

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS
OF
SYNOD 1987

The following list of acts, while not forming a part of the Minutes, are included by the direction of Synod 1987.

Class 1 (Barrier Act procedure)

None.

Class 2 (Other)

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**** NOTE from the Clerk of Synod ****

Once again, the appreciation of the Church is due to Mrs Beth McPherson for her efficient work in typing the minutes ready for copying, and to my wife Lindy for copying and collating the pages.

W Peter Gadsby
15 May 1987

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ANNUAL SYNOD 1987

SEDERUNT 1

Within the Taree church building on Monday, 20 April 1987 at 7.08 pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted.

The Moderator, the Rev. Edwin Lee led public worship, preaching on the main themes of Psalm 78, and particularly the need for us to go forward in faith in response to the glorious Gospel of God.

The following certified rolls of Presbyteries were presented -

Ministers	Ruling Elders	Congregation
CENTRAL PRESBYTERY		
J.A. Webster	G. King	(Hunter-Barrington)
S.N. Ramsay	K. Longworth	(Manning)
E.R. Lee	N.A. McPherson	(St Georges)
J.S. Graham	A. Neil	(Hawkesbury-Nepean)
J.A. McCallum		
H.C. Varnes		
J.A. Cromarty		
SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY		
J.M. Cromarty	J.R.B. Webster	(Geelong)
R.S. Ward	W.M. Mackay	(Melbourne)
D.R. Nibbs	N.G. Triffett	(Ulverstone)
J. Pateman	M.J. Simpson	(Hamilton)

The Clerk reported that there was no certified roll of Northern Presbytery to hand.

It was resolved that members of Northern Presbytery present at Synod as delegates be recognised as such, pending the presentation of the certified roll of Presbytery.

Delegates present from Northern Presbytery at this juncture were:

Ministers	Ruling Elders	Congregation
J.C. Andrews	W.J.W. Hanna	(Brisbane)
A.L. Tripovich	J.E. Hockett	(Hastings)
R.W. Murray		
W.P. Gadsby		

Apologies for inability to attend Synod 1987 were tendered on behalf of the Rev J.A. Webster, and Messrs N.G. Triffett and K.D. Causley.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR FOR 1987/88

The Clerk reported that the Revd R.W. Murray (Grafton) had been appointed moderator-elect by Synod 1986. It was resolved that Mr Murray's election to this position be confirmed. The motion was carried unanimously.

The Moderator welcomed Mr Murray to the chair, assuring him of the Court's prayerful support in the discharge of his duties. The new Moderator thanked the Court for appointing him to the position, and proceeded to deliver the 1987 Moderatorial Address: "The Church's Ministry and Mission", being an exposition of II Corinthians 4:5. These should be (1) Centred on Christ; (2) Patterned on Christ; and (3) Motivated by Christ.

APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

It was resolved that the following appointments be made:

Northern Presbytery:.....	J.S. Graham, J.R.B. Webster
Central Presbytery:.....	D.R. Nibbs, J.E. Hockett
Southern Presbytery:.....	W. Hanna, J.A. McCallum
Synod Permanent Record:.....	J. Pateman, W. Mackay

The Moderator extended a welcome to the Revd Messrs J. Pateman and W.M. Mackay as new members of the Synod.

REPORTER TO THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER

It was resolved that Mr Wm Mackay be appointed to prepare a report of Synod's proceedings for the Church's magazine.

NOTICES OF MOTION

One notice of motion was read.

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

The sederunt was concluded with the singing of Psalm 67, and prayer at 8.25 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 2 Tuesday 21 April 1987, 9.01 am.

The sederunt was constituted. The minutes of sederunt 1 were read and confirmed.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

It was resolved that the sympathy of the Court be extended to the Rev. R.W. Murray, Mr Leone Tupua, Mr K.D. Causley and Mr N.A. McPherson in their loss of family members, as well as to all who have been bereaved during the past year.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

It was resolved unanimously that Synod thank the retiring Moderator for his sermon and the Moderator for his address and that these be published in the Church paper in due course.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the report, which was received.

It was resolved:

1. That Synod invite the Rev. Prof. J.D. MacMillan to visit Australia in 1988 for up to three months, and extend the invitation to include Mrs MacMillan; that upon his acceptance of our invitation, the Administration Committee organise a Conference in conjunction with the annual Synod, if possible; that Congregations be requested to support financially the proposed visit, that Synod request that offerings be taken in the months of July, November and March, to be forwarded immediately to the General Treasurer; and that these and other arrangements be overseen by the Rev. J.M. Cromarty.
2. That Tuesday evening sederunt be devoted to Missions and Evangelism business.
3. Disposal of correspondence:
 - 3.1 That Items 1 and 2 be taken with Inter-church Relations business.
 - 3.2 That Items 3 and 4 be received and noted.
 - 3.3 That Items 5, 6 and 7 be taken up in Friday morning sederunt.
 - 3.4 That Item 8 be received and noted.
 - 3.5 That Item 9 be taken after Victorian Trust Corporation business.
 - 3.6 That Item 10 be taken after NSW Trust Corporation business.
 - 3.7 That Item 11 be taken after Church Extension and Supply business.
 - 3.8 That Item 12 be taken after Training of Ministry Business.
 - 3.9 That Items 13 and 14 be taken after Finance Committee business.
 - 3.10 That Item 15 be taken after NSW Trust Corporation business.

3.11 That Items 16 and 18 be taken after Inter-church Relations business.

3.12 That Item 17 be taken with Training of Ministry business.

3.13 That Item 19 be taken after Inter-church Relations business.

3.14 That Item 20 be taken after Publications Committee business.

4. That Synod now proceed to determine the date and place for Synod 1988.

Accordingly, it was moved and seconded that the time and place of Synod 1988 be left in the hands of the Administration Committee and that Synod be held in conjunction with Professor MacMillan's proposed visit.

It was further moved and seconded that time and place of next Synod be left in the hands of Admin Committee, that Synod members be informed by letter, with adequate time, of time and place and that consensus of agreement be obtained by the Committee.

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

The Committee proposed

5. That all Synod Committees meet by arrangement on Friday, 24 April, at the Taree church building, at a time to be determined by Synod when confirming Committee appointments.

A second motion was moved and seconded that Committees meet at the conclusion of the presentation of the Psalmody Committee report.

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

GENERAL TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

It was resolved that the report be received. The Moderator thanked Mr McPherson for his sterling effort.

8:14 FOUNDATION REPORT

It was resolved that the report be received.

It was further resolved:

1. That Synod express appreciation for continued support of the Foundation.

2. That Brisbane Congregation be commended for their consistent repayments and encouraged to continue.

It was moved and seconded that Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow 8/14 business to be further considered at a later sederunt. The vote was equally divided, and the Moderator recorded his vote against the motion. Accordingly, the motion was defeated.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.30 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 3 Tuesday 21 April 1987, 1.33 pm

The sederunt was constituted, and the minutes of sederunt 2 were read and confirmed.

The certified roll of Northern Presbytery was tendered as follows:

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

Ministers

P.J. Bloomfield
W.P. Gadsby
A.L. Tripovich
K. MacLeod
R.W. Murray
J.C. Andrews

Ruling Elders

J.E. Hockett
R.L. Campbell
K.A. Dawson
K.D. Causley
W.J.W. Hanna

Congregation

(Hastings)
(Maclean/Lismore)
(Armidale)
(Grafton)
(Brisbane)

FINANCE COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Discussion of the report continued, following which the Committee proposed:

1. That the minimum stipend be increased from 1 July 1987, and 1 January 1988 as per percentage rises in the C.P.I.

A second motion was proposed and seconded that the minimum stipend from this date be increased in accordance with national wage increases, in lieu of CPI percentage rises.

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 travelling expenses of Synod delegates be paid at the usual rate.
3. That Synod meet the annual expenses of the Auditor's Accounting Association fees.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod remind Deacons' Courts of the Synod Administration Levy of \$200 per charge (\$150 if aid receiving). The motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and carried that Synod requests the Finance Committee to consider and report to next Synod on the advisability of establishing a 'Ministry Fund' to receive undesignated congregational gifts at present collected for Stipend, Church Extension, Training of Ministry, Publications and General Funds, with an Administration Levy for Synod expenses based on a per-communicant member basis rather than a flat figure per charge.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 13: Overture from Central Presbytery re sharing Presbytery expenses.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received.

The Rev. S.N. Ramsay appeared to state the overture.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted, and that Synod withdraw the direction to Presbyteries and recommend that ministers encourage congregations to tithe and commit any particular need to the Lord in prayer.

The motion was lost, and thus the prayer of the overture was not granted.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 14: Reference from Northern Presbytery re cost sharing.

The correspondence was received.

The Northern Presbytery was called to the bar of Synod, the Rev. E.R. Lee occupying the chair. The Clerk of Northern Presbytery stated the reference. It was moved and seconded that the reference be not sustained. The motion was carried. Presbytery was dismissed from the bar, and the Rev. R.W. Murray resumed the chair.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

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

It was resolved that

1. Synod is grateful to The Most High for the opportunity and privilege of engaging in missionary work in Fiji, India, South Africa and Peru and reaffirms its commitment to missionary endeavour.
2. Synod welcome Leone Tupua to our midst again, invites him to address the Synod, assures him of our prayerful support and requests him to convey our Christian greetings to the brethren in Fiji.
3. Synod through the Missions Committee appoint a delegate to investigate, through a visit to Fiji the possibility and feasibility of procuring a site for the erection of a place of worship in Suva to meet the needs of the emerging congregation there.
- 4a. Synod thank David Wright and Elspeth Anderson for the help given by them in Peru and Southern Africa, respectively in the last year.
- 4b. Synod remind our young people of the need for missionaries and challenge them to consider earnestly the opportunities that exist to serve Christ in other lands.
- 5a. Synod thank God for the offer made by Ian and Yvonne Conley to serve as missionaries with Proesa and receive them as missionaries to serve with Proesa, subject to their being able to make the necessary domestic arrangements.
- 5b. Synod authorise the Committee to arrange a valedictory service for the Conleys at a venue suitable to them.
6. Synod authorise the Committee to bring Sister Marie-Christine Lux to Australia at Missions expense at the beginning of 1988 and to arrange an itinerary for deputation work throughout the Church.
7. Synod accede to the request of the Presbytery of The Free Church of Central India to advertise and commend heartily to our people The Training Fund they have established for their

students.

8. Synod agree to give whatever financial assistance is needed to send Mr John Greensill to India, should his services be required for the building of the Middle School.
9. Synod approve an increase in our contribution to the Dumisani (Dimbaza) Bible School from R2000 to \$A2,500, this contribution to be reviewed annually.
- 10a. Synod welcome Mr Tony McCarthy of TEAR Fund to address the Synod.
 - b. Synod recognise TEAR Fund (Australia) as a fund deserving of our support and commend it to our people.
11. Synod recognise The Free Church Disaster Relief Fund as a suitable Agency to contribute to for the relief of natural disasters throughout the world, commend it to our people, and request that all contributions to it be remitted to Synod's General Treasurer.
12. Synod assure Rev. John Graham of our continuing interest in and support of the work of C.W.I. throughout the world and in Australia in particular and approve of the increase of our contribution from \$5000 to \$5,500.
13. Synod approve the donation of \$1000 to Dr Helen Croaker and her husband for the medical work being undertaken by them under the auspices of the BMMF in Nepal, if deemed necessary by the Committee.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod request the Missions Committee to bring before Synod 1988 a careful review of our mission strategy and financial capability with appropriate recommendations. The motion was carried.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 5.34 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 4 Tuesday 21 April 1987, 7.09 pm.

The sederunt was constituted, and the minutes of sederunt 3 were read and confirmed.

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM EVENING

The Moderator introduced the Missions Committee convener, the Rev. K. MacLeod who proceeded to address the gathered congregation. He drew our attention to various decisions of Synod with respect to our mission work, then called on the Moderator to introduce Mr Leone Tupua to the assembly.

Leone brought the Christian greetings of the brethren in Fiji. He reported that at present the situation in the church did not seem very promising. Over the past year, there had been a number of deaths in the family, and the associated troubles had taxed Leone personally. In addition, several members of the church had left. Leone had not felt like coming to Australia this year, but had decided that he had an obligation to report even these things to us. His request was above all that we continue to pray for our brothers and sisters on Fiji as they try to press on in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Moderator thanked Leone for his candid report, and reassured him of our constant prayerful interest in the Lord's work among the folk of the church on Fiji.

Mr MacLeod next introduced Mr David Wright, a member of the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation who addressed the Synod on the work of PROESA in Peru, with which he had been recently involved, illustrating his talk with colour slides. David had been particularly concerned in two irrigation projects. He summarised the work of PROESA as comprising: (i) pastoral work; (ii) educational work; (iii) community health; (iv) agricultural development; (v) animal health; (vi) village welfare, encouraging local industry; (vii) community organisations; and (viii) infrastructure - the construction and maintenance of essential support systems. In the future, PROESA will be consolidating its work and integrating the pastoral and "social-work" aspects of the project. Ultimately, it is hoped to expand PROESA to embrace all the communities covered by the Cajamarca Presbytery.

The Moderator expressed our gratitude to David for his clear and interesting report.

Mr Tony McCarthy, Chairman of the Board of Directors of TEAR Fund Australia, was the next to be introduced by Mr MacLeod, who was welcomed by the Moderator. Mr McCarthy spoke of TEAR Fund as one vehicle of expressing the compassion of God for all men. (Although a name-change has taken place here too - now it is TEAR Australia.) He summarised its ministry as entailing CHANNELLING of support in funds and prayer to Christians in low income countries. There are no "TEAR fund" projects but only local church projects which are supported by the relief fund. These are projects which are run by Christians on the local scene, and done in Christ's name. TEAR Australia is concerned for the biblical quality of life of its supporters, avoiding what are seen to be undesirable promotions directed to non-Christians. The emphasis towards Christians is upon discipleship. And secondly, CHALLENGING Christians in Australia to live lives in tune with Scripture, being aware of the needs of others.

Next, the Moderator invited the Rev. Peter Bloomfield to speak about an evangelism project in Brisbane. Mr Bloomfield noted that Prof. MacMillan had stressed that evangelism is the work not only of individuals in the church, but of the church as a body. Following considerable planning, a literature and door-to-door evangelism campaign has been begun. Of particular help in the planning stage was a visit by the Rev. John Graham who has, of course, very considerable experience in this field. The Lord's blessing has even preceded the first day of visiting, with the conversion of a young girl following the morning service. Mr Bloomfield encouraged other congregations to employ the insights of Rev. John Graham.

The Rev. K. MacLeod led the congregation in prayer.

Notices of motion for sederunt 5 were read. The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.09 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 5 Wednesday 22 April 1987, 9.07 am.

The sederunt was constituted, and the minutes of sederunt 4 were read and confirmed.

N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION

The Convener, Rev. W.P. Gadsby presented the report. Mr Neil McPherson was invited to address the Court on the matter of "Old System Titles" to property at Wingham, Wauchope and Richmond. A document was circulated to members relating to this. It was resolved that the report be received.

It was resolved that Synod again remind the Church of its legislation of 1983 concerning bequests and legacies, and ask all Courts to comply with the same.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 10

From Clerk of Central Presbytery; transmitting overture from St Georges Deacons' Court to raise up to \$150,000 for maintenance of church building.

The Moderator addressed the Court advising Presbyteries of the correct form by which Synod is to be overtured. He appealed for a standardised approach throughout the church in this matter.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received.

The Rev. J. McCallum and Mr N.A. McPherson appeared to state the overture, and responded to questions from members of the Court.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted, and that Synod consent to the mortgaging of the church property in Castlereagh Street, for a sum of up to \$150000, and that the Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia be authorised to execute the necessary documents. The motion was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 15 re disposal of strip of land within Grafton property.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received.

The Rev. E.R. Lee occupied the chair. The Rev. R.W. Murray appeared in support of the overture, and responded to questions.

It was resolved that the prayer of the Overture be granted and that

1. the Grafton's Deacons' Court be given permission to dispose of up to one metre of land along the boundary of the property known as 140 Fry Street Grafton on the following conditions:
 - (a) All costs of whatsoever kind including those of the solicitor acting on behalf of the Deacons Court be borne by the proprietor of 140 Fry Street and
 - (b) That a fence be erected along the fence line at no cost whatsoever to the Deacons Court and according to their specifications.
2. That the Trustees be authorised to sign and seal all necessary documents for the transfer of the property.

QLD TRUST CORPORATION

It was resolved that the report be received.

VIC. TRUST CORPORATION

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

It was further resolved that

1. Synod record its appreciation to the Melbourne Deacons' Court for its oversight of the property bequeathed to the Synod and its subsequent sale.
2. That Hastings, Hawkesbury-Nepean, Manning and St Georges congregations remit the 1985/6 Public Liability premium of \$50; and that Geelong, Hastings, Hawkesbury-Nepean and St Georges remit the 1986/87 Public Liability premium of \$55; all provided they have not already done so.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.20 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 6 Wednesday 22 April 1987, 2.18 pm.

The sederunt was constituted, and the minutes of sederunt 5 were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 9 Overture re sale of property - 94 Alma Road East St Kilda.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received. The Rev. W.M. Mackay appeared to state the overture, and responded to questions by members of Synod.

It was moved that the prayer of the overture be granted and that Synod authorize the Melbourne Deacons' Court to sell the property known as 94 Alma Road, East St Kilda at fair market value as ascertained by professional advisers at the time, and to invest so much of the proceeds in more suitable investment property as will replace the income lost, and to hold the balance against the provision of further facilities (such as a second manse) as may be approved of by the congregation, and further, that subject to approval by the congregation and the Southern Presbytery, the Deacons' Court be authorized to obtain any necessary financial accommodation (whether from The 8:14 Foundation or a lending institution) in order to the purchase of such further facilities, and direct the body corporate The Trustees for Victoria of the PCEA to sign and seal all relevant documents. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Rev. D.R. Nibbs recorded a simple dissent from this decision.

CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Rev. J.A. Cromarty presented the report, which was received; the Convener responded to questions from members of the Court. There followed considerable discussion of issues related to evangelism, with reports from various members about work being done.

At 3.45 pm, the Moderator vacated the chair owing to a pressing appointment; the chair was occupied by the Rev. E.R. Lee.

It was resolved

1. That Synod record its gratitude to the Lord for the work carried out in all Charges receiving aid in 1986.
2. That our people be thanked for their willing support of aid-receiving charges.

3. That the Church Extension and Supply Committee bring to Synod 1988 draft legislation covering "Church Extension and Aid Receiving Charges". This to be done with a view to replacing existing legislation. (1979.. Ch Ext - Stages of Development.)
4. That Ulverstone receive financial aid of up to \$7,500.00.
5. That Brisbane receive aid as per Ch Ext Charge Stage 3: \$8,541.00.
6. That Armidale receive aid as per Ch Ext Charge Stage 2: \$12,427.00.
7. That Synod requests Presbyteries to be especially careful in their oversight and assessment of the needs of congregations receiving financial assistance, as our resources are limited.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 11 Overture re two year moratorium on certain matters.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to permit the moving of the following motion
That this overture be taken with Law & Advisory business. This motion was carried.

INTER CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

It was resolved

1. That Synod note with approval that contacts with the Free Reformed Churches of Australia have been continued, and direct that fraternal greetings be sent to the Synod of the FRCA meeting in Albany, W.A. in September.

The Committee proposed

2. That Synod note the report from Southern Presbytery about discussions with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia; affirm its belief that the two churches should be one; and express its hope that local contacts will be developed, and discussion renewed by Southern Presbytery. Further, that Synod authorise Southern Presbytery to take such steps to hold discussions as they deem necessary, and report to Synod.

A second motion was proposed and seconded, That Synod note the Report from Southern Presbytery anent discussions with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia; affirm its belief that each church should strive for practical fellowship and co-operation; that the present round of discussions regarding union be discontinued, and in lieu thereof the Committee explore with the Reformed Presbyterian Church the feasibility of the kind of mutual relations which now exist between this Church and the Free Church of Scotland.

On being put to the vote the proposal of the Committee was preferred, and became the finding of Synod.

3. That Synod affirm:
 - (1) that while we are pleased to recognise the Reformed Churches of Australia as a church in which the true marks of the church may be found, at present we are less than certain that there is a wholehearted concern by the RCA to maintain the confessional standards, and discipline in accordance with them.

An amendment was moved and seconded (1) That we are pleased to recognise that the Reformed

Churches of Australia is a Church in which the true marks of the Church of Christ are found.

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

A dissent with reasons was tendered by Rev. E.R. Lee On the grounds that the recommendation is condescending in its tone and is unlikely to promote good relationship with the Reformed Churches.

Rev. R.W. Murray adhered to the dissent.

It was further resolved

(2) that the RCA's membership of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod is a positive barrier to the development of closer relations; and

(3) that we desire that more be done by the RCA to overcome their differences with the FRCA.

We make these comments very mindful of our own weaknesses and past failures, and in a desire to speak the truth in love to other brethren. Synod would encourage contacts at the local level with a view to promoting understanding, and furthering true unity.

4. That Presbyteries be requested to submit to this Committee proposed matters for the agenda of ICRC 1989, these submissions to be in the hands of the Clerk of Synod at least 60 days prior to Synod 1988.

5. That Synod propose for the ICRC 1989 agenda:

A. That it be made a regular matter for member churches to report to Conference upon steps they have taken since the previous Conference to proceed to greater unity in the faith.

B. That Conference aim to develop an agreed statement on what is a 'true church', together with the implications of such for issues such as Inter-communion, acceptance of attestations, etc., and that such statement relate the centrality of Jesus Christ to these issues.

C. That Conference aim to develop an agreed statement on the position of covenant children in the church.

6. Synod approved the payment of delegates' expenses to the Conference with the Free Reformed Churches.

At 5.20 pm the Moderator, Rev. R.W. Murray resumed the chair.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 1 From the Secretary of the I.C.R.C. notifying us of matters for the agenda of I.C.R.C. 1989, as proposed by the Free Church of Scotland and the Canadian Reformed Churches.

This item of correspondence was received, its contents noted and referred to the Inter Church Relations Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2 From the Rev. J. de Gelder, Gen. Secretary of the Committee on Relations with Churches Abroad of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated); introducing themselves to us, as fellow members of the ICRC.

It was resolved that the letter be received. and that the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to

the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, expressing our desire that future contacts be developed between us.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 16 From Clerk of Assembly, Free Church of Scotland; conveying fraternal greetings.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received, its contents noted and that it be remitted to the I.C.R. Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 18 From The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia concerning relations between our churches.

It was resolved to receive the correspondence.

Notices of motion were read. The sederunt closed with prayer at 5.36 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 7 Wednesday 22. April 1987, 7.05 pm

The sederunt was constituted, and the minutes of sederunt 6 were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 18 (cont'd)

It was resolved that the correspondence be remitted to the Inter-church Relations Committee to provide the requested information, and convey our fraternal greetings to the brethren of the EPCA.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 19 From Deputies for Contact, Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received, and the letter remitted to the Inter-church Relations Committee.

FAITH AND LIFE COMMITTEE

It was resolved that the report be received.

It was moved on notice and seconded That the Faith & Life C'ttee be asked to prepare a press release on our attitude regarding A.I.D.S. and its moral implications: And that this be approved by Synod prior to release, and that delegates be encouraged to submit this press release to the media in their towns and cities. The motion was carried.

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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

It was resolved

1. That the lower courts, office bearers and parents be urged to study and implement the relevant matters raised in the reports of this year and last year.
2. That sincere thanks be conveyed to Mrs J. Ramsay and Mrs A. Steel for their dedicated efforts during the year.

3. That Search Work continue along present lines.
4. That the magazine "Fellowship" be brought under the general oversight of the Committee, and that we invite the Hunter minister to assume a supervisory role.
5. That the Essay Competition be commended to all of our young people.
6. That all requests for Memory Work Certificates be in the Convener's hands by 30th November and entries in the Essay Competition be submitted by 30th September.

It was moved on notice and seconded, That annual statistical returns from congregations include the number of regular attenders aged under 18 years of age. The motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and seconded, That the Committee take prompt and positive action to re-establish communication between Fellowships and the Committee, and go on to provide a pattern for greater involvement of branches and of members in the studies pursued at the Annual Rally (or Rallies). The motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that the thanks of Synod be expressed to the ladies at Harrington, within the Manning charge, for their Christian zeal in organising and catering for the Youth Rally at short notice. The motion was carried.

MOTION ANENT MR LEONE TUPUA

It was moved on notice, seconded and carried that Synod extend, to the rising of Synod 1988, the authorisation granted to Mr Leone Tupua, to dispense the sacraments and admit to membership in the Presbyterian Church of Fiji.

Notices of motion for ensuing sederunts were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 8.59 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 8 Thursday 23 April 1987, 9.04 am.

The sederunt was constituted; the minutes of sederunt 7 were read and confirmed.

LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

The Committee proposed

1. That a deputation consisting of Messrs W.P. Gadsby, A.L. Tripovich and R.W. Murray be appointed to meet with Deacons' Courts with objections to the proposed new NSW Property Act, with a view to removing misunderstanding and receiving suggested amendments so as to secure unanimity in the church; that the results of the deputation's meetings be given to the Law & Advisory Committee with a view to a further revision being prepared and circulated in Synod Reports for 1988.

At this juncture Synod took up CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 11. The correspondence was read. The Moderator ruled it "out of order, because it asks for something that it is not competent for this Court to grant". He asserted that "It asks for a moratorium on ... 'any matter in any form likely to cause contention or division in the church'." The Moderator explained that:

"1. This imperils the Rights of Church Members, as set down in our Rules - Practice, Chp 1, Part 11, Section 22, p 12 'Any member'."

"2. This imperils the Ordination vows of Office Bearers who have the duty to assert, maintain and defend the doctrine, worship, discipline and government of this Church."

"While I may have the deepest sympathy with the Overture, and the motives behind it, it cannot be allowed while ever our rules, or our ordination vows remain as they are."

It was moved and seconded that the Moderator's ruling be overturned. The motion was defeated.

It was moved and seconded that Standing Orders be suspended to permit Synod to adjourn to allow Central Presbytery to meet to reformulate their overture which had been ruled out of order.

It was resolved that the motion be put.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended, and Synod adjourned.

Synod resumed.

Mr Gadsby dissented with reason from the decision to adjourn, as follows: That when incompetent correspondence is ruled out of order by the Moderator, it is unreasonable, in all normal circumstances, to grant special leave for the party or parties concerned to revise their submission since this establishes a precedent which will seriously prejudice the smooth operation of Synod according to its accepted rules.

Mr J.M. Cromarty and Mr P. Bloomfield adhered to the dissent with reasons.

The Clerk reported that Central Presbytery had fallen from its reference anent Mr T.I. Leggott.

EXTRA CORRESPONDENCE FROM CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

A. Re Mr T.I. Leggott's application.

This item was to be taken with Training of Ministry.

B. Overture re Moratorium on certain matters.

The Moderator ruled that this be taken up at this juncture. It was resolved that the correspondence be received. Messrs J.M. Cromarty and W.P. Gadsby recorded their simple dissent from this decision. Mr McPherson stated the overture. It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted and that Synod declare a two year moratorium on the review and revision of the Practice of the Church and the Property Act for New South Wales so that the time and attention of all officebearers may be given to the requirements of their vows, particularly as they are expressed in the texts of Scripture underlying the Confession of Faith, Chapter 25, Section III.

It was further moved and seconded, That the prayer of the overture be not granted, but that Synod record its commitment to the extension of Christ's Kingdom in all the activities of its Courts, Congregations and Committees, and looks to the grace of God that his work proceed in all decency

and good order, particularly in relation to the Church's connection with the State.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.30 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 9 Thursday 23 April 1987, 1.34 pm.

The sederunt was constituted, and the minutes of sederunt 8 were read and confirmed.

Synod resumed consideration of the overture from Central Presbytery anent a 2-year moratorium. Following discussion, upon being put to the vote, the second motion was preferred and became the finding of the Court.

Synod resumed consideration of Law and Advisory proposed deliverance number 1.

It was resolved that

1. A deputation consisting of Messrs W.P. Gadsby, A.L. Tripovich and R.W. Murray be appointed to meet with Deacons' Courts with objections to the proposed new NSW Property Act, with a view to removing misunderstanding and receiving suggested amendments so as to secure unanimity in the church; that the results of the deputation's meetings be given to the Law & Advisory Committee with a view to a further revision being prepared and circulated in Synod Reports for 1988.
2. Synod grant provisional recognition to Chapter 2 (The Session) of the Revised Practice as bound with 1986 Synod Reports, note and approve the Committee's intention of circulating Chapter 1 and 3 before Synod 1988, and encourage lower courts to send suggestions or comments to the Committee to assist its labours.
3. Synod commend the provision of the Decision Book, and encourages Committees and office-bearers to become familiar with its content.
4. Synod note and approve the report re the authority of Synod vis a vis Deacons' Courts, and anticipates a ready spirit of co-operation in areas where interests may overlap.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

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

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 17 Letter anent Regulations for Training of the Ministry.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received and remitted to the Training of Ministry Committee for action.

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Overture from Central Presbytery re question of confirmation of decision to accept Mr T.I. Leggott as a Home Missionary of the PCEA.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received. It was resolved that Synod meet in closed court.

It was resolved that, because of the Central Presbytery's failure to follow correct procedure, the prayer of the overture be not granted and that the application be referred to the Training of Ministry Committee for report to a subsequent sederunt as well as to the Central Presbytery.

Messrs Neil and Varnes tendered simple dissents from this decision.

It was resolved that Synod meet in open court.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

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

REPORT BY THE EDITOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER

Rev. R.S. Ward presented the report which was received.

It was 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, in accepting the Rev. R.S. Ward's resignation as Editor, Synod place on record its debt of gratitude to Mr Ward for his work in editing the Banner for the last six years.

The Committee proposed

3. That Synod proceed forthwith to the appointment of a new editor for the Presbyterian Banner, to assume his duties commencing with the July issue, the appointment to be reviewed at Synod 1992.

A second motion was moved and seconded

That prior to a final appointment of Editor of the Presbyterian Banner, Synod now resolves to proceed as follows:

1. Synod, conscious that the considerable time involved for an Editor should not be competing with the onerous duties inherent in the Pastoral work, therefore refrains from appointing a full-time minister as Editor.
2. That nominations for Editor now be heard, that our priority concern be for the appointment of the most gifted candidate, and that we engage in mature discussions according to this principle.
3. That the Publications committee be asked to communicate as soon as possible with such candidates and report back to Synod of their availability.
4. That in the event of a suitable appointment not being made before the rising of Synod, the Presbyterian Banner remain temporarily unpublished. Meanwhile the committee be charged to take diligent action in bringing this need before the church, and should a suitable person be found the committee is to co-opt the same as Editor.

On being put to the vote the proposal of the committee was preferred and became the finding of the Court.

The Moderator vacated the chair. The chair was occupied by the Rev. E.R. Lee.

Nominations were called for the position of Editor of the Presbyterian Banner.

Two nominations were received, namely, the Rev. R.W. Murray and the Rev. W.P. Gadsby.

Mr Gadsby declined nomination.

It was resolved that Synod defer further consideration of the Committee's proposals until a later sederunt. The Rev. R.W. Murray resumed the chair.

Notices of motion for ensuing sederunts were read. The sederunt was closed with prayer at 5.28 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 10 Thursday 23 April 1987, 7.05 pm.

The sederunt was constituted, and the minutes of sederunt 9 were read and confirmed.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 20 Letter from the Rev. Prof. A.M. Harman.

It was resolved to meet in closed court.

The item of correspondence was received. It was proposed that we note the letter and the concern expressed therein, and communicate to the writer that we suggest that, as Mr Ward has editorial responsibility for The Presbyterian Banner, it would be appropriate for him to take the matter up with Mr Ward. The motion was seconded.

It was further moved and seconded, That Synod direct the Editor of the Presbyterian Banner to withdraw the article "Australian Presbyterian Problems - A review of recent assessments," and that an apology be published in the Presbyterian Banner and sent to Professor Harman.

On being put to the vote, the first motion was preferred, and became the finding of the Court.

It was resolved that Synod meet in open court.

PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

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

It was resolved

1. That the level of contribution to Superannuation by Synod for Rev. E.R. Lee be regulated for the future to an amount adequate to ensure the target is maintained.
2. That if they have not already done so, Ulverstone (\$1303), Hamilton (\$1303), Grafton (\$500), Armidale (\$912) and Lismore (\$1186) remit the arrears of Super/LSL Levy indicated.

Mr Gadsby dissented with reason: This amount is not owed by Armidale, but by the Synod Church Extension Fund.

It was resolved

3. That Deacons' Courts note the 1987 Levy is calculated at 8.5% of 1986-7 stipend (\$15,938) and thus is \$1,355, which is to be remitted in two or more approximately equal amounts during the year ending 31.12.1987.
4. That an amount of \$1,700 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.
5. That pensions be increased on the basis stated in the report from 1st July 1987, to be thus: J.A. & Mrs Webster \$1,664pa; Mrs J.A. Harman \$1,222pa; Rev. Dr J.C. & Mrs Andrews \$1,331.20pa; Rev. S.N. & Mrs Ramsay \$490.88.
6. That the sum of \$2,898 be transferred from the Super/LSL Levy proceeds account to the Long Service Leave Fund once sufficient levy proceeds are in hand.

PSALMODY COMMITTEE

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

The Committee proposed

1. That Synod approve the committee's selection of alternative versions of the psalms.

The proposal was defeated.

It was resolved

2. That Synod note with pleasure interest shown in the Psalmody conducted in several congregations, express thanks to those who have given instruction, and exhort Presbyteries to afford Psalmody Conventions all assistance and encouragement.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.05 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 11 Friday 24 April 1987, 9.05 am.

The sederunt was constituted, and the minutes of sederunt 10 were read and confirmed.

The following Committee structure for 1987-88 was agreed:

Administration and Inter-church Relations

Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Moderator, Moderator-elect, Convener of Law & Advisory Committee. (Nominee of Southern Presbytery for ICR business only omitted this year, since both Assistant Clerk, and Convener of L & A Committee are members of that Court.)

Church Extension & Supply

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

Faith & Life

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

Finance

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

"8:14 Foundation"

Treasurer, Clerk, and one nominee from each Presbytery.

Law & Advisory

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

Missions

K. MacLeod, E.R. Lee, J.C. Andrews, K.L. Longworth, J.E. Hockett.

Provident Funds

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

Psalmody

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

Publications

W.P. Gadsby, K. MacLeod, A.L. Tripovich, J.E. Hockett, 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 & Fellowship

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

ADDITIONAL TRAINING OF MINISTRY BUSINESS ANENT APPLICATION AS HOME MISSIONARY

It was resolved to meet in closed court.

The Convener of the Training of Ministry Committee reported on its meeting with the applicant, and its recommendation for his acceptance by the Presbytery. The report was received.

The Clerk pro-tem of Central Presbytery reported that Court's acceptance of Mr Leggott.

It was moved and seconded that Synod confirm Central Presbytery's reception of Mr Trevor Leggott as Home Missionary P.C.E.A.

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

Mr Varnes tendered dissent on the grounds of I Timothy 3:2. I cannot acquiesce in the acceptance of a divorcee to train as a teaching elder.

It was further moved and seconded that an appropriate allowance be paid for 10 weeks' practical pastoral work under the oversight of Rev. J.A. Cromarty, during 1987.

It was agreed to meet in open court.

The foregoing motion was carried.

CAUSES

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 5 From Mr M.J. Simpson; petition re refusal of Southern Presbytery to allow an appeal by M.J. Simpson against its decision re an application by the Rev. E.S. Turnbull for reinstatement, requiring the withdrawal of "Mountains of Myths" as a necessary step.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received.

The petitioner, Mr M.J. Simpson, was called to the bar, and presented his petition. At this juncture, the Presbytery was called to the bar. The Rev. J.M. Cromarty set forth the Presbytery's case. Both petitioner and Presbytery responded to questions from other members of the Synod. The petitioner exercised his right to reply.

The Moderator addressed some words of farewell to Mr Leone Tupua, who responded.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 12.32 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SEDERUNT 12 Friday 24 April 1987, 1.36 pm.

The sederunt was constituted, and the minutes of sederunt 11 were read and confirmed.

Synod resumed its consideration of the petition before the Court. Parties were removed from the bar.

It was moved and seconded, That the prayer of the petition be not granted and that the decision of the Southern Presbytery to disallow the appeal be upheld.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words be added: and that Presbytery in any further dealing with Mr Turnbull require nothing by way of reformation beyond that required by Synod for him to continue in the ministry.

The original motion was preferred to the amended motion, and became the finding of the Court.

Parties were recalled to the bar and the decision intimated to them. The petitioner did not acquiesce in the decision, while the Presbytery acquiesced in it.

Parties were dismissed from the bar.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 6 From Mr M.J. Simpson; petition re refusal of Southern Presbytery to allow a complaint by M.J. Simpson against its decision re distribution by a Hamilton elder of "Mountains of Myths" by E.S. Turnbull.

It was moved and seconded that the correspondence be received.

Upon being asked to rule as to this item's admissibility, the Moderator ruled it to be in order. The correspondence was received. The parties were called to the bar, and both parties heard for their interests. Questions were directed to parties at the bar.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the petition be not granted, yet, whereas Synod has no evidence to show that the complaint was frivolous or vexatious, Presbytery's refusal to allow the complaint was obstructive and prejudicial to good order.

It was further moved and seconded that the prayer of the petition be not granted, and that the decision of the Southern Presbytery to disallow the complaint be upheld.

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

The second motion was preferred, and became the finding of the Court. Parties were recalled to the bar, and acquiesced in the decision.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 7 From Mr M.J. Simpson; petition re refusal of Southern Presbytery to allow a complaint by M.J. Simpson against its decision re "Free Church of East Prahran" application for admission as a congregation to the PCEA.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received. The parties were called to the bar, and heard in their interests. Following questions, parties were removed from the bar.

It was moved that the prayer of the petition be granted. The motion was seconded.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the petition be not granted, and the decision to disallow the complaint be upheld; further that Southern Presbytery and Melbourne Session be encouraged in their efforts to secure reconciliation among brethren.

It was moved and seconded

- (1) that the petition be not granted and the action of the Presbytery be upheld;
- (2) that in the event of Mr Turnbull's intimating to Presbytery his willingness to conform to Synod's original requirements; and the two office-bearers involved submitting themselves to the Melbourne Session; that the request of this congregation to be received as a congregation consisting of minister, elders and people be forwarded to Synod through Presbytery.

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

Parties were recalled to the bar, and the decision intimated to them. Both parties acquiesced in the decision and were dismissed from the bar.

FAITH AND LIFE "PRESS RELEASE" ANENT A.I.D.S.

The Committee presented the release, which was approved.

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

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Synod resumed consideration of this Committee's business.

Nomination of new Editor of The Presbyterian Banner

The Revd R.W. Murray addressed the court. It was resolved to appoint the Rev. R.W. Murray as Editor of The Presbyterian Banner for a provisional period of one year; that he be relieved by the Publications Committee of this responsibility should the work-load be too great; and that his proposed format and method of production be endorsed.

The Rev. R.W. Murray occupied the chair.

It was resolved

4. That the Committee be authorised to proceed to the purchase of a "desk-top publishing" system for the production of the Presbyterian Banner, and that the Committee be authorised to spend up to \$6500 to secure the necessary equipment, etc. That this amount be made available from Publications and General Funds, and that the Committee be authorised to conduct a special appeal for funds for this purpose throughout the Church.
5. That the Committee be authorised to dispose of the Committee's Olivetti typewriter for a fair market price.
6. That Synod suggest that the manuscript of "Who Is Jesus: A Serious Address to a Jehovah's Witness" by Paul Swinn, be submitted to Christian publishers, such as the Banner of Truth Trust, for possible publication.

EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

The reports were received, and it was agreed to attest all the records subject to necessary corrections being made.

NOMINATION OF MODERATOR FOR 1988/89

The Rev. P.J. Bloomfield was appointed as Moderator-elect for the ensuing year.

ACTS OF SYNOD

The Clerk was empowered to include a list with the printed minutes.

GENERAL TREASURER

The Treasurer reported that Synod had budgeted to spend \$85,600.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

It was resolved that the thanks of the Court be expressed to the Manning Congregation and Deacons' Court for the fine hospitality extended to members of Synod this year.

The Moderator briefly addressed the Court.

The minutes of this final sederunt were read and confirmed.

Synod 1987 closed with the singing of Psalm 133 and prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator