursuant to this recommendation, it was moved and seconded that Synod defer consideration of recreation, conference, etc. until the end of Sederunt 6. It was further moved and seconded that this idea be passed from.

The first motion became the finding of the Court.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.00 pm.

W.P. Gadsby     A.L. Tripovich  
Clerk Moderator

#### SEDERUNT 5: 8 May 1984, 9.10 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read and confirmed.

#### TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Mr McPherson presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. Questions were directed to the Treasurer.

It was moved and seconded that the deep appreciation of the Synod be expressed to the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and to the Auditor. The motion was carried by acclamation.

It was resolved that tangible recognition be made for the Auditor's voluntary service.

#### NOTICE OF MOTION ANENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

It was resolved that the proposer be allowed to delete certain parts of the motion as originally given on notice.

It was moved and seconded that Synod notes the Auditor's qualification in his "Report to Synod" and contained in its second and third paragraphs, viz: "However I do not give this certificate as it relates to monies held in trust in Victoria, without reservation. Some information relating to them has been given to me but it is not adequately substantiated and therefore I can only say that the records are in accordance with the information given to me. I strongly recommend that the Synod review the arrangements it has already made for administering the funds as they relate to trust monies in Victoria" and Synod inform the Auditor of all the decisions taken as a result of his report. The motion was carried.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener (Mr McPherson) responded to questions. Synod proceeded to consider the Committee's recommendations.

It was resolved that

1. The following provisions be made for Stipend assistance:

Grafton \$2,500

Richmond/Brunswick \$2,500

Ulverstone \$4,000

2. a) Where fares are necessary for members to attend Synod meetings, Synod will provide for economy class or equivalent travel on public transport.

b) Should a journey entail continuous travel for an unreasonable time (e.g. greater than the equivalent of rail or road between Melbourne and Sydney or Sydney and Brisbane) then air travel may be provided for all or part of the journey at the most economical rate.

3. 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.

4. The following transfers be made from the General Fund to: Church Extension Fund \$4,873.70; Widows & Orphans - Aged, Retired Ministers Fund \$799.67; Banner Fund \$72.00.

5. Synod now discuss times and places for future meetings.

Accordingly it was moved and seconded that Synod 1985 be held on the Manning during the school holidays and the Finance Committee, in conjunction with the Administration Committee, be asked to provide a recommendation as to policy, time and place of Synod meetings. The motion was carried.

#### 8:14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

The Convener (Mr McPherson) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

It was resolved that

1. Synod express appreciation for the support given to the Foundation.

2. All advances to congregations be on the following basis:

- (a) at a rate of interest set annually at the ratio of interest costs to the total monies loaned to the Foundation, expressed as a percentage raised to the next full digit.
- (b) the interest shall be calculated on a daily basis and debited to the borrower annually.

3. When a depositor allows interest to accumulate for a period greater than 1 year, it be compounded annually.

4. Presbytery representatives on the Committee be requested actively to promote the Foundation within the bounds of their Presbytery.

The thanks of the Court were conveyed to the Convener by acclamation.

#### NSW TRUST CORPORATION

It was resolved that the report be received. The report was discussed. Synod proceeded to consider the Committee's recommendations.

1. That Synod take up at this juncture the report from Central Presbytery anent the Castlereagh Property.

Mr Kerr presented the report on behalf of Central Presbytery.

It was resolved that the report be received and engrossed in Synod minutes.

#### REPORT RE VACANT LAND SITUATED IN CASTLEREAGH ROAD, CASTLEREAGH AND VESTED IN THE TRUSTEES

Enquiries have been made of local real estate agents. It appears that the land should be saleable and might attract a price of \$30,000+. This is subject to Council's approving of the allotment's sale since it is smaller than the minimum size subdivision now allowed in the local zoning and there being no other impediment to the sale. It is understood that there is a trust situation expressed in the Deed.

It was resolved that the subject property be transferred from the oversight of the St Georges Deacons' Court to that of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Deacons' Court and St Georges Deacons' Court be thanked for its oversight of the church's interest over recent years.

The time being 12.33pm it was resolved to suspend standing orders in order to complete this item of business prior to the conclusion of the sederunt.

It was resolved that Synod authorize the sale by the Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia of the property at Castlereagh Road, Castlereagh subject to the concurrence of Central Presbytery, and upon such sale the proceeds be held for the trust of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Congregation to be applied for capital expenditure in accordance with the Property Act 1918 and applicable Synod legislation.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 6: 8 May 1984, 1.40 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 5 were read and confirmed.

Synod resumed N.S.W. Trust Corporation business.

It was resolved

2. That Synod take up at this juncture the matter of the Susan McIntyre McDonald Bequest, and issue instructions concerning its distribution in accordance with the terms of the will.

It was resolved that

(1) The Perpetual Trustee Co. Ltd be requested to disperse the residue of the Estate of the late John Gordon McDonald, as presently invested, in equal, or as near as practicable equal shares to the following charities in NSW:

- a) The NSW Training of Ministry Fund of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia;
- b) The NSW Widows & Orphans Fund of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia;
- c) The NSW Aged, Retired Ministers Fund of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia;
- d) Synod Legacy Appeals Fund.

(2) When the proceeds are received in accordance with Recommendation(1) a), b) and c) they remain for the time being as investments under the name of the Susan McIntyre McDonald Bequest for benefit of the respective funds.

#### URGENT PROPOSAL (FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE)

At this juncture, the Court permitted the proposal of an urgent motion.

It was resolved that in view of the recent declaration by the Wran Government (before the rising of the present Session of Legislative Assembly) to introduce a Bill to decriminalise homosexual activities between consenting adults: The Synod direct the Faith & Life Committee to meet to prepare a Statement for release to the media in condemnation of this iniquitous proposal and that they further prepare a statement to be endorsed by Synod to be forwarded to the Premier, and to as many as possible of the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

#### CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE

The Convener, (Mr Heenan) presented 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 first paragraph under "3. FINANCE".

The motion became the finding of the Court.

It was moved and seconded that standing orders be suspended in order to permit the following motion: that the Church Extension and Supply Committee be censured for failing to consult with Northern Presbytery prior to inviting the Rev. R.W. Murray to Australia. The motion was defeated.

Synod took up consideration of the Committee's recommendations. It was resolved

1. That Synod acknowledges its indebtedness and thankfulness to the Lord of the harvest for his enabling grace to carry on the work of church extension during 1983, and that this gratitude be now expressed in prayer by the Moderator.

2. (a) That Synod notes with thankfulness the arrival of the Rev. Ray Murray from Scotland to minister to the Grafton congregation.

(b) That Synod registers its gratitude for the supply accorded the Lismore congregation by Mr Paul Cornford, and Hamilton congregation by the Rev. P.W. Swinn.

3. (a) That Synod encourage our congregations to engage in witnessing to the sufferings of Christ for undone sinners by word of mouth, visitation and literature distribution.

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

The Committee recommended:

4. (a) That subsidised and extension charges be authorised to draw directly on the central fund without reference to Presbyteries.

The recommendation 4(a) was defeated.

4. (b) That subsidised charges be authorised to draw an amount not exceeding one quarter of the stipend in any one year, the position to be reviewed triennially by Synod.

The recommendation 4(b) was defeated.

The Committee recommended

4. (c) That the church extension charge of Armidale receive \$3,380.00 exclusive of stipend relief, the amount of the grant to be reviewed annually by Synod.

The recommendation 4(c) was defeated.

#### MOTIONS ON NOTICE

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod take steps to invite Professor Douglas McMillan to visit our country in 1985 or 1986, and that in the event of his acceptance of our invitation, instruct the Synod Administration Committee to organize a Conference in conjunction with the Annual Synod; Synod request Congregations to support financially the proposed visit; our Synod note with appreciation the offer of the Geelong Congregation of \$1,000 towards the proposed visit and invite the Geelong Session to arrange a preaching itinerary throughout our church.

Following discussion, it was moved and seconded that the motion be put. This motion was carried. Upon being put to the vote, the motion on notice was carried.

#### MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener (Mr Lee) spoke to the report, which was received. Synod took up the recommendations of the Committee. It was resolved:

1. That Synod express its gratitude to God for the privilege of sharing in this great work.

2. That we express our appreciation for the loyal and generous financial support of our people, and that we encourage them to greater efforts for the Fijian work.

3. That we send our greetings to all missionaries and assure them of our support.
4. That we provide our missionaries with the Church magazine and relevant Synod tapes.
5. That we approve of the Committee's sending \$2,000 from the Missions Relief Fund to assist in meeting the debt on the Lhaknadon Hospital.

At this juncture, it was resolved to move into closed court. Synod agreed to meet in open court.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Items 6-8 be deferred until tomorrow morning's sederunt.

Synod further resolved

9. That a Missions evening be held during Synod and that Dr Andrews (India) and Rev. Ken Macleod (Fiji) be invited to speak, and a filmstrip with commentary concerning the work of the church in South America be shown.

10. That a subscription of \$2,500 be sent to CWI from General Mission Funds.

The sederunt was closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

#### SEDERUNT 7. Tuesday 8 May 1984, 7.00 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 6 were confirmed.

#### FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE REMIT FROM SEDERUNT 6.

The Convener of the Committee (Mr J.M. Cromarty) presented a statement condemning the NSW Government's proposal to decriminalise sodomy.

It was resolved that the statement be adopted, and engrossed in the record. The report read as follows:

The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia currently meeting at Maclean, N.S.W., condemns in the strongest possible terms the proposal of the Wran government to decriminalise homosexual acts between consenting adults.

That which is an abomination to God and abhorrent to common human decency can never be made to be lawful by any government legislation.

This Synod deplores the hypocrisy of a government which pays lip service to Almighty God by opening its proceedings in prayer and then proceeds to ignore and defy the absolute standards of the Word of this same God. (See Leviticus 18:22-30; Romans 1:26-32)

The proposed legislation is a direct attack upon the family unit so basic to our society, and elevates sodomy to the status of normal sexual expression.

The effects of such legislation upon the family, our society and our nation will be devastating in all

areas of life as righteousness alone exalts a nation and sin is a disgrace to any people. (Proverbs 14:34)

To be members of a society in which corruption is condoned and encouraged by government legislation brings both the government and the society under the righteous judgment of God Almighty.

This Synod calls upon all concerned Christians to express their indignation to their own members of parliament as well as to the Premier and party leaders.

We assure our legislators of our prayers at all times that they may govern wisely and in the fear of God.

### CHURCH EXTENSION AND MISSIONS EVENING

The Moderator welcomed visitors, and introduced the Rev. J.D. Heenan, Convener of the Church Extension Committee.

Mr Heenan shared some thoughts based on Ephesians 4:12, pressing the need of all church members to fulfil their calling to be witnesses, and the responsibility of pastors and teachers to equip people for this work.

He then called on Dr Wes Hanna (Brisbane) and Rev. Peter Gadsby (Armidale) to report on the work in these respective centres. Mr Heenan then led the Court in prayer, giving thanks and commending this work to the Lord's mercy.

The Moderator called upon the Convener of the Missions Committee, who addressed the gathering, drawing attention to salient matters from the Missions Committee Report. He then called upon Dr J.C. Andrews, who spoke about his visit - in 1983 - to India. He was followed by the Rev. Kenneth Macleod who reported on his visit to Fiji at the end of 1983; the problems facing our missionaries there, as well as recent encouragements given them by the Lord.

The assembly then viewed a sound-strip detailing TEAR-funded work in Peru, in association with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru, and the Free Church worker, Rev. Donald Smith.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with singing, and prayer at 9.23 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

### SEDERUNT 8: 9 May 1984, 9.10 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 7 were confirmed.

### MOTION ON NOTICE

It was moved and seconded that Synod revise the appointment of Examiners of the Permanent Record, and further, appoint men to be nominated - K. Macleod and R. Campbell. The motion was carried.

### MISSIONS COMMITTEE (cont'd)

It was resolved to meet in closed court. It was resolved to meet in open court. It was resolved to defer consideration of Missions Committee business until after Training of Ministry Committee business has been dealt with.

### QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report.

It was resolved that the report be received.

### VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

The Secretary, Mr Ward, presented the report.

It was resolved that the report be received.

Synod proceeded to consider the recommendations. The Trustees recommended

1. That all congregations of the Church be requested to arrange for their property and liability insurances to fall due on 2nd July in each year.

It was resolved that the recommendation be put. The recommendation became the finding of the Court.

Synod further resolved:

2. That all Deacons' Courts be reminded of the insurance guidelines in the Victorian Trustees report to Synod 1982.

3. That our people be encouraged to support the work of the church by means of bequests.

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TREASURER FURTHER VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION BUSINESS

Synod permitted the Treasurer to substitute for his first recommendation the following:

1. That unless otherwise directed by Synod, all transactions involving the use of Synod funds, including receipt, holding, disbursement or investment, are to be made through the General Treasurer and adequately documented.

The recommendation became the finding of the Court.

It was resolved

2. That Victorian Trust Corporation Recommendation 9 of Synod 1982 (printed minutes p.24) be rescinded.

At this juncture, Mr Ward read the following statement:

I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the body corporate, The Trustees for Victoria of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, requesting the Synod to deal with the same forthwith.

It was moved and seconded that the Synod urges Mr Ward to withdraw his resignation. The motion was carried.

The matter of the Victorian Trust Corporation's membership was left to lie on the table.

#### NOTICE OF MOTION CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY BUSINESS

It was moved on notice and seconded that this Synod give immediate consideration to a sphere of labour for the Rev. Don Nicholds.

Accordingly, Synod took up this matter. It was resolved that Synod defer further consideration until following a report from Southern Presbytery.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to permit the moving of the following motion, That the travelling expenses of Mr Nicholds be met by Synod. The proposal became the finding of the Court.

#### PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ward, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener responded to questions, and Synod proceeded to consider the recommendations.

Synod resolved

1. That Deacons' Courts note that the Levy for 1984 is \$1,086, and that remittance in two instalments would be of assistance in enabling the Committee to meet its obligations; and that any arrears be paid.

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 \$1,000 required for this year.

3. That the maximum rate of pension to widows be increased by \$1.50 to \$19.50 per week, and the maximum rate of pension to retired ministers be increased by \$2.50 per week to \$26.50 per week, both increases effective 1st July 1984.

4. That the resumption of contributions to Super/LSL in respect of Mr R.W. Murray be approved.

Synod permitted a further recommendation:

5. That in future the normal age for a minister's retirement from inducted service be 65 years except with the express concurrence of the congregation and the Presbytery of the bounds.

The recommendation became the finding of the Court.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.33 pm.

W.P. Gadsby     A.L. Tripovich  
Clerk Moderator

#### SEDERUNT 9: 9 May 1984, 1.36 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 8 were confirmed.

Dissents from the fifth resolution under Provident Funds business were tendered:

Mr King: This matter has gone through a certain Committee when it properly belongs to another sphere of Synod.

Messrs Neil, Varnes and Nibbs: That as the call by God to a congregation continues until in His Providence a minister is called to another congregation or office or is unable, owing to a dispensation of the Lord's Providence, to continue as pastor, there should be no age laid down for retirement.

Mr Tripovich: The recommendation is unsupported by Scripture.

#### MOTION ON NOTICE - PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod determine the precise position of a Home Missionary with respect to Provident Funds membership.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words be added "referring the matter to the Provident Funds Committee for report to a subsequent sederunt".

The motion as amended became the finding of the Court.

#### TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ward, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. Questions were addressed to the Convener. Synod took up consideration of the Committee's recommendations. The Committee recommended:

1. That the course outlined for Mr Cromarty be approved, including exemption from formal examination in Hebrew language, and that Mr Cromarty be assured of our interest and prayer for himself and his family.

It was moved on notice, and seconded Mr Cromarty be required to undertake a Modified two year course of study at the Free Church College Edinburgh, and that he be advised to make the necessary personal - family arrangements to proceed to Scotland in order to commence his studies at the beginning of Session 1984-85.

Upon being put to the vote, the second motion was eliminated and the Committee's recommendation became the finding of the Court.

Synod resolved

2. That we note Mr Cahill's encouraging progress thus far, and assure him of our interest and prayers.

3. That we note with satisfaction that Mr Jon Tripovich's debt to Synod has now been discharged.

The Committee recommended:

4. That we do not pursue Mr Dole further for his debt (\$2,358 on a pro rata basis), but leave the matter to his own conscience; meantime the Treasurer of Synod is authorised to write off the said

amount.

The recommendation was defeated.

#### MOTIONS ON NOTICE - TRAINING OF MINISTRY BUSINESS

It was moved on notice, seconded and carried that the Clerk of Synod be authorized to make the necessary arrangements for Mr J.A. Cromarty to be licenced to perform marriages.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that Synod discuss correspondence in the hands of the Interim Moderator of the Hamilton Congregation, and that in the hands of the Training of Ministry Committee concerning the Rev. Peter Swinn. The vote being equally divided, the Moderator cast his vote in favour of discussing the correspondence. Thus, the motion was carried. Correspondence between the Training of Ministry Committee and the Rev. P.W. Swinn was read to the Court. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that we pass from the matter. The motion was carried.

Mr Nibbs, Mr Ramsay and Mr Varnes dissented with reason: To stifle discussion on this matter at this point is inimical to the interests of the church.

It was further moved and seconded that Synod takes note of the decision of Rev. P.W. Swinn to withdraw his application to be received as a Minister of our denomination and wishes him Synod's richest blessing in other spheres of labour in Christ's church to which the Lord will call him.

It was resolved the motion be put. The motion became the finding of Synod.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Graduates having been licensed by Presbyteries be required to be under the oversight of a senior minister for a period of six to twelve months.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the matter of students serving under the oversight of ministers be referred to the Training of Ministry Committee for report to Synod 1985.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was preferred, and became the finding of the Court.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 5.32 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

#### SEDERUNT 10: 9 May 1984, 7.00 PM.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 9 were read and confirmed.

The Clerk read to the Court an advice from Central Presbytery, indicating that negotiations to retain Mr James Cromarty within the Hunter charge were in progress between the various interested parties.

#### MOTION ON NOTICE

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod remind members that the approved procedure in

proposing significant motions involving areas where Committees have responsibility is by overture from lower courts or by approach to the relevant Committee, and not by way of motion on the floor of Synod, and with a view to ensuring prior and mature consideration and wise decision-making ask delegates to endeavour to follow out this procedure in future to the fullest practicable extent. The motion was carried.

### INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

Mr Ward presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. Synod took up consideration of the Committee's recommendations. It was resolved:

1. That we convey our fraternal greetings to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia (Clerk: G. McEwen, 2 Swindon Grove, McKinnon) and send them a copy of our Synod Reports and Minutes.
2. That we continue the remit of the Southern Presbytery to discuss closer relations with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.
3. That we send greetings to the Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, send them a copy of our reports and minutes, and advise them we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter of the International Conference of Reformed Churches, and other matters of mutual interest.
4. That the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia apply for membership of the International Conference of Reformed Churches.
5. Noting that he hopes to be in attendance at the International Conference of Reformed Presbyterian Churches to be held in the US later this year, Synod appoints Mr J.R.B. Webster to convey the greetings of this Church to those brethren.

### CORRESPONDENCE ANENT INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

It was resolved to note Items 7 and 8.

### NOTICE ON MOTION - VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

It was moved on notice, and seconded that Synod expresses its concern that the real value of bequests be preserved so as to maximize the intention of the deceased and to provide for the sound financial future of the work dependent on these bequests, and accordingly approves the investing of a reasonable proportion of maturing investments for capital growth in a sound and authorized trustee investment in terms of the Victorian Property Act. The motion was carried.

Being questioned, Mr Ward indicated the withdrawal of his resignation as a member of the Victorian Trust Corporation.

### FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr John Cromarty, presented the first section of the report, anent several ethical issues. It was resolved that the report be received. Synod took up the recommendations. It was resolved:

1. That our people be informed of the reading list and articles presented to Synod.
2. That office bearers acquaint themselves with the principles involved in the practice of "in vitro" fertilization and contraception within marriage and equip themselves with the biblical principles

that are necessary as advisers and counsellors of the flock.

The Convener then presented Part 2 of the report anent seats on Presbytery. It was resolved that the report be received. Synod considered the recommendations. It was resolved to suspend standing orders in order to propose the following motion: That the report and recommendations be referred to the Law & Advisory Committee for their report to next Synod.

The motion was proposed, seconded and carried.

#### CORRESPONDENCE ANENT FAITH AND LIFE

Item 2 - Overture from Northern Presbytery. Mr Heenan stated the overture.

It was moved and seconded that the overture be not sustained but the Presbytery be advised to acquaint the Law & Advisory Committee of their views on this subject.

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

The time being 9.00 pm, it was resolved to suspend standing orders in order to conclude this business.

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

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted and that Synod  
(1) declare members ineligible for seats on Presbytery who do not qualify in terms of the Practice,  
(2) repeal the "Amendment to Act of Synod 1970 re seats in Presbytery" together with the "Act interpreting Act anent seats in Presbytery 1970 (as amended 1982)".

It was further moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be not granted and the matter referred to the Law & Advisory Committee for report to Synod 1985.

On being put to the vote, the vote was equally divided. The Moderator gave his vote in favour of the second motion which became the finding of the Court.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

#### SEDERUNT 11: 10 May 1984, 9.10 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 10 were read and confirmed.

It was resolved to suspend standing orders so as to deal with causes as first business in Sederunt 12.

#### YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr John Ramsay, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After questions, Synod took up the Committee's recommendations. It was resolved:

1. That Synod express its gratitude to Mrs M. Causley for her assistance with the Birthday Roll, and to Mrs A.H. Steel for conducting the Search Work.
2. That Sessions be asked to take positive action to encourage greater use of the Prescribed Work and the Search Work.
3. That Synod endorse the proposal to establish an organisation designed to meet the special needs of country young people who have moved to the cities, and gives approval for the Committee to liaise with the appropriate Sessions.
4. That Synod endorse the proposal to provide special funding, on an individual basis, for activities designed to develop the effectiveness of our young people within the church.
5. That the Committee be empowered to draw up regulations and guidelines in order to implement recommendation 4.
6. That the 1985 Synod Programme make provision for an extended discussion of future planning of the matters under the responsibility of the Youth and Fellowship Committee.
7. That the Hawkesbury-Nepean Congregation be thanked for their offer to host the 1985 Annual Youth Rally.

#### MOTION ON NOTICE

It was moved on notice and seconded that \$20,000 of Youth & Fellowship funds on loan to the Brisbane Congregation be withdrawn and reloaned to that congregation through the 8:14 Foundation. The motion was carried.

#### LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr W.P. Gadsby, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

#### CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 6.

It was resolved that this correspondence be noted.

Synod took up the Committee's recommendations.

Synod permitted recommendation 1 to be amended as follows:

It was resolved

1. That lower courts continue to consider carefully the draft revised Practice, as amended by Synod 1983, and report criticisms and suggested amendments on Sections 1, 2 and 3 to the Law & Advisory Committee by 31 January 1985, and individual copies be made available promptly, by the Committee to all officebearers of the church.
2. That the Law & Advisory Committee meet to give thorough consideration to all suggestions, so that there might be circulated to Presbyteries, Sessions and Deacons' Courts a clear and concise report at least two months prior to Synod 1985.
3. That the Law & Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Procurator, endeavour to take the necessary steps to bring up specific proposed legislation to Synod 1985 to secure amendments to the NSW Property Act which would then provide the same advantages as are presently available to the Church under the corresponding Victorian legislation; and that the Committee be authorised to

consult and co-opt in order to achieve this goal.

4. That Synod take up at this juncture the returns from Presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure anent correction of 1954 Federal Relations Act.

Accordingly, it was resolved: The Synod of Eastern Australia, with consent of a majority of presbyteries, convert Interim Act 1983 amending Federal Relations Act 1954 into a standing law, and accordingly amends the 12th word in clause (a) of the said Federal Relations Act to read "ministers rather than "members."

Synod resolved

5. WHEREAS the Parliament of New South Wales has by section six of the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act of 1918 conferred upon the Synod of Eastern Australia power to make regulations as therein specified;

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the said Synod it is expedient to make certain regulations in the exercise of the power therein conferred;

NOW THEREFORE the Synod of Eastern Australia enact and ordain that in pursuance of section six of the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act of 1918 (hereinafter called 'the said Act') the following regulations now come into effect:

1. The definitions contained in section 16 of the said Act shall apply to these regulations as if they were a part of the said Act.

2. The consent of the synod referred to in sections seven, eight, nine and ten of the said Act shall not be given in respect of property held in trust for a congregation unless the deacons' court having immediate jurisdiction over and in respect of that property shall first take all necessary steps that the said synod, the presbytery of the bounds, and the congregation be informed of:

(a) the reasons causing the said deacons' court to desire the trustees to sell or mortgage or agree to sell or mortgage the said property;

(b) the purpose or objects for or upon which the proceeds of such sale or the monies received by such mortgage will be used or devoted;

and the said synod, presbytery of the bounds and congregation, in exercising their judgement shall, in addition to all other relevant matters, take into consideration the said information.

3. The said synod shall not consent to the trustees' selling, mortgaging or agreeing to sell or mortgage any property referred to in "2" above without the consent of the congregation and of the presbytery of the bounds, in each case expressed by resolution adopted in accordance with the constitution and laws of the Synod of Eastern Australia for the time being.

4. These regulations may be cited as the "Regulations anent Sales and Mortgages of Property in New South Wales".

The Committee recommended

6. Before erecting a new building or making repairs, alterations and additions to the buildings of the congregation involving a sum exceeding fifty percent (50%) of the previous calendar year's locally-raised congregational income the deacons' court must obtain the approval of the congregation at a duly constituted congregational meeting; and further, must obtain the approval of the presbytery of the bounds.

Items below the figure specified above may be brought before a congregational meeting, and such expenditure where funds are not on hand for the complete work and where it is reasonable to suppose that loans, secured or unsecured, will be required to finish, must be so brought, and the

approval of presbytery also obtained.

The deacons' court must not sign or cause to be signed contracts for the purchase of real estate, as these are to be executed only by the applicable body corporate in accordance with the constitution and laws of the Synod of Eastern Australia for the time being. However, deacons' courts are permitted to enter into a simple option to purchase so long as withdrawal is possible at a limited cost during the option period, and provided steps are forthwith taken to seek the consents required before the option can be exercised. The applicable body corporate is authorised to execute all necessary documentation once all the necessary consents have been given.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that the proposed deliverance be forwarded to Presbyteries and Deacons' Courts for their consideration and comments be invited and returned to the Clerk at least 45 days before 1985 Synod so that comments may be considered at that Synod meeting.

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

### PSALTER REVISION COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ward, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. Questions were addressed to the Convener.

Synod resolved that Mr Gadsby be thanked for his contribution to the Psalter Revision Committee, and the appointment of Mr Bloomfield to the Committee be confirmed.

### MOTION ON NOTICE

It was moved on notice and seconded that this Synod terminate the remit to the Psalter Revision committee of Synod 1981.

This motion was ruled out of order, since it included no reference to rescinding earlier decisions of Synod.

### PSALMODY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr McPherson, presented the report, which was received. Synod took up the Committee's recommendations. It was resolved:

1. That presbyteries be exhorted to ensure that congregations are well instructed on praise in worship; that the praise is of a high order and that precentors are carefully chosen to that end.

The Committee recommended:

2. a) That sessions and congregations be again requested to make a study of the Psalter of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, with a view to its use in the church.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the phrase "with a view to its use in our church" be deleted.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.32 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 12: 10 May 1984, 1.50 PM.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of the previous sederunt were read and confirmed.

CAUSES

In accordance with a previous decision, Synod took up Correspondence Items 10 and 11. Synod agreed to consider first Item 10(a), and then Items 10(b) and 11.

ITEM 10(a) DISSENT AND COMPLAINT BY MR N. TRIFFETT AGAINST PRESBYTERY DECISION OF 28 OCTOBER 1983

Parties were called to the bar of Synod. Mr Triffett presented his complaint to the Court. Messrs Cromarty and Lee responded on behalf of the Presbytery. Questions were addressed to parties at the bar. It was resolved that the parties be removed from the bar.

It was resolved that Synod dismiss the complaint by Mr Triffett, and affirm the judgement of the Presbytery to agree to moderate a call to the Rev. R.S. Ward from the St Kilda Congregation.

Parties were recalled to the bar and the decision of Synod intimated to them. Both parties acquiesced in the decision of Synod.

ITEMS 10(b) and 11 DISSENTS AND COMPLAINTS BY MESSRS N. TRIFFETT AND D.NIBBS AGAINST PRESBYTERY DECISION OF 24 FEBRUARY 1984

It was agreed to consider both these items together. Mr Triffett presented his reasons of complaint to the Court, followed by Mr Nibbs who presented his reasons. Mr Cromarty responded on behalf of the Presbytery.

It was resolved standing orders be suspended in order to complete hearing the speakers at the bar. Mr Webster thus addressed the Court. Mr Triffett and Mr Nibbs addressed the Court in reply.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 5.55 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 13: 10 May 1984, 7.03 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 12 were read and confirmed.

Synod resumed the business commenced in the previous sederunt. Questions were directed to parties at the bar. It was resolved that parties be removed from the bar.

It was moved and seconded that the complaint be upheld and that whereas all that action of

Southern Presbytery which is contrary to the recommendations adopted on 8.7.83 is incompetent, the action complained against be reversed. That Session and Presbytery now take steps to endeavour to see that any aggrieved persons are advised of the regular channels of redress open to them. That no action be taken toward filling the vacancy until the congregation is seen to be ripe for calling a minister.

It was further moved and seconded that Synod dismiss the complaints by Messrs Triffett and Nibbs, and affirm the decision of the Presbytery to sustain a call to the Rev. R.S. Ward.

The time being 9.00 pm, it was resolved to suspend standing orders in order to complete this business.

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

Parties were recalled to the bar, and the decision intimated to them. Mr Nibbs indicated his non-acquiescence; Mr Triffett and the Presbytery acquiesced in the decision. Parties were dismissed from the bar.

Dissents with reasons were tendered.

Mr Varnes: That in my view, to follow this course of action will not lead to the peace and harmony of the St Kilda congregation.

Mr King and Mr Neil: That the Commission's recommendations to Presbytery have not been carried out as adopted on 9 July 1983.

It was moved and seconded that standing orders be suspended in order to propose a motion. The motion was defeated.

A notice of motion was read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.43 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 14: 11 May 1984, 9.10 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of Sederunt 13 were read and confirmed.

PSALMODY COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Following announcements, business of the Psalmody Committee was resumed, as at the end of Sederunt 11. (Recommendation 2(a)).

Upon being put to the vote, the recommendation of the Committee became the finding of the Court.

It was further resolved:

- b) That reports on these studies be submitted to and discussed by presbyteries.

c) That a summary of the reports and presbytery opinion be forwarded to this committee before March 1985.

d) That study and report from Geelong be required from the congregation only.

3. That ministers and precentors from all congregations be requested to confer regularly through the committee; to encourage, share experience and strive after consensus on singing in worship.

4. That the Free Church of Scotland, through its Psalmody Committee be advised of:

a) our noting their intention to reprint the Psalter of 1977;

b) our encouragement and good wishes;

c) our commitment to the reformed principle of striving after perfection in worship.

5. That a copy of this report and recommendations be forwarded to the Psalmody Committee of the Free Church of Scotland.

The following answers to dissents were tendered at this stage:

Answers to Dissents with reasons by the committee appointed (Bloomfield, Macleod, Ward)

We answer the three reasons in the order given:

It is invalid to assume that any Licentiate is unable to consistently renounce the singing of uninspired songs in Public Worship SIMPLY because he uses arguments other than or together with the Regulative Principle. Nowhere do our standards require a defence of our position in terms of a particular line of argument. We are bound to the whole doctrine of the Confession and any part of that doctrine may be used to defend our practice.

The second dissent confuses the legal position of our church with the commitment of office bearers. It has not been shown that our vows commit to the conscientious principle of exclusive psalmody. We are committed to the practice of it, and to legislate beyond that, or to require more than that, is to make the unchangeable legal position of the church the conscientious commitment of the office bearers.

It is quite wrong to imply that the candidate does not feel obligated to exclusive psalmody. He is fully committed to everything in the Formula and to the whole doctrine of the Confession.

#### CHURCH EXTENSION - EXTRA BUSINESS

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended in order to consider a request from Armidale.

It was moved and seconded that the Extension Charge of Armidale be granted exemption from the payment of the Provident Fund levy and that an ex gratia grant of \$1,000 be made available, and that the Treasurer be empowered to charge these to the appropriate Synod Fund.

The Moderator ruled this motion out of order, as conflicting with Provident Funds regulations.

#### SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY REPORTS

The Clerk, Mr Ward, presented the reports required in earlier sederunts of this Synod, concerning the Rev. D.E. Nicholds, and also concerning supply of the Hamilton Congregation. It was resolved

that the reports be noted.

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr J.A. Cromarty, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. Following discussion, it was resolved:

1. That the appreciation of members of Synod, and our people be placed on record for all who have assisted in the production of 'The Presbyterian Banner'.
2. That all be once again invited to submit material for publication.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

It was moved on notice and seconded that the frequency of publication of The Presbyterian Banner be reviewed by Synod. The motion was carried.

It was resolved that The Presbyterian Banner be published 11 times per year.

It was further resolved

3. That Rev. R.S. Ward continue as Editor of 'The Presbyterian Banner' for the forthcoming year-till Synod 1985.
4. That the writing of Rev. Peter Bloomfield – 'Covenant Baptism' and that of Rev. Peter Gadsby - 'Essentials of Christian Living' be published in booklet form during the forthcoming year.
5. That the Committee investigate other printing methods and formats that could be used to advantage in the publication of all our printed material, and that a report be made to Synod, 1985.
6. That during the year 1984-1985, one edition of 'The Presbyterian Banner' be commercially printed and that such an edition be related to Congregational news and affairs - both articles and photographs; as well as containing material that could be used in outreach activities. That congregations be encouraged to order extra copies of this edition both to help reduce costs and increase the usefulness of the production, and that advertisements of a suitable kind be included to assist in reducing costs.
7. That an Editor be appointed to supervise a section of the Magazine devoted to Young People.

### MISSIONS COMMITTEE BUSINESS (cont'd)

It was resolved to meet in closed court. It was resolved to meet in open court.

Synod resolved:

6. (a) That the Tamatas be returned to Australia for furlough in December 1985.  
  
(b) That Synod approve of Mrs Tamata's proposal to go to Scotland and allot \$2,000 from Missions Relief Fund to assist in this purpose.
7. That on the Tamatas' return to Australia, the terms of their contract be re-negotiated.
8. That the booklet "Ten Things You Should Know," as revised by Professor Eagleson, should be published.

9. That \$1,000 be granted to P.R.O.E.S.A. Project and forwarded to the Treasurer, Free Church of Scotland. Money to come from the Missions Relief Fund.

10. That the plight of our Presbyterian Brethren in Uganda be commended to the prayers and compassion of our people.

#### REPORT FROM SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY ANENT MR NICHOLDS

The Clerk of Southern Presbytery read from the minutes of Presbytery's meetings of 24 February 1984, and of 11 May 1984.

Mr Nicholds addressed the Court. It was resolved that Southern Presbytery in consultation with Church Extension and Supply Committee investigate a sphere of labour for Mr Nicholds.

#### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE BUSINESS

It was resolved that the Synod approve the present arrangements for accounting for the finances of The Presbyterian Banner.

#### ANSWERS TO DISSENTS - MESSRS LEE AND RAMSAY RE PORT MACQUARIE PROPERTY

Mr Lee reported that these had been prepared, but had been misplaced.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

The Synod approved the following:

##### Law and Advisory: (Convener is first named)

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

##### Missions:

K. Macleod, E.R. Lee, J.E. Hockett, J.A. Cromarty.

##### Provident Funds:

R.S. Ward, N.G. Triffett, J.R.B. Webster, J.M. Cromarty, D. Hamilton.

##### Church Extension & Supply:

R.W. Murray, J.D. Heenan, Grafton elder, Maclean elder, (D.R. Nibbs - corresponding member).

##### Faith and Life:

J.A. Cromarty, Hunter elder, Hawkesbury-Nepean elder, H. Varnes, Graham King (Hunter).

##### Psalmody:

E.R. Lee, S.N. Ramsay, N.A. McPherson, J.A. Cromarty, St Georges elder.

##### Publications:

J.A. Cromarty, A.L. Tripovich, E.R. Lee, C.P. King.

##### Training of Ministry:

P.J. Bloomfield, R.W. Murray, R.S. Ward, W.J.W. Hanna, J.D. Ramsay, W.J. McClean.

##### Youth and Fellowship:

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

Finance:

N.A. McPherson, A.P. Webster, A. Steel, H.C. Varnes, K. Kerr.

8:14 Foundation:

Treasurer, Moderator, Clerk plus one nominated representative from each Presbytery.

Psalter Revision:

R.S. Ward, P.J. Bloomfield.

Administration/Inter Church Relations: Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Moderator, Moderator elect, Convener of Law and Advisory Committee, nominee from Southern Presbytery (for I.C.R. only)

REPORT FROM PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE, AS REQUIRED BY EARLIER SEDERUNT (Sederunt 9)

The following report was received: The Committee regards the position of a Home Missionary preparing for ordination as analogous to that of a student or licentiate giving residential supply, and thus excluded from Superannuation. We are of course prepared to investigate specific proposals for amendment of the regulations bearing always in mind that financial provision is made, and that no unreasonable inequity is created.

REPORTS FROM EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

The Central Presbytery minutes have been examined and we report as follows:

1. There are several instances of alterations and insertion initialled only by Clerk. (p. 184, 191, 193)
  2. The words "it was agreed to meet in open court" should be inserted after decision re Mr Cromarty. (p. 194)
  3. At the beginning of the meeting 22nd October 1983 words such as, "The action of the Moderator in calling the meeting was approved" should appear.
  4. The "in hunc effectum" meeting 30.11.1983 was adjourned for 14 days and was completed prior to an ordinary meeting on that day. A more regular procedure would have resulted in the business unfinished by the in hunc effectum meeting 30.11.1983 being taken up at the ordinary meeting.
  5. It appears that various decisions of Presbytery have not been implemented by the Clerk at all or only after rather lengthy delay. (Meetings 17.11.1983, 14.12.1983, 1.02.1984).
  6. While the typing is clear, we suggest the layout could be spaced somewhat more and subject headings introduced.
- D. Hamilton      R.S. Ward

Examination of Southern Presbytery Records

We examined the Records. We found them in order and recommend attestation.

There appears to be a little difference between Presbytery Record of Meetings in Closed Court, and that of Synod Practice earlier. Perhaps this is an area where some guidelines are required to standardize practice in the Church Courts.

R.W. Murray     W.J.W. Hanna

Northern Presbytery Record. Mr Lee reported that the record was in order.

#### ATTESTATION

It was resolved that the reports be received, and the records attested, subject to corrections being subsequently made.

#### PRINCIPAL ACTS OF SYNOD

Synod approved the following list of principal acts of Synod 1984:

##### CLASS I (Barrier Act Procedure)

1. Act correcting Federal Relations Act of 1954

##### CLASS II (Other)

1. Act anent Travelling Expenses of Synod Delegates
2. Act anent "8:14 Foundation" - calculation of loan interest
3. Act anent oversight and sale of Castlereagh Property
4. Act anent Retirement Age of Ministers
5. Act anent proper procedure to be followed in introducing new matters for Synod's consideration
6. Act anent application for membership of the International Conference of Reformed Churches
7. Act anent preservation of real value of bequests
8. Act anent establishment of Youth Organisation
9. Act anent special funding for youth activities
10. Act anent Regulations governing sales and mortgages in NSW.

#### NOMINATION OF MODERATOR

The Rev. K. Macleod was nominated as Moderator for 1985/86.

#### APPRECIATION TO MACLEAN CONGREGATION

It was resolved that we record and express our warm appreciation to the Maclean Congregation for the hospitality and fellowship so graciously extended to the Synod.

The minutes of this final sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Moderator briefly addressed the Court.

Synod 1984 was closed with the singing of Psalm 133, and prayer.

W.P. Cadsby  
Clerk

A.L. Tripovich  
Moderator