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Minutes of the 2002 Meeting of The Synod of Eastern Australia

SESSION 1

MONDAY, 6TH MAY, 2002

7.00 P.M.

02.1 OPENING

In the Northern Rivers Congregation and within the Church Building, Maclean, on Monday, 6th May, 2002, at 7.00 p.m., the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, conducted by the Moderator, the Rev. G.D. Ball.

02.2 MODERATOR'S SERMON

Mr Ball read from Luke 9: 57-62. He then preached a sermon on these verses and dealing with *The Terms, Conditions and Consequences of Following the Lord Jesus Christ*.

02.3 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	D.P. Smith	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)		

Central Presbytery		
Hawkesbury/Nepean	Vacant	A.H. Steel
Hunter/Barrington	S.R. Tamata	G. King
Manning	W.P. Gadsby	F. N. Robinson
St. George's	J.A. McCallum	D.E. Kerr
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	I. Hamilton
Synod Appointments: E.R. Lee† (retired)		
J. Pateman † (retired)		
I. MacKenzie†		

02.4 WELCOMES

On behalf of the Administration Committee, the Clerk moved that Mr. I. Hamilton, commissioned elder for the Ulverstone congregation, and Mr. F.N. Robinson, commissioned elder for the Manning charge, be welcomed to their first Synod, and that the Rev. D.P. Smith be welcomed to his first Synod as an ordained minister. The motion was carried and these delegates were duly welcomed by the Moderator.

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02.5 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that the Rev. R.W. Murray, minister of the Northern Rivers Congregation, was Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr. Murray took the chair.

02.6 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Moderator delivered an address on *The Concept of the Kingdom of God*. He spoke of it as being (1) A Neglected Concept, (2) An Embrasive Concept, (3) A Transforming Concept and (4) An Exciting Concept.

02.7 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.

02.8 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

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

02.9 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk intimated certain alterations to be made to the Administration Committee Report and to its Proposed Deliverances. There was one extra item of correspondence:

4. From the Deacons' Court of the Hunter-Barrington Congregation – request for bridging loan from Synod.

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

12. That Correspondence Item 4 be received and referred to the Central Presbytery for its consideration and report to a later session of this Synod.

The General Treasurer asked leave to distribute certain information supplementary to the report of the Finance Committee. Leave was granted.

02.10 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with the singing of Psalm 98, prayer and the benediction at 9.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

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SESSION 2

TUESDAY, 7TH MAY, 2002

9.00 A.M.

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

02.11 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.

It was agreed to defer the consideration of Proposed Deliverance 2 to a later session of Synod.

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

3. Synod note the passing of Mr. Rex Weber and Mr. Ken Causley, former members of this court, and express its sympathy for all those connected with this church who have been bereaved since the last annual meeting of Synod.

At this point the Rev. S Ramsay led the court in prayer for the families which had been bereaved during the year.

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

4. Correspondence Items 1 and 2 be received and noted.

Mr Gadsy dissented with the following reasons: These items should not have been received because: 1) They deal with matters not the proper concern of the Synod. 2) There is also a question, from the wording of both covering letters, whether this material was being sent to the Clerk in his private capacity, or as the Clerk of Synod. I believe that a strong case can be made that the former is true. Mr Ward dissented with the following reason: The correspondence should not be received, even for information, as it is a matter of discipline in which the PCEA has no jurisdiction, and to act irregularly ourselves in the light of the irregularities claimed in the FCS by the correspondent is to compound the problem. Mr Gadsby and Mr Leggott adhered to this dissent.

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

5. Correspondence Item 3 be received and taken with Inter-Church Relations business.

6. Synod rescind decision of Synod 2000 (Minutes, 00.60) that:

ACT 1

‘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.’

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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. G.D. Ball and Hunter elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. D.P. Smith and Ulverstone elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. J.A. McCallum and Hastings elder.

ACT 2

10. Synod amend the Act anent Special Religious Education passed by Synod 1997 (97.30) so that the Statutory Declaration therein be altered to read as follows:

Volunteer's Statutory Declaration

I, hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that:

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

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

Signature: ***Date:***

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

ACT 3

11. That Synod enact that Presbyteries and Sessions in New South Wales ensure that all persons to be authorised by the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia as teachers of Special Religious Education in New South Wales, be required to complete a 'Prohibited Employment Declaration' as prescribed by the Government of New South Wales, in addition to complying with the Guidelines and completing the Statutory Declaration

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prescribed by Synod 1997 and amended by Synod 2002 – and that these completed Declarations be retained on file in the congregation of which the person is a member, minister or adherent.”

12. That Correspondence Item 4 be received and referred to the Central Presbytery for its consideration and report to a later session of this Synod.

02.12 NOTICES ON MOTION

It was moved and seconded that Synod require that all existing elders, deacons, and Sunday-school teachers make a statutory declaration in terms of clause 1 and 2 and 4 of Synod 97.30 (as amended by Synod 2002) by 30th June, 2002, and that all future elders, deacons, Sunday-school teachers and camp-leaders be required to make the same declaration prior to their installation, and that all applicants for the ministry provide the like declaration (with the addition of the words “or the Clerk of my Presbytery, as the case may be” at the end of point 4) with their application. Such declarations are to be held in the relevant records and their existence minuted by the Session or relevant Committee as the case may be. Where a person signs a declaration with an exception the case is to be dealt with in the light of the circumstances, and minuted by the Session or relevant Committee, so that proper recognition is given to the grace of God in the Gospel while no person is exposed to the risk of abusive treatment. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

It was moved on notice and seconded that it be a standing rule that a list of those decisions requiring action by lower courts be circulated by the Clerk with the Synod Minutes. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

It was moved on notice and seconded that it be sufficient in future for Statistics to be gathered utilising the “New Form” together with the additional information on the old form re members gained and members lost. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

It was moved on notice and seconded that the Administration Committee take under serious implementation the decision of Synod 2000, 00.13. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

02.13 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.

02.14 PRESBYTERY REPORTS

The Clerk presented the reports which had been furnished by the Clerks of the various presbyteries. It was resolved that the Reports be received.

02.15 DISCUSSION

Synod went into informal session at 11.56 a.m. to discuss matters relating to selection and training of students for the ministry and also matters relating to Church Extension.

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3. That Synod endorse the prepared statement to be sent to the Prime Minister.

It was resolved to suspend Standing Orders to permit the following motion:
That this matter be deferred to a later session of this Synod.

It was resolved that this matter be deferred to a later session of this Synod.

02.23 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS REPORT

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

02.24 MRS. R.D. ANDREWS

At this point, the Moderator intimated that he had just received news of the passing of Mrs. Ruby Andrews, widow of the late Rev. Dr. Campbell Andrews. Mr. A.L. Tripovich led the court in prayer.

02.25 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS REPORT

Synod proceeded to discuss the Inter-Church Relations Committee's Report.

02.26 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SESSION 4 TUESDAY, 7TH MAY, 2002 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.

02.27 MRS. R.D. ANDREWS

It was agreed that the Clerk write a letter of condolence to the family of the late Mrs. Ruby Andrews.

02.28 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS REPORT (CONT.)

After further discussion, the Convener presented the Proposed Deliverances of the Committee. It was resolved that:

1. That Synod thank the delegation that attended ICRC Philadelphia for their work.

The moderator expressed the thanks of Synod to the members of the delegation.

It was further resolved that:

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2. Synod instruct the ICR Committee to pursue with the Free Church of Scotland the mutual rescission of our respective Federal Relations Acts, and report to Synod 2003.
3. Synod direct the Committee to continue to work on the practical implications of our sister-church relationship with the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Liberated).

ACT 4

4. Synod formally recognise the RCNZ as churches with whom we have Fraternal Relations in terms of our 1993 Act of Synod, and direct the Committee to work towards practical expressions of our unity in Christ, as Reformed churches in Australasia.
5. Synod thank the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia for their letter, and invite the RPCA to enter into a formal relationship with the PCEA in terms of our Fraternal Relationship Act of 1993.

02.29 MOTION ON NOTICE

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod instruct the ICR Committee to consider ways in which we might extend mutual eligibility in some form to some or all denominations who are members with us in the ICRC, and perhaps to others such as the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia, and report to Synod 2003 with recommendations as to the way ahead. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

02.30 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 3

The Synod took up consideration of Correspondence Item 3, an overture from the Southern Presbytery, which was as follows:

Whereas the Southern Presbytery have considered the usefulness of a forum such as an "Australian Presbyterian and Reformed Committee" to encourage churches of like faith and order to liase on such matters as planned publishing projects, moral and ethical matters on which there is general agreement, and such matters.

Now therefore the Southern Presbytery respectfully overtures the Synod to take these premises into consideration and to recommend the formation of an Australian Presbyterian and Reformed Committee or to do otherwise for this object as in its wisdom may seem best.

The overture was then stated by the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward. It was resolved that the overture be sustained. It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted in the following terms: The Inter-Church Relations Committee be instructed to make contact with other Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in Australia suggesting the formation of an Australian Presbyterian and Reformed Committee to liase on such matters as planned publishing projects and moral and ethical issues on which there is general agreement, and report to next Synod.

02.31 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Missions Committee Convener (the Rev. W.P. Gadsby) presented the report. It was resolved that the report (including the annexure concerning the support of the Rev. T.I. Leggott) be received. The Rev. S.R. Tamata then presented a report on the recent visit made by himself and Mrs. Tamata to Fiji. It was resolved that the report be received.

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02.32 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of motion were read and the session was closed with the singing of Psalm 4: 4-8 followed by the benediction, at 9.00 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SESSION 4 WEDNESDAY, 8TH MAY, 2002 9.00 A.M.

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

02.33 PRAYER

In view of a report received concerning the serious condition of the Rev. S.N. Ramsay in hospital, the Synod engaged in a short time of prayer to commit Him to the Lord.

02.34 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT.)

The Synod took up discussion of the Mission Committee's Report and the Report on Fiji.

It was resolved to meet in closed court.

It was resolved to meet in open court.

02.35 REV. S.N. RAMSAY

The Moderator announced to the court that he had received notification of the passing of the Rev. S.N. Ramsay at about 10.00 a.m.

02.36 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT.)

The Convener presented the first Proposed Deliverance of his Committee, i.e.,

1. That Synod endorse the Committee's action in paying \$5000 *ex gratia* to the Rev. T.I. Leggott.

It was moved on notice and seconded that whereas the Rev. T.I. Leggott has been paid about \$23,800 less than the minimum stipend for the period 1.1.1997 to 4.9.2001, in circumstances which show some confusion for which the committee and Synod are not without blame, the Synod direct that a further \$15,000 be paid to Mr. Leggott in addition to the \$5,000 already paid, in full and final settlement of the matter.

It was further moved on notice and seconded that the Missions Committee pay in full the shortfall that has occurred in the support of the Rev. T.I. Leggott.

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Some discussion ensued.

Mr. Leggott was asked to provide information regarding the contribution made by A.I.M. to his overall salary package. He stated that it consisted of the amount received from the Church with A.I.M. providing a car and an accommodation allowance.

02.37 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SESSION 6 WEDNESDAY, 8TH MAY, 2002 3.30 P.M.

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 3.30 p.m. The minutes of session 5 were read and confirmed.

02.38 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT.)

The court continued to discuss Proposed Deliverance 1 and the two amendments which had been proposed. On the second amendment being put against the first, the first amendment was preferred. On this amendment being put against the Proposed Deliverance, the amendment was preferred. On being put to the vote, it was resolved that whereas the Rev. T.I. Leggott has been paid about \$23,800 less than the minimum stipend for the period 1.1.1997 to 4.9.2001, in circumstances which show some confusion for which the committee and Synod are not without blame, the Synod direct that a further \$15,000 be paid to Mr. Leggott in addition to the \$5,000 already paid, in full and final settlement of the matter.

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 2.

It was moved on notice and seconded that Synod note that superannuation at the full rate has been paid for Mr. Leggott, and pass from the matter.

On the amendment being put against the Proposed Deliverance, the amendment was preferred and became the motion before the court. On being put to the vote, it was resolved that Synod note that superannuation at the full rate has been paid for Mr. Leggott, and pass from the matter.

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

ACT 5 – Stipend arrangement for Rev. T.I Leggott

3. The Rev. T.I. Leggott be paid the full minimum stipend, as adjusted from time to time, this to be back-dated to 5.09.01; and that the full superannuation contribution continue to be made on his behalf from Missions funds.

1. Synod express its continued prayerful support of the Rev. Trevor Leggott in his role as Administrative Secretary of the Australian Indigenous

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Ministries, and confirm his secondment for a further three years from 1.01.03.

4. The Committee's decisions to continue paying the rent on Mrs. Tupua's house for 2002, and to grant up to F\$1000 for education expenses, be confirmed.
 1. Synod endorse the Committee's decision to request Mr. and Mrs. Tamata to visit Fiji for about three weeks to encourage the congregation and assess the situation with a view to proceeding with their application.

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 7, that

5. Synod appoint Rev. Tamata as a Missionary of the PCEA to minister in the PFCF in Fiji, and grant him a seat on the Central Presbytery, which has the oversight of this work.

It was moved and seconded that Synod go into closed court. On being put to the vote the motion was defeated.

The Proposed Deliverance was put to the vote. It was resolved that:

ACT 6 – Appointment of Rev. S Tamata as missionary in Fiji

7. Synod appoint Rev. Tamata as a Missionary of the PCEA to minister in the PFCF in Fiji, and grant him a seat on the Central Presbytery, which has the oversight of this work.

It was further resolved that:

8. Synod request the Central Presbytery to arrange a suitable occasion recognising Mr. Tamata's commissioning to the Fiji work, and commending Muriel and himself to the grace of God for their labours in Fiji.
9. The Rev Mr. Tamata be appointed for a term of three years. The leave arrangements are to be four weeks leave per year with economy return airfares for Mr. and Mrs. Tamata paid from Missions Committee funds if required; this arrangement will fulfil the home leave obligations.
 1. Synod adopt the revised 'PCEA Missions Regulations' that were submitted to Synod 2001.

It was agreed that consideration of Proposed Deliverance 11 be deferred to a later session.

02.39 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4

Correspondence Item 4 had been referred to the Central Presbytery. The Clerk had received a letter from the Clerk of the Central Presbytery indicating that the Presbytery supported the request of the Hunter-Barrington Deacons' Court for financial assistance from Synod. It was resolved that this correspondence be received. It was resolved that the request be referred to the 8: 14 Foundation for a response to a later session.

02.40 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Convener (Mr. A.H. Steel) presented the report of this committee. It was resolved that the report be received. A time of questions and discussion ensued.

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02.41 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

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SESSION 7 WEDNESDAY, 8TH MAY, 2002 7.00 P.M.

The session was opened with prayer, praise and devotions at 7.00 p.m. The minutes of session 6 were read and confirmed.

02.42 MISSIONS EVENING

The Convener of the Missions Committee (the Rev. W.P. Gadsby) addressed the Synod and then called upon Mr. Neil Robinson, who introduced the Rev. Paul Morris of Christian Witness to Israel to the Moderator. The Moderator welcomed him and invited him to address the court. Mr. Morris spoke of his vision for the work of C.W.I. and of the work which is already being done. The Moderator expressed the thanks of the court to Mr. Morris and assured him of our continued interest in the work of Christian Witness to Israel.

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 Moderator expressed the thanks of the court to Mr. Leggott.

The Convener then introduced the Rev. S.R. Tamata and Mrs. Tamata to the Moderator, who welcomed them and invited them to address the court. Mrs. Tamata gave her impressions of a recent trip to Fiji and spoke of her hopes for the work there. Mr. Tamata then spoke of the challenge of the work and of what he hoped, in God's grace, to achieve. The Moderator then thanked both Mr. and Mrs. Tamata on behalf of Synod.

02.43 CLOSURE OF SESSION

The session was closed with prayer, with the singing of Psalm 126 and with the benediction at 9.15 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SESSION 8 **THURSDAY, 9TH MAY, 2002** **9.00 A.M.**

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

02.44 FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT.)

Synod again took up consideration of the Finance Committee's Report. It was resolved that:

1. Synod record our gratitude to God for the continued support by Church Courts and Congregational members during 2001, especially for the most generous bequest received from the Estate of the late Dorothy Anne Anderson.

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 2:

1. The current *Minimum Stipend* of \$550 per week be increased by 12.00 %, the increase to be made over two years, viz., 6.00 % (\$33.00 per week) from 1/7/02, with a further increase of 6.00 % (\$33.00 per week) from 1/7/03, the six monthly review of *Minimum Stipend* to continue on the present basis and the Child Allowance to remain at \$5 per dependent child per week, payable while the child completes his secondary education.

It was moved on notice and seconded that, notwithstanding the provisions of Minute 00.16(2), Synod 2000, the minimum Stipend and non-cash benefits be increased by \$33 per week to \$583 per week (\$30.399 p.a.) effective 1/5/2002.

On the motion being put against the Proposed Deliverance, the Proposed Deliverance was preferred. On being put to the vote it was resolved that:

ACT 7 – Increase to Minimum Stipend

2. The current *Minimum Stipend* of \$550 per week be increased by 12.00 %, the increase to be made over two years, viz., 6.00 % (\$33.00 per week) from 1/7/02, with a further increase of 6.00 % (\$33.00 per week) from 1/7/03, the six monthly review of *Minimum Stipend* to continue on the present basis and the Child Allowance to remain at \$5 per dependent child per week, payable while the child completes his secondary education.

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 3:

3. To assist Deacons' Courts in the processing of exempt benefits ("Non-Cash Benefits") granted to ministers through "Stipend Sacrifice" arrangements as provided for under Section 57 of the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act, guidelines as set out in Appendix 1 be adopted.

An amendment was moved on notice and seconded that the word "adopted" be replaced by "noted." On being put against the Proposed deliverance the amendment was preferred. On being put to the vote, it was resolved that:

3. To assist Deacons' Courts in the processing of exempt benefits ("Non-Cash Benefits") granted to ministers through "Stipend Sacrifice" arrangements as provided for under

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Section 57 of the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act, guidelines as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

ACT 8 – Stipend Relief 2002/2003

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 4. It was resolved that:

1. Stipend Relief for 2002/2003 be granted to Armidale Deacons' Court up to \$15,000, Narre Warren Deacons' Court up to \$4,000 and Ulverstone Deacons' Court up to \$13,000, all on a strictly needs basis.

02.45 THANKS

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

02.46 GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT

The General Treasurer (Mr. A.H. Steel) presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. There were no proposed Deliverances attached to this report.

02.47 8: 14 FOUNDATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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

ACT 9 – Loan to Hunter-Barrington

It was resolved that, subject to the agreement of the Session, Deacons' Court and Congregation to the sale of the vacant land at Minmi Road, Edgeworth:

1. Synod approve the application by the Hunter-Barrington Deacons' Court for financial assistance up to \$210,000 to enable them to complete the purchase of a church/hall/cottage complex at Cardiff, N.S.W.
2. Up to \$45,000 of this amount be provided by a loan from the *8: 14 Foundation* funds – repayments to be rents received from the cottage included in the complex, currently \$160 per week, which will fully repay the loan in approximately 5 years. Repayments are to commence after full clearance of a Bridging Loan also granted to assist in the purchase of the Cardiff property. No interest is to be charged on the *8: 14 Foundation* loan.
3. A Bridging Loan of up to \$165,000 be provided from other Church funds – repayment in full to be effected from the proceeds of sale of vacant land at Minmi Road, Edgeworth, N.S.W., within six months of the settlement of the purchase of the Cardiff property – interest to be charged at the *Official Cash Rate* as set by the Reserve Bank of Australia plus a margin of 1.75 % per annum (Currently 4.50 % + 1.75 % = 6.25 % per annum).
4. Synod authorise the 8: 14 Foundation Committee to liaise with other Committees and Deacons' Courts with a view to funding the Bridging Loan of \$165,000.

02.48 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:

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1. Synod request Deacons' Courts to note that the Levy for 2002 is \$3,155 [11.0% of minimum stipend of \$550pw (\$28,679pa) at 1/1/2002] not less than 25% to be paid within each quarter of the calendar year.
2. Synod note that in 2002 each member will receive a contribution to his Retirement account of 13.5 % of minimum stipend sourced 11.5 % 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.
3. Synod amend Regulations B 1 (a) with effect from 1.1.2003 so as to increase the Levy on congregations from 11.0% to 11.5%.
4. The basic rate of the weekly pension be increased by 4% from \$65.75 to \$67.75 (married) and from \$46.50 to \$47.90 (single) with effect from 1/07/2002.

02.49 LAW AND ADVISORY REPORT

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

It was moved and seconded that the Law and Advisory Committee consider the appropriate procedure for investigating complaints of a sexual nature with a view to specific proposals being presented to Synod 2003 and Synod invite submissions to be sent to the Committee for its assistance prior to 30th November, 2002. On being put to the vote the motion was carried.

02.50 VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

The Secretary of the Trustees (Mr. A.H. Steel) 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 resolved that:

ACT 10 – Amendment to Max Hutton bequest

1. Synod resolution regarding the Max Hutton bequest to the Ulverstone Congregation (Minutes 99.29) be amended by inserting the following words:

“and is to be invested on the instructions of the Ulverstone Deacons' Court and in line with any guidelines which may be set from time to time by Synod,”

the resolution then to read:

“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 *and is to be invested on the instructions of the Ulverstone Deacons' Court and in line with any guidelines which may be set from time to time by Synod*, 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, ...”
2. The Investment Strategy outlined in the Report be adopted.

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02.51 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. We give thanks to God for the generosity of the late Miss Dorothy Anderson.

ACT 11 – Investment Strategy - Victoria

2. The Investment Strategy submitted by the Victorian Trust Corporation for adoption, be also adopted for the New South Wales Corporation.

02.52 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received. There were no Proposed Deliverances attached to this report.

02.53 CHURCH AND NATION REPORT (CONT.)

The Convener presented a revised version of the committee's draft letter to the Prime Minister (see page 6). A time of discussion ensued. The Convener presented the Proposed Deliverance:

3. That Synod endorse the prepared statement to be sent to the Prime Minister.

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

02.54 CLOSURE OF SESSION

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

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

SESSION 9 THURSDAY, 9TH MAY, 2002 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.

02.55 CHURCH AND NATION REPORT (CONT.)

The Convener reported that the Committee had decided to fall from the amendment to its Proposed deliverance regarding a letter to the Prime Minister.

02.56 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (CONT.)

The Convener presented the budget which had been revised in the light of decisions taken by this Synod. It was resolved that:

11. That Synod adopt the budget, as amended, for 2002, and express general agreement with the estimates for 2003.

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02.57 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. That we express our gratitude to God for the increasing number of young families in attendance at worship.
2. The Rev. Dr. R S Ward and Rev. R. Murray be thanked for their work in the production of the Fellowship Magazine.
3. Synod endorses the actions of the Committee in establishing a Sub-Committee.
4. {a} The Sunday School Teachers & Superintendents be thanked for their work during the year.
{b} Mrs Val Cromarty be thanked for her diligent service.
{c} Mrs Irene Steel be thanked for her continued and valued work in the supervision of the search work.
5. That Synod authorise the Committee to make such arrangements as necessary, in consultation with the editor of the Banner, to ensure that the Fellowship Magazine reaches all the youth of our denomination.

02.58 MR. LEONE TUPUA

The Synod returned to Proposed Deliverance 2 of the Administration Committee. It was resolved that:

Synod note the passing of Mr. Leone Tupua of Fiji, express its sympathy for his family, and engross the memorial minute prepared by the Rev. S.R. Tamata in the record of this Synod, and direct that a copy be sent to Mrs. Tupua.

LEONE VUNIWAQA TUPUA 1943 - 2001

Leone Tupua was born 16th August 1943 at Nasaqalau village on Lakemba island in the Lau Group east of Fiji. He was the youngest of three boys and fourth in a family of seven children, three boys and four girls.

After finishing his Primary education at Uluiqalau, Lakemba 1949-53, he was sent at ten years of age to a boarding school, St John's College, Cawaci, Ovalau 1954-57. From there he finished his education at Lelean Memorial School, Nausori, 1958-63, where he gained his Fiji Junior Certificate and the Senior Cambridge Certificate.

After a short spell at the National Archives of Fiji in 1964, the same year he started work at Telecom Fiji where he was to be employed until he resigned his post in 1992. In 1986-87 Leone was Acting Principal Engineer for Telecom, 1988 he was Divisional Engineer Western Division, 1989, he attended Bailbrook College in Bath UK and graduated with a Diploma in Telecommunications Management. In 1991 he was appointed Manager for Customer Care Services, Western Division. In 1992 he resigned from Telecom to begin the work of pastoring the church in Fiji.

In the early part of his career he was a very heavy drinker and his drinking stopped in a remarkable way. His eldest son died. He wrote in his testimony: "I lived a life of sin in my

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youth. I knew of the existence of God, but I did not honour him as God or give thanks to him. I was more important than anyone else. In late 1979 my eldest son became sick, operated on for eye cancer. In July 1980 he died. I prayed the Lord many times to heal him. When I saw him dying I knew that my prayers were not heard. I said to myself "Leone you are useless, your son is near death and you cannot save him." From then on the urge to worship the Lord began and grew to Bible study, reading, studies, meditation, fasting and fellowship. I was lost and Jesus found me. Jesus loved me and gave himself up for me. He died for my sin and was raised to life in order to put me right with God. Jesus is always before me my sin is always before me."

Having come to know and love the Lord, and having his mind and conscience sharpened by quickening grace he felt very uncomfortable with the standard and practice of work in Telecom. He complained of the disparity that exists between the management and junior workers. He writes in his letter of resignation "My conscience bears me witness to the fact that I am doing wrong and my pay is too high to be justified. I am much more hurt when I see those junior to me toil and sweat to earn their pay while earning mine does not take much effort let alone a drop of sweat. My mind goes back to the time when I used to feel that I was being cheated for working hard and doing a lot of sacrifices, those thoughts brought up elated feelings of success. My position in the present situation brings only the feeling of shame and dishonesty." Leone had a great concern for those in junior positions. When once he did not receive some pay due to him he protested in his letter of resignation that he was legally robbed. He goes on to say, "If that can be done to me so easily (as a senior manager) what of other employees".

Mr Tupua had laboured tirelessly for many years in a work which at present appears to have borne little fruit. We hope and trust that the Lord may yet add his blessing in the future. He has been engaged in the translation of various items of literature. He has partly translated the Shorter Catechism, and has completed the translation of Peter Jeffrey's book, *All Things New*, prior to his sudden death in August 2001.

We pray that the Lord may yet bless Leone's work among the prisoners, and in the various Bible studies he led.

Leone had given up much to lead the work in Fiji. He was a very generous and kind man, a true Christian gentleman. The church ordained him an office bearer in 1996 in recognition of the work that he was doing. Although he did not have extensive theological training, he was a man trained in the school of Christ, a man of humble disposition and an honest worker for the furtherance of the kingdom of the God he loved and served. He is survived by his wife, Nanise Vokololoma Tupua, six children and five grandchildren.

Leone has entered his rest. "Well done good and faithful servant."

02.59 REV. S.N. RAMSAY

A memorial minute prepared by the Rev. Dr. R.S. Ward was read. After emendation, it was resolved that the minute be received, approved and engrossed in the record, and that a copy be sent to Mrs. Margaret Hockett.

STEWART NEIL RAMSAY 1917-2002

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Stewart was born at Grafton on 26/1/1917, the son of the late Rev. H.W. Ramsay. He was received as a student in 1936. The war intervening, he served in the A.I.F. in the Middle east and in New Guinea from 1940 to 1944, and resumed his studies afterwards at the University of Sydney and at Geelong under the Rev. H.K. Mack and the Rev. A. Barkley of the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

He was licensed by the Central Presbytery on 14/12/1950 and was ordained and inducted at Grafton on 24/2/1953. Translated to the Hunter/Barrington on 11/1/1954, he retired from this charge on 12/11/1984. Predeceased by his beloved wife Beatrice some years ago, he was active in retirement at Wauchope, but was called suddenly to his Master's presence on 8/05/2002, having enjoyed fellowship at Synod the day before.

Stewart was a conscientious minister who served his Lord and the Church well. He edited the Church magazine with great distinction from 1958 to 1966 and was Clerk of Synod from 1966 to 1982, demonstrating over those years a clear grasp of Church law and Church procedure. He was keenly interested in the promotion of Psalmody, was of a cheerful disposition and possessed a warm caring nature. The sympathy of the Synod is extended to his bereaved sister, Mrs. Margaret Hockett.

It was further resolved that Synod write to the Maclean Hospital tendering thanks and appreciation for the sensitive, competent and courteous manner in which the doctors and other staff handled the admission and treatment, given the circumstances, of the death of our senior minister, the Rev. S.N. Ramsay.

02.60 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Administration Committee proposed the following Committee structure:

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, 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, R.W. Murray, W.P. Gadsby, Hunter elder.

Missions

T.I. Leggott (Convener), Dr. Helen Ramsay (Corresponding member), F.N. Robinson, Ian Conley, D.P. Smith., W.P. Gadsby.

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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.

It was moved as an amendment and seconded that the name of Mr. Robert Alley be added to the Youth and Fellowship Committee.

On the amendment being put against the motion, the amendment was preferred. On being put to the vote the amended Committee structure was adopted.

02.61 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

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

02.62 MODERATOR-ELECT FOR SYNOD 2003

It was resolved that the Rev. G. Kinder be appointed Moderator-elect for Synod 2003.

02.63 TREASURER'S REPORT

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

02.64 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 2003

It was moved and seconded that Synod 2003 meet on the Northern Rivers at a time to be determined by the Administration Committee in consultation with the Northern Rivers congregation. The motion was carried.

02.65 PRINCIPAL ACTS

It was resolved that the Clerk draw up a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 2002, and include it with the Minutes.

02.66 THANKS

It was resolved that the thanks of the Court be conveyed to the Northern Rivers 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.

02.67 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of this closing session were read and confirmed.

02.68 CLOSURE OF SYNOD 2002

Synod 2002 was closed with the singing of Psalm 133 and with the benediction, at 5.08 p.m.

W.J.W. Hanna
Clerk

R.W. Murray
Moderator

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ACTS OF SYNOD 2002

Appended by the Direction of Synod (01.53)

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	Nil	

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Rescind amendment to Act1, Class 2, 1983	02.11.6
2	Amendment to Special Religious Education Act 1997	02.11.10
3	Rules for Special Religious Education Teachers in NSW	02.11.11
4	Fraternal Relations with RCNZ	02.28.4
5	Stipend arrangements for Rev. T.I. Leggott	02.38.3
6	Appointment of Rev. S. Tamata as missionary in Fiji	02.38.7-9
7	Increase to Minimum Stipend	02.44.2
8	Stipend Relief 2002/2003	02.44.4
9	Loan to Hunter-Barrington Congregation	02.47
10	Amendment to Max Hutton (Ulverstone) bequest	02.50.1
11	Investment Strategy – Victoria [Extract wording from 2002 Report]	02.50.2
12	Investment Strategy – Victoria [Extract wording from 2002 Report]	02.51.2

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.

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6. 7/5/2001 From the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia. Fraternal greetings.

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