

**THE RECORD OF THE MEETING OF THE 152<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF  
THE SYNOD OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA  
COLLARROY BEACH, NSW, 1998**

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**SESSION 1: MONDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 1999, 7.00 p.m.**

**99.1 OPENING**

Within the Collaroy Centre, on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 1999, at 7.00 p.m., the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship. In the unavoidable absence of the Moderator (the Rev. W. Peter Gadsby), the previous Moderator, the Rev. J.M. Cromarty, presided.

**99.2 ACTING MODERATOR'S SERMON**

The Moderator *pro tem.*, the Rev. J.M. Cromarty, read from John 1: 29-45. He then preached a sermon on aspects of our Lord's encounter with Andrew and of Andrew's response – which was that “he first found his own brother Simon ... and he brought him to Jesus.” From this he drew a number of pertinent lessons to challenge and encourage Christians – and especially office-bearers – to emulate Andrew's missionary zeal.

### 99.3 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES

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

<b>Northern Presbytery</b>	<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Commissioned Elders</b>
Armidale	vacant	K. Dawson †
Brisbane	W.J.W. Hanna	K.G. Anderson
Grafton	R.W. Murray †	R.L. Campbell
Hastings	A.L. Tripovich †	D. Hamilton †
Lismore	vacant	J.D. Ramsay
Maclean	R.W. Murray † (sharing with Grafton)	J. McPhee

Synod Appointments: S.N. Ramsay (retired)

I.J. McKenzie (residential supply)

<b>Central Presbytery</b>		
Hawkesbury/Nepean	T.J. McGlynn	D.E. Kerr
Hunter/Barrington	S.R. Tamata	G. King
Manning	W.P. Gadsby*	F. Neil Robinson †
St. George's	J.A. McCallum	A.H. Steel
Sydney South	vacant	N.A. McPherson

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

<b>Southern Presbytery</b>		
Geelong	J.M. Cromarty	D. Manly ‡
Melbourne (Knox/G'Huntly)	R.S. Ward	J. Loudon
Melbourne (Narre Warren)	G.D. Ball	J. Simpson
Ulverstone	G. Kinder	B. Webster

Synod Appointments: E.R. Lee (retired)

J. Pateman † (retired)

\* An apology for non-attendance until Tuesday evening was recorded on behalf of the Rev. W. P. Gadsby.

‡ An apology for absence from the first session was recorded on behalf of Mr. David Manly.

### 99.4 WELCOMES

The Moderator *pro tem.* welcomed the Rev. S.R. Tamata to his first Synod since returning to Australia. He also welcomed Mr. Graeme King and Mr. Jim Simpson, who returned to Synod after an absence of a number of years. Mr. Cromarty also welcomed the Rev. Barry James, representative of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.

### 99.5 CHANGE OF DATE OF SYNOD 1999

The Clerk proposed that the action of the Administration Committee in changing the date of Synod 1999 be approved. The motion was seconded, and, on being put to the vote, was carried.

### **99.6 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR**

The Clerk reported that the Rev. John McCallum of the St. George's Congregation was Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr. McCallum took the chair.

### **99.7 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS**

The Moderator read from Matthew 20 : 17-28, following which he delivered an address on the words from verse 28 – “Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

### **99.8 THANKS**

It was resolved that the Moderator *pro tem.* be thanked for acting in this capacity at such short notice and for his sermon, that the retiring Moderator be thanked for his work during the year, and that the Moderator be thanked for his address, and that both addresses be published in “*The Presbyterian Banner*” if possible.

### **99.9 ASSOCIATIONS**

It was resolved that the Rev. Barry James be associated with the Synod with the right to speak but not to vote.

### **99.10 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

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

## **SESSION 2: TUESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 1999, 9.00 a.m.**

The session was opened with prayer and devotions at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of session 1 were read and confirmed.

### **99.11 WELCOME**

The Moderator welcomed Mr. David Manly, representative elder from Geelong, to his first meeting of Synod.

### **99.12 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Clerk presented the Administration Committee's Report, with the Archivist (the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward) presenting the Appendix. 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.
3. Correspondence item 1 be received and dealt with at the close of the Administration Committee business.
4. An Order of the Day be made to allow representatives of other Churches to address Synod at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday.
5. Presbyteries and committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.

6. Proposals for changes to the Committee Structure be in the hands of the Clerk by midday on Wednesday.

7. The following examiners of records be appointed:-

Northern Presbytery	Rev. S.R. Tamata and Ulverstone elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. George Ball and Brisbane elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. W.P. Gadsby and Hunter elder.

8. Correspondence item 2 be received and noted, and that the Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Committee be asked to send a suitable reply.

9. An Order of the Day be made to allow the representative of the Reformed Churches of Australia to address Synod at 4.00 p.m. on Wednesday.

### **99.13 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 1**

It was proposed on notice and seconded that Correspondence Item 1 be not dealt with until the Administration Committee fulfils its remit from Synod 1998 (98.10.5). On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

### **99.14 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

Mr. D. Kerr tendered simple dissent.

Mr. Ward tendered dissent with reasons as follows:

That to receive a report when all members of the committee have not been consulted prior to the cut-off date is to establish a precedent which should not be recognised by this Synod.

Mr. McGlynn adhered to Mr. Ward's reasons for dissent.

The Convener introduced Proposed Deliverance 1:

1. That Synod does now enact that Church courts be permitted to convene by telephone link-up to deal with all matters except

- a. the trying of causes,
- b. cases of discipline, and
- c. interviewing persons for whatever reasons.

All reasonable efforts should be made to ensure that all members of the court are informed of the meeting and are given the opportunity to take part. Where documents are necessary, these should be in the hands of the members before the meeting. A copy of the minutes of the meeting should be provided to each member as soon as possible after the meeting. The link-up must be arranged so that all the business and discussion can be heard by all members simultaneously, and so that all members can participate in the discussion. Voting should be carried out by voice, and the result of the voting clearly announced.

The Moderator ruled the proposal out of order. It was moved and seconded that the Moderator's ruling be overturned. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

### **99.15 WELCOME**

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Albert Veldman and Mr. John Bruning, of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia to the Synod.

### **99.16 MOTION ON NOTICE**

It was moved on notice and seconded that where there is a plurality of Sessions, representation in the Presbytery and Synod is adjusted according to Act VIII, 1936 of the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, namely,

That the practice of the Church is that in a consolidated charge where there are separate Kirk Sessions and only one settled Minister there can be only one Ruling Elder appointed as representative to Presbytery and Synod, the appointment preferably being made by rotation from each Session.

On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

### **99.17 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were called for the session was closed with prayer at 12.30 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

### **SESSION 3 : TUESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 1999, 2.00 p.m.**

The session was opened with prayer and devotions at 2.00 p.m. The minutes of session 2 were read and confirmed.

### **99.18 WELCOME**

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. E.R. Lee and invited him to take his seat. The Moderator expressed the sympathy of the court to Mrs. Lee on her recent accident.

### **99.19 ASSOCIATIONS**

It was resolved that the Rev. Albert Veldman and Mr. John Bruning be associated with the Synod, with the right to speak but not to vote.

### **99.20 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Convener introduced proposed deliverance 2:

2. That Synod does now enact that in situations where there is:

- a. a shortage of ministers of the P.C.E.A. available in Australia, or
- b. where financial considerations would make it difficult to support two ministers without assistance from Synod,

Presbytery may agree to moderate in a call to a minister to share his ministry between not more than two neighbouring sanctioned charges. In agreeing to moderate in such a call, the presbytery should take into account:

- a. whether the charges are close enough to each other to enable one person to pastor both adequately,
- b. whether the numbers of members and adherents are such that they can be pastored by one person,
- c. whether agreement to this arrangement has been reached between the congregations, as well as between their sessions,

- d. whether a workable arrangement has been reached between the deacons' courts of the charges as to the minister's remuneration and benefits, other expenses, and with regard to a manse.

The procedure to be followed in such a case is essentially that in section 4.59 of the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* and the following sections, except that separate meetings to moderate in the call are held in each congregation, and that the call must be of the "closed" type, i.e., the name of the minister involved must appear in the edict appointing the meeting of the presbytery with the congregation to moderate in the call. The edict must also indicate that the call is to a shared ministry with another named congregation.

Where the minister named is already the minister of one of the two congregations, the above procedure is modified to the extent that the call only comes from the vacant congregation, and the presbytery only meets with that congregation, but the presbytery should assure itself that the congregation whose minister is being called has agreed.

The wording of the call itself should be in the following, or similar, terms:

### CALL

To ..... *Preacher of the Gospel*

*We, the undersigned Elders, Deacons and Communicant members of the Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia at ..... desire to promote the glory of God and the good of the church.*

*We do not have a pastor settled among us, and, and with the concurrence of the ..... Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, we would like to invite you, for our part, to a shared ministry of both congregations [OR, we would like you to share your ministry to them, with us].*

*We are assured by reliable information and our own experience of your ministerial abilities, piety and prudence, and of your suitability to our needs.*

*By this Call we invite and entreat you to undertake the work of a Pastor among us, and to shepherd us in the ways of the Lord for the extension of his kingdom.*

*Should you accept this Call, we promise you all due respect, encouragement and obedience in the Lord, and undertake to contribute to your fitting maintenance as God may prosper us.*

*In witness of this we have signed our names this ..... day of .....19....*

*We, the undersigned adherents of the .....Congregation, heartily concur in the above call.*

Where such an arrangement has been sanctioned by presbytery, and a call has been accepted,

- a. Each charge shall retain its own courts and be entitled to send its own commissioner to the higher courts of the church,
- b. The arrangement shall be reviewed each time the charges become vacant,
- c. The arrangement may be terminated by the minister demitting one of the two charges.

On being put to the vote the Proposed Deliverance became the finding of the Court.

Simple dissents were tendered by Messrs. T.J. McGlynn, D.E. Kerr, and T.I. Leggott.

Mr. Ward tendered dissent with the following reason:

An incontrovertible basis has not been provided as required by the remit.

### **99.21 FINANCE COMMITTEE (inc. TREASURER'S and AUDITOR'S REPORTS)**

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

It was resolved that:

1. We record our thanks to God for the support of all those who have contributed to Synod Funds which ensured our commitments were met 1998 with some funds left over.
2. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend and Benefits (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone ) for 1999/2000 remain at the full flow-on of C.P.I. increase. In the event of a decrease in the C.P.I. 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 completes his secondary education.
3. Stipend Relief for 1999/2000 be granted to Armidale Deacons' Court up to \$12,000 and to Ulverstone Deacons' Court up to \$5,000, both on a strictly needs basis.

### **99.22 MOTION ON NOTICE**

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Finance Committee be asked to take into account the financial disadvantages of full-time pastoral work in Tasmania (because of its being an island state) and make appropriate provision when determining minimum stipend and benefits. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

### **99.23 GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

### **99.24 8:14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE**

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

### **99.25 THANKS**

It was moved and seconded that the thanks of the court be conveyed to the General Treasurer. The motion was carried by the acclamation of the court.

### **99.26 PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Convener (the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward) presented the committee's report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod request Deacons' Courts to note that the 1999 levy is \$2 683 (10.5 % of minimum stipend 1/7/98 - 30/6/99), not less than 50 % to be paid by the 31<sup>st</sup> May, 1999 and the balance by the 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1999.
2. Synod approve the admission to the Retirement Fund of Mr. S.R. Tamata (16/10/98).
3. The basic rate of the weekly pension be increased from \$61.40 to \$62.00 (married) and from \$43.35 to \$43.75 (single) with effect from 1/07/1999.
4. For ease of administration and promotion the two existing W&O/ARM Funds and the Supplementary Benefits Fund be treated as one in the published accounts under the name of the Third Millennium Provident Fund, preserving all legal obligations on specific funds

within it that may have specific terms attached; that we continue to treat the funds involved as capital to the extent of not less than \$80 000 at 31/12/1999, and that additional contributions by way of gift or bequest be invited, the Committee being empowered to publicise the Fund from time to time.

5. The Committee's Regulations be amended as follows:

- i. That Section B1 be headed "Congregational Levy Fund (Retirement and Long Service Leave),"
- ii. That Section B2 be headed "Third Millennium Provident Fund" and read:  
"This fund was named by Synod 1999 to embrace existing funds for aged and infirm ministers and/or widows and orphans of such, as well as the Supplementary Benefits Fund formed from contributions forfeited by members of the Retirement Fund under its vesting provisions. The funds as at 31/12/1999 to the extent of \$80 000 are regarded for the time being as capital funds.

Source of Funds

- a. gifts, whether capital or otherwise,
- b. investment income
- c. other sources as Synod may determine.

How funds applied

- d. by allowance according to circumstances to aged or infirm ministers and/or the widows and/or orphans of such (see Section E below). Synod 1999 resolved that members of the Retirement Fund admitted since 1/1/1999 and existing members who retire or die after 1/1/2002 will not be eligible in view of the significant increase in superannuation contributions by the church and the likelihood that those retiring in the future will exceed the target and thus not be entitled to a pension in any case.
  - e. by contribution to the Retirement Fund as determined by Synod from time to time on recommendation of the Provident Funds Committee."
- iii. Omit Section E3 (re Supplementary Benefits Fund).
  - iv. That the following sentence be added to Section E1 of the Provident Funds Committee Regulations:

"In view of the increase in contributions to the Retirement Fund made by the church in recent times and planned for the future, pension payments will not be made to members of the Retirement Fund admitted to it after 1/1/1999 nor to those existing members who retire or die after 1/1/2002. Existing pensioners will not be affected.

6. Contributions to members of the Retirement Fund be increased by 1 % to 12 % from 1/4/1999 and be sourced as follows: 11 % from Levy, 1.0 % from the Third Millennium Provident Fund, and to 13 % from 1/4/2000 (11 % from Levy, 2.0 % from the Third Millennium Provident Fund).

**99.27 NEW SOUTH WALES TRUST CORPORATION**

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

## **99.28 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION**

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

## **99.29 TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA**

The Secretary of the Trustees (Rev. Dr. W.J.W. Hanna) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, the Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 1:

1. Synod gives thanks to God for the legacy from Mr. Max Hutton of Ulverstone, and directs that it be held by the Victorian Trustees as follows:
  - (i) 50 % of the legacy is to be held for the Ulverstone Congregation, the income to be available to the congregation for its general purposes, and the capital to be available for capital expenses or major building maintenance, but subject to the approval of the Presbytery of the bounds,
  - (ii) The other 50 % of the legacy is to be held for the Synod Church Extension Fund, the income to be available to that fund with Ulverstone having the first call upon it in accordance with Synod procedures adopted from time to time,
  - (iii) Synod does not preclude applying the legacy or part of it to other purposes should the above purposes become impossible, impracticable or in appropriate, in which a duly adopted resolution of Synod will be required which shall not be made without the mind of the Southern Presbytery being first obtained.

An amendment was moved on notice that:

Synod gives thanks to God for the legacy from Mr. Max Hutton of Ulverstone, and directs that it be held by the Victorian Trustees as follows:

- (i) 100 % of the legacy is to be held for the Ulverstone Congregation, the income to be available to the congregation for its general purposes, and the capital to be available for capital expenses or major building maintenance, but subject to the approval of the Presbytery of the bounds,
- (ii) Synod does not preclude applying the legacy or part of it to other purposes should the above purposes become impossible, impracticable or in appropriate, in which case a duly adopted resolution of Synod will be required which shall not be made without the mind of the Southern Presbytery being first obtained.

At this point, the Rev. W.P. Gadsby joined the court.

On the amendment being put against the Proposed Deliverance, the amendment was preferred and became the finding of the Court.

The Secretary of the Trustees introduced Proposed Deliverance 2. It was resolved that:

2. In regard to the land at Durham Lead, part of the property of the congregation of the Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria which met at that place from 1885 to 1905 and thereafter became defunct, the Synod resolve as follows:

- (i) upon sale of the Durham Lead land the nett proceeds are to be an endowment for the purposes of the Southern Presbytery, with particular reference to extension of the work of the church to an additional locality within the bounds,
- (ii) Synod does not preclude applying these monies or part of them to other purposes should the above purposes become impossible, impracticable or in appropriate, in which a duly adopted resolution of Synod will be required which shall not be made without the mind of the Southern Presbytery being first obtained.

### **99.30 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 5.58 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

### **SESSION 4 : TUESDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 1999, 7.15 p.m.**

Session 4 was opened with prayer and devotions at 7.15 p.m. The minutes of session 3 were read and confirmed.

### **99.31 TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA**

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Trustees for Victoria, in consultation with the Law and Advisory Committee, be asked to submit to the *Presbyterian Banner* an article re bequests, including suggested wording so that testators' intentions cannot be misunderstood. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

### **99.32 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Convener (Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward) presented the report of the Committee. It was resolved that the report be received.

### **99.33 "BANNER" EDITOR'S REPORT**

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

### **99.34 INFORMAL SESSION**

Synod went into informal session at 7.45 p.m. to discuss matters relevant to the report of the Church and Nation Committee and of the editor of the *Presbyterian Banner*. It was resolved that:

1. The Church and Nation Committee have the mandate to speak in the name of the P.C.E.A. on public issues of faith and conduct where there is a creedal or consensus position, and to acquaint Synod, Presbyteries and Sessions of significant issues, and printed or other sources available to assess them Biblically.
2. The Committee fell from Proposed Deliverance 2.

The Convener introduced Proposed Deliverance 3, which was:

3. Synod request Presbyteries to collate membership figures over the past century as best they may, using informed estimates where gaps exist, with a view to giving as factual a statement of membership as possible and an assessment of causes, and that report be included accordingly in the Presbytery Reports for next Synod.

On being put to the vote the Proposed Deliverance was not adopted.

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

2. Synod request the Administration Committee to collect statistical data in the revised format set out in the Report with the addition of other data such as are at present collected should they see fit.

### **99.35 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

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

### **SESSION 5 : WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL, 1999, 9.00 a.m.**

Session 5 was opened with devotions at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of session 4 were read and confirmed.

### **99.36 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Mr. D.E. Kerr and Mr. D. Manly.

### **99.37 DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES**

The Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Committee presented the Rev. Barry James, representing the Reformed Churches of New Zealand. Mr. James was welcomed by the Moderator and invited to address the court. Mr. James brought greetings from the Reformed Churches of New Zealand. The Moderator thanked Mr. James and asked him to convey the greetings of Synod to the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.

The Convener then presented the Rev. Albert Veldman and Mr. John Bruning, from the Free Reformed Churches of Australia. The Moderator welcomed the delegates and invited Mr. Veldman to address the court. Mr. Veldman brought the greetings of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia, and related something of the situation regarding relationships between our churches. The Moderator thanked Mr. Veldman and Mr. Bruning and asked them to convey the greetings of Synod to the Free Reformed Churches of Australia.

### **99.38 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

It was resolved that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the Inter-Church Relations Committee Report to be presented at this time.

### **99.39 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Convener (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the committee's report. It was resolved that the report be received. The delegates from the Free Reformed Churches of Australia answered questions addressed to them by the members of the Court. The Moderator once again thanked Mr. Veldman and Mr. Bruning for their courtesy in answering the questions put to them.

After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. The Committee's actions as reported be endorsed.

2. Synod set aside \$1000 this year, and \$1000 in 2000, towards the cost of sending a delegate to ICRC 2001.
3. The Committee be encouraged to continue to pursue the matter of closer relations with the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.

At this point, the delegate from the Reformed Churches of New Zealand (the Rev. Barry James), requested that this proposal be “given teeth” by a definite commitment to meet with the Inter-Church Relations Committee of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand. This request was received with favour by the Synod.

It was further resolved that:

4. The ‘Statements’ provided by the Free Reformed Churches of Australia for our consideration, as printed in the Synod Reports, be referred to lower courts for their possible consideration and report to the Inter-Church Relations Committee before 31.12.99.

It was resolved to take Proposed Deliverance 5 after meeting with the delegates from the Reformed Churches of Australia.

It was resolved that:

6. 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.

#### **99.40 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE (CONT.)**

The Convener continued to present the Report of the Committee.

It was resolved that:

2. Synod re-iterate the direction of Synod 1992, viz.,  
“Synod request each Presbytery carefully to consider the work within their bounds, in particular,
  - (a) the changes which might be necessary in attitudes and methods more adequately to comply with our Lord’s words to us to seek the good of others and not the mere preservation of traditions that are no longer relevant or an impediment to helpful communication of the gospel in our society,
  - (b) positive ways in which the building up of a thoroughly instructed church loyal to Christ and his word as set out in the Westminster Confession and Catechisms may be furthered,
  - (c) positive steps to establish the church in areas where the mass of people are living and dying without Christ, particularly, also, areas near to our universities.”and that reference be included in Presbyteries’ reports to next Synod.

#### **99.41 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 12.30 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

## **SESSION 6 : WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL, 1999, 4.00 p.m.**

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 4.00 p.m. The minutes of session 5 were read and confirmed.

### **99.42 DELEGATES FROM THE REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA**

The Rev. W.P. Gadsby, Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Committee, introduced the Rev. Don Baird and the Rev. Martin Geluk of the Reformed Churches of Australia to the Moderator, who welcomed them and invited Mr. Baird to address the court. Mr. Baird brought greetings from the Reformed Churches of Australia. The Moderator thanked Mr. Baird and asked him to convey the greetings of Synod to the Reformed Churches of Australia.

### **99.43 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Convener introduced Proposed Deliverance 5. It was resolved that:

5. Synod take note of the request from the Reformed Churches of Australia to clarify our mutual relationships, and direct the Committee to pursue this matter and report to the ensuing Synod.

### **99.44 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE (CONT.)**

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

4. Synod approve in principle producing workbooks on the Westminster Confession and Catechisms, and authorise the Committee to liaise with others with a view to report as to possibilities/progress at next Synod; other than nominal expenses are not to be incurred until a definite proposal is submitted and approved.
5. Synod encourage the Committee to consider publishing topical booklets, and to liaise with fellow-members of the I.C.R.C. and other like-minded bodies the better to prevent needless overlap, and to ensure better distribution and economic outcomes.
6. Synod express its appreciation of Mr. Gadsby's work as editor of *The Presbyterian Banner* during the past year, and assure him of encouragement and practical support in 1999-2000. Appreciation is also recorded of those who assist in support tasks such as typing and distribution.

It was agreed to defer the consideration of Proposed Deliverance 9 until the Youth and Fellowship Report.

The Convener introduced Proposed Deliverance 10:

Synod, conscious of the importance of the matter, request each inducted minister to submit at least one devotional article and one other article for inclusion in the magazine each 12 months, according to a time-table advised by the Editor (Mr. Gadsby), and should any person find it impossible to fulfil their responsibility or make suitable alternative arrangements, the person/s concerned are to write an explanatory letter to the Editor, and summary reference is to be incorporated in the Editor's Report to Synod.

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

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

7. Synod approve the production of a special issue of *The Presbyterian Banner* in each of 1999 and 2000, with initial funding from General Funds, and supervision by the Editors and the Church and Nation Committee and encourage Sessions to purchase significant extra copies to assist in outreach efforts.
8. Synod note and approve the arrangements for the Web-site and approve the annual cost being met by General Funds.
9. Synod thank the Reformed Churches of Australia for their approach regarding the *descensus* clause in the Apostles' Creed, and advise the Reformed Churches of the Committee's Report.

#### **99.45 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Convener (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) commenced to present the report of this committee.

#### **99.46 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 5.50 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

### **SESSION 7: WEDNESDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL, 1999, 7.00 p.m.**

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 7.00 p.m. The minutes of session 6 were read and confirmed. Mr. D.E Kerr was now present.

#### **99.47 MISSIONS EVENING**

The Convener of the Missions Committee (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) introduced the President of the Australian Indigenous Ministries, the Rev. Cliff Letcher, to the Moderator, who welcomed him and invited him to address the court. Mr. Letcher showed a video of the work of the A.I.M., and then gave a short talk about its activities and answered questions.

#### **99.48 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT.)**

The Convener of the Missions Committee (Mr. Gadsby) continued to present the Committee's report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

##### **1. Thanks**

1. Synod record with gratitude to God our sense of privilege in having been able to share in the wider mission work of the church during 1998.

##### **2. Mission Fields**

###### **2.1 Fiji**

- 2.1.1 Synod approve stipend support from Missions General Fund of Mr Leone Tupua to continue at 100% during 1999, and 75% during 2000.

#### **99.49 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

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

## **SESSION 8 : THURSDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL, 1999, 9.00 a.m.**

The session was opened with devotions at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of session 7 were read and confirmed.

### **99.50 MOTION TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS**

It was resolved to suspend standing orders to allow further discussion of the Fiji situation in closed court.

*Synod met in closed court.*

It was resolved that Central Presbytery be instructed to defer taking Mr. Tupua on trials for licence and that he be invited to visit Australia at the Committee's expense at a time including Synod 2 000.

Simple dissent was tendered by Messrs E.R. Lee, J. M. Cromarty and D.E. Kerr.

*It was agreed to meet in open court.*

### **99.51 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT.)**

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

- 2.1.2 Synod approve the tentative arrangements for a Highways and Byways type outreach during the second half of 1999.
- 2.1.3 Synod support Mr Stuart Coles and family for a period of two years (est. total \$40,000) from the Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund, subject to the confirmation of the viability of the proposed agricultural project following the three months' initial appraisal phase.

This deliverance was passed unopposed.

It was resolved that:

#### **2.2 Australian Indigenous Ministries**

- 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 Australian Indigenous Ministries, and confirm its intention to support him fully in this role for the period 2000-2002.

### **99.52 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 12.26 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

## **SESSION 9 : THURSDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL, 1999, 1.30 p.m.**

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 1.30 p.m. The minutes of session 8 were read and confirmed.

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Mr. R.L. Campbell.

**99.53 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT.)**

The Rev. Trevor Leggott was invited to address the Court with particular reference to his involvement in relief work.

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

- 2.2.2 From 1.01.2000, the Rev. Trevor Leggott be supported from the Missions Relief Fund to the extent that he is involved in relief as a part of his work with the Australian Indigenous Ministries, viz. 30% of his total support, with this level to be reviewed annually by Synod upon recommendation from the Committee.

**3. Missions Committee Regulations**

- 3.1 Synod request the Committee to bring a revision of the Regulations for consideration by Synod 2000, and request the Law and Advisory Committee to assist the Committee to fulfil this remit.

**4. Budget for Calendar 1999 and Calendar 2000**

- 4.1 Synod approve the budget for 1999.
- 4.2 Synod express general agreement with the budget for 2000.

## **5. Committee Appointments**

- 5.1 Mr Bruce Dunne be thanked for his contribution to the work of the Missions Committee.
- 5.2 Mr Peter Uren and the Rev. Sam Tamata be added to the Committee, and that the Rev. Trevor Leggott be appointed as a full member of the Committee.

### **99.54 PETITION FROM CENTRAL PRESBYTERY**

The Clerk introduced a petition from the Central Presbytery, viz.

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

It was resolved that the petition be received.

*It was agreed to meet in closed Court.*

The Central Presbytery was called to the bar. Mr. Cromarty took the chair.

The Clerk of the Central Presbytery, (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the petition.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the petition be granted as stated and that Dr. Dennis Muldoon be granted recognition as a Student for the Ministry, the first year of such recognition being probationary. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

The Central Presbytery was removed from the bar.

It was moved and seconded that the Training of Ministry Committee confer with Dr. Muldoon and bring to a later session of this Synod specific proposals as to the place of training and the course of study for consideration of Synod. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

*It was agreed to meet in open court.*

Mr. Muldoon was asked to meet with Synod and the decisions of the Court were conveyed to him by the Moderator.

### **99.55 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. Louden, K.I. Kerr.

### **8: 14 Foundation**

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

### **Law and Advisory**

T.J. McGlynn (Convener), W.J.W. Hanna, R.S. Ward, S.R. Tamata, Hunter elder.

### **Missions**

W.P. Gadsby (Convener), Dr. Helen Ramsay, Manning elder, P.Uren, Ian Conley, S.R. Tamata, T.I. Leggott.

### **Training of Ministry**

J.M. Cromarty (Convener), G.D. Ball, T.J. McGlynn, J. Ramsay, W.J.W. Hanna, D. Manly.

### **Youth and Fellowship**

R.W. Murray (Convener), G. Kinder, P. Uren, R. Campbell.

### **99.56 DELEGATE FROM THE REFORMED CHURCHES OF NEW ZEALAND.**

The Rev. Barry James thanked the Synod for its welcome and hospitality as he took his leave.

### **99.57 YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP REPORT**

In the absence of the Convener (Rev. R.W. Murray) on Long Service Leave, the Acting Convener (Mr. N.A. McPherson) presented the Committee's report. Synod then went into informal session to discuss the report and matters concerning Youth and Fellowship. Synod resumed formal session at 4.40 p.m. to deal with the Proposed Deliverances of the Youth and Fellowship Committee. It was resolved that:

1. We express our gratitude to God for providing young people among us, and for the work he has enabled the Church to do among them during the year.
2. Our thanks be expressed to:-
  - [a] All Sabbath School Superintendents and Teachers for their diligent and self-sacrificial work during the year.
  - [b] All the young people who participated in our Sabbath Schools, and especially those who contributed to the Search Work and Essay Competition.
  - [c] Jim and Val Cromarty for their assistance with the Essay Competition; Birthday Roll; and the production of the Fellowship Magazine.
  - [d] Mrs Irene Steel for her competent and faithful work in supervising the Search Work.
  - [e] Mr. Peter Uren who did an excellent job in setting out the material in the Fellowship magazine.
3. The remit for the production of New Certificates be continued, and that the New Certificates be phased in as the supply of the old ones is exhausted.

The Church and Nation Committee agreed to fall from Proposed Deliverance 9.

It was resolved that:

4. The Fellowship Magazine be produced in the current form and by the current method during 1999; that the Committee conduct a survey respecting its readership and target

group and report to Synod 2000; and that changes, if any, be implemented with the July, 2000 issue.

5. Synod thank the Hunter Barrington Congregation for hosting the 1999 Easter Rally, and endorse the arrangements for the Family Camp in December.
6. The remit for the production of a Syllabus be continued, and that the Committee investigate thoroughly the need, and the prospective use of, such a Syllabus within the Church.
7. All who teach SRE be encouraged to continue the work, and that each Congregation be asked to give their whole hearted support to this means of communicating the Gospel to young people today.

### **99.58 CHURCH EXTENSION MATTERS**

The Clerk presented the reports which had been submitted by the Clerks of Presbyteries concerning the various congregations. It was resolved that the reports be received.

It was moved and seconded that:

In regard to Congregational Reports, Synod request that Presbyteries in future submit a Presbytery Report as per Act 13, Synod 1986 and thus a summary of salient facts about each pastoral charge together with specific reference to any discussion or proposals for extension to new areas – a suggested length per Presbytery of one page.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

### **99.59 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

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

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

## **SESSION 10: THURSDAY, 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL, 1999, 7.00 p.m.**

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 7.00 p.m. The minutes of session 9 were read and confirmed.

### **99.60 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Convener (Rev. J.M. Cromarty) presented the report of this committee. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. (a) Synod notes the good progress of Mr. Peter Smith,  
(b) Synod assures Mr. Smith of continued prayerful interest and support,  
(c) Synod agrees to the payment of Mr. Smith's accommodation expenses, College fees and text book allowance.
2. Synod notes the repayment in full of Mr. Chris Tuck's debt in terms of the bond requirements (\$5,090).
3. Synod notes the balances that are owed by Mr. Peter Hill (\$670 plus interest) and Mr. Matthew Jacoby (\$1,022.50 plus interest) and requests a speedy settlement of these debts.

4. The bank overdraft interest rate applying to outstanding monies in terms of Bond requirements be the National Australia Bank Interest Indicator Base Rate minus 0.5 %.

The Convener introduced Proposed Deliverance 5:

5. An amount of \$1,500 be donated to the Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne, as a token of Synod's gratitude for the use of this facility.

On being put to the vote the Proposed Deliverance was defeated.

It was resolved that:

6. An expression of sincere sympathy be conveyed to Mrs. Jessie Carswell and family.

In response to the direction of Synod, the Committee presented the following proposal:

The committee having met with Dr. Dennis Muldoon resolved that the student is to remain in Sydney to pursue studies for a period of 18 months full-time at the Presbyterian Theological College at a time specified by the committee, to include the following subjects:

- a) Systematic Theology with particular reference to Soteriology and Ecclesiology
- b) Homiletics
- c) Westminster Confession of Faith
- d) Presbyterian Polity

The Committee to set work in Distinctive Principles and P.C.E.A. Church History,

The above to be reviewed at regular intervals by the Committee.

On being put to the vote the proposal was approved.

#### **99.61 MOTION ON NOTICE**

It was moved and seconded:

1. that Synod establish the *McIntyre Forbes Presbyterian Library* of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, to include material in the following categories:
  - a. Synodical: bound copies of magazines issued by Synod, copies of reports and minutes (other than those archived elsewhere) and Synod publications;
  - b. Ministerial: publications, papers and diaries (originals or copies) by P.C.E.A. ministers or other members or congregations;
  - c. Historical: material bearing on the history of the church in Australia;
  - d. Scottish: selected material bearing on the history of the Scottish Church, especially the Free Church of Scotland, principally the F.C.S. magazines and literature published by the F.C.S.;
  - e. Theological/Biblical: selected items of significance in elucidating the Reformed tradition in which we stand or related to our distinctive position whether on worship or otherwise.

2. That the Archivist, the Clerk of Synod and the Convener of the Training of Ministry Committee be a Library Committee (the Archivist as Convener) responsible for the McIntyre Forbes Presbyterian Library.
3. That the Library Committee be directed:
  - a. to cull the existing Theological Library appropriately (accounting to Synod in due course) and to incorporate the rest in the Synod Library, all books to be clearly marked as belonging to the McIntyre Forbes Library of the Synod;
  - b. to include the existing volumes in the Library;
  - c. to house the Library within the Knox Church in lockable shelving to minimise deterioration or loss – up to \$1 000 being allocated to the shelving, the offer of the Knox Congregation to pay any additional sum and to meet the annual insurance cost being accepted, the shelving to be movable to another location if desired in the future;
  - d. to acquire a complete bound set of the church magazine 1913-1984 (20 volumes) for the cost of binding (\$600); to accept Dr. Ward's offer of a donation of microfiche of the *Voice in the Wilderness* (1846-52), *The Port Phillip Christian Herald* (1846-51) and *The Testimony* (1865-70).
  - e. To produce a computerised list of holdings, making same readily available and updating same on a regular basis.
4. That the Library Committee be empowered:
  - a. to expend an amount not exceeding \$500 per year on the acquisition of selected items and the maintenance of existing items, and that a separate account appear in the Synod Annual Financial Report;
  - b. to draw up regulations allowing donations to the McIntyre Forbes Presbyterian Library to be tax deductible, to arrange with the authorities accordingly and to report to next Synod.
5. That the church at large be encouraged to donate items to the Library so as to ensure conservation and maximise its usefulness.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

#### **99.62 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS**

The minutes of the three presbyteries were reported to be in order. It was resolved that they be attested.

#### **99.63 MODERATOR-ELECT FOR SYNOD 2000**

It was resolved that the Rev. T.J. McGlynn be appointed Moderator-elect for Synod 2000.

#### **99.64 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 2000**

It was moved and seconded that Synod 2000 meet at the Collaroy Centre, Collaroy Beach during April or May 2000, commencing on a Monday at 7.00 p.m.; the actual date to be published following the reservation of the accommodation.

It was further moved and seconded that Synod 2000 meet at Geelong during April or May 2000, commencing on a Monday at 7.00 p.m.; the actual date to be published by the Administration 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.

### **99.65 PRINCIPAL ACTS**

It was resolved that the Clerk draw a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 1999, and include it with the Minutes.

### **99.66 THANKS**

It was resolved that the thanks of the Court be expressed to the Clerks.

It was moved and seconded that the thanks of the Court be conveyed to the Moderator. The motion was carried by acclamation.

### **99.67 TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

### **99.68 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of this closing session were read and confirmed.

### **99.69 CLOSURE OF SYNOD 1999**

Synod 1999 was closed with the singing of Psalm 133, and prayer at 8.35 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna  
Clerk

J.A. McCallum  
Moderator

## **ACTS OF SYNOD 1999 Appended by the Direction of Synod (99.65)**

<b>Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)</b>	nil
<b>Class 2 (Others)</b>	<b>Article</b>
Shared Ministries	99.20
Third Millennium Provident Fund	99.26.4
Amended Provident Fund Regulations	99.26.5
Mandate of Church and Nation Committee	99.34.1
Relationship with the Reformed Churches of Australia	99.43.5
Stipend Support - Mr. Leone Tupua	99.48.2.1.1
Support - Mr. S. Coles and family	99.51.2.1.3
Support - Rev. T.I. Leggott	99.51.2.2.1
Reception of Dr. Dennis Muldoon as student for the ministry	99.54
Presbytery Reports	99.58

## **LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE**

1. 8/3/1999 From Southern Presbytery Overture concerning biennial Synods.
2. 7/4/1999 From Free Church of Scotland Fraternal greetings