

**MINUTES OF THE 151st ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA
ARMIDALE, NSW, 1998**

SESSION 1: MONDAY, 20th APRIL, 1998 7.00 p.m.

98.1 OPENING

Within the Armidale Church Building on Monday, 20th April, 1998, at 7.00 p.m., the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, the Moderator, the Rev. John M. Cromarty presiding.

98.2 RETIRING MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Retiring Moderator (Rev. J.M. Cromarty) read Luke 4: 7-33. He then delivered a sermon on the subject "Still there is room," focusing particularly on verses 22 and 23. He mentioned that the parable tells us that those who had been invited excused themselves - if you do not use the privileges you have, you will lose them. The servant heeded the command of his master and went out quickly into the streets and lanes (v. 21) and returned with:

1. An announcement. "Master it is done as you commanded." He went to the outcasts and he went with urgency.
But there was still something to add:
2. A statement. "Still there is room." There are still empty seats. What an encouragement this is for lost, needy men and women. And the labourer also knows that his work is still not complete. The master responded "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." In this there is:
3. An implication. The room shall be filled. There shall be no empty seats. Compel them. They shall come and the harvest shall be gathered.

The Moderator made particular application throughout his sermon concluding with an urgent appeal to be "Gospel fishermen." He asked that we should encourage our people to be labourers for Christ, despite the cost which is spoken of in verses 27-33. We must let the world know that "still there is room," and that today is the day of salvation.

98.3 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

Ministers

vacant
W.J.W. Hanna
R.W. Murray
A.L. Tripovich
vacant
R.W. Murray (sharing with
Grafton)

Commissioned Elders

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

Synod Appointments: S.N. Ramsay (retired)

Central Presbytery

Hawkesbury/Nepean
Hunter/Barrington
Manning

T.J. McGlynn
vacant
W.P. Gadsby

D. Kerr
P. Uren
K. Longworth

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St. George's	J.A. McCallum†	A. Steel
Sydney South	vacant	N.A. McPherson

Synod Appointments: T.I. Leggott (seconded to A.I.M.)

Southern Presbytery

Geelong	J.M. Cromarty	
Melbourne (Knox/G'Huntly)	R.S. Ward	J. Louden
Melbourne (Narre Warren)	G.D. Ball	J. Pateman†
Ulverstone	G. Kinder	none

Assessor: Rev.E.R. Lee

The Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward had tendered his apologies for absence during the early sessions. He expected to be present by late on Tuesday afternoon.

98.4 WELCOMES

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Graham Kinder, the Rev. George Ball and Mr. Peter Uren, representative elder from the Hunter/Barrington charge to their first Synod. The Moderator then welcomed the Rev. Ian McKenzie and the Rev. Ranald F. Morrison of the Free Church of Scotland. It was resolved that Mr. McKenzie and Mr. Morrison be associated with the Synod, with the right to speak but not to vote.

98.5 MODERATOR -ELECT FOR 1998

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Rev. Alan Tripovich, indicating his inability to perform the duties of Moderator for 1998. This letter would be tabled with the rest of the correspondence. The Administration Committee had agreed to the appointment of the Rev. Raymond W. Murray as Moderator-elect for 1998, to replace Mr. Tripovich. It was moved and seconded that the action of the Administration Committee be endorsed. It was further moved and seconded that the most senior minister capable of accepting the office without infringing the constitution be called upon to do so and that Synod agree to dispense with the need for a Moderatorial address in these unusual circumstances. On the second motion being put against the first the first motion was preferred. On being put to the vote the motion was carried. Mr. Kerr tendered dissent with reasons as follows:

I dissent from the Committee's recommendation in nominating the Rev. R.W. Murray as he has been inducted into a second charge while not demitting the first charge (Synod Report p.4,item2) and Synod's appointing him on the grounds that:

To approve this action compels me to deny my ordination vows in which I have vowed to maintain and to defend the Presbyterian Form of Church Government as enunciated in the:

A. Westminster Form of Church Government in which it says (p.399) the pastor is to pray for HIS FLOCK. (in the singular)

B. p.404 for officers of a single congregation there ought to be at least ONE to labour both in word and doctrine

C. In the Second Book of Discipline

1) Ch.4 Sec.1 Pastors are appointed to a particular congregation,

2) Sec. 8 Pastor is to pray for THE FLOCK committed to his charge

D. Ch.11 Sec. 10 True bishops should devote themselves to one particular flock, which sundry of them refuse.¹

It was resolved that a committee consisting of the Rev. Peter Gadsby and the Clerk be appointed to answer Mr. Kerr's reasons.

Mr. McGlynn tendered simple dissent.

98.6 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR

It was moved and seconded that the Rev. R.W. Murray be appointed Moderator for 1998. Mr. Murray declined to accept the nomination because of the conscientious scruples of some of the members. It was resolved, none opposing, that Synod adjourn to meet again tomorrow morning and that, in the meantime, a committee of the Moderator and Clerk meet with Mr. Murray to attempt to persuade him to alter his decision.

98.7 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer and praise at 8.30 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

J.M. Cromarty
Moderator

¹ See page 25, section 98.47

SESSION 2: TUESDAY, 21st APRIL, 1998, 9.00 a.m.

The session was opened with prayer, praise and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of session 1 were read and confirmed.

98.8 ELECTION OF MODERATOR FOR 1998

The Moderator reported on the discussions which he and the Clerk had had with the Rev. R.W. Murray. He reported that Mr. Murray continued to decline nomination as Moderator. He therefore called for nominations for the position of Moderator. It was resolved that the Rev. W. Peter Gadsby be appointed Moderator. Mr. Gadsby took the chair.

98.9 THANKS

It was resolved that the retiring Moderator be thanked for his work during the year and for his sermon, and that it be published in *The Presbyterian Banner*.

98.10 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

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. At the request of the Moderator the Clerk led in prayer for those who had been bereaved.
3. The remit concerning the Decision Book contained in Synod Minutes 1996 (96.10) and in Synod Minutes 1997 (97.8.4) be continued.
4. The second paragraph of section 5.15 of the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* (commencing "Two sets of minutes are kept.") be amended to read:

Where minutes are taken down in writing, two sets of minutes are kept. The 'scroll' minutes are the minutes taken at the time. A 'permanent record' is typed up from these and is compared with the scroll minutes and, being found correct, is duly attested by the clerk and Moderator. Where the minutes are typed up on a computer at the time, only one set of

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minutes need be kept, provided that it is duly confirmed by the court and signed by the clerk and Moderator. The Clerk of Synod is permitted, without formal instruction, to give extracts of deliverances to all persons who have an interest in them. In other respects the rules for extracts in presbyteries apply (see 4.25).

5. Synod decide, in principle, to move to the holding of Synods on a biennial basis, and that a committee consisting of the Administration Committee with the addition of the Conveners of Committees, be appointed to bring such recommendations to Synod 1999 as would permit this to be implemented, with a view to the first biennial Synod being held in 2001.

It was moved and seconded that consideration be given to the role and function of Synod before any decision is made regarding biennial Synods.

On the motion being put against the proposed deliverance, the proposed deliverance was preferred. On being put to the vote, the proposed deliverance became the finding of the court.

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

6. Correspondence item 1 be received and noted.
7. Correspondence item 2 be received and dealt with under Church Extension matters.
8. Correspondence item 3 be received and dealt with under Training of Ministry.
9. Correspondence item 4 be received and taken with the Law and Advisory Report.
10. Correspondence items 5 and 6 be received, treated as overtures and taken under Reports of Examiners of Records.
11. Correspondence item 7 be received and that it be passed to the Convener of Inter-Church Relations to reply on behalf of Synod.
12. Correspondence item 8 be received and considered under Missions business.
13. An Order of the Day be made to allow the Rev. Don Baird of the Reformed Churches of Australia to address Synod at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesday.
14. The matter of the appointment of assessors to Southern Presbytery be reviewed under Reports of Examiners of records.
15. The following examiners of records be appointed:-

Synod Permanent Record	Rev. A.L. Tripovich and Manning elder.
Northern Presbytery	Rev. G. Kinder and Hunter elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward and Grafton elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. T.J. McGlynn and Maclean elder.

16. Presbyteries and committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.
17. Correspondence Item 9 be received and taken up under Inter-Church Relations business.
18. Proposals for changes to Committee Structure be in the hands of the Clerk by midday on Wednesday.

19. Correspondence Item 10 be received and taken up under Inter-Church relations business.

20. Correspondence Item 11 be received and taken up under Inter-Church relations business.

It was resolved that the thanks of the court be conveyed to the Clerk, the motion being carried by acclamation.

98.11 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. W.J.W. Hanna) presented the report of this Committee. It was resolved that the Convener be permitted to distribute a copy of the letter he had sent to Messrs. Hungerford, Lehmann and Andrews, Solicitors and Barristers. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved that:

1. That the remit of Synod 1997 concerning revision of the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* be continued.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the legal opinion of Messrs. Hungerford, Lehmann and Andrews, Solicitors and Barristers, as presented to Synod in the Law and Advisory report be received and included in the minutes hereunder,

And, in accepting the legal opinion Synod advises the Missions Committee to take note of same and revise and adjust the relevant sections of its report, recommendations and budget accordingly.

The Moderator ruled the motion out of order.

It was moved and seconded that the Moderator's ruling be overturned. On being put to the vote the motion was carried. The court then proceeded to deal with the motion on notice.

The Moderator asked permission to leave the chair. Leave was granted and it was resolved that the Rev. E.R. Lee be appointed Moderator *pro tem*. Mr. Lee took the chair. Discussion ensued. On being put to the vote the motion was carried. Accordingly, the following legal opinion from Hungerford, Lehmann and Andrews is appended:

We refer to previous correspondence in relation to the trust that was established by the Estate of the Late M. McSwan and in particular your Synod's resolution that a portion of the Fund be used to pay for the salary of the Executive Secretary for the Aborigines Inland Mission, we advise that this use of the Fund would be outside the ambit of the Trust established and therefore we would consider it to be a breach of trust pursuant to the terms and regulations provided between Mr. McSwan and the late Dr. Andrews.

Mr. Gadsby dissented with the following reasons:

That the decision of Synod is based upon inadequate information and misunderstanding, but I gladly note that the mover of the motion did not exclude support of Mr. Leggott insofar as he is involved in providing physical relief, in terms of Mission Relief Regulations. (This appears to run contrary to the legal opinion provided to the Synod.)

Mr. Leggott adhered to this dissent with reasons.

Mr. Lee vacated the chair and the Moderator resumed it.

98.12 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4 - OVERTURE FROM THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

The Rev. Graham Kinder presented the overture which was as follows:

Whereas a congregation of our church has had two assessors appointed to its Session from the mainland and,

Whereas there is considerable difficulty and expense in holding routine Session meetings and,
Whereas matters may arise which necessitate prompt attention and,
Whereas other courts of the Church may have been or shall yet be placed in similar circumstances,

Now therefore, Presbytery respectfully overtures Synod to take steps to provide legislation to enable meetings of church courts to be held by telephone hook-up, taking the above-mentioned circumstances into consideration,
or do otherwise for this object as it in its wisdom may deem best.

Mr. Kinder appeared in support of the overture. It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted as stated. The Moderator ruled that this decision did not bind the Synod to enact such legislation. It was resolved that this matter be referred to the Law and Advisory Committee to draw up suitable regulations for the conduct of such meetings and to report to Synod 1999.

98.13 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. It was resolved that:

1. Synod record our gratitude to God for the continued support by Church Courts and Congregational Members during 1997, especially for Missionary Work, which has enabled us to meet all our needs for another year with some funds left over.

At the request of the Moderator, Mr. Steel led the court in prayer, thanking the Lord for His bounty.

2. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend and Benefits (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 1998/99 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. Child Allowance to remain at \$5 per dependent child per week, payable while the child continues to attend school, i.e., to year twelve.
3. The rate of reimbursement (Synod Commissioners' Travel Expenses) for Motor Vehicle Running Costs as detailed in Synod Minutes 92.38(c) remain at 16c per kilometre in line with the NRMA "Motoring Costs Schedule - June 1997."

98.14 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

W.P. Gadsby
Moderator

SESSION 3: TUESDAY, 21st APRIL, 1998, 2.05 p.m.

The Session was constituted with prayer and praise at 2.05 p.m. The minutes of session 2 were read and confirmed.

98.15 FINANCE COMMITTEE (CONT.)

The Convener of the Finance Committee continued to present his report. It was proposed that:

4. Stipend relief for 1998/99 be granted to Armidale congregation up to 50 % of Stipend on a needs basis and Ulverstone congregation up to \$10,000 also on a needs basis.

It was proposed that reference to Armidale be deleted from this proposal. On being put against the proposed deliverance the motion was preferred. On being put to the vote, the amended deliverance became the finding of the court.

The Convener continue to present the proposed deliverances. It was resolved that:

5. The words "All payments shall be made by cheque" be deleted from the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* (Section 3.15a).

98.16 TREASURER'S REPORT

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

1. Synod's thanks and appreciation be conveyed to our Auditors for waiving their fee for conducting the annual audit of the books of account for the year ended 31/12/96.

98.17 THANKS

It was resolved that the thanks of the court be conveyed to the General Treasurer. This was carried by the acclamation of the court.

98.18 8: 14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

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

98.19 NEW SOUTH WALES TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

98.20 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

98.21 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. A.L. Tripovich) presented the report. The Convener moved that the report be received. An amendment was moved and seconded that the word 'sodomites' be deleted and the word 'homosexual' be substituted. On the amendment being put against the proposal the proposal was preferred. On being put to the vote, it was resolved that the report be received.

Mr. Lee tendered simple dissent.

After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Ministers of all our congregations provide appropriate guidance for their people, and their young people in matters of home-entertainment, marriage and relationships, abortion and euthanasia, gambling, drugs and suicide.
2. Every effort be made throughout our congregations to promote the Reformed Faith in the light of prevailing Liberal and Arminian errors by means of preaching and instruction from the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms.
3. Those ministers with literary gifts consider producing suitable tracts on relevant issues of our day, for publication by this Committee, as an additional means of promoting our Reformed witness.

98.22 HOME-PAGE REPORT

It was agreed that Mr. Matthew Winzer be asked to give a report on the P.C.E.A. Inter-net Home-page. Mr. Winzer addressed the court, explaining something of how the inter-net works and giving some details of the P.C.E.A. Home-page on it. He then answered questions. The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the court to Mr. Winzer.

98.23 PSALMODY REPORT

The Rev. S.N. Ramsay presented the Psalmody Report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod place on record the appreciation of our church of the contribution made by the late Mrs. Kathleen R. Wright over the years, in promoting and encouraging a high standard of Psalmody, and that we convey our sincere sympathy to her husband, Mr. J.A. Lyons Wright.
2. That Synod note with appreciation the effective work being done by those conducting Psalmody classes within some of our congregations and at Psalmody classes throughout the year; and that we encourage more active participation in Psalmody practice so as to enhance the singing of praise to God in public worship in heartfelt harmony.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod note the fine work being done by Jason Coghill in his endeavours to improve Psalmody and draw our people's attention to his latest C.D. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that Synod commend the Psalmody Committee of the Free Church of Scotland in its efforts to produce new versions of Psalms for singing. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

98.24 PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT

The Rev. J.M. Cromarty took the chair while the editor of *The Presbyterian Banner* (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to permit the following motion:
"That the Rev. W.P. Gadsby be thanked for his work as editor of 'The Presbyterian Banner,' and that he be asked to accept the appointment for a further three years."

The motion was then proposed and seconded. On being put to the vote the motion was carried. Mr. Gadsby agreed to accept the appointment and expressed his thanks to those who had assisted him in his work. The Moderator *pro tem.* conveyed the thanks of the court to Mr. Gadsby.

The Moderator resumed the chair.

98.25 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. A motion on notice was proposed and seconded that the report be received with the exception of sub-section 3, para.1. The second motion was put against the first, resulting in an equality of votes. The Moderator gave his casting vote in favour of the motion to receive the report.

Some discussion of the report ensued.

98.26 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

Clerk

Moderator

SESSION 4: TUESDAY, 21st APRIL, 1998, 7.05 p.m..

The session was opened with prayer, praise and Scripture reading at 7.05 p.m. It was agreed to defer the confirmation of the minutes of session 3.

98.27 PROVIDENT FUNDS (CONT.)

The court continued to deal with the Provident Funds Report. It was resolved that:

1. Synod request Deacons' Courts to note that the 1998 Levy is \$2,524 [10% of minimum stipend 1/7/97-30/6/98], not less than 50% to be paid by 31st May 1998 and the balance by 30th November 1998.
2. Synod approve the admission to the Retirement Fund of Mr. G. Kinder (11/7/97) and Mr. G.D. Ball (1/12/1997).

The Convener introduced proposed deliverance 3:

3. That where a vacant charge engages a person on terms requiring Superannuation Guarantee contributions although the charge is technically still vacant, the full 10 % levy will be payable for the period during which Superannuation Guarantee Levy applies, and in respect of a station not a sanctioned charge a levy equal to the Superannuation Guarantee Levy shall apply.

It was moved on notice and seconded that where a vacant congregation or preaching station (not a sanctioned charge) engages a person on terms requiring Superannuation Guarantee contributions a levy equal to the set Superannuation Guarantee Levy will be payable for the period during which the Superannuation Guarantee Levy applies.

The Moderator ruled the motion out of order in terms of the rules for this committee (Decision Book page 3, Section A.4). After further discussion, the proposed deliverance became the finding of the court.

The Convener introduced proposed deliverance 4:

4. That Synod resolve that a special contribution of \$50 for each year of service as at 31.12.1997 be made this year from the levy proceeds account to each member's account with Mercantile Mutual Life.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod resolve that a special contribution of \$500 be made this year from the Superannuation/LSL levy account to each member's account with Mercantile Mutual Life. The motion was put against the proposed deliverance and the proposed deliverance was preferred. On being put to the vote the proposed deliverance became the finding of the court.

It was moved on notice and seconded that proposed deliverance 4 be amended by the addition of the words "and similar payments be made to members now retired from the fund."

The Moderator ruled the motion out of order.

The Convener introduced proposed deliverance 5:

5. That Synod approve the investment by the N.S.W. Trustees of up to 50 % of the D.K. McIntyre Widows and Orphan's Fund in quality listed shares subject to the existing Synod rules.

98.28 GREETINGS FROM THE REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA

It being 8.00 p.m., the Convener reminded the court that there was an Order of the Day for that time. The Moderator, being also Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Committee, introduced the Rev. Don Baird, of the Reformed Churches of Australia. Mr. Baird was welcomed by the Moderator and invited to address the court. Mr. Baird brought greetings from The Reformed Churches of Australia and spoke of some current issues in his church. The Moderator thanked Mr. Baird and asked him to convey the greetings of Synod to the Reformed Churches of Australia.

98.29 PROVIDENT FUNDS (CONT.)

The court continued to deal with proposed deliverance 5 of the Provident Funds Committee. On being put to the vote, the proposed deliverance became the finding of the court.

The Convener continued to introduce the proposed deliverances. It was resolved that:

6. Synod approve the investment of up to 50 % of the L.S.L. Fund and 50 % of the Supplementary Benefits Fund in quality listed shares subject to the existing Synod rules.
7. Synod vary Act 97.21.3 (d) so as to approve the transfer of 50 % of the accumulation at 1.10.1997 from Capital Guarantee to Managed Growth.
8. The basic rate of the weekly pension be increased from \$60.20 to \$61.40 (married) and from \$42.50 to \$43.35 (single) with effect from 1/07/98.
9. Synod direct the Committee to make available a copy of the regulations as amended for incorporation in the Decision Book.

98.30 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

W.P. Gadsby
Moderator

SESSION 5: WEDNESDAY, 22nd APRIL, 1998, 9.00 a.m.

The session was opened with prayer and praise and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of sessions 3 & 4 were read and confirmed.

98.31 ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The Archivist (Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward) presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Presbyteries and local courts provide information on records in their possession to the Archivist to enable completion of the listing.
2. Synod request any individuals who may hold old minute books and papers of church courts to return them to the relevant church court or the Archivist, and recommend that important or rare documents be copied and the original or copy lodged in the Archives.

3. Synod encourage congregations to keep a photographic and written narrative of church life so as to preserve some record of the Lord's dealings for a future generation
4. Synod approve the lodgement in the Ferguson Library on extended loan of the Minutes of the Assembly of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia from 1913-1961, access to be available to ministers of the Church and *bona fide* researchers.
5. Synod approve the lodgement on extended loan of the records of the Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria with the State Library of Victoria when adequate housing for them is available, access to be available to ministers of the Church and *bona fide* researchers.

98.32 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Rev. J.M. Cromarty took the chair which was vacated by the Moderator in order to present the Missions report. A time of questions and discussion ensued. It was resolved that the report be received.

It was resolved that:

1. Synod record with gratitude to God the sense of privilege in having been able to share in the wider mission work of the church during 1997, and particularly that he has provided the necessary funding through the generous giving of his people.

2. Mission Fields

The Convener introduced proposed deliverance 2.1.1:

2.1.1 Synod amend Act1, Class2, Synod 1986, to read:

Synod ordain that the work in Fiji be recognised as a preaching station under the oversight of the Central Presbytery, the station to be known as the Presbyterian Free Church of Fiji.

On being put to the vote there was an equality. The Moderator gave his casting vote against the proposal which was therefore defeated.

The Convener introduced proposed deliverance 2.1.2

2.1.2 Synod express its concurrence with the proposal that Mr. Leone Tupua be ordained in 1999, and encourage the Central Presbytery to make this a matter for serious consideration.

After discussion, the Moderator *pro tem.* ruled that this proposed deliverance be deferred until Training of Ministry business.

The Convener then continued to introduce the proposed deliverances. It was resolved that:

2.1.3 Full stipend support for Mr. Leone Tupua from the Mission Fund continue for 1998 and 1999, with a full review by Synod in 2000.

2.1.4 Synod foreshadow a cessation of stipend support for Mr. Tupua at the end of 2002, with progressive reductions in the years 2000, 2001 and 2002.

The Convener then introduced proposed deliverance 2.2.1:

2.2.1 Synod express its continued commitment to the prayerful support of the Rev. Trevor Leggott in his role as Administrative Secretary of the Aborigines Inland Mission for the period 1997-1999.

It was moved and seconded that:

Whereas the seconding of Mr. Leggott to AIM was effected by Synod, after he had taken up the position as Administration secretary AIM, and the without any documentation or information before Synod to indicate the doctrine or practice of AIM,

And whereas Mr. Leggott as a minister of the P.C.E.A. has not been appointed to the work of the ministry, but to the work of administration,

And whereas the doctrines and practice of AIM are in many ways quite contrary to those of the P.C.E.A. which Mr. Leggott has solemnly vowed to *constantly adhere to, and to the utmost of [his] power...assert, maintain and defend ...and to follow no divisive course from the doctrine, worship, discipline, government, and exclusive jurisdiction of this Church, renouncing all doctrine, tenets and opinions whatsoever contrary to and inconsistent with the said doctrine, worship, discipline, government or jurisdiction of the same*, [Extract from Formula]

And whereas the P.C.E.A. has no governmental or disciplinary control over the activities of AIM, yet is presently obliged to support the mission with its activities with personnel, finance and prayer - regardless of the fact that a number of the practices within AIM would not be tolerated within the P.C.E.A. but would be a censurable offence (as was demonstrated in recent years in the case of Rev. E. Turnbull and Rev. J. Graham),

And, whereas the appointment condones the stated aim of AIM to establish a "National Aboriginal Church" in Australia, which is contrary to the biblical practice of the Apostolic church into which both Jews and Gentiles were brought as one flock,

And whereas the doctrine of the Communion of Saints in W.C.F. does not oblige us to compromise our biblical and confessional doctrine and practice, or the solemn vows taken by office-bearers of the P.C.E.A. as expressed in the *Questions & Formula*,

Therefore, the Act of Synod [97.42.9a] 97 Minutes p. 16 be rescinded by this Synod.

The Moderator *pro tem.* ruled the motion out of order.

It was resolved that the Moderator's reasons be engrossed in the minutes.

The Moderator's reasons were:

1. The motion on notice is presented in substantially the same terms as the dissent with reasons tendered by Mr. Tripovich in 1997 (Synod Minutes 1997, page 17)
2. No new grounds or new evidence has been advanced which bear on last year's decision.
3. Mr. Tripovich by tendering his dissent with reasons in 1997 has cleared his conscientiously held objections.
4. Synod has made a commitment to A.I.M. in terms of Mr. Leggott's secondment (for a period of 3 years).
5. It is such a substantial matter that it should have come up by overture and not by notice on the floor of Synod.
6. There should be no reference made to Mr. Graham who has not been censured by this court and who was at the time a minister of the Free Church of Scotland.
7. There is the implication that an office-bearer of our church is involved in a work which compromises his vows as a minister of the P.C.E.A.

Mr. Tripovich tendered his dissent against the decision of the Moderator *pro tem.* to rule the motion out of order.

On being put to the vote the proposed deliverance (2.2.1) became the finding of the court.

The Convener intimated that the Committee was willing to fall from Proposed Deliverances 2.2.2 and 2.2.3.

The Convener continued to present the proposed deliverances of the Missions Committee. It was resolved that:

2.3.1 Synod give thanks to God for:

- * the continued work of Colegio San Andres, and the San Andres Congregation;
- * the work of the Rev. Donnie Smith at Lima Evangelical Seminary;
- * the prospect of two new ministerial missionaries in the Revs. Angus Lamont and David McPherson.

2.3.2 Synod direct the Missions Committee to publish within our Church the need and opportunities for short-term service at Colegio San Andres.

3. Missions Committee Regulations

3.1 Synod note the intention of the Committee to bring an revision of the Regulations for consideration by Synod 1999.

4. Missions Relief Fund

4.1 Synod endorse the Committee's actions in making grants from the Fund during 1997, as detailed in the Report (Sr. M.C. Lux, \$2 000; Katherine flood relief, \$5 000).

5. Budget for Calendar 1998 and Calendar 1999

5.1 That Synod approve the budget for 1998.

5.2 That Synod express general agreement with the budget for 1999.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Committee be asked to define the terms "missionary" and "missions" and relate their definition to their specific work as a committee. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was resolved that Synod resume in normal Session at 3.45 p.m.

98.33 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

W.P. Gadsby
Moderator

SESSION 6: WEDNESDAY, 22nd APRIL, 1998, 3.45 p.m.

The session was opened with prayer, praise at 3.45 p.m. It was agreed to defer the reading of the minutes of session 5.

The Clerk informed the court that he had received notice from the Clerk of the Central Presbytery that the name of the Rev. Ranald F. Morrison had been added to its rolls. The Moderator welcomed Mr. Morrison as a member of Synod.

98.34 TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA

The Secretary of the Trust Corporation (Rev. Dr. W.J.W. Hanna) presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved that:

1. Synod approve the sale of the land at Durham Lead should title ensue and it appear in the Church's best interests, and directs that report be made to Synod 1999.
2. Synod notes the resignation of Rev. W.M. Mackay as a trustee, records its appreciation of his work since 1988 and appoints Donald Peter Smith of 33 Mill Avenue, Forest Hill 3131 a trustee pursuant to Act 5691, Victoria 1953, such appointment to cease upon his ceasing to reside within the bounds of the Southern Presbytery.

98.35 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.

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

1. The Committee's actions as reported be endorsed.
2. The Committee be encouraged to pursue the matter of closer relations with the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.
3. The correspondence from the Reformed Churches of Australia anent the Apostles' and Athanasian creeds be forwarded to the Church and Nation Committee for report and recommendation to Synod 1999.
4. 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.
5. Synod endorse the Convener's action of informing the Orthodox Presbyterian Church of our inability to send a delegate to their 1988 Assembly, and conveying the greetings of our Church.
6. Correspondence Item 11 (Free Reformed Churches of Australia).
We reply to the FRCA letter of 11 April, thanking the Deputies for their greetings, conveying our prayerful good wishes for their 1998 Synod, and looking forward to significant progress in our mutual relations, as foreshadowed in their letter.

98.36 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 9

It was resolved that correspondence item 9 be noted.

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to permit the following motion:

That Synod commission the Rev. W.M. Mackay to bring the greetings and prayerful good wishes of the Synod to the 1998 General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

98.37 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 4.58 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

W.P. Gadsby
Moderator

SESSION 7: WEDNESDAY, 22nd APRIL, 1998, 7.00 p.m.

The Session was opened with prayer and praise at 7.00 p.m. The Minutes of sessions 5 and 6 were read and confirmed.

98.38 MISSIONS EVENING

The Moderator, being also Convener of the Committee, gave a short overview of the mission activities of the Church. He then welcomed the Rev. Jim Cox, secretary to the Australian Council of Christian Witness to Israel and invited him to address the court. Mr. Cox then addressed the court on the work of Christian Witness to Israel, firstly with respect to the work in Australia, then concerning the situation in Israel. Mr. Cox then answered questions. The Moderator conveyed the thanks of Synod to Mr. Cox for his interesting address.

The Moderator then welcomed the Rev. Trevor Leggott, Administrative Secretary of the Aborigines Inland Mission and invited him to address the court. Mr. Leggott spoke of the work being carried out among the aboriginal peoples, particularly in the north and east of Australia. Mr. Leggott then answered questions. The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the court to Mr. Leggott.

98.39 CLOSURE

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with the singing of part of Psalm 145 and with prayer at 9.05 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

W.P. Gadsby
Moderator

SESSION 8: THURSDAY, 23rd APRIL, 1998,

9.00 a.m.

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 9.00 a.m. The Moderator conveyed to the court the apologies of Mr. Ross Campbell for absence during part of the previous day due to illness. The Moderator called on others to present apologies for absence during the previous evening. Messrs. K. Dawson, T. McGlynn, Mr D. Kerr, and D. Hamilton also tendered apologies.

The minutes of session 7 were read and confirmed.

98.40 YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener (Mr. N.A. McPherson) presented the Committee's report. It was resolved that the report be received. Synod went into committee to discuss matters relevant to Youth and Fellowship. Synod resumed formal session at 11.35 a.m. It was resolved that:

1. Synod once again express warm appreciation and thanks to Rev. Jim and Mrs. Val Cromarty and Mrs. Irene Steel as they continue their work in the interests of the Youth and Fellowship of our church.
2. Rev. Ray and Mrs. Roberta Murray and all others who have been involved in S.R.E. in schools, be commended and thanked for this important work.

3. Synod, at the conclusion of the Youth and Fellowship business, spend a time in prayer seeking the Lord's blessing on:
- a) the instruction and well being of young people and in particular those of our Church.
 - b) all those involved in the instruction and development of young people.
 - c) the whole membership of the church that we might experience the true fellowship of the Gospel.

Synod broke into small groups to engage in prayer. Synod resumed formal session at 12.00 p.m.

98.41 CONGREGATIONAL REPORTS

The Clerk presented the reports, which had been submitted through Presbyteries, from the various congregations.

It was moved and seconded that the reports as submitted be received. It was further moved and seconded that the report be received with the deletion of the second sentence of the second paragraph on page 66. On the second motion being put against the first, the second motion was preferred. On being put to the vote, the second motion became the finding of the court.

Synod then went into committee to discuss these reports and any other matters concerning Church Extension and Supply. Synod resumed formal session at 12.30 p.m.

98.42 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2 - FROM CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

The Clerk introduced Correspondence Item 2, from the Central Presbytery regarding the re-classifying of the Sydney South congregation as a Special Development Charge. The Clerk of the Presbytery introduced the substance of the matter. It was resolved that Synod confirm the action of the Central Presbytery in reclassifying the Sydney South Congregation as a Special Development Charge.

98.43 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

W.P. Gadsby
Moderator

SESSION 9: THURSDAY, 23rd APRIL, 1998, 2.00 p.m.

The session was constituted with prayer and praise at 2.00 p.m. The minutes of session 8 were read and confirmed.

It was moved and seconded that, in the light of information given in Mr. Leggott's address during the Missions evening, that the Missions Committee re-examine the appropriateness of some of his support coming from Missions Relief, report to be made to Synod 1999. On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

98.44 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Convener (Rev. J.M. Cromarty) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

It was resolved to meet in closed court.

It was resolved:

1. The attention of our courts be drawn to the section of the report entitled, "Proven Character"; and Sessions and Presbyteries be thoroughly conversant with the principles set forth in 1 Tim. 3: 2-7 and Titus 2, and in their role of advising and examining prospective ministers of the gospel, ensure that these principles are at the forefront in such examination.
2. Synod:
 - (a) notes that Mr Peter Smith has commenced study at the Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne.
 - (b) assures Mr Smith of its prayerful interest in his progress.
 - (c) agrees to the payment of Mr Smith's accommodation expenses, College fees and textbook allowance.
3. Synod notes the efforts made by Messrs Tuck, Hill, and Jacoby to reduce their debts under the bond and encourages them to settle promptly the outstanding amounts.

The Convener introduced proposed deliverance 4:

4. (a) The John Knox Theological Library remain the property of the Training of Ministry Committee.
 - (b) The Committee arrange suitable housing for it.
 - (c) Costs of removal plus suitable shelving be met by the Committee.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the John Knox Theological Library be transferred to the Melbourne (Knox) Congregation at a suitable figure, and continue to be housed in the Wantirna Church with full access to students for the ministry. On the motion being put against the proposed deliverance, the proposed deliverance was preferred. On being put to the court, the proposed deliverance became the finding of the court.

The Convener continued to present the proposed deliverances. It was resolved that:

5. Synod remind all who intend making application for acceptance as students for the ministry that;
 - (a) there are two Colleges presently sanctioned as suitable for training; namely the Free Church College, Edinburgh and the Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne.
 - (b) it is not to be assumed that theological courses pursued in other colleges will receive automatic recognition by Synod.
6. (a) Office bearers give consideration to the production of audio or video cassettes dealing with our distinctive principles for use by our students.
 - (b) The committee be notified of their availability and confirm their suitability.

It was agreed to take correspondence item 3.

98.45 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3 - OVERTURE FROM THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

The Clerk of the Central Presbytery (Mr. N.A. McPherson) stated the overture which was as follows:

Whereas Central Presbytery, with the concurrence of the Training of Ministry Committee, has granted provisional acceptance as a Student for the Ministry to Matthew Winzer, Presbytery now respectfully overtures Synod to confirm this action, or to do otherwise for this object as in its wisdom may seem best.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted as stated and that Mr. Matthew Winzer be granted recognition as a Student for the Ministry.

98.46 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

W.P. Gadsby
Moderator

SESSION 10: THURSDAY, 23rd APRIL, 1998, 7.00 p.m.

The session was constituted with praise and prayer at 7.00 p.m. It was agreed to defer the confirmation of the minutes of session 9.

Synod continued to consider the overture of Central Presbytery.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted in the following terms:
That further consideration of the request of the Presbytery lie on the table and be reconsidered at Synod 1999, and that, meantime, we recommend that Mr. Winzer commence a BA course with a view to further progress along the path of completing academic requirements for the ministry, and that he be encouraged to seek the advice of the Training of Ministry Committee.

On the second motion being put against the first, the second motion was preferred, and became the motion before the court. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Mr. Tripovich and Mr. Steel tendered simple dissent.

It was resolved that Mr. Winzer be called to meet the Synod and hear its decision. The Moderator intimated the decision of the court to Mr. Winzer and addressed some words of encouragement to him. Mr. Winzer was then dismissed from the court.

The Convener proceeded to introduce proposed deliverance 7. It was resolved that:

7. Synod:

- (a) recognises the gifts and qualifications of Mr Leone Tupua and thanks God for the faithful ministry rendered for many years in Fiji by Mr Tupua.
- (b) in the light of Act re., Student Training 1983 (Handbook Page 18 Section 5) deems Mr Tupua's qualifications sufficient for him to be taken on trials for licence.
- (c) appoints Central Presbytery to take the necessary steps to that end.
- (d) authorises Central Presbytery to ordain Mr Tupua to the gospel ministry of the P.C.E.A. and grants him a seat on the Central Presbytery pursuant to his ordination.
- (e) advises the Central Presbytery to appoint a commission to conduct the ordination in Fiji, and to set aside Mr Tupua to labour in the preaching station of Central Presbytery, known as the Presbyterian Free Church of Fiji.
- (f) agrees that expenses incurred be met from Synod General Funds.
- (g) that we assure Leone of our support and continued prayerful interest in his studies and ministry.
- (h) that course fees and textbook allowance be approved.

The Missions Committee agreed to fall from proposed deliverance 2.1.2 of that Committee.

It was resolved to suspend standing orders to permit the moving of a motion equivalent to proposed deliverance 2.1.1 of the Missions Committee:

Synod ordain that the work in Fiji be recognised as a preaching station under the oversight of the Central Presbytery, the station to be known as the Presbyterian Free Church of Fiji.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was agreed to meet in open court.

98.47 REASONS FOR DISSENT - MR. D. E. KERR

Mr. Kerr withdrew his reasons for dissent from the finding of Synod with respect to the endorsement of the action of the Administration Committee in appointing the Rev. R.W. Murray as Moderator-elect, and apologised for any slur inferred from them. It was agreed that the committee to answer those reasons be discharged.

98.48 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

The Minutes of the Southern Presbytery and the Permanent Record were reported to be in order. It was resolved that they be attested.

The examiners of the Minutes of the Central Presbytery reported them to be in order with the exception of two matters:

No minute recording the upholding of Mr. Gadsby's complaint to Synod 1997 appears and this requires attention at the next Presbytery meeting.

Item 10, p. 98. It is not correct for the resignation of a commissioner to be made to the Presbytery but to the Session, and this should be noted for the future.

It was resolved that the Minutes be attested on the assurance that these matters would be adjusted.

The minutes of the Northern Presbytery were reported to be in order and it was moved and seconded that they be attested.

A motion was moved on notice that the records of Northern Presbytery be attested with the exception of those relating to the induction of the Rev. R.W. Murray to the pastoral charge of Maclean whilst still remaining the Minister of Grafton, but without prejudice to his present standing.

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

Simple dissent was tendered by Messrs Tripovich, Kerr, McGlynn and Ramsay.

98.49 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

W.P. Gadsby
Moderator

SESSION 11: FRIDAY, 24th APRIL, 1998, 9.00 a.m.

The session was constituted with praise and prayer and Scripture reading at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of sessions 9 and 10 were read and confirmed.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Law and Advisory Committee be asked to draw up regulations covering the linking of pastoral charges, having regard to those in the Free Church of Scotland and report to Synod 1999 with a view to providing an incontrovertible basis for such linkages. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

98.50 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 5 - OVERTURE FROM THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

The Rev. John Cromarty presented the overture which was as follows:

Whereas the Rev. Edwin Lee M.A. is now resident in Geelong, a member of the Geelong congregation and recently inducted as an elder; and,
Whereas Mr. Lee as a retired minister has had a seat on the Northern Presbytery; and,
Whereas Mr. Lee is thoroughly conversant with the affairs of the Southern Presbytery as an assessor and is presently its Moderator; and,
Whereas Mr. Lee continues to preach with much acceptance and has much wise and mature counsel to offer to Presbytery and Synod,

Now therefore the Southern Presbytery respectfully overtures the Synod of Eastern Australia to take these premises into account and grant the Rev. Edwin Lee a seat on the Southern Presbytery, or do otherwise for this object as it in its wisdom deems best.

It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted as stated and that the Rev. Edwin E. Lee be granted a seat on the Southern Presbytery.

98.51 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 6 - OVERTURE FROM THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

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

Whereas the Rev. John Pateman has been supplying the Hamilton Congregation with two services each Lord's day for several years and is a faithful minister of the Church whose wisdom and counsel should be available to the church,

Therefore the Southern Presbytery respectfully overtures the Synod of Eastern Australia to take these premises into account and grant the Rev. John Pateman a seat on Southern Presbytery, or do otherwise for this object as in its wisdom it deems best.

It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted as stated and that the Rev. John Pateman be granted a seat on the Southern Presbytery.

98.52 ASSESSORS TO SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

The need for a continuing assessors to the Southern Presbytery was discussed. It was moved and seconded that, in view of recent ministerial additions to the Southern Presbytery, Mr. Lee and Mr. McPherson be thanked for their work as assessors to that Presbytery and that their appointments be now terminated. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

98.53 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

It was resolved that the following Committee structure be adopted:

Administration and Inter-Church Relations

Clerk(Convener Administration), Moderator, Moderator-elect, Assistant Clerk, Convener of Law and Advisory, Convener of Inter-Church Relations (W.P. Gadsby).

Church and Nation (including Publications and Psalmody)

R.S. Ward (Convener), J.M. Cromarty, G. Ball, G.Kinder, Melbourne elder, Geelong elder.

Finance

A.H. Steel (Convener), N. Kerr, T.J.McGlynn, K.I. Kerr.

Provident Funds

R.S. Ward (Convener), G.D. Ball, J.B. Loudon, 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), G.D. Ball, R.W. Murray, J. Ramsay, W.J.W. Hanna.

Youth and Fellowship

R.W. Murray (Convener), T.J. McGlynn, P. Uren, R. Campbell, N.A. McPherson.

98.54 EDITOR OF 'FELLOWSHIP' MAGAZINE

It was resolved that the Rev. R.W. Murray be asked to be editor of the *Fellowship* magazine. Mr. Murray indicated his willingness to undertake this duty on a *pro tem.* basis.

98.55 MODERATOR ELECT FOR 1999

It was resolved that the Moderator-elect for 1999 be the Rev. J.A. McCallum.

It was moved on notice and seconded that no objections to the election of an individual to the office of Moderator will be accepted from the floor of Synod unless the objection with reasons have been first submitted to the Administration Committee. On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

98.56 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 1999

It was moved on notice and seconded that the 'in principle' decision of Synod 1998 to move to biennial meetings be rescinded [98.11.5] and that Synod continue to meet annually. On being put to the vote, the motion was defeated.

It was moved on notice and seconded that there be renewed emphasis on the Synod as an assembly of brothers having the care of the Lord's flock, rather than on the Synod as a church court with the adversarial overtones that this suggests. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

It was moved and seconded that the formal business of the Synod be interspersed with special sessions, such as workshops on pastoral issues, strategy to deal with current social issues as well as church extension and mission work, with the use of outside speakers where appropriate. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

It was moved and seconded that the duration be fixed - suggested as commencing 4 p.m. Monday and concluding Friday 10 a.m. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

It was moved and seconded that the time and place of Synod 1999 be left in the hands of the Administration Committee. An amendment was moved and seconded that Synod 1999 commence on 26th April 1999, with the other details being left in the hands of the Administration Committee. On the amendment being put against the motion, the amended motion was preferred and became the finding of the court.

98.57 PRINCIPAL ACTS

It was resolved that the Clerk draw up a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 1998, and include it with the minutes.

98.58 TREASURER'S REPORT

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

98.59 THANKS TO TREASURER

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

98.60 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.

98.61 MINUTES

The minutes of this closing session were read and confirmed.

98.62 CLOSURE

Synod 1998 was closed with scripture reading, the singing of Psalm 133 and prayer at 11.10 a.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

W.P. Gadsby
Moderator

ACTS OF SYNOD

Appended by Direction of Synod (see Article 98.57)

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedures)

Nil

Class 2

Article

1. Acceptance of Legal Opinion (Missions Relief Fund)	98.11
2. Stipend Relief Armidale	98.15.4
3. Synod Minutes	98.10.4
4. Payments by Deacons' Courts	98.15.5
5. Appointment of Editor for <i>The Presbyterian Banner</i>	98.24
6. Superannuation Guarantee Levy	98.27.3
7. Investment of L.S.L. Funds	98.29.6
8. Pension Increase	98.29.8
9. Victorian Trust Corporation - New Trustee	98.34.2
10. John Know Theological Library	98.44.4
11. Status of Mr Leone Tupua	98.44.7
12. Seat on Presbytery - the Rev. Edwin R. Lee	98.50
13. Seat on Presbytery - the Rev. John Pateman	98.51

LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. 7/10/97 From the Rev. A.L. Tripovich - Notification of his inability to undertake the duties of Moderator.
2. 11/11/97 From Central Presbytery - Seeking Synod's confirmation of its action in reclassifying the Sydney South Congregation as a Special Development Charge.
3. 19/2/98 From Central Presbytery - Overture to confirm the Presbytery's action in granting provisional acceptance to Mr M. Winzer as a student for the Ministry.
4. 23/2/98 From Southern Presbytery - Overture concerning holding meetings by telephone hook-up.
5. 23/2/98 From Southern Presbytery - Petition requesting a seat on Presbytery for the Rev. E.R. Lee.
6. 23/2/98 From Southern Presbytery - Petition requesting a seat on Presbytery for the Rev. J. Pateman.
7. 10/3/98 From the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia - Fraternal greetings.
8. 14/3/98 From the Aborigines Inland Mission - Time allocated to Relief Work.
9. 10/4/98 From the Free Church of Scotland - Fraternal greetings.
10. 2/2/98 From the Reformed Churches of New Zealand - Invitation to send a delegate to their Synod.
11. 11/4/98 From the Free Reformed Churches of Australia - Greetings.