

Pro Re Nata Synod October 1987

WITHIN the Airport Hilton Hotel, Sydney, on Friday 30 October 1987 at 2.07pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met *pro re nata* and was constituted.

MODERATOR *PRO TEM*.

It was resolved that the Rev. E.R.Lee act as Moderator *pro tem*.

ROLLS OF PRESBYTERY

Northern Presbytery:

Ministers: P.J.Bloomfield, K.Macleod, R.W.Murray, A.L.Tripovich, W.P.Gadsby; Elders: W.J.W.Hanna (Brisbane), K.D.Causley (Grafton), R.L.Campbell (Maclean/Lismore), J.W.McKinnon (Armidale).

Central Presbytery:

Ministers: S.N.Ramsay, E.R.Lee, J.A.Cromarty, J.A.McCallum, H.C.Varnes, J.S.Graham; Elders: K.Longworth (Manning), T.Leggott (Hunter), A.Steel (St Georges), G.A.Neil (Hawkesbury-Nepean).

Southern Presbytery:

Ministers: J.Pateman, J.M.Cromarty, R.S.Ward, D.R.Nibbs; Elders: J.C.H.Cunningham (Hamilton), N.G.Triffett (Ulverstone), W.M.McKay (Melbourne), C.Cumming (Geelong).

Apologies: Mr N.G.Triffett, Rev. R.W.Murray.

ASSOCIATION OF DR ANDREWS

It was resolved that Dr J.C.Andrews, being present, be associated with the Court.

APPROVAL OF MODERATOR'S ACTION IN CALLING THIS MEETING

It was moved and seconded that the action of the Moderator in calling this meeting be approved. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

The Synod took up the business as advised in the notice paper calling the meeting, to wit:

to consider an urgent overture from Southern Presbytery seeking Synod's permission "to sell the remaining church property at 12B Chapel Street, East St Kilda for not less than \$650,000 or the fair market value, whichever is the greater, and to apply the proceeds as follows: (1) the sum of \$500,000 to be invested in property and/or other trustee securities, the revenue therefrom to be applied for the extension and development of the work in Melbourne, and (2) the excess of \$500,000 to be applied towards a site or buildings with a view to the establishing of an additional centre in Melbourne."

The Reverend R.S.Ward presented the overture on behalf of the Presbytery, and moved that the prayer of the overture be granted, namely, that Synod authorise the Melbourne Deacons' Court to sell the property at East St Kilda as detailed above. The motion was seconded. Following discussion, the motion was carried.

Simple dissent was tendered by Messrs Tripovich and Steele; the following dissented with reasons: Mr H.C.Varnes, with Mr Neil adhering -

That in Melbourne the work at East St Kilda has been the traditional seat of our denomination - a denomination with strong distinctive principles.

That since we are a Church that professes deep interest in Reformed missionary activity among Jewish people I cannot understand the sale of an excellent site in a strong Jewish sector of Melbourne which could be developed as a centre for Jewish work.

That the release of capital funds is not in my view the primary way to plant churches. We need emphasis on people, pastors and prayer.

That regrettably, the leaders of the Melbourne congregation have not gained my own

confidence in their capacity to establish a congregation within a 3 kilometre radius of East St Kilda when I have witnessed the failure to build a community at 12a Chapel Street, the closure of a building for public worship, the dispersal of a people with resultant offence to many, and now the proposed sale of the property.

Mr Nibbs with Mr S.N.Ramsay adhering -

I believe that it would be morally wrong to sell the remaining church property at 12b Chapel St. East St Kilda, because of events that have taken place in the St Kilda Congregation in past years.

Mr Cunningham-

on the grounds of the moral and spiritual implications.

The Moderator having permitted Mr Nibbs' dissent with reason, Mr J.M.Cromarty dissented from the Moderator's ruling.

EXPENSES

The kind offer of the Melbourne Deacons' Court to meet the cost of this meeting was gratefully accepted.

The minutes of this meeting were read and confirmed.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 5.01pm.

W.P.Gadaby
Clerk

Edwin R.Lee
Moderator