

**THE RECORD OF THE 149TH MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA**

**ARMIDALE, NSW 1996**

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## **SESSION 1: WEDNESDAY, 27th MARCH, 1996, 4.00 p.m**

### **96.1. OPENING**

Within the Armidale Church Building on Wednesday, 27th March, 1996, at 4.00 p.m., the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, the Moderator, the Rev. T.I. Leggott presiding.

### **96.2. RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS**

The Retiring Moderator (Rev. T.I. Leggott) read from 1 Timothy 4: 1-16 and from 1 Peter 5: 1-4. He then delivered an address on the relevance of these passages to the ministry, challenging ministers to live up to the principles contained in them, especially in the area of inter-personal relationships.

### **96.3. ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES**

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

<b>Northern Presbytery</b>	<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Commissioned Elders</b>
Armidale	T.I. Leggott	K.A. Dawson
Brisbane	W.J.W. Hanna	K.Anderson †
Grafton	R.W. Murray †	R.L. Campbell
Hastings	A.L. Tripovich	D. Hamilton
Lismore	vacant	J.D. Ramsay
Maclean	vacant	J. McPhee
Synod Appointments:	S.N. Ramsay (retired) †	
	E.R. Lee (retired)	

<b>Central Presbytery</b>		
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

<b>Southern Presbytery</b>		
Geelong	J.M. Cromarty	J.R.B. Webster
Melbourne	R.S. Ward	J. Louden
Ulverstone	vacant	N.G. Triffett †
Synod Appointment:	W.M. Mackay †	

The Clerk of the Central Presbytery reported that Mr. Norman Kerr had been replaced as Commissioned Elder for the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation and that a certificate naming a new commissioner would be presented to a later session of Synod.

#### **96.4. ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR**

The Clerk reported that the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward of Melbourne was Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr. Ward took the chair.

#### **96.5. WELCOMES**

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. A.M. Macleod, Moderator *pro tem* of the Free Church of Scotland. It was resolved that the Rev. Macleod be associated with the Synod. The Moderator also welcomed our students, Mr. Graham Kinder, and Mr. Matthew Jacoby.

#### **96.6. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Clerk presented the Report of the Administration Committee. He reported that further items of Correspondence had been received. These, with appropriate Proposed Deliverances were listed in a Supplement to the Administration Committee Report which was distributed to commissioners.

The report was received. The Clerk also reported that the "order of the day" proposed for Session 5 was now being proposed for Saturday morning as first item after the opening exercises and confirmation of minutes. After discussion, it was proposed that:

1. The timetable proposed by the Administration Committee be approved.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the next item of committee business following the Administration Committee Report be the "Church and Nation Report." On the amendment being put against the proposed deliverance, the proposed deliverance was preferred. The proposed deliverance was put to the court and was carried.

It was resolved that:

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

The Rev. A.L. Tripovich and Mr. N.A. McPherson led the court in prayer, including in their prayers mention of Mr. Ken Anderson, Mrs. Trix Ramsay and Mr. C.P. King, who had been reported as being ill.

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

It was resolved that:

3. Correspondence Item 3 be received and that the resignation of the Rev. P.A.L. Hill as Assistant Clerk be accepted.
4. Synod does now call for nominations for the position of Assistant Clerk.

#### **96.8. APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT CLERK**

It was resolved that the Rev. T.I. Leggott be appointed Assistant Clerk.

The Clerk continued to present the Proposed Deliverances of the Administration Committee, commencing with Proposed Deliverance 5. It was resolved that:

5. Synod does now take up consideration of the appointment of a procurator for the Church.

#### **96.9. APPOINTMENT OF PROCURATOR**

It was moved and seconded that Synod decline to appoint a Procurator at this time, but confirm that in the absence of such appointment, it is part of the responsibility of the Law and Advisory Committee to advise the church in matters of ecclesiastical procedure and the church's constitution, and to revise all libels, obtaining such professional advice as it considers necessary. The Committee shall report on these matters to the ensuing annual meeting of Synod.

It was further moved and seconded that the Administration Committee together with the Law and Advisory Committee continue to pursue the matter of the appointment of a procurator.

It was further moved and seconded that Mr. John Clugston be appointed Procurator of the Church.

On the third motion being put against the second, the second motion was preferred. On the second motion being put against the first, the second was preferred. This motion was put to the court and was carried.

**96.10. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Cont.)**

The Clerk continued to present the proposed Deliverances of the Administration Committee. It was resolved that:

6. The remit concerning the Decision Book contained in Synod Minutes 1995 (95.48) be continued and extended to include a full revision of the Decision Book.

**96.11. CLOSURE OF SESSION**

The session was closed with prayer at 6.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

R.S. Ward  
Moderator

**SESSION 2 : WEDNESDAY, 27th APRIL, 1996, 7.00 p.m.**

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

**96.12. MINUTES**

The minutes of session 1 were read and confirmed.

**96.13. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Cont.)**

The Clerk continued to present the Proposed Deliverances of the Administration Committee. It was resolved that:

7. Correspondence Item 1 be received and noted.
8. Correspondence Item 2 be received and that the I.C.R. Committee be directed to reply thanking the N.S.W. General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia for their congratulations and good wishes.
9. Correspondence Item 4 be taken after the Missions Committee Report.
10. Correspondence Item 5 be now taken.

**96.14. SEAT ON PRESBYTERY**

The Court therefore took up consideration of Correspondence Item 5, concerning a seat on Presbytery for the Rev. John Pateman. Mr. Ward vacated the chair which was taken by the previous Moderator, the Rev. T.I. Leggott. Mr. Ward stated the overture and spoke to its reception. It was resolved that the overture be received. Dr. Ward spoke in support of the overture. It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted as stated. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

**96.15. COMMISSIONER FROM THE HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN CONGREGATION**

The Clerk reported that Mr. Donald Kerr was Commissioned Elder from the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation.

**96.16. MODERATOR'S ADDRESS**

The Rev. J.M. Cromarty led in prayer, after which the Moderator read from Genesis 22: 1-18, following which he gave an address on the theme "The One and Triune God and the Life of His People."

**96.17. THANKS**

It was resolved that the Retiring Moderator be thanked for his work during the year and for his sermon, and that the thanks of the Synod be conveyed to the Moderator for his address, and that it be published in the Presbyterian Banner.

**96.18. CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 8.45 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

R.S. Ward  
Moderator

**SESSION 3: THURSDAY, 28th MARCH, 1996, 9.00 a.m.**

The session was opened with praise and prayer and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m.  
The reading of the minutes of Session 2 was deferred until a later session.

**96.19. APPRECIATION OF ADDRESSES**

The Rev. E.R. Lee asked permission to speak in appreciation of the Moderator's address and also that of the Retiring Moderator. Permission being granted Mr. Lee addressed the court.

**96.20. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Cont.)**

The Clerk continued to present the Proposed Deliverances of the Administration Committee. It was resolved that:

11. Correspondence Item 6 be taken with the report of the Church Extension Committee.

It was proposed that:

12. Correspondence Items 7, 9, and 11 be taken under "Causes."

An amendment was moved that each item of Correspondence be taken separately. On being put against the proposed deliverances, the amendment was preferred. The amendment became the proposed deliverance and was carried.

It was resolved that item 7 be received and noted.

It was moved and seconded that Item 9 be received and heard prior to the conclusion of the Administration Committee business. This amendment was put against proposed Deliverance 12 and was preferred. On being put to the vote this motion was carried.

It was resolved that Synod determines (if necessary) how Item 11 shall be disposed of in accordance with the outcome of the hearing in (b) above.

It was moved that in the absence of a complainant that Synod rule that he is deemed to have fallen from the complaint. The moderator ruled that the motion was out of order. Mr. Kerr asked

for his dissent to be recorded. Mr. Cromarty tendered simple dissent. Messrs Steel, McCallum and Webster adhered to the dissent.

**96.21. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT (Cont.)**

It was resolved that:

13. Correspondence Item 8 be received and that an order of the day be approved to allow the Rev. Don Baird to address Synod on Saturday morning.
14. That the following Examiners of records be appointed:

Synod Permanent Record	Rev. W.P. Gadsby and Hawkesbury-Nepean elder.
Northern Presbytery	Rev. J.A. McCallum and Hunter elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. A.L. Tripovich and Geelong elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. T.I. Leggott and St. Georges elder.
15. Correspondence Item 10 be received and that the Clerk be directed to reply to the Reformed Theological College, Geelong, thanking them for their greetings.
16. Correspondence Item 12 be received and that the I.C.R. Committee be directed to reply to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia, thanking them for their greetings.
17. Correspondence Item 13 be received and that the I.C.R. Committee be directed to write to the Queensland Presbytery of the Westminster Presbyterian Church thanking them for their greetings
18. Presbyteries and committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.
19. Correspondence Item 14 be received and the I.C.R. Committee be directed to reply to the Reformed Churches of New Zealand thanking them for their greetings.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Administration Committee consult with Conveners of all Committees with a view to bringing to Synod 1997 a report concerning the viability and implications of holding a biennial Synod. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

**96.22. CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 9 - COMPLAINT AGAINST TRANSMISSION**

The Rev. J.A. McCallum took the Chair. The Rev. J.M. Cromarty was appointed Clerk *pro tem*. The parties were called to the bar. The Clerk spoke to his complaint against the decision to transmit Mr. Ward's complaint against a decision of the Southern Presbytery. The Rev. W.P. Gadsby spoke on behalf of the Administration Committee. Mr Ward also spoke, after which members of the court addressed questions to Dr. Hanna and to the Administration Committee. Dr. Hanna exercised his right of reply. The parties were removed from the bar. It was resolved that the parties be excluded from the court. Discussion ensued. It was resolved that the Complaint of the Clerk be sustained and that Correspondence Item 11, namely the dissent and complaint from Dr. Ward and adhered to by Mr. Loudon and the Rev. W.M. Mackay, be regarded as fallen from. Mr. Loudon and Mr. Smith indicated simple dissent. The parties were recalled to the bar, and the decision was intimated to them. Mr. Gadsby and Mr. Leggott indicated their acquiescence in the sustaining of the Complaint but not in the second part of the decision. Mr. Ward submitted a protest as follows:

“I believe that for certain of the reasons stated before the Synod, and other reasons that may have been adduced if there had been opportunity, this decision is one made in part on grounds with inadequate foundation in the constitution of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. Even if it had such proper foundation it could well appear unreasonably harsh and as lacking proper regard to pastoral issues in favour of technical points. Accordingly, in my own name and in the name of those who may hereafter adhere, I solemnly protest against this decision, reserving such rights as may belong to me.”

Mr. Gadsby and Mr. Loudon adhered to the protest.

The Clerk acquiesced in the decision of Synod. The parties were dismissed from the bar, Dr. Ward resumed the chair and Mr. Cromarty vacated the Clerk's chair.

**96.23. 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 Finance Committee report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod record our gratitude to God for the continued support by Church Courts and Congregational Members during 1995 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 1996/97 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.

**96.24. GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

The General Treasurer presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved:

1. The General Treasurer's action in providing for the deficit of \$1 881 in the Church Extension Fund from the General Fund be confirmed.
2. The General Treasurer's action in meeting the costs of Southern Presbytery Assessors' expenses of \$1 394 from the General Fund be confirmed.

**96.25. THANKS**

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the court to the Synod Treasurer. This was confirmed by the acclamation of the court.

**96.26. CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 1.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

R.S. Ward  
Moderator

**SESSION 4: THURSDAY, 28th MARCH, 1996, 2.00 p.m.**

The session was constituted with prayer and praise at 2.00 p.m.

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

**96.27. PROVIDENT FUNDS**

Dr. Ward vacated the chair which was taken by the Rev. T.I. Leggott.

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

1. Synod request Deacons' Courts to note that the 1996 levy is \$2,412 (10 % of minimum stipend 1/7/95 - 30/6/96), not less than 50 % to be paid by 30th June 1996 and the balance by year end.
2. Synod resolve that in respect of service on and after 1/7/1996 there be allocated annually from the Supplementary Benefits Fund to each minister's account in the Retirement Fund an amount equal to 1.1 % of the minimum stipend, such amount being additional to the allocation from Levy proceeds, currently 8.9 %.
3. The basic rate of the weekly pension be increased from \$56 to \$59 (married) and from \$40 to \$41.60 (single) with effect from 1/07/1996.

It was moved on notice and seconded that, in view of the significant changes in Superannuation and the question as to whether the Church should make application to have its ministers deemed as workers under the Workers Compensation Acts, the Finance and Provident Funds Committee is to investigate the most economical and beneficial means of providing suitable Superannuation and Insurance plans for ministers, a report to be provided to Presbyteries at an early date in order that they may give due consideration to the findings of the Committee, and the Committee to make a recommendation to Synod 1997. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

It was moved on notice that the \$3,747.67 Superannuation benefit forfeited by the Rev. P.A.L. Hill upon his resignation from the Church be not applied to the Supplementary Benefits Fund in terms of Synod resolution - Decision Book: Provident Funds Committee C.8.a. (page 4) until after Synod 1997. The Moderator ruled the motion out of order, as it referred to a matter which should have been remitted to the Committee in the first instance.

Dr. Ward resumed the chair.

**96.28. 8:14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Mr. A.H. Steel) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion it was resolved that:

1. Surplus Funds held in the 8: 14 Foundation account be applied from time to time in the reduction of the loan to Armidale Deacons' Court by the Missions Relief Fund, provided there is no call on them from other congregations or depositors, the loan from the 8: 14 Foundation to increase in line with any funds transferred.
2. The rate of repayment of the Missions Relief Loan by the Armidale Deacons' Court revert to that approved by Synod 1993 (Minutes 93.60.4) - "The repayment schedule is to be at a rate not less than the net rental revenue from the student's accommodation and is to be reviewed after 3 years."

**96.29. N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION**

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

**96.30. QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION**

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. After discussion the report was received.

**96.31. TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA**

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

**96.32. 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 above be endorsed.
2. Synod recommend the Reformed Churches of New Zealand for membership in the International Conference of Reformed Churches.
3. The Committee be encouraged to maintain its contact with 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.

**96.33. LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the report. It was moved and seconded that the report be received. It was agreed that the advices received with regard to a query from the Southern Presbytery be tabled.

It was proposed that:

1. Synod adopt the proposed Bill entitled 'The Synod of Eastern Australia Property (Amendment) Act' as proposed by our late Procurator, Mr. F. Maxwell Bradshaw, MA LL.M., approved by Synod 1994 and amended by Synod 1995, order the same to be printed and remitted to Presbyteries by 31 May 1996 for their consent in terms of the Barrier Act 1697, approval or disapproval to be reported no later than 30 November by extract minute on a printed A4 sheet, with the number of votes for and against.

A motion was moved and seconded that the Synod remit 95.43 (part - N.S.W. Property Act) be continued as the Law and Advisory Committee only received returns from 5 (36 %) of the 14 Sessions/Deacons' Courts in the church. These Sessions/Deacons' Courts are to respond to the Committee by the 30/11/96 in terms of minute 95.4, i.e., "...Advise of their approval of the proposed amendment, suggested changes or disapproval ..." - the Law and Advisory Committee to transmit to Synod 1997 any suggested changes together with a recommendation regarding the adoption of the draft amendment or otherwise.

The motion was put against the proposed deliverance and the deliverance was preferred. On being put to the vote the Deliverance was carried. Mr. Kerr tendered simple dissent. Mr. Steel, the Rev. A.L. Tripovich and the Rev. J.A. McCallum adhered to that dissent.

It was resolved that:

2. Synod direct the Clerk of Synod to circulate the proposed Bill to Sessions, Deacons' Courts and Congregations in New South Wales for their approval, with the following instructions:
  - a. when a unanimous decision is reached, the Moderator is to declare it so, and the fact is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting; should there be any dissents, these are to be recorded, and the number of them stated in the minutes; the minutes are thereupon to be approved,
  - b. the confirmed extracts of the minutes of the respective meetings are to be typed on A4 sheets of paper, one side only, and certified by Clerk and Moderator,
  - c. the extracts thus prepared are to be forwarded to the Clerk of Synod as soon as practicable following their confirmation and certification and, in any event, no later than 31.03.1997,
  - d. where there is a resolution disapproving of the proposed Bill, a clear, concise and complete statement of the reasons is to be furnished to the Clerk of Synod with the above-mentioned extracts,
  - e. all the returns are to be in the hands of the Clerk of Synod by 31.03.1997 in order that he may tabulate same and report to the 1997 Synod with a view to the necessary steps being taken to obtain Parliamentary sanction.
  
3. Synod resolve the following as an Interim Act: that when the Synod of Eastern Australia Property (Amendment) Act comes into force the following rules shall become operative:
  - a. that no person shall be nominated as a trustee who is not an office-bearer;
  - b. pursuant to Section 3 (5) of the Bill, a quorum for meetings of the trustees [Section 3 (8)] shall be three;
  - c. that rules for the application of the seal of the N.S.W. trustees precisely parallel in requirement to those in Victoria (Act of Synod 12.04.1954 under Barrier Act) come into force;
  - d. that existing legislation (Synod 1984) on mortgage/sale procedure in New South Wales be adjusted so as to maintain the identical provisions but relate them to the amended 1918 Act rather than to the original 1918 Act.
  - e. that existing legislation (Synod 1988) on leasing procedure in New South Wales be held to be adjusted so as to maintain the identical provisions but relate them to the amended 1918 Act rather than to the original 1918 Act.

Mr. Kerr and Mr. Steel dissented.

4. Synod remit the preceding Interim Act to Presbyteries for their consent in terms of the Barrier Act 1697, directing Presbyteries to approve or disapprove the resolution by 30/11/1996 with a view to it becoming a standing rule upon the amended Property Act coming into force.

Mr. Steel and Mr. Kerr dissented

**96.34. CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 5.30 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

R.S. Ward  
Moderator

**SESSION 5: THURSDAY, 28th MARCH, 1996, 7.05 p.m.**

The session was constituted with praise and prayer and Scripture reading at 7.05 p.m.

The reading of the minutes of session 4 was deferred until a later session.

**96.35. LAW AND ADVISORY REPORT (Cont.)**

The Convener of the Law and Advisory Committee continued to present proposed Deliverances. It was resolved that:

5. Section 3.22 of the P.C.E.A. *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* be amended to read:

3.22 MORTGAGE/SALE PROCEDURE

3.22 Where mortgage or sale of congregational property is desired, the Deacons' Court shall ensure that the Congregation, and relevant higher courts are informed of the reasons for the sale and/or mortgage, the purposes for which the funds realised will be used and how repayment will be funded. Sale, mortgage or other encumbrance of church property cannot take place without the approval of the relevant higher courts. The sale of church property requires the approval of the congregation. In respect of congregational property in New South Wales, the proceeds of a mortgage can only be applied to the erection, improvement or maintenance of a church, manse or school-house on land held for the congregation. (Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act 1918, section 10).

[Relevant Synod legislation includes Act of Synod 1958 (Class 1) re Victorian Act; Act of Synod 1984 re NSW Act. Synod 1988 gave authority to the Presbytery of the bounds to approve in the name of Synod the sale of property other than places of worship.]

6. That Section 5:14 of the P.C.E.A. *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* be amended to read:

5.14 It is the normal practice to record the substantial content of proceedings in closed court, including decisions taken in closed court, in the ordinary minutes, but without divulging matters deemed of such a nature that they must be kept confidential (see Act 2, Class 2, Synod 1985). A separate record for recording material other than the actual decision of the court may sometimes be appropriate. Confirmation of this record can take place only in closed court. Members may not divulge the content of closed court discussions to outsiders, but the actual decision is not normally private, and does not need to be read in open court before it can be made public.

7. That the Law and Advisory Committee be requested to prepare a second edition of the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure*, taking into account any pertinent decisions of Synod 1996, and correcting matters of form in the first edition; and that copies be supplied to congregations at cost.

8. That the following words be added at the end of Section 2.25 of the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure*:  
“Discussion by the Session should be limited to matters proper to its spiritual function, and have in view spiritual objects conducive to the edification of the church.”

#### **96.36. MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

It was moved on notice and seconded that Standing Orders be suspended in order, and so far as necessary, to permit a motion rescinding the second part of the decision of this Court with regard to the Complaint against a decision of the Administration Committee; to wit, that portion of the decision according to which the original complainants were deemed to have fallen from their complaint. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Mr. Graham Kinder and Mr. Matthew Jacoby be invited to participate in the discussions associated with the papers presented on Friday. The motion was carried.

#### **96.37. CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE**

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

1. As only two Sessions have complied with the direction of Synod 95 (95.31), the original proposal of the Committee be taken up, i.e., to consider the substance of the Church and Nation Report on the P.C.E.A. to Synod 1995, under **a, b, c** and **d**, taking into consideration the Hasting and Geelong Submissions embodied in this 96 Report

It was noted that time had been set aside for this discussion on Saturday morning.

#### **96.38. PSALMODY**

The Rev. A.L. Tripovich presented the report, in lieu of the Rev. S.N. Ramsay who was unable to be present. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved that:

1. Synod express its thanks to Mrs. K. Hilberts and to Mrs. M. Ramsay, for services rendered in the interests of congregational psalmody.
2. Kirk Sessions be exhorted to take advantage of all avenues open to them to foster and encourage more meaningful and tuneful Psalm singing.

It was proposed that:

3. Synod review the traditional practice of “sitting to sing” in public worship, and consider the possibility, and Biblical warrant for, standing when offering praise to God in public worship. On being put to the vote the proposal was defeated.

#### **96.39. PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT**

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

**96.40. SUPPLEMENTARY PUBLICATIONS REPORT**

The Convener (Rev. A.L. Tripovich ) presented a Supplementary Publications Report. It was resolved that the report be received.

**96.41. CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 9.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

R.S. Ward  
Moderator

**SESQUICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS\***

**FRIDAY, 29th MARCH, 1996**

The proceedings of the day were opened at 9.00 a.m. with devotions led by the Moderator of Synod, the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward.

This was followed by an address by the Rev. A.M. Macleod, moderator *pro tem.* of the Free Church of Scotland. Mr. Macleod brought greetings from the Free Church of Scotland. He commented on the close bond between the Free Church of Scotland and the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. He spoke of the providence of God which brought him to Australia. Mr. Macleod then delivered an address on the subject of:

***The Church in a healthy State***

The Church possesses health by its very nature. The extent of that health may vary but always the Church of Christ has health in potentiality. Since there are many ideas of the nature of the Church and therefore of what is a healthy state for the Church, it is necessary to examine what we mean by the true Church. Mr. Macleod then went on to discuss the various characteristics and attributes of the Church. He mentioned holiness and unity. He spoke of the union of Christ's people with Christ, the Head of the Church. The Church also has perpetuity. These are facts of revelation. We must therefore receive them by faith and act them out in the way that we live. The Church is the body of Christ, the temple of Christ, the family of Christ, the bride of Christ. He then reminded us of a church which was a branch of the true Church and which was yet in a very unhealthy state - the Church of Laodicea.

After Morning Tea, at approximately 10.45 a.m., the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward delivered the first paper, entitled:

***Reasons for Gratitude to God and Reasons for Humiliation before God.***

Mr. Ward first spoke of the origins and early history, from 1846 onward, of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in New South Wales and of the sister church in Victoria. He outlined the sources from which the early ministers came and the training which was available. The early years were characterised by strong personalities and a number of disputes, yet there were many reasons for gratitude before God. Mr. Ward outlined also a number of reasons for humiliation before God in its first fifty years of existence.

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Mr. Ward then moved on to speak of the second fifty years. He detailed the ministerial changes occurring during that period. There was a much more homogeneous group of ministers built up over this period. These years were characterised by careful rebuilding and consolidation. Mr. Ward was able to note a number of reasons for gratitude to God in this period. Among reasons for humiliation he suggested that the adverse condition of the wider church (liberalism, etc.) plus other factors combined to cause the church being somewhat turned in on itself.

The third fifty years had a marked influx of ministers, but a very high turnover of ministers. The loss of ministers requires serious consideration. Mr. Ward provided an analysis of reasons for humiliation and for gratitude over this period.

The paper was followed by a period of discussion, reflection and prayer.

At 2.00 p.m., after lunch, the Moderator called on the Rev. E.R. Lee to deliver the second paper:

***The Contribution of our Church to the Wider Christian Community.***

Mr. Lee pointed out that the P.C.E.A. had been small since its inception, and has been depleted at various times. Nevertheless, it has had a considerable influence. There has been an influence because of our existence as a distinct denomination - a denomination upholding the standards of doctrine and practice of the old Scottish Presbyterian Church. There has been influence as a model, as a source of advice and as an encouragement to other Reformed bodies both in Australia both here and overseas.

Mr. Lee then went on to speak of the high standard of training of our ministers and their influence of individual ministers, both past and present, in various areas. He then spoke of the influence of some ministers who have left this church and gone to serve and to glorify God in other churches.

The third aspect of influence with which Mr. Lee dealt was that of the elders and the people of the P.C.E.A. He spoke of the influence of a number of individuals, both male and female. There is also the influence which has been exerted by those who, because they have had to go to live in places where they have had no P.C.E.A., have become members of other churches.

Mr. Lee then encouraged the church to continue to work, not being depressed by falling numbers, but going on knowing that we "can do all through Christ who strengthens me."

Mr. Lee concluded with some statistics concerning losses of minister during the period surveyed (1945-1996).

The paper was followed by a time of discussion, reflection and prayer.

At approximately 3.45 p.m. the Moderator introduced the Rev. J.A. McCallum who presented the final paper for the day:

***Renewal and Revival. The Way Forward for our Church.***

Mr. McCallum commenced by reading Acts 1: 1-11. He then concentrated his address on the eighth verse. He said that the verse speaks of spiritual power - this is what we often seem to lack. All movements of the Christian Church - either up or down - will be a spiritual matter for the Church is spiritual. He then went on to discuss the promise of the verse - "You shall receive power." These are Christ's final words to His Church, and are spoken in the context of the Great Commission. After considering this subject, Mr. McCallum then discussed the meaning of "power" as the word is used here. It does not imply simply *authority*, but rather *ability*. This is an ability to be something. We need to be able to be a certain sort of people. We need to be people who have the ability to pray, to be blameless and to preach with the unction of the Holy Spirit. This power will come when the Holy Spirit comes - as He did to the disciples. They had already received the Holy Spirit, but He was to come to them with *more* power. They had forsaken their Lord but He had not forsaken them. This should be an encouragement to all of us.

Mr. McCallum went on to say that we must stop being occupied with secondary and selfish issues. These disciples had asked a selfish and a dangerous question. They were told "It is not for you to know ..." If the blessing is to come there must be (1) earnest united prayer, (2) unity and

(3) spirituality. Mr. McCallum then pointed out the purpose of the power: “You shall be witnesses to Me ...” The purpose of preaching is to reveal Christ. He concluded by asking the question: Can we be witnesses of what Christ has done for us? Only when we receive power *from on high!*

The proceedings of the day were then concluded with prayer at 5.00 p.m.

\* This report of the Sesquicentenary Celebration proceedings does not form part of the Minutes of Synod 1996, but has been included by the authority of Synod.

## **SESSION 6: SATURDAY, 30th MARCH, 1996, 9.00 a.m.**

The session was constituted with praise and prayer and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m.

### **96.42. ORDER OF THE DAY: THE REV. DON BAIRD**

The Rev. Don Baird of the Reformed Churches of Australia was presented to the Moderator by the Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Committee, the Rev. W. P. Gadsby. Mr. Baird was invited to address the Synod, which he did, bringing greetings from the Reformed Churches of Australia.

### **96.43. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of sessions 2, 3, 4 and 5 were taken as read and confirmed.

### **96.44. PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT**

The Editor (the Rev. W.P. Gadsby) continued to present his report. An opportunity for discussion was given.

### **96.45. SUPPLEMENTARY PUBLICATIONS REPORT**

The Convener (the Rev. A.L. Tripovich) continued to present this report. Discussion ensued.

It was resolved that:

1. Synod express and record thanks and appreciation to the editor of the Presbyterian Banner for his constant and efficient work, and to all who help in the production and postage of the Church Magazine throughout the year.
2. Synod recognize the need of the magazine “Fellowship,” but that the editor be asked to bring it more in line with the needs of teenage and younger readers rather than adults.
3. Ministers of the church be asked to make an effort to provide articles for publication in the Presbyterian Banner on a more regular basis, as well as the Fellowship magazine for the benefit of our young people.

### **96.46. CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE**

A report was presented by the Rev. J.M. Cromarty.

It was resolved the report and attached items be received.

It was resolved that:

1. Synod now meet in committee in order to:
  - evaluate our existing work
  - exchange viewpoints re: evangelism, church extension and supply
  - establish positive and unified directions for the future
  - pray at this time of great need in our church.

The Clerk reminded the Court that it had been agreed that certain topics raised by the Church and Nation Committee should also be discussed in this time. Synod met in committee at 11.10 a.m. and resumed in formal session at 1.25 p.m. It was resolved:

2. Each person in our church be urged to pray earnestly and labour diligently to bring at least one person into the fellowship of Christ and His church during 1996.
3. Armidale and Ulverstone congregations be granted Stipend Relief for the 1996/97 ecclesiastical year as requested, and on a needs basis.

#### **96.47. CLOSURE OF SESSION**

The session was closed with prayer at 1.30 p.m..

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

R.S. Ward  
Moderator

#### **SESSION 7: SATURDAY, 30th MARCH, 1996, 7.00 p.m.**

The session was constituted with praise, prayer and Scripture reading at 7.00 p.m.  
The minutes of session 6 were read and confirmed.

#### **96.48. MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Rev. T.I. Leggott) presented his report, and showed a video of the work in Fiji. It was resolved that the report be received. A period of discussion followed. It was resolved that:

1. Synod give thanks to God for the progress of the work in Fiji and assures Mr. Leone Tupua of our prayerful interest and support, and agree to a 2 % increase in stipend to \$13940 p.a. in line with the Fijian cost of living index.
2. Synod encourage the furtherance of our contacts with the Presbyterian Church of Korea (Kosin) with a view to mutual help and fellowship in the work of mission both in Australia and the Pacific Islands.
3. Synod offer prayerful support to Dr. Dennis Muldoon as he continues to serve in India, and offers its sympathy to Dennis and his family for the sudden loss of his father.
4. Synod encourage Mr. Tigi Verghis as he concludes his Ph.D. studies in New Zealand and prepares for his future work.
5. Synod express its thanks to Dr. Helen Ramsay for her continued interest in the work in India and thank her for her kind offer to sponsor a visit of Mrs. Lall to Australia.

6. Synod convey its thanks to Rev. Bill Graham and Elizabeth for the service they have given in South Africa and express its prayerful concern for their future.
7. Synod endorse the Committee's actions in regard to the "Dumisani Project," and record its thanks to those who have already contributed or have pledged support for this initiative, and that Synod agree to send the Rev. W. P. Gadsby to serve at this Church's expense at the Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible School during the latter half of 1996; and that Synod agree to pay the travel and associated expenses for Mr. and Mrs. Gadsby, and their two younger children, and 10 weeks stipend support at the then current rate of minimum stipend.
8. Synod offer prayerful support and encouragement to those who work for Christian Witness to Israel, and assure them of our continued interest as they seek to bring the gospel of Jesus the Messiah to the Jewish community in Australia.
9. Synod encourage the furtherance of contacts with those who seek to build a sound Bible-based ministry amongst Australian aborigines.
10. Synod express its continued interest in, and prayerful support for, the Middle East Reformed Fellowship, the work of the Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church in Peru and Collegio San Andres.
11. Synod approve the budget as included in the report.

**96.49. CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4: ASSESSORS FOR CENTRAL PRESBYTERY**

Synod took up consideration of Correspondence Item 4. The overture was stated on behalf of the Central Presbytery by Mr. P. Smith. It was resolved that the overture be received. Mr. P. Smith spoke in support of the overture. It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted in the following terms:

That the Rev. T.I. Leggott and the Rev. A.L. Tripovich be appointed assessors to the Central Presbytery for the duration of Mr. Gadsby's time at the Dumisani Bible School.

**96.50. 150th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Rev. E.R. Lee) submitted the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener was thanked for his work.

**96.51. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

Preliminary suggestions with regard to Committee Structure were outlined by the Clerk.

**96.52. CLOSURE OF SESSION**

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

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

R.S. Ward  
Moderator

**SESSION 8: MONDAY, 1st APRIL, 1996, 9.00 a.m.**

The session was opened with praise, prayer and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m..

The minutes of session 7 were read and confirmed.

**96.53. YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Mr. Neil McPherson) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. Synod went into committee at 9.40 a.m. for a time of discussion and of prayer on matters pertinent to the issues of youth and fellowship in the Church. Synod resumed formal session at 11.30 a.m. It was resolved that:

1. Synod express sincere appreciation to Rev. and Mrs. Jim Cromarty and to Mrs. Irene Steel for the work they continue to do in the interests of the Youth and Fellowship of our Church.
2. Sessions, Deacons' Courts and members be encouraged to stimulate attendance at Youth and Family Camps and where necessary sponsor or subsidise the costs involved.
3. Presbyteries and/or Sessions be requested to forward to the Committee details of teaching aids used in their congregation, together with any practical suggestions and/or information of benefit to the ongoing fellowship and work among the youth of the church.
4. Synod, acknowledging the great worth of Religious Instruction in the schools, commends those of our people who are engaging in such teaching and assures them of our prayerful support.
5. Synod wishes to encourage Rev. R.W. Murray in the work in which he is engaged in South Grafton High School and assures him of our prayerful support.

**96.54. MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

It was moved on notice and seconded that committee policy on birthday cards be that birthday cards be forwarded to:

1. children of church members/adherents attending services or Sunday School,
2. children who attend some church activity on a regular basis,
3. any special cases recommended by Sessions,

and that cards be discontinued after the celebration of the 16th birthday.

It was moved that the motion be amended to make the cut-off age for receipt of birthday cards be the 12th birthday. On being put against the motion the amendment was preferred. The motion as amended was carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Committee enquire of relevant bodies within the P.C.A. and Westminster Presbyterian Church regarding the possibility of joint work on production of Sunday School and Youth Group Study materials and methods. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

**96.55. TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

The Convener (Rev. J.M. Cromarty) 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.*

**96.56. CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session closed with prayer at 1.10 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

R.S. Ward  
Moderator

**SESSION 9 : MONDAY, 1st APRIL, 1996, 2.30 p.m.**

The session was constituted with prayer at 2.30 p.m. The Rev. W.P. Gadsby led the court in prayer with special mention of those in need. Particular mention was made of the Rev. J.A. and Mrs. Cromarty, Mrs. Pam Leggott and the Rev. E.R. and Mrs. Lee. The minutes of session 8 were read and confirmed.

**96.57. TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

It was agreed that Synod meet in Committee. Synod met in Committee at 2.45 p.m. and resumed formal session at 3.25 p.m.

It was resolved that:

1. The Committee be asked to formulate a statement setting out what is required of an applicant ... what is expected of him in his training and the kinds of functions he will be called upon to perform in the course of his ministry.
2. Synod notes Melbourne's undertaking to discharge the Klomp debt of \$27 115.00 in full by early April.
3. Synod takes note of Mr. Tuck's resignation as a student.
4.
  - a. Synod notes the deferment of Mr. Graham Kinder's licensing and notes Graham's desire to complete the three subjects in which he did not gain satisfactory levels.
  - b. Synod agrees to meet course costs, book allowance and examination fees during 1996.
  - c. Synod commends Graham for the manner in which he has pursued his studies and his readiness to supply our vacant congregations, and prays God's blessing upon him and his wife as they labour in the cause of the gospel and as Graham completes his studies.
5. Synod congratulates Mr. Matthew Jacoby on the completion of his B.Th. degree, notes his entrance upon post graduate studies, assures him of our prayers for himself and Jennifer and agrees to pay the usual allowances and fees for 1996.
6. Synod agrees to pay a book allowance to Mr. Leone Tupua up to an amount of \$460.

**96.58. SESQUICENTENARY REPORT**

It was moved and seconded that the Clerk be authorised to prepare a report of the Sesquicentenary Celebration proceedings and to include it with the Minutes of this Synod. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

**96.59. REV. A.M. MACLEOD**

The Moderator invited the Rev. A.M. Macleod, Moderator *pro tem.* of the Free Church of Scotland, to address the Synod. Mr. Macleod spoke, telling some of his experiences since arriving in Australia, and addressing some words of advice to the Synod. He concluded by thanking the Synod for the invitation given to him.

The Moderator asked Mr. Macleod to convey the greetings of the Synod to the Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

**96.60. OVERTURE: CENTRAL PRESBYTERY**

The Clerk asked leave to introduce an overture from Central Presbytery to:

1. Approve the sale of the Broadmeadow property, 142 Broadmeadow Road, Broadmeadow, at a commercial price of not less than \$120 000, and
2. Approve that the proceeds of such sale be used towards the purchase of land and buildings for a new Church facility on the proposed new site of Lot 10, 75 Minmi Road, Edgeworth or another suitable site approved by Presbytery.

It was resolved to suspend standing orders to admit this new business.

It was resolved that the overture be received. Mr. P. Smith appeared in support of the overture. It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted as stated.

**96.61. BANNER EDITOR *PRO TEM.***

It was resolved that the Rev. R.S. Ward be appointed Editor *pro tem.* for the period July to December 1996, inclusive.

**96.62. ASSESSOR TO SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY**

The Clerk reported that he had received an extract minute from the Clerk of the Southern Presbytery asking that Synod relieve the Rev. A.L. Tripovich as an assessor to the Southern Presbytery. It was resolved that Synod accede to this request.

**96.63. COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

It was moved and seconded that until otherwise resolved by Synod, a Church Extension and Supply Committee be not appointed, that financial aspects be meantime directed to the Finance Committee, that Sessions and Presbyteries keep the subject of Church Extension under careful review and that Presbyteries continue to provide a report to each Synod of work within its bounds for the Synod Clerk to include with other Synod reports. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

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 and NATION**

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

**FINANCE**

A.H. Steel (Convener), N. Kerr, N. McPherson, K.I. Kerr.

**PROVIDENT FUNDS**

R.S. Ward (Convener), J.B. Loudon, J. Pateman, N. Triffett, K.I. Kerr, B. Webster.

**8: 14 FOUNDATION**

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

**LAW and ADVISORY**

W.P. Gadsby, 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, R.W. Murray, J. Ramsay, W.J.W. Hanna.

**YOUTH and FELLOWSHIP**

N.A. McPherson (Convener), A.L. Tripovich, J.A. Cromarty, P. Smith, G. Hamilton, I Miller.

**96.64. REPORT OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS**

The Permanent Record and the Minutes of the Central Presbytery were reported to be in order and Synod accordingly resolved that they be attested. It was noted that the Northern Presbytery records were not available for examination and attestation. One of the examiners of the Southern Presbytery record proposed that Southern Presbytery be reminded of the correct procedure in matters relating to the attesting of records and be careful to follow such procedure in future. The motion was seconded. It was moved by the other examiner and seconded that the Southern Presbytery record be attested. On being put against the first motion, this motion was preferred. It was resolved that the Southern Presbytery Minutes be attested. Mr. Leggott tendered simple dissent.

**96.65. TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 1997**

It was resolved that the Armidale congregation be given the first option to host the Annual Synod of 1997, 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 1997 be from 4.00 p.m. on 17th April, 1997 until not later than 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 22nd April, 1997. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was resolved that an amount of up to \$1000 be made available to the congregation hosting Synod 1997 on a needs basis to assist with catering.

**96.66. THANKS TO ARMIDALE CONGREGATION**

It was resolved that the thanks of Synod be conveyed to the Armidale congregation for their hospitality, both to those who had provided accommodation for the Commissioners and to those who had catered so bountifully for them.

**96.67. MODERATOR ELECT FOR 1997**

It was resolved that the Moderator-elect for 1997 be Rev. J.M. Cromarty.

**96.68. PRINCIPAL ACTS**

It was resolved that the Clerk draw up a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 1996, and include it with the minutes.

**96.69. TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**96.70. THANKS TO TREASURER**

It was resolved that the thanks of the court be expressed to the General Treasurer.

**96.71. THANKS TO CLERK**

It was resolved that the thanks of the court be expressed to the Clerk.

**96.72. ADJOURNMENT**

Synod adjourned for the evening meal at 5.40 p.m.

**96.73. RESUMPTION**

Synod resumed at 6.50 p.m. On behalf of Synod the Moderator made a presentation to the Rev. A.M. and Mrs. MacLeod. Mrs. MacLeod replied.

**96.74. MINUTES**

The Minutes of this closing Session were read and confirmed.

**96.75. CLOSURE**

Synod 1996 was closed with prayer.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

R.S. Ward  
Moderator

**Acts of Synod 1996**

**Appended by the Direction of Synod (see Article 96.68)**

**Class 1 (Barrier act Procedures)**

Nil

**Class 2 (Others)**

**Article**

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1.	Appointment of Assessors to Central Presbytery	96.49
2.	Appointment of Assistant Clerk (Rev. T.I. Leggott)	96.8
3.	Appointment of Procurator	96.9
4.	Armidale loan - rate of repayment	96.28
5.	<i>Decision Book</i> to be reviewed	96.10.6
6.	Dumisani Theological Institute - Rev. W.P. Gadsby seconded	96.48.7
7.	<i>Handbook of Practice and Procedure</i>	96.35
8.	N.S.W. Property (Amendment) Act	96.33
9.	Pensions - increase in basic rate	96.27.3
10.	Stipend Relief: Armidale and Ulverstone	96.46.3
11.	Superannuation provisions to be reviewed	96.27
12.	<i>The Presbyterian Banner</i> - appointment of editor <i>pro tempore</i>	95.35.1

**LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE**

Item Number

1. From Southern Presbytery - extract minute of decision regarding reasons for refusing to take Mr. H. Klomp on trials for licence (see Synod 1995 Minutes, para. 95.60).
2. From N.S.W. General Assembly, Presbyterian Church of Australia - Congratulations on Sesquicentenary.
3. From the Rev. P.A.L. Hill - resignation as Assistant Clerk.
4. From Central Presbytery - regarding Ministerial Assessors.
5. From Southern Presbytery - regarding a seat on Presbytery for the Rev. John Pateman.
6. From Southern Presbytery - regarding stipend relief for Ulverstone.
7. From Southern Presbytery - appointment of Messrs. Hanna and J.M. Cromarty to defend a decision of Presbytery.
8. From the Reformed Churches of Australia - fraternal greetings and appointment of the Rev. Don Baird as delegate.
9. From Clerk of Synod - Complaint against a decision of the Administration Committee to transmit a Complaint by the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward and others.
10. From the Reformed Theological College, Geelong - letter of greetings.

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11. From the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward, the Rev. W.M. Mackay and Mr. J. Louden - Complaint against a decision of the Southern Presbytery.
12. From the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia - fraternal greetings.
13. From the Queensland Presbytery, Westminster Presbyterian Church - fraternal greetings.
14. From the Reformed Churches of New Zealand - fraternal greetings.