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PRINCIPAL ACTS of SYNOD 85

The following list of principal acts for Synod 1985, while not forming part of the Minutes, are included here by the direction of Synod for the convenience of readers.

CLASS 1 (Barrier Act procedure)

None

CLASS 2 (Other)

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ANNUAL SYNOD 1985

SEDERUNT 1

Within the Taree Church building on 11 May 1985, at 7.38 pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted.

The Moderator, the Rev. A.L. Tripovich, led public worship. Jude 1-25 was read, and the sermon focussed upon verse 3.

Outline of Retiring Moderator's Address

Reading - Jude. Text: Vs.3. Subject - An Ancient but still Urgent Message from Jude.

Introduction: A seldom used Book in prominent areas of the church - contrary to Ecumenical aims - offensive to self-righteous souls. Not a nice - but a necessary Book. A crisis Epistle intended by Holy Spirit to arouse church from apathy - alert to danger of apostates and move us to contend for the Faith.

1. An Urgent and Timely Warning:

Jude announces the presence of apostates warned of by the Apostles, such as Peter (2 Pet. 2) and Paul in his Letters to Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Colosse and also by John etc. Jesus also warned (Mt. 7:15). Remember how apostates have "crept in" from Eden, through history, to our present time.

2. An Earnest Contending For an Ancient Faith

To contend is to hold fast against a contrary force. The Faith, not the subjective, ambiguous faith of Existentialists - but the revealed body of Redemptive truth embodying the gospel of Christ. The Protestant and Reformed Faith. Contending involves - 1. knowing and loving the Truth re. Christ and his salvation. 2. Resolve to practise the Faith. 3. Bearing witness to it - in home, church, office and community. 4. Renunciation of all, contrary to it. 5. Readiness to suffer for it if need be.

Finally: (Vs. 24, 25)

We are encouraged in such contending by the assurance of the continued presence and power of a Sovereign God in Christ. He will keep us from falling, and will present us, faultless. To Him, therefore be glory, majesty, dominion and power now and forever. May the Spirit of God alert us to the urgency of Jude's message and stir us up to contend earnestly for the Faith.

After prayer, the Moderator called for the certified rolls of Presbytery, which were read, as follows:

CENTRAL PRESBYTERY:

Ministers: Revs. E.R. Lee, J.A. Webster, H.C. Varnes, J. Graham.

Elders: Messrs. J.A. Cromarty, D.E. Kerr, C.P. King, A. Neil.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Ministers

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

Elders

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

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

Rev. J.M. Cromarty
Rev. R.S. Ward
Rev. D.R. Nibbs

Mr. G.P. Cahill (Geelong)
Mr. J.B. Loudon (Melbourne)
Mr. N.G. Triffett (Ulverstone)
Mr. D. Hamilton (Hamilton)

Apologies were tendered on behalf of Messrs. P.J. Bloomfield (Sederunts 1 and 2), R.L. Campbell (Sederunt 1) and K.A. Dawson.

The Clerk reported that the Rev. Kenneth MacLeod of Maclean was the Moderator-elect, and moved that the appointment be confirmed. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Retiring Moderator welcomed Mr. MacLeod to the chair, and he (Mr. MacLeod) expressed his gratitude to the Court for appointing him to this position.

The new Moderator proceeded to deliver the 1985 Moderatorial Address: "The Observation of the Sabbath and its Usefulness to Every Age".

1. The Sabbath in the Westminster Confession.
2. (a) The Sabbath in the Decalogue
(b) Its purpose under the Law.
3. The Sabbath in the Prophets.
4. The Sabbath in the New Testament
(a) The Lord's teaching
(b) The Apostolic teaching.
5. Its present usefulness.

EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

The following nominations were confirmed:

Northern Presbytery:	D.R. Nibbs and J.B. Loudon
Central Presbytery:	A.L. Tripovich and R.L. Campbell
Southern Presbytery:	H.C. Varnes and J.A. Cromarty
Synod Permanent Record:	R.W. Murray and K.D. Causley.

It was resolved that Presbyteries having unfinished business be permitted to meet while Synod is not in session.

REPORTER TO THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF SYNOD

Nominations were proposed and seconded: R. S. Ward and E.R. Lee. Upon being put to the vote, Mr. Ward was appointed to this task.

Notices of Motion for Sederunt 2 were read to the Court.

Following the singing of a Psalm, the sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.30 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 2. Monday 13 May, 1985, 9.00 am.

The sederunt was constituted with devotions led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunt 1 were read and confirmed.

It was proposed to deal with Correspondence Item 13, namely:

13. Extract of decision (10 Sept. 84): to overture Synod to grant a seat on Presbytery to the Rev. S.N. Ramsay.

It was moved and seconded that the correspondence be received. The motion was carried.

Mr. Lee appeared in support of the overture, and responded to questions.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the Overture be granted and that Rev. S.N. Ramsay be granted a seat on the Central Presbytery.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words "Northern Presbytery" be substituted for the words "Central Presbytery".

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

It was resolved that Mr. Ramsay's name be added to the roll of Presbytery by the authority of Synod.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the report, which was received.

The Committee proposed

1. That Synod adopt in principle the Timetable for business proposed by the Administration Committee, and urge all members to endeavour to work within this framework.

It was moved and seconded that Time table for Synod sederunts be as last year. It being understood that should Synod be ahead of schedule, an evening sederunt may be omitted.

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

It was resolved

2. That a special sederunt be held on Tuesday evening, starting at 7.30pm, for reports on Missions and Church Extension matters.

The Committee proposed

3. That a special informal conference be held on Wednesday evening, starting at 7.30pm, for discussion of matters of concern to us as a Church; and that in particular we discuss the draft church practice, especially matters of some controversy, with a view to achieving greater unanimity amongst us.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words "Church Growth and Evangelism with special reference to established charges and" be added after the words "in particular we discuss". The amendment was carried.

The proposal as amended became the finding of the Court.

The Committee proposed:

4. That ordinarily Synod meet biennially.

The proposal was defeated.

It was resolved:

5. That meetings of Synod be not necessarily held during school holidays.
6. That the meetings be held within the bounds of Congregations able and willing to provide the necessary support and facilities.
7. That Synod rule that it shall be the normal practice for clerks of Presbytery, and of Synod and its Commission to record in the ordinary minutes the substantial content of proceedings in closed court, including decisions taken in closed court, but without divulging matters, deemed by the Court to be of such a nature that they must be kept confidential.
8. That the Administration Committee arrange a two day Conference on "Evangelism and Church Extension" in 1986, at the beginning of the visit to Australia of Prof. McMillan; such Conference to be for officebearers during the day, and open to the public in the evenings; the expenses of Synod members only be the responsibility of Synod; and the venue to be organised by the Administration Committee.
9. That Synod note with gratitude that the Geelong Congregation has set aside \$1000 towards the expenses of Prof. McMillan's visit, and reaffirm its request to the Geelong Session to arrange a preaching itinerary for him through the Church.
10. That special collections be taken in all congregations on the first Lord's Days in June and December 1985 towards funding Prof. McMillan's visit, the offerings to be forwarded to the General Treasurer.
11. That all congregations be encouraged to borrow and view the video tapes of Prof. McMillan's sermons on "Psalm 23" from Media Mission, Grafton, and pray for him as he prepares to come to Australia.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. 6 Aug. 1984. From Rev. Prof. A.C. Boyd, Secretary of the Senate, Free Church College. Conveying the minute of the Senate concerning the Call to Prof. Macleod from St George's, Sydney.

It was resolved that Item 1 be received and noted.

2. Sept. 1984. From Clerk of the General Assembly of the Free Church in Southern Africa. Sending fraternal greetings to the PCEA, and enclosing copies of the Minutes of the Second General Assembly, and other relevant papers. Inter alia, the minutes include the following:
3. 2. 7. BAPTISM

Upon the request of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia the subject of Baptism and the validity of this when ministered (sic) in other denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, had been discussed at different levels and the following was accepted as the finding of the General Assembly - The General Assembly accept the traditional view, according to our Confessional Standards, that the Sacraments are not downgraded by the person who handled these. The efficacy is the same irrespective of the official. For some the meaning may be different, but the form and the formula used is the same or similar, with the words "In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost", and this is Christian Baptism. There are no problems concerning this acceptance in our Church.

It was resolved that Item 2 be received, noted and the extract re Roman Catholic baptism be remitted to the Faith and Life Committee.

3. 17 Dec. 84. From Clerk of Southern Presbytery notifying Synod of the resignation from the PCEA ministry of the Rev. D.E. Nicholds, effective 31 Dec. 1984.

It was resolved that Item 3 be received and noted.

4. 17 Dec. 84. From Secretary Junta Directiva of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru, enclosing a copy of the last Assembly's minutes, and conveying the fraternal greetings of that Church to us.

It was resolved that Item 4 be received and noted.

5. 17 Dec 84. From the Rev. E.R. Lee. Forwarding answers to Reasons of Dissent lodged by R.S. Ward at Synod 1983. (These answers had been misplaced at the time of Synod 1984 - see 1984 Minutes, p.25.)

It was resolved that Item 5 be received, noted and the answers held 'in retentis'.

6. 11 March 85. From Clerk of Southern Presbytery. Forwarding an overture from the East St Kilda Deacons' Court anent Church property in that place. (The prayer of the overture has been granted by Presbytery in terms of the Deacons' Court's request.)

It was resolved that Item 6 be received and be taken together with the Victorian Trust Corporation Report.

7. 25 March 85. From Session Clerk, Grafton Congregation, lodging that Court's appeal against a decision of the Northern Presbytery with reference to an appeal to it by Mr A. Cameron. The Rev. R.W. Murray to appear in support of the appeal. The Revs A.L. Tripovich and P.J. Bloomfield for the Northern Presbytery.

It was resolved that Item 7 be received and be taken on Friday morning at the time set aside for

Causes. Copies of relevant documents to be circulated to Synod members.

8. 26 March 85. From the Revd D.R. Nibbs. A petition against a ruling by the Moderator of Southern Presbytery to disallow his appeal to Synod against a decision of the Presbytery not to grant the prayer of a petition from Hamilton Session about Mr Turnbull and the separated brethren.

The Moderator was requested to rule on the reception of Item 8. The Moderator ruled against its reception.

9. 29 April 85. From Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Reformed Churches of Australia, inviting the S.E.A. to appoint a (non-voting) delegate to their meeting in September, in Melbourne.
10. 3 May 1985. From the Clerk of Presbytery, Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia, conveying the Presbytery's fraternal greetings.

It was resolved that Items 9 and 10 be received and be remitted to the Inter Church Relations Committee and considered with that Committee's proposed deliverances.

11. Covering letter, including pertinent extracts(22 April 85), and a copy of medical certificate for Mr K.H. Kerr.

It was resolved that Item 11 be received and noted.

12. Extract of decision (10 Sept. 84): to petition Synod to expunge from the permanent record the words on page 26 from "I" to "Ward" on the ground that such were not read to the Synod when the minutes were confirmed. E.R. Lee to appear in support of the Petition.

It was resolved that Item 12 be received and considered after the Administration Committee's recommendations.

14. Extract of decision (26 Sept. 84): to rescind the Act of Synod 1984 anent retirement age of ministers. A. Neil to appear in support.

It was resolved to receive Item 14 and that it be taken after the business of the Provident Fund Committee.

15. Extract of decision (28 Dec.84): to have removed Nat. Library Card of Australia number of the draft revised Practice. D. Kerr to appear in support.
16. Extract of decision (28 Dec. 84): anent "work of revision". H.C. Varnes to state overture.

It was resolved to receive Items 15 and 16 and that they be taken after the business of the Law and Advisory Committee.

17. Extract of decision (25. Feb. 85): anent consultation with Free Church about Reformed Pres. Church of Northern Ireland Psalter.

It was resolved to receive Item 17 and that it be taken after the business of the Psalmody Committee.

Additional Committee Proposed Deliverance (No. 12):

12. That Synod confirm the action of the Admin. Committee in granting permission for the video-

taping of the Retiring Moderator's sermon, and the moderatorial address, and that Synod grant permission for the taping of the Missions/Church Extension Evening and the business of the Faith and Life Committee.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended in order to allow the proposal of an amendment that the reference to the "business of the Faith and Life Committee" be deleted. The amended motion was proposed, seconded, and became the finding of the Court.

Correspondence Item 12 was fallen from.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY:

That the Synod express its sympathy to Mr Alf Maclean in the loss of his wife during the past year, and send prayerful greetings for a speedy recovery to Mr N. Kerr and Mr K. Kerr; and that Mr J.E. Hockett now lead the Synod in prayer.

TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

The Treasurer, Mr McPherson presented the Treasurer's report. It was resolved that the report be received. Questions were directed to the Treasurer and explanations given. Mr McPherson then presented the Auditor's Report of Mr Wm Walker, indicating that in retirement now, Mr Walker would no longer carry his formal qualifications (AASA, ACIS), but was happy to continue to audit the accounts of the Synod.

It was resolved that the deep appreciation of Synod be expressed to the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer and to the Auditor, and that Synod confirm its request to Mr Walker to continue to audit the accounts of the Synod.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.35 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 3. Monday 13 May 1985, 1.35 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 2 were read and confirmed.

8:14 FOUNDATION

The Convener, Mr McPherson presented the report, which was received.

It was resolved

1. That Synod express appreciation for the support that has been given to the Foundation.
2. That the Armidale Manse loan be transferred to the Foundation.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Treasurer presented the report, with the deletion of the third paragraph. It was moved, seconded and carried that the report be received. Questions were addressed to the Treasurer.

The Committee recommended

1. That the minimum stipend be increased by \$15 per week to \$271 per week as from 1st July 1985; and by a further \$15 to \$286 per week as from 1st January 1986.

An amendment was moved and seconded, That usual policy of Synod be followed, viz. stipend rise be dependent on Consumer Price Index.

Upon being put to the vote, the Committee's proposal was preferred, and became the finding of the Court.

It was resolved

2. That the following provisions be made for Stipend assistance:

Grafton	\$3,500
Hunter/Barrington	\$1,560
Richmond/Brunswick	\$3,000
Ulverstone	\$5,800

3. That transfers be made from the General Fund to the Church Extension Fund - \$9,620.16, and the Widows & Orphans/Aged Retired Ministers Fund \$732.96.
4. That the present balance and future receipts of Lindfield Lease Account be placed in the 8:14 Foundation.

QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report. The report was received.

N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report. The report was received.

It was resolved

1. That Synod now request the St Georges delegate to report on the current situation with respect to the property purchased in 1984 adjacent to the Church's Retirement Units in Beaconsfield Road, Lindfield, NSW.

Mr D. Kerr addressed the Court and responded to questions.

It was resolved

2. That Synod again remind the Church of its legislation of 1983 concerning bequests and legacies, and ask all courts to comply with the same.

VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

The Secretary, Mr Ward, presented the report, which was received. Mr Ward responded to various questions.

It was moved and seconded that standing orders be suspended in order to permit the following

motion to be moved: That Synod request Mr Ward's resignation as a Trustee in Victoria and that his Long Service Leave entitlement be adjusted so that he alone bears the financial loss sustained because of this investment which associates the church with usurers.

The motion to suspend standing orders was defeated.

Proposed Deliverances

It was resolved:

1. That an Australia wide Public Liability policy be effected in the name of the trust corporations and including organizations within the church, in respect of all activities of the church including manses which may be let, but excluding the Lindfield Retirement Units and the East St Kilda investment properties, and that the limit of liability be set at \$1,000,000.
2. That the premium for the aforesaid policy be paid from General Funds and reimbursed in equal shares by each Deacons' Court. For this purpose the Synod itself is to be reckoned as if it were a Deacons' Court thus each of the current 14 Deacons' Courts bears 1/15th of the cost, and the Synod bears the balance.
3. That the relevant Deacons' Courts effect and maintain Public Liability cover in the name of the Trustees and the Deacons' Court in respect of the Lindfield Retirement Units and the East St Kilda investment properties to a limit of not less than \$1,000,000, and lodge a copy of the policy with the Secretary of the relevant Trust Corporation which shall report annually on this.

It was proposed

4. That Synod now discuss a group insurance scheme for church owned buildings.

The proposal was defeated.

It was resolved

5. That Mr John Bertram Loudon, Paymaster, of 18 Outlook Drive, Nunawading be appointed as a member of the body corporate The Trustees for Victoria of the PCEA, to fill the current vacancy.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 6: Overture anent sale of part of East St Kilda Property.

Mr Loudon stated the overture. Following questions, it was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted, and that Synod

1. Approve the sale of part or all of the property known as 88-92 Alma Road, East St Kilda (ie Manse and adjoining villa) at fair market value as ascertained by professional advisors at the time (realizable value expected to be not less than \$300,000 in total).
2. Note the Deacons' Court's express determination to compensate any tenants whose tenancies are terminated by sale by paying the fair value of floor-coverings, window furnishings, fixed room heaters or outside buildings that have been provided by the tenant; to pay any pensioner tenant affected \$250 to assist in relocation costs; to give not less than 60 days notice of any termination of tenancy; to provide references should it not be possible to provide alternative accommodation in church owned property.
3. Approve the application of the proceeds of any sale generally as follows, and always subject to any and all requirements of the Free Presbyterian Property Act, 1953, of the State of Victoria, and

to the employment of duly qualified solicitors for conveyancing work

- a. Approximately \$15,000 for repairs and maintenance on the remaining flats and on the church.
- b. Approximately \$75,000 for the erection of a 2 storey manse on the vacant land overlooking Alma Park.
- c. The sum of \$100,000 designated for development of Eastern Suburbs work (capital to be invested as appropriate in manse/church and trustee securities.)
- d. Balance (likely to be around \$100,000) to be held in trustee securities with the likelihood of purchase of a couple of small OYO flats in the vicinity of existing church property.

And further, that the Deacons' Court be authorized to obtain any necessary Bank accommodation in order to cover costs pending receipt of proceeds of any sale.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words be added: "and that the whole transaction be subject to supervision of the Presbytery, including the relocation of the present tenants of the flats".

The time being 5.30 pm, notices of motions for Missions and Church Extension business were read, and the sederunt closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 4. Monday 13 May 1985, 7.05 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 3 were read and confirmed.

The Synod resumed consideration of the overture from Southern Presbytery.

Upon being put to the vote, there was an equal division of the vote. The Moderator cast his vote in favour of the amended motion. This then became the finding of the Court.

Dissents against the decision were entered:

Simple dissents: Messrs Tripovich, Neil and King.

Dissents with reasons:

Mr Varnes: Through this sale I see that a priceless heritage of our denomination is lost, in addition, this overture does not spell out in detail how, when, and where the proceeds of this sale are to be spent.

Mr Kerr: The overture did not demonstrate that St Kilda Council's permission for the erection of a new manse behind the church building had been obtained: That the scheme for purchase of new church could have been financed from the income producing property which is now being sold.

Mr Nibbs: I am against the decision to sell the property at St Kilda because of (a) the statement on page 14 of the Notes of the Victorian Property Act prepared by Mr Bradshaw in which he quotes Halsbury's Laws of England 'There is no positive rule of law absolutely prohibiting the sale of charity lands, but such a sale is rarely justifiable, the presumption being that persons who give lands to charity, intend that they should be devoted to that purpose in perpetuity.' (b) The decision was made mostly by new members of the congregation.

CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY

The Convener, Mr Murray, presented the report, which was received.

It was resolved

1. That Synod acknowledge its thankfulness to God for the work done in Church Extension during the year, commit to Him Church Extension Charges and Vacant Congregations and pray that it may be able, through His Grace, to meet its commitments in the coming year.

2. That Synod

(a) encourage the Church to pray for and engage in the work of Church Extension both in established and Church Extension Charges.

(b) Direct the Committee to bring before the Church at large the Financial need of the Church Extension Fund, and solicit their help in eliminating the debt and meeting our commitments.

3. That Financial Assistance be given as follows:-

(a) Brisbane - as per Stage 3, Church Extension Charge.

(b) Armidale - as per Stage 2, Church Extension Charge.

It was further resolved:

1. That provision be made by Synod to receive reports on the work of Church Extension and Evangelism in established charges by means of an annual report from each Presbytery to this Committee.

2. That in view of the encouraging ministry of the Rev. John Graham in the Bondi area and the number of promising contacts made with both Jew and Gentile, Synod discuss the possibility of church extension work in that area and encourage Central Presbytery to establish a preaching station and invite Mr Graham to commence worship services in the Bondi area under the oversight of Central Presbytery.

Notices of motion were read, and the sederunt closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 5. Tuesday 14 May 1985, 9.05 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 4 were read and confirmed.

NOTICE OF MOTION: Investments

It was moved and seconded:

a. That the attention of all members of Synod be drawn to Recommendation anent Victorian Trust Corporation that unless otherwise directed by Synod, all transactions involving the use of Synod

funds, including receipt, holding, disbursement or investment, are to be made thru' the General Treasurer and adequately documented.

b. Synod direct that all investment of Capital Funds shall be as decided by the Trustees or a majority of them in consultation with the relevant Committee Convener and the General Treasurer.

Following discussion, the motion was carried.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Mr Lee presented the report in lieu of the Convener, Mr MacLeod. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr Lee responded to various questions.

The Clerk gave intimation to the Court of an item of correspondence from Central Presbytery which the Committee had declined to transmit.

Questions to the Missions Committee continued, with discussion of the report.

It was resolved in the light of the discussion, that the Committee be authorised to bring further proposed deliverances at this or a later sederunt.

It was resolved that:

1. Synod express its gratitude to God for the privilege of bringing the Gospel and its blessings to other lands.
2. We express our appreciation of the loyal support of our people and exhort them to even more self-sacrificing giving.
3. We send our greetings to all our missionaries and assure them of our whole-hearted support.
4. We recognise the long and faithful service by Dr Helen Ramsay on the Mission Field. We express our gratitude to God for her devoted service and assure her of our prayers as she seeks the Lord's guidance for the future.
5. a) Mr John Greensill and Mr David Brock be thanked for their much valued contribution to the well-being of our missionaries in India.

b) The Synod endorse the payment of the expenditure involved from the Mission Relief Fund.
6. (a) We commend to our young people the opportunities that exist on our Mission Fields for various skills on a temporary or permanent basis.

b) We particularly commend the need for a surgeon for India and a male primary teacher for Colegio San Andres.
7. The Synod allocate \$3,000 to the P.R.O.E.S.A. project from the Mission Relief Fund.
8. The Synod endorse the action of the Committee in co-opting Dr. Andrews to its membership.
9. The Synod endorse the action of the Committee in granting Mr Tamata compassionate leave to join his family in Scotland.
10. (a) The Synod approve the granting to C.W.I. of \$3000, and express their prayerful support of

Mr John Graham, Sydney and express their prayer that a suitable missionary be forthcoming to take the place of the Rev. Rod Scott of Melbourne.

(b) That Synod express their thanksgiving to God for the faithful work of the Rev. Rod Scott who resigns as C.W.I. Missionary on June 1st.

11. The Synod devote some time at an evening sederunt to Missions and invite Dr Helen Ramsay and the Rev. John Graham to address the Synod.

It was moved and seconded that Synod meet in closed court. The motion was carried. Following discussion of the factors leading up to the Committee's accepting the Tamata's resignation, it was resolved to meet in open court.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.45 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 6. Tuesday 14 May 1985, 1.45 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 5 were read and confirmed.

Synod resumed consideration of Missions Committee business.

It was resolved that:

12. Synod endorse the following decisions of the Committee re Fiji.

(a) That the resignation of Mr & Mrs Tamata from the work in Fiji be accepted with regret.

(b) That our gratitude be expressed to the Tamatas for their work in Fiji and our prayerful good wishes for the future.

(c) That all monies outstanding to the Tamatas viz., salary and house allowance on a pro-rata basis be paid. That single air fare from Fiji to Scotland and the equivalent cost of sea freighting personal effects including books from Fiji to Australia be paid to Mr Tamata.

13. (a) Synod endorses the action of the Committee in inviting Mr Leone Tupua to attend Synod.

(b) Synod extend our Fraternal Greetings and encouragement to the Group in Fiji and assure them of our continuing support.

14. Arrange for a special Lunch Gathering during Synod to meet with our missionaries and to express our appreciation for their long and faithful service to the cause of Christ in India and a tangible token of our esteem be presented to them.

15. The annual payment to Denis Muldoon be paid from the Mission Relief Fund.

16. Synod grant \$700 from the Rev. J. Harman Memorial Fund to the Dimbaza Bible School. This payment be made through the General Treasurer of the Free Church of Scotland.

17. The Committee's Report be published in the Banner, and that the P.R.O.E.S.A. project be given good publicity either separately or in The Presbyterian Banner.

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS

The Clerk presented the report, which was received. After discussion, Synod proceeded to consider the Committee's proposals.

The committee proposed

1. That the remit to the Southern Presbytery concerning union with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia be continued, and that fraternal greetings be sent to the RP Presbytery, with copies of our Synod Reports and Minutes.

An amendment was moved and seconded that "union" be replaced by "closer relations".

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

It was resolved:

2. That Synod recognises the Free Reformed Churches of Australia to be true and faithful churches of the Lord Jesus Christ, rejoices at the opportunity of involvement together in the International Conference, and expresses the hope that continued contact will open the way to closer relations in the future; at the same time recognising our mutual responsibility to exhort one another to continued obedience to the Word of God, and the doctrine and practice which is according to godliness.

The Committee proposed

3. That Synod appoint the Rev. R.S. Ward, or in his absence, the Rev. J.M. Cromarty, together with the Revs. E.R. Lee and D.R. Nibbs to attend the Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia as observers, to meet these brethren and bring to them our greetings.

An amendment was moved and seconded, That we advise the Free Reformed Churches of Australia that should they desire representatives of our church to attend their coming Synod as observers, and to bring our greetings, we have appointed Rev. R.S. Ward, or in his absence, Rev. J.M. Cromarty, together with Rev. D.R. Nibbs, to be such representatives.

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

It was resolved

4. That copies of our Reports and Minutes be sent to the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, together with an extract of the two preceding decisions of Synod.
5. (a) That Synod hereby appoint the Rev. W.P. Gadsby, in his capacity as Clerk of Synod and Convener of the Inter-church Relations Committee, as first delegate to the meeting of the International Conference of Reformed Churches to be held in Edinburgh in September 1985.

The Committee proposed

- (b) That the Rev. S.R. Tamata be invited to be our second voting delegate to the Conference, should he be in Scotland at the time.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the name of the Rev. J.D. Heenan be substituted for that of Mr Tamata.

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

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 9: From Reformed Churches of Australia

The letter was read again to the Court.

It was moved and seconded: That we express our thanks to the Reformed Churches of Australia for their brotherly invitation to appoint a non-voting delegate to their meeting at Melbourne in September; confirm that we have several years ago withdrawn from the RES but have joined the ICRC and thus are seeking closer relations with the Free Reformed Churches; suggest therefore that at this time we consider it wisest that we do not appoint a delegate as such but we have appointed Rev. R.S. Ward of Melbourne to bring our greetings and to observe with a view to improving understanding of our mutual responsibilities in relation to each other.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the Rev. R.S. Ward be appointed as our delegate to the forthcoming Synod of the Reformed Churches of Australia, in terms of their invitation.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was eliminated, and the motion became the finding of Synod.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 10: From Clerk of Presbytery, Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.

It was resolved that the correspondence be noted.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 4.48 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 7. Tuesday 14 May 1985, 7.05 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 6 were read and confirmed.

Notices of motion for sederunt 8 were read.

CHURCH EXTENSION & MISSIONS EVENING

The Moderator introduced Dr J.C. Andrews, who spoke of the work of the Free Church in Southern Africa, and the missionaries working with that Church. He drew attention to the staff shortage of the College in Lima, despite its being one of the most prestigious colleges in the country of Peru. Another important project in Peru is the P.R.O.E.S.A. project in the regions north of Cajamarca, where there is great ignorance and poverty. Led by the Rev. Donald Smith, great advances are being made in dispelling poverty and ignorance, as well as spiritual darkness. The project is being strongly supported by T.E.A.R. Fund (UK), and has recently been joined by a qualified nursing sister who has been associated with the Free Church of Scotland.

Dr Andrews spoke also of the situation which had developed with the Fiji Mission, and which had culminated in the acceptance of Mr and Mrs Tamata's resignation. Owing to health and personal reasons, Sam and Muriel had been unable to commit themselves to further long-time service in Fiji. The Church is continuing to take steps to give what assistance we can to Sam and Muriel as they face an uncertain future. One of the encouraging results of Sam's work has been the zeal for the biblical and Reformed faith demonstrated by Mr Leone Tupua. We intend to encourage Mr Tupua and the small group in Fiji to maintain a witness on Fiji.

Various other matters arising from the previous sederunt were summarised by the Doctor, who then called upon Dr Helen Ramsay and the Rev John Graham. to come forward.

He first introduced to the Moderator Dr Ramsay who proceeded to speak to the gathering about her knowledge of the Lord's work in India, in particular the church work. The Rev. Prakash Kumar is still pastor of the Lakhnadon-Chhapara church, after 25 years in the ministry. In Jabalpur, the Revd David John is working from the new building which had been constructed under the guidance of the Rev. Ian McKenzie. A second minister, Rev. Francis Masih is also working in the Jabalpur area.

Dr Helen also expressed the deep appreciation of the mission folk for the work which had been done by David Brock and John Greensill during their stay in India. Dr Andrews' own visit to Chhapara had also proved very profitable for the people there.

The smallness of numerical growth has prevented the establishment of a strong, indigenous church, though this is a priority given the Indian Government's tightening up on entry visas. With Mr McKenzie's departure (last June), a greater burden of the church work is being borne by Dr MacDonald. He is, among other things, translating the Psalms into Hindi, for singing to Indian tunes. His labours are indeed prodigious.

A number of elders have recently been ordained in Jabalpur and Chhapara - men of high spiritual calibre. Dr Helen expressed the hope that soon a Presbytery could be established but sounded a caution concerning an ignorance of Reformed doctrine in the church there. She called us to constant prayer that there may be established a sound and flourishing indigenous church in India. Dr Helen concluded by noting that we as a church are no longer represented in the mission work of the Free Church, and called upon us to give this serious thought.

Dr Andrews next introduced the Rev. John Graham of Christian Witness to Israel.

The Moderator extended a warm welcome to Mr Graham who then addressed the Synod.

Mr Graham thanked the Synod for its faithful support of the work of C.W.I. He proceeded to exhort the people of God to engage in fervent gospel proclamation as the only hope of a lost world.

Mr Graham then addressed the gathering concerning the great work of preaching Christ to the Jew. The difficulties and opposition were many. The blindness of the Jew was real. But the gospel of Christ is the power of God to save both Jew and Gentile. He then set forth some of the real encouragements experienced as he witnessed the reality of changed lives; of Jewish people who had embraced Jesus as Messiah and God.

Mr Graham concluded by making an impassioned plea to the young men of our church to consider seriously the need of Melbourne created by the recent resignation of the Rev. Rod Scott. Could it be that the Lord is preparing one of our own people to take over the work amongst the Jewish people of Melbourne. The Church was called to earnest prayer regarding this.

The Moderator then invited Mr Ross Campbell of the Church Extension Committee to introduce the

two ministers from our Church Extension Charges.

Rev. Peter Gadsby then addressed the gathering and spoke of the work of the congregation in Armidale.

Armidale is a major centre of education in N.S.W. with a vast "floating" student population. The congregation has had contact with a great number of students who have come and then left at the conclusion of their studies. As a result it is difficult to measure the long term effects of the Gospel upon many of those who have been reached. Eternity alone will reveal it.

Mr Gadsby spoke of the various activities of the congregation and the areas of outreach, study classes and fellowship luncheons, and sought the prayers of the people for the ongoing work of Gospel proclamation in Armidale.

The Moderator then welcomed the Rev. Peter Bloomfield of Brisbane to speak of the Lord's work there. Mr Bloomfield then spoke of several matters affecting the work in Brisbane. A severe storm had damaged the Kalinga property, but with intensive effort both buildings had been re-roofed. About \$24,000 of the building loan had already been repaid, and indicated the unity and commitment of the folk there.

Despite serious illnesses in the Congregation, the Lord has blessed both the sufferers and their families. A number had joined the church as a result of having been invited by friends. An especially fruitful aspect of the ministry has been through the circulation of cassette tapes of the weekly sermons. A fortnightly Bible study has been begun in Caloundra, north of Brisbane. A letter-box drop was planned, inviting people to come along to the church. Mr Bloomfield mentioned a number of other aspects of the work: fellowship lunch on Sundays; election of two deacons; Toowoomba Camp. He concluded by noting that in church courts decisions had always been unanimous, and attributed this to the work of God's Spirit.

The Moderator thanked all speakers, and called upon Mr J.A. Cromarty to lead in prayer. Mr Cromarty led the congregation in prayer and the evening was concluded with the singing of Psalm 96:1-7.

A Notice of motion was read, and the sederunt closed with prayer at 9.30 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 8. Wednesday 15 May 1985, 9.05 am

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 7 were read and confirmed by acclamation (!)

MISSIONS COMMITTEE: Further Proposals

It was resolved:

19. That \$3000 from Synod Relief Fund be allocated to the Lakhnadon Community Health Project.

20. That Recommendation 12 of Missions Committee Recommendations 1981 (page 9) be rescinded and that prospective candidates for Free Church Mission Fields apply to this Committee for recognition and seconding to the Free Church of Scotland Mission.

21. That Mr Tamata's resignation be effective from 31st May '85 and that all entitlements be paid to him to that date viz. Housing Allowance for 3 months at \$100 per month; 3 months normal stipend.

The Committee proposed:

22. That Dr Andrews and Rev. John Cromarty be delegated to proceed to Fiji as soon as possible to plan the future of the work in consultation with Mr Tamata and Mr Tupua.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the name of Mr Lee be substituted for that of Mr Cromarty.

It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter to a later time.

FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr J.A. Cromarty, presented the report, which was received.

It was moved and seconded, That the Faith and Life Committee report be not adopted on the grounds that (a) it contains a number of unsubstantiated statements concerning State education; (b) it condemns outright "personal development curricula", while these curricula may, and often do, contain nonoffensive material such as how to brush one's teeth or ride one's bicycle; (c) it abuses some passages of Scripture by quoting them out of context; for example, the reference to "line upon line" etc. in Isaiah 28 which in context has nothing to do with educational methodology, but refers to the judgement of God's people, as appears from verse 13 of that chapter; (d) it fails to address the fundamental philosophical questions of child education; for example whether it is legitimate, Scripturally, to speak of "spiritual" education as something separate from "secular" education.

It was moved and seconded that the motion be put.

This was carried.

The motion was carried.

It was resolved that

1. Parents should be made aware of the subtle (and in some cases, not so subtle) influences at work in the State educational systems which undermine the clear teachings of Christ.

2. The following books be placed before our people as suitable reading material illustrating the problems that exist in education today.

a. Nesbitt, V., Humanistic Morals & Values Education.

b. La Haye, T., The Battle for the Mind, Fleming H. Revell Co., U.S.A., 1980.

c. Wallis, J., Chaos in the Classroom, Veritas Publishing Co., Australia, 1984.

d. Adams, J., Back to the Blackboard, Pres and Ref Pub'n Co., U.S.A., 1977.

e. De Jong, N., Philosophy of Education, Pres and Ref Pub'n Co., U.S.A., 1977.

3. The 1985 Committee look more deeply into the subject of the P.C.E.A. becoming involved in the education of children by means of church schools.

4. Our people be urged to continued prayer and supplication regarding the present deplorable trends in education.

It was resolved, That standing orders be suspended to permit the moving of the following motion:-

That a motion to adopt a report or otherwise be not an automatic requirement following reception, but that we continue to follow the practice of not adopting reports except in particular cases that may arise.

This motion was defeated.

LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the report. It was moved that the report be received and not adopted. The motion was seconded.

It was further moved that the report be received and adopted. This motion was seconded.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.35 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 9. Wednesday 15 May 1985, 1.45 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 8 were read and confirmed.

Synod resumed consideration of the two motions anent reception of the Law & Advisory Report.

The first motion became the finding of the Court, to wit: the Law and Advisory Report was received and not adopted.

It was resolved

1. That Synod endorse the Committee's general procedure in dealing with the submissions on the draft revised Practice.

It was proposed

2. That Synod direct the Law & Advisory Committee to proceed carefully with the revision -

(a) drawing the attention of the Church to variations in practice between the 'blue book', the draft revised Practice, and the actual practice observed in the several congregations and courts;

(b) continuing work on chapters 1 to 3 only during 1985/86, and conferring again in August 1985 to formulate proposed legislation by which Synod might resolve the anomalies;

(c) maintaining maximum contact with all lower courts.

It was resolved to take up the business of Correspondence Item 16 at this juncture.

Mr Varnes stated the Overture.

It was moved and seconded that the overture be sustained, and the prayer of the overture granted, viz. that Synod either

- a) depute the work of revision to a committee which is able and willing to meet frequently, face to face, over an indefinite period and work at the matter continuously, or
- b) rescind the appropriate motion and terminate the work of revision.

It was moved that the overture be not sustained. The motion was seconded.

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

Synod resumed consideration of proposal No.2, (a), (b) and (c). The proposal was adopted.

It was resolved

3. That the Law & Advisory Committee formulate draft legislation for submission to the ensuing annual meeting of Synod parallel to that of the Free Church in respect of the granting of seats on Presbyteries.

The Committee proposed

4. Regulation about Buildings and Real Estate.

(a) If the cost of erecting a new building, or making repairs, alterations or additions to existing buildings is expected to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the previous calendar year's locally-raised congregational income, the Deacons' Court is required:

(i) to obtain the approval of the congregation at a duly constituted congregational meeting; and

(ii) to obtain the approval of the Presbytery of the bounds; before any work commences or any contract is entered into to do the work.

(b) In a case where funds are not on hand for the completion of the work and where it is likely that loans, whether secured or unsecured, will be required to finish, then congregational and Presbytery approval MUST be obtained.

(c) The Deacons' Court must not sign or cause to be signed contracts for the purchase of real estate; these are to be executed only by the applicable body corporate, in accordance with the constitution and laws of the Synod of Eastern Australia.

(d) However, Deacons' Courts are hereby permitted to enter into a simple option to purchase, providing that withdrawal is possible at a limited cost during the option period, and provided that steps are taken forthwith to obtain the consents required before the option is exercised.

(e) The applicable body corporate is hereby authorised to execute all necessary documentation once it is satisfied that the necessary consents have been given.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the Law and Advisory Committee prepare regulations in terms of Clause 6 and 14 of the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act 1918 following the lines applicable in Victoria, with a view to their approval by a subsequent Synod pending the obtaining of a new Property Act in NSW.

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

5. Amendments to NSW Property Act 1918

It was resolved, 17 votes to 3,

1. That Synod, recognising the need for amendments to The Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act of 1918, and having considered the proposed bill to amend the said Act, prepared by our Procurator, hereby adopts the said proposed bill subject to the addition of a Schedule Clause 6 (1) parallel to that in the Victorian Act, the renumbering of Clause 6 subsections 1-11 to subsections 2-12, and the addition of a Schedule of Real Property at the close of the Act.

It was further resolved

2. That Synod remit this proposed bill to Presbyteries for their consent in terms of the Barrier Act, 1697.

3. That Synod request the Law & Advisory Committee to circulate the proposed bill to all lower courts and congregations in New South Wales for their approval.

4. That the following instructions be conveyed to lower courts and congregations:

(a) when a unanimous decision is achieved, the Moderator is to declare it so, and the fact is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting; should there be any dissents, these are to be recorded, and the number of them stated in the minutes;

(b) the confirmed relevant extract minutes of the respective meetings are to be typed on A4 sheets of paper, one side only, and certified by Clerk and Moderator;

(c) the extracts thus prepared are to be forwarded to the Clerk of Synod as soon as practicable following their confirmation and certification;

(d) where there is disapproval of the proposed bill, a clear and complete statement of the reasons is to be furnished to the Clerk together with the above-mentioned extracts;

(e) all returns are to be in the hands of the Clerk by 31 March 1986.

5. The results of the above procedure are to be presented to an ensuing meeting of the Synod for decision as to whether to proceed to seek legislation by the Parliament of New South Wales.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 15: Overture anent removal of National Library Catalogue Number from Draft Revised Practice.

Mr Kerr stated the overture. It was moved and seconded that the overture be sustained and the prayer of the overture granted, namely, that Synod have removed the National Library of Australia Card Number of the draft document, as it is incorrectly described and is not the Practice of the Courts of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

It was further moved and seconded that the overture be not sustained.

The first motion became the finding of the Court.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE BUSINESS: (Cont'd from Sederunt 8)

In the light of information given to Synod, Mr Cromarty's name was substituted by that of the Rev. E.R. Lee in the Committee's Recommendation No.22.

The recommendation as so amended was carried.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

It was proposed that this matter be deferred till Friday next.

An amendment was moved and seconded that this matter be dealt with following the business of the Psalter Revision Committee.

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

Notices of motion were read and the sederunt closed with prayer at 5.20 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 10: Wednesday 15 May 1985, 7.10 pm.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 9 were read and confirmed.

Apologies for absences were received from Messrs King, Graham and Webster.

Synod proceeded to engage in informal conference, pursuant to an earlier decision of Synod.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.05 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 11. Thursday 16 May 1985, 9.10 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 10 were read and confirmed.

MOTION ON NOTICE ANENT PROPERTY IN LISMORE

It was moved on notice and seconded that should the Lismore Deacons, Court desire to lease the Lismore Manse and the Northern Presbytery consent the Synod hereby authorize such Lease in terms of Section 11 of the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act 1918.

The motion was carried.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Bloomfield, presented the report, which was received. The Convenor responded to questions from the court.

Synod resolved:

1. That we note Mr Cahill's encouraging progress and assure him of our interest and prayers.

2. That we note Mr Cromarty's encouraging progress and assure him of our interest and prayers.
3. That the various tutors be thanked for their labours.
4. That the various Presbyteries be reminded of the importance of ministerial candidates proving themselves able in practical and pastoral duties, and that adequate experience be provided according to the individual needs, before proceeding to grant a licence.
5. That Synod endorse the committee's arrangements for providing Greek training for Mr Cromarty.

The Committee proposed

6. That, upon satisfactory completion of all work set by tutors, Mr Cromarty proceed towards licensing by the end of 1985, on the understanding that he will complete the Greek course to the satisfaction of the committee.

An amendment was moved and seconded that all words after "1985" be deleted.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated, and the Committee's proposal became the finding of the Court.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that constant prayer be made for the raising up of suitable students for ministerial training.

The motion was carried.

PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ward, presented the report, which was received. The Convener responded to questions.

It was resolved:

1. That Deacons' Courts be thanked for their contributions to Widows & Retired Ministers Funds, and that it be noted that congregational collections for these funds are to be optional in future.
2. That Synod express its appreciation to Retired Ministers and Widows in their expressed desire to forego any increase in pension this year, and assure them of its willingness to assist where possible as may be required in the future.
3. That Deacons' Courts note the Super/LSL Levy for 1985 is \$1,186 (=9% of minimum stipend 1.7.84-30.6.85), and same should be remitted in two instalments (with arrears if any) before 31.12.85.

The Committee proposed that

4. Synod approve the action of the Committee in reference to the payment of Retirement Benefit to Mr Nicholds, and authorize the transfer of the relevant amount from the Levy proceeds to the Supplementary Benefits Fund, and the investment of that Fund in suitable securities.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the full entitlement for 5.89 years be paid to Rev. D. Nicholds from the Retirement Fund.

On being put to the vote, the Committee's proposal was preferred, and became the finding of the Court. Mr King registered a simple dissent.

It was further resolved that

5. Synod direct that for the time being the Supplementary Benefit Fund income be applied to assist in the provision of the pensions for the former members of the Retirement Fund and their dependents.

6. (a) Synod authorise and direct the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia Retirement Fund to transfer the assets of the Fund to the management of Mercantile Mutual Life Insurance Company Limited with effect from 1st July 1985.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.32 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 12. Thursday 16 May 1985, 1.40 pm

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 11 were read and confirmed.

Synod resumed consideration of the proposed deliverances of the Provident Funds Committee.

It was resolved

6. (b) The Synod further resolve that the last sentence of Section C.4 of the Regulations be deleted and replaced by the following: It shall be a condition of membership in the Retirement Fund that 10% of the church's contribution for the member be applied to purchase term life assurance benefits including permanent total disablement as defined, such cover to cease on the 30th June following the attainment of the member's 50th birthday. In the event of death or permanent total disablement as defined the insurance benefit will be paid in addition to the balance in the member's investment account.

7. Synod request Messrs Tripovich and Nibbs to take a significant portion of their accumulated LSL in the coming year.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the arrears of Super/LSL Levy due by Armidale (\$1241) be paid from General Funds.

The motion was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 14: Anent Retirement Age of Ministers

Mr Neil appeared to state the overture, and moved that the overture be sustained, and the prayer of the overture granted, viz. that whereas this church regards the call to the office of the ministry as a call not simply from the church but from God and whereas by the Act Anent the Retirement Age of Ministers the church takes upon itself to set limits to the exercise of the ministry regardless of the minister's capacity to perform the functions of his office, and thereby undermines the principle upon which the calling proceeds, Synod take the steps necessary to rescind the legislation.

It was moved and seconded that the overture be sustained and its prayer be granted in the following terms: That the matter of the retirement age of ministers be referred to the Law and Advisory Committee for investigation and report to Synod 1986.

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

Simple dissents were tendered by Messrs Tripovich, Neil, King and Nibbs.

MOTION ANENT HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN PROPERTY

It was moved on notice and seconded that, Whereas the Hawkesbury-Nepean Deacons' Court have the possibility of purchasing for \$100,000 or thereabouts, an Anglican Church property at Mt Druitt Road, Mt Druitt on which is erected a church building with sufficient land for a manse to be erected as well, Synod authorize the purchase of the said property subject to the following conditions -

1. The consent of the congregation expressed by resolution at a duly constituted congregational meeting shall be obtained before any purchase or binding agreement to purchase is made. At such meeting the proposed method of funding and the manner in which manse accommodation will be provided if the existing manse at Oxley Park be sold is to be furnished in clear detail prior to the resolution being proposed.

2. The Synod authorize the sale and/or mortgage of the Oxley Park manse and the vacant land at Castlereagh in order to assist in the financing of the purchase, subject to there being lodged with the Trustees at or immediately after any sale a valuation or estimate of value from an independent firm of Estate Agents which confirms the price obtained was not less than a fair and reasonable valuation.

3. The Synod authorize the lodging of the deeds of the property, if purchased, as security for a loan or mortgage, whether registered or unregistered, and also approve an appeal to Deacons' Courts for donations to assist in the purchase and in financing the construction of a new manse (if such is proceeded with).

4. The Central Presbytery must be informed in writing of the resolutions of the Deacons' Court and congregation to approve the purchase, and the method of funding, and must satisfy itself that there is reasonable unanimity in the congregation in support of the purchase, and that the financial requirements can be met without detriment to the stability and progress of the congregation.

5. The body corporate, 'The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia' is authorized to sign and seal all necessary documents provided that it is furnished evidence that the requirements of Clauses 1-4 have been carried out. Should the purchase be effected without the necessity of lodging the deeds as security, the deeds shall forthwith be handed to the Trustees in terms of Section 4 of the 1918 Property Act, but may be released again should same be necessary as security for the financing of a new manse.

The motion was carried.

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Mr Bloomfield presented the report, which was received.

It was resolved That sincere thanks be conveyed to Mrs M. Causley for her assistance with the birthday roll, and to Mrs A.H. Steel for conducting the Search Work.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr J.A. Cromarty, presented the report, which was received. Following discussion, it was resolved

1. That the appreciation of Synod be placed on record for the work of the Editor of 'The Presbyterian Banner', Rev. R.S. Ward.
2. That all involved in the production and distribution of 'The Presbyterian Banner' be thanked for their labours.
3. That Synod note the transfer to the Clerk of Synod of the Copier, approve the same, and compensate The Presbyterian Banner for its contribution to its original purchase by payment to the Banner of \$200. Synod further note that the Editor continues to have custody of the Olivetti typewriter.
4. That the writing on the Sect known as 'Jehovah's Witnesses' by S.P. Swinn (without the Greek and Hebrew text) be prepared for possible publication, and in time for Synod 1986.
5. That Mr R. Ward be thanked for the use of his I.B.M. Electronic Composer and that he be authorised to pay himself \$5.00 per page of 'The Presbyterian Banner' when this machine is used in its production.

This concluded the proposals of the Committee.

It was further resolved that the sermon of the Retiring Moderator and the address of the incoming Moderator be published in the 'Presbyterian Banner' in due course.

Notices of motion were read to the Court.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 5.30 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 13. Thursday 16 May 1985, 7.05 pm

The sederunt was constituted.

The minutes of sederunt 12 were read and confirmed.

MOTION ON NOTICE ANENT "MEDIA MISSION"

It was moved on notice and seconded: That Synod thro' the Publications Committee investigate the setting up of a Media Organization to initiate and co-ordinate the production and widespread distribution of Christian Media - Video, Audio, and Literature, for report to Synod 1986.

The motion was carried.

At this juncture, Synod's attention was drawn to the fact that this meeting of Synod marks the fortieth anniversary of Mr Ted Hockett's involvement as a member of the Court. Dr Andrews also spoke concerning the long service given the Synod by elder Mr Gordon Anderson of Maclean, expressing the desire that Synod's best wishes be conveyed to Mr Anderson. It was agreed that we do this, assuring him of our prayers.

PSALMODY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Lee, presented the report which was received.

It was resolved:

1. That as there is no general desire for use of the (Irish) Reformed Presbyterian Church's Psalter, that we pass from the matter.
2. That the Psalmody Committee be authorised to draw up a selection of alternative versions taken from the praise books of Psalm-singing Churches, for use in our Church; that this selection be submitted to the ensuing Synod for its approval; and that the selection be also submitted to the Committee of the Free Church of Scotland for their comments and suggestions, prior to the next ordinary meeting of Synod.
3. That copies of the "Manual for Precentors" published by the Free Church of Scotland be purchased, and that the Psalmody Committee be empowered to organise an appropriate conference to create interest in the book and its teaching.
4. That the thanks of the Synod be expressed to Mesdames M. Ramsay and J. Mollison for their efforts to improve Psalm singing in our congregations.
5. That young people be encouraged to take their part in presenting and that where possible they be given professional training at congregational expense.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 17: overture from Central Presbytery anent Irish Psalter

The Moderator ruled this to be now redundant in the light of deliverance number 1.

PSALTER REVISION COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ward, presented the report, which was received.

Synod resolved:

1. That sufficient copies of PSALMS FOR SINGING be made available to the membership of the church without charge, with the invitation to forward any comments or suggestions to the Committee.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

It was moved on notice, and seconded that in the interests of continuity, that standing committee members are expected to serve on their committees for at least three years unless otherwise stated by Synod.

The motion was carried.

The following Committee structure was agreed:

1. Administration/Inter-church Relations

Clerk, Assistant-clerk, Moderator, Moderator-elect, Convener of Law & Advisory Committee. For ICR business only: nominee of Southern Presbytery.

2. Church Extension & Supply

J. Graham, E.R. Lee, S.N. Ramsay, H.C. Varnes, and C.P. King.

3. Faith & Life

J.A. Cromarty, A.P. Webster, W.J. McClean, E.R. Lee.

4. Finance

R.L. Campbell, N.A. McPherson, R.W. Murray, K.A. Dawson, Grafton elder.

5. "8.14 Foundation"

Treasurer, Moderator, Clerk, and one nominee from each of the three Presbyteries.

6. Law and Advisory

R.S. Ward, J.B. Loudon, W.P. Gadsby, R.W. Murray.

7. Missions

K. MacLeod, E.R. Lee, J.C. Andrews, K.D. Causley, J.E. Hockett.

8. Provident Funds

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

9. Psalmody

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

10. Psalter Revision

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

11. Publications

W.P. Cadsby, K. MacLeod, A.L. Tripovich, J.E. Hockett, Editor of The Presbyterian Banner (ex officio).

12. Training of Ministry

P.J. Bloomfield, E.R. Lee, W.J.W. Hanna, R.W. Murray, R.S. Ward, W.J. McClean.

13. Youth and Fellowship

J.M. Cromarty, D.R. Nibbs, Geelong and Hamilton elders.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.10 pm.

W.P. Cadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator

SEDERUNT 14. Friday 17 May 1985, 9.05 am.

The sederunt was constituted.

At this juncture, the Moderator addressed some remarks to the Court about his perceptions of Synod 1985, and expounding the words of our Lord as recorded in Matthew 18:20.

The minutes of sederunt 13 were read and confirmed.

The Treasurer informed the Court that it had committed itself to about \$100,000 of expenditure, about the same as last year.

It was moved on notice and seconded, That the deliverance proposed by the Missions Committee anent visiting Fiji be rescinded, and that Dr Andrews and the Rev. J.M. Cromarty be delegated to proceed to Fiji as soon as possible to plan the future of the work in consultation with the folk there; and that if Mr Cromarty be unable to go, that he be replaced by the Rev. E.R. Lee in this task.

The motion was carried.

It was resolved that the Rev. S.N. Ramsay be included as a member of the Law and Advisory Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 7: Appeal from Grafton Session

Since the Moderator was involved in the case, the Court proceeded to elect a moderator pro tem. Nominations in favour of E.R. Lee and R.S. Ward were seconded; on being put to the vote, Mr Ward was appointed to this task.

Mr Ward took the chair.

Parties were called to the bar.

Both parties agreed that the documents in hand were in order, and no objections were tendered to their use in the case.

Mr Murray presented the case of the Grafton Session in support of the Session's appeal against a decision of the Northern Presbytery anent an appeal by Mr A. Cameron.

Mr Bloomfield was first speaker on behalf of the Northern Presbytery and proceeded to present the case on behalf of the Presbytery. Mr Tripovich also spoke on behalf of the Northern Presbytery.

Questions were addressed to both parties.

It was agreed to meet in closed court.

Parties were removed from the bar and dismissed from the Court.

It was moved and seconded that the Session appeal be upheld, the decision of Northern Presbytery reversed, and Grafton Session be directed to direct Mr Cameron to make protestations and pursue all avenues to prevent labour on his property on the Lord's Day and in the event of Mr Cameron complying with this to the satisfaction of the Session and failing to get exemption, his suspension be lifted.

It was further moved and seconded that Synod affirm the binding obligation of the Lord's Day as the Christian Sabbath as set forth in the Holy Scripture; And that the Appeal be dismissed and the Presbytery's finding be upheld.

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

It was agreed to meet in open Court.

Parties were recalled and the decision duly intimated.

Both parties acquiesced in the decision.

Parties were dismissed from the bar.

The Moderator, Mr MacLeod resumed the Chair.

REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS:

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

pp 24, 25. Minutes are not in chronological order.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Mr Louden reported nothing amiss with Northern Presbytery minutes.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

Mr Campbell reported them to be in order.

PERMANENT RECORD

Mr MacLeod reported that there was no discrepancy between the scroll record and printed minutes.

NOTICE OF MOTION N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION

It was resolved, That in the event of either or both of the Moderator and Clerk being unavailable this year for signing and sealing documents, then for the purposes of the N.S.W. Property Act the Rev. John Macintosh Cromarty and the Rev. Raymond William Murray be the Clerk of the Synod, and the Moderator of Synod respectively and as required.

NOMINATION OF MODERATOR

The Rev. R.W. Murray was nominated as Moderator for Synod 1986.

It was resolved that the Clerk compile a list of Principal Acts of Synod 1985 and that they be included as a preface to the printed minutes.

Synod expressed by acclamation its sincere thanks to the Manning Congregation for their hospitality.

The minutes of this final sederunt were read and confirmed.

Synod 1985 concluded with prayer and the singing of Psalm 86:12-17.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

K. MacLeod
Moderator