

Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

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ANNUAL SYNOD 1990

SEDERUNT 1

1. Within the Taree Church building on Tuesday, March 17th 1990 at 7.30pm. the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted for its 143rd annual session.
2. The Moderator, the Rev. W.P.Gadsby led in worship, preaching on "Who do we think we are?" based on Colossians 3:1-4. He noted that in ourselves we are deserving of nothing but condemnation, but, in sharp contrast, in Christ we have been rescued and made royalty. Hence we must think of ourselves in Christ or, to quote Calvin, just contemplate the face of God if we would attain true knowledge of ourselves. The risen and reigning Lord must be our focus. If we are believers we are a new creation. The exhortation of the passage shows us how we are to translate this identity in Christ into our everyday living. Under the shelter of God's gracious justification we are to live not looking down on others but looking upward.
3. The certified rolls of the three presbyteries were tendered with apologies from those marked with an asterisk.

Southern Presbytery

Geelong
Hamilton
Ulverstone
Melbourne

Ministers

J.M. Cromarty
J. Pateman*

R.S. Ward
T.I. Leggott
W.M. Mackay

Commissioners

J.R.B. Webster*
D. McFarlane*
N.G. Triffett*
J.B. Loudon*

Central Presbytery

Hunter/Barrington
Manning
St Georges
Hawkesbury-Nepean
Sydney South
C.W.I.

J.A. Cromarty

J.A. McCallum
H.C. Varnes

J.S. Graham
S.N. Ramsay (retired)
E.R. Lee (retired)

I. Miller*
K. Longworth
D.E. Kerr
A.H. Steel
N. McPherson

Northern Presbytery

Hastings
Maclean
Grafton
Lismore
Brisbane
Armidale

A.L. Tripovich
K. MacLeod
R.W. Murray

W.P. Gadsby

D. Caughey
R.L. Campbell
J. Kerridge
J.D. Ramsay
W.Hanna
K.A. Dawson*

4. The Synod welcomed Rev. Dr J.C.Andrews to its meeting and resolved that he be associated.
5. The Moderator welcomed Mr David Caughey to his first meeting of Synod.
6. A cordial welcome was extended to the Rev. Eun-Soo Kim, M.Div., a missionary minister of the Presbyterian Church in Korea ('Kosin') who had arrived in Sydney in December last with a view to serving among the Korean community there.

7. ELECTION OF MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that Rev. John S. Graham of Christian Witness to Israel (Australia), Sydney, was Moderator elect. It was resolved that the appointment be confirmed. The retiring Moderator welcomed Mr Graham to the chair.

8. 1990 MODERATORIAL ADDRESS

The Moderator read from 1 John 1 and addressed the Synod on the subject of "Fellowship" as suggested by 1 John 1:3. He considered this theme under three heads:

(1) Fellowship with the Father. This is utterly undeserved, sovereign and free. The love of the Father does not rest on some good thing in us. The entire explanation of God's love is an unfathomable sea which lies beyond the capacity of the finite being. It is not, however, a one-

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way relationship. The Father's love is reciprocated by the believer and evidenced by the love of the brethren, the keeping of God's commandments.

(2) Fellowship with the Son. The love of Christ constrains us. The level of my fellowship with Christ depends on our love for him which has its roots in the love of God. Without denying the truth of the perseverance of the saints, it is possible to lose one's first love. We cannot have fellowship with Christ if we do not keep his commandments (John 15:10,12).

(3) Fellowship between believers. Reference was made to 1 John 1:7. Spiritual qualities are here measured in the things of everyday life although this is not to be confused with mere social interaction. This fellowship rests on love (1 John 3.23). This is the real spiritual barometer — not mere head knowledge, or sound theology or ability in prayer or preaching. One should also note John 17 and its emphasis on unity and behaviour as an effective witness to the world. We need to acknowledge our lack in this respect in the PCEA. Fellowship between believers can be lacking but its root cause is lack of fellowship with the Father and the Son. One begins with oneself in resolving this.

9. PERMISSION FOR PRESBYTERIES TO MEET

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

10. Notices of motion for Sederunt 2 were read.
The sederunt was closed with prayer at 9 pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.S. Graham
Moderator

SEDERUNT 2 WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 1990, 9.00 AM

11. The sederunt was constituted with worship led by the Moderator, Mr Graham, who spoke on Revelation 4:1-3.

12. The minutes of sederunt 1 were read and confirmed.

13. EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

It was resolved that Synod express its condolences to all members of our Church who have been bereaved during the past year. Mr Ward led the Court in prayer commending those who grieve to the loving care of our covenant Lord.

14. THANKS TO MODERATORS

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

15. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

1. That Correspondence Item 1 be taken in conjunction with other Inter-church Relations business.

2. That Correspondence Item 2 be taken in conjunction with Training of Ministry Committee business.

3. That Correspondence Item 3 be taken up as the first item of business following these recommendations.

4. That Sederunt 4 (Wednesday evening) be devoted to reports, discussion and prayer about church extension in Australia.

5. That Synod adjourn for 90 minutes during sederunt 5 to permit a time of informal conference of Synod members.

6. That Sederunt 7 (Thursday evening) be devoted to reports, discussion and prayer about mission work.

The Committee proposed

7. That Synod appoint the following Examiners of Records, to report during sederunt 8 (Friday morning):

Synod permanent record: Rev. E.R. Lee and Hastings elder

Northern Presbytery: Rev. J.A. McCallum and Manning elder

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Central Presbytery: Rev. R.S. Ward and Rev. W.P. Gadsby
Southern Presbytery: Rev. K. MacLeod and Brisbane elder.

It was further proposed: That this Court adhere to the time-honoured practice that examiners of records be, not only preaching elders, but also ruling elders. And so appoint as examiners to

Synod Permanent Record: Rev. E. Lee and Hastings elder

Northern Presbytery: Rev. R.S. Ward and Taree elder

Central Presbytery: Rev. R.W. Murray and Grafton elder

Southern Presbytery: Rev. K. MacLeod and Brisbane elder.

The Committee proposal was preferred, and became the finding of the Court.

It was resolved that

8. That Synod 1991 commence at 7.00pm on Tuesday, 2 April 1991 and conclude on Friday 5 April 1991 by 1.30pm.

9. That all concerned take note that the closing date for correspondence and reports to Synod 1991 is Friday 15 February 1991.

10. That the old Synod copier be donated to the Armidale Christian Book Society, and that the Clerk write that Society an appropriate letter.

16. Synod took up Correspondence Item 3.

The correspondence was received. Mr Gadsby appeared in support of the overture and moved that the prayer of the overture be granted. The motion was seconded. Following considerable debate it was resolved that Synod rescind its previous decision granting Mr Ramsay a seat on the Central Presbytery, and hereby grant him a seat on the Northern Presbytery, effective immediately.

17. General Treasurer's Report.

Mr McPherson presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received and that the thanks of the Synod be conveyed to Mr McPherson and Mr D. McIntosh.

18. Auditor's Report.

Mr McPherson presented the auditor's report and moved that it be received. The motion was seconded and carried. Synod expressed its sincere appreciation of the services rendered by Mr W. Walker.

19. 8:14 Foundation.

The report was presented and received.

20. Finance Committee Report.

Mr Longworth presented the report, which was received. Synod resolved

1. That Synod record its thankfulness to God for all His blessings and benefits bestowed upon us. At the Moderator's request, Mr Steel led the Court in prayer.

2. That without changing existing regulations, the Minimum Stipend increase for 1990 be limited to half the average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index as published by the Bureau of Statistics.

3. That each Presbytery explain in writing the need in particular congregations for funds when applying for grants, and this be passed on to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Notices of motion for Sederunt 3 were read. The sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.42pm.

W.P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.S. Graham
Moderator

SEDERUNT 3 WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 1990, 1.40PM

21. The sederunt was constituted with worship.

22. The minutes of Sederunt 2 were read and confirmed.

23. NOTICE OF MOTION.

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It was moved on notice and seconded that an amount of \$500 be forwarded to Prison Fellowship of Victoria. The motion was carried.

24. CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE.

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

1. That Synod place on record its gratitude to God for watching over and making provision for aid-receiving charges.

The Convener led the Court in prayer, thanking the Lord for his provision.

2. That Synod delegates be asked to convey the thanks of Synod, of the aid-receiving charges and of the Church Extension and Supply Committee to all the folk who have contributed to support this particular work of the Lord.

3. That the Armidale Charge be granted \$9500 as requested by Northern Presbytery, this financial assistance to be on a needs basis.

4. That Hamilton Charge be granted the sum of \$7000 stipend relief as requested by Southern Presbytery, this to be on a needs basis.

5. That the relevant church courts investigate Church Extension possibilities in the Newcastle/Hunter region, and that report be made to the Church Extension and Supply Committee for inclusion in the 1991 report.

The Committee recommended

6. That Synod decline to accede to the request by Southern Presbytery for \$5000 aid in 1990 and 1991 to the Melbourne Charge.

It was moved on notice and seconded

That the Synod express its pleasure at the encouraging progress in Melbourne, and grant the request for \$5000 towards Mr. Hill's stipend in each of calendar years 1990 and 1991.

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

It was resolved

7. That Synod now take up the matter of shortage of ministers in our church and take some positive action to deal with the matter.

Accordingly, discussion ensued for some 15 minutes as several brethren reflected upon our church life.

It was moved on notice and seconded

That the Northern and Central Presbyteries be directed to comply with Synod legislation and thus to provide without fail concise reports on church activity within their bounds as a matter of priority in time to be incorporated in the report of the Church Extension and Supply Committee for Synod 1991

The motion was carried.

25. TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE.

The convener Rev. W. P. Gadsby presented the report. The report was received.

It was agreed to meet in closed court. After considerable discussion it was agreed to meet in open court.

26. The meeting was closed with prayer at 5.32 p.m.

W. P. Gadsby
Clerk

J. S. Graham
Moderator

SEDERUNT 4 Wednesday 18 April 1990, 7.07 pm.

27. The sederunt was constituted with prayer.

28. The minutes of sederunt 3 were read and confirmed.

29. CHURCH EXTENSION EVENING

The Moderator introduced the Convener of the Church Extension and Supply Committee, Rev. J. A. Cromarty, who read from Acts 1: 1-11. Following the singing of Ps. 67, the Convener briefly summarized the decisions of Synod about Church Extension, and then introduced the Rev. Wm. Mackay.

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Mr. Mackay referred to Slim's book "Defeat into Victory," challenging us to take stock, and plan our strategies for the future. He noted the motto of the City of Edinburgh, "Nisi Dominus Frustra" quoting from Ps.127 "Unless the Lord build the house..." Glasgow's motto "Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of the Word" is the **means** by which the work will flourish.

Now is an opportune time for us to reflect upon our achievements, and to look forward with a little "positive dreaming," coordinating our plans and thinking about issues which may come up. The following issues need to be addressed.

1. Presbyteries.

The church's strength reflects the strength of her Presbyteries. There must be oversight of

- (a) The health of congregations within the bounds; and
- (b) Church extension occurring.

There is also a great need for

- (c) support and encouragement of ministers and elders;
- (d) eldership preparation
- (e) congregational activities where growth of the people is promoted; and
- (f) youth action, as an aspect of congregational life within the Presbytery.

2. Theological Training.

A church must have its own system of theological training. There is both a spiritual and intellectual challenge to a church's providing such training, but in the long term seminaries can be fruitful centres of growth.

3. Financial Consideration.

Provision must be made for all the activities of the Church, and perhaps there is a place for a levy on congregations to fund the activities of the various committees, beyond stipend relief.

In 10-50 years' time, the church will need an office and an adequate organization to bear the administrative burden.

4. Foreign Missions.

In the future, the PCEA may well be less tied to the Free Church of Scotland's mission priorities, and developing its own well-planned mission work. In the meantime, we should continue to cooperate with the F.C. of S.

We should not be restricted by a lack of available funds to undertake these programs.

5. Home Missionary Development.

Work among Australian aborigines should occupy an important place in the church home mission strategy.

6. Education and Culture

Sadly, church schools in the past have been sabotaged from within more than by attack from outside.

In 50 years, the Church should be playing a greater part in the cultural life of our land.

To implement these things requires first a VISION of hope, of the conquest of our country for Christ's kingdom.

Following the singing of Ps.126, the Convener introduced the Rev. Trevor Leggott from Berwick City. Rather than repeat what had been published in the **Banner**, Mr. Leggott spoke about the various people who attend the service. None of them has a "Free Church" background and few have even a history in the Reformed Faith. The situation creates its own problems and joys, especially in those who appreciate the "informal reverence" in worship, which is less "liturgical" than much of what is found in the church at large. There is a real desire to practise and reach out with the Gospel.

Mr. Leggott outlined various aspects of the congregational life, requesting the prayer support of God's people.

Rev. Peter Gadsby of Armidale was welcomed by the Convener and invited to speak.

He spoke of the encouragements and disappointments in the work and highlighted some of the efforts in recent days to reach out to the unsaved. Mr. Gadsby asked for the prayers of God's people as he and his congregation patiently laboured in the work of the gospel.

Following the singing of Ps. 130, the Convener welcomed his brother, Rev. John Cromarty, Geelong, who told of some of his very challenging and difficult work in connection with Prison

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Fellowship. Mr. Cromarty encouraged us to a greater interest and involvement in this neglected field of ministry, and thanked the Synod for its interest in the work of PF in Victoria.

This church extension evening was concluded by prayer.

30. Notices of motion were read.
31. The sederunt was closed with singing Ps. 100 and prayer at 9.00 pm.

W. P. Gadsby
Clerk

J. S. Graham
Moderator

SEDERUNT 5 THURSDAY 19 April 1990, 9.01 am.

32. The sederunt was constituted with worship led by the Moderator.
33. The minutes of sederunt 4 were read and confirmed.

34. TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE (CONT'D)

It was resolved that Synod meet in closed court.

A report was received from the Southern Presbytery. It was moved and seconded that Synod, recognising the responsibility for the oversight of the student rests with Southern Presbytery, acquiesce in the general indications presented in the Southern Presbytery report and assure the Presbytery of its prayerful interest for the student and the Presbytery.

The motion was carried, none opposing.

The Rev. Peter A. L. Hill was invited to address Synod, and responded to questions from members of the Court.

The Training of Ministry Committee proposed

That Synod declare that the Rev. P. A. L. Hill's academic qualifications satisfy the requirements of this Church.

The proposal became the finding of the Court.

It was further resolved

That the Synod express its pleasure in receiving the application by Rev. Peter A. L. Hill for status of a minister of the PCEA, and authorize the Southern Presbytery at a date no earlier than 1 December 1990 to declare him eligible for call subject to his signing the Formula as prescribed by the Synod 1952.

It was resolved that Synod meet in open court.

It was resolved

1. That Synod place on record its gratitude to the Lord for providing men preparing or prepared to be called as ministers of the Word in our church.
2. That Synod draw to the attention of Kirk Sessions the need actively to encourage suitably gifted men to consider becoming ministers of the Word.
3. That the Committee's actions in setting students' allowances be endorsed, and the Committee be authorized to vary the level of such allowances if it deem it necessary to do so.
4. That the Committee's action in appealing for funds for the Training of Ministry Fund be commended, and the Committee encouraged to keep the needs of this Fund before our people.

The Committee proposed

5. That Synod enact as follows:

**ACT AMENDING CONSOLIDATING ACT
(Act 15 Class 2, Synod 1983)**

Sections 6 (d), (e) and the first paragraph of 6 (f) now read as follows:

(d) After examination of the candidate, the presbytery deliberates in private. If it views the application favourably at this stage, it communicates with the Training of Ministry Committee, which arranges whatever interviews it considers appropriate and reports its finding to the Presbytery. On receiving the Committee's recommendation, the presbytery shall follow it, unless it sees good cause to decide otherwise, in which case the application is held in abeyance pending reference by presbytery to the Synod (see 6.6).

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It was moved on notice and seconded that section (d) be substituted with:

After examination of the candidate, the Presbytery deliberates in private and resolves either to receive the application or to decline it.

If it declines the application the matter goes no further unless complained against in due form.

If the Presbytery views the application favourably, it communicates with the Training of Ministry Committee which arranges whatever interviews it considers appropriate and conveys its recommendations to the Presbytery.

If the Presbytery does not concur with the recommendations, OR the Training of Ministry Comm. views the application unfavourably, it is held in abeyance pending reference by the Presbytery to the ensuing Synod.

On being put to the vote the Committee's proposal became the finding of the court.

It was further resolved that

e) If the presbytery and the Training of Ministry Committee are in favour of the applicant's reception, the presbytery shall admit him to provisional recognition, and shall overture Synod seeking confirmation of its action.

f) Once so accepted by Synod the first year is one of probation. Thereafter the presbytery must exercise regular oversight of the student and meet with him in private at least once in the ensuing year. At the end of the year of probation the presbytery may extend the period of probationary recognition by a maximum of one further year, or it may admit him to full recognition, provided that the presbytery is satisfied with him, and the Training of Ministry Committee report that his studies are satisfactory.

It was moved on notice and seconded

(g) Should this supervision become impracticable by a change in the student's usual place of residence to outside the charge of the Session, it is to report the circumstances to the Presbytery and Training of Ministry Committee.

In such cases the student is to advise the Presbytery and the Training of Ministry Comm. of his intentions so that suitable arrangements can be made for continuance of regular oversight and supervision as outlined herein.

The motion was carried.

35. CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2 RE RECEPTION OF STUDENT

It was agreed to meet in closed court.

The overture from Northern Presbytery was received.

The Rev. Ray Murray appeared in support of the overture.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted and Synod confirm Dr Hanna's status as a student for the ministry and as a home missionary. The motion was carried.

It was resolved to meet in open court. The Moderator formally welcomed Dr Hanna as a home missionary and a student for the ministry of the PCEA.

36. YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener, Rev. Hugh Varnes presented the report which was received.

It was resolved

1. That the thanks of Synod be conveyed to Mrs Irene Steel, Mrs Sue Ramsay and the Editor of the "Presbyterian Banner."

2. That all ministers and elders be reminded of the urgency to promote and encourage the learning of the set Scripture portions, Metrical Psalms and Catechism Questions, and to point out the inestimable value of Search Work and of preparing an essay on a set Biblical theme.

3. That there be a bi-ennial Youth Rally (at Easter) in the alternate year to the Family Rally.

37. Notices of motion were read and the sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.40 pm.

W. P. Gadsby
Clerk

J. S. Graham
Moderator

SEDERUNT 6 THURSDAY 19 APRIL 1990, 1.40 P.M.

38. The sederunt was constituted with prayer.
39. The minutes of sederunt 5 were read and confirmed.

40. YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE (CON'T)

Synod resumed discussion of this Committee's proposals.

It was resolved

4. That arrangements for this Youth Rally be referred to this Committee in the early planning stages to ensure continuity and co-ordination.
5. That the Church and Nation Committee be asked to look at the papers presented to the 1989 Family Rally to see how to further use them.
6. That the date of the proposed Family Rally 1991-2 be settled.

It was resolved that the 1991-92 Family Rally commence on Tuesday 31 December 1991, and conclude on Saturday 4 January 1992.

It was moved on notice and seconded that

Those who produce the magazine entitled "Fellowship" be thanked for their excellent work.

The motion was carried.

41. MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Rev. Wm Mackay, presented the report, apologizing for its lateness. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved

1. Synod expresses its support for the work of Christian Witness to Israel and pledges to uphold its work in prayer.
2. Synod sends its warmest support and greetings to Leone Tupua, his family and those associated with him in the work in Fiji.
3. Synod reiterates its support of the proposed visit to Fiji with the purpose of encouraging the development of a reformed church there.
4. Synod expresses its thanks and warm appreciation to Mr John Greensill for his willingness to undertake special responsibility in India. It continues its support for the work of developing the Free Church of Central India.
5. Synod remembers the work of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru and supports its attempts to strengthen its witness.
6. Synod expresses its indebtedness to Rev. and Mrs. W. Graham for their contribution to this church during their stay last year and pray for rich blessing to cover the work of the church in South Africa.
7. Synod records its support of further visits from overseas churches and requests the Committee to proceed with arrangements for 1991.
8. Synod requests the Committee to continue its work on establishing procedures for maintaining contact with the national churches in India, Peru and South Africa and for receiving candidates for missionary service.
9. Synod expresses its appreciation of the work done by Mr John Kerridge in encouraging prayer support.

The Committee proposed that

10. Synod endorses the addition to principal of the amount of \$5,057.14 interest together with \$8,482.86 surplus on sale of investment as set out in the Report of the Victorian Trustees, and endorses the addition of a further \$10,000 of interest to principal in 1990. The proposal was defeated.

Mr Mackay dissented, and Mr Ward dissented with reasons to be given in.

It was resolved

11. Synod endorses the Budget for 1990 in respect of Synod General and Mission Relief Accounts and, in particular, the creation of a special Missionary Support Fund.
12. Synod authorises the payment of amounts received for specified objects without the need for express Synodical resolution except in any case of specific difficulty.
13. Synod authorises the payment of all contributions and interest thereon in the J.A. Harman Memorial Fund to the Dumisani Bible School with the request that the sum be applied to assist the training of African pastors.

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14. Synod expresses its appreciation to all who have contributed to Mission funds during the year and wishes to encourage continued support in order that the cause of Christ may be advanced.

42. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was moved on notice and seconded that Wesley Hanna's name be added to the list of authorised celebrants of marriage of this Church. The motion was carried.

43. CHURCH AND NATION REPORT

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

1. That the Synod express its deep appreciation to the Editor, the Rev. W.P.Gadsby, for his work in editing the magazine.

2. That Synod give to this Committee a definite mandate for 1990-91.

Accordingly, Synod deliberated upon this matter and a number of suggestions were canvassed.

It was moved and seconded that the Committee take up the issue of the role of women in the spiritual life of the church. The motion was carried.

44. REPORT FROM THE EDITOR OF THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER.

The Editor Mr Gadsby presented his report. The report was received. It was resolved

1. That Synod record its thanks to all those who have been involved with the production and distribution of our church magazine in 1989.

2. That the Editor be commended for providing the 1989 and 1990 Church Directories, and that the cost of doing so be met from the Synod General Fund (a total of \$85.00).

3. That the Editor be asked to continue to provide an annual Church Directory with the first issue of the Banner of the year, the cost to be met from the Synod General Fund.

45. APPRECIATION RE THE BUSH STILL BURNS.

It was resolved that Synod expresses the appreciation of the time, thought and labour given by Mr Ward in writing "The Bush Still Burns" and congratulate him on the excellence of the result.

46. LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Rev. Rowland Ward, presented the report which was received. It was resolved

1. That Synod enact as follows:

REGULATIONS FOR THE CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE
[Rescinding decisions of Synod 1979 (p.12 re Stages of Development), Synod 1982 (p.22 re Responsibilities), Synod 1985 (Act 9 Class 2 re Presbytery Reports), Synod 1986 (Act 10 re Reporting and Act 11 re Budget) except in so far as they are incorporated herein.]

1. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Church Extension and Supply Committee shall report to Synod each year on the work of Church Extension and Evangelism in all centres of witness. In particular, it shall report on and co-ordinate the provision by Synod of financial assistance to those centres not fully self-supporting. It fulfils this mandate by contact with the Presbyteries which are required to provide reports to the Committee in time for the Committee to make report to the annual Synod. In situations where there is difficulty obtaining supply during vacancies, the Committee shall also endeavour to assist the Presbytery of the bounds in co-ordinating supply.

2. COMMITTEE FUNDS

The funds available to the Committee include interest on monies invested for Stipend and Church Extension purposes, together with contributions made for such purposes from other sources. In its annual report to the Synod the Committee shall include a budget of anticipated income and expenditure for the next two calendar years including the year of the Synod which will consider the request, so as to assist in wise and stable planning. The Committee is empowered to appeal for funds to the church at large from time to time, but apart from modest variations dictated by prudence and common-sense, shall not expend funds other than as authorised by Synod.

Funds disbursed by Synod on recommendation of the Committee are for stipend of the minister, unless funds are received with some special condition. In such event the funds shall be used for the purposes designated by the donor.

3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In order to facilitate and encourage the work of extension in new areas as well as existing charges which need to be worked up to self-support, the Synod may grant financial assistance,

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subject to funds being available. All assistance is on a needs basis with allocation being made on a calendar year basis two years in advance. Synod requires the recommendation of the Presbytery to be supported by a budget and evidence of the charge or station being efficiently worked according to some definite program of extension. The Presbytery shall send its recommendation to the Committee with such supporting detail as may be appropriate, and the Committee shall make recommendation to the Synod having regard to the resources available and the merit of the application.

4. LIMITS ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

a. A **Fully Sanctioned Charge** which is not fully self-supporting may receive assistance on a needs basis but not exceeding an amount equal to 50% of the minimum stipend. In normal cases a progressive reduction in assistance to nil over 5 years will be expected.

b. A **Special Development Charge** (in former years termed a Church Extension Charge) is one with sufficient promise and support to justify the appointment of a full-time minister who has a seat on Presbytery, if ordained, but who is not inducted. It may receive for the initial two years up to 75% of the minimum stipend or up to 100% if a manse has to be rented, but thereafter the limits will be 50% and 75% respectively, with a progressive reduction over a further 5 or 7 years to nil. The Charge will be responsible for the entire Superannuation and Long Service Leave Levy and will not receive a portion from the Committee's funds for these items.

c. Financial assistance to a **preaching station** will normally not be given unless Synod classifies it as a Special Development Charge upon request of the Presbytery. A copy of the Presbytery submission shall be provided to the Church Extension Committee by the Presbytery well in advance of the Synod.

d. Should the minister of an aid-receiving charge cease to act in that capacity, funding from the Synod shall cease during the period of vacancy.

5. LAND AND BUILDINGS

The necessary or desirable buildings for a congregation vary according to circumstances. The Synod seeks to provide assistance by way of grants and loans from the 8:14 Foundation and other designated monies, but funds for purchase of property are not available from the Church Extension Committee. If, during any stage of development of an aid-receiving work, the congregation considers it necessary to purchase real estate, this will have no bearing on funding through the Church Extension and Supply Committee except that the need may be thereby increased nearer to the maximum.

6. PAYMENT FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

The provisions of Act 12, Class 2 Synod 1983 apply.

7. MINISTERS FROM OVERSEAS

As enacted by Synod 1973, "it is required that any settled (ie. fully sanctioned) congregation inviting with a view to call or calling a minister from overseas, must ordinarily meet the cost from their own resources. However, providing funds are available, assistance may be obtained for this purpose by way of a loan [ie. from Synod] upon which interest must be paid - and the capital repaid within five (5) years."

2. That Synod enact as follows:

PROCEDURE WHEN PRESBYTERY LAPSES [Rescinding Act of Synod November 11, 1857 and all other legislation on the subject except in so far as it is incorporated herein.]

A presbytery is a continuing court but its powers and functions lapse:

a) when at the close of an ordinary meeting it neglects to appoint a time and place for its next meeting, or

b) when a quorum is not present for an ordinary meeting;

and in either such event, the presbytery cannot again meet for business until it is convened by special summons issued to all members at least 14 days before the time fixed for the meeting, unless all members of the presbytery agree otherwise. The moderator must comply with a requisition for such a meeting addressed to him by two or more members.

It was proposed that

3. Synod enact as follows:

MOTIONS BY CORRESPONDENCE

In the present circumstances of the church with small presbyteries and long distances, urgent but non-contentious business arising between presbytery meetings may be dealt with by correspondence to minimise costs and inconvenience. Motions should be put in writing, signed by mover and seconder, and forwarded to the clerk of presbytery with a clear and concise outline of the argument for and against. The clerk circulates the motion(s) to each member of presbytery for voting by return mail.

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If there are no negative votes, the business is proceeded with after a reasonable time (eg. 7 days) has elapsed for responses to be received. In cases where a decision is made by telephone hook-up or the like, the exact text of the agreed decision is immediately circulated to all members by the clerk.

If there are negative votes, the business shall not be proceeded with, but put on the agenda of the next ordinary meeting of presbytery or, if necessary, an extraordinary meeting of presbytery shall be called.

Motions placed before presbytery by correspondence are recorded in the minutes of the following meeting.

The proposal was defeated.

It was resolved that

4. Synod enact as follows:

COMMISSIONERS OF A PRESBYTERY PROSECUTING A CALL

If due to distance the presbytery prosecuting the call cannot be represented by commissioners, it is competent for it to appoint a minister or elder of the church who can be present to indicate an appeal on its behalf. Twenty-one days from the date on which advice of the presbytery's decision to refuse to transmit the call (and the reasons for it) is sent to the presbytery prosecuting the call is allowed for that presbytery to confirm adherence to the appeal made on its behalf, giving reasons, and failing such confirmation, the appeal falls.

In the case of an appeal against the decision by the commissioners of the prosecuting presbytery or by the commissioners of the congregation whose minister is under call, or in case of complaint by a member of the presbytery, the presbytery cannot proceed further until the appeal or complaint is fallen from or resolved by the judgement of the Synod.

5. Synod request Presbyteries to consider carefully the draft of Chapter 4 of the revised Church Practice, and request that presbyteries and or individual members of presbytery send suggestions and criticisms to the Committee no later than the end of November 1990 with a view to any further adjustments being made before the enactment of the Chapter by Synod 1991.

6. Synod direct the Committee to consider suggestions made to further improve the draft of Chapter 4, and to press on also with a draft of Chapter 5 (The Synod).

7. Synod commend the Decision Book to the attention of office-bearers and to all church courts.

It was resolved that Synod suspend standing orders in order to permit the following motion to be moved:

That the Synod record its appreciation to Mrs Ruth G. Ward and Mrs Yvonne Moodie for their assistance with typing work related to the Law and Advisory Committee.

The motion was moved, seconded and carried.

47. INTER CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

The convener Rev. W. P. Gadsby presented the report. The report was received.

48. Notices of motion were read, and the sederunt was closed with prayer at 5.39 p.m.

W. P. Gadsby
CLERK

J. S. Graham
MODERATOR

SEDERUNT 7 THURSDAY 19 APRIL 1990, 7.02 PM.

49. The sederunt was constituted with worship.

50. The minutes of sederunt 6 were read and confirmed.

51. MISSIONS EVENING

The Moderator introduced the Convener of the Missions Committee. Mr. Mackay read from Luke 19: 41-44, and then introduced Miss Anna Sutherland of CWI.

Miss Sutherland spoke movingly of the work to which the Lord had called her among the Jewish people. She reminded the gathering that Sydney has 32,000 Jews and challenged us to join with herself and Mr Graham in the difficult yet challenging ministry of door to door work.

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Iain Murray's book "The Puritan Hope" was a great stimulus to the work because of the many promises that were set forth concerning the conversion of God's ancient people.

Miss Sutherland related some of her experiences in personal work and urged upon us patience and persistence in the work of the Lord. She commended our Moderator Mr Graham for his faithful persistence in the proclamation of the Gospel to the Jew.

Miss Sutherland told us of five Jewish women with whom close friendships have been established and she urged us to seek the Lord's face in prayer that He would open blind eyes and revive His work and bring Jewish folk to a saving knowledge of Christ the Good Shepherd.

Mr. Mackay read from 1 Peter 2 and then introduced Mr John Greensill, recently returned from India.

John related a number of experiences during his stay in central India. His main task was to build a church at Chhapara, which work is now completed. John spoke of the work at the school and hospital. He related the encouraging conversion of an Indian religious man who is now growing in the knowledge of the Lord.

Mr. Mackay expressed the sincere thanks of Synod to Mr Greensill.

The Convener introduced Mr Andrei Voth of Mission U.S.S.R.

Mr Voth read from Proverbs 28:28 "When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; but when they perish the righteous increase."

He proceeded to address the gathering on the vital differences between the religion of Communism and Christianity. He pointed out the different world views embraced by Communism and Christianity. There are real changes occurring in the U.S.S.R. but all changes are not good. There is an upsurge of eastern mysticism and a growing interest in the New Age movement.

He spoke of the tremendous need for Bibles because printing and distribution of Bibles is still forbidden in the U.S.S.R. The Soviet Union will not tolerate a certain kind of Christianity, that which preaches Christ as the only Saviour and Lord.

Paul's words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:12 are so apt for the Soviet Christian - "All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." Nevertheless in the east churches are growing and for this God is to be praised.

"Prayer changes history" he said. And much of what is occurring in Eastern Europe is God's answer to the prayers of His people.

We were called upon to pray and give to the work of the propagation of the Gospel in U.S.S.R. Radio ministry is being blessed by the Lord and many churches are springing up by means of this media.

The Convener expressed the gratitude of Synod to Mr Voth for his enlightening address.

Dr. Andrews then called upon the Lord in prayer.

Following the singing of Psalm 126 the Moderator led in prayer.

52. Notices of motion were read.
The sederunt was closed with prayer at 8.42 p.m.

W. P. Gadsby
Clerk

J. S. Graham
Moderator

SEDERUNT 8 FRIDAY 20 APRIL 1990, 9.10 AM.

53. The sederunt was constituted with prayer.

54. Inter Church Relations Committee.

Synod resumed discussion on the Inter Church Relations Report.

The committee proposed

1. That Synod decide in principle to send two delegates to the 1993 ICRC Conference, and appeal to the Church at large to bear this commitment in mind in their giving to Synod funds over the next 3 years.

On being put to the vote the proposal was defeated.

It was resolved

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2. That the ICRC Report on the Ecumenical Creeds be referred to Presbyteries, with request that they provide their comments, if any, to the Inter-church Relations Committee for report to Synod 1991.
3. That Synod endorse the Committee's action of inviting a representative of the RPCA to attend Synod, and direct that a similar invitation be extended to our brethren for Synod 1991.
4. That Synod send fraternal greetings to the brethren of the FRCA Synod, and instruct the ICR Committee to continue diligently to maintain contact with the FRCA.
5. That the ICR Committee be asked to keep under review the matter of a national forum as proposed by the RCA, and authorize it to commission a delegate or delegates to attend should the opportunity arise, with report to be made to Synod 1991.

55. CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 1.

A letter from the Presbyterian Reformed Church was read and received. The clerk indicated that he had responded to the P.R.C. in appropriate terms. It was resolved that the clerk respond, expressing the Synod's grateful acceptance of the PRC Presbytery's apology for their letter to the Synod dated 27 July 1980, and expressing the desire that in the Lord the future will bring abundant blessing for both our churches.

56. VISITOR FROM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN KOREA

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Eun-Soo Kim, who was introduced by the Rev. Rowland Ward. Mr. Kim briefly addressed the Synod, thanking our Melbourne Congregation for sponsoring his coming to Australia to work amongst Korean people in Sydney.

57. REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS.

Synod Permanent Record:

It was resolved that examination of the Permanent Record be deferred until its whereabouts have been ascertained.

Northern Presbytery:

It was resolved that the record be attested subject to one correction's being made.

Southern Presbytery:

It was resolved that the record be attested.

Central Presbytery:

The examiners presented their report. After questions and discussion it was moved and seconded that Synod go into closed court.

It was moved and seconded that the motion be put. This motion was carried. On being put to the vote it was resolved to meet in closed court. Mr Gadsby dissented with Mr MacLeod adhering.

It was moved and seconded that the Report of the Examiners of Central Presbytery be received, engrossed in the minutes, and the Central Presbytery implement the provisions of paragraphs 3 and 4 immediately following the rising of Synod 1990.

The motion was carried.

REPORT OF EXAMINERS OF CENTRAL PRESBYTERY.

1. The minutes of the Presbytery are neatly and properly kept with minimal typographical errors.
2. However, there is one matter of business, also the subject of certain late correspondence received by the Administration Committee, which was not competent to be taken up in the manner indicated and part of which the Central Presbytery itself desires expunged.
3. Accordingly, it is our recommendation that the Central Presbytery be directed to expunge forthwith the minutes on page 24/25 being the paragraphs beginning "After prolonged" and ending "in his ministry" (line 5 page 25) and the paragraphs beginning "It was agreed" and ending "to his letter." on page 26.
4. It is our further recommendation that the Central Presbytery be directed to advise the enquirer forthwith as follows:
 - (A) the discipline matter was never formally before the Session or Presbytery so as to enable competent proof to be provided - the alleged offender's admissions being settled privately by the alleged offender's minister.

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(B) Since the only evidence available in the circumstances of the alleged confession by the alleged offender is hearsay or testimony unsubstantiated by witness to the alleged confession, the PCEA courts have no jurisdiction, while a person cited as a witness cannot be required to incriminate themselves. The time elapsed since the alleged offence/s is also relevant.

(C) Accordingly the PCEA church courts can only advise that the persons making the allegation and the alleged offender be approached by the enquirer to provide such evidence as they are disposed to give, and that the inquirer will have to assess the competency of such testimony as an element of proof on its own responsibility.

R. S. Ward
W. P. Gadsby

Simple dissents were tendered by Mr J. McCallum and Mr A. Steel.

Dissents with reasons were tendered by Mr. A. Tripovich:

I dissent from the decision of Synod to delete portion of Presbytery records because the judgment of the accuracy or validity of the portion was that of the Examiners of the Record and not of the Synod.

Mr. H. Varnes:

I strongly dissent against the deletion of records that are truthful; that form part of the historical record of the Central Presbytery; and that show the integrity of a minister of this denomination. It is not the duty of Church courts to remove statements of truth.

Mr. D. Kerr:

I dissent from the finding of Synod anent to the examiners report:

a) because expunging the 2nd paragraph violates the direction of Chp V, part 111 Div 11 No 2 p 87

b) that it was competent for the court to receive and deal with the matter on the grounds of Chp V Part 111 Div No 13.

c) the statement of 4a is incorrect and

d) that 4b is incorrect.

It was resolved to meet in open court.

58. PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE

The convener Mr Ward presented the report and supplementary report.

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

It was resolved

1. Synod request Deacons' Court to note that the 1990 Super/LSL Levy is \$1,704, at least half being payable by 30th June 1990, and the balance by 31st December 1990, vacant charges being allowed a rebate of 50% in respect of levy due during the period of vacancy.

2. Synod confirm the membership of T.I.Leggott with effect from ordination, 11.03.1989.

3. Synod resolve that the basic rate of pension be increased to \$47 (married) and \$33 (single) with effect from 1.07.1990.

4. Synod appoint John Bertram Loudon as a Trustee of the Retirement Fund to replace P.J.Bloomfield, resigned.

5. That the Committee be authorised to take such steps as are necessary to enable compliance with ISC requirements by 30th June 1990.

6. That members be advised in a simple way the basic position of Superannuation rules under current Government legislation, and that the Committee liaise with the Finance Committee with a view to raising the target benefit levels with some trade-off in stipend increases, full report to be made to next Synod.

59. EXTENSION OF TIME

It was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended so far as necessary as to permit a motion that the sittings of this Synod be extended no later than 5.30 pm., Friday 20 April.

An amendment was moved and seconded that "4.00 pm." be substituted for "5.30 pm." Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was preferred and became the finding of the Court.

Accordingly, it was resolved

That previous decisions be rescinded so far as necessary and that Synod's meeting continue no later than 4.00 pm. Friday 20 April.

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60. Notices of Motion were read, and the sederunt was closed with prayer at 12.36 p.m.

W. P. Gadsby
Clerk

J. S. Graham
Moderator

SEDERUNT 9 FRIDAY 20 APRIL 1990, 1.30PM

61. The sederunt was constituted with prayer.

62. The minutes of sederunt 8 were read and confirmed.

63. NSW TRUST CORPORATION

The report was presented by the Clerk Mr Gadsby. It was agreed to receive the report.

It was resolved

1. That Synod direct the relevant Presbyteries to ensure that details of irregularly executed leases be provided to the Trustees so that the required acknowledgement can be furnished by the trust corporation to the respective Deacons' Courts.

2. That Synod direct Presbyteries to ensure that in future all leases be executed in accordance with the Property Act and the legislation of Synod (see new Practice, 3.19 'Leases').

64. QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

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

65. VIC. TRUST CORPORATION

The secretary of the Trustees, Mr R.S.Ward presented the report. The report was received.

It was proposed

1. That it be the policy of the Synod to retain and treat as capital all bequests and legacies for Synod purposes which do not have a condition requiring they be expended, and that the income, after taking account of inflation effects, be applied to the objects specified in the bequest. It is to be understood that this is a statement of policy not a declaration of trust, and is capable of review by Synod in respect of bequests and legacies where a change is competent.

The proposal was defeated.

It was resolved

2. That for the time being the Synod policy on offsetting inflation on investments be (a) that approximately 50% of the income on non-equity-linked investments be added back to the principal and treated as capital; (b) that this policy be implemented for the year 1990 and following, a phase-in period of two years being allowed to Committees which find it impossible to implement this policy immediately, so that for 1992 and following years all Synod Investments will be on this basis and Committee budgets prepared accordingly; (c) that this policy be capable of review and revision by a future Synod.

66. NOTICE OF MOTION

It was moved on notice and seconded that the sale of the Property Trust investment of the Margaret Nicolson Bequest during 1989 which produced a capital surplus of \$8,482.86 cannot be treated as income since it is a capital surplus on a perpetual trust and thus must be reckoned as capital, and the Treasurer is directed so to treat same in the Synod Accounts.

The motion became the finding of the Court.

67. NOTICE OF MOTION - VICTORIAN TRUSTEES

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Insurance scheme outlined in Mr Ward's outline dated 16/04/1990 be adopted by Synod for its congregations, with the opportunity for St George's congregation to opt out and make their own arrangements.

The motion became the finding of the Court.

68. MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS

It was moved and seconded that Standing Orders be suspended to admit an item of business anent sale of property in Victoria. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

69. RESIGNATION OF TREASURER

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A letter from Mr N.A.McPherson, tendering his resignation as Treasurer and Mr David McIntosh as Assistant Treasurer, was received. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's and Asst Treasurer's resignations be received with deep regret, and with gratitude for their work, effective at the rising of Synod 1991. The motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that Mr A.Steel be appointed as Treasurer, from the rise of Synod 1991. The motion was carried.

70. STANDING COMMITTEES

It was resolved that Standing Committees for 1990-91 be made up on the basis of

- 1) expertise of members in specific areas;
- 2) interest of members in specific areas; and
- 3) sharing the responsibilities of members in specific areas.

It was resolved that Committees be structured as printed hereunder:

ADMIN. AND ICR.

Clerk, Moderator, Moderator-elect, Assistant Clerk, Convener of Law and Advisory.

CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY

J.A.Cromarty(C), J.A.McCallum, J.S.Graham, Hunter elder, South Sydney elder.

CHURCH & NATION

E.R.Lee (C), A. Tripovich, S.N.Ramsay, K.MacLeod, Manning elder, Hastings elder.

FINANCE

A. Steel (C), N.McPherson, J.Gregor, R.Alford, N.Kerr, T.Higgins.

8:14 FOUNDATION

Clerk of Synod, Moderator, **Treasurer (C)** plus 3 Presbytery representatives.

LAW & ADVISORY

R.S.Ward (C), W.P.Gadsby, W.M.Mackay, W.J.W.Hanna, Hawkesbury-Nepean elder, St Georges elder.

MISSIONS

W.M.Mackay (C), R.S.Ward, J.M.Cromarty, T.Leggott, Geelong elder, Grafton elder. Advisers Drs Ramsay and Andrews.

PROVIDENT FUNDS

R.S.Ward (C), J.Pateman, J.Louden, N.Triffett, Geelong elder.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY

J.M.Cromarty (C), J.Pateman, W.M.Mackay, T.Leggott, C.Cumming, W.J.McClean.

YOUTH & FELLOWSHIP

H.C.Varnes (C), J.A.Cromarty, D.Hamilton, Hawkesbury-Nepean elder, Hunter elder.

71. DEFERRED BUSINESS

It was noted that the matter of the rearrangement of Presbytery boundaries held over from last year was again deferred in the absence of a report from Northern Presbytery.

72. EXTENSION OF TIME

It was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended in order to permit a motion to continue the sederunt until the closing business is finished.

It was agreed to continue the sederunt until the closing business is finished.

73. NOMINATION OF MODERATOR 1991-92

It was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that the Rev. J.A.McCallum be appointed Moderator-elect for 1991-2. Mr McCallum accepted the nomination.

74. APPRECIATION TO MANNING CONGREGATION

The Clerk expressed on behalf of Synod our sincere appreciation for the hospitality of the Manning folk.

75. ACTS OF SYNOD

It was resolved that the Clerk be empowered to draw up a list of Principal Acts of Synod and include it with minutes.

76. MINUTES

The minutes of this final sederunt were read and confirmed.

77. CLOSURE

The Moderator briefly addressed the Court, and Synod 1990 was closed with prayer.

W.P.Gadsby
CLERK

J.S.Graham
MODERATOR

ACTS OF SYNOD 1990

Appended by the direction of Synod (see Article 75)

Class 1 (Barrier Act procedure)

None.

Class 2 (Other)

Act	Article
1 Presbyteries to provide written justification for financial grants applications	20.03
2 Sessions to encourage gifted men to become ministers of the Word	34.02
3 Training of Ministry Committee power to set student allowances	34.03
4 Amending Training of Ministry Consolidating Act (Act 15, 1983)	34.05
5 Confirmation of Dr W.J.W.Hanna's reception as student and home missionary	35
6 Biennial Easter Youth Rally	36.03
7 Deputation visits from overseas churches	41.07
8 Procedures for maintaining contacts with churches in India, Peru and South Africa	41.08
9 Authorization of specified gifts without express Synodical approval	41.12
10 Annual Church Directory to be funded from Synod General Fund	44.03
11 New Church Extension and Supply Committee regulations	46.01
12 Procedure when Presbytery lapses	46.02
13 Commissioners of a Presbytery prosecuting a call	46.04
14 Pension rate increase	58.03
15 Inflation-proofing of Synod investments	65.02
16 New insurance scheme	67
17 Appointment of new Treasurer	69