

**THE RECORD OF THE 153rd MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA
GEELONG, VICTORIA, 2000**

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SESSION 1: MONDAY, 1st MAY, 2000, 7.00 p.m.

00.1 OPENING

Within the Church Building, Geelong, on Monday, 1st May, 2000, at 7.00 p.m., the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, conducted by the Moderator, the Rev. J.A. McCallum.

00.2 MODERATOR'S SERMON

Mr. McCallum read from Matthew 6. He then preached a sermon on verse 33:– “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

00.2 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES

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

Northern Presbytery	Ministers	Commissioned Elders
Armidale	Vacant	W. McKinnon †
Brisbane	W.J.W. Hanna	K.G. Anderson †
Grafton-Lismore	R.W. Murray	J.D. Ramsay
Hastings	A.L. Tripovich	D. Hamilton
Maclean	R.W. Murray (sharing with Grafton-Lismore)	R.L. Campbell
Synod Appointments: S.N. Ramsay (retired) †		
I.J. McKenzie (residential supply)		

Central Presbytery		
Hawkesbury/Nepean	T.J. McGlynn	D.E. Kerr
Hunter/Barrington	S.R. Tamata	G. King
Manning	W.P. Gadsby	F. N. 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.)		

Southern Presbytery		
Geelong	J.M. Cromarty	D. Manly
Melbourne (Knox/G' Huntly)	R.S. Ward	P. Smith
Melbourne (Narre Warren)	G.D. Ball	J. Simpson
Ulverstone	G. Kinder	B. Webster
Synod Appointments: E.R. Lee (retired)		
J. Pateman † (retired)		

00.3 WELCOMES

On behalf of the Administration Committee, the Clerk moved that the Rev. Andrew Stewart of the Reformed Presbyterian Church be welcomed and associated with the Synod with the right to speak but not to vote. The motion was carried.

00.4 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that the Rev. Timothy J. McGlynn of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Congregation was Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr. McGlynn took the chair.

00.5 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Moderator read from 1 Corinthians 9, following which he delivered an address based on John 9: 4 :- “I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.”

00.6 THANKS

It was resolved that the retiring Moderator be thanked for his work during the year and for his sermon, and that the Moderator be thanked for his address, and that both addresses be published in “*The Presbyterian Banner*” if possible.

00.7 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended to permit some further business.

00.8 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk intimated certain alterations to be made to the Administration Committee Report and to its Proposed Deliverances. He pointed out that, in the list of correspondence, Item 3 should read:

“From the Clerk, Northern Presbytery – Notice of Presbytery’s decision concerning the linkage the Grafton and Lismore congregations into one charge,”

and that a second item of correspondence on the same subject had been omitted. These two items now became items 3a and 3b. There was also a late item of correspondence which should now appear as:

9. 19/4/2000 From the Moderator, Free Church of Scotland – Fraternal greetings.

00.9 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were handed in and copies distributed and the session was closed with the benediction at 9.10 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

SESSION 2: TUESDAY, 2nd MAY, 2000, 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.

00.10 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Clerk presented the Administration Committee’s Report. The Clerk reported that, through the good offices of Mr. Steel, Miss Anna Das, of the Charities section of the Australian Taxation Office, had been approached to meet with Synod to answer questions. A proposal to arrange an Order of the Day so that she could meet with Synod was fore-shadowed. 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 and direct that the following memorial minute to the late Rev. A.D. Campbell be recorded in the minutes.

Alexander Donald Campbell was born on 1st August, 1931 at Mullumbimby, N.S.W., to Alexander Archibald and Heather Campbell. His father was an elder in the Richmond-Brunswick Congregation. Alex became a student for the ministry in 1956 and attended university at Newcastle. In 1960 he went to Scotland and

studied at the Free Church College from 1960 to 1963. In May 1963 he was licensed to preach the Gospel. He married Mary Matheson in Scotland and returned to Australia with his wife in September of the same year. He was ordained and inducted to the charge of Grafton in January, 1964, and was editor of the church magazine from 1966 to 1970. In 1968, he became the first interim-moderator of the newly formed congregation in Brisbane. Family reasons caused his return to Scotland in 1971, where he ministered to the Free Church of Scotland congregation of Wick until 1977.

We thank God for his life and work, and we extend our deepest sympathy to his wife, Mary and their children Catriona, Mairi and Alasdair, in Scotland, and also to his sister Innes Anderson in Australia.

The Rev. E.R. Lee led the court in a time of prayer.

3. Correspondence Items 1 and 8 be taken with the report of the Biennial Synods Committee.
4. Correspondence Item 2 be taken in conjunction with Missions Committee business.
5. That Correspondence Items 3a and 3b be received and noted.
6. That Correspondence Item 4 be received and taken with the General Treasurer's Report.
7. That Correspondence Item 5 be considered with Missions Committee business.
8. That Correspondence Item 6 be considered with Missions Committee business.
9. That Correspondence Item 7 be taken with Inter-Church Relations Committee business.
10. That the Clerk be authorised to purchase a new Fax machine at a cost not to exceed \$300.
11. That an Order of the Day be made to allow representatives of other Churches to address Synod at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday.
12. That Presbyteries and committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.
13. That proposals for changes to the Committee Structure be in the hands of the Clerk by midday on Wednesday.
14. That the following examiners of records be appointed:-

Northern Presbytery	Rev.G.Kinder and Sydney South elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. R.W. Murray and Geelong elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. J.A. McCallum and Grafton elder.
15. That Correspondence Item 9 be considered with Inter-Church Relations Committee business.

16. That an Order of the Day be made for Thursday at 2.15 p.m. to hear a representative from the Australian Taxation Office.
17. That the Rev. Aalzen de Jager and the Rev. Ruud ter Beek be welcomed and associated with Synod, with the right to speak but not to vote.

00.11 BIENNIAL SYNODS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Clerk, as Convener of the Committee appointed to bring to Synod such recommendations as would permit a change to biennial Synods to be implemented, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Clerk presented Proposed Deliverance 1:

1. That paragraph 5.13 of the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* be amended to read:

“5.13 The Synod ordinarily meets once every two years. Each synod, before it adjourns, fixes the time and place of its next meeting.

When it appears to the Administration Committee (5.17) that the day appointed for the Synod’s next meeting will be unsuitable, it may alter the date and instruct the clerk of Synod to give notice to members of such alteration. Except where it is quite impossible to do so, at least eight weeks notice of the change is to be given, and the Committee is answerable for its conduct to the Synod, and the Synod records the reason for the change in its minutes.”

On being put to the vote, the Proposed Deliverance was defeated. The Committee agreed to fall from the remainder of its Proposed Deliverances.

00.12 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 1

The Synod then took up consideration of Correspondence Item 1, an overture from the Southern Presbytery, which was as follows:

Whereas it is desirable 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, and
Whereas it is desirable 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, and
Whereas there are principial and practical issues suggesting the importance of an annual meeting of Synod,
Now, therefore, the Southern Presbytery respectfully overtures the Synod that the “in principle” decision of Synod 1998 to move to biennial Synods be rescinded, and to take these premises into consideration or do otherwise for this object as in its wisdom may seem best.

It was noted that the overture had been received already at Synod 1998. The overture was then stated by the Rev. George Ball. It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted, and that the “in principle” decision of Synod 1998 to move to biennial Synods be rescinded.

An amendment was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted, and that the “in principle” decision of Synod 1998 to move to biennial decisions be rescinded, but without necessarily endorsing the reasons attached to the overture.

A further amendment was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted, and that the “in principle” decision of Synod 1998 to move to biennial decisions be rescinded, and that the content of the overture be taken under notice by the Administration Committee for the arrangement of future Synods.

On the second amendment being put against the first, the second amendment was preferred. On the amendment being put against the motion, the amendment was preferred and became the motion. On being put to the vote, it was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted and the “in principle” decision of Synod 1998 to move to biennial Synods be rescinded and that the content of the overture be taken under notice by the Administration Committee for the arrangement of future Synods.

Dr. Hanna tendered dissent with the reason that “this decision incorporates material which has already been defeated by Synod.”

Mr. Kerr adhered to the dissent with reasons.

00.13 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 gratitude to God for the continued support by church courts and congregational members during 1999 which has enabled us to meet all our needs for another year.

The General Treasurer introduced Proposed Deliverance 2:

2. That adjustment of Minimum Stipend and Benefits (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2000/2001 be in line with the average movement in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE). In the event of a negative average movement in any six-monthly review period, no adjustment is to be made. Child Allowance to remain at \$5 per dependent child per week, payable while the child completes his secondary education.

An amendment was moved on notice and seconded that the Minimum Stipend and non-cash benefits(excluding manse, car and telephone) as at 1st July 2000 be increased by \$23 to \$523 per week, and be adjusted on 1st January and 1st July each year thereafter in line with the Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE) index for all full time employees as published by the ABS, so as to be maintained at 68 % of the AWOTE figure. (Minimum) child allowance to remain at the existing level of \$5 per week set in 1983 for each dependent child, payable until secondary education is completed. Deacons’ Courts are encouraged to keep well in mind the financial support of their minister and his family.

The moderator ruled this amendment out of order.

00.14 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

SESSION 3: TUESDAY, 2nd MAY, 2000, 2.00 p.m.

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

00.15 FINANCE COMMITTEE (inc. TREASURER'S and AUDITOR'S REPORTS)

The Convener (Mr. A.H. Steel) continued to present the Proposed Deliverances of the Finance Committee. It was resolved that:

2. That adjustment of Minimum Stipend and Benefits (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2000/2001 be in line with the average movement in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings (AWOTE). In the event of a negative average movement in any six-monthly review period, no adjustment is to be made. Child Allowance to remain at \$5 per dependent child per week, payable while the child completes his secondary education.
3. Stipend Relief for 2000/2001 be granted to Armidale Deacons' Court up to \$12,000, Narre Warren Deacons' Court up to \$8,000 and Ulverstone Deacons' Court up to \$6,000, all on a strictly needs basis.

00.16 GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT

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

00.17 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4

It was resolved that the resignation of the General Treasurer – to take effect from the rising of Synod 2001 – be received with reluctance and that he be thanked for his work over the past nine years and for his willingness to continue for a longer period than at first proposed. This motion was carried with acclamation.

00.18 8: 14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

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

00.19 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 approve the calculation of the Levy on the basis of the annual minimum stipend as at 1st January, and request Deacons' Courts to note that the Levy for the year 2000 is \$2,737 [10.5% of minimum stipend] not less than 50% to be paid by 31st May 2000 and the balance by 30th November 2000.

2. Synod note that, as approved last year, as from 1/4/2000 each member will receive a contribution to his Retirement account of 13% of minimum stipend sourced 11% from the Levy and 2% from the income accruing to the Third Millennium Provident Fund.
3. Synod hereby resolve that a special contribution of \$50 for each year of service as at 31/12/99 be made this year from the Levy proceeds account to each member's account with Mercantile Mutual.
4. Synod resolution (Minute 97:21 (3a)) is hereby varied so as to authorise individual member choice of investment medium with the existing Fund with Mercantile Mutual subject to the following provisions.
 - (a) a member is to provide written authority in a form required by the Committee, that (i) he has been advised by the Committee to obtain competent professional advice; (ii) any decision he takes is his responsibility, and (iii) no liability is accepted by the Committee or the Church to him or his family or dependents for the investment performance of the fund or investment medium he chooses; (iv) no request for assistance from the Committee to make up any real or perceived lack of performance can be entertained.
 - (b) the member is to advise the Committee in writing, who will act on his instructions subject to (a) above in respect of existing accumulation and/or future contributions. No liability shall attach to the Convener, the Committee, the Synod Treasurer, or the Synod to pay contributions at times other than they are usually paid (currently 6 monthly – generally May (for 1/4-30/9) and December (for 1/10-31/3).
5. The basic rate of the weekly pension be increased by 2% from \$62.00 to \$63.25 (married) and from \$43.75 to \$44.65 (single) with effect from 1/07/2000.
6. Synod request Superannuation Fund members to note that the Committee plans to have the annual statements sent direct to them from Mercantile Mutual in future (usually arrives late December), but should there be any question about the annual statement same should be addressed to the Convener of the Provident Funds Committee in the first instance.

00.20 NEW SOUTH WALES TRUST CORPORATION

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

1. The Trustees' proposal to adopt the Investment Strategy as outlined in the report be approved.

Mr Ward tendered dissent with the following reasons: That the strategy is not adequately informed nor does it adequately address trust requirements in my opinion.

00.21 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

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

00.22 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.

00.23 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.

00.24 “BANNER” EDITOR’S REPORT

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

00.25 PRESBYTERY REPORTS

The Clerk presented the reports which had been submitted by the Clerks of Presbyteries concerning the work in their areas. It was resolved that the reports be received.

00.26 INFORMAL SESSION

Synod went into informal session at 5.10 p.m. to discuss matters relevant to the report of the Church and Nation Committee and of the editor of the *Presbyterian Banner*.

00.27 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

SESSION 4: TUESDAY, 2nd MAY, 2000, 7.30 p.m.

Session 4 was opened with prayer and praise at 7.30 p.m. The minutes of session 3 were read and confirmed.

00.28 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. Synod note the three short statements (Sanctity of Human Life; The Stewardship of Creation; Work, Rest and the Lord’s Day) and commend them to the use of our people in ways they may judge appropriate.
2. Synod set aside significant time to discuss the response of Presbyteries to the decision of Synod 1992, to formulate a strategy as a matter of urgency, and to engage in prayer for revival, humbling ourselves as ministers and elders before Almighty God.
3. The desire of the Narre Warren congregation to utilise a youth mission team be noted and that interested persons be put in touch with Rev G.D. Ball.
4. Synod thank Mr Gadsby for his valuable work as Editor of *The Presbyterian Banner* since May 1988 and record appreciation to his wife and other helpers over the years.

This motion was carried by acclamation.

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 5.

5. Synod resolve to continue the production of *The Presbyterian Banner* 11 times a year as at present until December 2000 and thereafter to issue the magazine every second month as a topical publication (av. 20 pp. per issue) drawing from as many of our ministers as possible with an editorial team consisting of the persons to be named in a subsequent minute.

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

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

6. Synod now call for nominations for the editorial team of *The Presbyterian Banner* effective from the first issue after that for May 2000.

00.29 ELECTION OF “BANNER” EDITOR

It was moved and seconded that the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward be appointed to the editorial team of *The Presbyterian Banner*. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was further moved and seconded that the Rev. E.R. Lee be appointed to the editorial team of *The Presbyterian Banner*. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

00.30 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

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

7. The Synod approve the payment of \$1,000 from Fellowship Committee Funds towards the cost of Fellowship in 1999 (actual print only cost \$1,045).
8. An e-mail contact register be established in each congregation for the reception of congregational news items including photographs that can be downloaded and used in congregational news-sheets.
9. Synod approve the disposal of the computer items valued at \$395.55 as at 31/12/99 to Rev W.P. Gadsby at no cost.

00.31 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with prayer at 9.10 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

SESSION 5: WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY, 2000, 9.00 a.m.

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

00.32 ORDER OF THE DAY

An Order of the Day having been made to allow representatives from other Churches to address the Synod, the Moderator called upon the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee, the Rev. W.P. Gadsby, to introduce the various representatives.

Mr Gadsby introduced the Revs. Aalzen de Jager and Ruud ter Beek of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands to the Moderator, who welcomed them and invited them to speak. The Rev. de Jager then addressed the Synod, bringing greetings from the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands and explaining what was meant by the sister church relationship which had been afforded to the P.C.E.A. by them.

Mr Gadsby introduced the Rev. Andrew Stewart of Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia to the Moderator, who welcomed him and invited him to speak. The Rev. Stewart then addressed the Synod, bringing greetings from the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Mr Gadsby introduced the Rev. John de Boer of the Reformed Churches of Australia to the Moderator, who welcomed him and invited him to speak. The Rev. de Boer then addressed the Synod, bringing greetings from the R.C.A.

00.33 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Convener (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the Committee's report. It was resolved that the report be received. At this stage, the moderator left the chair which was taken by the previous moderator, the Rev. J.A. McCallum. Mr. Gadsby read a letter from the Free Reformed Churches of Australia. It was resolved that the letter be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

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

00.34 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 7

This item of correspondence consisted of an overture from the Southern Presbytery as follows:

To the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia to meet in Geelong on 1 May 2000:

Whereas the Free Church of Scotland has been greatly troubled in recent years concerning a number of serious issues, and

Whereas a body has emerged bearing the designation "The Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)," and

Whereas there exists between the P.C.E.A. and the Scottish Church a Federal Relations Act expressing the closest ties between the two churches:

Now, therefore, the Southern Presbytery respectfully overtures the Synod to take these premises into consideration and,

1. *discuss the effects upon the P.C.E.A. of the events in Scotland,*
2. *reflect upon our mutual obligations in the light of the Federal Relations Act,*
3. *consider whether the Federal Relations Act should apply to both bodies in Scotland, as both lay claim to being the church of the Disruption of 1843,*
4. *determine the direction which should be taken concerning our ongoing relationship with both churches,*

or do otherwise for this object as in its wisdom may seem best.

It was resolved that the overture be received. The overture was stated on behalf of the Southern Presbytery by the Rev. J.M. Cromarty. It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted, and that points 1 to 4 of the overture be taken up.

It was further moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted, provide opportunity now for dealing with points 1, 2 and 3 and remit further consideration and particularly the matter in 4 to the Inter-Church Relations Committee to bring proposals to Synod 2001 and they be authorised to seek advice of the Law and Advisory Committee as necessary.

At this point, the moderator *pro tem.* called upon the Rev. I.J. McKenzie and the Rev. E.R. Lee to lead in prayer.

On the second motion being taken against the first, the first motion was preferred. On being put to the vote, this motion became the finding of the court. It was moved and seconded that the Synod move into closed court. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

00.35 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 9

The Synod took up consideration of Correspondence Item 9. It was moved and seconded that the correspondence be received. The motion was carried.

Synod then commenced to discuss the matters contained in the overture.

00.36 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

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

SESSION 6: WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY, 2000, 2.30 p.m.

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 2.30 p.m. The minutes of session 5 were read and confirmed.

00.37 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Synod continued to discuss the matters before it. It was moved and seconded that Synod go into closed court. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

The Committee Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 2 as amended below:

2. Synod express its sorrow over the division that has taken place in the Free Church of Scotland, and express its prayerful desire that reconciliation should be achieved on the basis of justice and righteousness, and that we approach the Free Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing) to express our concerns.

On being put to the vote the Proposed Deliverance 2 was approved.

It was moved and seconded that, in view of the presently divided state of the Free Church of Scotland and the uncertainty of future events, and in the prayerful hope that present differences between the two bodies may be resolved upon careful reflection, the Synod take no action regarding the Federal Relations Act for the time being, yet decline to be involved in the movement of ministers to and from Scotland, for the next 12 months – the situation to be reviewed at Synod 2001.

It was further moved and seconded that the Federal Relations Act with the Free Church of Scotland be suspended.

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 vote the motion was carried.

It was moved and seconded that the statement prepared by the Rev. J.M. Cromarty, points 1-5 be passed to the Inter-Church Relations Committee to form the basis of their expression of concerns to the Scottish Churches and that other proposals in it also be taken under notice by the Inter-Church Relations Committee. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was resolved that the thanks of the Court be conveyed to Mr. McCallum for his help while acting as moderator *pro tem.* during this business. This motion was carried by acclamation.

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

00.38 CLOSURE OF SESSION

The session was closed with prayer at 5.30 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

SESSION 7: WEDNESDAY, 3rd MAY, 2000, 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.

00.39 MISSIONS EVENING

The Convener of the Missions Committee (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) introduced Dr. Helen Ramsay to the Moderator, who welcomed her and invited her to address the court. Dr. Ramsay spoke about the work in India and described some of the changes that had occurred since she had first gone there.

The Convener then introduced the Rev. S.R. Tamata to the Moderator, who welcomed him and invited him to address the court. Mr. Tamata spoke about the work in Fiji. Mr. Gadsby then supplied further information concerning the work done by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Coles in Fiji.

Mr. Gadsby then introduced the Rev. Trevor Leggott to the Moderator, who welcomed him and invited him to address the court. Mr. Leggott spoke about the work of Australian Indigenous Ministries.

Mr. Gadsby concluded the evening by giving a brief overview of the different fields which were supported by the P.C.E.A. through the Missions Committee.

The Moderator then expressed the thanks of the Court to the various speakers.

00.40 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

SESSION 8: THURSDAY, 4th MAY, 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.

00.41 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

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

3. The Committee be encouraged to continue to pursue the matter of closer relations with the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.
4. The Southern Presbytery response to the 'Statements' provided by the Free Reformed Churches of Australia for our consideration, as printed in the 1999 Synod Reports, be endorsed as generally descriptive of our Church's position, and forwarded it to the FRCA for their consideration.
5. The Committee be encouraged to maintain its contact with other churches, both in Australia and overseas, and particularly our fellow ICRC members, in the interests of advancing the cause of Christ's Kingdom in the world.
6. Synod acknowledge with gratitude the sister-church relation afforded us by the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated), and affirm our intention to advance our mutual relations in accordance with our rules governing fraternal relations between churches (*Decision Book*, p. 19).

00.42 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Convener (Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the report of this committee.

It was resolved to meet in closed court.

It was resolved to meet in open court.

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

1. Thanks to God

- 1.1 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 1999.

The Moderator called on the Rev. R.W. Murray, who led the Synod in prayer for the work on the mission fields.

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

2. Mission Fields

2.1 Fiji

- 2.1.1 Synod approve stipend support from Missions General Fund of Mr Leone Tupua to continue at 75% (of F\$10,940 p.a.) during 2000, and 50% during 2001, the accommodation allowance to remain the same (F\$3600 p.a.).
- 2.1.2 Synod approve the tentative arrangements for a Highways and Byways type outreach during the second half of 2000 or in 2001.
- 2.1.3 Synod thank Mr and Mrs Stuart Coles and family for their excellent work in Fiji, determining the viability of the agricultural project, and convey its prayerful good wishes to them.

The Committee asked leave of Synod to introduce a further Proposed Deliverance. Leave being granted, it was resolved that:

- 2.1.4 Synod endorse the action of the Committee in not inviting Leone Tupua to attend this Synod.

The Convener of the Committee presented Proposed Deliverance 2.2.1

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.

00.43 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2 - PETITION FROM MR. M. LOGAN

The Clerk presented Mr. Logan's petition, which was as follows:

*To the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia:
This Petition respectfully shows:*

THAT

*whereas the Synod of Eastern Australia has resolved to support the Rev. T.I. Leggott financially in his work with the Australian Indigenous Ministries, and
whereas it can be shown that the Australian Indigenous Ministries is an Arminian Faith Missionary Society, and,
whereas such support can be shown to be contrary to the Confessional Standards of the P.C.E.A., and
whereas such support can also be shown to be contrary to the ordination vows taken by office-bearers of the P.C.E.A., and
whereas the decisions of Synod regarding A.I.M. may be considered to be racially discriminatory, in that they support a much lower level of training for A.I.M. workers than for our own students,*

NOW THEREFORE your petitioner prays the Synod to take these premises into consideration and to rescind its resolutions to support Mr. Leggott's work at A.I.M., or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may deem fit.

It was moved and seconded that the petition be received.

00.44 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

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

SESSION 9: THURSDAY, 4th MAY, 2000, 2.00 p.m.

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

00.45 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2 - PETITION FROM MR. M. LOGAN

Synod continued to deal with this petition.

It was moved and seconded that Mr. Logan's petition be not received on the grounds, *inter alia*, that it could have come up some other way, and that its substance has already been discussed by previous Synods. Further, if it was proper to come up as it has it also required that the petitioner give reasonable notice to all affected and this has not been done. Nevertheless, that Mr. Logan be given full liberty to speak to his petition prior to the Synod vote.

The Moderator called on Mr. Logan to present reasons why his petition should be received.

On the second motion being put against the first, the first motion was preferred and became the motion before the court. It was resolved that the petition be received.

Dr. Ward dissented with the reason that the reasons in the motion which was defeated, yet with regret that opportunity for Mr. Logan to state his views with full liberty was not given in the confusion of procedure, in my opinion.

It was resolved that a committee comprising the Revs. Lee, Cromarty and McCallum be appointed to answer Dr. Ward's reason for dissent.

Mr. Logan then spoke in support of his petition and answered questions from members of the court.

It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the petition be granted, and that Synod rescind its decision to support the Rev. T.I. Leggott at Australian Indigenous Ministries.

It was further moved and seconded that the prayer of the petition be not granted.

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 carried.

Mr. Tripovich tendered simple dissent.

The Moderator conveyed the decision of Synod to Mr. Logan and expressed the good wishes of the court to Mr. Logan and to his wife. Mr Logan indicated his acquiescence.

The Convener of the Committee then presented Proposed Deliverance 2.2.1. It was resolved that:

- 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.

Mr. Tripovich tendered simple dissent.

The Convener then presented Proposed Deliverance 2.2.2

- 2.2.2 That the Rev. Trevor Leggott continue to 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.

00.46 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 5 - FROM MRS. R.D. ANDREWS

It was resolved that the correspondence be received.

It was moved on notice and seconded that, in view of the reminder of Mrs. Ruby Andrews to this Synod of what is regarded by her and a number of other members of Synod, and by the solicitor who drew up the will, as an inappropriate use of the "Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund," in the case of A.I.M., and a possible, and therefore serious, breach of trust, Synod do now carefully consider this matter with a view to re-directing such funding to areas of dire need, as directed by the late Malcolm McSwan and expressed by the late Dr. Campbell Andrews in the regulations for use which he drew up, and which the Synod agreed to.

Mr. Gadsby was given permission to circulate his reply to Mrs. Andrews to the members of the court.

Mr. Gadsby also read from the detailed diary of Mr. Leggott's relief work activities.

00.47 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

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

SESSION 10: THURSDAY, 4th MAY, 2000, 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.

00.48 MISSIONS COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

On the motion before the court being put against the Proposed Deliverance, the proposed deliverance was preferred. On being put to the court, it was resolved that:

- 2.2.2 The Rev. Trevor Leggott continue to 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.

00.49 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 6 - FROM MRS. R.D. ANDREWS

It was resolved that the Correspondence be received. It was moved and seconded that the correspondence be passed from. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

00.50 MISSIONS COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)

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

3. Missions Committee Regulations

- 3.1 Synod request the Committee to bring a revision of the Regulations for consideration by Synod 2001, and request the Law and Advisory Committee to assist the Committee to fulfil this remit.

4. Budget for Calendar 2000 and Calendar 2001

- 4.1 Synod approve the budget for 2000.
4.2 Synod express general agreement with the budget for 2001.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the donation to C.W.I. be given for C.W.I. extension work within the Melbourne Jewish community. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

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

5. Committee Appointments

- 5.1 Synod confirm the membership of this Committee for 2000-2001 to be: Dr H.Ramsay; Messrs I.Conley; W.P.Gadsby (Convener); T.I.Leggott; F.N.Robinson; and S.R.Tamata.

00.51 THANKS

The thanks of the court were conveyed to the Convener and Committee by acclamation.

00.53 YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP REPORT

The report of the Youth and Fellowship Committee was presented by the Convener, the Rev. R.W. Murray. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, 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] Mrs. Val Cromarty for her efficient management of the Birthday Roll.
- [d] Mrs. Irene Steel for her competent and faithful work in supervising Search Work.
- [e] Rev. Peter Gadsby for his contribution to the production of the Fellowship Magazine.

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 3.

3. That the Fellowship magazine cease production as a separate insert with the May issue, and that a special section of *The Presbyterian Banner* be set aside each month for special focus on Youth concerns.

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

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

4. Synod thank the Hunter Barrington Congregation for hosting the 1999 Easter Rally, and the Manning Congregation for undertaking responsibility for the Camp at Camp Coomba at Easter, 2000.
5. The time of the Biennial Family Camp be transferred to Easter, the next Camp be held at Easter, 2001, and Congregations be asked for expressions of interest in holding the Camp.
6. The remit for the production of a Syllabus be continued.
7. All who teach SRE be encouraged to continue the work, and each congregation be asked to give their wholehearted support to this means of communicating the Gospel to young people today.

00.52 ANSWER TO REASONS FOR DISSENT

The Committee appointed to prepare an answer to Dr. Ward's reason for dissent provided the following:

It was clearly established by the Moderator that Mr. Logan had the liberty to state his case in support of his petition. Subsequently when Mr. Logan began to present his petition he stated that he felt that he had "not been gagged." This was confirmed later on when questioned privately.

00.53 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.

It was resolved to meet in closed court.

It was resolved to suspend standing orders and continue until 10.00 p.m.

It was resolved to meet in open court.

After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. Synod urges local Sessions to seek out and encourage suitably gifted men to give prayerful consideration to the use of their gifts in the gospel ministry.
2. (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 textbook allowance.
3. (a) Synod notes the good progress of Dr Dennis Muldoon.
(b) Synod assures Dr Muldoon of continued prayerful interest and support.
(c) Synod approves the course of study as outlined in the report.
(d) Synod agrees to the payment of Dr Muldoon's College fees, textbook allowance and in conjunction with Sydney South to a proportion of his living expenses.
4. Synod notes with concern the absence of response from Mr Peter Hill re Bond monies owing and acknowledges Mr Matthew Jacoby's positive reply.

It was agreed that Proposed Deliverance 5 be treated as unfinished business.

00.54 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)

G. Ball (Convener), J.M. Cromarty, R.S. Ward, 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

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, 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

G. Kinder (Convener), R.W. Murray, J.D. Ramsay, R. Campbell.

00.55 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

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

00.56 MODERATOR-ELECT FOR SYNOD 2001

It was resolved that the Rev. G. Ball be appointed Moderator-elect for Synod 2001.

00.57 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 2001

It was moved and seconded that Synod 2001 meet at Geelong at a time to be determined by the Administration Committee in consultation with the Geelong congregation. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

00.58 MOTION ON NOTICE

It was moved on notice and seconded that Act 1, Class 2 Synod 1983 be amended so that Clause 6 reads:

The Clerk of Synod shall arrange for Committee Reports, Correspondence and Proposed Deliverances to be printed, and he distributes them so that they are in the hands of members not later than 21 days before the opening of Synod, extra copies being produced for binding with the minutes in due course.

and that in Clause 4, 45 days be altered to 50 days.

On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

00.59 PRINCIPAL ACTS

It was resolved that the Clerk draw up a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 2000, and include it with the Minutes.

00.62 THANKS

It was resolved that the thanks of the Court be conveyed to the Geelong congregation and, in particular, to those who have contributed so much to the comfort of the delegates. The motion was carried by acclamation.

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

00.60 TREASURER'S REPORT

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

00.61 THANKS

It was resolved that the thanks of the court be conveyed to the General Treasurer. It was resolved that the thanks of the Court be expressed to the Clerks. These motions were carried by acclamation.

00.62 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of this closing session were read and confirmed.

00.63 CLOSURE OF SYNOD 2000

Synod 2000 was closed with the singing of Psalm 122 and with the benediction, at 10.05 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

T.J. McGlynn
Moderator

ACTS OF SYNOD 2000
Appended by the Direction of Synod (00.61)

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)	nil
Class 2 (Others)	Article
Amendment to Prov. Fund Regulations	00.20.4
Minimum Stipend	00.14.2
Investment Strategy (N.S.W.)	00.21.1
Relations with Free Church of Scotland	00.38
Support of the Rev. T.I. Leggott at A.I.M.	0043.2.2.1
Support of the Rev. T.I. Leggott at A.I.M.	0043.2.2.2

LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. 8/3/1999 From the Clerk, Southern Presbytery – Overture regarding the holding of biennial Synods.
2. 25/7/1999 From Mr. Murray Logan – Petition regarding the funding of the Rev. T.I. Leggott at A.I.M.
- 3a. 9/10/1999 From the Clerk, Northern Presbytery – Notice of Presbytery’s decision concerning the linkage the Grafton and Lismore congregations into one charge.
- 3b. 18/2/2000 From the Clerk, Northern Presbytery – Notice of Presbytery’s decision concerning the linkage the Grafton and Lismore congregations into one charge.
4. 31/1/2000 From Mr. A.H. Steel – Resignation as General Treasurer.
5. 22/2/2000 From Mrs. R.D. Andrews – Request to reconsider the use of Missions Relief Fund
6. 22/2/2000 From Mrs. R.D. Andrews – Request to change the name of the Missions Relief Fund
7. 17/3/2000 From the Clerk, Southern Presbytery – Overture regarding relations with the Free Church of Scotland
8. 17/3/2000 From the Clerk, Southern Presbytery – Overture regarding the holding of biennial Synods. (same as Correspondence Item 1 of 1999)
9. 19/4/2000 From the Moderator, Free Church of Scotland – Fraternal greetings