

**MINUTES OF THE 148TH MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA**

**TAREE, NSW, 1995**

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**SESSION 1: FRIDAY, 7th APRIL, 1995, 4.00 p.m**

**95.1 OPENING**

Within the Taree Church Building on Friday, 7th April, 1995, at 4.00 p.m., the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, the Moderator, the Rev. T.I. Leggott presiding.

**95.2 RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS**

The Retiring Moderator (Rev. T.I. Leggott) read from Acts 4: 32 - 5: 11. Based on this section of Scripture, he then preached a sermon on the subject of Christian giving to the work of the Lord.

**95.3 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES**

The Certified Rolls of Presbyteries were tendered, with apologies for non-attendance from those marked † here-under:

**Northern Presbytery**

Armidale  
Brisbane  
Grafton  
Hastings

**Ministers**

T.I. Leggott  
W.J.W. Hanna  
R.W. Murray †  
A.L. Tripovich

**Commissioned Elders**

W. McKinnon  
J. Greensill  
R.L. Campbell †  
D. Hamilton

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Lismore	vacant	J.D. Ramsay
Maclean	K. MacLeod	J. McPhee
Synod Appointments:	S.N. Ramsay (retired)	
	E.R. Lee (retired) ‡	

**Central Presbytery**

Hawkesbury/Nepean	vacant	N. Kerr
Hunter/Barrington	vacant	P. Smith
Manning	W.P. Gadsby	K. Longworth
St. George's, Sydney	J.A. McCallum	A.H. Steel
Sydney South	vacant	N.A. McPherson

**Southern Presbytery**

Geelong	J.M. Cromarty	J.R.B. Webster
Melbourne	R.S. Ward	J. Louden
Ulverstone	P.A.L Hill	N.G. Triffett †
Synod Appointment:	W.M. Mackay	

‡ Apology until Saturday afternoon.

**95.4 WELCOMES**

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. S. Tamata, supplying in South Sydney. It was resolved that Mr. Tamata be associated with this Synod. The Moderator also welcomed Mr. Matthew Jacoby and Mr. Harry Klomp.

**95.5 ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Clerk sought the approval of the Court for the proposed order of business. It was agreed that this order be followed.

**95.6 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR**

The Clerk reported that the Rev. R.S. Ward of Melbourne was Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. It was further moved and seconded that the present Moderator, Rev. T.I. Leggott, continues in this office until such time as Synod addresses itself to the serious circumstances presently existing in Southern Presbytery, and further that Synod invites the Moderator-elect, Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward, to deliver his prepared address in the evening session today. The second motion was put against the first, and the second motion was preferred. On being put to the vote, the second motion was carried. Mr. Mackay tendered simple dissent.

**95.7 THANKS TO RETIRING MODERATOR**

It was resolved that the Retiring Moderator be thanked for his work during the year and for his sermon.

**95.8 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF *PRO RE NATA* SYNOD**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes as circulated be confirmed. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the motion be now put. This motion was carried. It was resolved that the minutes as circulated be confirmed.

### **95.9 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Clerk presented the Report of the Administration Committee. The report was received. It was resolved that:

1. Synod express its sympathy for all those who have been bereaved since the last annual meeting of Synod.

Rev. S.N. Ramsay led in prayer.

2. The resignation of the Rev. J.M. Cromarty as Assistant Clerk be accepted reluctantly and with regret, as from the rising of Synod, and that he be thanked for the contribution which he has made to the smooth running of Synod over a number of years.

### **95.10 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 6.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

T.I. Leggott  
Moderator

### **SESSION 2: FRIDAY, 7th APRIL, 1995, 7.05 p.m.**

The session was constituted with praise and prayer.

### **95.11 ADDRESS FROM MODERATOR-ELECT**

The Moderator-elect read from 2 Corinthians 4: 1-18, following which he gave an address on the development of the present religious make-up of Australia, and on the variations within it. He then spoke of the position of the P.C.E.A. within this environment, and gave some suggestions for the way forward.

### **95.12 MINUTES**

The minutes of Session 1 were read and confirmed, with some corrections.

### **95.13 THANKS TO MODERATOR-ELECT**

It was resolved that the thanks of the Synod be conveyed to the Moderator-elect for his address, and that it be published in the Presbyterian Banner.

### **95.14 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE(cont.)**

It was resolved that:

3. Synod does now call for nominations for the position of Assistant Clerk, the appointment to take effect from the rising of Synod.

After some discussion, it was agreed to defer consideration of this matter.

The Clerk intimated that the Administration Committee had agreed to fall from Proposed Deliverance 4. It was proposed on notice and seconded that Synod approve the following guidelines for the appointment of a Procurator:

- a. The Procurator shall only be consulted on the direct instructions of Synod.

- b. Such a request for advice shall be conveyed to the procurator by the Clerk or his nominee.

On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

5. The Clerk be authorised to invite Dr. David Mitchell to accept the appointment of Procurator to this Church.
6. Act 1 Class 2, Synod 1983, be amended by the addition to paragraph 4 of the following words:

“Such an appeal or complaint is heard by the Synod in the usual way for an appeal or complaint against the finding of a lower court, that is, with both the appellant or complainant and the Committee at the bar of Synod.”

### **95.15 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with the benediction at 9.15 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

T.I. Leggott  
Moderator

### **SESSION 3: SATURDAY, 8th APRIL, 1995, 9.00 a.m.**

The session was opened with praise and prayer and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m.  
The minutes of Session 2 were read and confirmed.

### **95.16 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Cont.)**

The Clerk introduced Proposed Deliverance 18.

18. It was resolved that Correspondence Items 2, 8, 9, 10 and other material likely to be dealt with in closed court be supplied to the members of Synod, with the direction that they be kept private.

### **95.17 ASSISTANT CLERK**

It was resolved that the Rev. P.A.L. Hill be appointed as Assistant Clerk from the rising of Synod. Mr. Hill indicated his willingness to accept this office.

### **95.18 MOTION ON NOTICE**

It was moved on notice and seconded that as first business in Session 3:

1. The Synod now deals with the reference from the Southern Presbytery.
2. The assessors to Southern Presbytery be invited now to address Synod concerning the matters in which they have been involved in Southern Presbytery,
3. The Synod now re-affirm the appointment of the four assessors to Southern Presbytery with authority to participate in all matters before the court.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

*It was resolved to meet in closed court.*

It was moved and seconded that the reference be sustained.

A second motion was proposed that the reference be not sustained, and that the whole Presbytery be exhorted to brotherly and harmonious action in the future.

The second motion was put against the first, and, on being put to the vote, the original motion was preferred. The motion was then put to the vote, and was carried.

Mr. Ward dissented with reasons which are held *in retentis*.

Mr. Mackay and Mr. Loudon adhered to the dissent with reasons.

Messrs Hill and Cromarty were removed from the bar.

It was resolved that a committee of Messrs Hill, Hanna and Cromarty be appointed to answer the reasons for dissent.

It was resolved that Synod continue its remit to the assessor elders to the Southern Presbytery, to include all Presbytery business and that the Synod direct Presbytery to resolve for the good of the Lord's cause and the glory of His name the difficulties being presently experienced in the Southern Presbytery and report back on Monday.

*It was agreed to meet in open court.*

#### **95.19 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Cont.)**

It was resolved that:

7. When deemed appropriate, Synod may grant the privilege of the floor (to speak but not to vote) to representatives of churches with which we have fraternal relationships.

Mr. Tripovich tendered simple dissent.

#### **95.20 WELCOME**

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Richard Wilson as a visitor to the Synod of Eastern Australia.

#### **95.21 ADMINISTRATION REPORT (Cont.)**

It was resolved that:

8. Correspondence item 1 be received and noted.

The Committee agreed to fall from Proposed Deliverance 9 regarding Correspondence Item 2.

It was resolved that:

10. Correspondence item 3 be taken with the report of the Law and Advisory Committee.

The Clerk asked the permission of the Court to present an amended Proposed Deliverance 11, to wit, that Correspondence item 4 be taken with the report of the Law and Advisory Committee. It was resolved that permission be granted.

It was resolved that:

11. Correspondence item 4 be taken with the report of the Law and Advisory Committee.
12. Correspondence item 5 be taken with the report of the Law and Advisory Committee.
13. Correspondence item 7 be received and that the Clerk be directed to write to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia, thanking them for their fraternal greetings.
14. Correspondence item 8 be considered under "Causes."
15. Correspondence item 9 be considered under "Causes."
16. The following examiners of records be appointed:

Synod Permanent Record	Rev. W.M. Mackay.
Northern Presbytery	Rev. W.P. Gadsby and South Sydney elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. P.A.L. Hill and Maclean elder
Southern Presbytery	Rev. J.A. McCallum and Manning elder.
17. The Missions Report be taken in the Saturday evening session, but that the Missions Committee be reprimanded for the lateness of the report.
19. That Correspondence Item 12 be received and that the Clerk be directed to reply thanking the Free Reformed Churches of Australia for their greetings.
20. Synod record its thanks and appreciation to the Manning River Congregation for providing hospitality to this Synod.
21. Presbyteries and committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.

## **95.22 CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE**

The report was presented by the Convener, the Rev. P.A.L. Hill.

It was moved on notice and seconded that:

whereas the Report of the Church Extension and Supply Committee contains a Congregational Report from the Melbourne Congregation which contains inappropriate comments concerning actions taken by the Southern Presbytery, therefore, the Report be received with the exception of the Melbourne Congregation Report.

The Moderator ruled that the motion was out of order, as the Congregational Reports did not form part of the Committee Report.

It was resolved the report be received.

**95.23 CLOSURE**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

T.I. Leggott  
Moderator

**SESSION 4: SATURDAY, 8th APRIL, 1995, 7.00 p.m.**

The session was constituted with prayer and praise at 7.00 p.m.

It was agreed to defer the reading of the minutes of session 3 until the next session.

**95.24 MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Rev. W.M. Mackay) presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. A period of discussion followed. It was resolved that:

1. Synod expresses its continuing interest in supporting Christian witness among the Jews, especially those who are looking for the coming of the Messiah.
2. Synod offers its prayerful support to Leone Tupua as he ministers to the families in his care and encourages him in his theological studies.
3. Synod renews for a further 3 years from the rising of the Synod the authorisation for Leone Tupua to administer the sacraments.
4. Synod encourages Rev. Sam Tamata, accompanied by Rev. Trevor Leggott, to visit Fiji and prepare recommendations for the further development of the work.
5. Synod continues to support the work of the Hospital in Lakhnadon, the health visiting work in Chhapara, the school work in Chhapara and the work of the Free Church of Central India.
6. Synod recognises that, for the time being, financial contributions from congregations or individuals for the orphans in India should be sent via the Foreign Missions Board in Scotland.
7. Synod extends a warm welcome to Dr Dennis Muldoon and sends greetings to Mr Tigi Verghis in New Zealand.
8. Synod gives thanks that, in South Africa, the missionaries and their families have been preserved from violence and injury during the year; and that the work of the Bible School goes forward with God's blessing.
9. Synod prays for the work and witness of the ministers of the church in South Africa and for those missionaries who have suffered from ill health.
10. Synod prays that the Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church in Peru would display the fullest characteristics of a Christian church in all its endeavours and that St Andrew's College would continue to be a centre for academic and spiritual service to the Peruvian nation.

### **95.25 MISSIONS SPEAKERS**

After praise and Scripture reading the Convener introduced Dr. Dennis Muldoon to the Moderator and invited him to address the Synod. Dr. Muldoon spoke, describing his work in India. The Moderator thanked Dr. Muldoon for his address.

The Convener then introduced the Rev. P.A.L. Hill, recently returned from travelling in the Middle East and working with the Middle East Reformed Fellowship in Cyprus. Mr. Hill described the work in which he was involved there and the things that he had seen. The Moderator thanked Mr. Hill for his address.

### **95.26 MISSIONS REPORT (Cont.)**

The Convener continued to present the Proposed Deliverances. It was resolved that:

11. Synod expresses to Mrs Margaret Hockett its gratitude for her generous donation.
12. Synod recognises the Middle East Reformed Fellowship and its statements on its general purposes, policies and programs as worthy of its support.
13. Synod expresses its thanks to God for the Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund and the opportunities for service that it offers.
14. Synod supports the Missions Committee in its interpretation of the Regulations governing this Fund.
15. Synod accepts the following areas as suitable for diaconal support from the Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund.  
India, especially the Community Health Project in Chhapara, Fiji, South Africa, Peru, Christian Witness to Israel, Aboriginal Support, Middle East Reformed Fellowship and General Disaster Relief.
16. Synod thanks John Kerridge for his continued support in circulating the missionary prayer notes.

It was agreed that Proposed Deliverance 17 be deferred until a detailed budget is produced for a later session.

18. Synod reminds congregations that funds should not be sent to the Mission fields directly, but co-ordinated through the Committee and the Synod Treasurer as indicated in Synod legislation.
19. Synod recommends that Deacons' Courts allocate a percentage of their ordinary income to Synod funds, including Missions among these.

### **95.27 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 9.30 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

T.I. Leggott  
Moderator

**SESSION 5: MONDAY, 10th APRIL, 1995, 9.00 a.m.**

The session was constituted with praise and prayer.

The minutes of sessions 3 and 4 were read and confirmed, with some alterations.

**95.28 CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY (Cont.)**

It was resolved that:

1. The Armidale and Ulverstone congregations be granted Stipend Relief, for the 1995/1996 ecclesiastical year, of up to 50 % of the minimum stipend on a needs basis.
2. At the next Synod a day be appointed for conference on Biblical evangelism and Church extension, with the Rev. Dr. Reg. Matthews, Home Missions director of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, being invited to lead the day's activities.
3. Synod instructs Presbyteries to forward to the convener of the Church Extension and Supply Committee proposals for Church planting or strengthening works within the bounds, with a view to a recommendation being made to the next Synod for the commencement in the course of 1996 of a new or renewed work actively supported by the denomination.
4. (a) the Church Extension and Supply Committee be authorised to arrange a series of advertisements in "New Life" and/or other Christian magazines and papers soliciting the interest of Christians seeking a Biblical Church and offering free copies of the booklet "An Introduction to the P.C.E.A.", and  
  
(b) Synod authorises the Committee to raise such monies as are needed for this project by direct appeal to the congregations.

**95.29 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

The Moderator vacated the chair which was occupied by the Rev. W.M. Mackay. The Convener (Rev. T.I. Leggott) presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received.

*It was resolved to meet in closed court.*

*It was resolved to meet in open court.*

After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod encourages Mr. Graham Kinder in the further undertaking of his theological studies and commends him for his continuing efforts, assures him of our prayers for himself and Margaret, and agrees to pay college fees and book allowance for 1995.
2. Synod congratulates Mr. Harry Klomp on the completion of his studies and prays that he might know the guidance and blessing of the Lord for his future ministry.
3. Synod congratulates Mr. Chris Tuck for the results achieved in his tertiary studies, assures him of our prayerful support for himself and his family and agrees to pay university fees (but not H.E.C.S.), book allowance and a living allowance of up to \$50.00 per week on a needs basis for 1995/96.

4. Synod encourages Mr. Leone Tupua to take up theological studies through correspondence and agrees to pay course fees.

### **95.30 YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Mr. Neil McPherson) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod express sincere appreciation to Rev. and Mrs. Jim Cromarty and to Mrs. Irene Steel for their continued interest and effort in the Youth and Fellowship of our Church.
2. Printed copies of Search Work be made available to Sessions upon request.

### **95.31 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Rev. A.L. Tripovich) presented this report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved. that:

1. Ministers and Sessions keep themselves informed of current trends in Religion and Morals within our nation, and inform and instruct our people accordingly, and make public comment where possible when appropriate.

It was proposed that:

2. This Synod set aside a time for informal conference to consider the substance of the Report on the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, with a prayerful view to ...
  - a. Honest assessment of our condition as part of Christ's Church;
  - b. Careful consideration of factors which may be responsible for our apparent lack of growth and smallness in Australia;
  - c. Suggestive areas of improvement in our witness in Australia;
  - d. Possible use of legitimate means by which the gospel of Christ may be communicated to those in darkness in the community around us, and outside our church buildings.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to allow the moving of the following amendment:

That this Synod direct Sessions to consider the substance of the Report on the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, with a prayerful view to:

- a. Honest assessment of our condition as part of Christ's Church;
- b. Careful consideration of factors which may be responsible for our apparent lack of growth and smallness in Australia;
- c. Suggestive areas of improvement in our witness in Australia;
- d. Possible use of legitimate means by which the gospel of Christ may be communicated to those in darkness in the community around us, and outside our church buildings,

and report on same to the Committee.

In view of the shortness of time, the Committee agreed to fall from its proposal. On being put to the vote, the amendment became the finding of the court.

3. Throughout our congregations, special attention be given to earnest prayer that the Lord will turn us to himself and revive us again - in the spirit of Psalm 85.

### **95.32 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read. The session was closed with the singing of part of Psalm 85 and with prayer at 1.30 p.m..

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

T.I. Leggott  
Moderator

### **SESSION 6 : MONDAY, 10th APRIL, 1995, 2.15 p.m.**

The session was constituted with praise and prayer at 2.15 p.m..

The minutes of session 5 were read and confirmed.

### **95.33 PSALMODY**

The Rev. S.N. Ramsay presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved that:

1. Synod express thanks to those who have devoted time and talents to the conduct of Psalmody Conventions.
2. That delegates bring to the notice of their respective courts the salient points raised in this Report.

### **95.34 PUBLICATIONS**

Mr. Tripovich then presented the Publications Report, which was received.

### **95.35 PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT**

The editor of *The Presbyterian Banner* presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received.

It was resolved that:

1. The Synod express and record its gratitude to the Editor of *The Presbyterian Banner*, together with those who help in its production and postage throughout the year, and that the editor, the Rev. W.P. Gadsby, be appointed for a further three years.

### **95.36 FINANCE & PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE (inc. TREASURER'S and AUDITOR'S REPORT)**

The Convener and General Treasurer of Synod, Mr. A.H. Steel, presented the Finance and General Treasurer's Reports. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

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1. Synod record our gratitude to God for the financial provision made during 1994 which has enabled us to meet all our financial needs for another year.
2. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend and Benefits (excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 1995/96 remain at the full flow on of CPI increase. In the event of a decrease in the CPI in any quarter, a "Nil" movement be taken into account.
3. Synod remind Deacons' Courts that the set stipend is a minimum stipend and they be encouraged to keep this well in mind when providing for ministers and their families.
4. The total cost of Synod each year (on a per commissioner basis) be advised by the General Treasurer after each Synod to Deacons' Courts and Presbyteries. This amount to be remitted to the General Treasurer by 30th June by Deacons' Courts for congregational representatives and by presbyteries for ministers who do not represent a congregation. In the case where a charge is not represented at the Synod, that Deacons' Court to make a contribution at the rate of one commissioner. Synod host congregation being exempted.
5. The General Treasurer's action in providing for the deficit of \$10 105 in the Church Extension Fund from the General Fund be confirmed.

It was proposed that:

6. The General Treasurer's action in meeting the net residual costs of Southern Presbytery Assessors' expenses of \$622 from the General Fund be confirmed.

It was moved on notice that the General Treasurer's action in meeting the net residual costs of Southern Presbytery Assessors' expenses of \$622 from the General Fund be confirmed on this occasion; any future expenses to be the responsibility of Presbytery unless specifically authorised by Synod.

The amendment was put against the committee's proposal. The original proposal was preferred. On being put to the vote, the proposal became the finding of the court.

#### **95.37 8:14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Mr. A.H. Steel) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. In addition, the Convener presented a Supplementary Report. It was resolved that this report be received.

It was resolved that repayments of the loan from Missions Relief Fund and/or 8:14 Foundation by the Armidale Deacons' Court be at the rate of not less than \$100 per week, the rate to be reviewed by Synod 1996.

#### **95.38 PROVIDENT FUNDS**

The Convener for Provident Funds business (Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod request that any arrears for 1994 be remitted promptly.
2. Synod request Deacons' Courts to note that the 1995 levy is \$2,300 (10% of minimum stipend 1/7/94 - 30/6/95), not less than 50% to be paid by 30th June 1995 and the balance by year end.

3. The basic rate of the weekly pension be increased from \$55 to \$56 (married) and from \$38.80 to \$40 with effect from 1/07/1995.

#### **95.39 N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION**

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received.

#### **95.40 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION**

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. After discussion the report was received. There were no deliverances in connection with the report.

#### **95.41 TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA**

The Rev. Dr. W. Hanna presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. After discussion, the report was received.

#### **95.42 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. The Committee's actions as reported be endorsed.
2. The Committee be encouraged to maintain its contact with true churches both in Australia and overseas, and particularly our fellow ICRC members, in the interests of advancing the cause of Christ's Kingdom in the world.

#### **95.43 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward) presented the report. It was moved and seconded that the report be received.

It was moved on notice as an amendment that the Law and Advisory Report be received, with the deletion of Paragraph 8, page 52, commencing with the words "Draft B retains the radical feature ..."

The amendment was put against the original motion. The original motion was preferred. On being put to the vote, it was resolved that the report be received.

It was resolved that:

1. The status of ministers in regard to Workcover legislation as given in the report be noted.
2. In the proposed Bill, the body corporate be entitled as at present: *The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia..*
3. In the proposed Bill a clause in usual form allowing joint use of property with other denominations be included thus:

NEW SECTION 12

1. In this section, 'scheme of co-operation' means a scheme entered into by the body corporate with the permission of Synod:
  - (a) with or involving a church of another denomination or any activity of such a church, and
  - (b) involving the body corporate.
2. The body corporate may permit property to be used and managed for the purposes of a scheme of co-operation on such terms and conditions as the Synod determines.
3. Any proceeds derived by the body corporate from such a scheme of co-operation are to be applied in the manner decided by Synod.
4. Conditions that the Synod may determine under this section include:
  - (a) conditions with respect to the making of monetary contributions towards the acquisition, construction, alteration, maintenance or repair of property vested in or held on behalf of a co-operating church or congregation,
  - and
  - (b) the giving or taking of security or charge over any property.
5. Property may be used in accordance with a scheme of arrangement except to the extent that the property is subject to an express trust expressly forbidding its use in that manner.
6. Property is not to be regarded as property that is subject to an express trust expressly forbidding its use under a scheme of co-operation merely because it is held on trust for worship within, or for the purposes of, the Church.
4. In the proposed Bill reference to the St. George's Presbyterian Church Act be included as set out in the report:

#### NEW SECTION 13

Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Act numbered Vic 36 of 1872, known as the St. George's Presbyterian Church Act, assented to on 9th August 1872, continues in force.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod now receive the suggested draft amendment submitted to the Committee in November, 1994, by St. Georges Session, and that this draft amendment be remitted to lower courts (Presbyteries, Sessions, and Deacons' Courts) for their consideration - Sessions to advise the Law and Advisory Committee of their approval of the proposed amendment, suggested changes or disapproval of it by 30th November, 1995; the Law and Advisory Committee to transmit to Synod 1996 any suggested changes together with a recommendation regarding the adoption of the draft amendment or otherwise. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

The Committee agreed to fall from Proposed Deliverances 5, 6, 7 and 8.

#### **95.44 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

The session closed with prayer at 6.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

T.I. Leggott  
Moderator

**SESSION 7: MONDAY, 10th APRIL, 1995, 7.00 p.m.**

The session was constituted with praise and prayer at 7.00 p.m.

The minutes of session 6 were read and confirmed.

**95.45 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4 - OVERTURE FROM CENTRAL PRESBYTERY**

Mr. A. Steel stated the following overture on behalf of the Central Presbytery:

WHEREAS it would, in this court's opinion, be of advantage to our church and its ministers in N.S.W. for them to be deemed as workers for the purposes of the N.S.W. Workers'

Compensation Act:

NOW THEREFORE the Central Presbytery overtures the Synod of Eastern Australia to take these premises into consideration and take the necessary steps to have P.C.E.A. ministers in N.S.W. deemed as workers pursuant to the N.S.W. Workers' Compensation Act, or do otherwise as in its wisdom seems best.

It was resolved that the overture be received. Mr. Steel and Mr. N. Kerr spoke in support of the overture. It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted as stated.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted in the following terms:

That the matter be remitted to the Provident Funds Committee with a view to a report being provided at an early date to Presbyteries in order that the matter be matured for Synod 1996.

On the amendment being put against the motion, the amendment was preferred and became the motion. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**95.46 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3 - OVERTURE FROM SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY**

The following overture was stated on behalf of the Southern Presbytery by the Rev. P.A.L. Hill:

WHEREAS

- a. the logo/crest most commonly used of recent years originates in the design of William McIntyre in *The Voice in the Wilderness* .1846-52, and thus has an excellent claim to be the crest of the church,
- b. there is a lack of consistency in the use of a logo/crest in the church, and
- c. it is also desirable that there be some guidance for the use of a logo/crest:

NOW THEREFORE the Southern Presbytery respectfully overtures the Synod of Eastern Australia to take these premises into consideration and approve the form of logo or crest commonly used on the Presbyterian Banner, with the addition of three dates (1560, 1647, 1846) beneath it as the style officially recognised, recommends its use by courts of the church and committees of Synod where appropriate, but disapproves of its use by individuals without permission first sought and obtained, or to do otherwise for this object as it in their wisdom may seem best.

It was resolved that the overture be received. It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted. Mr. Hill spoke in support of the overture. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

**95.47 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 5 - REFERENCE FROM NORTHERN PRESBYTERY**

The Clerk presented the reference, concerning discrepancies between the Handbook of Practice and Procedure and the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland (Blue Book) on behalf of the Northern Presbytery. It was resolved that the reference be received. It was moved and seconded that this matter be referred to the Law and Advisory Committee for their consideration and action and report to Synod 1996. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**95.48 MOTION ON NOTICE**

It was resolved that all relevant decisions bearing on the Law and Advisory Committee be gathered and included in the Decision Book.

**95.49 150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Rev. E.R. Lee) submitted the report. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved that:

- 1a. The contents of the commemoration booklet already agreed upon by Synod include material on our history and principles; on our standards with particular reference to the Scriptures; on the Gospel we preach; our missionary interests and our attitude to relevant social issues.
- 1b. The contributors for the various sections of the booklet be appointed by the editors as soon as possible.
- 1c. Publication of the booklet be put into the hands of the Publications Committee.
2. Synod invite the Free Church of Scotland to send a delegate to share in our Synod celebration and to preach in various centres of our Church, the choice of the delegate being left to the Free Church.
- 3a. A day of Synod be set aside for the 150th anniversary celebration, and that the program of each sederunt comprise a paper followed by discussion reflection and prayer.
- 3b. The morning sederunt begin with an address by the Free Church of Scotland delegate followed by the first paper.
- 3c. The papers to be given include:
  - i. 1846-1996 - Reasons for gratitude to God and reasons for humiliation before God. (Rowland Ward)
  - ii. The Contribution of our Church to the wider Christian Community in Australia. (Edwin Lee)
  - iii. Renewal and Revival - The way forward for our Church. (John McCallum)
- 3d. These meetings be held in public.
4. In the light of the cost of producing a commemorative video, we proceed no further with this consideration.

Mr Gadsby indicated that he and the Rev. J.A. Cromarty wished to resign as editors of the commemorative booklet. It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to allow the following motion to be put:

That Messrs E.R. Lee and R.S. Ward be appointed editors of the proposed commemoration booklet.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

#### **95.50 ASSESSORS TO CENTRAL PRESBYTERY**

It was resolved that the remit of the assessors to the Central Presbytery be continued, to be reviewed at Synod 1996.

#### **95.51 MISSIONS BUDGET**

The Missions Convener (Rev. W.M. Mackay) presented the Missions Budget for 1995 as below:

##### **Missions Report**

##### Missions General and Fiji

Balance (General)	\$ 5 501
(Fiji)	<u>6 889</u>
	12 390
Income	<u>26 610</u> - if giving at 1994 level
	39 000
Expenditure (Fiji)	17 000
(MERF Fare)	2 100
Closing Balance (1995)	<u>12 000</u>
	31 100

Remaining amount available - \$7 900 + additional donations above 1995

Balance	C.W.I.	25 %
	Dumisani	25 %
	Peruvian Church	12.5 %
	Col. San Andres	12.5 %

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##### Missions Relief

India	17 000
D. Muldoon	2 000
MERF (diaconal)	2 000
Peru (diaconal)	2 000
Fiji (diaconal)	2 000
South Africa (diaconal)	2 000

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AEF (aboriginal diaconal)	2 000	
C.W.I. (Russian refugees)	2 000	
Emergency	<u>5 000</u>	
Total Expenditure	36 000	1994 Expenditure - \$21 172

It was resolved that the Missions Budget for 1995 be approved.

### **95.52 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the Session was closed with prayer at 9.30 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

T.I. Leggott  
Moderator

### **SESSION 8: 11th APRIL, 1995, 9.00 a.m.**

The session was opened with praise and prayer.

The minutes of session 7 were read and confirmed.

### **95.53 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

It was resolved that the following Committee structure be adopted:

#### **ADMINISTRATION and INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS**

Clerk (Convener Administration), Moderator, Moderator-elect, Assistant Clerk, Convener of Law and Advisory, W.P. Gadsby (Convener I.C.R.).

#### **CHURCH EXTENSION and SUPPLY**

P.A.L.. Hill (Convener), J.M. Cromarty, Geelong elder, Melbourne elder, Ulverstone elder.

#### **CHURCH and NATION**

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

#### **FINANCE AND PROVIDENT FUNDS**

A.H. Steel (Convener), R.S. Ward (Convener, Provident Funds), N. Kerr, N. McPherson, K.I. Kerr.

#### **8:14 FOUNDATION**

Treasurer (Convener), Clerk of Synod, Moderator, plus one representative from each Presbytery.

#### **LAW and ADVISORY**

W.P. Gadsby, J.A. Cromarty, Synod Clerk, A.L. Tripovich, Manning elder.

#### **MISSIONS**

T.I. Leggott (Convener), E.R. Lee, Dr. Helen Ramsay, Maclean elder, J. Greensill, W.M. Mackay.

#### **TRAINING OF MINISTRY**

J.M. Cromarty (Convener), J.A. McCallum, P.A.L. Hill, J. Ramsay, W.J.W. Hanna.

#### **YOUTH and FELLOWSHIP**

N.A. McPherson (Convener), A.L. Tripovich, J.A. Cromarty, Hunter elder, Glen Hamilton, Brisbane elder.

#### **95.54 REPORT OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS**

The Permanent Record and the Minutes of the three Presbyteries were reported to be in order and Synod accordingly resolved that they be attested.

#### **95.55 REPORT FROM SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY**

Synod received a report from the Southern Presbytery regarding Mr. Matthew Jacoby, who applied to be received as a student for the ministry. It was resolved that Synod endorse the action of the Southern Presbytery in admitting Mr. Matthew Jacoby to provisional recognition as a student for the ministry.

#### **95.56 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Mr. T.I. Leggott) presented a further proposed deliverance. It was resolved that Synod encourages Mr. Matthew Jacoby in the continuance of his theological studies, and subsequent tertiary studies, and agrees to pay his college fees and book allowance for 1995/96, subject to his signing the student bond.

#### **95.57 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 1996**

It was resolved that the Armidale congregation be given the first option to host the Annual Synod of 1996, but that if this is not suitable to the Armidale congregation, the Administration Committee be empowered to make other arrangements after appropriate consultation.

It was moved and seconded that Synod 1996 be held from Wednesday, March 27 at 4.00 p.m. till Tuesday, April 2, with specific arrangements being left in the hands of the Administration Committee. An amendment was moved that the next Annual Synod be held from Monday March 25th to Friday March 27th. On being put against the motion the motion was preferred. On being put to the vote the motion became the finding of the court.

#### **95.58 CAUSES**

*It was agreed to meet in closed court.*

#### **95.59 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 10 - APPEAL AGAINST NON-TRANSMISSION**

The Rev. W.M. Mackay took the Chair, and the Rev. P.A.L. Hill was appointed Clerk *pro tem*. Both Mr Klomp and the Administration Committee were called to the bar. Mr. Klomp presented his appeal against the decision not to transmit his petition. Dr. Hanna appeared on behalf of the Administration Committee. Mr. Klomp exercised his right of reply, after which members of the court addressed questions to Mr. Klomp and to the Administration Committee. The parties were removed from the bar. It was resolved that the parties be excluded from the court. It was resolved that the decision of the Administration Committee not to transmit the Petition be upheld on the grounds that the Petitions are still before the Presbytery, but that Presbytery be directed to deal with this matter as soon as possible. The parties were recalled to the bar, and the decision was intimated to them. Both Mr. Klomp and the Administration Committee indicated their acquiescence. Mr. Leggott resumed the chair.

#### **95.60 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 8 - PETITION FROM MR. H. KLOMP**

The Administration Committee recommended that the petition be not received. It was moved and seconded that the Synod receive and deal with only part 2 of the petition submitted by Mr. Klomp. It was further moved and seconded that the petition be not received but that the Southern Presbytery be directed to supply to Mr. Klomp its reasons for deferring his trials for licence. The second motion was put against the first, and the second was preferred. This motion was put against the Committee's recommendation and was preferred. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Tripovich tendered his dissent from the failure to accept the motion to receive and deal with Part II of Mr Klomp's petition regarding licensing.

Mr. Klomp was recalled and the decision of the court was intimated to him. Mr. Klomp indicated that he resigned as a student for the ministry and that he did not acquiesce in the decision of the court.

#### **95.61 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 9 - PETITION FROM MR. H. KLOMP.**

It was moved and seconded that the petition be not received. The motion was carried, none opposing, but with 3 abstentions. The petitioner was called in and the decision intimated to him. He stated that he was resigning as an elder of the Melbourne Congregation, and as a member of the Church, on the condition that his petition to Presbytery regarding monies owing to him would stand. Mr Klomp reminded the Court that the Melbourne Deacons' Court had indemnified him for all monies owing to Synod. He also stated that he was falling from all other petitions and 'resigning from everything.'

*It was agreed to meet in open court.*

#### **95.62 ADJOURNMENT**

The time being 12.07 p.m., it was resolved that Synod adjourn for 30 minutes to allow Southern Presbytery to meet.

#### **95.63 RESUMPTION**

Synod resumed at 12.40 p.m. The Clerk of the Southern Presbytery reported that at a meeting today unanimity had been found in the following terms:

“Mr. Ward had been granted leave to make the following statement:

Mr Ward stated that it was clear to him that some brothers had been offended by some of his actions in the Presbytery of recent times and unreservedly apologised to the Presbytery. He assures Presbytery that he will endeavour to act with greater wisdom and sensitivity in the future, and trusts his brothers will also seek to work with him, so that together under the Lord's hands Christ's Kingdom will be advanced.

Presbytery resolved unanimously as follows:

Presbytery acknowledges:

1. the serious breakdown in relationships within its bounds,
2. the dishonour this is bringing to Christ, the King and Head of the Church,
3. the detrimental effect this is having on the members of the Church in Melbourne,
4. the anxious concern it is causing the Church at large.

To resolve these matters honourably, as members of Presbytery we commit ourselves before God to apply the principles of Ephesians 4: 1-3 and 29-32, and in acknowledgment

of the requirement of our ordination vows and that we are prepared to make these declarations in the presence of Synod.”

The Moderator led the Court in prayer, giving thanks for the resolution achieved.

**95.64 ANSWERS TO REASONS FOR DISSENT BY MR. WARD**

*It was agreed to meet in closed court.*

Mr. Cromarty presented the answers of the committee appointed to answer Mr. Ward's reasons for dissent held *in retentis*. It was agreed that these answers be also held *in retentis*.

*It was agreed to meet in open court.*

**95.65 MODERATOR ELECT FOR 1996**

It was resolved that the Moderator-elect for 1996 be Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward.

**95.66 PRINCIPAL ACTS**

It was resolved that the Clerk draw up a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 1995, and include it with the minutes.

**95.67 THANKS**

A vote of thanks was passed in favour of the Moderator.

**95.68 TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Steel indicated the financial commitments made by this Synod.

**95.69 THANKS**

A vote of thanks was passed in favour of the Synod Treasurer.

It was resolved that an amount of \$1000 be made available to the congregation hosting Synod 1996 on a needs basis to assist with catering.

**95.70 MINUTES**

The Minutes of this closing Session were read and confirmed.

**95.71 CLOSURE**

Synod 1995 concluded with the singing of Psalm 143: 6-8 and with prayer at 1.20 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

T.I. Leggott  
Moderator

**Acts of Synod 1995**

**Appended by the Direction of Synod (see Article 94.52)**

**Class 1 (Barrier act Procedures)**

Nil

<b>Class 2 (Others)</b>	<b>Article</b>
1. Appeals/complaints against Administration Committee	95.14.6
2. Appointment of Assistant Clerk (Rev. P.A.L. Hill)	95.17
3. Appointment of Procurator	95.14.5
4. Armidale loan - rate of repayment	95.37
5. Granting of privilege of the floor to visitors.	95.19.7
6. <i>Handbook of Practice and Procedure</i> to be reviewed	95.47
7. Logo/crest	95.46
8. Pensions - increase in basic rate	95.38.3
9. Re-appointment of Assessors to Southern Presbytery	95.18
10. Reception of Mr. M. Jacoby as student for the ministry	95.56
11. Stipend Relief: Armidale and Ulverstone	95.28
12. Synod expenses to be levied on congregations and presbyteries	95.36.4
13. <i>The Presbyterian Banner</i> - re-appointment of editor	95.35.1

### **LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE**

#### Item Number

1. From Mr. T. Higgins - declining to accept post of auditor
2. From Southern Presbytery - reference anent difficulties in Southern Presbytery
3. From Southern Presbytery - overture regarding logo/crest for Church.
4. From Central Presbytery - overture regarding deeming of ministers as employees in N.S.W.
5. From Northern Presbytery - reference anent *Handbook of Practice and Procedure*.
6. From Mr. G. Moodie - regarding difficulties in the Southern Presbytery.
7. From the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia - fraternal greetings.
8. From Mr. H. Klomp - petition concerning Southern Presbytery's decision not to take him on trials for licence.
9. From Mr. H. Klomp - petition concerning Southern Presbytery's refusal to grant the prayer of his petition to be re-instated to the exercise of the office of the eldership in Melbourne.

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10. From Mr. H. Klomp - petition concerning problems in the Melbourne congregation.
11. From Mr. H. Klomp - notice of intention to appeal against the decision of the Administration Committee not to transmit Correspondence Item 10.
12. From the Free Reformed Churches of Australia - fraternal greetings.