

**THE RECORD OF THE 150th MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA
ARMIDALE, NSW, 1997**

CONTENTS

OPENING	1
RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS	1
ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES	1
WELCOMES	1
ELECTION OF MODERATOR	2
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	2
ADMIN.C'TEE CONT.	4
FINANCE COMMITTEE	4
MODERATOR'S ADDRESS	5
TREASURER'S REPORT	6
8: 14 FOUNDATION	7
PROVIDENT FUNDS	7
NSW TRUST CORPORATION	8
QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION	8
TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA	9
INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE	9
LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE	10
NSW (PROPERTY) AMENDMENT ACT	10
SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	10
CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE	12
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	12
<i>PRESBYTERIAN BANNER</i> REPORT	12
PUBLICATIONS C'TEE CONT.	13
MISSIONS COMMITTEE	13
CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS	14
MISSIONS C'TEE CONT.	14-15
ARCHIVIST'S REPORT	21
PUBLICATIONS C'TEE CONT.	21
PSALMODY REPORT	22
YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE	23
TRAINING OF MINISTRY	23-25
COMMITTEE STRUCTURE	28
TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 1998	29
PRINCIPAL ACTS OF SYNOD	31
LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE	31

SESSION 1 : THURSDAY, 17th APRIL, 1997, 4.00 p.m.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

97.1 OPENING

Within the Armidale Church Building on Thursday, 17th April, 1997, at 4.00 p.m., the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Rowland S. Ward presiding.

97.2 RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Retiring Moderator (Rev. R.S. Ward) read from Exodus 33: 7 - 11 and John 1: 1-14 and 2: 1- 11. He then delivered a sermon on the subject "The Gospel and its Basic Themes," as found in the early chapters of the Gospel of John. The themes which Mr. Ward addressed were The Godhead of Christ, The Incarnation of Christ, The Messiah-ship of Christ, Renewal through Christ and Atonement through Christ. He concluded by applying these themes to the needs of the P.C.E.A.

97.3 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES

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

Northern Presbytery

Armidale
Brisbane
Grafton
Hastings
Lismore
Maclean
Synod Appointments:

Ministers

vacant
W.J.W. Hanna
R.W. Murray †
A.L. Tripovich
vacant
vacant
S.N. Ramsay (retired)†
E.R. Lee (retired)

Commissioned Elders

K.A. Dawson
K. Anderson
R.L. Campbell
D. Hamilton†
J.D. Ramsay
J. McPhee

Central Presbytery

Hawkesbury/Nepean
Hunter/Barrington
Manning
St. Georges
Sydney South

T.J. McGlynn
vacant
W.P. Gadsby
J.A. McCallum†
vacant

D. Kerr
P. Smith
K. Longworth
A. Steel
N.A. McPherson

Southern Presbytery

Geelong
Melbourne
Ulverstone
Synod Appointment:

J.M. Cromarty
R.S. Ward
vacant
W.M. Mackay

J.R.B. Webster
J. Loudon
N. Triffett†

97.4 WELCOMES

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Timothy McGlynn, the newly ordained minister of the Hawkesbury/Nepean charge, to his first meeting of the Synod of Eastern Australia. The Moderator also welcomed Mr. Ken Anderson, the representative elder from the Brisbane congregation to the Synod.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

97.5 ASSISTANT CLERK

It was pointed out that the Rev. Trevor Leggott, the Assistant Clerk, did not now have a seat on any Presbytery and so did not have a seat on Synod. It was resolved that Mr. Leggott be associated with the Synod, with the right to speak but not to vote.

97.6 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that the Rev. John M. Cromarty of Geelong was Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr. Cromarty took the chair.

97.7 ASSISTANT CLERK *PRO TEM*.

It was resolved that Mr. N.A. McPherson be appointed Assistant Clerk *pro tem*.

97.8 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the Report of the Administration Committee. It was moved and seconded that the report was received. An amendment was moved that the Administration Committee report be received with the exclusion of paragraph 2 of Section 5, viz., "Some confusion appears to have arisen ... appoint him," together with the quotations from the Practice of the Free Church of Scotland, pp. 19, 3 and 3. On being put against the motion, the motion was preferred. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that an Order of the Day be made that the consideration of Missions business commence not later than 11.00 a.m. on Saturday. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

After discussion it was resolved that:

1. The timetable proposed by the Administration Committee be approved.
2. Synod express its sympathy for all those connected with this Church who have been bereaved since the last annual meeting of Synod.
3. The following Memorial Minutes for the late Mr. C.P. King and the late Mr. A.M. McLean be included in the minutes and that copies be sent to a representative of each family.

C.P. King

Campbell P. King (1907-96), descended on his mother's side from the early PCEA pioneers, was ordained to the eldership in 1950 serving the Manning and from 1958 the Hunter. Affectionately known as 'CP' he was a representative elder on numerous occasions prior to 1985. He convened the Provident Funds Committee from 1971-78 and made a memorable contribution to Synod debates.

A.M. McLean

Alfred Malcolm McLean, who died in 1996 aged 89 years, was from an old Free Kirk family. He was ordained an elder at East St. Kilda in 1934 and continued as such until

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

1983. He convened the Finance Committee 1958-77, and his cheery countenance and earnest contributions will be remembered at many Synods prior to 1976.

Mr Tripovich engaged in prayer for those who have been bereaved.

It was resolved that:

4. a. the remit concerning the Decision Book contained in Synod Minutes 1996 (96.10) be continued to include any relevant decisions of this Synod, and
b. publication then be placed in the hands of the Publications Committee.
5. Correspondence item 1 be received and dealt with in the time set aside for Causes.
6. Correspondence item 2 be received and dealt with under Training of Ministry.
7. The matter of the appointment of assessors to Southern Presbytery be reviewed under Reports of Examiners of records.

97.9 ASSISTANT CLERK

At this point the Assistant Clerk, (Rev. T.I. Leggott) joined the meeting, took his seat at the Clerks' table, while Mr. McPherson relinquished the position of Assistant Clerk *pro tem*.

97.10 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT)

The Clerk continued to present Proposed Deliverance 5. After discussion, it was resolved that:

8. The remit of Synod 1996 (96.9) concerning a Procurator for the church be not continued.

97.11 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 2 : THURSDAY, 17th APRIL, 1997, 7.00 p.m.

The session was constituted with prayer and praise at 7.00. p.m. The minutes of session 1 were read and confirmed.

97.12 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (CONT.)

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

9. The remit of Synod 1996 (96.21) concerning biennial Synods be continued.
10. The way ahead in the matter of an amended Property Act for New South Wales be discussed under Law and Advisory business.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

11. The following examiners of records be appointed:-

Synod Permanent Record	Rev. E.R. Lee and Rev. T.J. McGlynn.
Northern Presbytery	Rev. W.P. Gadsby and Hawkesbury-Nepean elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. W.M. Mackay and Brisbane elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. A.L. Tripovich and Grafton elder.

12. Presbyteries and committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.

13. Correspondence Item 3 be taken with Missions business.

14. An Order of the Day be made to allow Missions speakers to address Synod at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday.

97.13 FINANCE COMMITTEE (inc. TREASURER'S and AUDITOR'S REPORT)

The Convener, Mr. A.H. Steel, presented the Finance Committee's Report. It was resolved that the Report be received. Mr. Steel presented deliverance 1, after which Mr McPherson led in prayer, giving thanks for God's provision for the ministry of this church. It was resolved that:

1. Synod record its gratitude to God for the continued provision for the work of the ministry throughout 1996.
2. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend and Benefits (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 1997/98 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. Stipend relief for 1997/98 be granted to Armidale congregation up to 50 % of Stipend on a needs basis and the Ulverstone congregation up to \$10,000 also on a needs basis.

Mr. Steel proceeded to introduce Proposed deliverance 4. Discussion ensued. The time being 7.58 p.m., the moderator adjourned the debate to proceed to the Moderator's address.

97.14 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Moderator read from 2 Corinthians chapters 3 and 4, following which he gave an address on "Treasure in Earthen Vessels." By the use of an apt illustration drawn from his hobby of gold prospecting, Mr. Cromarty introduced his subject which was based on verses 5, 6 and 7 of 2 Corinthians 4.

Mr. Cromarty then proceeded to speak about the treasure which we have, namely, "the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." God, who himself said "Let there be light," has shone in our hearts. The apostle knew this in his own experience on the Damascus road. Our treasure is Christ's indwelling, Christ "in whom is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Colossians 2: 3) He is the pearl of great price. He is the treasure hidden in the field.

However, this treasure is in earthen vessels - jars of clay, poor fragile containers. But human weakness presents no barrier to God's purposes. There is no honour placed on the earthen vessel - "We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord" (v.5). We point away from

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

ourselves. It was only as the clay jars of Gideon's army were broken that the light shone forth. So it must be with us - "for God has chosen the foolish things" - the things that are base and despised - "that no flesh should glory in his presence." If our ministry takes any other direction then we have forgotten that we are clay and have forfeited servant-hood.

Mr Cromarty emphasised that God alone must receive all glory (v.7, as also Psalm 115: 1). He then asked all present "Is Christ treasured by each of us? Is he experientially precious? Do we speak of the "riches of his grace" with hearts aglow?" As we display this priceless treasure of the Gospel to a lost world, we shall yet witness in our ministries the powerful Gospel presence of God.

97.15 THANKS

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

97.16 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer and praise at 8.50 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 3 : FRIDAY, 18th APRIL, 1997, 9.00 a.m.

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

97.17 FINANCE COMMITTEE (CONT.)

The Convener of the Finance Committee continued to present Proposed Deliverance 4. After further discussion, it was resolved that:

4. Synod direct the Trustees for Victoria to reinvest the \$27,000, part of the C.M. Patterson bequest for Stipend Fund, currently held in a commercial unit property at 4/12 Floriston Road, Boronia, Vic., in better quality assets generating consistent reasonable returns, the terms of Synod 1985 Act 10, as amended by Synod 1992 article 41, to apply at all times.

Mr. Ward dissented with the following reasons:

1. The general principle of good order and careful deliberation laid down by Synod requires that matters related to a particular committee be first considered by that committee (Handbook 5.19).
2. Synod has specifically enacted, at the instigation of the Synod Treasurer, that Synod investments be made by the decision of a majority of trustees in consultation with various other parties - and the Finance Committee's proposal specifically recognises this.
3. Nonetheless, neither the Synod Treasurer nor the Finance Committee have approached the Secretary to the Victorian Trustees (Dr. Hanna), so that the matters can be properly considered and perhaps resolved to everyone's satisfaction without Synod's involvement, or suitably summarised and referred to Synod if guidance and direction is needed.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

4. The reasoning in the Finance Committee's report is inadequate and misleading (thereby showing the importance of following the prescribed procedure) and ultimately the amount is trivial. The difference between the present return on the \$27,000, about 5 %, and what is available elsewhere is small, and if the investment is sold for its present market value, the return on re-investment would be less in dollar terms than at present. Further, the long term interest of the trust, which is a perpetual one, must be considered.
5. There is a question as to the meaning of the Finance Committee's proposal. It appears from statements by the Convener that he intends the investment to be transferred at cost to another fund or part of the church, thereby causing that fund or part of the church to bear the current reduction in market value - which appears inequitable and generally likely to involve a breach of trust by the acquiring fund or other part of the church.

The Rev. W.M. Mackay and Mr. D.P. Smith adhered to Mr. Ward's dissent.

The Rev. W.P. Gadsby and Mr J. Loudon tendered simple dissent.

It was resolved that Synod appoint Mr. N. McPherson, the Rev. E.R. Lee and Mr. Steel to answer ground 5 of Mr. Ward's dissent.

97.18 TREASURER'S REPORT

The General Treasurer presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. The General Treasurer's action in providing an advance from Synod General Funds of \$3,200 for part printing costs for "A Witness for Christ" be confirmed.

Mr. Cromarty tendered dissent with reasons as follows:

[Pursuant to Minute 97.62, it was agreed to hold these reasons *in retentis*.]

Dr. Hanna tendered simple dissent.

It was moved and seconded that a committee of Mr. Ward and Mr. Lee be appointed to answer such of the reasons as seem appropriate. It was further moved and seconded that the previous motion be tabled and taken up after lunch. On being put to the vote this motion was defeated. The original motion was put to the vote and carried.

It was moved on notice and seconded that:

If Synod approve the General Treasurer's action of advancing \$3,200 for printing costs of "A Witness for Christ," then:

- a. that as first priority Dr. Ward be directed to repay Synod from sales of the book,
- b. that Dr. Ward be directed to provide Synod with an audited statement of all expenditure income associated with the book's publication and distribution, and
- c. noting that the introduction pages claim "all rights reserved" for the publisher, that Dr. Ward be directed to transfer "all rights" to the contents of the book, to the Publications Committee and the individual authors of the articles.

It was agreed to defer this matter to Publications Business.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

97.19 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. Repayment terms for the outstanding balance on the 8:14 Foundation loan to the Ulverstone Deacons' Court continue at \$1,000 p.a. That, when able, repayment be accelerated and the loan reviewed in the year 2000.

97.20 THANKS

It was moved and seconded that the thanks of the court be conveyed to the General Treasurer. This was passed by the acclamation of the court.

97.21 PROVIDENT FUNDS

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

1. Synod request Deacons' Courts to note that the 1997 Levy is \$2,495 [10% of minimum stipend 1/7/96-30/6/97], not less than 50% to be paid by 31st May 1997 and the balance by 30th November 1997.
2. Synod resolve that in respect to service on and after 1/7/1997 there be allocated annually from the Supplementary Benefits Fund to each ordained minister's account in the Retirement Fund an amount equal to 2.1% of minimum stipend, such amount being additional to the allocation from Levy proceeds, currently 8.9%.
3. In regard to the Retirement Fund, Synod resolve as follows:
 - a. individual member choice as to the investment of church contributions is not authorised.
 - b. as from 1/04/1997, 50% of church contributions are to be directed to Managed Growth and the balance to Capital Guarantee.
 - c. the life insurance and permanent disability provisions remain as at present except that the insurance cut out at age 65.
 - d. In respect of the accumulation from church contributions, 25% of the accumulation at or about 1/04/1997 is to be switched without fee from Capital Guaranteed to Managed Growth, each member to provide a written authority as requested by the Committee.
 - e. members making personal contributions may specify the investment medium.
 - f. Any personal contributions under foreshadowed Government legislation that members wish to make are to be remitted in a manner to be determined by the Committee, and for ease of administration it is anticipated that Deacons' Courts will deduct same from stipend otherwise payable and remit to the Synod Treasurer, although such personal contributions will form part of the minister's taxable income.
 - g. Deacons' Court's are encouraged to discuss with the minister of the charge disability/income protection insurance bearing in mind that such a minister is not a worker within the meaning of Workcover and the like legislation.
 - h. the Committee is to continue to monitor relative performance and legislative changes with a view to appropriate recommendation to Synod from time to time.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

- i. the Committee is to be composed of four persons, two of whom are to be members of the Retirement Fund.
4. That the basic rate of the weekly pension be increased from \$59.00 to \$60.20 (married) and from \$41.60 to \$42.50 (single) with effect from 1/07/1997.
5. The Rev. T. McGlynn be added to the membership of the Retirement Fund effective from his ordination on 18 March 1997.

97.22 N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION

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

97.23 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

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

97.24 TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA

The Secretary of the Trust Corporation (Rev. Dr. W.J.W. Hanna) presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. After discussion, the report was received.

97.25 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) commenced to present the report, and read some letters of greeting from several other reformed churches.

97.26 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 4 : FRIDAY, 18th APRIL, 1997, 2.00 p.m.

The Session was constituted with prayer and praise at 2.00. p.m. Notices of motion were read. The minutes of session 3 were read and confirmed.

97.27 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr Gadsby continued to present the committee's report.

It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved:

1. That the Committee's actions as reported above be endorsed.
2. That Synod express its approval of the amendments to the ICRC Constitution and Regulations as detailed in the report by Gadsby and Ward (Appendix to 1996 Report).

It was proposed that:

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

3. That Synod appoint the Rev. Dr R.S. Ward as a corresponding member to attend the 1997 meeting of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, in terms of the Federal Relations Acts of our respective Churches.

A second motion was moved and seconded that the Synod agree that either the Moderator and /or the Clerk of Synod be the corresponding member to the General Assembly of the Free Church in Scotland. Both the Moderator and Clerk intimated their inability to travel at the time of the General Assembly meetings. The second motion was put against the proposed deliverance and the proposed deliverance was preferred. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

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

4. That Synod now call for nominations to appoint a voting delegate or delegates to represent the PCEA at the 1997 meeting of the ICRC.

It was resolved that Messrs Gadsby and Ward be appointed as voting delegates to the 1997 meeting of the ICRC.

5. That the Committee be encouraged to maintain its contact with other 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.
6. a. That Synod rescind Act 9, Class 2, of Synod 1982, and Act 5, Class 2 of Synod 1989.
b. That it be standard practice for the Convener of Inter-Church Relations Committee to forward a letter of fraternal greeting in time to be received by the annual Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland; and that we also forward each year to the Clerk of Assembly a copy of our accounts, reports and minutes, with request for a like favour; and that the above provisions also apply to the Evangelical Presbyterian and Reformed Church in Peru, the Free Church in South Africa and Free Church of Central India.
c. That Synod's fraternal greetings be conveyed annually by the Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Committee to our other fellow members of the International Conference of Reformed Churches.

97.28 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the report of this Committee. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved that:

1. the remit to prepare an updated edition of the *Handbook* be continued, with the inclusion also of pertinent decisions of Synod 1997.

97.29 AMENDED NEW SOUTH WALES PROPERTY ACT

Synod took up the matter of the Barrier Act returns, concerning the matter of an amended Property Act for New South Wales. It was moved and seconded that the returns be noted, the matter be passed from and the remit to the Law and Advisory Committee be discharged for three years unless urgent circumstances force the subject on the attention of the Church. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

97.30 SPECIAL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Clerk introduced at this point a motion on notice. He informed the court that the Director-General of Education in New South Wales was now requiring that each church registered as permitted to provide volunteer teachers for the Special Religious Education programme in schools should furnish a statement of the procedures which it has in force to prevent anyone with a criminal record of offences against children being permitted to participate. It was resolved that Synod adopt the following rules for the authorisation of members of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia to act as volunteer (unpaid) teachers of Special Religious Education in schools.

Rules For The Authorisation Of Volunteers To Teach Special Religious Education In Schools

1. The person concerned must be a member in good standing of a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and must be certified as such by the Minister or Session Clerk of that congregation.
2. He or she must be willing to attend such training sessions as are prescribed by the local Co-ordinator of Special Religious Education.
3. He or she must be prepared to teach the prescribed curriculum of Special Religious Education.
4. He or she must complete the Statutory Declaration set out below:

Volunteer's Statutory Declaration

I, hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I have never been convicted of any criminal offence which involves:
 - a. an act of violence towards another person,
 - b. sexual assault, or
 - c. any offence against a minor person.
2. I understand that spot checks may be made to verify the above and hereby give my permission for any police checks which may be necessary and, for identification purposes, I advise that my date of birth is
3. I understand that, should I fail to meet my commitments as set out above, I could be asked to withdraw from the ministry of Special Religious Education in schools.
4. If there be any charges in regard to the above I will notify the minister of my congregation.

I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and in accordance with the provisions of the Oaths Act of 1990.

Signature: **Date:**

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

Witness:
(Justice of the Peace or Solicitor - Name in Full)

Signature: **Date:**

97.31 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

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

1. Ministers of all congregations continue to make their people aware of worldly and corrupt influences which constitute a danger to the spiritual welfare of themselves and their children.

97.32 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. A.L. Tripovich) presented this report. It was resolved that the report be received.

97.33 PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT

The editor of *The Presbyterian Banner* (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received.

97.34 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 5.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 5 : SATURDAY, 19th APRIL, 1997, 9.00 a.m.

The session was opened with prayer, praise and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of session 4 were read and confirmed.

97.35 PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT

The Moderator permitted a time of discussion concerning this report.

97.36 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (CONT.)

After discussion, it was resolved that:

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

1. the editor and the acting-editor of *The Presbyterian Banner* be thanked for their constant efficient work in the production of the church magazine, together with all who assist in the work.
2. ministers and Sessions throughout the church make use of available P.C.E.A. literature and promote the same among their people, and among others as a means of outreach.
3. the *Fellowship* magazine be amalgamated with *The Presbyterian Banner*, to the extent of four pages, without necessarily increasing the present size of the *Banner*, and that each continue under the care of the present editors, and to come into effect in 1998.
4. That Synod consider the nature and content of the publicised “P.C.E.A. Home Page,” and whether this new medium in the name of the P.C.E.A. should be brought under the supervision of an appropriate committee which would report on what is being communicated on the Internet each year.

Synod took up consideration of the “P.C.E.A. Home Page” It was resolved that Mr. Matthew Winzer be thanked for his initiative in establishing the P.C.E.A. Home Page and that, with his concurrence, it be recognised as our official home-page with supervision by the Publications Committee.

It was further resolved that our people be reminded that those who speak in the name of the P.C.E.A. should request authorisation from the P.C.E.A. and that, in particular, our people be reminded of the Synod Regulations with regard to the use of the P.C.E.A. logo by individuals. (Act 7 Synod 1995 - 95.46)

97.37 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Acting Convener (Rev. W.M. Mackay) and the Rev. Trevor Leggott presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. A time of questions and discussion ensued.

It was moved on notice and seconded that actual monetary amounts and their source appear in each relevant deliverance. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

97.38 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

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 6: SATURDAY, 19th APRIL, 1997, 6.30 p.m.

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 6.30 p.m. It was resolved that the Moderator’s action in calling the meeting for 6.30 p.m. be endorsed. The minutes of session 5 were read and confirmed.

97.39 CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS

The Clerk presented the reports, which had been submitted through Presbyteries, from the various congregations. It was resolved that the reports as submitted be received. Synod went into committee to discuss these reports. Synod resumed formal session at 7.30 p.m.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

97.40 MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. W.M. Mackay) presented the Rev. Cliff Letcher, Education and Resource Officer and President of the Aborigines Inland Mission, Mr. Bill Power, Chairman of Queensland Church Council of the Aborigines Inland Mission and the Rev. W.P. Gadsby to the Moderator, who then handed over the conduct of the session to Mr. Mackay. After the singing of Psalm 96: 1-7 and the reading of Isaiah 52 : 1-15, Mr. Mackay led the court in prayer. Mr. Mackay then introduced the Rev. Peter Gadsby who spoke of the work of the Gospel in South Africa, especially as it is seen in the Free Church of Southern Africa.

After the singing of Psalm 126 Mr. Mackay called on the Rev. Trevor Leggott to introduce the Rev. Cliff Letcher who then spoke about the work of the Aborigines Inland Mission. Mr. Bill Power was then introduced and addressed the court.

Psalm 72: 17 -19 was sung and the Moderator resumed the chair. He thanked the speakers and led in prayer.

97.41 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 8.52 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 7 : MONDAY, 21st APRIL, 1997, 9.00 a.m.

The session was opened with prayer, praise and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of session 6 were read and confirmed.

97.42 MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Synod resumed Missions Committee business. It was resolved that:

1. Synod gives thanks to God for the efforts of Leone Tupua in Fiji and assures him of our prayerful support, and encourages him in his church leadership, evangelism and outreach efforts.

The Convener introduced proposed Deliverance 2:

2. Synod agrees to send a delegation of two members, to be nominated by the Missions Committee, on a pastoral visit to Fiji in 1997, if possible this visit to coincide with a conference at the Fiji Bible College.

It was moved on notice and seconded that in Deliverance 2, the words “the missions Committee” be deleted and replaced by “the Synod.” On the amendment being put against the Proposed Deliverance, the Proposed Deliverance was preferred.

It was further moved on notice that Deliverance 2 be amended by deleting the words “of two members.” On being put against the motion this amendment was preferred. On being put to the vote, the Proposed Deliverance as amended was approved.

It was resolved that the amount budgeted for this visit be \$3,000.

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

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

3. a. Synod agrees to offer the old Mazda van to the Tupua family for a suitable price.
b. It was resolved that the price asked be \$3,000.
4. a. Synod expresses its continued prayerful and practical interest in the work in India at the Lakhnadon Hospital and the Chhapara Health Centre and the Christian schools in each centre.

The source of the proposed Scholarship for Christian schools was questioned. The Moderator ruled that, if the Convener were willing to undertake that the Scholarship be used only for those in poverty, he was willing to allow the Missions Relief Fund to stand as the source of the funds required.

4. b. It was resolved that the amounts involved come from the Missions Relief Fund and that they be:

Lakhnadon Hospital	\$15 000
Chhapara Christian Health Centre	\$12 000
Christian Schools (Scholarship)	\$ 1 000

5. a. Synod gives thanks to God for the work done by Mr Dennis Muldoon at the Allahabad Agricultural Institute and agrees to continue to support the work through a contribution to the support of Mr Tigi Verghis.
b. It was resolved that the amount of this contribution be \$2 500, to come from the Missions relief Fund.
6. Synod gives thanks to God for the service given by Rev Peter Gadsby at the Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible College and assures that institution of our continued interest in their work, and especially that it might advance the progress of the Gospel in the Free Church in Southern Africa.
7. a. Synod offers its continued support and encouragement to those who labour for the Gospel with Christian Witness to Israel, particularly those who minister amongst the Jewish community in Australia.
b. It was resolved that the amount of \$2 000 dollars for Christian Witness to Israel come from Missions General Fund.
8. a. Synod expresses its continued interest in, and support for, the work of the Middle-East Reformed Fellowship as they take the Gospel of Jesus Christ back to the Middle-East.
b. It was resolved that a donation of \$2 500 for Diaconal aid be made to the Middle East Reformed Fellowship, the amount to come from the Missions Relief Fund.
9. a. Synod agrees to the appointment of Rev Trevor Leggott as a missionary of the Church, seconded to labour as the Administrative Secretary of the Aborigines Inland Mission of Australia, such appointment for an initial period of three years.

Mr. Tripovich dissented with the following reasons:

1. The appointment is made without any information about the doctrinal beliefs of A.I.M.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

2. The appointment condones the stated aim of A.I.M. to establish a “National Aboriginal Church” in Australia, which is contrary to the practice of the Apostolic church into which both Jews and Gentiles were brought as one.
3. The appointment is not to the work of the ministry of the Gospel and pastoral oversight, but to administrative activity.
4. As a result of such appointment, the P.C.E.A. will compromise its constitutional position by seconding a minister of the P.C.E.A. to an organisation whose beliefs and practices, i.e., government, doctrine and worship and discipline, are so contrary to our own.

Mr. Kerr and Mr. McGlynn adhered to the dissent with reasons.
There was a simple dissent from Mr Steel.

It was resolved that a Committee consisting of Messrs. Mackay and Mr. Lee be appointed to answer the fourth point on Mr Tripovich’s reasons for dissent.

The Convener presented the portion of the budget relating to Mr. Leggott’s work with the Aborigines Inland Mission, i.e., that \$16 735 come from Missions General Fund and \$7 000 from the Missions Relief Fund.

The Moderator indicated his desire to leave the chair in order to speak to the motion. It was resolved that Mr. Lee be appointed Moderator *pro tem.*, to allow this to occur. Further discussion ensued.

97.43 CLOSURE OF SESSION

The session was closed with prayer at 1.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 8: MONDAY, 21st APRIL, 1997, 2.20 p.m.

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 2.00 p.m. The minutes of session 7 were read and confirmed.

97.44 MISSIONS COMMITTEE

It was proposed that the Committee be permitted to withdraw Proposed Deliverance 9(b) and to replace it with the following:

9. b.1. Missions General Fund provide \$21, 240 for the Rev. T.I. Leggott’s stipend from January 1997 to December 1997 and that the appropriate provision of \$2495 be made for Superannuation/Long Service Leave, and that for 1998 similar provision be made until reviewed by Synod.
 2. The question of the appropriateness of the use of Missions Relief Funds as support for opinion and report to next Synod.
 3. Mr. Leggott be invited to note the time allocated to relief work amongst aboriginals and report to next Synod.

On the being put to the vote this leave was granted

On being put to the vote, the new Proposed Deliverance was approved.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

Mr. Lee relinquished the chair and the Moderator, Mr. Cromarty, resumed it.

It was moved on notice and seconded that \$7,000 be included in the 1997/98 Budget for donations to the Free Church of Southern Africa and Colegio San Andres, the committee to decide on the amounts so donated. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

10. Synod approve the budget as determined by the foregoing decisions and that the budget be included in the Minutes.

MISSIONS BUDGET 1997 AND 1998

MISSIONS GENERAL:

1997

Income:

General: Balance	18415
Income Investments	9000
Giving	9000
Missions Support Fiji: Giving	10000
Sale of Old Van	3000
Total	49415

Expenditure:

Fiji: Stipend & expenses	15000
Visit/conference	3000
Christian Witness to Israel	2000
T Leggott at Aborigines Inland Mission	21240
SA/LSL Levy	2495
F.C. S.A./ Peru	7000
Total	50735
Closing Balance	-1320

MISSIONS RELIEF:

1997

Income:

Balance	485410
Income investments	48000
Total	533410

Expenditure:

Lakhnadon Christian Hospital	15000
Chhapara Christian Health Centre	12000
Scholarship	1000
Middle East Reformed Fellowship	2500
Tigi Verghis, Allahabad Agricultural Inst.	2500
Total	33000

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

Closing Balance

500410

97.45 SEAT ON PRESBYTERY - REV. T.I. LEGGOTT

It was moved on notice and seconded that, consequent upon the Rev. Trevor Leggott's appointment as a Missionary and his secondment to the A.I.M., he be granted a seat on the Central Presbytery. The motion was carried.

Mr. Kerr tendered dissent for the following reasons:

1. The seat is being granted to a minister who has not been inducted to a particular work of this church.
2. Induction to a particular work is the essential link, in the case of the preaching elder, to membership.
3. The proposed work, external to the oversight of this church, as Secretary of A.I.M. is, in my opinion, not substantially equivalent to a pastoral charge. (Act 18, Class2, Synod 1986)
4. The granting of a seat violates the principle of parity in the eldership.
5. The Presbytery has 5 charges, 4 of which are settled, and an appointment (conditional on immigration) is in existence for the fifth charge; hence there is no distinct shortage of ministers nor need for assistance in the Presbytery.
6. The procedure has, in my opinion, not been in sympathy with Paul's directive in 1 Corinthians 14: 40 - "that all things be done decently and in order."

Mr. Tripovich and Mr. McGlynn tendered simple dissent.

97.46 MINUTE OF APPRECIATION - W.M. MACKAY

It was moved and seconded that Synod notes the impending retirement at the close of this year of the Rev. W.M. Mackay and his intention to return to Scotland. Mr. Mackay is a distinguished educationalist, serving Colegio San Andres in Lima from 1961 to 1978, being Headmaster from 1966 to 1978. After some years in Scotland he became Principal of Presbyterian Ladies' College, Melbourne in 1986 and has led the school through a time of transition during which its Christian character has been affirmed and its pre-eminent role in women's education fully maintained. Mr. Mackay became an elder of the Melbourne congregation, in 1986, was subsequently granted a seat on Southern Presbytery, and convened Synod Missions Committee from 1988 to 1995. The Synod expresses the hope that he and his wife will be spared to enjoy a pleasant and productive retirement in Edinburgh. The motion was carried by acclamation. Mr. Mackay replied on behalf of himself and his wife.

97.47 CONGRATULATIONS

It was moved and seconded that Synod congratulate the Rev. E.R. Lee M.A. (Edin.) on the successful completion of a Master of Arts degree through Deakin University, Geelong, related to the life and writings of John Buchan and wish him and Barbara every happiness in their expectation of attending the ceremony of conferring the degree in the near future. Synod also expresses the hope that the Lord might spare them for further years of service to the Church of Christ during their retirement. The motion was carried by acclamation.

97.48 ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The Archivist (Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward) presented a short verbal report. It was resolved that arrangements be made by the Archivist to accept the kind offer of the Ferguson Memorial Library of the P.C.A. in the State of New South Wales, to house Synod Minutes 1864-1955 on extended loan, access to be available to the ministers of the Church and *bona fide* researchers.

97.49 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3 - FROM THE REV. S.R. TAMATA

It was resolved that the correspondence item 3 be received. It was moved and seconded that Messrs Gadsby and Ward be requested to ascertain what support may be available to support the Rev. S.R. Tamata as a missionary to Fiji, from among our fellow member churches of the I.C.R.C., and that we inform Mr. Tamata of this initiative with regret that our current financial commitments do not permit us to accede to his request in 1997 or 1998. The motion was carried.

97.50 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (CONT.)

Synod resumed consideration of Publications Committee business.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod endorse the publication "A Witness for Christ" (ISBN 0-949670-28-6) as fulfilling the decisions of Synod about preparing a commemorative booklet.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that the book "A Witness for Christ" be recognised as a publication of the P.C.E.A. On the second motion being put against the first the first motion was preferred and became the motion. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that Synod express its appreciation to the Rev. Dr. Rowland Ward with regard to "A Witness for Christ,"

- a. for the research done in selecting material for publication,
- b. for his diligence in bringing together items that represent so many facets of the life of the church throughout its 150 years.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod direct that further distribution of the book be overseen by the Church and Nation Committee.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that Synod accept the offer of Dr. Ward to continue the distribution of the book on behalf of the Publications Committee. On the second motion being put against the first the second motion was preferred and became the motion. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that Synod direct that a slip be inserted in unsold copies (and made available to previous purchasers, if possible), the slip to indicate that:

1. the Rev. Edwin Lee, M.A. was a joint editor of the book
2. the book is a publication of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia at the direction of Synod
3. the publishers apologise for the omission of these details from the original printing.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

Mr. Louden tendered dissent for the reason that the action of placing an apologetic slip in “A Witness for Christ” is not consistent with a serious omission which did not receive a slip in the book “Introduction to the P.C.E.A.” by Peter Hill.

Mr. Ward dissented with the reason that:

“I cannot be party to distributing a book in which, for good or ill, a party is credited with editing a work he did not. I regret the oversight about the editorship, which Mr. Lee himself shared and apologised to him when I realised it a month or two ago. He had told me he made no claim to editorship.”

97.51 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 5.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 9 : MONDAY, 21st APRIL, 1997, 7.00 p.m.

The session was constituted with prayer and praise at 7.00 p.m. The minutes of session 8 were read and confirmed.

97.52 PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE (CONT.)

It was moved on notice and seconded that copies of “A Witness for Christ” be distributed *gratis* to Presbyterian and Reformed ministers, the cost of postage to be borne by specific donations. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

97.53 PSALMODY REPORT

The Rev. Alan Tripovich presented this report, in lieu of the Rev. S.N. Ramsay, who was unable to be present. It was resolved that the report be received and that Mr. Ramsay be thanked for his efforts in producing the report.

It was moved and seconded that Synod’s attention be drawn to the ongoing revision of the Scottish Metrical Psalms by the Psalmody Committee of the Free Church of Scotland. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

97.54 YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener (Mr. N.A. McPherson) presented the Committee’s report. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved that:

1. Warm appreciation and thanks be expressed to Rev. Jim and Mrs. Val Cromarty for their work on the *Fellowship* magazine and together with Mrs. Irene Steel for their continued work in the interests of the Youth and Fellowship of our church.
2. Sessions provide parents with suitable material to help with the instruction of their children.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

3. All courts and individual members make every effort to facilitate family attendance at the Family Camp 97/98.
4. Synod request continued prayer from the whole church for the work of Rev. Ray and Mrs. Roberta Murray and others involved in School Religious Instruction.

97.55 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Moderator (Rev. J.M. Cromarty), being the Convener of this committee, vacated the chair to present the report. It was resolved that the Rev. E.R. Lee be appointed Moderator *pro tem*. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod note the payment of Mr Harry Klomp's debt (\$27,115) by the Melbourne Deacons Court.
2. Synod note the repayments made by Mr Tuck (\$1,200) and Mr Hill (\$600).

It was moved and seconded that we take deliverances 3 and 4 at the end of the deliverances under this report. It was further moved and seconded that we move into closed court. On being put against the first motion, the second motion was preferred and became the motion. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

Synod moved into closed court.

The Committee agreed to split Proposed Deliverance 3 into two separate proposals. The Convener proposed:

- 3a. that Synod approve the variation of Bond requirements for Mr. Tuck in the terms contained in the report.

An amendment was proposed that Synod authorise the variation of Mr. Tuck's Bond to the following extent, provided that the Training of Ministry Committee is satisfied with the reasons offered by Mr. Tuck for special consideration, this variation not to be made a precedent:

- a. interest accrued during the initial 12 months is waived but that thereafter accrues at 8 % on the amount outstanding until paid.
- b. total repayment must be made by 31/12/1997 (\$5858.50 plus interest as above) the cost of the medical examination is not included in the Bond.

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

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 3 (b)

- 3b. That Synod approve the variation of Bond requirements for Mr. Hill in the terms contained in the report.

It was moved on notice that Synod authorise the variation of Mr. Hill's Bond to the following extent, provided that the Training of Ministry Committee is satisfied with the reasons offered by Mr. Hill for special consideration, this variation not to be made a precedent:

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

- a. interest accrued during the initial 12 months is waived but that thereafter accrues at 8 % on the amount outstanding until paid.
- b. total repayment must be made by 31/12/1997 (\$1,470 plus interest as above)

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

It was agreed to meet in open court.

97.56 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with the benediction ant 9.20 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

SESSION 10: TUESDAY, 22nd APRIL, 1997, 9.00 a.m.

The session was opened with praise, prayer and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of session 9 were read and confirmed.

97.57 MOTION ON NOTICE

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod set aside a period in which the Rev. Trevor Leggott's secondment to A.I.M. be recognised by a short service of worship. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

The Moderator handed over the conduct of this service to the Rev. W.M. Mackay. Mr. Mackay read from the Scriptures and then asked Mr. Leggott to come forward. The Moderator led the court in prayer, setting Mr. Leggott aside to the work of the Aborigines Inland Mission.

It was resolved that the Rev. E.R. Lee act as Moderator *pro tem*. The Moderator left the chair which was then occupied by Mr. Lee.

97.58 LETTER OF GREETING

Mr. Gadsby read a letter of greeting from the Reformed Church in the United States. It was resolved that the letter be received.

97.59 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

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

4. Synod note Mr Jacoby's resignation as a student and that his Bond obligation is \$2,922.50.
5. a. Synod note Mr Kinder's successful completion of study and Southern Presbytery's decision to commence trials for licence.

b. Synod confirm the Committee's action in exempting Mr Kinder from further Hebrew studies.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

6. Synod approve the guidelines “For Those Considering Ministry.”
7. The guidelines be published in the Presbyterian Banner and Fellowship magazines and that sessions be asked to make additional copies of the guidelines available for those who enquire.
8. The Student Bond (paragraph 5) be altered by the addition of the phrase “to the balance then owing” so that it now reads “...interest will be added to the balance then owing at normal bank overdraft rates.....”
9. Synod appoint the Training of Ministry Committee to supervise Mr. Leone Tupua’s training and that necessary costs for fees and text books be met from the funds of that Committee, this decision to be reviewed by the next ensuing Synod.

97.60 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4 - OVERTURE FROM CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

The Clerk presented Correspondence Item 4, an item of late correspondence from Central Presbytery. It was resolved that the correspondence be received.

It was resolved to meet in closed court.

Mr. Gadsby presented the overture, which was as follows:

WHEREAS Central Presbytery, with the concurrence of the Training of Ministry Committee, has granted provisional recognition to Mr. Peter Smith as a Student for the Ministry, Presbytery respectfully overtures Synod to confirm this action and appoints the Rev. Peter Gadsby to state the overture. Mr. Gadsby spoke in support of the overture. It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted as stated.

The Convener of Training of Ministry presented an additional deliverance. It was resolved that Synod assures Mr. Peter Smith of its continued interest and prayers and agrees to the payment of all allowances and fees as determined by the committee, to be confirmed by Synod 1998.

It was agreed to meet in open court.

Mr. Lee relinquished the chair to the Moderator.

97.61 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2 - OVERTURE FROM SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

The Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward presented the overture, which was as follows:

Whereas the Melbourne Congregation has extended an invitation to the Rev. George D. Ball to minister in the Narre Warren section of the charge, Mr. Ball being at present a minister within the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland and,

Whereas the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland accepts and practises purity of worship as understood by the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and accepts the whole doctrine of the Westminster Confession of Faith,

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

Now therefore the Southern Presbytery respectfully overtures the Synod of Eastern Australia to declare Mr. Ball a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia eligible for settlement in the usual way, should Mr. Ball accept the invitation extended to him by the Melbourne Congregation, subject to his submission of an appropriate Presbytery Certificate and subscription to our Formula, or do other wise for this object as it in its wisdom may deem best.

It was resolved that the overture be received. Dr. Ward appeared in support of the overture. After discussion, it was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted as stated.

97.62 MR. CROMARTY'S REASONS FOR DISSENT

Mr. Cromarty expressed the desire that his reasons for dissent be held *in retentis*. It was moved and seconded that Synod accede to Mr. Cromarty's request, direct the Clerk to expunge the reasons from the confirmed record and place them *in retentis*, and that the committee appointed to answer them be discharged. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Kerr tendered dissent with the following reasons:

1. A committee was appointed to answer 'reasons for dissent' and has failed to report its answer to Synod.
2. As the reasons which prompted me to withdraw notices of motion; I have been denied the right, indeed the responsibility and privilege, to ensure that motions and deliverances before the Synod be fully discussed.
3. the principle of the Superior Court of the Church expunging a portion of a confirmed minute from its own record is unconstitutional.

Mr Tripovich and Mr. McGlynn tendered simple dissent.

97.63 ANSWERS TO REASONS FOR DISSENT

The committee appointed to answer Mr. Ward's reasons for dissent from Deliverance 4 of the Finance Committee presented its report. It was resolved that the report be received and that the answers be engrossed in the records.

Answers to Reasons for Dissent

As the major contributor of funds in this investment (Melbourne Deacons' Court - 55 %) has indicated they are long term investors and have no intention of selling unless it seems prudent and advantageous to do so, the suggestion that the proposal would cause another fund or part of the church to bear the current reduction in market value is not appropriate. This would only apply in the event of a sale of the property. It is considered the redeployment of the funds does not appear to be inequitable and generally likely to involve a breach of trust, as the investment has been made at current market rental value with a CPI clause included in the lease.

The Committee to answer point 4 of Mr. Tripovich's reasons for dissent against Deliverance 9(a) of the Missions Committee presented its report. It was agreed that the report be received and that the answers be engrossed in the record.

Answers to Reasons for Dissent

We do not consider that the P.C.E.A. has compromised its constitutional position by appointing the Rev. Trevor Leggott as a missionary of the Church, seconded to labour as the Administrative Secretary of the Aborigines Inland Mission.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

We believe that it is possible for a person to give service with such a Mission which recognises the authority of Scripture and the unique mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ without in any way compromising the constitutional position of the P.C.E.A.

The Church has set a precedent for this action in recognising the ministry of the Rev. John Graham as a Missionary to the Jewish people.

97.64 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

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

97.65 ASSESSORS TO SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

The need for a continuing assessors to the Southern Presbytery was discussed. It was moved and seconded that Mr. Lee and Mr. McPherson be appointed Assessors to the Southern Presbytery for the current ecclesiastical year. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

97.66 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, Convener of Inter-Church Relations (W.P. Gadsby).

Church and Nation (including Publications and Psalmody)

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

Finance

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

Provident Funds

R.S. Ward (Convener), T.I. Leggott, J.B. Louden, K.I. Kerr.

8: 14 Foundation

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

Law and Advisory

Synod Clerk (Convener), A.L. Tripovich, R.W. Murray, Brisbane elder, Maclean elder, R.S. Ward.

Missions

W.P. Gadsby (Convener), Dr. Helen Ramsay, Manning elder, Bruce Dunne, Ian Conley, T.I. Leggott (Advisory member), J. Greensill (corresponding member).

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), T.J. McGlynn, J.A. Cromarty, D.P. Smith, I. Miller.

97.67 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 1998

It was moved and seconded that Synod 1998 be held at Armidale from 7.00 p.m. on 20/4/98 to not later than 1.00 p.m. on 24/4/98. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

It was resolved that the amount of up to \$1 000 be made available to the Armidale congregation, on a needs basis, to assist with catering.

97.68 MODERATOR ELECT FOR 1998

It was resolved that the Moderator-elect for 1998 be the Rev. A.L. Tripovich.

97.69 PRINCIPAL ACTS

It was resolved that the Clerk draw up a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 1997, and include it with the minutes.

97.70 TREASURER'S REPORT

The General Treasurer (Mr. Steel) indicated the financial commitments made by this Synod.

97.71 THANKS TO TREASURER

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

97.72 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 1 - COMPLAINT BY THE REV. W.P. GADSBY

It was resolved that the correspondence be received.

It was agreed to meet in closed court.

The parties to the case, Mr. Gadsby and the Central Presbytery, were called to the bar. Mr. Gadsby presented his complaint against a resolution of the Central Presbytery to exclude certain material from the minutes of a meeting. Mr. D. Kerr appeared on behalf of the Central Presbytery. Mr. Gadsby exercised his right of reply, after which members of the court addressed questions to Mr. Gadsby and to the Presbytery. It was resolved that the parties be removed from the bar and that they be excluded from the court. It was moved that Synod uphold the complaint by Mr. Gadsby on the grounds that (1) a duly seconded motion becomes the property of the court and must appear in its minuted record, unless expunged by the permission of a higher court, (2) as no record apart (private record) was being kept the unsuccessful motion must be part of the record in the regular minute book, as also the fact that the final motion was carried on the casting vote of the Moderator. It was further moved and seconded that, as it appears that Presbytery acted within the terms of the Handbook, i.e., 4.24 and 5.14, and as it is a serious matter to interfere with the action of a lawfully constituted meeting of Presbytery, the complaint be not upheld. The second motion was put against the first and the first was preferred and became the motion. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried. Mr. Tripovich and Mr. Webster tendered simple dissent. The parties were recalled and the decision of Synod was intimated to them. Mr. Gadsby, Mr. McPherson, Mr. Smith and Mr. Longworth indicated their acquiescence and Mr. Kerr indicated his non-acquiescence. The parties were dismissed from the bar.

It was agreed to meet in open court.

97.73 THANKS TO THE ARMIDALE CONGREGATION

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

97.74 MINUTES

The minutes of this closing session were read and confirmed.

Minutes of the 1997 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

97.75 CLOSURE

Synod 1997 was closed with scripture reading, the singing of Psalm 124:1-8 and prayer at 1.55 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M.Cromarty
Moderator

ACTS OF SYNOD 1997
(Appended by the Direction of Synod - see Article 97.69)

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)	nil
Class 2 (Others)	Article
<i>A Witness for Christ</i>	97.50
Aborigines Inland Mission - Rev T.I.Leggott seconded	97.42.9
Direction to Trustees for Victoria regarding an investment	97.17.4
<i>For Those Considering Ministry</i> - guidelines	97.59.6,7
Housing of Archives	97.48
NSW Property (Amendment) Act	97.29
PCEA Homepage	97.36.4
Pension Increase	97.21.4
<i>Presbyterian Banner/Fellowship Magazine</i>	97.36.3
Reception of Mr D.P. Smith as student for the ministry	97.60
Retirement Fund Provisions	97.21.2,3
Seat on Presbytery - Rev T.I. Leggott	97.45
Special Religious Education	97.30
Stipend Relief - Armidale and Ulverstone	97.13.3
Training - Mr Leone Tupua	97.59.9
Ulverstone loan - rate of repayment	97.19

LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. 27/2/97 From the Rev. Peter Gadsby - Complaint against an action of the Central Presbytery.
2. From Southern Presbytery - Overture concerning the Rev. George Ball.
3. From Rev. S.R. Tamata - concerning service in Fiji.
4. From Central Presbytery - Overture concerning reception of student.