

ANNUAL SYNOD 1988

SEDERUNT 1

Within the Taree church building on Saturday, 2 July 1988, at 7.30 pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted.

The Moderator, the Rev. R.W. Murray led worship, preaching from Revelation 3:20. Seeing these words as part of our Lord's words to the Church of Laodicea, our brother drew attention to their tragic situation: the Lord Jesus was outside this Church, because of its sinful self-satisfaction, and self-deception. Yet the Lord expresses his gracious desire to be among his people again, waiting and persistently knocking, calling out to this rebellious Church, that he might come among them and bless them. Indeed, the Lord gives a wonderful promise: if any open the door, he will come in and have fellowship with him.

The certified rolls of Presbyteries were tendered as follows; with apologies from those marked:

Charge	Ministers	Rep. Elders
<u>Southern Presbytery</u>		
Geelong	J.M. Cromarty	J.R.B. Webster*
Melbourne	R.S. Ward	W.M. Mackay*
Hamilton	J. Pateman	D. Macfarlane*
Ulverstone	D.R. Nibbs	N.G. Triffett*
<u>Central Presbytery</u>		
St Georges	J.A. McCallum	A. Steel
Hawkesbury-Nepean	H.C. Varnes	G.A. Neil
Manning	E.R. Lee	K. Longworth
Hunter-Barrington	J.A. Cromarty	T.I. Leggott
	J.S. Graham	
	S. N. Ramsay	
<u>Northern Presbytery</u>		
Hastings	A.L. Tripovich	K.A. Dawson*
Armidale	W.P. Gadsby	J.W. McKinnon*
Grafton-Lismore	R.W. Murray	-
Maclean	K. MacLeod	R.L. Campbell
Brisbane	P.J. Bloomfield	W.J.W. Hanna

The Moderator welcomed Prof. and Mrs MacMillan; it was resolved that Rev. Prof. J.D. MacMillan, and Rev. Dr. J.C. Andrews be associated with the Synod.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that the Rev. P.J. Bloomfield, Brisbane, was Moderator-elect. It was resolved that the appointment be confirmed, and the Moderator welcomed Mr Bloomfield to the chair.

1988 MODERATORIAL ADDRESS: "Why Are We Here?" The Moderator challenged us to think about why the Head of the Church has put us here in Australia: his answer is found in his Great Commission to his church (Matthew 28:19-20). Our thoughts clustered about three points: the church is to be out-going, ingathering and upbuilding. All our activities need to be measured against our Lord's prime directive to "make disciples."

PRESBYTERIES' PERMISSION TO MEET

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

Notices of motion for Sederunt 2 were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.10 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

SEDERUNT 2 Monday 4 July 1988, 9.01 am.

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

The Clerk reported that Mr J.F. Kerridge was the duly appointed Commissioner from Grafton Session.

EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

Synod noted with sorrow the passing since last Synod of former members of this Court, including the Rev. J.A. Webster, Mr J.E. Hockett, Mr K.H. Kerr, Mr A. Bosanquet and Mr J. Hill.

The Rev. Dr J.C. Andrews was asked to prepare a memorial minute to the late Rev. J.A. Webster, for inclusion in the minutes of Synod.

At the Moderator's request, Mr Nibbs led the court in prayer at this point, commending the bereaved to the Lord's grace.

THANKS TO MODERATORS

It was resolved that the thanks of the Court be conveyed to the retiring Moderator for his sermon, and to the new Moderator for his address.

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the Report, which was received. Following discussion, it was resolved:

1. That Synod record its thanks to the Rev. John Cromarty for his overseeing the arrangements in connection with the visit of Prof. J.D. MacMillan.
2. That the Court's thanks be conveyed to Mrs Beth McPherson for her work in typing last Synod's minutes.
3. That Tuesday evening sederunt of this meeting be set aside for Missions and Church Extension reports.
4. That Synod close no later than lunchtime Thursday.
5. That correspondence be dealt with as follows:
 - Item 1: Taken after Finance Committee business.
 - Item 2: Taken after Victorian Trust Corporation business.

Items 3 and 4: Taken after Proposed Deliverance No. 1 of the Law & Advisory Committee.

Item 5: Taken on Thursday morning.

It was proposed

6. That previous legislation be rescinded to the extent necessary to permit the amalgamation of the Church Extension & Supply Committee with the Missions Committee, the new Committee to be styled the "Missions and Church Extension Committee", and that Synod so enact.

The proposal was defeated.

It was resolved

7. That previous legislation be rescinded to the extent necessary to permit the amalgamation of the Psalmody, Publications and Faith & Life Committees, the new Committee to be styled the "Faith & Life Committee," and that Synod so enact.
8. That the following examiners of records be appointed to report to a later sederunt of this Synod:
Synod Permanent Record: T.I. Leggott & J.A. Cromarty
Northern Presbytery minutes: J.A. McCallum & R.S. Ward
Central Presbytery minutes: D. Nibbs & A.L. Tripovich
Southern Presbytery minutes: W.J.W. Hanna & A. Steel.

GENERAL TREASURER'S AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

Mr McPherson presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Moderator thanked Mr McPherson for his sterling efforts as Treasurer, Mr McIntosh as Assistant Treasurer and Mr Walker as Auditor.

The Moderator permitted the suspension of standing orders to allow the following motion: That Synod record, and convey to Mr Ian Davis, our sincere gratitude for his generous gifts to the work of the Church. The motion was carried.

8:14 FOUNDATION

It was resolved that the report be received.

It was further resolved that

1. Synod express warm appreciation to Mr Ian Davis for his generous gift.
2. The balance of \$1579 owing by the Armidale Congregation be made a gift and their loan terminated.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Synod being ahead of its timetable, Notices of Motion for this Committee were read.

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

1. That Synod record its gratitude to God for His goodness to us, and the gift of liberality He has given to those in the Church.

The Committee proposed

2. That the minimum stipend be increased from 1st July, 1988, and 1st January, 1989, as per percentage rises in the C.P.I. (1st July, \$352.00).

An amendment was moved and seconded That Act of Synod 1981 be amended so that the minimum stipend is increased from 1st July 1988 by \$7 pw to \$347 pw, and thereafter each 6 months as per percentage rises in the CPI.

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

The Committee proposed

3. That a 'Ministry Fund' not be set up, and that the advantages of contributions to the General Fund be emphasised to Congregations and people.

An amendment was moved and seconded That Synod rescind previous relevant legislation, except in so far as it is incorporated herein, and enact as follows:

GIVINGS BY CONGREGATIONS TO SYNOD FUNDS

1. That from now on, and particularly from January 1989, the Synod Funds commended for the givings of congregations be two only, viz.
(1) Stipend and Ministry Fund and (2) Missions Fund; without precluding special appeals or the reception of gifts for designated purposes.
2. The Stipend and Ministry Fund replaces collections for Church Extension and Stipend Funds, and is to provide assistance towards the stipend and accommodation of ministers or home missionaries in aid-receiving charges or engaged in approved extension work in Australia. Income from existing investments for Stipend and Church Extension purposes are to be credited to it. Allowances are made from it by Synod which receives and considers recommendations made by the Church Extension & Supply Committee in accordance with regulations passed by Synod.
3. The Missions Fund provides assistance towards the activities which come under the care of the Missions Committee.
4. The Synod Treasurer is to continue to operate a General Fund to receive interest arising from working funds on hand and any sums given for general or administrative purposes. It is the intention that the General Fund will cover the costs of administration and also projects other than those covered by the Church Extension and Supply and the Mission Committees or funded by specific gifts or investments. If funds are inadequate for a particular Synodically approved project special appeals can be made without the need for specific permission of Synod.
5. While the intention is that the Stipend and Ministry Fund and the Mission Fund fully meet their expenditure commitments, assistance to these funds from the General Fund is not precluded if funds are needed and are available from this source.

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

The Committee proposed

4. That the Administrative Levy be abolished and Congregations urged to remember administrative

needs in their givings to the General Fund.

An amendment was moved and seconded that

1. Synod notes the provisions of Synod Act 1981 re Administration Levy and the reminder about payment given by Synod 1987, and accordingly asks that arrears for 1986 and 1987 be paid as follows if not already remitted: Hamilton \$400; Grafton \$300; Lismore \$300; and that all charges (other than Brisbane and Armidale) remit the amount due for 1988 before the close of the calendar year (\$200 for self-supporting charges and \$150 for aid-receiving charges.) Manning being exempted on account of being host to Synod.
2. That with effect from 31st December 1988 Act of Synod 1981 (p.6 of Minutes) re Administration Levy is rescinded and replaced by the following:

SYNOD ADMINISTRATION LEVY

That with a view to equitable sharing in the administrative costs of Synod an Administrative Levy of \$7 per communicant member as at the preceding 31st December be paid by each congregation subject to a ceiling of \$500 and an exemption for that congregation which hosts the Synod meeting. This provision is to operate so that the first payment thereunder is made to the Synod during 1989 based on the membership as at 31st December 1988.

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

It was resolved

5. That such Funds as may be necessary to meet the approved expenditure of the Church Extension and Supply Committee be drawn from General Funds.
6. Synod rescind Act of Synod 1974 (Rec. 7 p12) and Act of Synod 1983 (Rec. 5 p6) except in so far as they are incorporated herein and enact as follows:

The Finance Committee has the responsibility of co-ordinating all requests for finance by standing committees (other than the Provident Funds Committee) and presenting a succinct report to each Synod so as to enable the Synod to be fully aware of its capacity or otherwise to meet those requests, and the level of additional giving which may be required. Each Presbytery and Synod Committee is enjoined to provide such information to the Finance Committee as will enable it to fulfil its remit.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 1: Southern Presbytery travel costs.

It was resolved that the overture be received. The Clerk of Southern Presbytery spoke in support of it. It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted, and that Synod (1) rescind Act 8 of Class 2 Synod 1986; (2) agree that 60% of the cost of airfares to and from Tasmania in the course of the proper exercise of the Southern Presbytery's oversight be met in future by the Synod General Fund upon the Clerk of Southern Presbytery furnishing a certified extract of a relevant Presbytery resolution as to costs; and (3) grant the sum of \$700 from Synod General Fund for this object for the period to Synod 1988. The motion was carried.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 1.05 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

SEDERUNT 3 Monday 4 July 1988, 2.00 pm.

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

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr MacLeod presented the report. It was moved and seconded that the report be received. An amendment was moved and seconded that the report be received with the deletion of the last 13 lines on page 11, and the words on the first two lines of page 12 ending "meet". Upon being put to the vote, the motion was preferred and became the finding of Synod.

Mr Ward dissented on the ground: The faulty exegesis of the Scripture teaching on the use of material resources ought not to be overlooked.

It was noted that, a commission having been received in favour of Mr J.D. Ramsay as representative elder of the Lismore Congregation by Northern Presbytery, Mr Ramsay was now a member of the Synod.

It was resolved that

1. Synod thank God for the privilege and the opportunity of contributing to Missionary endeavour in Fiji, India, Africa and Peru.
2. Synod draw attention to the need and opportunities that still exist for Missionaries, particularly in South Africa and Peru.
3. Synod thank John Greensill for his work in India and endorse payment of any expenses that may have been incurred by him.
4. Synod ask the Missions Committee to report to Synod 1989 concerning our responsibility as a church to engage in regular pastoral oversight by visitation of our congregation in Fiji and to make an appropriate recommendation.
5. Synod authorise the Missions Committee to appoint two suitable men for the purpose of a pastoral visit to our congregation in Fiji, with this to take place as soon as convenient.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod approves an allocation of \$500 to the Victorian Council of Prison Fellowship of Australia and commends the Council in its efforts to take the gospel to those who are in prison.

It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Missions Committee.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was eliminated and the motion became the finding of the Court. It was understood that the amount was to be paid from the General Fund.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that the Budget as submitted be amended to embrace the foregoing resolutions. The motion was carried.

Committee proposals continued:

It was resolved that

6. Synod express its gratitude to God for John Graham and his work in C.W.I. and assure him of our prayers and support.
7. Synod recommend that annual collections be taken up for C.W.I. and the Missions Relief Fund in our Congregations; and in Congregations where such collections are not taken up, the needs of C.W.I. and Missions Relief Fund be brought before the respective Deacons Courts.
8. Synod approve the Committee's suggestion to invite Rev. W.D. Graham, of Dumisani Bible School to visit Australia in 1989 and that such a visit coincide with the sitting of Synod.
9. Synod invite a representative of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship's work among Aboriginals.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt closed with prayer at 5.30 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

SEDERUNT 4 Monday 4 July 1988, 7.01 pm

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

MISSIONS COMMITTEE (cont'd) It was resolved

10. Synod express delight and satisfaction at the visit of Marie-Christine Lux, commend her to the prayers of the Church and instruct the Clerk to write a letter of appreciation to her.

It was proposed that

11. Synod recommend that support for the training of Emmanuel Peter as a student for the Ministry of the Free Church of Central India be referred to the Training of the Ministry Committee.

The proposal was defeated. It was resolved

12. Synod express its appreciation to the Maclean Christian Book-Nook for the help they have given to India and the Dumisani Bible School.
13. Synod now consider the amount of relief it wishes to give Elspeth Anderson.

It was moved and seconded that Synod grant relief of \$947.50 to Elspeth Anderson leaving \$1000 to pay. The motion was carried.

It was resolved

14. That Synod direct the Missions Committee to bring to a subsequent sederunt specific individual proposals for the expenditure planned for this year, as reflected in the proposed budget for 1988.

CHURCH EXTENSION & SUPPLY COMMITTEE

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

It was resolved

1. That Synod record its gratitude to God for the work carried out in all Aid Receiving charges.

2. That Synod representatives be urged to convey the thanks of this Court and Aid Receiving Congregations for offerings to support the work.
3. That Brisbane Charge be granted financial assistance as per Church Extension Stage 3 ... This being approx. \$9,458.
4. That Armidale Charge be granted financial assistance as per Church Extension Stage 3... This being approx. \$9,458.
5. That Stipend Relief of \$9,500 be granted to Ulverstone Charge.
6. That Synod agree in principle to aim with the Lord's help at the establishment of 1 additional charge every 2 years.
7. That the Church Extension Committee investigate any proposals received for Church planting and that recommendations be made to Synod 1989.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.01 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

SEDERUNT 5 Tuesday 5 July 1988, 9.00 am.

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

CHURCH EXTENSION & SUPPLY COMMITTEE (cont'd)

The Committee fell from its proposal anent legislation covering "Church Extension and Aid-receiving Charges" (see 1987 Minutes, p.10), on the understanding that the remit is continued for report to Synod 1989. It was resolved

8. That Synod delegates note the need of Pastors for the Ministry of the P.C.E.A. and that encouragement be given to men with ability and the Biblical qualifications for such a work, to become Students for the Ministry or if the circumstances demand Home Missionaries.

The Moderator thanked the Convener and the Committee.

N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report. The report was received.

It was proposed that Synod authorize the body corporate, "The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia", to take the steps necessary to bring all the Church's property in NSW under the Torrens Title system, the cost of this to be met from the General Fund of the Synod. The motion was carried.

It was further moved and carried that Synod enact as follows:

LEASING OF PROPERTY IN NSW

Pursuant to Section 6 of the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act of 1918, the Synod hereby appoints the Presbytery of the bounds its agent for approving the lease of property belonging to a Congregation, provided that the Presbytery is satisfied as to:

- (a) why the lease is desired;
- (b) how the proceeds will be used;
- (c) the period of any one lease, which shall not exceed 12 months except in the case of investment property, where normal commercial terms shall apply; and

(d) the rental received, that it represents fair market value, with provision for regular review to that level.

The body corporate, The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia, is hereby authorized to execute such Presbytery-approved lease documents, and is directed to report on this to the ensuing annual meeting of the Synod.

The Committee proposed and it was then carried that Synod enact as follows:

SALE OF CONGREGATIONAL PROPERTY (EXCLUDING PLACES OF WORSHIP)

Synod hereby authorizes the Presbytery of the bounds to give approval in the name of Synod, to the sale of property vesting in the relevant trust corporation, other than places of worship, provided that:

- (a) the Congregation has been informed of the reasons for the proposed sale, and the purpose for which the funds realized will be used, and has given its consent, certified to the Presbytery by extract minute;
- (b) in the case of the sale of a manse the Presbytery has been satisfied that the provision of a suitable manse is assured upon the sale of the old;
- (c) the sale and related purchases are handled in their legal aspects by a competent firm of solicitors; and
- (d) in all respects the provisions of the applicable Act of Parliament, and legislation of Synod are adhered to.

The Synod further directs and authorizes the applicable body corporate to sign and seal all necessary documents and to report the transactions to the ensuing ordinary meeting of Synod.

QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report which was received.

VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

Mr Ward presented the report. The report was received.

It was resolved

1. That the Australia-wide Public Liability insurance be increased to \$2,000,000 per event plus costs, subject to the premium being \$80 per annum or thereabouts.
2. That any outstanding Public Liability premiums be paid by the relevant Deacons' Courts.
3. That Rev. William Morton Mackay, School Principal, of Burwood (Melbourne) be appointed a member of the body corporate, The Trustees for Victoria of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, to fill the vacancy created by the death on May 10, 1988 of Mr James Hill.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2 from Southern Presbytery was fallen from, in view of legislation just enacted.

NOTICE OF MOTION

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod notes the agreement reached with the Uniting Church and Presbyterian Church of South Australia regarding the claim to property of the Free Presbyterian Church of South Australia, however, it does not undertake, not to initiate church extension work in

South Australia for five years, as it believes such an undertaking to be contrary to the Lord's great commission to go and teach all nations. The motion was defeated.

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Clerk, Rev. W.P. Gadsby presented the report. The report was received. It was resolved

1. That Synod send fraternal greetings to both the EPCA and SPCA.
2. That Southern Presbytery be requested to continue discussions with the RPCA, particularly with respect to their new constitution and that Presbytery keep the Inter-Church Relations Committee fully briefed on developments.
3. That discussions with the FRCA be continued with a view to clarifying further the points of difference or confusion which have been raised.
4. That Synod send fraternal greetings to the upcoming meeting of the Synod of the RCA, and authorize the Rev. R.S. Ward to act as our representative should an invitation be forthcoming.
5. That Synod send a delegate to the meeting of the ICRC in Vancouver next year.
6. That Synod appoint the Convener of the ICR Committee as their ICRC delegate.

Notices of motion were read.

The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.32 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

SEDERUNT 6 Tuesday 5 July 1988, 1.31 pm.

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

FAITH & LIFE COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Varnes, presented the report, which was received. The Committee proposed

1. That the Report be published in the "Presbyterian Banner" in due course; and also be drawn to the attention of our various congregations.

The proposal was defeated. The Committee proposed

2. That before the rising of Synod, the Synod review its performance in order to assess the degree to which worldly behaviour has been displayed in its sederunts.

The proposal was defeated.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Sessions and Deacons' Courts be encouraged to provide suitable libraries for their respective congregations and that Ministers of each charge be directed to encourage their congregations to read good literature and to recommend appropriate books. The motion was carried.

The Committee further proposed

3. That our people be encouraged to schedule regular times (if they do not already do so) for prayer and fasting.

The proposal became the finding of the Court.

MEMORIAL MINUTE TO THE REV. J.A. WEBSTER

Dr Andrews read to the Court the Memorial Minute he had prepared at Synod's request:

Synod records its appreciation of the long and devoted service of Rev. James Alexander Webster to this Church and to his Lord and Saviour.

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in July 1895, he served with a Scottish Regiment on the Western Front throughout World War I. He emigrated to Australia in the early twenties and was received as a student for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in 1929. He pursued his studies in Sydney and in Edinburgh at the Free Church of Scotland College. Returning to Australia in 1932 he was ordained and inducted to the Hunter-Barrington Charge on 31st October 1933. He was translated to Geelong, Victoria in June 1946, and then to Maclean, New South Wales in July 1949. There he laboured until his retirement through ill-health in January 1970. He lived with his wife Leila (nee Payne) in retirement at Mowll Village, Castle Hill where he passed away on Tuesday 30th June 1987. His like-minded and devoted wife herself passed away on the evening of the following day after 62 years of married life together. "They were", in the words of David's lament, "lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided" (2 Samuel 1:23). Their bodies were laid to rest together in Castle Hill Cemetery on Friday 3rd July 1987.

Alex Webster was "a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3). He was brave, manly and frank. He had to be that as he served King and Country in 1914-1918. He continued to be that in the service of Christ. "A man under authority" is how the Roman Centurion of the Gospel thought of himself. That also Alex Webster felt and showed himself to be. And he had taken an oath of allegiance to a greater King and Commander than Caesar - a true 'sacramentum'. Of his great Leader's authority he was always fully conscious. His faith and commitment were profound. Called to the ministry he obeyed without hesitation. It was not an easy decision to make - a married man, in the depth of what we call the Great Depression, to leave wife and children and pursue a course of study in Sydney and Edinburgh, with minimal assistance from the Church.

Our Church has not had a more faithful and diligent pastor in visiting the homes of his congregation as well as of others in trouble, and hospitals, and schools. He was always at hand to advise and support in trial or sorrow. He never visited a home or hospital bed or farewelled a guest, a visitor, or a member of his family without prayer for God's blessing.

His preaching and conversation revealed a mind stored with Scripture - texts, passages, incidents, examples, relevant to the situations and people he met. He exalted Christ as Saviour and Lord in his pulpit ministrations and his daily walk and conversation, and pressed the claims of his Master.

He willingly accepted any assignment given him by Presbytery or Synod. In debate in Church Courts he never descended to negative criticism or personalities. He was courteous, yet firm and dignified in speech, always seeking to promote the peace and unity of the church.

Commitment to Christ and His Cause marked the entire course of his life as a Christian. Like David, he "set the Lord always before him - at his right hand" (Ps. 16:8) and recognised that his times were in the hands of his Lord. This was the secret of the remarkable composure with which he faced the illness

which terminated his ministry at Maclean. It also enabled him quietly and graciously to continue in the service of the Lord and the Lord's people in retirement.

His end was peace. We thank God for the remembrance of him.

It was resolved that copies of this Minute be conveyed to the immediate family of the late Rev. and Mrs Webster. The Moderator led the Court in prayer.

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr J.M. Cromarty, presented the report, which was received. It was resolved that:

1. We urge the careful consideration and the responsible implementation of the Resolutions of 1986, 1987 and 1988.
2. We commend our young people to God and pray the rich blessing of God upon them and all their activities as they seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. We express our sincere thanks to Mrs John Ramsay (Birthday Roll) and Mrs Alex Steel (Search Work) for their ongoing interest in our young people.
4. Synod take note of the statistics relating to Memory Work, and urge Sessions especially to engage in the diligent oversight of this important aspect of our work.
5. The attention of all our young people be drawn to the Essay Competition for 1988.
6. The \$20,000 from the sale of the Port Macquarie property be invested on behalf of the Committee in such a manner that the maximum interest be realised.
7. Synod urge Presbyteries to continue to organise annual Rallies on a local basis, and that a church-wide Family Rally be organised during the Christmas-New Year holidays. This Rally to take place every second year at a suitable accessible location in N.S.W. and that assistance be given to any fellowships who travels interstate and who is encountering economic hardship.
The first of these be held commencing on Boxing Day, 1989;
The Fellowship Committee in conjunction with the host congregation determine the theme of the Rally and allot topics and invite speakers; Papers be prepared by Fellowship members for presentation at each morning session and a guest speaker be featured at the evening sessions and afternoons be free time;
At the Synod prior to the Rally, the Committee give formal notice of all the details for the forthcoming Rally.
8. A Travel Assistance Scheme for fellowships attending Rallies be introduced.
 - (a) The Rally must be either the one approved by Presbytery or the Church-wide Family Rally.
 - (b) The organising committee is to determine the needy cases and must take into account such matters as the number of fellowships from the one family, whether out of work, and distance to be travelled. The maximum assistance would be 20% of fares (25% for Tasmania) with a maximum of \$300 per Presbytery per year and in the case of the Church-wide Rally the maximum assistance of 20% of fares (25% for Tasmania) apply only to those travelling interstate with a maximum of \$600 per Rally.
For the time being this scheme is to be funded from the interest accruing from the Port Macquarie property investment.

A notice of motion was read.

The Synod adjourned at 5.05pm with prayer, in order to spend time in prayer together.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

SEDERUNT 7 Tuesday 5 July 1988, 7.02 pm.

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

MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION EVENING

The Moderator extended a warm welcome to the assembled gathering who then united voice in singing the 67th Psalm.

The Missions Committee Convener, the Rev. K. MacLeod was then invited to speak to the congregation. Mr MacLeod drew attention to a number of matters raised in the Missions Committee Report. He stressed the need for labourers in the harvest and urged God's people to give prayerful consideration to the many opportunities that are set before us on the mission field. Mr MacLeod then read correspondence from STEER Incorporated. This group provides a facility for supporters of missionary work. They pass on the donor's money to the mission of the donor's choice. All donations are tax deductible. Last year an amount of \$750,000 was distributed amongst missions.

After highlighting some of the Mission Committee's recommendations the Convener then introduced the Rev. John Graham to the Moderator who in turn invited Mr Graham to address the congregation.

Mr Graham read from Acts 17:3 directing us to the example that we have in the Word of God concerning Paul's manner of approach to the Jew. The apostle reasoned from the Scriptures that the Messiah must suffer and die and rise again from the dead. "This Jesus whom I preach", said Paul, "is the Christ". Paul preached the Word of God.

But how is this to be worked out in a practical manner in 1988? Mr Graham proceeded to give vivid illustrations from his own work amongst the Jewish people in Sydney. He spoke of the great opportunities which he presently has amongst a group of orthodox Jews in Sydney. At this stage Mr Graham can go every Sabbath day and expound the Gospel of John to them. He urged the gathered congregation to pray earnestly that God's Word would bring life to those who are being contacted and confronted with the Gospel of Christ.

The convener Mr MacLeod thanked Mr Graham for his encouraging address and commended his work to the prayers of God's people.

The Moderator then introduced Dr Helen Ramsay and invited her to speak. (The representative of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship had been unable to come.)

We heard that the last missionaries of the Free Church are leaving India this week, the work having begun in 1829. But the church continues by the grace of God. We were encouraged to hear of Emmanuel Peter who now desires to train for the ministry in the Free Church of Central India. Emmanuel is presently doing theological study in the Reformed Presbyterian Theological College in Northern India.

It was also very encouraging to hear that TEAR Fund of U.K. are providing money for building new staff quarters in Chhapara.

Mr MacLeod thanked Dr Helen Ramsay for her address.

The Convener of the Church Extension and Supply Committee was then introduced, and he proceeded to detail some of the decisions of Synod taken this year. Mr Cromarty then introduced his brother, John, who addressed the Congregation on the work of Prison Fellowship in Victoria, and his own experience "inside" in recent times. In addition to work in Geelong, Mr Cromarty is on the Board of the Victorian Council of Prison Fellowship which enjoys an open door into all Victorian prisons. Bible study seminars have been conducted in G-Division of Pentridge, and the AIDS hospital within Pentridge has been visited. John and his wife Elizabeth have also visited Fairlea women's prison, in company with other workers.

In recent times John has worked alone in Geelong prison, but has now been joined by two others visiting this dilapidated institution. We were urged to pray for the work of Prison Fellowship, throughout the world, and particularly for the work being done by Rev. John Cromarty.

Next, Mr Cromarty introduced Rev. Rowland Ward who spoke of the work in Melbourne, which had begun in 1855. He spoke briefly of the developments which led, in March 1983, to the Congregation being depleted to about 10 persons. None of these lived in the area where the church buildings were located, while there were large areas to the east and south where there was virtually no Presbyterian witness. Knox Presbyterian Church was opened following the sale of property at St Kilda, and now 50 different people meet on each Lord's Day. A site was then purchased east of Dandenong, in the City of Berwick, which will allow a church building to be established in due course. A manse was purchased, and Pam and Trevor Leggott have agreed to work there from January 1989, seeking by the Lord's help to establish a new church to the glory of his Name.

The Moderator thanked the speakers for their words and the encouragement they gave.

A notice of motion was read, and the sederunt was closed with prayer at 9.39 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

SEDERUNT 8 Wednesday 6 July 1988, 9.00 am.

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

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (Notice of Motion)

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Inter-church Relations Committee be authorized to conduct an appeal in the Church for funds towards the cost of our delegate's attending the International Conference of Reformed Churches in 1989. The motion was carried.

The Clerk read to the Court a letter of greeting from the Deputies for Contact of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia. He also reported that an invitation to send a non-voting delegate to the forthcoming Synod of the Reformed Churches of Australia had been received from the Stated Clerk of that Church.

STANDING COMMITTEES

There was some discussion on the committee structure, and it was decided to take up the matter again in the final sederunt (11).

LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

It was resolved

1. That this Synod now ask the representatives of congregations with reservations about or opposition to the proposed new N.S.W. Property Act as drafted and included with Synod Report 1986 to indicate to this Synod their views as to the way ahead, so that this Synod meeting might make a decision consistent with the legal advice of the Procurator on a basis likely to ensure the needed unanimity.

Accordingly, following discussion, it was moved and seconded that Deacons' Court having objections to the proposed new NSW Property Act be asked to advise the Law & Advisory Committee of the changes to the 1918 Act they desire while keeping to the basic 1918 Act as far as possible, and report be made by the Committee to Synod 1989. The motion was carried.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3 Overture from Central Presbytery seeking rejection of Draft Practice (Ch. 3 - The Deacons' Court).

The Moderator ruled this item out of order.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4 Overture from Central Presbytery seeking rescission of L & A resolution No. 2 (Synod 1987).

The Moderator ruled this item out of order.

NOTICE OF MOTION about circulation of "Alternative Draft Amendments".

The Moderator ruled this item out of order.

It was moved and seconded that the Moderator's ruling be set aside. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Dissents were tendered:

E.R. Lee with the Moderator adhering: That in overruling the Moderator's decision the Court has ignored its own law.

Mr Ward: The Moderator's ruling should have been upheld because of Synod's decision of 9 May 1984: It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod remind members that the approved procedure in proposing significant motions involving areas where Committees have responsibility is by overture from lower courts or by approach to the relevant Committee, and not by way of motion on the floor of Synod, and with a view to ensuring prior and mature consideration and wise decision-making ask delegates to endeavour to follow out this procedure in future to the fullest practicable extent. The motion was carried.

A copy of this decision was furnished to Mr McCallum by the Clerk in a letter dated 4 June 1988.

Lower courts have been repeatedly urged and encouraged to send suggestions or comments to the L & A Committee (eg. Synod 1986 and 1987). No submission of the new draft has been made to the Committee of Synod, despite Mr McCallum being a member of that Committee.

There is no overture from Presbytery to Synod anent this matter.

Synod 1987 affirmed that the review and revision of the Church Practice should proceed in all decency and good order; no variation from the established procedure should be permitted in this case.

Messrs J.M. Cromarty and W.P. Gadsby tendered simple dissent.

It was moved and seconded that Synod not approve the adoption of Proposed Deliverance 2, but ap-

proves the circulation of the "Alternative Draft Amendments" of the Practice prepared by the Central Presbytery to all members of Synod for their consideration with a view to its adoption at next Synod.

An amendment was proposed and seconded that Synod does not approve the adoption of proposed deliverance 2 but asks that the document "Alternative Draft Amendments" of the Practice prepared by the Central Presbytery be passed on to the Law & Advisory Committee as well as to each member of Synod, and that an appropriate recommendation be brought before Synod 1989, thus ensuring proper procedure and intelligent and informed debate on the matter.

The time being 12.31 pm, the Synod adjourned with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

SEDERUNT 9 Wednesday 6 July 1988, 1.30 pm.

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

LAW & ADVISORY COMMITTEE (cont'd)

The mover and seconder of the motion fell from their proposal, and thus the amendment became the motion before the Court, and the Court resolved accordingly. Thus, the Committee's proposed deliverance number 2 was dismissed from consideration.

At this point, Prof. MacMillan addressed some helpful remarks to the Synod on the subject of the Church Practice.

Synod continued consideration of the proposed deliverances. It was resolved

2. That the Committee provide at minimal cost, sufficient copies of the Decision Book for each congregation, the budget being \$100 and the cost being met by Synod General Fund.

CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 5 Petition from Central Presbytery concerning calling of colleague and successor to Rev. E.R. Lee.

It was resolved that the correspondence be received. Central Presbytery was called to the bar of Synod. Having heard from parties at the bar, including response to questions, it was resolved that the prayer of the petition be granted and that the Manning Congregation be allowed the liberty of calling a Colleague and Successor to their Minister. The petitioners were dismissed from the bar.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Moderator, being the Convener of this Committee relinquished the chair in favour of the Rev. R.W. Murray, and presented the report which was received with the omission of the Last three lines on p.63, and the first three words on p.64 of the printed Reports.

It was resolved

1. That Mr Trevor Leggott be congratulated on his good pass, in his theological studies, that he be thanked for his continuing valuable labours in the Hunter charge, and that he be encouraged to undergo Trials for Licensing as soon as is practical after being settled into an area of full-time service as Home Missionary in the P.C.E.A.

2. In addition to the Free Church College Edinburgh, the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria be regarded as a suitable alternative for the academic training of our students, to be supplemented by such studies as the Committee deems appropriate for each student.

Mr Varnes, Mr Kerridge and Mr Nibbs tendered simple dissent. Dissents with reasons were tendered:

Mr Tripovich: That within an hour or so of hearing the recommendation, and with no information in our hands or considering the suitability of the Presbyterian Theological Hall, Melbourne, the Synod has agreed to use this untried College as an alternative place of training our students. And that the Synod has here acted with undue and unnecessary haste.

Mr Neil - I believe we should retain the present system of training students at the Free Church College with special consideration being given to Home Missionaries.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener Rev. W.P. Gadsby presented the report. The report was received.
It was resolved

1. That Synod thank all those who have helped during the past 14 months with the production and distribution of The Presbyterian Banner, and especially the editors (Rowland Ward, May-June 87; Ray Murray, July 87-April 88; Peter Gadsby, May-June 88).
2. That Synod endorse the Committee's actions in receiving the resignation of the editor of the Banner, appointing his replacement, and purchasing the desk-top publishing equipment.
3. That Synod review the appointment of the editor of the Banner at Synod 1992. (Cf. 1987 Reports, p. 46.)
4. That Synod commend Mr Ward for the work he has expended upon the authorized history, and endorse the Convener's action of authorizing the payment of expenses to Mr Ward.
5. That Synod appoint that, should there occur a surplus of income over cost in the distribution of the authorized history, such surplus shall be divided equally between Mr Ward and the Publications Fund of the Church.

PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

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

It was resolved

1. That Mr S.R. Tamata's membership of the Superannuation Fund be terminated and the amount due to him in accordance with the regulations paid to him
2. That Deacons' Courts note the 1988 Super/LSL Levy is \$1,480 (8.5% of \$17,394), which should be paid in two approximately equal amounts by 30th June 1988 and 31st December 1988.
3. That arrears due be promptly paid to the General Treasurer.
4. That the standard rate of pension be increased to \$34 pw (couple) and \$25 pw (single) with effect from July 1, 1988.
5. That the following sentence be added to Section E2 of the Regulations: 'For the purpose of calculating any pension entitlement the target benefit is the nett benefit received from the Retirement Fund

after deducting the Superannuation Tax applied with effect from July 1, 1983'.

Notices of motion were read. The sederunt was closed with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

SEDERUNT 10 Wednesday 6 July 1988, 7.00 pm.

The sederunt was constituted and the minutes of sederunt 9 were read and confirmed. The Moderator presented to Prof. and Mrs MacMillan a token of our gratitude for their coming to us. Prof. MacMillan responded in suitable terms.

PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE (cont'd)

Synod resumed consideration of this Committee's proposals. It was resolved:

6. That the following sentence be added to Section C5 of the Regulations: 'Where it becomes evident to the Provident Funds Committee that the target benefit will be exceeded if the standard church contribution is maintained, the church contribution for that member may be suspended or reduced, and the amount uncontributed placed to the credit of the Supplementary Benefits Fund - it being always understood that such amounts can be paid in to the Retirement Fund later if necessary to meet any shortfall from the target'.
7. That the Trustees of the Retirement Fund be directed to take the necessary steps to ensure the Trust Deed complies with current legal requirements, report on what may be found necessary to be made to next Synod.
8. That available surplus in the Levy proceeds account after arrears paid and obligations to the Supplementary Benefits Fund are met, be transferred to the LSL Fund.

PSALMODY COMMITTEE

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

It was resolved

1. That Synod welcome the initiative of the Free Church of Scotland in moving to prepare alternative versions and encourage the Assembly and its committee to go on with this good work.
2. That Mr Alistair Cameron and Mrs Marg. Ramsay be asked to prepare respectively an audio tape with certain Psalm tunes including the various parts for singing. These tapes when completed be copied and made available to congregations and individuals who request them. Any outstanding expenditure to be met by Synod.
3. That the Central Presbytery be commended on its regular Psalmody conferences and that other Presbyteries be encouraged to hold such whenever practicable.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE (cont ' d)

Synod resumed consideration of this Committee's proposals.

It was resolved

1. That \$5000.00 be given to support the work of Dumisani Bible School.
2. That \$7500.00 be given to the support of C.W.I.
3. That \$4000 be given towards the salary of Rev. Billy Graham.
4. That \$10,500.00 from the General Fund and \$4500.00 from the Relief Fund be used for the Community Health work in India.
5. That the Budget for 1988, as follows, be approved.

Missions General Fund			Missions Relief Fund		
Bal. 1/1/88		\$27,923.38	Bal. 1/1/88		\$73,284.01
Congregations	\$6,346.27		Congregations	0.00	
Interest	<u>\$17,577.39</u>	<u>\$23,923.66</u>	Interest	<u>\$11,359.02</u>	<u>\$11,359.02</u>
		\$51,847.04			\$84,643.03
E.Anderson (Fare)	\$947.50		D. Muldoon	\$1,500.00	
Dumisani B. School	\$5,000.00		India Health	<u>\$4,500.00</u>	<u>\$6,000.00</u>
C.W.I.	\$7,500.00				
Comm. Exps. (?)	\$250.00				
Fiji	\$3,000.00				
Banners	\$120.00				
Frontiers	\$440.00				
Humberto Bullen	\$1,007.00				
M.C. Lux	\$2,515.00				
Emanuel Peter	\$500.00				
Rev. W. Graham	\$4,000.00				
India Health	<u>\$10,500.00</u>	<u>\$35,779.50</u>			
Bal. 1/1/89		<u>\$16,067.54</u>	Bal. 1/1/89		<u>\$78,643.00</u>

6. That Synod appoint Dr J.C. Andrews and Dr H. Ramsay in an advisory capacity to the Missions Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Missions Committee comprise John Graham (Convener), Hugh Varnes, K. Longworth, A. Steel, with Dr J.C. Andrews and H. Ramsay as advisors.

The Committee proposed W.M. Mackay (Convener), R.S. Ward, J.M. Cromarty, J. Pateman, Geelong elder with Drs J.C. Andrews and H. Ramsay as advisors. Upon being put to the vote, the Committee's proposal was preferred, and became the finding of the Court.

It was resolved that the Committee structure as proposed be adopted, viz.

ADMIN & ICR

Clerk, Mod., Mod-elect, Asst Clerk, Convener of L & A.

CHURCH EXT & SUPPLY

J.A. Cromarty, Ian Miller, John Graham, T. Leggott, P. Bloomfield, J.A. McCallum.

FAITH & LIFE (incl. old F & L, Publicns and Psalmody)

R.W. Murray, A. Tripovich, S.N. Ramsay, K. MacLeod, J. Kerridge, Dr J.C. Andrews, R. Campbell, Editor of TPB (ex officio), Lismore elder.

FINANCE

K. Longworth, N. McPherson, St Georges elder, Hawkesbury/Nepean elder, J.A. McCallum.

LAW AND ADVISORY

R.S. Ward, W.M. Mackay, W.P. Gadsby, R.W. Murray, J.A. McCallum, St Georges elder.

PROVIDENT FUNDS

R.S. Ward, J.B. Loudon, N. Triffett, Geelong elder.

8:14 FOUNDATION

Treasurer, Clerk, one member from each Presbytery.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY

Peter Bloomfield, W.J.W. Hanna, J.A. Cromarty, W.J. McClean, W.P. Gadsby.

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP

H. Varnes, A. Neil, J. Graham, D. Hamilton.

MISSIONS

W.M. Mackay, R.S. Ward, J.M. Cromarty, J. Pateman, Geelong elder, Dr H. Ramsay (Advisory), Dr J.C. Andrews (Advisory)

EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

Reports of examiners were received. It was resolved that the records as amended be attested.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to permit a motion that, upon his retirement, the Rev. E.R. Lee be granted a seat on Central Presbytery. The motion became the finding of the Court.

The Moderator permitted the following motion: That the Rev. W.M. Mackay be granted a seat on Southern Presbytery, in view of his status as a minister of the P.C.E.A. The motion was carried.

TIME/PLACE OF SYNOD 1989

It was resolved that Synod 1989 be held at Taree, commencing on Saturday evening, 8 April 1989, and concluding no later than lunchtime on Thursday 13 April 1989.

NOMINATION OF MODERATOR FOR 1989

It was resolved that the Rev. Peter Gadsby be appointed Moderator-elect.

It was further resolved that Rev. R.S. Ward act as Clerk pro tem for the term of Mr Gadsby's Moderatorship.

ACTS OF SYNOD 1988

Synod adopted a list of 18 Acts of Synod, to be included in the minutes.

At this point standing orders were suspended in order to extend this sederunt of the Court.

APPRECIATION TO MANNING CONGREGATION

Our gratitude to the congregation was ably expressed by Mr Tripovich, and carried by acclamation.

The Treasurer reported that Synod's decisions meant that we are committed to over \$101,000 of expenditure.

The minutes of this final sederunt were read and confirmed.

The Court expressed its appreciation of the Moderator's efficient execution of his duties.

The Moderator briefly addressed the Court, and Synod 1988 was closed with the singing of a Psalm, and with prayer.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

P.J. Bloomfield
Moderator

THE PRINCIPAL ACTS OF SYNOD 1988

The following Acts are included with the minutes by resolution of Synod (page 20).

Class 1 (Barrier Act procedure)

None.

Class 2 (Other)

ACT	PAGE
1. Amalgamation of Committees (Deliverance #7)	3
2. Abolition of Administrative Levy (Deliverance #4)	4
3. Responsibility of Finance Committee (Deliverance #6)	5
4. Southern Presbytery Travelling Expenses	5
5. Report about Fiji Work required (Deliverance #4)	6
6. Annual Collections for CWI and Missions Relief Fund (Del.#7)	6
7. Establishment of New Charges (Deliverance #6)	7
8. Updating of NSW Old System Titles	8
9. Leasing of Property in NSW	8
10. Sales of Congregational Property	8
11. Appointment of New Trustee in Victoria (Deliverance #3)	9
12. Discussions With Reformed Presb. Church (Deliverance #2)	9
13. Discussions With Free Reformed Church (Deliverance #3)	9
14. Biennial Family Rallies (Deliverance #7)	12
15. Fellowship Travel Assistance Scheme (Deliverance #8)	12
16. Presbyterian Theological College (Vic.) Approved	16
17. Provident Fund Regulation E2 Amendment	17
18. Provident Fund Regulation C5 Amendment	18