

**THE RECORD OF THE 154th MEETING OF THE SYNOD OF
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA
GEELONG, VICTORIA, 2001**

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SESSION 1: MONDAY, 7th MAY, 2001, 7.00 p.m.

Minutes of the 2001 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

01.1 OPENING

Within the Church Building, Geelong, on Monday, 7th May, 2001, 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.

01.2 MODERATOR'S SERMON

Mr. McCallum read from John 1, verses 1-18. He then preached a sermon on verse 14:- "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

01.3 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
Hastings	A.L. Tripovich	D. Hamilton
Northern Rivers	R.W. Murray	J.D. Ramsay

Synod Appointments: S.N. Ramsay (retired)

I.J. McKenzie (residential supply)

Central Presbytery		
Hawkesbury/Nepean	Vacant	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

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	J. Louden
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 absence from the first two sessions was tendered on behalf of Mr. Simpson.

01.4 WELCOMES

On behalf of the Administration Committee, the Clerk moved that the Mr. Leone Tupua be welcomed and associated with the Synod with the right to speak but not to vote. The motion was carried.

It was moved that all bona fide elders of P.C.E.A. congregations who were present be associated with the Synod with the right to speak but not to vote. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

01.5 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that the Rev. George D. Ball, minister of the Narre Warren Congregation, was Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr. Ball took the chair.

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01.6 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Moderator read from John 15, verses 1-8. Then, following the singing of Psalm 80: 7-12, he delivered an address based on verse 5:– “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.”

01.7 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

01.8 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk intimated certain alterations to be made to the Administration Committee Report and to its Proposed Deliverances. Contrary to what had been stated in the report, one former member of Synod, Mr. Norman Kerr, had passed to his reward during the year 2000. Proposed Deliverance 2 of the Administration Committee should, therefore, be altered to read:

2. That Synod note the passing of Mr. Norman Kerr, a former member of Synod, and express its sympathy for his family and for all those connected with this church who have been bereaved since the last annual meeting of Synod.

There was also an extra item of correspondence:

6. From the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia – Fraternal Greetings.

The Administration Committee was, therefore putting forward a further Proposed Deliverance:

10. That Correspondence Item 6 be received and dealt with under Inter-Church Relations Committee business.

01.9 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

G.D. Ball
Moderator

SESSION 2: TUESDAY, 8TH 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.

01.10 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.

01.11 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Clerk presented the Administration Committee's Report. 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 note the passing of Mr. Norman Kerr and of Mr. George Alford, former members of this Synod, and that Synod express its sympathy for their families, and also for all those connected with this church who have been bereaved since the last annual meeting of Synod.

At this point, the Rev. S.N. Ramsay led the court in prayer.

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It was further resolved that:

3. Correspondence Items 1 to 3 and 5 be received and noted.
4. Correspondence Item 4 be received and passed to the Provident Fund Committee for its consideration.
5. An Order of the Day be made for 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday to allow a visit to the Reformed Theological College, Geelong, and to hear a representative of the College.
6. Mr. Steel's offer to remain as the General Treasurer of Synod be received with deep gratitude and that he be re-appointed to that office.
7. Presbyteries and committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.
8. Proposals for changes to the Committee Structure be in the hands of the Clerk by midday on Wednesday.
9. The following examiners of records be appointed: -

Northern Presbytery	Rev. S.R. Tamata and Geelong elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. J.M. Cromarty and Northern Rivers elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. A.L. Tripovich and St. Georges elder.
10. That Correspondence Item 6 be received and dealt with under Inter-Church Relations Committee business.

01.12 TRAINING OF MINISTRY REPORT

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

1. Synod note the satisfactory completion of studies by Mr Peter Smith and Dr Dennis Muldoon as approved by Synod, and commends them and their families to the Lord of the harvest.

The Training of Ministry Committee agreed to incorporate a proposed amendment into its proposed deliverance 2. It was therefore resolved that:

2. The Training of Ministry regulations be amended as follows: -

The existing regulation (8) dealing with allowances be designated 8(a) and that a further statement 8(b) be added: -

“In circumstances of need as determined by the committee, living allowance will continue until the time of trials for licensing, but not beyond a period of twelve weeks from the time that certification is issued confirming satisfactory completion of theological studies.

If a student fails to complete his studies satisfactorily, allowances will continue only if both Presbytery and the Training of Ministry Committee are agreed that further studies are to be undertaken to complete the course.”

3. That a representative from the Reformed Theological College be invited to address Synod and respond to questions.

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4. That a time be set aside for a visit to the Reformed Theological College.

It was agreed that Proposed Deliverance 5 be taken on Wednesday morning after returning from the Reformed Theological College.

01.13 CHURCH AND NATION REPORT

The Moderator, being the Convener of this Committee, left the Chair to present his report and was replaced, *pro tem.*, by the Rev. J.A. McCallum.

01.14 PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT

The Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward presented the Report on behalf of the Editors.

It was resolved that the reports of the Church and Nation Committee (including the *Presbyterian Banner* report) be received. Synod went into informal session to discuss these reports.

01.15 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

G.D. Ball
Moderator

SESSION 3: TUESDAY, 8TH MAY, 2001, 2.00 P.M.

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

01.16 CHURCH AND NATION REPORT

Synod continued in informal session to discuss church and nation matters (including the *Presbyterian Banner*)

Synod resumed formal session at 2.35 p.m. It was resolved that:

1. Time should be set aside during Synod for prayers of Intercession for the Church and Nation.
2. Synod record its thanks to Dr. Ward for his work in producing and distributing the church magazine.
3. That Synod urge sessions and Presbyteries to speak out on the great issues of our Christian faith as opportunities arise. This committee will be available for guidance and/or information as required.
4. That Synod urge parents to supervise the Internet with great care.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Committee, and especially the Convener, be commended for their initiative and leadership in providing moral guidance to our society in the past year. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod allocate \$600 from the Publications Committee's budget towards the production of a colour booklet commemorating the life of the Rev. James Forbes who died 150 years ago next August and that 300 copies be distributed to Sessions on a *pro rata* basis compared to communicant membership. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

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01.17 PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT

It was resolved that:

1. Synod formally note in line with the Report that *The Presbyterian Banner* is regarded as a sub-entity of Synod's GST registration and excluded from the GST.

01.18 PRAYER

Synod engaged in a time of prayer making intercession for our church and nation.

The Moderator then resumed the chair.

01.19 YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP REPORT

The Convener of the Youth and Fellowship Committee (the Rev. G. Kinder) presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. We express our gratitude to God for the increasing number of young families attending our congregations.
2. Our thanks be expressed to:
 - a. the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward for the work he has done in supplying material in place of the Fellowship Magazine,
 - b. The Sunday School superintendents and teachers for their work during the past year,
 - c. Mrs. Val Cromarty for her continued work with the birthday roll,
 - d. Mrs. Irene Steel for diligence in supervising the Search Work.
3. The production of a new syllabus be cancelled.

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 4:

4. The Fellowship Magazine cease production in its current format.

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

The Convener proceeded to present Proposed Deliverance 5. It was resolved that:

5. Synod determine:
 - a. the size of the segment,
 - b. the amount to be contributed to *The Presbyterian Banner* for this addition, and
 - c. appoint an Editor for the section if necessary.

It was moved

- a. that the Rev. R.W. Murray be the Editor of the Fellowship Magazine,
- b. that it consist of 4 pages, including Search Work and Birthday Roll, of a normally 16 page issue of the Presbyterian Banner, and
- c. that the cost be absorbed by The Presbyterian Banner with assistance from Synod General Funds of \$500 per annum if required.

An amendment was moved that the words "with assistance from Synod General Funds of \$500 per annum if required" be deleted.

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

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01.20 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS REPORT

The Convener (the Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the committee's report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

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

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 2:

2. Synod appoint a second voting delegate to the ICRC from among those ministers who have not previously attended the Conference.

An amendment was moved on notice and seconded that, noting that the Rev. R.S. Ward is expecting to be in Philadelphia at the time of the I.C.R.C. in the interests of the Knox Congregation, Synod appoint him its second voting delegate to the I.C.R.C. 2001, no expense to fall on Synod.

On the amendment being put against the Proposed Deliverance, the Proposed Deliverance was preferred. On being put to the vote, the Proposed Deliverance became the finding of the court.

01.21 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

G.D. Ball
Moderator

SESSION 4: TUESDAY, 8TH MAY, 2001, 7.30 P.M.

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

01.22 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS REPORT (CONT.)

It was proposed and seconded that the Moderator be the second delegate to the I.C.R.C. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was moved on notice and seconded that, noting that the Rev. R.S. Ward is expecting to be in Philadelphia at the time of the I.C.R.C. in the interests of the Knox Congregation, Synod appoint him one of the two non-voting delegates to the I.C.R.C. to which we are entitled, no expense to fall on Synod. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

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

3. Synod express its opposition to the changes proposed to the ICRC Constitution, and direct its delegation to vote accordingly.

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 4:

4. Synod confirm the decision of Synod 2000 (§00.38.2) is to remain in effect for another 12 months from the rising of this Synod, namely that there is to be no movement of ministers to or from the Free Church of Scotland or the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), with this matter to be reviewed again by Synod 2002.

It was moved on notice and seconded that, in view of a number of serious unresolved issues concerning the recent division in the Free Church of Scotland, and in view of the lack of any improvement in the situation since the decision of last Synod, Synod now take steps to terminate

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the Federal Relations Act between the Free Church of Scotland and the P.C.E.A., and, from then on, treat any application for ministry in the P.C.E.A. by either the Free Church of Scotland or the Free Church, Continuing, on the merits of the applicants.

On the motion being put against the Proposed Deliverance the Proposed Deliverance was preferred. On being put to the vote the Proposed Deliverance became the finding of the court.

Mr Ward tendered dissent with reasons as follows:

1. It does not proceed upon a proper recognition/consideration of the replies from the Scottish churches or examination of the document "Declaration of Reconstitution of the Historic Free Church of Scotland" issued by those who withdrew.
2. It does not follow the required Barrier Act procedure in modifying the operation of the Federal Relations Act [Act of Synod, April 12, 1954 as corrected by Act 1, Class 1, Synod 1984].
3. It points the figure of suspicion at the currently existing Free Church of Scotland, the church the Report rightly implies is the church contemplated by the Federal Relations Act, when there is no evidence of doctrinal or constitutional change but the reverse.
4. It tends to imply distrust of and interference in another's jurisdiction.
5. It thus gives encouragement to the notion that withdrawal from the church over difference of opinion or even failure in matters of practical administration is or may be justified, when our Reformed fathers rejected this principle as schismatic and one which, if let loose will rend the church into fragments in pursuit of an illusory perfectionism.

01.23 CLOSURE OF SESSION

There being no notices of motion the session was closed with the singing of Psalm 122 with prayer at 9.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

G.D. Ball
Moderator

SESSION 5: WEDNESDAY, 9TH MAY, 2001, 9.00 A.M.

The session was opened in the Reformed Theological College, Geelong, with prayer and devotions at 9.00 a.m. The minutes of session 4 were read and confirmed.

01.24 ORDER OF THE DAY

An order of the day having been made for 9.30 a.m., the Moderator thanked the Principal of the Reformed Theological College (the Rev. Prof. Henk de Waard) for his hospitality and invited him to address the Synod. After his address the Synod members were taken on a tour of the College facilities.

01.25 ADJOURNMENT

The Synod adjourned at 10.25 a.m. to reconvene at the Geelong Church Building after morning tea.

01.26 RECOMMENCEMENT

The Synod recommenced its session in the Church Building at Geelong at 11.15 a.m.

01.27 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS REPORT (CONT.)

It was resolved that the responses of the Free Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland Continuing to the letters dated 18th May 2000, sent by the Committee, be received and noted.

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

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5. The Committee be encouraged to continue to pursue the matter of closer relations with the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.
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.

It was moved on notice and seconded that, in the light of the information in Report 2.1.3 as well as the proposal of Deliverance 5.4, and in view of our joint membership in the I.C.R.C., that Synod give guidance to our delegates concerning the practical outworking of our present relationship with the Free Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that Synod note the passing of the Rev. Prof. Alexander Barkley, expressing our thanks to God for his contribution to the life of the P.C.E.A. in his capacities both as a minister of the R.P.C.A. and as principal of the Reformed Theological College; and that the sympathy of this court be conveyed to his widow and her family. The motion was carried unanimously.

01.28 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 6

It was resolved that this letter be noted and passed to the Inter-Church Relations Committee for response.

01.29 TRAINING OF MINISTRY REPORT (CONT.)

The Convener of the Training of Ministry Committee (the Rev. J.M. Cromarty) presented Proposed Deliverance 5 of that Committee. It was resolved that:

5. a. Synod discuss:
 - i. Our policy on theological training.
 - ii. The availability and adequacy of present institutions.
 - iii. The relevance of our present regulations concerning students domiciled in regions where there is no Synod approved College.
- b. And the committee be empowered to bring further proposals to Synod as a consequence of these discussions.

Synod then engaged in a time of discussion on these matters.

It was agreed to adjourn for lunch and to resume this session immediately afterwards.

On resumption, Synod continued to discuss matters related to the training of students for the ministry.

01.30 CLOSURE OF SESSION

The session was closed with prayer at 2.15 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

G.D. Ball
Moderator

SESSION 6: WEDNESDAY, 9TH MAY, 2001, 7.00 P.M.

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The session was opened with prayer and praise at 7.00 p.m. The minutes of session 5 were read and confirmed.

01.31 MISSIONS EVENING

The Convener of the Missions Committee (the Rev. W.P. Gadsby) addressed the Synod and then introduced Mr. Leone Tupua to the Moderator, who welcomed him and invited him to address the court. Mr. Tupua gave a report of his work in Fiji, and was thanked by the Moderator.

The Convener then introduced the Rev. T.I. Leggott of the Australian Indigenous Ministries to the Moderator, who welcomed him and asked him to address the court. Mr. Leggott gave an account of the work of the Australian Indigenous Ministries.

The Convener introduced the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward to the Moderator who welcomed him and invited him to address the court. Dr. Ward spoke of what he had seen on a recent visit to India, after which Synod joined together in the singing of Psalm 87.

The Convener supplied some information on the work of the Emmanuel Hospitals Association in India, and reported on the support which we were able to give to it from the Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund.

The Convener introduced Mr. Jay Dunning, of Mariners' Mission, to the Moderator who welcomed him and invited him to address the court. Mr. Dunning then gave an account of his work among the seamen coming into the port of Geelong. The Moderator thanked Mr. Dunning and led the court in prayer for the various mission fields concerning which reports had been given.

01.32 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session closed with the singing of Psalm 126 and with prayer at 9.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

G.D. Ball
Moderator

SESSION 7: THURSDAY, 10TH MAY, 2001, 9.00 A.M.

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

01.33 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It was resolved that standing orders be suspended in order to permit the introduction of the following motions:

Under Finance Committee business

- (a) that the Synod decision 00.16.2 be rescinded.
- (b) that Synod direct the Finance Committee to report in detail to Synod 2002, providing comparative information about the support of ministers in other Australian churches.
- (c) that the Minimum Stipend and Benefits (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2001 be equivalent to that provided by the Presbyterian Church of N.S.W. as at 1/01/2001.

Under Law and Advisory business

That Handbook 3.15 be amended by the deletion of the words "at least two signatories being required for withdrawals.

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01.34 MISSIONS REPORT

The Missions Committee Convener (the Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the report. 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 Christ during 2000.

At this point the Moderator led the court in prayer.

2. Mission Fields

2.1 Fiji

- 2.1.1 Synod approve the action of the Committee in arranging a deputation visit by Mr Leone Tupua.
- 2.1.2 Synod approve the tentative arrangements for a Highways and Byways type outreach during the second half of 2001 or in 2002.

It was resolved to meet in closed court.

It was resolved that:

- 2.1.3 The stipend payment to Leone Tupua be restored to 75% of F\$10,940 as from 1/1/2001, reducing to 50 % on 1/1/2002, subject to review by the Committee and by Synod 2002.

It was resolved to meet in open court.

The Convener continued to present the Proposed Deliverances of the Missions Committee. 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.
- 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. 25% of his total support for 2001, with this level to be reviewed annually by Synod upon recommendation from the Committee.

3. Missions Committee Regulations

- 3.1 Synod thank the Missions and Law and Advisory Committees for the work done on the draft regulations, and request commissioners and lower courts to consider the same, and forward suggestions to the Missions Committee for report to Synod 2002.

4. Budget for Calendar 2001 and Calendar 2002

- 4.1 That Synod approve the budget for 2001.
- 4.2 Synod express general agreement with the budget for 2002.

01.35 LAW AND ADVISORY REPORT

The Acting Convener presented the report of this committee. It was resolved that the report be received.

The Court permitted the proposer and seconder of the motion foreshadowed under Suspension of Standing Orders (above) to be replaced by another.

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It was moved on notice and seconded that Handbook paragraph 3.15 be amended by the addition of the words “except in circumstances specifically minuted by the Deacons’ Court.” On being put to the court the motion was carried.

01.36 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. We record our thanks to God for the adequacy of temporal blessing enjoyed during 2000. This has enabled us to meet all our needs for another year.

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 2:

2. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend and Benefits (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2001/2002 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 or her secondary education.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Minimum Stipend and Benefits (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2001 be equivalent to that provided by the Presbyterian Church of N.S.W. as at 1/01/2001.

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

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 3. It was resolved that:

3. Stipend Relief for 2001/2002 be granted to Armidale Deacons’ Court up to \$12,000, Narre Warren Deacons’ Court up to \$5,000 and Ulverstone Deacons’ Court up to \$9,000, all on a strictly needs basis.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod direct the Finance Committee to report in detail to Synod 2002, providing comparative information about the support of ministers in other Australian churches.

01.37 CLOSURE OF SESSION

The session was closed with prayer at 12.30 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

G.D. Ball
Moderator

SESSION 8: THURSDAY, 10TH MAY, 2001, 2.00 P.M.

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

01.38 GENERAL TREASURER’S REPORT

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

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01.39 8: 14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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

01.40 THANKS

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

01.41 PROVIDENT FUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

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

1. Synod request Deacons' Courts to note that the Levy for 2001 is \$3,034 [11.0% of minimum stipend of \$529pw at 1/1/2001] not less than 25% to be paid within each quarter of the calendar year.
2. Synod note that in 2001
 - a. 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 except in respect of Mr Leggott where funding comes from the Missions Committee,
 - b. each of the 11 active ministers will receive a one-off payment of \$30 for each year of service as at 31/12/2000.
3. Synod Provident Funds Committee Regulations as adopted 1981 and amended subsequently be further amended as follows: Clause 8(b) (Service with the Free Church of Scotland) is deleted.
4. The basic rate of the weekly pension be increased by 4% from \$63.25 to \$65.75 (married) and from \$44.65 to \$46.50 (single) with effect from 1/07/2001.

01.42 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

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

01.43 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 adjustments to the Investment Strategy as outlined in the report be approved.

01.44 VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

The Secretary of the Trustees (Rev. Dr. W.J.W. Hanna) presented the report on behalf of the Trustees for Victoria. It was resolved that the report be received. A time of discussion ensued.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the investment of monies as provided for in Section 6 (6) of the Free Presbyterian Church Property Act 1953 be made only after advice has been given to all five Trustees where possible and agreement obtained from at least three of them. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Trustees for Victoria present an Investment Strategy to Synod 2002 for approval, with only sufficient funds allocated to higher risk investments, including company shares, stock units and notes, so as to meet Trust requirements in maintaining real value in Trust funds held. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

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It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod now review the composition of the Corporate Trustees for Victoria and determine any desired replacements. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was moved by Mr. Gadsby and seconded that we confirm the present composition of the Victorian Trustee body.

It was moved Mr. Lee and seconded that Mr. Alex Henry Steel be appointed to replace Mr Peter Smith as a member of the Trustees for Victoria of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and that he become Secretary of the Trustees.

01.45 CLOSURE OF SESSION

A notice of motion was read and the session was closed with prayer at 6.05 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

G.D. Ball
Moderator

SESSION 9: THURSDAY, 10TH MAY, 2001, 7.00 P.M.

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

01.46 VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

The Synod continued with Victorian Trustees business.

It was moved by Mr. Kinder and seconded that Synod appoint Mr. Alex Henry Steel (Secretary), Dr. William John Wesley Hanna, Mr. Stuart John Coles, Dr. Donald James Ramsay, and Dr. Rowland Skipsey Ward as members of the Victorian Trust Corporation.

Mr. Lee, with the agreement of the seconder, asked leave of the court to fall from his motion. Leave was granted.

It was further moved by Mr. Cromarty and seconded that the members of the Victorian Trust Corporation be Dr. William John Wesley Hanna, Mr. Alex Henry Steel (Secretary), Dr. Rowland Skipsey Ward, Mr. John Bertram Loudon and Mr. James Robert Bruce Webster, with Dr. Donald James Ramsay replacing Dr. Ward on 1/1/2002.

On Mr. Gadsby's motion being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

On Mr. Cromarty's motion being put against that of Mr. Kinder, Mr. Cromarty's motion was preferred and became the motion before the court. On being put to the vote the motion became the finding of the court.

01.47 ARCHIVIST'S AND SYNOD LIBRARY REPORT

The Rev. Dr. Ward presented a report on the Synod Archives and Library. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved that:

1. That Act 98.1.4 be varied so as to authorise the Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria archives to be lodged on extended loan with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria archives.

01.48 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

It was resolved that the following committee structure be adopted:

Administration and Inter-Church Relations

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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, G. Kinder, J.Simpson, Geelong elder.

Finance

A.H. Steel (Convener), K.I. Kerr, D.J. Ramsay, D.E. 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

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

Missions

W.P. Gadsby (Convener), Dr. Helen Ramsay, F.N. Robinson, Ian Conley, S.R. Tamata, T.I. Leggott.

Training of Ministry

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

Youth and Fellowship

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

01.49 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

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

01.50 MODERATOR-ELECT FOR SYNOD 2002

It was resolved that the Rev. R.W. Murray be appointed Moderator-elect for Synod 2002.

01.51 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 2002

It was moved and seconded that Synod 2002 meet at Geelong at a time to be determined by the Administration Committee in consultation with the Geelong congregation.

It was further moved and seconded that Synod 2002 meet on the Northern Rivers if possible – if this is not possible that Synod meet at Geelong.

It was further moved and seconded that Synod 2002 meet in Ulverstone.

On the motions being put against each other the second motion was preferred.

On being put to the vote, it was resolved that Synod 2002 meet on the Northern Rivers if possible – if this is not possible that Synod meet at Geelong.

01.52 TREASURER'S REPORT

The General Treasurer (Mr. A.H. Steel) indicated the cost of this Synod.

01.53 PRINCIPAL ACTS

It was resolved that the Clerk draw up a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 2001, and include it with the Minutes.

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01.54 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.

01.55 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of this closing session were read and confirmed.

01.56 CLOSURE OF SYNOD 2001

Synod 2001 was closed with the singing of Psalm 121 and with the benediction, at 8.10 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

G.D. Ball
Moderator

ACTS OF SYNOD 2001 Appended by the Direction of Synod (01.53)

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)	nil
Class 2 (Others)	Article
Amendment to Prov. Fund Regulations	01.41.3
Amendment to Handbook	01.35
Investment Strategy (N.S.W.)	00.43.1
Relations with Free Church of Scotland	01.22.4
Relations with Free Church of Scotland (Continuing)	01.22.4
Changes to membership of The Trustees for Victoria	01.46

LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE

1. 10/5/2000 From the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). Greetings and invitation to send a delegate to General Assembly, 2000.
2. 13/10/2000 From the Clerk, Northern Presbytery. Notification of Presbytery decision regarding formation of the Northern Rivers Congregation.
3. 25/10/2000 From Pastor H.W. Power, A.I.M.C.C. Greetings and thanks.
4. 15/3/2001 From Christian Super. Information concerning its Superannuation Schemes.
5. 21/3/2001 From the Clerk, Central Presbytery. Notification of change of status of Sydney South Congregation.
6. 7/5/2001 From the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia. **F r a t e r n a l** greetings.