

# Acts of Synod 1986

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nil

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## ANNUAL SYNOD 1986

### SEDERUNT 1

Within the Taree church building on Saturday, 17 May 1986, at 7.31 pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted.

The Moderator, the Rev. K. MacLeod, led public worship, preaching from 2 Chronicles 20:20 - "The Battle Cry of Jehoshaphat and his Counsel to the People of God".

1. The Circumstances in which this word was delivered - in a time of crisis.
2. The Counsel is still relevant.
3. Our Confidence in the Word of God remains the same.
4. The Conquest by God's Kingdom is assured.

"Listen to me, O Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, put your trust in the Lord your God, and you will be established. Put your trust in his prophets and succeed".

The Moderator called for the certified Rolls of Presbytery, which were read, as follows:

### NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Ministers	Ruling Elders	
J.C. Andrews	W.J.W. Hanna	(Brisbane)
P.J. Bloomfield	J.W. McKinnon	(Armidale)
W.P. Gadsby	R.L. Campbell	(Maclean)
K. MacLeod	K.D. Causley	(Grafton)
R.W. Murray	J.E. Hockett	(Hastings)
A.L. Tripovich		

### CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

S.N. Ramsay	G. King	(Hunter)
J.A. Webster	J. Milligan	(Taree)
J.S. Graham	N. Kerr	(St Georges)

J.A. Cromarty                      A. Neil                                      (Hawkesbury-Nepean)  
E.R. Lee  
J. McCallum  
H.C. Varnes

#### SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

J.M. Cromarty                      J.R.B. Webster                              (Geelong)  
D.R. Nibbs                              N.C. Triffett                              (Ulverstone)  
J. Pateman                              M.J. Simpson                              (Hamilton)  
R.S. Ward                              A. MacLeod                              (Melbourne)

W.M. Mackay (under jurisdiction, but not having a seat on Presbytery at present.)

The Moderator welcomed new members of the Synod: The Revds J. McCallum, and J.A. Cromarty (as a Minister); Messrs J.W. McKinnon (Armidale), G. King (Hunter), A. MacLeod (Melbourne) and M.Simpson (Hamilton).

Apologies for non-attendance were tendered by the Revds R.W. Murray, J. Pateman and J.A. Webster; Mr R.L. Campbell (for Sederunt 1).

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Rev. Prof. J. Douglas MacMillan be associated with the Synod.

#### ELECTION OF MODERATOR

The Clerk explained that the Moderator-elect, Rev. R.W. Murray, had been unable to be present at this Synod, and that the Rev. E.R. Lee had consented to be nominated as Moderator for 1986-87. Synod then resolved that Mr Lee be appointed Moderator; he was welcomed to the chair by the outgoing Moderator, and proceeded to deliver his moderatorial address.

#### MODERATORIAL ADDRESS

The address was entitled "Some Thoughts on Leviticus", and embraced the following:

The book of Leviticus is strategically placed in the Bible. Exodus tells us how Israel became a Nation in Covenant with Jehovah, Leviticus informs us how they were to conduct themselves as such. The key verse is "Be holy for I your God am holy". (19.2).

#### The Sacrifices. Chs. 1-7.

The first duty of Israel is to offer God sacrifices. The Hebrew word for sacrifices means gift. The first sacrifice is the burnt offering symbolising the offering of the worshipper of himself to God. This and the sacrifices that follow viz the Meal, the Peace, the Sin and Trespass offerings speak of Christ and the service of the believer today.

#### The Consecration of the Priests. Chs. 8-10.

The Priests are the only ones able to approach God in the sacrifices. Their presentation, ordination and their entrance into their ministry is described in these chapters. Christ is portrayed here.

#### Laws of the Clean and the Unclean. Chs. 11-18.

The chapters describe how the people are to avoid the ceremonial defilement that disqualifies them for God's service. Clean and unclean foods are clearly defined. Defilement can come also through

various other agencies. See 2 Cor. 7:1 for the Christian reference.

In this section regulations concerning the eating of blood and its atonement function, and the ritual of the day of Atonement are described.

#### Practical Holiness. Ch. 19.

The Israelites are told how to perfect holiness in the fear of God in this chapter. It is all summed up in, "Love your neighbour as you love yourself".

#### The Festivals. Chs. 20-25.

The various festivals that Israel is to observe are set out. They emphasise that the whole of life with its times and seasons is to be lived with reference to God and with thankfulness to Him.

#### Conclusion

Leviticus speaks most clearly of Christ and His great work of Atonement. It describes how the believer is to serve his God. Its relevance and value are obvious.

#### APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

It was resolved that the following appointments be made:

Northern Presbytery:.....	R.S. Ward and H.C. Varnes
Central Presbytery:.....	P.J. Bloomfield and M.J. Simpson
Southern Presbytery:.....	A.L. Tripovich and J.W. McKinnon
Synod Permanent Record (1985 and 86):.....	J.A. Cromarty and G. King.

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

#### REPORTER TO THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER

The Rev. J. McCallum was appointed to undertake this responsibility.

#### NOTICES OF MOTION FOR SEDERUNT 2

Several matters were intimated concerning the business for Monday morning.

The sederunt concluded with the singing of a psalm portion, and prayer.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 2 Monday 19 May 1986, 9.04am.

The sederunt was constituted with devotions led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunt 1 were read and confirmed.

The Clerk read an extract from the minutes of Central Presbytery, and Synod noted that Mr K. Longworth had replaced Mr J. Milligan as the commissioner from the Manning River Session.

## EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

Dr Andrews led the Court in prayer for those who had been bereaved in the past year.

## MISSIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION 7.

Pursuant to an earlier decision, Synod proceeded to take up this matter. The Convener of the Committee addressed the Court concerning the work on Fiji, and the position of Mr Leone Tupua.

Synod resolved that

a. Synod welcome Mr Leone Tupua to Synod and extend our fraternal greetings to him and through him to the brethren in Fiji.

The Committee proposed that

b. Synod ordain that the work in Fiji be recognised as a preaching station under the supervision of the Committee and the station be known as the Presbyterian Church of Fiji.

It was moved and seconded that Synod direct the Northern Presbytery to recognize the brethren meeting under the leadership of Mr Leone Tupua in Fiji as a preaching station without representation in Presbytery but under its oversight and place it under an Interim Session always having three local members, Rev. K. MacLeod being initial Moderator; to this end Synod extend the bounds of Northern Presbytery to include the Fiji Islands. Synod approve the use of the name Presbyterian Church of Fiji for the Fijian work in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

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

The Rev. R.S. Ward dissented in the following terms: With sincere regret I dissent on the ground that a Presbytery does not have competence to ordain an elder though should it do so I will fully acknowledge that ordination even as I now acknowledge Mr Tupua as a true presbyter called of God and acknowledged by the people with him.

It was further resolved:

c. Synod appoint the Northern Presbytery to examine Mr Leone Tupua with a view to ordination as an elder with special responsibilities for Fiji and if they are satisfied with his qualifications, Synod appoint the Presbytery to ordain him at the Monday evening sederunt.

The Committee proposed:

d. Synod grant Mr Leone Tupua special authority to dispense the Sacraments in Fiji.

On a point of order, it was moved and seconded that as Rec. 7(d) re: giving a ruling elder 'special authority to dispense the sacraments', appears to be contrary to the doctrine of the Confession of Faith, Ch. 27 Sec. 4, which doctrine we believe is founded upon the Word of God; And as such an action would be in conflict with the Constitution of this Church, which we have vowed to abide by, uphold and defend; And as this would create a precedent for possible further repetition; Therefore, Synod rule Rec. 7(d) out of order, and make provision for an ordained Minister of the Word to visit Fiji whenever it is necessary to dispense the sacraments, and combine such a visit with ministerial and pastoral encouragement to Mr Leone Tupua and the brethren in Fiji.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

The Rev. A.L. Tripovich dissented from this decision as follows: I dissent from the finding of the court because it appears to be contrary to the Confession of Faith which we have vowed to uphold, maintain and defend, and because it appears to be contrary to the Word of God upon which the Confession is founded.

Messrs Varnes, Nibbs and Neil adhered to the dissent with reason.

An amendment was moved that subject to the ordination of Mr Tupua Synod authorizes Mr Tupua until the rising of Synod 1987 to dispense the sacraments and admit to membership in Fiji.

The Committee agreed to substitute this as the recommendation 7(d), which was then carried.

The Rev. A.L. Tripovich tendered dissent for the same reason, and Messrs Varnes, Nibbs and Neil adhered to the dissent with reason.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 12.27 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 3 Monday 19 May 1986, 1.26 pm.

The sederunt was constituted with devotions led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunt 2 were read and confirmed.

It was resolved to adjourn this sederunt at 5.00 pm to permit the Northern Presbytery to meet as directed by Synod in the previous sederunt.

Notices of motion were read at this juncture.

#### ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Convener presented the report, which was received.

The Convener responded to questions from the Court.

It was resolved:

1. That Tuesday evening sederunt be devoted to Missions and Evangelism business.
2. Disposal of correspondence:
  - 2.1 That Items 1-3, 6 and 11 be received, and taken together with Interchurch Relations business.
  - 2.2 That Item 4 be received, and taken on Friday morning.
  - 2.3 That Item 5 be received, and taken with Provident Funds business.

2.4 That Item 7 be received, and taken with recommendation 3 hereunder.

2.5 Item 8. A petition from Mr J.D. Ramsay which was transmitted to Synod by the Committee.

It was moved and seconded that the correspondence be received.

It was resolved as a matter of procedure that the Petitioner be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes as to the competency of receiving his Petition.

Accordingly, Mr J.D. Ramsay addressed the Court.

Upon being put to the vote, it was resolved that the petition be received.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to permit a motion that we allow the balance of this sederunt to consider the Petition by Mr J.D. Ramsay. The motion was proposed, seconded and carried.

The petitioner was called to the bar, and presented his petition.

It was resolved that Synod grant the prayer of the petition in the following terms: Synod directs the Examiners of the Northern Presbytery records to pay particular attention to the alleged irregularities in procedure and bring recommendations thereanent to Synod when reports from examiners of records are submitted.

It was further resolved that the report of examiners of Northern Presbytery be presented to this Synod on Thursday afternoon at the latest.

The petitioner was dismissed from the bar.

Synod resumed consideration of the Administration Committee recommendation 2.

2.6 Item 9. An overture from Central Presbytery seeking Synod to direct the NSW trustees to execute a certain lease.

It was resolved that this item be received and taken with the NSW trust corporation report.

2.7 Item 10. An overture from Central Presbytery anent sale of the Taree Manse. The correspondence was received and it was agreed to take it with NSW trust corporation business.

#### Correspondence Item 7

Mr Bloomfield appeared to state the overture requesting copies of Synod minutes to be provided to all office-bearers.

It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be not granted.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 5.03 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 4 Monday 19 May 1986, 7.45 pm.

Synod was again convened with prayer, following a meeting of the Northern Presbytery, during

which that Court, having examined Mr Leone Tupua as to his qualifications for the eldership, ordained this brother to the office of elder having particular responsibility for the Presbyterian Church of Fiji. Synod members joined their fellows in extending to Leone the right hand of fellowship in the work of the Gospel.

The minutes of sederunt 3 were read and confirmed.

#### ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (cont'd)

3. That copies of Synod Committee Reports, Annual Accounts and Minutes be sent to ministers, representative elders, congregational treasurers, and clerks of Sessions and Deacons' Courts.

4. That Synod thank the Rev. J.M. Cromarty for his work in arranging Prof. MacMillan's visit.

Prof. MacMillan briefly addressed the Court, conveying greetings from the present Moderator of the Free Church, Prof. Archie Boyd, and the Moderator designate of the Assembly, Rev. Angus Smith, and making other suitable remarks.

It was moved on notice, seconded and carried that the balance remaining from the Professor MacMillan visit be placed in a Synod special visit account and that congregations be invited to make periodic contributions to this account with a view to future visits from noted Christian preachers.

It was further moved on notice, seconded and carried that in arranging Synod 1987, the Administration Committee arrange a period for Committees to meet.

#### TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORTS

The Treasurer, Mr McPherson, presented the reports and responded to questions. It was resolved that the reports be received.

It was resolved that \$3,700 capital lost by investment in the Durrance mortgage be recovered to the funds involved from interest subsequently earned by such funds, viz.

Long Service Leave	\$1,632.00
M. Nicolson - Missions	\$1,233.00
H. McMillan - Widows & Orphans	103.00
Aged Retired Ministers	103.00
D.K. McIntyre - Widows & Orphans	206.00
C.M. Patterson - Training of Ministry	423.00

It was further resolved that signatories to Synod banking and other financial documents now be:

W.P. Gadsby, A.L. Tripovich, R.S. Ward, J. McCallum, J.G. Harris, D.L. McIntosh, N.A. McPherson, any two signatures to be sufficient.

It was resolved that Synod authorise the use of accounts with banking institutions additional to Westpac.

It was resolved that the deep appreciation of the Court be expressed to the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer and to the Auditor for their work.

The sederunt was closed with the benediction at 9.04 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 5 Tuesday 20 May 1986, 9.05 am.

The sederunt was constituted with devotions led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunt 4 were read and confirmed.

The Moderator permitted the following motion to be moved: That Mr Leone Tupua be associated with the Synod in its deliberations. The motion was seconded and carried. The Moderator welcomed Mr Tupua.

#### 8:14 FOUNDATION

The Treasurer presented the report of the 8:14 Foundation Committee, which was received following questions to the Convener.

It was resolved that

1. Synod express appreciation for the continued support of the Foundation.
2. Deposits may be now made with the Foundation for any agreed period up to 5 years.
3. Term deposits may continue to earn interest at the nominated rate after completion of the nominated term, to be repayable at call.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr R.L. Campbell, presented the report.

It was resolved that the report, with paragraph four deleted, be received.

It was moved on notice that before taking up the Finance Committee recommendations Synod take under consideration the givings by congregations over recent years with a view to ascertaining the true position of our Synod finances, and preparing a budget for 1986 and 1987, and if necessary revising certain of the Finance Committee recommendations. The motion was seconded.

Copies of a document showing congregational givings to Synod funds for 1975-1985 were circulated to the members of the Court. A further document prepared by Mr Ward was also circulated. Following discussion, the proposal became the finding of the Court.

Accordingly, members of the Court took under consideration matters of givings. The following estimated givings to General plus Church Extension plus Stipend Relief funds were presented:

#### Southern Presbytery

Melbourne	2000	
Geelong	1500	
Hamilton	500	
Ulverstone	Not known	
sub-total		4000

### Central Presbytery

St Georges	7000	
Hawkesbury-Nepean	Not known	
Hunter-Barrington	2000	
Manning	3000	
sub-total		12000

### Northern Presbytery

Brisbane	0	
Grafton	0	
Lismore	0	
Maclean	3000	
Armidale	0	
Hastings	2000	
sub-total		5000
Grand-total		21000

Synod permitted the following motion: That the Finance Committee consider the concept of program budgeting and report to Synod 1987 accordingly with recommendations. And further, Synod empowers the Finance Committee to co-opt men with financial/business expertise to assist them in their work of planning and budgeting for the Church. The proposal became the finding of Synod.

Mr Bloomfield made an explanation concerning the now-deleted, but previously circulated fourth paragraph of the Finance Committee report alleging a large balance in the Brisbane account at 31 December 85. The figure was misleading since a large proportion of the amount had been committed to a definite purpose, and vanished from the fund shortly after 1 January 86.

Synod resumed consideration of the Finance Committee Report and recommendations.

It was resolved

1. That the Minimum Stipend be increased from 1st July, 1986, and 1st January, 1987, as per percentage rises in the C.P.I.  
(Thus the minimum stipend at 1 July 86 will be \$300 per week).

It was further resolved

2. That Travelling Expenses of Delegates be paid at the usual rate.
3. That the following Transfers be made from the General Fund:

Church Extension	\$8,993.37
Stipend	\$3,071.54

4. That the following amounts be made available for Stipend Relief for 1986:

Grafton	\$4,500
Ulverstone	\$6,500

and that assistance to Grafton be strictly on a needs basis after allowing for funds available from Lismore from givings and any available manse rental.

5. That the General Treasurer be authorised to transfer from the General Fund the following amounts if required:

Stipend - up to \$4,500.

Church Extension - up to \$9,000.

6. That an audited account for "The Presbyterian Banner" be presented to Synod annually.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 12.10 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 6 Tuesday 20 May 1986, 1.51 pm.

The sederunt was constituted with devotions led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunt 5 were read and confirmed.

It was moved and seconded that Synod noting the heavy burden resting upon the congregations of the Southern Presbytery with reference to travelling expenses for Presbytery meetings direct Presbytery treasurers to consult and arrive at a formula whereby each Presbytery contributes an equal share of the travel costs to Presbytery meetings within our church. That the amount per Presbytery be calculated on the basis of 3 ordinary meetings of Presbytery per year.

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

#### CHURCH EXTENSION COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. J. Graham, presented the report, challenging us to abandon the "little flock" mentality and embrace the vision of Psalm 67. Mr Graham proceeded to share with Synod his own doubts about the work he had been engaged in with CWI, indicating his intention to resign from the mission, and request leave of absence from Central Presbytery for 12 months.

It was moved and seconded that the report be received; the Convener responded to questions. The motion was carried.

Synod resolved:

1. That Synod record its gratitude to the Lord for the work carried out in Church Extension Charges over the past year.

2. That Synod

a) draw the attention of church members to the need for outreach by whatever scriptural means possible - e.g. door to door work.

b) direct the Convener to visit the Church Extension Charges in order to have first hand knowledge of progress made and problems encountered in those centres.

The Committee proposed

3. That Synod give serious consideration to the acquiring of suitable property in Armidale.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that Synod direct and authorize the Armidale Deacons' Court to investigate the purchase of an existing building suitable for the congregation in the \$60,000 price range; that should a suitable property be located and funding from the 8:14 Foundation and other available funds be adequate, that the body corporate The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia be authorized to sign such documents as may be necessary to effect the purchase, a moderate mortgage of the property acquired and/or the Armidale manse being also authorized. In the event of a purchase being possible, an appeal for gifts and loans direct to Deacons' Courts and through the church magazine is authorized.

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

It was moved on notice and seconded that as well as reporting on and co-ordinating financial assistance for official Church Extension charges (ie. currently Brisbane and Armidale), the Church Extension & Supply Committee fill a like role in respect of Sanctioned Charges (ie. land and buildings fully paid for) which are aid receiving (ie. currently Grafton and Ulverstone). and that future requests for financial assistance by such charges be directed to this committee rather than to the Finance Committee.

The motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that for accounting purposes Stipend and Church Extension funds be consolidated in Synod Accounts, and that a budget of anticipated income and expenditure be included in the Church Extension and Supply Committee's report to each Synod.

The motion was carried.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod recognising the special gifts and abilities of the Rev. John Graham and having been informed of his impending resignation from C.W.I. and acknowledging the providence of God in the present circumstances do upon his resignation from C.W.I. appoint our brother to labour as a local missionary/evangelist in our church for an initial period of 3 years. That the Church Extension and Supply Committee be asked to draw up a statement of aims and objectives in conjunction with Mr Graham and that Presbyteries be circularised accordingly and be invited to offer further suggestions so that a firm policy may be presented to Synod 1987.

That an initial amount of \$10,000 be set aside by Synod and that if legally allowable, interest from that proportion of the Mary Ashman Bequest due to missions be directed to the support of Mr Graham as he labours as an evangelist/ missionary for our church in Australia. This interest is to be used until such time as the work is self supporting.

That special offerings be taken throughout our church for the support of Mr Graham.

That at the appropriate time suitable accommodation be provided for Mr Graham and his family in the Sydney area.

The Moderator requested the Rev. K. MacLeod occupy the chair.

It was further moved and seconded that Central Presbytery discuss with Mr Graham the possibilities of his future work, should he resign from CWI and report to an ensuing sederunt of this Synod by Thursday at the latest.

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

The Rev. E.R. Lee resumed the chair.

The Synod proceeded to the business of the MISSIONS COMMITTEE.

The Convener, the Rev. K. MacLeod presented the report, and responded to questions. It was resolved that the report be received.

It was resolved

1. Synod thanks God for the privilege and opportunity of contributing to missionary endeavour in Fiji, in India, in Africa and Peru.

2. Synod record its gratitude to God for all the missionaries who have served this Church so faithfully in the past and urge the Church now to plead with God to raise up young men and women to serve in our various fields of missionary endeavour.

3. The Synod thank Mrs Marianne MacLean for service rendered recently during her visit to India.

4. a) Synod thank David Wright for offering to serve with Proesa and pray God's blessing on his work.

b) Synod endorse the action of the Committee in the financial arrangements made for Mr Wright's term of service with Proesa in Peru.

5. The Synod endorse the action of the Committee in contributing R2000 towards the salary of another full-time worker in the Dimbaza Bible School.

6. Synod approve the granting of \$5,000 to C.W.I. and assure Rev. J. Graham of our intense interest in, and prayerful support of the new work in Bondi as well as all C.W.I. work here and abroad.

7. (See sederunt 2 above).

8. Synod amend Regulation 1 of the Missions Relief Fund regulations (1982) by deleting the words "are to submit recommendations" and substituting the words "must account for the distribution of the funds". The amended regulation now reads:

1. The gift is to be known as the Missions Relief Fund and is to be held by the corporate trustees and to be administered by the Synod through the Missions Committee who must account for the distribution of the funds to each ordinary meeting of the Synod.

9. It was agreed to defer consideration of this recommendation until Recommendation 2 of the Victorian trust corporation report.

10. The Synod recommends to our people the demand upon our General Mission Fund to meet the needs of our varied missionary involvement and commend it to their prayerful and practical support.

11. The Synod assure the missionaries labouring in Africa, India, Peru and the national Presbyterian Church of Fiji of our constant and prayerful interest in them.

Synod expressed by acclamation its hearty thanks to the Convener for his work.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 5.35 pm.

SEDERUNT 7 Tuesday 20 May 1986, 7.08 pm.

### MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION EVENING

The sederunt opened with the singing of Ps. 96 and prayer led by the Rev. Prof. J. Douglas MacMillan. Psalm 98 was read.

It was resolved that confirmation of the minutes of sederunt 6 be deferred until the following sederunt.

The Moderator called upon the Convener of the Missions Committee, the Rev. K. MacLeod who proposed the following motion with the permission of the Moderator: That Synod direct its Missions Committee to make arrangements for Mr Leone Tupua to attend Synod 1987.

The motion was seconded, and carried.

Mr MacLeod proceeded to address those present, informing them of various decisions of the Synod relating to the Foreign Mission of the Church. He observed that we have no one "on the field" at present as full-time missionaries and urged prayer that the Lord would raise up those who will undertake this work. He also drew attention to the work of David Wright, from our Hawkesbury-Nepean Congregation, with PROESA in Peru.

The Moderator then invited Leone Tupua to address the congregation concerning the Lord's work in Fiji.

Leone expressed the thanks of the Fiji congregation for the prayers and gifts of their Christian brethren both in Scotland and Australia. He went on to speak of the hard work which lay ahead of the believers, referring particularly to the problems of translating the Word of God into Fijian, especially the Psalms. Leone indicated that he was intending to translate the Catechism, as well as other literature. Even a greater problem was posed by translating the Confession of Faith, and Sam Tamata's help had been sought.

Leone would be administering the sacraments, marriage, burials in Fijian; and appropriate liturgies had to be developed.

Mr Tupua reported that on Saturdays the congregation studied the Catechism.

On the Lord's Day, from 10-12 noon, the service centred on selected biblical passages which unfolded the major doctrines of the Christian Faith. e.g. the new birth (John 3); the sovereignty of God (John 4); total depravity (John 9); union with Christ (John 15); the death of Christ (John 19).

Former Methodist friends had been invited to visit the service, and there had been some response. In any case, there had been an improvement in relations enabling the brethren to speak with them about the Reformed Faith.

Recently, tracts had been prepared in the Fijian language. One spoke of man's depravity and need. Another was called "Who is the Boss?" highlighting the sovereignty of God. And another "Have you received Christ?" And "Who Decides?"

He expressed the hope that he could return next year to tell of the Lord's continued blessing upon

his work in Fiji. Leone concluded by drawing attention to Philippians 2:5-8, referring to Christ's self-denial as a slave. The owner of all stooping to take the position of one who owns nothing. Leone had detected a reluctance on our part to evangelise, yet the Lord had become a slave, having nowhere to lay his head. Also to John 13:12-16 which reinforces the same point. So we must follow Paul's injunction too, and go and preach the Word. We must not try to evade the issue, but stand up for Christ, urgently preaching the Word to sinners around us.

The Moderator, in commemoration of Leone's ordination to the eldership, presented him with a suitably inscribed copy of the Scripture. And as authorised to dispense the sacraments, Leone was presented with utensils suitable for use in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. And on behalf of the Committee, to facilitate his work in tract production, Leone was presented with a typewriter. And in conclusion, Leone was given a copy of the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland!

Our brother departed to catch his flight to Sydney.

The Moderator called on Dr Andrews to comment briefly on the situation in South Africa. Fifty youth leaders had recently assembled at the Dimbaza Bible School, coming from widely separated parts of the country. It was a "great meeting" in the estimation of the Rev. Bill Graham, who foresees that their keenness and commitment will be of great significance as the country goes through difficult times. It was hoped that a Conference would shortly be held, at which Prof. Douglas MacMillan would speak. Leaders of women's groups were also meeting for teaching and encouragement. A recent "revival" meeting had seen many Africans coming to a church service perhaps for the first time. There was much follow-up work to be done flowing from this work. Dr Andrews expressed again his conviction that only the impact of the Gospel in people's lives would save South Africa from a "blood bath". Already violence was being directed towards Christians among the African people who were attempting to promote a non-violent approach to solving the problems of their troubled country. South Africa needed our earnest prayers, as our brethren there face a very serious situation. This very beautiful country, with all its rich diversity, is threatened by the ugly spectre of anarchy and bloodshed unless the Lord intervene in His grace.

The Moderator called upon the Convener of the Church Extension Committee, the Rev. John Graham, who in turn called on the Rev. Peter Bloomfield to tell about the work in the Brisbane congregation.

The Congregation had welcomed back from India Mrs Mary-anne Maclean where she had been able to contribute to the mission work there. A new Ladies' Bible Study had begun, and other meetings were being continued. Recently, fellowship had been enjoyed with the folk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Brisbane. Various activities had been blessed in promoting closer fellowship between the members of the church. Effort which had been put into singing had paid off in a growing repertoire of psalm tunes. The congregation had been encouraged by new folk attending the church who were seeking to understand the truth of God. Various avenues of outreach had been tried - "dialogue meetings;" witnessing in the Queens Street Mall, two by two; leaflet distribution in the Kalinga area; cassette recordings of services preached by the pastor, through which many have testified that the Lord had blessed them.

The Moderator also called on the Rev. Peter Gadsby of Armidale, who told of the Lord's work in that Congregation. He mentioned the strengths of the congregation (united and friendly; committed to Christ; godly elders; a settled pastor) and its weaknesses (smallness, with associated financial constraints and lack of impact; no building). He also spoke of blessings which they had experienced in seeing some folk soundly converted, and others added through transfer. The opportunities facing the congregation were also a blessing. Particular needs include the need for more people, including students to study in the town's tertiary institutions, and especially that God would give more conversions to the Lord Jesus. He asked for prayer that the Lord would bless and sustain his work in the Armidale area.

The Moderator thanked the Convener. and the sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.00 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 8 Wednesday 21 May 1986, 9.08 am.

The sederunt was constituted with devotions led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunts 6 and 7 were read and confirmed.

#### REPORT FROM CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

Presbytery had met as directed by Synod (sederunt 6), and reported by quoting the minute of the meeting as follows

"It was moved seconded and carried unanimously that Presbytery grant Mr Graham leave of absence for the remainder of this year from the rising of this Synod; that we still regard him as a man called to the Ministry, and express our confidence in him as a devoted servant of God, and a brother beloved on this Court".

Mr Graham also addressed some remarks to the Court, indicating that while he still had strongly in mind to resign from CW1, a few weeks' reflection may result in another course of action.

#### CHURCH EXTENSION BUSINESS (cont'd)

It was moved on notice and seconded that in addition to an annual report to Synod from each Presbytery covering all congregational and other work in the bounds, Presbyteries are directed to give special oversight, assistance and encouragement to aid-receiving congregations, and to require regular reports from all Sessions and Deacons' Courts describing concisely but with detail specific efforts made to extend the witness in their area and the result.

The motion was carried.

It was further moved and seconded that Synod direct Sessions through Presbyteries to proceed promptly to install additional office-bearers where there is need and suitable men are available, and to seek to develop leadership qualities in existing and prospective candidates for office by specific teaching sessions as well as providing opportunity for practical involvement.

The motion was defeated.

#### TRUST CORPORATIONS

##### N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION

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

It was resolved

1. That Synod request St Georges Deacons' Court to ensure that the deed to the Church's property in Beaconsfield Road, Lindfield (C/T vol.4067, fol.046) is lodged with the Clerk of Synod within four weeks of the rising of Synod 1986.

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.

Synod addressed itself to Correspondence Item 9. Mr J.A. Cromarty appeared on behalf of the overture.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the overture be sustained and its prayer granted in the following terms:

Synod instruct the body corporate "The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia" to execute the lease dated 16th August 1984, and to take such steps as may be practical to ensure the lease from time to time is reviewed to reasonable market value. And further authorize the body corporate to execute the new lease, subject to Central Presbytery's approval, and application of the proceeds in terms of the 1918 Property Act.

Synod took up Correspondence Item 10, an overture from Central Presbytery. The Moderator Mr E. Lee addressed the Court. It was moved, seconded and carried that the overture be sustained and its prayer granted in the following terms:

That the Manning River Deacons Court be authorized to sell the existing manse in Taree at fair market value and to apply the proceeds to the purchase of a more suitable manse and that the body corporate "The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia" be authorized to execute all necessary documents.

It was resolved that in the event of either or both of the Moderator and General Treasurer being unavailable this year for signing and sealing documents, then for the purposes of the NSW Property Act the Rev. K. MacLeod and Mr J.G. Harris be the Moderator and Treasurer of Synod respectively and as required.

#### QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report which was received.

#### VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

Mr Ward presented the report which was received.

It was resolved

1. That the St George's representative report to this Synod the precise position of Public Liability Insurance in respect of the congregation.

Mr J. McCallum spoke to Synod. He informed Synod their Public Liability Insurance had been taken with the AMP insurance company. Mr N. Kerr supplemented Mr McCallum's remarks. Mr McCallum reported that the St Georges Deacons Court believed that it was not subject to the Synod's direction in this particular case.

The Corporation proposed

2. That Synod acknowledge with thankfulness the generous legacy of the late Mrs Mary Ashman, and note that there is no requirement preventing the spending of the capital. Synod agree that until otherwise decided by a future Synod, the legacy is to be held for the benefit of the Training of Ministry Fund and only the interest spent as it accrues. Synod further approve an amount not

exceeding 50% of the legacy being invested in the Perpetual Trustees Common Fund V4 when opportune, and the balance held in interest bearing trustee securities.

Missions Committee Recommendation 9 was taken at this time, pursuant to an earlier decision of Synod, and treated as an amendment to the Corporation's proposal. The Missions Committee was permitted to propose the following motion in lieu of the original recommendation:

That the legacy of Mrs Mary Ashman when received be allocated in equal proportions to the Missions and Training of the Ministry Funds. The Missions portion to be invested for the time being and the interest paid to the General Missions Fund: the remaining portion being dealt with as required by the Training of the Ministry Committee.

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

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.40 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 9 Wednesday 21 May 1986, 1.35 pm.

The sederunt was constituted with devotions led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunt 8 were read and confirmed.

#### INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Clerk, Mr Gadsby presented the report which was received.

It was resolved

1. That the remit to 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 1986 reports and minutes.
2. That Synod members and Presbyteries be invited to submit to this Committee proposals for the agenda of ICRC 1989, and that the Committee present concrete proposals to Synod 1987.

Synod noted correspondence Item 6 from the Secretary of the I.C.R.C.

Synod noted correspondence Item 2 from the Stated Clerk of the Synod Interim Committee, Reformed Churches of Australia.

3. That Synod request the Rev. Messrs J.M. Cromarty and R.S. Ward to make contact with the Moderator of the Reformed Churches of Australia Interim Committee, with a view to clarifying the relationship between the RCA and ourselves; that they reaffirm our attitude as expressed in our resolution of 1985 (printed minutes, p.15); and that their impressions be incorporated in this Committee's report to Synod 1987.

Synod noted correspondence Item 1 and resolved that the Clerk appropriately acknowledge the letter from the Free Reformed Churches and indicate that it is hoped that representatives of

Southern Presbytery will be able to meet with their delegates.

Synod noted correspondence Item 3 and it was resolved that it be left to the discretion of the Clerk to respond.

Synod noted correspondence Item 11 and it was resolved that the Clerk respond appropriately.

#### FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE

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

It was resolved that parents be urged to become actively involved in the school organisations open to them.

#### LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. R.S. Ward presented the report. Following questions, the report was received, with the exclusion of the appendix dated 1 April 1986.

It was resolved that

1. a) The Synod regulates the granting of seats on presbyteries to ministers who are not inducted, as follows: Such a man must be ordained. Unless appointed as an assessor he must reside within the bounds of the presbytery on which he receives a seat, and the Synod must be satisfied that a task substantially equivalent to a pastoral charge is committed to him, or that he is able and willing to assist in the courts of the church and circumstances (nature of task, fewness of other ministers, etc.) suggest granting a seat is for the church's distinct advantage. The Synod reviews granting of seats under this provision from time to time.

b) Nothing in this Act affects the right of ministers not inducted to be elected as ruling elders in the congregations to which they attach themselves, nor the right of church courts to give a voice but not a vote to uninducted ministers of the church in good standing.

c) An ordained minister of the church giving regular full time residential supply in a Church Extension or Fully Sanctioned Charge is for that period under the oversight of the presbytery of the bounds, and if he gives extended service of more than three consecutive months he has a seat on the presbytery automatically if necessary to give a quorum (or by the decision of the presbytery otherwise) provided that in all cases he sign the formula.

d) In line with the spirit of the Federal Relations Act 1954, ministers of the Free Church of Scotland working with agencies such as Christian Witness to Israel and entitled to a seat on Presbytery under rules of the Free Church of Scotland, shall likewise be granted a seat when on secondment to parallel work in Australia.

e) All previous legislation on this subject is repealed except to the extent that it is incorporated herein.

It was further resolved

2. a) A Register of Ministers without Charge and a Roll of Resigned Ministers shall be kept by the Clerk of Synod.

b) When a minister's resignation of his charge has been accepted by his Presbytery it also decides whether his name should be placed on the Register of Ministers without Charge, or merely

placed on the Roll of Resigned Ministers. Should a Presbytery resolve that the name not be included in the Register, the minister is entitled to be informed of the reason(s) and may bring the matter before Synod in due form.

c) When a minister's resignation of his charge has been accepted by his Presbytery, the Clerk of Presbytery provides him with a certificate of his standing and an Extract Minute of the Presbytery's decision. The Presbytery Clerk also notifies the Clerk of Synod by Extract Minute.

d) Upon receipt of the Presbytery's advice, the Clerk of Synod shall place the name of the resigned minister upon the Register or the Roll, as the case may be. If upon the Register, then the minister shall be eligible for call, but if upon the Roll the minister shall not be eligible for call unless his name is transferred to the Register as hereinafter provided.

e) In no case shall a resigned minister remain on the Register for more than three years from the date of his resignation, unless application is made to the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident before the expiry of the three year period. If such application is made, the Presbytery obtains such information as may be appropriate before coming to a decision. If such application is not made, the Clerk of Synod removes the man's name from the Register to the Roll at the end of the three years.

f) The name of a minister on the Register or the Roll may be removed at his own request and must be removed if he becomes a minister of another church. A minister desiring his name to be transferred from the Roll to the Register shall petition Synod through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident.

g) Ministers without Charge and Resigned Ministers shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident.

h) The Synod specifically direct that this Act does not apply to ministers who, subsequent to resignation of their charges, have been granted seats in Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, nor to those who now or hereafter may be granted seats in terms of "Act concerning seats on presbyteries for ministers not inducted" of Synod 1986.

i) All legislation of previous Synods on this subject is repealed except to the extent that it is incorporated herein.

Mr Neil entered a simple dissent.

It was further resolved

3. Synod direct that in regard to a minister who has resigned a charge in the Free Church of Scotland and wishes to be eligible to be called to a charge in the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in terms of the Federal Relations Act (1954), procedure shall be as follows:

(1) Within two months of his arrival in Australia he shall present to the Presbytery within whose bounds he has taken up residence a Certificate from the Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland which accepted his resignation.

(2) Provided that this Certificate shows that the minister resigned in good standing and that it is dated no more than three months prior to its presentation to a Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia the said Presbytery may instruct the Clerk of Synod, by Extract Minute, to include the minister's name in the Register of Ministers without Charge.

(3) Before a Presbytery of this Church proceed to moderate a Call to a minister resigned from the

Free Church of Scotland, it must receive written assurance from the Clerk of Synod that the name of the minister has been included in the Register in terms of the foregoing clauses.

Synod further direct that:

A probationer or licentiate of the Free Church of Scotland who wishes to be eligible for a Call or Appointment in the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia shall furnish a certificate of his standing from the Clerk of Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to the Clerk of Synod in order for his name being included in the Register.

(This Act is parallel to Act 1 Class 2 of the Free Church of Scotland, 1974)

The Committee proposed

4. Synod repeal Act 4 of Class 2 (Synod 1984) and resolve that in future the normal age for retirement of ministers from inducted service be 65 years except with the express concurrence of the Presbytery following visitation of the charge.

An amendment was moved that Synod repeal Act 4 of Class 2 of Synod 1984.

The Rev. K. MacLeod occupied the chair at the Moderator's request.

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

The following dissents with reasons were tendered:

Rev. A.L. Tripovich, with Messrs Nibbs and Simpson adhering: This legislation has no Scriptural warrant, is unnecessary, and may frustrate the lawful call of God to the ministry of the Word and its proper functions.

Mr A. Neil - Dissent for the reason that the Scripture teaches that a minister is called to the office until God in His Holy and Wise Providence removes him.

Rev. H. Varnes - because in my view this legislation is contrary to Biblical teaching regarding the call of God to the ministry.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 5.35 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 10 Wednesday 21 May 1986, 7.00 pm.

The sederunt was constituted with worship led by the Moderator.

The minutes of Sederunt 9 were read and confirmed.

LAW AND ADVISORY (contd)

It was resolved

5. That Synod aim to complete Chapter 1 to 3 of the Draft Revised Practice, and to that end further urge lower courts to send any suggestions or comments to the Law & Advisory Committee with a view to provisional enactment of these chapters with amendments approved by Synod at Synod 1987, and the continuation of the rest of the work subsequently.

It was resolved, 19 votes to 3,

6. 1. That Synod, recognizing 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 included in the Reports to this Synod, hereby adopts the proposed Bill in lieu of that adopted by Synod in 1985.

2. That Synod remit the proposed Bill to presbyteries for their consent in terms of the Barrier Act, 1697, returns to be made by 31st December 1986.

3. That Synod direct the Clerk of Synod to circulate the proposed Bill to Sessions, Deacons' Courts and Congregations in New South Wales for their approval.

4. That the following instructions be conveyed to Sessions, Deacons' Courts and Congregations, and followed by them:

(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; the minutes are to be thereupon confirmed;

(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, concise and complete statement of the reasons is to be furnished to the Clerk of Synod with the above-mentioned extracts;

(e) all returns are to be in the hands of the Clerk of Synod by 31st December 1986, in order that the Law & Advisory Committee may commence the steps necessary to obtain legislation in terms of the proposed Bill should the required approvals be given by lower courts and congregations.

Synod resolved

7. a) Synod declare the bounds of Northern Presbytery to be the Hastings Municipality and to the north and west of the same in New South Wales together with the whole of Queensland; and the bounds of Central Presbytery to be the Manning Municipality and south and west of the same in New South Wales.

The Committee proposed that:

b) Synod note Rev. S.N. Ramsay resides in the bounds of Northern Presbytery, expresses its appreciation for his assistance in Central Presbytery since last Synod, formally places him under the jurisdiction of Northern Presbytery and grants him a seat in that Presbytery in lieu of Central Presbytery.

The proposal was defeated.

Rev. R.S. Ward dissented with reason: That we are tending by this decision to provide a precedent which could undermine the basis of representation in presbyteries.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 9.09 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 11 Thursday 22 May 1986, 9.05 am.

The sederunt was opened with worship led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunt 10 were read and confirmed.

The Clerk drew the Court's attention to the omission of a customary practice, and proposed that the Court record its appreciation to the Retiring Moderator for his sermon, and to the Moderator for his address. The motion was seconded, and carried unanimously.

#### LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Synod resumed consideration of the Committee's proposals.

Synod resolved

a. Each Deacons' Court appoints one or more Treasurers, not necessarily member(s) of the court. The Treasurer receives, disburses and accounts for all monies under the care of the Deacons' Court, as it directs, and produces for inspection, when required, all books of accounts together with all relevant vouchers. All monies received by the Treasurer for whatever purpose shall be banked promptly as received in an account kept in the church's name, viz. Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia .... Congregation, at least two signatories being required for withdrawals.

All payments shall be made by cheque. Church offerings are to be counted by two persons designated by the Deacons' Court while in each other's presence, and the figure entered into a book and initialled by both persons.

b. The Deacons' Court gathers the monetary contributions of the congregation, takes charge of them and of any other monies received by or for the use of the congregation, and disburses them for the purposes for which they were contributed. The Deacons' Court keeps proper and adequate books of account and other financial records, and complies with the auditing and other requirements laid down by the Synod.

c. The audit shall be a complete examination of the books so that the revenue and expenditure may be safeguarded and the correctness of the various accounts and the information as disclosed by the annual statements may be properly verified. The auditor shall be a competent person or persons not being a member of the Deacons' Court. It is preferable that the auditor has accountancy experience.

d. The auditor shall be supplied by the Deacons' Court with an annual statement of the Court's receipts and expenditure together with a statement of funds showing investments and also particulars of any form of mortgage or loan. The statement of funds may be in the form of a balance sheet in regular form showing the whole assets and liabilities of the congregation and its organizations.

e. The auditor shall examine the church offering book and compare with the bank deposits and the bank statement shall be reconciled with the cash book. He shall ensure that all amounts paid are applied to the purposes for which they were contributed and no other. The auditor is entitled to

examine all the records and in particular should sight the certificates covering any investments or loans.

f. After the accounts have been duly prepared and audited they are submitted to the Presbytery of the bounds for attestation if the Presbytery finds them to be in order. Once attested the accounts are ready to be presented at the annual meeting of the congregation.

It was moved on notice, seconded and carried that Synod call upon the Law and Advisory Committee to bring to Synod 1987 a report dealing with the respective authorities of Synod and Deacons' Courts in the light of the problem about Public Liability Insurance.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that Synod note with pleasure the appointment of Rev. W.M. Mackay, MA, Dip.Ed., as Principal of Presbyterian Ladies College, Melbourne and his active membership of our congregation in that city. The Synod place his name on the Roll of Resigned Ministers in terms of the Act of Synod 1986, and authorize his registration as a marriage celebrant.

The motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that the Synod of Eastern Australia, through the Melbourne Session, present a framed and inscribed copy of "The Burial of John Knox", painted in 1871 by Sir John Gilbert, RA, to our honorary Procurator, Mr F. Maxwell Bradshaw, MA, LL.M., as a token of our esteem and an expression of our appreciation for his inestimable advice to this Church over some 50 years, and as some slight recognition of his significant contribution to the preservation and furtherance of Calvinistic Presbyterianism in Australia. Synod extend to him and his family its sincere Christian greetings and prayer for continued covenant blessings from "Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood and has made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen".

The motion was carried unanimously.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that the Law & Advisory Committee prepare appropriate standard forms to be used in bringing matters before our Courts.

The motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that the Law and Advisory Committee prepare an Index to Acts and Regulations passed by Synod.

The motion was carried.

#### TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. P.J. Bloomfield, presented the report, which was received.

Synod resolved

1. That we note Mr Cromarty's diligent labours and rejoice with him at his being licensed and assure him of our continued interest and prayers.
2. That we note Mr Tupua's interest in a course of studies, and assure him of our prayerful support.
3. That for the purposes of our accounts, Synod authorizes the outstanding debt of Mr B. Dole to be written off, and Synod will continue to hold him morally responsible to meet his solemn obligations, and Synod records its great disappointment that he has failed to acknowledge the

communications of three successive conveners.

4. That we note our church has no students in training: that all Sessions be urged to take initiatives in seeking and approaching men with suitable academic and spiritual qualities for the pastoral ministry, encouraging them to prepare for it, and providing them with opportunities to use and develop their gifts of teaching, leadership and ministry within the congregation.

#### PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. R.S. Ward, presented the report which was received.

Synod resolved

1. That with effect from 1.7.1986 the level of contribution to Superannuation by Synod for Rev. E.R. Lee be reduced to the standard level of 8%.

2. That the membership of Messrs McCallum, J.A. Cromarty and Pateman with effect from induction be approved.

3. That an amount equal to the forfeited benefit re Mr Cornford be placed to the credit of the Supplementary Benefits Fund upon confirmation of the amount (approx. \$1,100) by the Convener to the Synod Treasurer.

4. That Deacons' Courts note the Super/LSL Levy due by 31.12.1986 is \$1,303, and remittance in two or more amounts during the year would be appreciated.

5. That from 1.1.1987 Section B 1 of the Provident Fund Regulations be amended to substitute for the words "and to be paid before the close of the calendar year" the words "and to be paid in two approximately equal half-yearly instalments by the close of the calendar year".

6. That an amount of \$1,500 be transferred from the Supplementary Benefits Fund to the Retired Ministers Fund to assist in paying pensions to former members of the Retirement Fund or their widows.

7. That pensions be increased on the basis stated in the report from 1st July 1986, to be thus: Dr & Mrs Andrews, \$1,206.40 pa; Mrs J.A. Harman \$1,118pa; Mrs A.D. McIntosh \$670.80 pa; Rev. & Mrs J.A. Webster \$1,508 pa; Rev. & Mrs S.N. Ramsay \$447.20 pa.

8. That the 1985 and 1986 levy for Armidale (\$1186 and \$1303) be paid from General Funds.

9. That the sum of \$8413 be transferred from the levy proceeds account to the Long Service Leave Fund.

It was moved on notice and seconded whereas the provisions of the Church Extension Building Fund established in 1971 (printed minutes page 12) are identical with those of the 8:14 Foundation, the Church Extension Building Fund be now absorbed into the 8:14 Foundation. The motion was carried.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 12.26 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 12 Thursday 22 May 1986, 1.32 pm.

The sederunt was constituted with worship led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunt 11 were read and confirmed.

#### YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. J.M. Cromarty, presented the report, which was received.

Synod resolved:

1. That Synod recognizing the important nature of this report requests the Editor of The Presbyterian Banner to give a prominent position to the matters raised by this Committee so that the church at large may take to heart the sentiments and suggestions that have been expressed.
2. That sincere thanks be conveyed to Mrs J. Ramsay and Mrs A. Steel for their willing supervision of the Birthday Roll and Search Work respectively.
3. That Synod requests Presbyteries to review and encourage youth activities within the bounds and forward brief, regular reports to this committee. (See report for details).
4. That Presbyteries forward to the Convener by 31st December a brief report on the state of Sabbath Schools within the bounds. (See report for details).
5. That Presbyteries forward to the Convener when appropriate, information concerning Rallies and Camps within the bounds.
6. That our young people be reminded of the need for, and benefits of, personal witnessing and further we urge them to make use of Fellowship meetings and Rallies as a means of bringing unsaved friends into the context of vital experimental Christianity and thus into the Church of Jesus Christ.
7. That Synod, recognizing the great value to our young people of regular memory work, Search Work, Fellowship activities and Sabbath School, urges those in positions of responsibility to do all within their power to encourage full participation in these activities.
8. That Sessions note the closing date for the essay competition (30th Sept. each year), as well as the closing date for the applications for memory work certificates (30th November each year); and that parents and Sabbath School superintendents be notified accordingly.
9. That Synod urges a greater emphasis to be placed upon Scripture and Catechism memorization.
10. That Synod encourages Presbyteries to take a more positive part in promoting and assisting the ongoing development of Rallies and Camps on a local basis. (See report No.4 and Conclusion).
11. That the foregoing recommendations be read and acted upon in the light of the particular matters raised in the report.

Synod expressed its appreciation to the Convener and his Committee for this report.

#### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Rev. W.P.Gadsby presented the report which was received.

Synod resolved

1. That Synod thank all those involved with the production and distribution of THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER, especially the Editor, the Rev. R.S. Ward.
2. That Synod approve the action of the Committee in having printed a second edition of the booklet, COVENANT BAPTISM by the Rev. P.J.. Bloomfield.
3. That 30 copies of ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING be provided to the Rev. W.D. Graham for use in his work, the cost of providing these to be met from Missions Funds.

The Committee proposed

4. That Synod publish the writing, "WHO IS JESUS: A Serious Address to a Jehovah's Witness" by Mr S.P. Swinn; and that the first edition comprise 1000 copies.

On being put to the vote, recommendation 4 was defeated.

It was further resolved

5. That Synod consider the establishment of a 'media organisation' to be premature at this time, but instruct the Publications Committee to maintain a watching brief on the matter, and make report to Synod 1987.
6. That Synod publish a history of the PCEA in 1988.

Synod resolved unanimously

7. That the Rev. R.S.Ward be asked to prepare this history for publication; that our people be encouraged to contact him with suggestions for improvement upon his THE MAKING OF AN AUSTRALIAN CHURCH, and that in particular all Sessions be requested to assist by providing to Mr Ward details of local congregational history, with photographs.

By permission of the Moderator, the following motion was proposed and seconded that the Committee fully investigate the publication costs and marketing prospects of "Who is Jesus: A Serious Address to a Jehovah Witness" and proceed to publication and marketing should in their opinion it be a feasible proposition after seeking Synod members responses to the booklet.

The motion was carried.

#### PSALTER REVISION COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. R.S. Ward, presented the report which was received.

It was resolved that members note the desire of the Committee to receive suggestions as to alternative versions, including comments on Psalms for Singing.

#### PSALMODY COMMITTEE

The Convener, the Rev. E.R. Lee, vacated the chair which was occupied pro tem by the Rev. K. MacLeod.

The Rev. Prof. J.D. MacMillan was invited to address the Court on the history of the 1650 Metrical

Psalter.

The Convener presented the report, which was received.

Synod resolved

1. That Synod continue the remit given to the Committee to draw up a list of alternative versions of the Psalms.
2. That Synod congratulate our people on their rekindled enthusiasm for Psalmody Conferences and practice.
3. That Synod permit the Committee to co-opt non-members of Synod who have musical gifts e.g. Dr William McClean, and authorise it to co-opt as consultants ladies of our congregations who have musical skills.
4. That Synod combine the Psalmody Committee and the Psalter Revision Committee.

#### PROVIDENT FUND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 5, an overture from Northern Presbytery anent exemption from Provident Fund levy for the Lismore Congregation.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted in the following terms: That Synod relieve Lismore of its contribution to the Provident Fund from January 1986.

The motion was carried.

#### REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

##### 1. Permanent Record of Synod

One mistake which had been detected had been corrected.

##### 2. Central Presbytery

It was reported that items of correspondence had been received by Presbytery, but had not apparently been dealt with.

##### 3. Southern Presbytery

The records, after correction, were correct and in good order.

It was resolved that the above records be attested.

#### NOMINATION OF MODERATOR FOR 1987/88

The Rev. R.W. Murray was unanimously appointed as Moderator-elect for 1987.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 5.18 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk.

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

#### SEDERUNT 13 Thursday 22 May 1986, 7.07 pm.

The sederunt was constituted with worship led by the Moderator.

The minutes of sederunt 12 were read and confirmed.

#### REPORT OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS (contd)

#### 4. Northern Presbytery

It was resolved that the record for 17.2.84 - 5.10.84 be attested.

It was further resolved concerning minutes 22.2.85 - 12.10.85

1. That the words "Nevertheless Presbytery finds a strong presumption that Robert Ramsay did commit a serious sexual sin as alleged and will take this into account when reaching a conjunct view in sentence" which appear in both Charge 1 and Charge 2 on page 200 of the ordinary record, be rendered illegible.

2. That in the paragraph following Charge 2 the words "And whereas Presbytery has found a strong presumption of guilt" be replaced by the following "but Presbytery has reached a 'non proven' verdict..."

At the Moderator's request, the Rev. A.L. Tripovich occupied the chair.

It was resolved that the record be attested subject to the foregoing emendations.

The Rev. E.R. Lee resumed the chair.

#### ITEM FROM SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

The Moderator permitted the introduction of an urgent matter arising from the deliberations of Southern Presbytery earlier in the day.

Presbytery was called to the bar. Mr Ward stated the reference. It was resolved that the reference be sustained. The Presbytery was dismissed from the bar.

It was resolved that Synod approve the location of the Melbourne manse in an area suited to the needs of the Melbourne congregation subject to the consent of the Deacons Court and Congregation and to this extent vary the decision of Synod 1985 Correspondence Item 6. 3(b).

The Rev. D. Nibbs dissented with reason: I believe that we have a moral obligation to see to it that the amount set apart by Synod 85 be used for the erection of a manse at the rear of St. Kilda Church, and not in some other area.

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

The following committee structures were agreed:

##### Administration & Inter-church Relations

Clerk, Assistant-clerk, Moderator, Moderator-elect, Convener of Law & Advisory Committee.

##### Church Extension and Supply

J.A. Cromarty, J.S. Graham, S.N. Ramsay, H.C. Varnes, and Hunter representative elder.

##### Faith and Life

H.C. Varnes, W.J. McClean, A.L. Tripovich, J.A. McCallum and J.A. Cromarty.

Finance

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

8:14 Foundation

Treasurer, Clerk and one nominee from each Presbytery.

Law and Advisory

R.S. Ward, W.M. MacKay, W.P. Gadsby, R.W. Murray, J. McCallum and M.J. Simpson.

Missions

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

Provident Funds

R.S. Ward, J.B. Loudon, J.R.B. Webster, M.J. Simpson.

Psalmody

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

Publications

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

Training of Ministry

P.J. Bloomfield, W.J.W. Hanna, R.W. Murray, J.A. Cromarty. W.J. McClean.

Youth and Fellowship

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

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.02 pm.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator

SEDERUNT 14 Friday 23 May 1986, 9.07 am.

The sederunt was constituted with worship led by the Moderator, who addressed the Court, centring his remarks on 1 Cor. 13:7 "love ... believes all things". The object of love here is not doctrine, but persons. "Love is eager to believe the best". It is not suspicious, but as a way to unity is always ready to believe the best about other believers. And the secret of doing this is to recognize that Christ is Lord of each one, and that in "things indifferent" we must respect, and accept each other for the Lord's sake.

The minutes of sederunt 13 were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4, a complaint against a decision of Northern Presbytery.

The Assistant Clerk was appointed Clerk pro tem. The complainant and the Presbytery were called to the bar. It was noted that Mr Gadsby was not at the bar since he had dissented from the finding of Presbytery complained against.

Mr Ward outlined the events leading up to the lodgement of the complaint, as gleaned from copies of documents accompanying the complaint.

The complainant stated his case. Mr MacLeod stated the case of the Presbytery. The complainant replied. Questions were addressed to parties at the bar.

Synod resolved that the parties be removed from the bar and the remaining members of Synod now meet in closed court to deliberate on the case.

Synod proceeded to deliberate upon the merits of the case.

It was resolved that Synod hereby dismisses the complaint and instructs the Northern Presbytery to direct the Lismore Session to proceed with Mr J.D. Ramsay as formerly instructed by Northern Presbytery (15.3.86) in accordance with the practice of the church.

It was resolved to meet in open Court. The decision was intimated to the parties. Mr MacLeod acquiesced on behalf of the Presbytery. Messrs Bloomfield, Causley, and Campbell indicated their non-acquiescence.

Mr Gadsby dissented from the finding.

Parties were dismissed from the bar.

It was resolved that the Clerk be empowered to incorporate a list of the Acts of Synod at the beginning of the printed minutes.

It was resolved that Synod record its appreciation to the Taree congregation and courts for their warm Christian hospitality.

It was agreed that Synod 1987 meet at Taree, with the dates to be determined by the Administration Committee.

The minutes of sederunt 14 were read and confirmed.

The Rev. Prof. J.D. MacMillan closed the 1986 Synod with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby  
Clerk

Edwin R. Lee  
Moderator