

# **The Synod of Eastern Australia**



## **Minutes**

**Of the 160<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Held at Cardiff NSW  
7<sup>th</sup> May to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia



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Note: These copies appear without signatures of the Clerk and Moderator. The original confirmed minutes are signed and included in the permanent record.

**07.1 OPENING**

Within the Cardiff Church building of the Hunter/Barrington congregation, on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2007, at 4.00pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, conducted by the Moderator, the Rev DP Smith.

**07.2 MODERATOR'S SERMON**

Mr Smith read from Acts 8:26-39. He then preached a sermon entitled "Grass Roots" focusing on the text of Isaiah 53:4-6.

**07.3 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES**

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

<b>Northern Presbytery</b>	<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Commissioned Elders</b>
Armidale	DP Smith	K Dawson†
Brisbane	Vacant	J Greensill
Hastings	AL Tripovich	G Hamilton
Northern Rivers	RW Murray	J McPhee
Residential Supply (Brisbane): W.J.W. Hanna†		

<b>Central Presbytery</b>		
Hawkesbury/Nepean	DK Muldoon	AH Reeve†
Hunter/Barrington	SR Tamata	DS Upton
Manning	Vacant	FN Robinson†
St. George's	JA McCallum	AH Steel
Synod Appointment: T.I. Leggott (Seconded to A.I.M.) Treasurer: Mr AH Steel		

<b>Southern Presbytery</b>		
Geelong	MG Smith	D Manly
Knox	RS Ward	JB Loudon
Knox	TW Yoa	
Narre Warren	GD Ball	JG Simpson
Ulverstone	Vacant	ID Hamilton
Synod Appointment: ER Lee† (retired)		

**07.4 WELCOMES**

The Moderator welcomed members and guests to the meeting of Synod, and made special mention of those attending for the first time.

**07.5 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR**

The Clerk reported that the Rev Dr RS Ward was Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr Ward took the chair.

**07.6 THANKS**

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

### **07.7 VISITORS FROM OTHER CHURCHES**

Mr Ball reported on those expecting to attend as visitors from other churches: Mr Jan Bronsema and Mrs Ria Nederveen-van Veelen from the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Liberated); Rev Andrew Stewart from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia; and Rev Garry de Vries from the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia.

It was resolved that these visitors be welcomed and that Rev Bronsema, Rev Stewart and Rev de Vries be associated with the court.

### **07.8 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Clerk presented the Administration Committee's Report. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved as follows:

1. That the Timetable proposed by the Administration Committee be approved.
2. That Synod express its sympathy for all those connected with this church who have been bereaved since the last annual meeting of Synod.

Mr McCallum and Mr McPhee led the court in prayer for those who have been bereaved during the previous year, and remembering the retired ministers of the church and those in the church not keeping good health.

3. That Correspondence Items 1 and 2 be received and considered with the Administration Committee business.
4. That Correspondence Item 3 be received and dealt with under Training of Ministry business.
5. That Correspondence Items 4 be received and considered with the report from Southern Presbytery.
6. That Presbyteries and Committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.
7. That proposals for changes to the Committee Structure be in the hands of the Clerk by midday on Wednesday.
8. That the following examiners of records be appointed:

Northern Presbytery	Rev. JA McCallum and Narre Warren elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. MG Smith and Hastings elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. DP Smith and St George's elder.

### **07.9 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were called for. There were no notices of motion. The session was closed with prayer at 5.25pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

**SESSION 2****MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007****7.00PM**

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 7.00pm.

**07.10 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS**

The Moderator read from 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2, and addressed the Synod on the subject: "Law and Righteousness in Scripture and Confession". Mr Gavin Smith led the court in prayer.

**07.11 THANKS**

A number spoke in appreciation of the address. It was resolved that the Moderator be thanked for his address, and that it be published in "*The Presbyterian Banner*".

**07.12 MINUTES**

The minutes of Session 1 were read and confirmed.

**07.13 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

The session concluded with praise and the benediction at 8.10pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

**SESSION 3****TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007****9.00AM**

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 9.05am. The moderator read from Romans 1, commenting on Paul's defining of the Gospel. The moderator welcomed Mr Jan Bronsema, Mrs Ria Nederveen-van Veelen, and Rev Andrew Stewart to the Synod. The minutes of Session 2 were read and confirmed.

**07.14 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 1**

Synod took up consideration of Correspondence Item 1, an Overture from Southern Presbytery regarding the status of minister in Presbytery. The overture was stated by Rev MG Smith. It was resolved that the prayer of the overture be granted as follows:

That Synod declares that a minister is a member of Presbytery in respect of his status as a minister but his membership of the church as such belongs to the congregation he serves or to which he has attached himself, so that resignation, retirement or even deposition from the ministry does not automatically remove him from church membership. Synod direct that the name of the minister be added to the Communion Roll of the congregation he serves, if it is not already there, that this be taken into account when preparing statistics to avoid double counting, and that the Handbook (2.10) be adjusted accordingly when next reprinted.

### **07.15 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 2**

Synod took up consideration of Correspondence Item 2, an Overture from Southern Presbytery regarding a minister's retirement from inducted service. The overture was stated by Rev MG Smith. It was moved and seconded that the prayer of the overture be granted as follows:

"Synod decides that, in line with the law of the Free Church of Scotland since 1989, ministers inducted to charges or appointed to full time positions subsequent to the passing of this Act are obliged to retire by the 30th September following attainment of their 70th birthday.

Nothing in this Act precludes a man retired under this provision from such other service as may be appropriate to his personal circumstances, including as stated supply, nor the customary position of a minister being permitted to retire with the consent of Presbytery upon attaining 65 years, or earlier if adequate medical grounds are shown.

This Act may be cited as ACT CONCERNING RETIREMENT AGE OF MINISTERS."

The motion was defeated 10/9.

### **07.16 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Convener, the Clerk (Pro Tem), presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. It was further resolved that:

1. That the report arising from Minute 06.36 be noted.

Proposed Deliverance 2. was presented:

2. That the Overture Concerning Adherence to the Confession of Faith and the Prescribed Questions and Formula as amended and printed as Appendix 2 to the Report be sent down to Presbyteries for their consideration and approval, yes or no, with comments if desired; returns with voting stated, to reach the Synod Clerk by 31 December 2007.

### **07.17 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

The session concluded with prayer at 12.30pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 2.00pm. The minutes of session 3 were read and confirmed.

**07.18 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CONTINUED)**

Discussion continued with Proposed Deliverance 2. After discussion it was resolved that the proposed deliverance be not approved.

Mr Ward tendered the following dissent: *That the Church should be willing to take a forward step in clarifying and safeguarding our constitutional position.*

The Convener presented Proposed Deliverance 3. After discussion it was resolved that proposed deliverance 3. be not approved.

**07.19 CHURCH AND NATION, YOUTH & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Convener the Rev Dr DK Muldoon presented the Committee's report.

Mr Murray spoke briefly on the report of the Presbyterian Banner and answered questions.

**07.20 ORDER OF THE DAY AT 4.00PM:**

**INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS: VISITORS FROM OTHER CHURCHES.**

Rev GD Ball, Convener, introduced Mr Jan Bronsema and Mrs Ria Nederveen-van Veelen from the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Liberated), and the moderator invited Mr Bronsema to address the Synod. Mr Bronsema brought the greetings of his Church, noting that the denomination consisted of some 270 congregations, and spoke of their prayerful interest and involvement in the worldwide work of the Gospel, as well as expressing the ongoing needs and opportunities at home in the Netherlands.

Mr Ball introduced Rev Andrew Stewart from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia, and the moderator invited Mr Stewart to address the Synod. Mr Stewart brought the greetings of his Church and Presbytery, wishing every blessing on the ongoing work of the PCEA. Mr Stewart shared about the work of the RPCA, reporting on the progress of the work and the current situations with their congregations. Some ongoing positive discussions had been held with the Southern Presbytery.

Mr Ball introduced Rev Garry de Vries from the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia, and the moderator invited Mr de Vries to address the Synod. Mr de Vries brought the greetings of his Church, noting the long history of contact with the PCEA, and the positive outcomes from the involvement and fellowship over the years.

### **07.21 CHURCH AND NATION, YOUTH & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

Mr Muldoon continued with the presentation of his report. Mr MG Smith was invited to report on the PCEA web site, and commented on changes that had been made for improvement to the site. Mr Muldoon concluded the presentation of his report. It was resolved that the report be received. It was further resolved that:

1. Synod thanks Mrs Margaret Kinder for sending birthday greetings to children in the PCEA, and Mrs Irene Steel for setting and assessing Search Work questions.
2. Synod thanks all Sunday School teachers and youth leaders for their dedicated work in teaching young people the Word of God.
3. Synod thanks Mr Tom Reeve for coordinating the PCEA biennial Family Camp.
4. Synod thanks Rev Ray Murray, editor in chief, and Mrs Susan Scott, assistant for producing *The Presbyterian Banner* each month and making it available on the internet. We thank all who have provided Ray with material for this publication.
5. Synod thanks Rev Peter Gadsby for managing the website <[www.pcea.org.au](http://www.pcea.org.au)>.
6. That Synod appoint Rev Gavin Smith to manage the church website.

### **07.22 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS**

The Convener Rev GD Ball presented the Committee's report. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr Ball presented the proposed deliverances. It was resolved:

1. That Synod record its appreciation to Rev. Peter Gadsby who convened this committee from 1982 until 2006.
2. That the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to the Free Church of Scotland.
3. That the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.
4. That the Clerk convey Synod's fraternal greetings to the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Liberated).
5. That Synod encourage the Southern Presbytery and its congregations to maintain and develop contacts with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia.
6. That Synod notes with satisfaction that the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland have reciprocated fraternal relations with us and instruct the Clerk to convey fraternal greetings to the RPCI.
7. That Synod notes with regret the decision of the Free Reformed Churches of Australia to terminate contact with us.

8. That Synod notes with pleasure that Rev. Dr. Rowland Ward has received an invitation to address the 2007 Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA).
9. That Synod appoint Rev. Dr. Ward as our representative to speak at the RPCNA Synod and the OPC Assembly and that Synod meet the balance of Rev. Ward's travelling expenses after any payments he receives.
10. That the Clerk convey the greetings of Synod to the United Reformed Churches of North America (URCNA).
11. That the Clerk convey the greetings of Synod to the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia (CRCA)
12. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia (PCEA) recognises in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (USA) a church whose doctrines and contendings are similar to its own with adherence to the Westminster Confession of Faith a major requirement for office bearers. The Synod notes the long and cordial relationship which has been shared by both as members of the RES and now as members of the ICRC. The Synod desires to establish a relationship with the OPC in terms of our Fraternal Relations Act (1993) in the hope that we may be able to deepen and further strengthen the bond of fellowship between us. Accordingly the Synod seek recognition by the OPC of the PCEA as a Church in Corresponding Relations.

The Synod of the PCEA understands and is satisfied that OPC Presbyteries may issue calls to ministers of the PCEA, and likewise affirms the right of the PCEA Presbyteries to process calls to OPC ministers. In neither case does this mutual eligibility impinge on the right and responsibility of the relevant OPC or PCEA Presbytery to require full and satisfactory Presbyterian certificates of character and attainment before admission. This may include clearance under any relevant child protection legislation, and assurance that any incoming minister is familiar with the history, doctrine, and practice of the church so that he is able to subscribe to the formula of subscription intelligently and heartily and participate harmoniously and constructively in the life of the church. Where an OPC minister is called by a PCEA congregation such a meeting with the Presbytery may take place after a call is issued and before it is accepted in order that the called minister may assess more closely whether he should accept the call, and know, should he accept it, that he would be admitted. This Act may be cited as the Mutual Eligibility Act (Orthodox Presbyterian Church) 2007.

### **07.23 MOTION ON NOTICE**

The Rev DK Muldoon presented a motion on notice regarding the contact with churches in India. It was resolved that the Inter Church Relations Committee make contact and pursue relationship with the Free Church of Central India and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North East India.

### **07.24 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

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

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 7.00pm. The minutes of session 4 were read and confirmed.

**07.25 MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Convener Rev DP Smith presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. After discussion, it was resolved:

1. That Synod express its continued prayerful support and interest in the work of Rev Trevor Leggott in his ministry with Australian Indigenous Ministries.
2. That Synod delegates regularly direct their congregations attention to the prayerful and financial support needed for Rev. Trevor Leggott in his ministry with Australian Indigenous Ministries
3. That Synod encourage congregational members to consider volunteering to help as native English speakers in either San Andres or the Annie Soper School.
4. That Synod adopt the budget for 2007 and express general agreement with the estimates for 2008.

Rev Dr Muldoon tendered a dissent with the following reasons: The grant of \$1000 for RTF is grossly improper for the following reasons: The convener refused to support a request for \$3000 support for Dr Verghis at Synod 2006 on the following basis: (email 23.03.06):

- 1) "He has moved from our traditional area of support" – please explain how China qualifies.
- 2) "No information indicating his need nor his current funding from other agencies" – please explain where is the relevant data for RTF re other funding.
- 3) "We simply cannot just pull \$3000p.a. out of the hat." – The MMMRF currently stands at over \$500,000. After initially seeking \$1000 for RTF from this relief fund, the convener who has put up this proposal, switched to take funds from General Mission Funds which currently stand at \$83. Please explain how full is this hat – very simple for the convener?
- 4) The perception that a valid mission proposal by a member is rejected and another by the convener is not good.
- 5) Funding for RTF was not approved unanimously by the Missions Committee.

It was resolved that a committee of Mr Leggott, Mr Ball and Mr Greensill be appointed to give answers to the dissent.

**07.26 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were called for and the session was closed with prayer at 8.00pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

The session was opened with praise and prayer. The Moderator read from John 12:42-13:30, and spoke of the servant heart of Jesus demonstrated in the washing the disciples feet, and the cleansing implications in prospect of His going to the Cross. Mr Glen Hamilton had sent an apology for his inability to attend future sessions because of work commitments. The minutes of Session 5 were read and confirmed.

**07.27 TRAINING OF MINISTRY**

The Convener (pro tem) Rev Dr RS Ward, Moderator, stood down to present the report and Rev DP Smith took the chair. The report was received. It was resolved that Synod move into closed court, and further resolved that Synod move into Committee. After considerable discussion it resolved that:

1. Synod note the application of Mr David Kerridge currently before the Southern Presbytery, assure him of their prayerful interest, and authorise Southern Presbytery to arrange instruction and examination in Australian Church history, polity and distinctive principles, authorise the reimbursement from Committee funds of the cost of his attending Synod 2007 and grant him a book allowance of \$750 if accepted as a student, subject to him subscribing the Student Bond.
2. Synod now spend a time in prayer relevant to the work of the Committee.

Southern Presbytery indicated that they would fall from Correspondence Item 3 relating to Mr David Kerridge. The Synod moved into open court.

**07.28 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were called for. The session was closed with prayer at 12.40pm., Mr G Smith and Mr Murray leading in prayer relevant to the work of the training of Ministry Committee and for Mr David Kerridge.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

**SESSION 7****WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007****2.00PM**

The session was opened with prayer and praise at 2.00pm. The minutes of session 6 were read and confirmed.

**07.29 PRESBYTERY REPORTS**

Mr Murray presented the report for Northern Presbytery. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr Upton led the court in prayer. Mr Muldoon presented an updated report for Central Presbytery. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr MG Smith led the court in prayer. Mr Yoa presented the report for Southern Presbytery, focusing particularly on his work amongst the Sudanese community in Melbourne. It was resolved that the report be received. Mr Steel led the court in prayer.

**07.30 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 4: HAMILTON PROPERTY**

Synod took up consideration of Correspondence Item 4, an overture from Southern Presbytery regarding Hamilton: Mr Ward, having been appointed by Southern Presbytery to state the overture, vacated the Moderator's chair, and Mr DP Smith took the chair.

Mr Ward stated the overture:

Overture to Synod re Hamilton

WHEREAS the Free Presbyterian Church Property Act 6 (11) regulates action in the matter of congregations that have been dissolved;

AND WHEREAS the bulk of the assets of the Hamilton congregation arise from the grant of land in Brown Street, Hamilton by the Victorian Government to the Congregation in 1869;

NOW THEREFORE the Southern Presbytery humbly overtures the Synod of Eastern

Australia appointed to meet at Cardiff 10/5/07 to take these premises into consideration and

1. Confirm the action of the Presbytery in dissolving the Congregation
2. Accept the assurance that the Presbytery will do what they can to ensure the reasonable pastoral care of remaining members in the district, as also the possibility of renewed work in Hamilton in the foreseeable future.
3. Declare that \$400,000 of the assets of the Congregation, after the allocation of \$5,000 to the Presbytery to assist in the object in (2) above, be henceforth held in trust for the provision of manse and church facilities in Melbourne for the projected Glen-Huntly-Dandenong congregation in that city and that the balance added to the Church & Manse Fund of Southern Presbytery referred to in Synod Minute 06.025.

OR to do otherwise for this object as Synod may deem best.

**07.31 MOTION ON NOTICE**

Mr Steel presented an alternative motion: That Synod

1. Confirm the action of the Presbytery in dissolving the Congregation
2. Accept the assurance that the Presbytery will do what they can to ensure the reasonable pastoral care of remaining members in the district, as also the possibility of renewed work in Hamilton in the foreseeable future.
3. Note the request of members of the congregation to retain the assets of the congregation upon its dissolution, as a trust for say, five years to provide for possible re-establishment of the Hamilton congregation, and resolve to hold the total funds for the time being, purpose unspecified, accounting for them separately in Synod's books of account, the property now being held for the purposes of Synod in terms of the Free Presbyterian Church Property Act 6(11).

After a good deal of discussion Mr Steel's motion was put against the prayer of the overture. Mr Steel's motion was favoured. It was resolved that Synod:

1. Confirm the action of the Presbytery in dissolving the Congregation
2. Accept the assurance that the Presbytery will do what they can to ensure the reasonable pastoral care of remaining members in the district, as also the possibility of renewed work in Hamilton in the foreseeable future.
3. Note the request of members of the congregation to retain the assets of the congregation upon its dissolution, as a trust for say, five years to provide for possible re-establishment of the Hamilton congregation, and resolve to hold the total funds for the time being, purpose unspecified, accounting for them separately in Synod's books of account, the property now being held for the purposes of Synod in terms of the Free Presbyterian Church Property Act 6(11).

### **07.32 MISSIONS COMMITTEE: ANSWERS TO REASONS FOR DISSENT**

The committee appointed to give an answer to the reasons for dissent given by Rev Dr DK Muldoon in relation to resolution 4 of Missions Committee business presented their answer:

- 1) The decision regarding support for Dr Veghis in 2006 was a committee decision. That request was not supported because requested information was not provided.
- 2) Ample background information regarding proposed support for Reformation Translation Fellowship is provided in Annex A to the Missions Committee Report.
- 3) Decisions of the Missions Committee, as with all committees and church courts, are taken in consultation with members, and are determined by simple majority.

### **07.33 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

The session was closed with praise and prayer at 4.30pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 7.00pm and the Moderator read from Romans 10:5-15. Visitors were welcomed to the meeting. It was resolved that the reading of the minutes of Session 7 be deferred until the next session.

**07.34 MISSIONS EVENING**

The Moderator invited the Missions Committee Convener Rev DP Smith to give an outline of the program for the evening. The Convener then introduced Rev Andrew Stewart representing Reformation Translation Fellowship of Australia. Mr Stewart gave a brief summary of the history of Christian Missions in China and then spoke of the response of RTF to the need for providing sound theological materials to those in China.

The Convener then introduced Dr Noel Weeks who gave an update on the work of Middle East Reformed Fellowship. Mr Weeks gave an introductory historical summary of MERF, and spoke of the ongoing work of the Fellowship, including that there was now a group providing the services of MERF in Indonesia.

The Convener then introduced Rev Trevor Leggott who spoke of his work with Australian Indigenous Ministries. Mr Leggott told of the plea coming from Aboriginal Christians right across the nation for help with Gospel ministry, and how a number of couples from a Reformed background had now been placed in ministry in Central Australia, with the prospect of others soon to join the work.

The moderator thanked the speakers for a very interesting and informative evening.

**07.35 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were presented. The session was closed with praise and prayer at 8.40pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

The session was opened with praise and prayer and the Moderator read from 1 Corinthians 12:27ff. Mr Ward commented on Paul's instruction and encouragement to the church at Corinth, with particular mention on the recognition and use of respective gifts, and the exhortation to brotherly love. The minutes of Sessions 7 and 8 were read and confirmed. Mr Tripovich, being unwell, had tendered his apology and returned to his home.

### 07.36 FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr A Steel, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. It was further resolved that:

1. We record our thanks to God for the sufficiency in financial matters we have enjoyed during the past year.

2. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2007/2008 be made on 1st January and 1st July in line with the movement in the *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (Full-time adult ordinary time earnings)* as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In the event of a negative movement in any six monthly review period, no adjustment be made.

3. Existing legislation, *Synod Delegates' Expenses* (Act 1 of Class 2, Synod 1984 - Decision Book page 16) Section [c] "Motor Vehicle Running Costs" (Amended Synod 2003, Synod 2005) be replaced with:

"Motor Vehicle Running Costs:

- Costs on basis of one claim per congregation represented at Synod.
- For church owned vehicles, reimbursement be *Running (operating) Costs* only, for church owned vehicles. For privately owned vehicles, *Running Costs* with an option to include *Fixed Costs*, if commissioners so desire.
- The NSW NRMA annual *Vehicle Operating Costs Survey* figures to be used as the basis for reimbursement. These figures to be adjusted on the last business day before Synod convenes, taking into account the average unleaded fuel pump price in the State where Synod is meeting."

4. Stipend Relief for 2006/2007 be granted to the following Deacons' Courts, on a strictly needs basis:

- \$ 20,000 - Armidale (up to 50% of Minimum Stipend)
- \$ 20,000 - Hawkesbury-Nepean
- \$ 5,000 - Narre Warren

### **07.37 8:14 FOUNDATION REPORT**

The Convener, Mr AH Steel, presented the report of the 8:14 Foundation. After some discussion it was resolved that the report be received. It was further resolved that:

1. Synod confirm the approval of a \$15,000 Car Loan to the Hunter-Barrington Deacons' Court. The loan being interest free over a term of four years, with repayments of \$320 per month and funded from Synod General Funds (part SN Ramsay bequest). Further, Synod authorise the transfer of the outstanding balance of \$13,080 as at 31 December 2006, to the 8:14 Foundation account.
2. That administration of the 8:14 Foundation be the responsibility of the Finance Committee, and operations etc. be reported to Synod annually.
3. That reference to the Foundation being based on 2 Corinthians chapter 8 verse 14 be deleted from the regulations.
4. That "The 8:14 Foundation" be now known as "The Capital Assistance Fund"
5. Applications for loans or assistance from the Capital Assistance Fund be submitted to the Clerk of Synod, in accordance with ordinary administrative procedures, who shall provide a copy to the Synod Finance Committee for consideration and recommendation to Synod. Should it be impracticable to submit the application to the annual Synod for determination, because of timing, the Finance Committee shall forward its recommendation to the Synod Administration Committee who shall make a determination on it. Applications shall be accompanied by all such information as may be necessary for the Synod/Synod Administration Committee to make a determination.
6. That the deposit facility be removed from the Fund.
7. Synod approve the revised regulations for the Fund as detailed in Appendix 2 of the Report (with any changes necessitated by any variation in the proposed deliverances).

(The revised regulations as approved are included below.)

# **THE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE FUND**

(formerly The 8:14 Foundation)

## **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA**

**REGULATIONS AS ADOPTED BY SYNOD 1983**

**and amended Synods 1984, 1985, 1993 and 2007**

1. That “The 8:14 Foundation” be known as “The Capital Assistance Fund” and referred to in these regulations as “the fund”.
2. The object of the fund is to provide a source of finance for capital expenditure in the work of the church.
3. The fund shall consist of money and property of any nature.
4. The fund shall be applied, both as to capital and income, in making available loans or gifts for such capital expenditure in the enterprises of the church, including presbyteries and congregations as may from time to time be approved by the Synod.
5. The Fund shall be administered the Synod Finance Committee. The cost of administration shall be a first charge on the fund.
6. Applications for loans or assistance from the fund shall be submitted to the Clerk of Synod, in accordance with ordinary administrative procedures, who shall provide a copy to the Synod Finance Committee for consideration and recommendation to Synod. Should it be impracticable to submit the application to the annual Synod for determination, because of timing, the Finance Committee shall forward its recommendation to the Synod Administration Committee who shall make a determination on it. Applications shall be accompanied by all such information as may be necessary for the Synod/Synod Administration Committee to make a determination.
7. All loans from the fund shall be subject to such arrangements for repayments as are approved by Synod/Synod Administration Committee.
8. When not immediately required for the purpose of the fund, the assets of the fund may be invested in suitable investments.
9. Receipts of *Lindfield Lease Account* be placed in the fund.
10. Synod Finance Committee shall examine and report annually to Synod on contributions to, disbursements from, administration and promotion of, and any other matters that may affect the fund.

### **07.38 MOTION ON NOTICE**

Mr MG Smith presented the motion on notice. It was resolved as follows:

That should the Southern Presbytery approve a property purchase for the Glen Huntly-Dandenong work, application for release of the former Hamilton funds shall be submitted to the Clerk of Synod in accordance with ordinary administrative procedures. The Clerk shall provide a copy to the Synod Finance Committee for consideration and recommendation to Synod. Should it be impracticable to submit the application to the annual Synod for determination, because of timing, the Finance Committee shall forward its recommendation to the Synod Administration Committee who shall make a determination on it. Application shall be accompanied by all such information as may be necessary for Synod /Synod Administration Committee to make a determination.

### **07.39 GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

The General Treasurer, Mr AH Steel, presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received, and that the thanks of the court be conveyed to the General Treasurer Mr AH Steel for his efficient and thorough work during the year. The motion was carried by acclamation. There were no proposed deliverances.

### **07.40 SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE**

The Convener Mr Ward vacated the Moderator's chair to present the report, and Mr DP Smith took the chair. It was resolved that the report be received. It was resolved that:

1. Synod, note the levy for 2007 of \$1, 493 per quarter payable by the end of February, May, August and November with concessions as stated in the report.
2. Synod approve the immediate addition from the Super Support income account of \$4,361.93 to the amount treated as capital in the SSF.
3. Synod remind fund members of the advisability of seeking professional advice in regard to both choice of Fund and investments within any particular fund, and the effects of recent changes in Government legislation, so that it meets their particular needs, as this is their responsibility and not that of the church.

### **07.41 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.

### **07.42 NSW 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.

### **07.43 TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA**

The Secretary Mr AH Steel presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received. There were no proposed deliverances.

### **07.44 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS**

The minutes of the Northern Presbytery for 2006-2007 were reported to be in order. The minutes of Central Presbytery for 2006-2007 were reported to be in order. The minutes of

Southern Presbytery for 2006-2007 were reported to be in order. It was resolved that the Presbytery records be attested.

#### **07.45 MOTION ON NOTICE**

Mr Steel presented a motion on notice: It was resolved that: As funds in excess of normal operating expenses are now held by Southern Presbytery as a consequence of receipt of proceeds of \$78,000 from the settlement of the South Australian Church properties, in future they present to Synod each year, along with their minute book, an audited financial statement for attestation.

#### **07.46 MODERATOR-ELECT FOR SYNOD 2008**

The Moderator called for nominations for Moderator for 2008. It was resolved that the Rev Dr DK Muldoon be appointed Moderator-elect for Synod 2008.

#### **07.47 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

The Administration Committee proposed the following Committee structure:

##### **Administration and Inter-Church Relations**

##### **Law and Advisory**

Clerk (Convener Administration), GD Ball (Convener Inter-Church Relations), RS Ward (Convener Law & Advisory), Moderator, Moderator-elect.

##### **Church and Nation (including Publications and Psalmody and Website)**

##### **Youth and Fellowship**

DK Muldoon (Convener Church & Nation, Youth & Fellowship), RW Murray (Banner) MG Smith (Website), SR Tamata, G Hamilton, T Reeve.

##### **Finance**

AH Steel (Convener Finance), DJ Ramsay, JB Loudon, DE Kerr, J Audet.

##### **Superannuation**

RS Ward (Convener), DJ Ramsay, JB Loudon, J Audet.

##### **Missions**

DP Smith (Convener), TI Leggott, I Conley, DK Muldoon, J Greensill, FN Robinson.

##### **Training of Ministry**

MG Smith (Convener), JA McCallum, RW Murray, TW Yoa, D Manly, I Hamilton

It was resolved that the Committee structure as proposed be adopted.

#### **07.48 TREASURER'S REPORT RE COSTS INCURRED BY SYNOD 2007.**

The General Treasurer Mr AH Steel gave an indication of costs incurred by Synod 2007.

#### **07.49 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 2008**

It was resolved that Synod 2008 be hosted by the Hunter/Barrington Congregation from 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 2008, with arrangements to be made for the provision of outside catering.

#### **07.50 PRINCIPAL ACTS**

It was resolved that the Clerk would draw up a list of the Principal Acts of Synod 2008, and include it with the Minutes.

#### **07.51 THANKS**

It was proposed that the thanks of the court be conveyed to the Moderator for his leading of the Synod and for his devotional messages. The motion was carried by acclamation.

It was proposed that the thanks of the court be conveyed to the Clerk of Synod for his work. The motion was carried by acclamation.

It was resolved that the thanks of the court be conveyed to the Hunter/Barrington congregation for hosting the Synod, for their hospitality and especially to the ladies for their generous catering for the meals.

#### **07.52 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of this closing Session 9 were read and confirmed.

#### **07.53 CLOSURE OF SYNOD 2007**

Synod 2007 was closed with closing remarks from the Moderator, the singing of Psalm 72:16-19, prayer and the benediction at 12.00 noon.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

RS Ward  
Moderator

**ACTS OF SYNOD 2007**  
**Appended by the Direction of Synod (7.50)**

**Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure) Reference**

Nil

**Class 2 (Others) Reference**

- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. Status of Minister in Presbytery                      | 07.14    |
| 2. Recognition of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (USA) | 07.22.12 |
| 3. Hamilton Property                                     | 07.31    |
| 4. Synod Delegates' Expenses                             | 07.36.03 |
| 5. Capital Assistance Fund                               | 07.37.07 |