

**The Record of the 145th meeting of the
Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia
Taree, NSW, Australia, 1992**

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Clerk of Synod:

Rev. W. Peter Gadsby, BSc, BD
9 Craiglea Close
Taree NSW 2430
Tel. 065 521317
Int.+61 65 521317

ANNUAL SYNOD 1992

1 Within the Taree church building on Monday 27 April 1992 at 7.02pm. the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, the Moderator Rev. J.A.McCallum presiding.

2 Having read Mark 3, Mr McCallum drew the Synod's attention to v.14, speaking on the theme of spiritual leadership. We are reminded that fishers of men must be made by the Lord himself, equipping them with those essential spiritual qualities required in faithful pastors. They are to be men on intimate terms with the Lord, with a deeper understanding of his Word, watching and praying for the well-being of Christ's flock. Only after this are they sent forth to preach, at the Lord's command, with spiritual authority.

3 The certified rolls of presbyteries were tendered, with apologies for inability to attend from those marked with an asterisk hereunder:

Northern Presbytery

Armidale
Brisbane
Grafton
Hastings
Lismore
Maclean

Ministers

Vacant
Vacant
R.W.Murray
A.L.Tripovich
Vacant
K.MacLeod
S.N.Ramsay (Ret'd)

Elders

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

Central Presbytery

Hawkesbury-Nepean
Hunter-Barrington
St Georges
Sydney South
Taree

Vacant
J.A.Cromarty
J.McCallum
Vacant
W.P.Gadsby
J.S.Graham, CWI*
E.R.Lee (Ret'd)

A.Neil
B.Dunne
D.Kerr
N. McPherson
K.Longworth

Southern Presbytery

Melbourne

Geelong
Hamilton
Ulverstone

R.S.Ward
T.I.Leggott
W.M.Mackay*
J.M.Cromarty
J.Pateman*
P.A.L.Hill

D.P.Smith

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

4 The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Dr J.C.Andrews, and it was resolved that he be associated with the Synod.

5 A welcome was extended to Mr Peter Smith who was sitting in the court for the first time:

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

7 NEW MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that the Rev.J.A.Cromarty, Hunter-Barrington, was Moderator-elect, and it was resolved that this appointment be confirmed.

Mr McCallum welcomed Mr Cromarty to the chair. The new Moderator read Psalm 96, and following praise, delivered the

8 1992 MODERATORIAL ADDRESS

The Moderator indicated that while we as a Church have some difficulties we need to look beyond our problems to the greatness of the God we worship and serve. There are many reports of folk being saved and of others growing in grace, in love and faith. For this we must give thanks to our Sovereign God.

The Moderator then directed our attention to Question 7 of *Questions Put to Probationers After Being Called by a Congregation*: 'Are not zeal for the honour of God, love to Jesus Christ, and the desire of

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saving souls, your great motive and chief inducements to enter the functions of the Holy Ministry, and not worldly designs and interests?’

First: Zeal for the Honour of God

One of the major outcomes of regeneration is some understanding of the glory and majesty of Jehovah. We saw ourselves as sinful creatures standing before a holy Creator, and saved by grace alone. Then we vowed to honour God in every aspect of our lives—in private devotions, before our families, before our congregations and before the world. This meant the defence of God’s honour when the need arose.

Second: Love to Christ

We are called to love Christ with our heart and soul and mind. We have vowed to put Christ before everything precious to us in the world.

Our love for Christ is:

a. A Love from Gratitude, because of his redemption. He who was King of Glory, left his throne, his deity masked with flesh. He lived and died in our place and stead, and won for us eternal salvation.

b. A Love of Excellence. We love Christ because of the perfection of his attributes. We saw Christ as God and man in one Person. And as we recognized the perfection of his love, mercy, grace, power and wisdom we could do nothing but love him.

c. There is a Love which has No ‘Because.’ There are those times when our hearts burst with love towards Christ. It may appear at some times even reason is suspended. We just love him who loved us, and reason does not matter. There is that glorious love that has no because—it is the love of a heart united with Christ, a heart that cries out, ‘Holy! Holy! Holy! is the LORD of Hosts!’

Third: The Desire of Saving Souls

There was determined desire to enter the ministry and be used of God in the salvation of souls. We could only say with Paul: ‘Necessity is laid on me... Yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel’ (1Cor.9:16). We vowed that we would, under God snatch men from the brink of hell, all to the glory of God. It was stressed that this zeal must be seen in activity—a reaching out to the lost, and that we as ministers and elders must set the example for our people.

In conclusion, the Moderator said that there is a real need to be fervent in prayer for revival. Let us get on with our duty.

Following prayer, the Moderator called for

9 **EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY**

It was noted that Mr Gordon Anderson, a former member of this Court, had passed away during the past year. Rev. S.N.Ramsay led in prayer commending to the Lord those throughout our Church who have been bereaved.

It was resolved that Dr Andrews and Mr MacLeod be appointed to prepare a memorial minute for inclusion in the record.

10 **THANKS TO MODERATORS**

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

11 The session was closed with the benediction at 8.46pm.

W P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.A.Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 2 TUESDAY 28 APRIL 1992, 9.01am.

12 The sederunt was constituted with worship, led by the Moderator, who read Malachi 1 and called our attention to the spiritual sickness of Israel identified by the prophet, applying the message to our own situation.

The minutes of sederunt 1 were read and confirmed.

13 **BROTHERLY CONFERENCE**

It was resolved that Synod meet in closed court for a time of brotherly conference and prayer.

It was moved that other office-bearers of the church be invited to participate in the conference. An amendment was moved and seconded that Mr George Bancroft be also invited to participate in this conference. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was defeated and the motion became the finding of the court.

The conference proceeded under the guidance of the Assistant Clerk, Rev. John Cromarty.

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- 14 It was resolved that Synod meet in open court.. Notices of motion were read, and the session closed with prayer at 12.40pm

W P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 3 TUESDAY 28 APRIL 1992, 1.30pm.

- 15 The sederunt was constituted with praise and prayer.
The minutes of sederunt 2 were read and confirmed.

16 **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Clerk presented the Report. Following questions and discussion, the report was received. It was resolved

1. That Synod request 1993 Committee Reports to be submitted to the Clerk in the forms both of printed pages (hard copy) and computer disk files, as described in the Administration Committee report.
2. That Synod note with concern the church statistics for 1991, and draw these to the attention of Presbyteries and the Church Extension and Supply Committee, as well as to the church at large.
3. That Correspondence Item 1 (Dated 20.05.91. From Rev. Ian D.Glover for Dumisani Bible School Board) be received and noted.
4. That Correspondence Item 2 (Dated 27.05.91. From the Clerk of Assembly, Free Church of Scotland) be received and noted.
5. That Correspondence Items 3.1 and 3.2 (Dated 23.05.91 and 8.04.92. From Secretario, Junta Directiva, Iglesia Evangelica Presiteriana del Peru) be received, noted and remitted to the Missions Committee.
6. That Correspondence Items 4 (Dated 15.07.91) and 7 (Dated 4.03.92) (both from Clerk, Central Presbytery) be received and noted.
7. That Correspondence Items 5.1 to 5.6 be taken with Training of Ministry business.
8. That Correspondence Items 6.1 to 6.5 be taken with Inter-Church Relations business.

The Committee proposed

9. That Correspondence Item 8 (Dated 24.02.92. From Clerk of Assembly, Free Church of Scotland) be received and noted.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words be added: and the Synod endorse the action of the Clerk in declining the invitation from the Free Church to send a delegate to the 1992 General Assembly, but note that 1993 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Disruption, and appoint this year's Moderator to represent our Synod on that historic occasion and inform the Free Church accordingly.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion as amended became the finding of the court. The Moderator expressed his gratitude for this honour.

10. That Correspondence Item 9 (Dated 17.03.92. From Stated Clerk, Reformed Churches of Australia [RCA]) be received and that Synod appoint an Order of the Day as first item of business in Session 8 to hear a brief address by the delegate of the RCA.

11. That Correspondence Item 10 (Dated 30.03.92. From the Presbyterian Church in Korea Fraternal Relations Committee) be taken with Inter-church Relations business.

12. That Correspondence Item 11 (Received 27.04.92. From the Clerk of Presbytery, Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia) be taken with Inter-church Relations business.

13. That Synod draw to the attention of lower courts the decisions of 1991 about church records (1991 Minutes, Article 14.14).

It was proposed

14. That Synod 1993 be held in **** from 7.00pm, Monday 19 April to 12.30pm, Friday 23 April, with Tuesday morning set apart for a time of conference and prayer.

The proposal was defeated.

It was proposed

15. That Synod appoint the Rev. W.M.Mackay as Moderator-elect for 1993-94.

It was ruled that this matter be left in abeyance until later in the meeting.

16. That Synod appoint a Committee comprising the Rev. Edwin Lee (Convener), Rev. Willie Mackay and Dr Wes Hanna to organize ways in which we as a church may next year commemorate the Disruption, and in which we may commemorate in 1996 the founding of the PCEA in Sydney on 10 October 1846.

17. That the following Examiners of Records be appointed:

Synod Permanent Record: Rev. Peter Hill and Mr Peter Smith

Northern Presbytery: Rev. Rowland Ward and Mr Neil McPherson

Central Presbytery: Rev. Trevor Leggott and Mr Ron Lawson

Southern Presbytery: Rev. John McCallum and Mr Don Kerr

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17 **NSW TRUST CORPORATION**

The report was presented by the Clerk Mr Gadsby. Following discussion, the report was received.

18 It was moved on notice and seconded that when an application for a copy of a deed or document be received by the Trustees, from a signatory to a deed or a beneficiary of a trust, that the Trustees be given permission to, and be so directed to, make such copies available to the applicants; the cost of such copying to be borne by the applicants. The proposal became the finding of the court.

19 It was moved on notice by the Rev. R.S.Ward and seconded by Rev. W.P.Gadsby that the Synod, having considered the report re the property at Westmarket Street, Richmond (Deed Book 44 No.353) conveyed to the Synod on April 10, 1855 in terms of Declaration of Trust (Book 3866 No.816), note

a. that the *Presbyterian Church Act* of 1865, while giving assurance of title to congregations subject to the General Assembly in Section 1 yet does so in such a manner as in no way prejudicially to affect or deprive any person of any rights to which he is in anyway entitled (refer section 3), thus preserving the rights of the Synod of Eastern Australia which continued outside the unions of 1864 and 1865 in terms of the Protest of 15 November 1864;

b. that the Church Archives show that the possibility of exercise of rights as circumstances required was in the mind of the Synod at the time of securing the 1918 Property Act and accounts for the absence of a schedule of properties to the Act;

c. that the Uniting Church in Australia, which makes no binding profession of adherence to the doctrines of the Westminster Confession of Faith, is not currently using the property for public worship and has other and adequate property in the town which is being so used, while the Synod of Eastern Australia still maintains the identical principles set forth in 1846 upon its foundation and would be better able to advance these principles if its rightful property, conveyed to it on such trusts, was secured to it;

d. that the application by *The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (NSW)* for issue of a title was supported by their statement that they were not aware of notice of any claim to an interest when in fact they were aware of our claim;

e. that the Land Titles' Office has sought recall of the title issued to *The Uniting Church of Australia Property Trust (NSW)* on November 21, 1991 by letter dated April 8, 1992;

THE SYNOD RESOLVE

a. to approve the action taken by the Synod Clerk to protect the Church's interests;

b. to record its appreciation to Mr J.L.Clugston, LLB, M.Litt., and to the Synod's Procurator, Mr F.Maxwell Bradshaw, MA, LLM, for their invaluable services in reference to this matter, noting their 'total agreement' on the state of the case and our legal position expressed April 25, 1992;

AND THE SYNOD pursuant to the *Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act* 1918, Section 14, appoint the Administration Committee (consisting of the Moderator, the Moderator-elect, Synod Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Convener of Law & Advisory Committee) to act for the Synod and the body corporate *The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia* in all matters pertaining to the disputed property with a view to securing the just interests of the church, the Committee having full power to take such legal steps as may be necessary and also to direct the said body corporate to execute such documents as may be necessary to bring the matter to finality.

The motion was carried, none dissenting.

20 **QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION**

The Clerk Mr Gadsby presented the report which was received.

21 **VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION**

The Secretary, Mr Ward presented the report, and following questions, it was received.

It was resolved

1. That for 1992, the sum of \$5400 be added to Missions General Capital from income (\$740 Old FPCV, \$3200 Nicolson Bequest and \$1000 Ashman Bequest), \$2000 be added to Stipend Capital from income (Paterson Bequest), and \$3940 be added to Training of Ministry Capital from income (\$940 Paterson and \$3000 Ashman).

2. That pursuant to provisions of Act 5691, Mr Gregory John Moody, structural draftsman, of 3 Salvia Court, Warranwood, Vic.3134, be and hereby is appointed a member of the body corporate, *The Trustees for Victoria of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia*.

22 **CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE**

The Convener Rev. J.A.McCallum presented the report. There followed considerable discussion of the report, which was then received.

It was resolved

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1. That Synod place on record its gratitude to God for the continuing existence and maintenance of all aid-receiving congregations.
2. That Commissioners be asked to convey to their congregations the thanks of Synod, the aid-receiving congregations and this Committee for all those who have supported the work of Church Extension and Supply.
3. That Commissioners be asked to remind their congregations of the ongoing needs of Church Extension and Supply and to make prayerful and practical support of this area of the Church's work and witness.
4. That Commissioners be asked to remind their Sessions to be prayerfully considering opportunities and potential for Church Extension in their congregational areas.
5. That in accordance with a decision of Synod 1991 Ulverstone be granted 50% Stipend Relief for the remainder of 1992 and also 50% Stipend Relief for 1993 on a needs basis.
6. That in the event of a settlement, Armidale be granted 50% for Stipend Relief for the remainder of 1992, and that 50% Stipend Relief be granted for 1993 on a needs basis.

23 It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that the Church Extension Report be printed in the church magazine.

24 It was further moved on notice, seconded and resolved that Synod request each Presbytery carefully to consider the work within their bounds, in particular,
(a) the changes which might be necessary in attitudes and methods more adequately to comply with our Lord's words to us to seek the good of others and not the mere preservation of traditions that are either no longer relevant or an impediment to helpful communication of the gospel in our society,
(b) positive ways in which the building up of a thoroughly instructed church loyal to Christ and his word as set out in the Westminster Confession and Catechisms may be furthered.
(c) positive steps to establish the church in the areas where the mass of people are living and dying without Christ, particularly also, areas near to our universities.

25 Notices of motion were read. The sederunt was closed with prayer at 5.27pm

W P.Gadsby
Clerk

J.A.Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 4 TUESDAY 28 APRIL 1992, 7.00pm.

26 The sederunt was constituted with praise and prayer. The minutes of sederunt 3 were read and confirmed.

27 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Rev. R.S.Ward presented the report. Following discussion, it was resolved that the report be received. Mr D.Kerr recorded his dissent from this decision.

It was resolved that

1. Synod reaffirm its decision of 1986 adopting the proposed Bill entitled 'The Synod of Eastern Australia Property (Amendment) Act' as approved by our Procurator, F.Maxwell Bradshaw, MA, LL.M, and as bound with Synod Reports 1986 but with amendment of the initial trustees in Section 4 to read: James Alexander Cromarty, Keith Alan Dawson, William Peter Gadsby, Keith Lachlan Longworth and Alex Henry Steel; amendment of the body corporate address to 9 Craiglea Close, Taree 2430; amendment of the Schedule of Real Property to correspond with current property holdings; and deletion of the date specified as 'the appointed day' [1.01.1972] to allow for such suitable date to be inserted as may be found appropriate and similarly in Sections 3 (10) and (12)

Mr D. Kerr dissented with reason, with Mr A.Neil adhering: the constitution requires office-bearers in administration in the church to be elected office-bearers who have signed the formula.

It was resolved that a Committee comprising the Clerk, Mr R.Ward and Dr Andrews be appointed to answer this reason.

It was resolved that

2. Synod remit the proposed Bill to Presbyteries for their consent in terms of the Barrier Act 1697, and does now adjourn for 30 minutes directing Presbyteries to meet during the adjournment to express approval or disapproval of the proposed Bill and report the result by extract minute with number of votes for and against.

Mr D.Kerr dissented with reasons, with Mr J.McCallum adhering: it is contrary to the spirit of the Barrier Act 1697. Furthermore, it is not expressed in the stipulated and appropriate form [Blue Book, p.69 Chp.IV Part II 4(2)(3)].

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Pursuant to this decision, Synod adjourned for 30 minutes to allow presbyteries to meet. Upon resumption, the Clerk reported the following returns from presbyteries:

Northern Presbytery: Disapproved unanimously.

Central Presbytery: Approved (5 for, 3 against).

Southern Presbytery: Approved unanimously.

28 Notices of motion for session 5 were read. The session was closed with the benediction at 9.11pm.

W P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.A.Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 5 WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 1992, 9.02am

29 The sederunt was constituted with worship, led by the Moderator, who read Malachi 2, reminding us that as teachers of God's Word, we should fear him, remembering that he is observing us.
The minutes of sederunt 4 were read and confirmed.

30 **LAW AND ADVISORY** (continued—see Article 27)
Synod resumed consideration of the business of this Committee.
The Committee fell from the original proposal number three. Original number four therefore became proposal number three.

It was resolved

3. Synod adopt Chapter 6 (Common Procedure) of the new *Practice*, as printed in 1991 Synod Reports with the amendments in the 1992 Synod Report, to replace the corresponding Sections of the Free Church of Scotland *Practice*, 1964 edition, and to regulate procedure in church courts henceforth.

4. Synod adopt Chapter 7 (Church Discipline) of the new *Practice*, as printed in 1991 Synod Reports with the amendments in the 1992 Synod Report, to replace the corresponding Sections of the Free Church of Scotland *Practice*, 1964 edition, and to regulate procedure in church courts henceforth.

5. Synod

a. affirm the completed practice Chapters 1 to 7 as its *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* in succession to the Free Church of Scotland *Practice* of 1964,

b. direct that up to 100 indexed copies be produced together with an updated *Decision Book*, 3 copies to be supplied to each congregation and the balance to be available at a price sufficient to cover production costs,

c. commend the study and careful use of the *Handbook* to office-bearers and others, reminding users of the provisions of Chapter 1.10 and 1.11,

d. thank all those who have contributed to the completion of this work since it was recommenced in 1982, and particularly the Law and Advisory Committee.

31 **TREASURER'S REPORT.**

The Treasurer, Mr Steel, presented his report, commenting upon various aspects in it, and in the 1991 Financial Statements. Following discussion, the report was received.

32 It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that the thanks of the Synod to the Treasurer for his inaugural year be recorded, he be requested to combine Stipend and Church Extension Funds in 1992 Synod accounts and subsequently in accordance with Act of Synod 1986 (p.10 of minutes), and his action in providing for the deficit in the approved expenditure of the Church Extension and Supply Committee in terms of Act of Synod 1988 (page 5 of minutes) be approved.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the church at large and especially Synod to Mr Steel for his work.

33 It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that for the future the Treasurer's and Finance Committee Reports be combined with one set of proposed deliverances.

34 **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

It was moved on notice, and seconded that the Auditor's report be received, the appreciation of the Synod for his work be recorded, and he be advised that he is not required to examine the sufficiency of the Superannuation Fund and Supplementary Benefits Fund to meet the objectives of Synod. The motion was defeated.

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35 **8:14 FOUNDATION**

The Convener, Mr Steel, presented the report, which was received following questions. It was proposed that

1. Synod 1983, Act 7 (vi) (Class 2) be repealed, except as it is embodied herein, and that Synod enact as follows: 'The Fund shall be administered by the Synod Finance Committee. The cost of administration shall be a first charge on the fund.' The proposal was defeated.

It was proposed that

2. The 8:14 Foundation be renamed 'Synod Special Assistance Fund' and where the name appears in Synod 1983, Act 7 (Class 2), Synod 1984 Act 2 (Class 2) and Synod 1985, Act 5 (Class 2) it be so amended.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the words be substituted "The 8:14 Foundation be renamed the 'Synod Land and Building Assistance Fund' and....." Upon being put to the vote, both the amendment and the Committee's proposal were defeated.

36 It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that an advance of \$18,000 be made to the Ulverstone Deacons' Court in order that they may discharge the bridging finance employed in the purchase of their new manse, subject to the following conditions:

1. that the loan be repaid at not less than \$1,000 pa, plus any dividend received from the Farrow Finance Investment and any designated gifts.
2. that when able, repayment be accelerated.
3. that the terms of the loan be reviewed in 1997.

37 It was moved on notice and seconded that the schedule of repayment for the 8:14 Foundation advance to Melbourne be not less than \$5000 per annum. The motion was carried.

38 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

1. Synod record its gratitude to God for his provisions for the maintenance of the ministry during the past year.

2. Act 1, Class 2, Synod 1984 be amended by adding: i. delegates' expenses

"c. Where travel is by motor vehicle, reimbursement for vehicle running costs and accommodation may be claimed as follows:

Motor Vehicle Running Costs:

- Costs on basis of one claim per congregation represented at Synod.

- Reimbursement to be at the rate of 16c per kilometre. The rate to be adjusted, using as a guide, future Car Running Costs (Fuel, Tyres, Service and Repairs) surveys for Private passenger car rates (engine capacity 2.6 litre or thereabouts based upon 15,000 kilometres per annum) as conducted and published by the NRMA's Technical Department .

- Vehicle kilometreage to be calculated from Charge to place of Synod and return.

Accommodation:

- Reasonable cost of overnight accommodation, including meals, for outward and return journey, where the distance travelled is greater than from Sydney/Melbourne or Sydney/Brisbane. Reimbursement may be claimed by each Synod Delegate."

3. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend and Benefits (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 1992/93 be at the full flow on of CPI increase and child allowances remain unaltered. In the event of a decrease in the CPI in any quarter, a "Nil" movement be taken into account.

39 Notices of motion were read, and the session was closed with prayer at 12.37pm.

W P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 6 WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 1992, 1.30pm.

40 The session was constituted with prayer. The minutes of sederunt 5 were read and confirmed.

41 **FINANCE COMMITTEE** (continued—see Article 38)

Synod resumed consideration of Finance Committee business. It was resolved that

4. Act 10, Synod 1985 be amended by the following addition:

Veto power may be exercised over any investment by

- a. the Trustees on matters of legality.
- b. the relevant Committee Convener on matters affecting Committee policy.

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c. the General Treasurer on matters of viability and prudence.

42 It was moved on notice and seconded that with a view to equitable sharing in the administrative costs of Synod and prudent financial management, an Administrative Levy of \$8 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 in the year which hosts the Synod meeting, if it provides billeting and some catering. This provision is to operate so that the first payment is to be made to the Synod during 1992 based on the membership as at 31st December 1991, and thus will raise about \$4,500 towards the typical routine administration costs (including Synod meeting travel and meals) of some \$5,600. The motion was defeated.

43 **PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE**

The Convener Mr R.S.Ward presented the report which was received. It was resolved that

1. Synod confirm the membership of Peter A.L.Hill in the Retirement Fund with effect 17.01.1992.
2. Synod note arrears for 1991 (Lismore \$443, Brisbane \$443, Manning \$416, Armidale \$470) and credits (Hawkesbury- Nepean \$75, Hunter-Barrington \$2) and request the attention of the relevant Deacons' Courts if not already adjusted.
3. Synod request Deacons' Courts to note that the 1992 Super/LSL Levy is \$1,856, at least half (\$928) being payable by 30th June 1992 and the balance by 31st December 1992, vacant charges being allowed a rebate of 50% in respect of the levy due during the period of vacancy.
4. Synod amend Regulation C5 to read 8.4% in lieu of 8% and amend Regulation C4 to read 10.5% in lieu of 10%.
5. Synod resolve that the Levy rise from 8.5% to 9% with effect from 1.1.1993 and that there be an increased contribution of 0.5% to each member's Superannuation account with effect 1.07.1993 if possible (report to be made to Synod 1993 including possible discounting of stipend increases to offset the increased benefit).
6. Synod resolve that the basic rate of pension be increased from \$50 to \$52 (married) and from \$35 to \$36.40 (single) with effect from 1.07.1992.
7. Synod approve the transfer of \$815.96 from the Supplementary Benefits Fund to cover the 1991 deficit on Retired Ministers/Widows Fund and a further transfer of up to \$2,500 in respect of the anticipated 1992 deficit; and further approve the repayment to General Fund of the amount of \$2,054.83 advanced in 1991.
8. In accordance with Regulation B1(d), Synod resolve that the sum of \$6,362.73 be transferred to the Long Service Leave Fund from the Levy proceeds account.

44 **MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Committee member, Mr T.Leggott presented the report, apologizing for the inability of the Convener to be present at this Synod. Following questions and discussion, the report was received.

It was resolved that

1. Synod recognise the significance of the work of Christian Witness to Israel and express its continued support for its representatives as they offer the message of hope to those who wait for the coming of the Messiah.
2. Synod pray that the varied aspects of the Free Church of Central India and the work of the Emmanuel Hospital Association in Lakhnadon and Chhapara may serve to the full in making Christ known in their areas of witness.
3. Synod, conscious of the special situation facing South Africa, remember the need of the church and its leaders at this time. Synod look forward to the visit of Rev. and Mrs D.Miller during the course of 1992/93.
4. Synod express its continuing support for the work of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru and of St Andrew's College, Lima; offer its prayers for blessing on the new leadership of the College; and thank Rev. and Mrs J.MacPherson for the years of service they have given to the College and to the Church in Peru.
5. Synod encourage prayer for the aboriginal peoples of Australia, for their peaceful and harmonious development, and for the grace of Christ to be clearly seen amongst them.
6. Synod thank Mrs Margaret Hockett for her willing and useful service in Peru and Mr John Kerridge for his service in copying the Missionary Prayer Notes and making same available to the congregations.

It was proposed that

7. Whilst not precluding support to persons working through other agencies in the health education and welfare area, Synod affirm (without prejudice to the regulations of the Missions Relief Fund) that its primary commitment in its Mission policy is to work with sister churches or directly to establish congregations of Christ's church loyal to the Biblical faith as confessed in our subordinate standards. The Synod would also encourage members interested in service overseas to seek the guidance of the Missions Committee at an early stage in order that, where practicable, the gifts of such persons may be recognised and commended to the church and, where possible, utilised in line with Mission policy.

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An amendment was moved on notice and seconded that the words beginning with 'Whilst not precluding support,' and ending with 'congregations of Christ's church loyal to the Biblical faith as confessed in our subordinate standards' be omitted and that the remainder of the Deliverance be altered to read, 'The Synod encourage members interested in service overseas..., etc.'

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

Mr E.Lee dissented with reason: this statement of Mission Policy is contradictory and misleading. It is contradictory in that it states that while its primary commitment is to establish congregations of Christ's Church loyal to the Biblical Faith as confessed in our subordinate standards, it gives a considerable proportion of General Funds to a non-reformed Christian Mission.

It was resolved that a committee comprising Messrs Leggott and Hill be appointed to answer this reason.

It was further resolved that

8. The Synod express its profound gratitude to the Revs Rowland Ward and Trevor Leggott for their diligence and wisdom on the church's behalf during the visit to Fiji.

9. The Synod send its greetings to the brethren in Fiji, especially Leone Tupua and his family, commends their faithfulness and zeal, and prays that their labour for Christ's kingdom may be richly blessed.

It was resolved that proposal 10 be dealt with section by section. It was resolved

10 a. In order to allow Leone Tupua to give himself to the work of ministry in a full-time capacity and to have an appropriate base from which to work,

i. that Leone receive support sufficient to enable him to dedicate himself to study and pastoral duties for an initial period of three years.

ii. that a place of residence for Leone and his family be provided in a suitable location in Suva as long as he continues under the pastoral arrangements indicated in i. above.

iii. that assistance with the rent or purchase of a place of worship be given as the work progresses and the need is demonstrated.

iv. that it be clearly understood that financial support from the PCEA will be given on a diminishing basis, since it is recognised that it is the responsibility of local believers to provide for the stipend and living accommodation of the one who ministers to them.

v. that property bought by the PCEA for use in the ministry in Fiji will be registered under the name of The Trustees for Victoria of the PCEA, but it is the expectation that when the church in Fiji is in the position of being able to purchase comparable properties, these will be transferred to the church in Fiji on appropriate terms.

10 b. that a program of further studies be prepared to assist Leone in his study of God's Word and the sum of \$169 given for books for Fiji be applied in connection with texts needed for the study programme.

10 c. that for a further period of 3 years to the rising of Synod 1995, Leone be authorised to administer the sacraments.

Mr A.Tripovich dissented, Mr A.Neil adhering, from c. with reason: this decision is in conflict with the Confession of Faith which all office-bearers of this church have vowed to uphold, maintain and defend, and is therefore unconstitutional.

10 d. that the Synod concur in the suggestion from Leone that the name of the work in Fiji be known henceforth as the *Presbyterian Free Church of Fiji*.

10 e. that the sum of \$500 be allocated for literature for Fiji including gifts to the Fiji Bible College.

It was further resolved

11. That the budget embodied in the Committee's report be approved, and the requirements for Fiji support be carefully noted and brought before our people.

45 It was moved on notice, seconded and carried that in response to an invitation from the Convener of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission, Rev. Trevor Leggott be appointed as a representative of the P.C.E.A. to sit in on the A.P.W.M. Aboriginal Sub-committee and report to Synod Missions Committee as may be necessary.

46 **CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3** from Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Peru.
Mr Ward assured the Synod that the Missions Committee would give consideration to the matters raised in this correspondence.

47 **INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**
The Convener, Mr Gadsby, presented the report, which was received following discussion.

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48 Notices of motion were read, and the session was closed with prayer at 5.31pm.

W P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.A.Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 7 WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 1992, 7.00pm.

49 The session was constituted. The minutes of session 6 were read and confirmed.

50 **MEMORIAL MINUTE: MR GORDON ANDERSON**

It was resolved that the following memorial minute be engrossed in the records:

Synod records with gratitude to God its appreciation of the service of Gordon Anderson as an elder of the Maclean Congregation and as a Commissioner to Synod for many years.

An industrious and practical farmer for most of his active life, he devised improvements in the derricks used to load sugar cane into barges and also invented the first mechanical cane planter on the Clarence River, thus making a valuable contribution to the industry in which he was involved.

Converted to Christ in early manhood he served as superintendent of the United Sunday School at Chatsworth Island for 32 years. Ordained to the eldership of the Maclean Congregation in March 1935 he retained that office until his death in February of this year.

He was noted in Synod for his diligent attendance at its meetings despite increasing frailty; by his warm friendliness and gracious manner; by his firm adherence to what he felt were the correct decisions of the court although he did not speak much.

Gordon was well grounded in and devoted to the Reformed Faith and to the principles of this Church. He deeply appreciated the preaching of the glorious gospel of Christ and the missionary outreach of the Church. His personal devotion to his Lord and Saviour was obvious in all that he said and did.

His love for the House of God and the services of worship were demonstrated to the very end of his life by his attendance at services in a wheel chair.

Synod thanks God for his grace thus displayed in the life and character of this good man and for the contribution he made to the Church and community.

51 **MISSIONS EVENING**

The Moderator invited the Rev. T.Leggott to introduce the evening's proceedings. He drew attention to the decisions of Synod regarding missions, which had just been read out. He then introduced Mrs Margaret Hockett who had recently been working in the St Andrew's College in Peru. Mrs Hockett shared with those present some of her experiences at the school. She stressed the great need for minister-teachers in Peru at the present time. She had today booked her return passage to Peru for a further time of service at St Andrew's College.

Mr Leggott thanked Mrs Hockett, and invited Rev. Ken MacLeod to lead in prayer. Mr Leggott then proceeded to show a most informative set of slides of the trip to Fiji made by Rowland Ward and himself in 1991.

52 Notices of motion were read.

53 The session was closed with praise and prayer at 8.43pm

W P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.A.Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 8 THURSDAY 30 APRIL 1992, 9.03am.

54 The session was constituted with worship, led by the Moderator. Following prayer, he read Malachi 3 showing how the prophet looked forward to the coming of the glory of God in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ. We live in the day of the revelation of his glory, and we should expect his blessing to be upon us as we are faithful to him. We need to make the effort to reach out, and be relevant to every stratum of society. The minutes of session 7 were read and confirmed.

55 **ORDER OF THE DAY (RCA DELEGATE)**

The Convener of Inter-church Relations Committee introduced the Rev. D.K.Baird, minister of the Newcastle Reformed Church, to the Moderator, who welcomed him and invited him to address the court.

Mr Baird thanked the court for the welcome, expressing his churches' gratitude for the opportunity to address Synod. He made a personal apology for the inaccuracy of a remark made in the RCA's 1991 Synod

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Reports, which had stated that the PCEA had never yet reciprocated their invitations to send fraternal delegates.

Mr Baird reflected on two of the standing committee reports, where the RCA are struggling with similar issues. He was encouraged by the earnestness, warmth and reality of the Church Extension Report, but felt that it left us with the same questions as his own churches are asking: 'Why are we finding church extension so difficult?' Willingness? Leadership? In the Inter-church Relations report he found a number of parallels, since in some cases we are relating to the same churches. He particularly mentioned the OPC's idea to incorporate the Three Forms of Unity in their confessional symbols. This is a 'live' issue also between the RCA and PCEA, as well as within the RCA which have had a number of Scottish/Presbyterian men in their ministry. Mr Baird said that this is not an easy area, but the RCA applaud the OPC's initiative, and he encouraged us to take it up again.

He also referred to the Council of Reformed Churches, and to our 'guarded response' to an earlier suggestion of the RCA for inter-church cooperation.

Turning to the Reformed Ecumenical Council, Mr Baird said that his churches retained their membership hoping to accomplish reform. Specifically, RCA delegates to REC Athens will be proposing to the Council that the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Synodical) be asked to terminate their membership of the REC.

He said that the RCA's concern with 'issues' such as Word and Spirit reflected their desire to confront and deal with contemporary issues facing the church.

In closing, Mr Baird again stressed the things which we churches share in common, stating that the RCA believe there is mutual benefit in meeting together.

56 **INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE** (continued—see Article 47)

It was resolved

1. That the cost of the Convener's travelling to Melbourne for a meeting with representatives of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands [Liberated] be met from Synod General Fund.
2. That interested parties be encouraged to submit written comments to the Inter-Church Relations Committee about the relation between the 'Continental/Reformed' and 'Scottish/Presbyterian' Reformed traditions, and that the Committee respond to the OPC's question in this regard by 31 July 1992.
3. That Synod commission the Convener of the ICR Committee to represent our church at the forthcoming meeting of the Synod of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, and to convey our fraternal greetings to the brothers of those churches.
4. That our greetings be conveyed to the Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia, with the request that contact between our two denominations be revived, and that an invitation be issued for the RPCA to send a representative to the next, and subsequent ordinary meetings of this Court.
5. That Synod endorse the action of the Committee in inviting a representative of the Reformed Churches of Australia to attend this meeting, and direct that a similar invitation be extended for Synod 1993.
6. That we express our fraternal greetings to the brothers of the RCA Synod.
7. That our greetings be sent to the Reformed Churches of New Zealand, and the Committee instructed to maintain contact with these churches.

57 It was moved on notice that Synod commission Rev. E.R.Lee to represent our Church at the 1993 International Conference of Reformed Churches. The Moderator ruled this motion out of order. It was moved and seconded that the Moderator's ruling be overturned. This motion was defeated.

58 It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that

- a. Synod is pleased to note that at the last meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia determination was made to the effect that women be no longer admitted to the office of the ministry, and therefore this Synod, in a spirit of brotherly fellowship and encouragement, commend the Presbyterian Church of Australia for making this reform so evidently warranted by the Scriptures; and that
- b. Synod instruct the Clerk to convey the substance of the above clause, together with the greetings of this court, to the Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

59 **CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS 6.1-6.3** from 'Westminster Covenanter Presbyterian Church,' Rockhampton.
It was resolved that these items be received and tabled.

60 **CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 10** from Presbyterian Church in Korea.
It was resolved that the correspondence be received and that the warm fraternal greetings of this Synod be conveyed to the brethren of the Presbyterian Church in Korea (Kosin).

61 **CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 11** from Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia

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It was resolved that the item be received and noted.

62 **TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Rev. J.M.Cromarty, presented the report, and it was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved that

1. Synod commend Dr. Wes Hanna for the high standards maintained in his studies during 1991 and assure him and his family of continued prayerful interest and support during 1992.
2. Dr Hanna's formal theological studies conclude with the satisfactory completion of set work for 1992.
3. Synod note the expression of gratitude conveyed by Rev. Peter Hill and commend him for the diligent manner in which he has applied himself to his studies.

63 **CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS 5.1 TO 5.6** re Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia and Rev.B.Dole

The items of inward and outward correspondence were respectively received and confirmed.

64 The Synod resolved

4. The amount of \$2,328 paid by the E.P.C.A. with respect to B.Dole's undischarged debt be credited to the Training of Ministry Committee working funds and that despite certain unsatisfactory aspects this matter be deemed as finalised.

5. Sessions place before those of our male membership with the appropriate gifts such articles as 'What is a call to the ministry' by R.L.Dabney with the purpose of stirring their consciences to consider prayerfully the work of gospel proclamation.

65 **APPLICATION RE STUDENT FOR THE MINISTRY**

It was resolved that Synod meet in closed court.

It was resolved to meet in open court.

66 Notices of motion were read, and the session was closed with prayer at 12.28pm.

W P. Gadsby
Clerk

J.A.Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 9 THURSDAY 30 APRIL 1992, 1.34pm.

67 The session was constituted with praise and prayer. The minutes of sederunt 8 were read and confirmed.

68 **APPLICATION RE STUDENT FOR THE MINISTRY (continued-see Article 65)**

It was resolved that Synod meet in closed court. Discussion of this matter continued.

The Committee introduced an additional proposal: that Synod note with thankfulness to God Mr Graham Kinder's application for reception as a student for the ministry of the Gospel; and that Synod confirm Central Presbytery's decision to grant provisional recognition to Mr Kinder as from the commencement of his theological studies and assure Mr Kinder of our prayerful support. The proposal became the finding of the Court.

It was resolved that Synod meet in open court.

69 **ANSWER TO REASON OF DISSENT** (Ref. Article 27.1)

Mr R.S.Ward, Dr J.C.Andrews and the Clerk submitted the following answer to the reason of dissent tendered by Messrs Kerr and Neil (viz. 'the constitution requires office-bearers in administration in the church to be elected office-bearers who have signed the formula.')

The reason for dissent is either unnecessary or factually incorrect. The concern of the dissenters was that the trustees appointed by the Act be also office-bearers.

1. If by 'office-bearers in administration' is meant office-bearers who act as trustees, then obviously they are elected office-bearers who have signed the formula, since all office-bearers fulfil these requirements.

2. If by 'office-bearers in administration' is meant that those who hold the 'office' of trustee are constitutionally required to be an elected minister, elder or deacon who has signed the formula, then this reason is factually wrong. The PCEA constitution has no such requirement (even though Synod would be unlikely to appoint other than an office-bearer as a member of the trust corporation).

70 **CORRESPONDENCE ITEMS 6.1-6.3** (continued-see Article 59)

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod note the correspondence from the Rockhampton Westminster Covenanter Presbyterian Church and assure them of our interest in their future growth; requesting Northern Presbytery to contact and encourage them, and to report to Synod 1993.

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It was further moved and seconded that in the absence of adequate documentation from the 'Westminster Covenanter Presbyterian Church,' Synod proceed no further in this matter at this time but instruct the Inter-Church Relations Committee to provide appropriate guidance to the group at Rockhampton directing them to refer same to Northern Presbytery should this become appropriate.

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

71 **CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE**

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

1. That Sessions of our congregations be encouraged to monitor moral trends in society and to write on behalf of the congregation when necessary, to Local Members of Parliament, or to the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal (ABT), with signed petitions where appropriate—or ring the toll-free number, ph. 008/337417.

2. That Synod record its thanks to all those who have been involved with the production and distribution of our church magazine in 1991.

It was proposed

3. That Synod take up the matter of a suggestion of Rev. R.Ward that an improved reprint of the booklet, 'Psalm Singing in Scripture and History' be undertaken and funded by Synod. The proposal was defeated.

The Committee proposed

4. That Synod consider whether Psalmody as a division of Standing Committees should be discontinued.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod regard Psalmody as one of those matters belonging to the interest of the Church and Nation Committee and expects that it will be referred to from time to time in the Committee's report as may seem appropriate; Synod remind Sessions to monitor closely the use of versions of the Psalms so as to ensure accuracy and a reasonable commonality of tunes and metres with the 1650 Psalter, and further request that well-considered efforts further to improve the manner of praise be implemented.

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

Mr S.N.Ramsay dissented, with Mr E.R.Lee adhering, with reason: while not inconsistent with the constitution of this church, the resolution is inimical to uniformity of worship throughout congregations.

72 **BROADCASTING SERVICES BILL**

It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that Synod note current proposals before the Federal Government with respect to legislation regulating the introduction of 'Pay TV' into Australia; express its concern about the broadcasting of pornographic material, albeit under the current 'R' censorship classification; and therefore

a. Synod instruct the Convener to communicate to Government the concerns of the church re the proposed *Broadcasting Services Bill* and its provisions with respect to the broadcasting of pornographic programmes on 'Pay TV'; and

b. Synod note the information circulated by Senator Harridine's office and commends same to the attention of congregations; and

c. Synod urge congregations to endeavour to ensure that local MP's are made aware of the church's opposition to pornography in general and to the dissemination of same through any form of television broadcasting.

73 **DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING**

It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that in the light of difficulties confronting the church and mindful of the moral and spiritual malaise affecting our nation and in accordance with the express command of Scripture, as noted in the Westminster Confession (XXI.5), Synod appoint Saturday 7 November 1992 as a day of prayer and fasting, and instruct the Clerk duly to notify all presbyteries and sessions accordingly.

74 **REPRINT OF BOOKLET**

It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that in view of the advice of a renewed international interest in the Regulative Principle, Synod now resolve to have Rev. M.C.Ramsay's book, 'Purity of Worship' reprinted.

75 **REVIEW OF BANNER EDITORSHIP**

It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that as prescribed by Act of Synod 1989 (p.17 of minutes), Synod now review the appointment of the editor of the *Banner*.

It was resolved that the current editor be reappointed for a period of three years.

76 **YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mr A.Neil presented the report on behalf of the Committee. The report was received. It was resolved:

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1. That the thanks of Synod be conveyed to Mrs A.H.Steel, Mrs J.Ramsay, Mr J.Gregor and Rev. J.A. and Mrs Cromarty for their diligent work; and to Rev.H.C.Varnes for his labours as convener since 1988.
2. That Synod request all Sessions to persevere in their efforts to encourage the children to memorize the set portions of Scripture and the Shorter Catechism; and to encourage them to do the monthly Search Work and the annual Essay.
3. That the third biennial Family Conference be planned for the period recommended (Tuesday 28.12.93 to Saturday 1.01.94).

77 **SEARCH WORK**

It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that the Committee examine the series of 5 booklets produced by Scripture Gift Mission for members of their Young Searchers League with a view to its recommendation to the church in lieu of the Search Work presently set.

78 **TREASURER/AUDITOR**

It was moved on notice, seconded and resolved that the Auditor's report be received and the Synod note with appreciation the work done and offer its thanks to Mr T.O.Higgins for this.

79 **TIME/PLACE OF SYNOD 1993**

It was moved on notice, and seconded that Synod 1993 be held in Taree from 7.00pm on Monday April 26th to 12.30pm on Friday April 30th, with Tuesday morning set apart for a time of conference and prayer. It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to permit a motion that Synod 1993 be held in the Sydney area from 7.00pm Monday 19 April to Friday 23 April. The motion was proposed and seconded.

80 The session was closed with prayer at 5.37pm.

W P. Gadsby
Clerk

James A.Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 10 THURSDAY 30 APRIL 1992, 7.01pm.

81 The session was constituted with praise and prayer. The minutes of sederunt 9 were read and confirmed.

82 **TIME/PLACE OF SYNOD 1993** (continued—see Article 79)

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to permit an additional motion. Accordingly it was moved and seconded that Synod 1993 be held in Sydney area from 7.00pm Monday 12 April to Friday 16 April.

Upon being put to the vote, the first motion became the finding of the Court: Synod 1993 to be held in Taree from 7.00pm on Monday 26 April to Friday 30 April.

83 **MODERATOR FOR 1993**

The Administration Committee proposed that Synod appoint the Rev. W.M.Mackay as Moderator-elect for 1993-94.

The Rev. Trevor Leggott was nominated.

Upon being put to the vote, Rev. W.M.Mackay was appointed as Moderator-elect for 1993-94.

84 **LAW & ADVISORY**

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod note the returns under the Barrier Act; acknowledge greater time is appropriate for full consideration of the proposed Bill entitled 'The Synod of Eastern Australia Property (Amendment) Act' as approved by Synod 1992; direct the Synod Clerk to send copies of the Bill as approved to Presbyteries for approval or otherwise in terms of the Barrier Act 1697, Presbyteries to report the result by extract minute with the number of votes for and against to the Clerk of Synod by 31 December 1992; and further direct the Law and Advisory Committee to furnish information and help to Presbyteries requiring the same.

The Moderator ruled this motion out of order.

It was resolved that the ruling be overturned. Synod resumed consideration of the motion on notice. The motion became the finding of the court.

85 **REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS**

Synod Permanent Record. It was resolved that the permanent record be attested.

Northern Presbytery. It was resolved that the record be attested.

Central Presbytery. It was resolved that the record be attested.

Southern Presbytery. It was resolved that the record be attested.

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- 86 **ANSWER TO REASONS OF DISSENT** (ref. article 44.7)
Messrs Trevor Leggott and Peter Hill submitted the following answer:
The reasons for dissent are either unnecessary or factually incorrect because
1. The statement of mission policy is abundantly clear and in accordance with the standards and witness of the church;
 2. It is the intention of the policy, as stated, to give priority to the support of evangelistic missionary work which further the biblical faith as confessed in our standards. This priority does not preclude the extension of aid to certain organizations engaged in particular work which the church regards as furthering the kingdom of God.
- 87 **STANDING COMMITTEES**
It was resolved that the following revised Committee structure be adopted:
ADMINISTRATION AND ICR.
Clerk, Moderator, Moderator-elect, Assistant Clerk, Convener of Law and Advisory, P.A.L.Hill (for ICR business only).
CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY
J.A.McCallum (C), J.A.Cromarty, J.S.Graham, Hunter-Barrington elder N.McPherson.
CHURCH & NATION
A Tripovich (C), S.N.Ramsay, T.I.Leggott, K.MacLeod, R.L.Campbell, Hastings elder, Manning elder.
FINANCE
A Steel (C), T.Higgins, R.Alford, N.Kerr, Hawkesbury-Nepean elder.
8:14 FOUNDATION
Treasurer (C), Clerk of Synod, Moderator, plus 3 Presbytery representatives.
LAW & ADVISORY
R.S.Ward (C), W.P.Gadsby, W.M.Mackay, P.A.L.Hill, R.Lawson, K.Longworth
MISSIONS
W.M.Mackay (C), R.S.Ward, P.Hill, J.R.B.Webster, J.Kerridge(corresponding member). Advisers Drs Ramsay and Andrews.
PROVIDENT FUNDS
R.S.Ward (C), P.A.L.Hill J.Louden, N.Triffett, J.R.B.Webster
TRAINING OF MINISTRY
T.I.Leggott (C), J.A.Cromarty, J.A.McCallum, W.P.Gadsby, J.M.Cromarty (corresponding member).
YOUTH & FELLOWSHIP
N.McPherson (C), J.A.Cromarty, J.S.Graham, G.Hamilton, Hawkesbury-Nepean elder, Hunter-Barrington elder.
- 88 **THANKS TO MANNING CONGREGATION**
The Moderator expressed Synod's appreciation to the Manning Congregation, and especially the ladies, for their kind hospitality.
- 89 **THANKS TO CLERKS**
The Moderator expressed the court's thanks to the Clerks for their efficient work.
- 90 **PRINCIPAL ACTS**
It was resolved that the Clerk be empowered to draw up a list of Principal Acts of Synod 1992, and include it with the minutes.
- 91 **TREASURER'S REPORT**
Mr Steel reported on the condition of church finances, emphasizing the challenge facing us as a church to fund our various commitments.
- 92 **MINUTES**
The minutes of this final session were read and confirmed.
- 93 **CLOSURE**
The Moderator read Malachi 4, briefly addressed the court, and Synod 1992 was closed with praise and the benediction
- W P. Gadsby
Clerk
- J.A.Cromarty
Moderator

Acts of Synod 1992

Appended by the direction of Synod (see Article 90)

Class 1 (Barrier Act procedure)		Article
1	NSW Property (Amendment) Act	84
Class 2 (Other)		Article
1	Submission of Synod reports on computer disk	16.1
2	PCEA Representative at 1993 Free Church of Scotland Disruption Anniversary	16.9
3	Committee to arrange celebration of Disruption and founding of PCEA	16.16
4	Provision by Trustees of copies of deeds on request	18
5	St Andrew's, Richmond property	19
6	Mr G.J.Moody appointed to Victorian trust corporation	21.2
7	Presbyteries and church growth	24
8	Adoption of new Church Practice, chapter 6 (Common Procedure)	30.3
9	Adoption of new Church Practice, chapter 7 (Church Discipline)	30.4
10	Adoption of completed new Church Practice	30.5
11	Treasurer's and Finance Committees' Reports to be combined	33
12	8:14 Foundation loan to Ulverstone Congregation	36
13	8:14 Foundation loan repayments: Melbourne	37
14	Reimbursement of commissioner's travel expenses	38.2
15	Veto powers re investments	41
16	Amendment of Provident Fund Regulation C5	43.4
17	Statement of PCEA Mission Policy	44.7
18	Fiji Mission Work	44.10
19	Reception of Mr G.Kinder as Student for the Ministry	68
20	Reappointment of Banner editor for 3 years	75