

The Synod of Eastern Australia



To meet at the
Cardiff Church Facilities
Hunter/Barrington Congregation
Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

12th -15th May 2008

Standing Committee Reports

“Oh, give thanks to the Lord for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”

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TIMETABLE FOR SYNOD 2008

	Monday 12 May	Tuesday 13 May	Wednesday 14 May	Thursday 15 May
9.00am M/Tea 10.30am		<p>SESSION 3 Devotions and Prayer.</p> <p>Administration</p> <p>Law and Advisory</p>	<p>SESSION 6 Devotions and Prayer.</p> <p>Training of Ministry</p> <p>Presbytery Reports.</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>8:14 Foundation.</p>	<p>SESSION 9 Devotions and Prayer</p> <p>Superannuation</p> <p>Trust Corporations.</p> <p>Reports of Examiners of Records.</p> <p>Appt: Moderator-elect for next Synod.</p> <p>Causes (if any).</p> <p>Next Synod Time/Place</p> <p>Closure of Synod</p>
12.30pm		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2.00pm A/Tea 3.30pm	<p>SYNOD TO COMMENCE AT 4.00PM</p> <p>SESSION 1 Constitution of Synod. Retiring Moderator's Sermon. Presbytery Rolls. Welcomes (New members, guests, associations as required). Thanks to Retiring Moderator for his sermon.</p>	<p>SESSION 4</p> <p>Church and Nation</p> <p>Youth & Fellowship Banner</p> <p>Inter-Church Relations</p>	<p>SESSION 7</p> <p>2.00 – 3.30pm Synod in Committee Alistair & Jenny Wilson</p> <p>Presbyteries and Committees to meet if necessary.</p>	
6.00pm	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	Evening Meal	
7.00pm 8.30pm	<p>SESSION 2</p> <p>Election of Moderator for 2008/2009.</p> <p>Administration business as required.</p> <p>Moderator's address.</p> <p>Thanks to Moderator.</p> <p>Close</p>	<p>SESSION 5</p> <p>Missions Report</p> <p>Close</p>	<p>SESSION 8</p> <p>Missions Evening Alistair & Jenny Wilson</p> <p>Close</p>	

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Members: Clerk (Convener), Moderator, Moderator-elect, Convener of Law and Advisory Committee, Convener of Inter Church Relations Committee.

Ministerial Movements in 2007

1) There were no ministerial movements during 2007. The Rev G.D. Ball is expected to be inducted to the Manning charge just prior to the meeting of Synod on 9th of May 2008 and his name entered on the roll of Central Presbytery.

Timetable

The timetable proposed for this Synod is similar to last year with minor amendment. Synod is set to conclude at 12.30pm Thursday 15th May.

Correspondence

	<u>Date received</u>	<u>From</u>
1.	31.01.08	Clerk of Presbytery, Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia. Re Separation of EPC Penguin Congregation in 1965
2.	20.03.08	Overture from Southern Presbytery Re Student David Kerridge
3.	20.03.08	Overture from Southern Presbytery Re Knox Congregation Seeking Approval to Borrow

Dealing with Correspondence

A proposed deliverance seeks to formalise our recent practice of including correspondence with Synod Reports, to allow for careful consideration and wise decision making.

Meetings of Presbyteries by Teleconference: Meetings often involve considerable travel time and cost for what may be a relatively simple matter (such as meeting to decide whether to meet with a congregation to moderate a call when all needed details have been submitted). Provided clear details are provided to all members beforehand, there is no reason why such meetings cannot be properly constituted and conducted by a teleconference or other suitable voice and/or video electronic means.

Congregational Statistics: See the chart appended to this report.

Expressions of Sympathy:

During 2007 all were saddened to hear of the home-call of Mr Jim Simpson. Mr Simpson was a member of the Synod in 1971-72, 1977-79, and from 1999-2007.

Committees:

Committee structure and membership was revised in 2007 and there is no proposal for change. The present Committees are:

Administration, Inter-Church Relations, Law and Advisory

Clerk (Convener Administration), Moderator, Moderator-elect, R.S.Ward (Convener Law & Advisory)
G.D. Ball (Convener Inter-Church Relations).

Church and Nation, Youth and Fellowship

D.K. Muldoon (Convener Church & Nation, Youth & Fellowship), R.W. Murray (Banner), M.G. Smith (Website), S.R. Tamata, G. Hamilton, T. Reeve.

Finance

A.H. Steel (Convener), D.J. Ramsay, J.B.Louden, D.E. Kerr, J. Audet.

Superannuation

R.S. Ward (Convener), D.J. Ramsay, J.B. Louden, J Audet.

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Missions

D.P. Smith (Convener), T.I. Leggott, D.K. Muldoon, I. Conley, J. Greensill, F.N. Robinson.

Training of Ministry

M.G. Smith (Convener), J.A. McCallum, R.W. Murray, T.W. Yoa, D. Manly, I. Hamilton.

Proposed Deliverances

1. That the timetable for Synod as proposed by the Administration Committee be approved.
2. That Synod expresses its sympathy for all those connected with this church who have been bereaved since the last annual meeting of Synod, and especially the family of the late Mr Jim Simpson.
3. That Correspondence Item 1 be received and considered with the Inter-Church Relations Committee business.
4. That Correspondence Item 2 be received and considered with Training of Ministry Committee business.
5. That Correspondence Item 3 be received and considered with the Southern Presbytery Report.
6. That Act 1 Class 2 Synod 1983 as amended in Section 6 by adding the words 'together with correspondence' so that it reads:

The Clerk of Synod shall arrange for Committee Reports and Recommendations, together with correspondence, 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.

7. The Synod Standing Orders (Synod 1978 as amended 1984 & 1991) be amended by the insertion of the following clause 7 in section 1 (Motions):
 7. To ensure careful consideration and wise decision making, copies of correspondence for transmission to Synod shall be supplied with the Reports. Any non-procedural proposal that arises from late correspondence or on the floor of the Synod that is not already anticipated in the prayer of an overture or petition regularly before the Synod, or the subject of a notice of motion in terms of clause 6 of this Act, shall be held over until the next session and, if contentious or of complexity, referred to a representative ad hoc committee for report to the next or later session, before being debated.
8. That Presbyteries and Committees be permitted to meet when Synod is not in session.
9. That the following examiners of records be appointed:

Northern Presbytery
Central Presbytery
Southern Presbytery

Rev. S.R Tamata and St Georges elder.
Rev. R.S. Ward and Brisbane elder.
Rev. R.W. Murray and Hunter elder.

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PCEA Statistics December 2007										Number of elders, deacons, Sunday School classes, baptisms & preaching points										Community by age					Av Lord's Day attendance		Av attend Youth Group mid-week
Reported Communicant membership Ministers are now included in Congregations' figures										Number of Elders year end		Number of Deacons		Youth SS Classes/pupils		Baptisms		PP		Total attendance if everyone present who worships on the Lord's Day at least once a month plus the housebound (), but not including visitors passing through.					of different persons last part of year		
Charge	86	96	01	06	+	-	07	'06	'07	'06	'07	2007	Ad	In	0-3	4-11	12-18	19-64	65+	Total	'06	'07	2007				
Brisbane	41	44	44	37	1	-	38	5	5	1	1	3/9	0	1	1	2	5	2	28	6	43	38	40	0			
Armidale	21	43	31	17	-	-	17	1	1	4	4	3/20	0	2	1	6	14	5	25	3	53	41	45	7			
Northern	80	65	58	53	2	5	50	4	4	3	3	4/14	0	3	2	0	10	1	34	37	60	60	0				
Hastings R	74	48	41	38	-	4	34	4	4	0	0	2/5	0	0	2	1	4	2	22	17	45	38	0				
Presbytery	6	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Total Northern	222	203	178	145	3	9	139	14	14	8	8	12/48	0	6	6	9	33	10	119	63	(8)224	184	183	7			
Manning	95	72	67	56	3	1	58	*6	*6	4	4	2/8	0	1	3	5	5	1	24	35	(7)77	64	58	46			
Hunter/B	62	56	52	54	-	-	54	4	2	4	4	3/8	0	0	4	3	5	4	32	15	59	58	54	7			
St Georges	98	61	53	57	-	2	55	4	4	0	0	4/12	0	1	1	5	14	11	35	17	82	95	98	0			
Mt Druitt	44	32	28	20	2	-	22	2	2	0	0	0/0	0	0	1	1	2	2	13	2	(2)20	18	15	10			
SydneySih	00	13	7	10	1	1	10	0	0	1	1	1/3	0	0	1	0	0	3	8	5	16	14	12	0			
Presbytery	7	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Total Central P	306	237	211	197	6	4	199	*16	*16	9	9	10/31	0	2	10	14	26	21	110	74	(9)254	245	237	63			
Knox-GH	24	21	21	35	13	12	36	2	2	1	1	2/8	0	2	2	8	15	7	50	15	95	95	73	8			
Narre W'n	00	18	23	30	2	2	33	1	0	2	2	2/9	1	2	1	5	7	2	28	17	(2)59	50	50	0			
Geelong	30	48	56	46	1	4	43	4	4	2	2	0/0	-	-	1	2	6	5	16	19	48	44	44	0			
Hamilton	30	9	8	7	-	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	0			
Ulverstone	19	26	28	29	1	2	28	1	1	3	3	2/14	-	-	1	4	10	5	25	11	(2)57	40	50	22			
Presbytery	4	4	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Total Southern	107	126	141	150	17	27	140	8	7	8	8	6/31	1	4	6	19	38	19	119	62	(4)259	237	217	30			
PCEA TOTAL	635	566	530	499	26	40	478	*38	*37	25	25	28/110	1	12	23	47	108	52	353	223	737	637	637	100			
Nuer												/60			1	50	50	150			250		200	20			

* includes 2 emeritus. Deaths reported were 11, including 5 on Northern Rivers (10 in 2006, 14 in 2005)

LAW & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

R.S.Ward (Convener 2007), Synod Clerk, Convener ICR, Moderator, Moderator-elect.

The Committee worked to present an updated issue of the Handbook of Practice and Procedure and the Decision Books.

1. Handbook of Practice & Procedure: Ignoring typographical errors and working from the electronic text provided in 2005 by the then Synod Clerk, the amendments to the Handbook are not great since the last edition in April 1999, but are important. They include specific changes by Synods 1999-2007 and a few rewordings or insertions in descriptive passages to make things clearer. An omission from 1994 was picked up. Those marked * are minor items which have sufficient aspect of obligation beyond Synod itself that they should be considered Class 1. A summary follows:

- Preface (update)
- 1.10 addition (quote from Bradshaw)
- *INSERT Guidelines for Church Workers (Act of Synod 2004)
- 2.10; 4.2; 4.42 (minister as member of congregation Synod 2007)
- *3.16b, extra week of leave 3.17a, (Super);
- 3.17c, 4.38 Finance Committee 3.21a,c, 3.26a
- *3.19b re leases (Act 1994)
- after 3.23c insert Specimen Form of Bequest.
- 4.11 (removes ambiguity);
- *4.48, 4.49c, 50.3d, (as per Synod 2004.47 working with minors.)
- 4.51e; 4.52 (note re mutual eligibility with FCS, RCNZ & OPC)
- 5.11 (re Procurator); 5.19 (update of Committees); 5.25 Committee members), 5.27, 5.29, 5.31,5.33, 5.34 5.35 (re order of business)
- 6.7a re petition (see below);
- 6.28 (was wrongly numbered 6.26)
- 7.16 (by Synod 2005:54)
- *7.26 addition of ‘such as homosexual behaviour, child abuse falling short of actual incest and serious marriage breakdowns.’ (cf 2004 Reports, p. 51 footnote).
- ADD after 7.49 – Acts of Synod 2004, 2005 re procedure in matters involving sexual allegations.
- Update index

The clarifying amendment of most interest is a restatement of part of 6.7a (underlined below) which helpfully explains the importance of the form. It is derived from Mr Bradshaw’s letter to a former Convener, J.A.Harman in 1971. Given the difficulty petitions have caused us from time to time, its seems a very clear and helpful note.

Add note to 6.7a: The form is important since it leads to (1) a clear understanding of the issues and whether they are relevant, (2) correct decisions, and (3) avoids waste of time. The proviso, ‘or to do otherwise...’ is important lest by sustaining a petition the Court is left only the option of granting its prayer or dismissing it.
The following is a specimen of a petition:

PETITION

*To the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia:
This Petition of (name, position) respectfully shows:
THAT WHEREAS (here state in logical progression the reasons advanced for the granting of the prayer).
NOW THEREFORE the.....Presbytery prays/we pray the Synod to take these recitals into consideration and.....or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may deem fit. And your petitioner/s will every pray.
Dated the.....day of.....20.....*

The Committee proposes to issue the updated Handbook, together with any amendments necessitated by decisions of Synod 2008, immediately following Synod.

2. Decision Book: The decision book was first issued in July 1992, and revised and re-issued in April 1999 and includes decision up to and including Synod 1998. The Committee propose to reissue immediately after Synod with update to take account of Synod decisions 1999-2008.

Although the Decision Book will tend to date a bit more quickly than the Handbook, in practice there seems much to be said for printing them together for convenience of access and use.

In reviewing past decision a number of anomalies have been noted arising from failure to expressly modify earlier decisions by the later.

Synod has not formally adjusted the regulations of the Church Extension and Supply Committee (Act 11, Class 2 Synod 1990) since that committee was discontinued in 1996 and the role given to presbyteries with financial aspects being placed under the Finance Committee. The matter can be easily resolved by renaming the legislation 'Stipend Assistance Regulations', amending the Act to delete Section 1 (Responsibilities), identifying the Committee referred to as the Finance Committee, inserting 'and allocations from general funds' at the end of the first sentence in current clause 2 (new clause 1), updating the name of the 8.14 Foundation (now Capital Assistance Fund) and deleting reference to the now discarded LSL levy. In addition, to conform to the current practice a slight change is needed in budget process and that assistance is from Synod to Synod not on a calendar year. These Regulations have the approval of the Finance Committee, who suggested this Committee bring forward the amendment.

3. Procedure in passing legislation: When preparing the update of the Handbook and Decision Book, it became evident that the point about the Barrier Act in *Handbook* 5.38 has not always been followed, thus leading to potential uncertainty in the force of any legislation which should have gone under the Barrier Act, and the possibility what we thought was binding is not. Additionally, of course, passing binding rules for the church at large, or for presbyteries or congregations, should be a very deliberative thing.

When the Synod of Eastern Australia was established as a Court on 10 December 1846 it continued to adhere to the standards of the Church of Scotland as at 5 October 1840, when the Synod of Australia in connection with the Established Church of Scotland was formed. The PCEA thus inherited the legislation of the Church of Scotland to 5 October 1840. Much of that legislation was not intended to be and does not have the character of standing laws binding the church, such as that for the regulation of Assembly business and that of its Committees, and that for the church at large of a temporary nature such as decisions of an exhortatory or merely advisory character; these decisions we nowadays call Class 2 Acts. However, some Church of Scotland legislation was truly statute law and was passed under the Act of 8 January 1697, commonly called the Barrier Act. This states that no Act of the General Assembly shall have the force of a 'binding rule and constitution to the Church', unless first transmitted as an overture to Presbyteries and approved by a majority of them, and then subsequently approved by the General Assembly. We commonly call this kind of legislation Class 1.

It is evident that we have not always been precise in classifying our own legislation. Some, such as the provisions for licence of students, has been treated as Class 2 when it should be Class 1 and there is indeed Class 1 legislation pre 1840. Some, such as sale procedure (Synod 1984) under the NSW Act, has been done as Class 2, but should have been Class 1, like the corresponding rule (Synod 1958) under the Victorian Act of Parliament.

The Handbook, which is a textbook embodying laws arising from customary practice as well as specific decisions, together with descriptions of how things may be done that are not necessarily prescriptive, itself effectively went through a Barrier Act procedure 1989/92, and was adopted 29 April 1992 without a dissenting voice. It seems eminently reasonable to take the view that all in it of obligatory character as standing rules for the church at large, its presbyteries or congregations, is therefore binding, unless and until constitutionally changed. This is the simplest and least complicated way to tidy up the situation and indicate Synod's intention.

This would leave legislation since 1992 that may need to be looked at, although there appears to be very little indeed that might require Barrier Act procedure.

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4. Alternative Questions and Formula: The Clerk of Synod raised in the Committee the matter of revised Questions and Formula. He considered that there was a good degree of desire for simpler language, as expressed by the Hunter Session and on the floor of last Synod, but that the proposal from Southern Presbytery was too radical for general acceptance because it included various declarations as to our understanding of certain points and was proposed as a binding amendment/replacement of our existing 1952 Act. He suggested an optional alternative Questions and Formula, with the 1952 Act remaining in force as is, and being the interpretative standard of the optional Questions and Formula in the event of any question arising. This seems a practical and straightforward solution. It will provide for those situations where it is seen as helpful alternative, but at the same time safeguard any concern that might have been felt that constitutional commitments were being modified or stated in a way some were unsure/not happy about. The recitals are short and the Questions & Formula are almost the same as considered last year, but have been carefully checked for consistency and clarity. The Committee is unanimous in what is proposed.

Proposed Deliverances:

1. Synod request any who frame proposals for Synod's consideration to take care to make provision for specifying previous enactments that are varied or rescinded by such proposals.
2. Synod approve the amendment of Act 11 Class 2, Synod 1990 as described in the Report and included as Appendix A to the Report.
3. Synod notes that those matters in the edition of the Handbook of Practice and Procedure (approved by Synod 29 April 1992) of an obligatory character as standing rules for the church at large, its presbyteries or congregations, together with those of like character marked with an asterisk in Part 1 of the 2008 Report, have sufficiently met the requirements of the 'Act Anent the Method of Passing Acts of General Concern to the Church, and for Preventing of Innovations' (commonly called the Barrier Act), and pass from the matter.
4. Synod notes the proposed new edition of the Handbook and Decision book, approves the production of 70 copies at the expense of Synod General Fund with four being supplied to each charge at the expense of Synod, and additional copies to those desiring them at \$20 each.
5. Synod approves the 'Act Allowing Optional Alternative Questions & Formula while not reducing commitments in terms of Act of Synod 1952' as set out in Appendix B.

APPENDIX A: Law and Advisory Committee

STIPEND ASSISTANCE REGULATIONS

[Synod 1990: Act 11, Class 2 amended by Act , Class 2, Synod 2008]

The word 'stipend' in these regulations means the Minimum Stipend - Taxable cash and non-cash components (excluding Manse, Car and Telephone)

1. FUNDS

The funds available to the Finance Committee include interest on monies invested for Stipend and Church Extension purposes, together with contributions made for such purposes from other sources and allocations from general funds. In its annual report to the Synod the Committee shall include a budget of anticipated income and expenditure for the calendar year of the Synod to assist in wise and stable planning. The Committee is empowered to appeal for funds to the church at large from time to time, but apart from modest variations dictated by prudence and common sense, shall not expend funds other than as authorised by Synod. Funds dispersed by Synod on recommendation of the Committee are for stipend of the minister unless funds are received with some special condition. In such event the funds shall be used for the purposes designated by the donor.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In order to facilitate and encourage the work of extension in new areas as well as existing charges which need to be worked up to self-support, the Synod may grant financial assistance, subject to funds being available. All assistance is on a needs basis with allocation being made on the basis of a year from 1 May to 30 April. Synod requires the recommendation of the Presbytery to be supported by a budget and evidence of the charge or station being efficiently worked according to some definite program of extension. The Presbytery shall send its recommendation to the Committee with such supporting detail as may be appropriate, and the Committee shall make recommendation to the Synod having regard to the resources available and the merit of the application.

3. LIMITS ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- a. A **Fully Sanctioned Charge** which is not fully self-supporting may receive assistance on a needs basis but not exceeding an amount of 50% of the minimum stipend. In normal cases a progressive reduction to nil over 5 years will be expected.
- b. A **Special Development Charge** (in former years termed a Church Extension Charge) is one with sufficient promise and support to justify the appointment of a full-time minister who has a seat on Presbytery, if ordained, but who is not inducted. It may receive for the initial two years up to 75% of the minimum stipend or up to 100% if a manse has to be rented, but thereafter the limits will be 50% and 75% respectively, with a progressive reduction over a further 5 or 7 years to nil. The Charge will be responsible for the entire Superannuation and Levy and will not receive a portion from the Committee's funds for these items.
- c. Financial assistance to a **preaching station** will normally not be given unless Synod classifies it as a Special Development Charge upon request of the Presbytery. A copy of the Presbytery submission shall be provided to the Finance Committee by the Presbytery well in advance of the Synod.
- d. Should the minister of an aid-receiving charge cease to act in that capacity, funding from the Synod shall cease during the period of vacancy.

4. LAND AND BUILDINGS

The necessary or desirable buildings for a congregation vary according to the circumstances. The Synod seeks to provide assistance by way of grants and loans from the Capital Assistance Fund and other designated monies, but funds for purchase of property are not available from Stipend Funds. If, during any stage of the development of an aid-receiving work, the congregation consider it necessary to purchase real estate, this will have no bearing on funding of Stipend except that the need may be thereby increased nearer to the maximum.

5. PAYMENT FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

The provisions of Act 12 Class 2 of Synod 1983 as amended apply.

6. MINISTERS FROM OVERSEAS

As enacted by Synod 1973, "It is required that any settled congregation inviting with a view to a call or calling a minister from overseas, must ordinarily meet the whole cost from their own resources. However, providing funds are available, assistance may be obtained for this purpose by way of a loan upon which interest must be paid - and the capital repaid within five (5) years."

APPENDIX B: Law and Advisory Committee

PROPOSED 'ACT ALLOWING OPTIONAL ALTERNATIVE QUESTIONS & FORMULA WHILE NOT REDUCING COMMITMENTS IN TERMS OF ACT OF SYNOD 1952'

WHEREAS the Synod of Eastern Australia, approved an Act Anent Questions and Formula in 1952 which set forth the questions and formula to be used in the Courts of the Church, which questions and formula were those approved by the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland in 1846, subject to the necessary modifications to relate them to this Church;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable given the changing ethnic mix with the church as well as for the better edification of congregations in whose presence vows are made that this Church should provide an alternative wording of the questions and formula on the strict understanding that such alternative does not in any way reduce the existing commitment in terms of Act of Synod 1952;

THE SYNOD DECLARE

That the Questions and Formula hereafter set out may be used as an alternative for the wording for the Questions and Formula in the Act of Synod 1952 on the understanding that no reduction in the commitments required by the Act of Synod 1952 is intended, and that if any question of interpretation shall arise the obligations of the said Act shall be decisive.

QUESTIONS

[To be satisfactorily answered by probationers before receiving licence, and by Office-bearers at the time of their admission.]

(1) Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and life?

(2) Do you sincerely believe and declare the Confession of Faith approved by the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and explained in the Act of Synod 1952 to be the confession of your faith; and do you acknowledge the doctrine contained in it to be the true doctrine to which you will constantly adhere?

(3) Do you sincerely acknowledge the Biblical warrant for the worship authorised by the Confession of Faith, which worship is illustrated in the Directory for Public Worship of 1645 and in Acts of Synod from time to time?

(4) Do you sincerely believe and declare that the form of church government warranted in Scripture is presbyterian, that is, rule by elders, equal in ruling power, and organised in congregational, regional and national assemblies with power to administer the affairs of the church, but always in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and as they shall be accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's only King and Head?

(5) Do you believe that Church and State are distinct and separate institutions, that both are accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ who has received all authority in heaven and earth from the Father, that the mutually helpful relationship between Church and State does not imply subordination of one to the other in its own sphere, and, in particular, that the civil authorities have no jurisdiction or authoritative control in the spiritual affairs of Christ's Church? Do you acknowledge that in maintaining these Scriptural principles, and the ideal of a united Christian Church in a Christian nation, the Church does not regard the involvement of the State in matters concerning religion as of itself contrary to liberty of conscience, but nor does the Church believe that intolerance or persecution are lawful methods of advancing the kingdom of God?

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(6) Do you promise in God's strength, to live a holy and exemplary life; to promote the purity, peace, unity and progress of this Church; and to follow no divisive course from the doctrine, worship, discipline and government of this Church, but rather to faithfully assert, maintain and defend the same, rejecting whatever is contrary to or inconsistent with it; and to submit yourself to the decisions of your brothers in the various courts of this Church.

Deacons

(6) Do you promise to perform faithfully all the duties of the office to which you have been called, including practising faithful stewardship yourself and encouraging it in others; cultivating the ministry of mercy in the congregation, and generally handling the Lord's money in a manner that is efficient and above reproach?

Elders

(6) Do you promise to perform faithfully all the duties of the office to which you have been called including encouraging the spiritual growth of the church members, seeking to bring others to know Christ, visiting the sick of mind or body, and attending on the meetings associated with your office?

Licentiatees or others certified to preach

(6) Do you promise to seek diligently to become an able expositor of the Word of God, an understanding and helpful pastoral visitor, a faithful minister of God?

Ministers

(6) Do you solemnly affirm that you have not used any unlawful or improper means for obtaining this call directly, or indirectly through the hands of others at your request; and are zeal for the honour of God, love to Jesus Christ, and the desire of saving souls, your great motives and chief inducements to enter upon the work of the holy ministry, and not worldly plans and interests?

(7) Do you accept the call of this congregation [Or: the appointment to this charge] and promise, by God's grace, to perform faithfully, diligently and cheerfully all the duties of your office, including bringing to your congregation the fruits of careful and earnest study of the Word of God as well as understanding and faithful pastoral care; seeking to win the lost to Christ; and taking part in the meetings associated with your office in a positive and constructive way; while also paying due regard to your personal devotional life and walk with the Lord, as also the care of your family?

.....

FORMULA OF SUBSCRIPTION

[To be subscribed by Probationers before receiving Licence, and by all Office-bearers at the time of their admission.]

Ido hereby declare, that

- (1) I believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and life.
- (2) I sincerely own and believe the whole doctrine contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith of 1647, and explained by the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in the Act of Synod 1952, to be the truths of God; and I do sincerely believe and declare the same to be the confession of my faith.
- (3) I also sincerely acknowledge the Biblical warrant for the worship authorised by the Confession of Faith, which worship is illustrated in the Directory for Public Worship and in Acts of Synod from time to time.
- (4) I further sincerely believe and declare that the form of church government warranted in Scripture is presbyterian, that is, rule by elders, equal in ruling power, and organised in congregational, regional and national assemblies with power to administer the affairs of the church, but always in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and as they shall be accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's only King and Head.
- (5) I believe that Church and State are distinct and separate institutions, that both are accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ who has received all authority in heaven and earth from the Father, that the mutually helpful relationship between Church and State does not imply subordination of one to the other in its own sphere, and, in particular, that the civil authorities have no jurisdiction or authoritative control in the spiritual affairs of Christ's Church. I acknowledge that in maintaining these Scriptural principles, and the ideal of a united Christian Church in a Christian nation, the Church does not regard the involvement of the State in matters concerning religion as of itself contrary to liberty of conscience, but nor does the Church believe that intolerance or persecution are lawful methods of advancing the kingdom of God.
- (6) I also promise, in God's strength, to live a holy and exemplary life; to promote the purity, peace, unity and progress of this Church; and to follow no divisive course from the doctrine, worship, discipline and government of this Church, but rather to faithfully assert, maintain and defend the same, rejecting whatever is contrary to or inconsistent with it; and to submit myself to the decisions of my brothers in the various courts of this Church.
- (7) I further promise to fulfil faithfully all the duties of my office.

Subscribed at Name

Date:

CHURCH & NATION, WITH YOUTH & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Members: *D. K. Muldoon (convener), R.W. Murray (Banner), M.G Smith (Website), G. Hamilton, T. Reeve, S.R Tamata.* This committee met in May at Cardiff.

Church and Nation: We have much to thank the Lord for as we live in this nation of Australia. We hear of wars and violence in so many nations. We hear of Christians being persecuted especially in Islamic and Communist countries. In India militant Hindus continue to persecute Christians. Last Christmas in one Indian state seven tribal Christians were butchered and over 400 homes were torched along with a number of churches.

We had a smooth transition of government in 2007, unlike that in Kenya and so many places. Indeed, we have a great deal to be thankful for – stable government, law and order, freedom and security, high living standards, opportunities for education, and employment at its highest level for over thirty years. It is not as it once was. But then it is not as it might be if the Lord dealt with us as we deserved. We pray for the new government and for our prime minister to stand firm - especially in the light of the ACT government's determination to legalise same sex marriages.

We give thanks to the Lord for drought-breaking rains in recent days across much of the land. Many farming families suffered and still suffer. We prayed for them and continue to pray above all that they turn to the Lord and be saved. *If you walk in my statutes and keep my commandments and perform them then I will give you rain in its season the land will yield its produce and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit* (Lev 26:3,4). We hear a lot about climate change, but little about prayer. 'Weather worship' has become yet another god in our land. The climate may well be changing but let all the earth know that the Almighty Creator God, not man, is the one in control of this earth.

Selfishness and disobedience to the commands of God characterise all levels of our society today, and though there is an outward show of "mateship" and "compassion" for which we can be very thankful, there is also an underlying tension, antagonism and tendency towards violence. This is reflected in litigation, incidents of road rage, binge drinking, mindless acts of violence, and sheer bad manners. Much personal suffering and poverty is self inflicted, or in the words of Scripture a case of 'reaping what you sow' (Gal 6:7). High expectations, irresponsibility, and unthankfulness create a sense of grievance in the minds of many. A range of measures seek to address the needs of those disadvantaged – but these are sometimes used irresponsibly.

Notwithstanding, compassion and concern for the genuine poor is at a low ebb. As a nation we give proportionately less to alleviate poverty in the world than any other developed nation. The rich are getting richer and the poor poorer. God told his people there should be no poor among you (Deut 15:4). As Jesus went through the town and villages of Israel he was moved with compassion for the people that were weary and scattered like sheep without a shepherd (Mat 9:36). We ought to feel the same as we look out upon our nation today. But we must not stop there. Jesus went on to say: *The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest* (Mat 9:37,38) Our task is great but our God is greater.

The Presbyterian Banner (from the editor): The continued transition of *The Presbyterian Banner* from a printed magazine to a combination of printed and web production is going well - and I'm thankful to God for the strength given thus far to produce the magazine. I'm also thankful to those who have contributed to the magazine and those who have continued to read it. If we take into account its pdf presence on the web [hits], direct e-mail distribution, subscribers, complimentary copies, and congregational distribution, our "readership" averages about 470 per month. At least others "out there" must appreciate the magazine, even if our own members don't. I was very humbled by the comment of one reader [not from our church] who wrote: *"I love the Presbyterian Banner; It's one of my favourite magazines. It's Godly, easy to read, topical and informative. May God continue to bless this work."*

We are also thankful to those who have given donations to the magazine. Of special note is an anonymous donation of \$500, conveyed to the Banner Fund by the Treasurer. We thank this generous donor – as well as others who gave well in excess of the subscription price. Total donations for the beginning of 2008 stand at \$636.

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I would also like to thank those contributors and correspondents who have made it possible for me to be more of an Editor than a Producer. The Rev. George Ball has been most faithful in this area and an example to others. I hope he continues his good work! I would also like to thank our very competent team in the Northern Rivers for their help – Roberta Murray for looking after packaging, John McPhee for looking after the finances; Ross Campbell for handling the Postage; and Susan Scott for keeping all the margins straight. It's great to have no worries in these areas! And, of course, we also thank our faithful readers for their encouragement and support.

The Balance Sheet for 2007 is available below. We finished the year with a credit balance of \$997.83, and with subscriptions and donations, our opening balance for 2008 stands at about \$3,247. We estimate that Production and Postage will cost in the vicinity of \$1,600 leaving a balance of about \$1,600 at the end of the year.

Someone mentioned through the year that the method of having congregations produce their own copies was only an exercise in “cost shifting” – ie it costs just as much to print the magazine as to have it sent. When the changeover occurred there were two concerns: [1] The uncertainty of the cost of production; and [2] reducing the work of packing and posting. Both these have now been resolved. If Congregations now involved in production [6] wish to review their options, our production team could cope with it! It would add less than 10 packages to the distribution list. We could also consider reducing our bulk rates from \$20 to \$15! [Current cost of production and postage is \$13.75 per year].

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Balance 31/12/2006 cf	\$ 958.49	Printing	\$1,364.89
Subscriptions	\$1,958.72	Postage/Labels	\$545.32
Interest	<u>\$ 13.33</u>	Statement Fee	<u>\$22.50</u>
Total	<u>\$2,930.54</u>	Balance, 31/12/2007	<u>\$ 997.83</u>

The official PCEA website (from the webmaster): The denominational website (www.pcea.org.au) continues to develop. I was confirmed as webmaster at the 2007 meeting of Synod and the work which was underway at that time has continued. I am grateful to James Ramsay of the Geelong congregation for his work in getting the design of the site working and for transferring much of the content from the old site.

We are now using a content management system called Joomla which allows the possibility of many people contributing to the website in different ways and at different levels. The full potential of this has still to be realised. For some time we have been anticipating a new release of Joomla, which makes a number of significant changes as to how details are handled. This release has now taken place and work is ongoing to handle the transition of the website to this new version. It is hoped that this will make contributions from others easier than before. It is planned that when the transition has been made that some tutorials will be created to assist others in contributing to the website. These will also assist those congregations which choose to move beyond the one page design many have at present. Statistics indicate a steady stream of visitors to the website, especially from outside Australia. In addition, a number of people have used the website to enquire about times/locations of services in congregations.

Much work still requires to be done and I am grateful to those who have indicated some of the more obvious gaps. In particular, it would be good to see a number of people contributing new content to the website. In future, these contributions should be even easier to make. Although some material did not make the transition from the old site this could still be done by those responsible.

Church-wide Family Camp: It is planned to hold the biennial PCEA Family Camp at Naamaroo Conference Centre, Sydney in January 2009. It is hoped that all ministers who can attend will be prepared to give a talk and that each congregation will share what the Lord is doing in their midst.

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Other Camps: The Brisbane congregation organised a camp at Lennox Head over a weekend in November. Some 50 people attended some from as far north as Caboolture in Qld and as far south as Wauchope. They studied the book of Daniel together, and also enjoyed games and a talent quest one evening.

The Manning congregation held a youth/family camp at Pappinbarra in October with 65 attending, many for the first time. Members of the Exodus Group and the Hunter Bible church led the studies and other activities. The theme was 'who will be your king'. They enjoyed learning new songs, games, craft and bush walks. One young camper wrote 'it was a fun camp because a lot of friends were there and we also made heaps of new friends. We definitely want to go again next year'.

Memory Work: In 2007 our Sunday Schools presented 110 certificates (5 congregations) as notified to the convener (a decrease of 10 on last year). Some congregations requested certificates while others produced their own certificates. It is encouraging to see the children being taught the Scriptures and we acknowledge those who are so faithfully teaching the children in our congregations. We are of course commanded to teach the children diligently, both in the house and when we walk by the way (Deut 7:7).

Essays: Ten children submitted essays according to the questions set out by the committee. It was pleasing to see more children sending essays this year. These children were rewarded for their effort with a \$25 prize.

Birthday Roll: Mrs Margaret Kinder sent out birthday cards to 166 of our children. This was slightly less than last year as some children have 'graduated' while others have left. Please notify Margaret of any children who could be receiving this treat on their birthday. The cards are sent with prayer for the child and their family.

Search Work: Mrs Irene Steel continued as coordinator of this program. She writes 'In 2007, 11 children submitted answers to the search work questions, thanks mainly to some very dedicated parents. Each year, the children continue to receive book prizes for completing the questions. It is encouraging when, at the beginning of the year some new families start their children on the work, as others grow up and leave off. This has happened in 2008. It is nearly 26 years since I took over writing the questions. It is getting easier now, as I am recycling questions I have used before. I am about to put all the questions on a CD-i.e. 10 years worth of questions, that cover most of the books of the Bible suitable for question and answer'.

Set Work for Youth 2008:

Scripture Memory:

METRICAL PSALMS

Infants	Psalm 23/121 Psalm 67/100
Junior	Psalm 84 Psalm 8
Senior	Psalm 19 Psalm 146

SCRIPTURE

Junior	Ephesians 6: 10-20
Senior	Ephesians 2:1-10 John 1:1-14

Essays:

INFANTS (<7) 50 words and a picture. What promises are given to those who "ASK", "SEEK" and "KNOCK"? Comment on what each means. Matthew 7:7-11.

JUNIOR (8-12) 400 words. What do the events of Mount Carmel teach us about following God? 1 Kings 18: 20-40.

SENIOR (13-17) 1000 words. In Numbers 21: 4-9 what was the sin of the children of Israel and how were they saved? What is this event likened to in the New Testament? What do we learn from these passages and how do they apply to us? John 3: 14-16

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Psalm Tunes:

JUNIOR

Belmont
Westminster
Carlisle
Holley

SENIOR

Ladywell
Serenity
Melcombe
Torwood

Youth Outreach: Southern Presbytery: During 2007 Knox maintained a monthly youth fellowship as did Narre Warren, so the two groups met together every second week, and Knox participated in the Youth Weekend organised by Peter and Linda McKelvey at Narre Warren. Currently we lack suitable facilities for the many Sudanese youth. A camp was not held in 2007.

Central Presbytery: The Manning continues to run two youth clubs for over fifty children, mostly from non-church families. At Newcastle a school holiday Kids Club's held in January 2008 was attended by 12 local children in addition to children from the congregation. A Kid's Club is conducted on the first Saturday of each month. At Mt Druitt some 10-14 children from the church and neighbourhood attend the Lighthouse Club every Friday after school.

Youth and Fellowship Budget:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Brisbane family camp	400	400
Melbourne family camp	400	0
Essay prizes	250	109 (part)
Search work prizes	100	0
Birthday cards	250	270
PCEA Family camp 2009 (prelim)	200	1000+ 468 shortfall 2007 camp
TOTAL	<u>1600</u>	<u>2427</u>

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES:

1. Synod thank 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 thank all Sunday School teachers and youth leaders for their dedicated work in teaching young people the Word of God.
3. Synod thank Rev Ray Murray and all engaged in the production and distribution of *The Presbyterian Banner*, - Susan Scott, Roberta Murray, John McPhee, and Ross Campbell - and all who have provided material for this publication.
4. Synod thank Rev Gavin Smith for managing the website www.pcea.org.au, and James Ramsay for his assistance.
5. Synod convey to the Prime Minister, the Honourable Mr Kevin Rudd, our concern for the spiritual welfare of our nation, our interest in the measures the Government is implementing to address national and international issues, remind him that Governments as well as individuals are accountable to God for their conduct, and assure him of our prayer that the Lord our God would guide him and his Government in all their decisions.

INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Members: G.D.Ball (Convener 2006), Moderator, Clerk, Moderator Elect, Convener Law and Advisory.

A. CHURCHES WITH WHOM WE ARE IN FRATERNAL RELATIONS.

1. THE ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. 2007

We are pleased to report that the 2007 Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in North America which met at Dordt College, Sioux Centre, Iowa from 14-20 June, unanimously agreed to establish corresponding relations with the PCEA, thus formalising a long association we have had for more than half a century (in RES since 1949; and in ICRC since 1985). Given the decision of our Synod in 2007 (Mutual Eligibility Act OPC 2007) it is now possible to transmit calls in a regular way between our two denominations – subject to the constitutional requirements of each church. Dr. R.S.Ward attended the Synod as fraternal delegate at which he was able to speak about the PCEA.

2. REFORMED CHURCHES OF NEW ZEALAND. 2002

We entered into fraternal relations with the Reformed Churches of New Zealand in 2002, and established the Mutual Eligibility Act in 2006. We expect to welcome Rev. Reinier Noppers as the fraternal delegate from RCNZ. There are 19 congregations and 2 mission posts. Over the past couple of years the church has lost a number of ministers (three to the CRCA), with 4 vacancies in the South Island and 1 in the North Island. We have received an invitation to their next Synod scheduled for 6-12th September 2008.

3. FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. 1954 and 2005

Our association with the Free Church of Scotland goes back to the very earliest days, and while broken for a period in the 19th century was formalised in the Federal Relations Act 1954, which was replaced by the Mutual Eligibility Act (Free Church of Scotland) 2005. We expect to welcome Rev. Dr. Alistair Wilson (Dumisani) as the fraternal delegate from FCS.

4. REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA. 2004

Though relationships with the RPCA go back a long way, things were not formalised until the Fraternal Relations Act 2004. The RPCA work appears to be making progress with the Geelong congregation employing a second pastor, the Frankston work now an independent congregation, and McKinnon a preaching station. The work in Sunbury has ceased. At the close of 2006 there were about 130 communicant members and an average attendance at morning services of 153.

5. REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND. 2006

Our relationship was formalised in 2006. There are about 3 dozen congregations and 32 pastoral charges, with mission work in Galway (west coast), and France (Nantes). There are a considerable number of mission teams during holiday periods and very successful summer camps for the young people.

6. REFORMED CHURCHES OF NETHERLANDS (LIBERATED). 1999.

The RCN (L) recognises PCEA as a full sister church since 1999. Their General Synod is in progress in Zwolle-Zuid having commenced on 15th March. We received an invitation to be present on week 22, ie. 27th – 31st May; when inter church relations will be considered. It may be of interest to note that the committee reports to the General Synod must be submitted 3 months prior to the meeting of Synod. These reports are no longer distributed in printed format but are published on the web-site. (www.gkv.nl) English translation available. The Convener has conveyed fraternal greetings to the Synod. The RCN (L) are to be commended for their commitment to Biblical ecumenical relations, their involvement in the ICRC as well as hosting and promoting various regional missionary conferences, and they also publish quarterly “Lux Mundi.”

B. CHURCHES WITH WHOM WE HAVE CONTACT.

1. THE CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCHES OF AUSTRALIA.

Though we have had an association with this church since its beginning in the 1950's nothing has been formalised. We have regularly exchanged delegates.

2. THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

We note with satisfaction the letter of apology received by the Clerk of Synod from the Rev. M. Shand, Presbytery Clerk of the EPC (dated 31/1/08) in regard to the allegation of schism made in 1969/70 when the EPC reviewed their actions in releasing the Penguin (now Ulverstone) congregation in 1965. Revs. Ball and Ward took the opportunity of having an informal meeting in Launceston on 19/2/08 with Revs. Coleborn and Shand when in Tasmania on other business. It was a courteous and constructive meeting. Assuming the letter is dealt with at Synod with this Report, we would recommend it be received, and the thanks of the Synod be conveyed to the EPC Presbytery.

3. REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA.

Dr. R.S. Ward attended and was warmly received by the RPCNA Synod in 2007 at Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa., and brought greetings. The RPCNA have about 75 congregations totalling about 4,600 communicant members. Given the positive response, our closeness in principle and practice, and the fact we are both members of the ICRC we should desire closer relations with the RPCNA.

4. GEREJA-GERAJA REFORMASI CALVINIS (GGRC –NTT).

A Reformed Church in West Timor, Indonesia, which is a member of the ICRC. The Rev. Yonson Dethan who is the Convener of the Relations with Churches Abroad states in an e-mail (18/10/07), "Since we are not too far from each other, we hope in the guidance of our Triune God we can come together and help each other to grow.....(When) we fly to New Zealand in the year 2009 for the next ICRC, we hope to stop over to visit your churches....We hope through the contacts and connections, our relationship can grow more and more. We also hope that in the future we can keep our relationship not only by correspondence, but also by visits or working together on missions, education, mission trips, pray for each other, etc." Do keep this in mind when in October 2009 this brother will be travelling to New Zealand. It would be highly desirable to have him come and speak in as many of our churches as possible.

5. PRESBYTERIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

The Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia (PRCA) was formed in 1967 with the withdrawal of a large section of the Sutherland congregation of the PCNSW over the heresy then rampant. There are now 11 congregations in Australia and mission work in Fiji. Any contact we have had has been mainly local and informal. We received greetings from their Presbytery at Synod 1981. More recently the PRCA have provided excellent workers to AIM. It seems appropriate that we should formalise our relationship with the PRCA.

6. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES.

The next Conference of the ICRC is scheduled to meet in Christchurch; New Zealand from 15 – 22 October 2009 (DV) hosted by the Reformed Churches of New Zealand.

For further details – see the web-site – www.icronline.com

It has been stated repeatedly in the past that we ought to establish fraternal and closer relations with churches already in the ICRC. This sounds a good idea but not always practical or prudent. For example, there are churches where we have obvious linguistic and cultural differences; and there are also churches which are pioneering the Reformed faith (and often small) in their own country. Seeking to establish mutual eligibility with such churches would not be practical or advantageous. Being a

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fellow member of the ICRC helps to express our unity in the faith. Nonetheless, we will continue to consider all practical relationships.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES:

1. We record with gratitude the decision of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church at their General Assembly in 2007 to establish corresponding relations with the PCEA.
2. That Synod note and confirm that the ICR Convener was authorised by Synod 1997 to send fraternal greetings at the appropriate time to those churches with whom we have fraternal relations
3. That Synod receive the letter from the Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and that the Clerk convey the thanks of Synod to the EPC Presbytery.
4. That Synod send Christian greetings to the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia expressing our desire to have fraternal relations with them.
5. (a). The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia (PCEA) recognises in the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) a church whose principles and practices are similar to our own. It requires adherence from its office bearers to the Westminster Confession of Faith and practices purity of worship as we do. We have benefited in recent years from the ministry of Rev. George D. Ball (formerly of the RPCI), who completed part of his training with the RPCNA. Another of our ministers, Rev. Dr. Rowland S. Ward, a number of whose publications are circulated within the RPCNA, was warmly welcomed as a visitor to your meeting of Synod in 2007. We have entered into formal relations with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia (RPCA) in 2004 in terms of our Fraternal Relations Act 1993, and similarly with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland (RPCI) in 2006. Both the RPCNA and the PCEA are members of the ICRC. The Synod, therefore, desires to establish a relationship with the RPCNA 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 to the glory of God. Accordingly, the Synod of the PCEA would welcome recognition by the RPCNA in a corresponding Act.

(b). Synod affirms that we are also prepared to specifically provide for mutual eligibility in similar terms to what we have with the Free Church of Scotland (2005), the Reformed Churches of New Zealand (2006) and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church (2007), so that ministers, subject to the constitutional requirements of each church may move in a Presbyterian way between denominations. Mutual Eligibility is designed to implement the thinking of the Westminster Fathers as reflected in the Form of Presbyterian Church Government 1645, in its provisions for receiving ministers from other Reformed Churches, and to formalise it in an orderly way.

(c). The Synod of the PCEA acknowledges and is satisfied that RPCNA Presbyteries may issue Calls to eligible PCEA ministers and probationers, and likewise affirms the right of the PCEA Presbyteries to process Calls to eligible RPCNA men. Mutual eligibility does not impinge on the right and responsibility of the relevant RPCNA or PCEA Presbyteries to require that every incoming minister is familiar with the history, doctrine and practice of the church he is entering, so that he is able to subscribe heartily and intelligently to the formula of subscription. Mutual eligibility does not remove the requirement to produce full and satisfactory presbyterial certificates of character and attainment, including clearance under any relevant child protection legislation. When a PCEA congregation calls a minister, a meeting with the PCEA Presbytery may take place after the Call is issued and before it is accepted. This ought to ensure that the minister may assess more clearly 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 (Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America) 2008.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Member: D.P. Smith (Convener), I Conley, J Greensill, D Muldoon, N Robinson, T Leggott

Contents of Report:

1. Committee Activities
2. Mission Field Reports
3. Malcolm McSwann Mission Relief Fund
4. Prayer Calender
5. Finance Aspects
6. Proposed Deliverances

Committee Activities: All the members of the committee were able to meet on the 3rd March 2008 at Taree. Other dialogue, discussion and decisions have been carried out by telephone and email.

Mission Field Reports:

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES – Rev Trevor Leggott reports:

The past year has seen major changes in government policy in relation to Indigenous issues, not least the intervention in the NT as a result of the reports commissioned in to child abuse. State government reports and coroner's findings have been so shocking that urgent action was called for. Implementation of this intervention caused a lot of distress amongst many Aboriginal families. The main issue was lack of consultation with Indigenous leaders. There was real fear amongst many that children would be removed from families, a resurfacing of the "stolen generations" issues. Fortunately the Howard government, under minister Mal Brough, took heed of the concern and did begin to develop better processes as things progressed. There is general support for this (and further) intervention as a first step in resolving deep seated social problems. With the newly elected Rudd government taking steps for a formal apology for past actions in taking children from families there is good potential to do some constructive good.

A major and perhaps unique opportunity is being put in place for Christians to play a part in laying better foundations for the future. The government is to fund major development, education and health programs for our indigenous people and there is much scope for Christians to take up this work in many areas. As has been the case for many years, good intentions and good programs could fail because they can't be staffed. Christians with a strong understanding of God's call on their life and work would be well equipped to "stay the distance" in a difficult environment.

The greatest need for AIM into the future is to provide well equipped, trained and supported full time missionaries to undertake Bible teaching ministries at regional centres throughout Australia. Good relationships are developing with training facilities like Sydney Missionary and Bible College, the Presbyterian Theological College, the Reformed Theological College and Moore College. Students have been given short-term appointments on the field, or participated in Mission Awareness Tours, to gain exposure to the needs and opportunities for service with AIM.

A secondary but important function of the mission is to connect people with training in specific areas with job opportunities that exist amongst indigenous communities and in regional and rural centre. Areas of health care, education, and management provide daily contact with many aboriginal folk. Christian witness and relationship development can be a powerful tool for good. As far as practicable these TEAM Partners are included in local fellowship groups and under the care of senior mission personnel.

Aboriginal Christian leaders from both AIM and AEF (Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship) have come together to explore the best way to move ahead with the urgent need for training of pastors and leaders for the future. The present need for providing on site training at a vocational level was recognised. AIM has been running a program in southern Queensland for some years, but on a more informal level, and not with a view to participants gaining accreditation. Steps are under way to develop a formal systematic teaching program using the well respected Bimbadeen Training Centre as the

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vehicle for service delivery. As a first step it is anticipated that a suitable program will be in place for Queensland and Western NSW by mid-2008.

I remain deeply appreciative of the support I receive as a missionary of the PCEA, and the encouragement I have received from many to continue with this ministry. I firmly believe that good foundations have been laid for the future, and yet much is left to be done. It has been really encouraging to see involvement from people from churches including the PCEA, the Westminster Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Reformed Church, the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Reformed Baptist churches, Korean Presbyterian Churches, and Sydney Anglican Churches.

Any acquaintance with the spiritual, social and environmental circumstances of a large majority of the indigenous people of Australia should continue to move us to Gospel action. Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full."

The Convener adds: It has been very pleasing and encouraging to see the giving to 'Missions Support AIM' increase by approximately 50 percent on last year. Much thanks go to all those who have contributed to this vital ministry amongst the indigenous people of Australia. Be ever prayerful and keep up the wonderful support.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL: Rev Paul Morris reports on future hopes & plans in Australia

General: We are grateful to God for the provision of permanent residency visas for the Park family and for the renewal of the Morris' Temporary residency until January 2010. 2007 was a time of house moving for CWI staff as we moved to rented properties in the eastern suburbs, the Park's to Bronte and the Morris' to Rose Bay. It feels good to be in Jewish neighbourhoods. The CWI property in Bexley has been rented out. 2007 was an unusual year for Paul Morris due to an ongoing surgical problem which is still not resolved. It has been a time of testing. Much of the work has been unhindered but there have been some restrictions to normal activity.

KayChan Park: Items on KayChan are elsewhere in this report but I will report here on his unique ministry among Korean Christians. He has spoken in many of their churches in Australia and at various conferences. He has had a regular column on mission in a Korean Christian paper. All this has begun to stimulate interest in Jewish mission. Difficulties in his home church have led to a drop in his support level but he will be visiting Korea soon to speak of his ministry.

Outreach: The Friday book table witness in Bondi Junction has gone on regularly. KayChan and myself man this with occasional assistance from volunteers. KayChan has met many Israelis in this context and seeks to keep in contact with them. We have experienced some hindrance to this by a newly arrived Rabbi employed by an anti-missionary group. When he comes along Jewish people are intimidated and most keep away.

A start has been made on creating a network of Christian homes where Israeli backpackers can stay as they travel through Australia. A Hebrew web site is being created to facilitate this ministry. KayChan will lead this ministry once it is established.

Workplace witness in the Central Business District (CBD) of Sydney: We now have an established relationship with Ecom, a workplace ministry to all. I have conducted a five-week course of teaching on Jewish witness. This has been followed up with a regular monthly fellowship called Chavurah, which is for Christians who know Jews at work.

The Friday night Haderek Bible Study has closed as there was only one regular attender, Talla, and it seemed to me that, having come to faith and grown, she was ready to attend a church. She has now settled into a local church, for which we thank God.

An occasional witness in Melbourne led by George Ball has continued, with two volunteers. It has mostly been door-to-door work. A young man, Mark, has moved to Melbourne to help. He has a

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strong desire to witness to Jews and did some training with me first. May the Lord guide and bless him.

JEF Day: This has been organised by a committee of three, two Jewish believers plus myself. It is not a CWI event. It aims to encourage Jewish Christians. For 2007 we altered our strategy to one major event a year and four fellowship evenings in the hope this would increase attendance. It was of limited success and in 2008 we will have just two Saturday morning events, one on the theme of celebrating festivals and the other on the significance of the covenant for Jewish believers.

IJEF (International Jewish Evangelical Fellowship): An annual conference is planned for September 2008 and Paul plans to attend. Paul has continued his work on the IJEF e-journal, the IJEF Chavurah. Two editions were produced in 2007 and three are planned for 2008. He now has an assistant editor. The concern is to encourage and strengthen Jewish believers in their role as Jewish believers in the churches.

Office Work: Garry Griffin has continued as our worker to handle the office administrative work. One other has given occasional help with phoning supporters.

Web Site: A Christian company have been contracted to improve our web site and enable easier updating. The main purpose of this is to be able to provide resources for witness (books, CDs, DVDs) to the many Christians who meet Jewish people day by day.

Deputation: In 2007 tours were made to churches in Tasmania, Melbourne and Canberra. The churches visited in Tasmania were new ones and those in Melbourne and Canberra were existing supporters. Plans for 2008 include a visit to Perth and Brisbane as well as an extended visit to the UK.

Annual Edersheim Lecture: In 2008 there were two different lectures. In Melbourne, Steve Voorwinde of the Reformed Theological College spoke on How Jewish is Israel in the New Testament? In Sydney, Ian Pennicook spoke on The Place of Israel in Systematic Theology. Both had about 30 people attending and a number of recordings were ordered. We would like to have seen more people attending. In 2008 the lecture will take place in July. It will be on Luther and the Jews and be given by Mark Thompson.

Melbourne Developments: In 2007 a committee was established in Melbourne to steer the work. It will aim to engage in evangelism, stimulate support in the churches and look for new workers. This is a very encouraging step forwards.

Church Denominations and Mission to Jews: In 2007 we were formally linked as a Partner mission with the mission arm of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. I contributed an article to their magazine when their theme was mission to Jews. We continue to work on the long-term hope of seeing the Anglicans in Sydney partnering with us in some way that means they will have workers among the Jews. The Edersheim lecture by Steve Voorwinde of the Christian Reformed Church has led to his lecture being published in their magazine and an opportunity to stimulate support in that denomination.

Support and Finances: We have engaged in a pruning exercise as we discovered about 300 out of our 850 supporters were unresponsive to our request for some expression of interest. This was sad but we hope it was responsible. Our income is increased and it is almost keeping up with expenditure, which has increased due to all the costs of moving to new accommodation during 2007. We look to the Lord to continue to meet our needs.

CWI Australia - Looking ahead: We continue to give serious consideration to future developments for the work, including the matter of how it should be lead and for new workers in Melbourne.

May the Lord establish the thoughts of our hearts according to His will.

DUMISANI THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE – The Convener reports:

Dumisani Theological Institute exists to provide theological education and training for the church in South Africa, with a particular focus on the isiXhosa-speaking churches of the Eastern Cape. Dumisani operates under the direction of a Board of Governors, representing the interests of the following churches: the Free Church in Southern Africa, the Free Church of Scotland, the Gereformeerde Kerk Oos Londen and the Gereformeerde Kerk iMonti. The doctrinal position of Dumisani Theological Institute and Bible School is that reflected in The Belgic Confession, The Canons of Dort and The Heidelberg Catechism; and The Westminster Confession of Faith and its Catechisms.

The Institute began in 1979 as the Dimbaza Reformed Bible School. The main emphasis then was lay training and the provision of basic literature in English and Xhosa. In 1985 the work moved to King William's Town. In 1991 Diploma classes were started for men studying for the ministry and in 1997 the link with Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (now North-West University) was forged.

The two paragraphs above are taken with permission from the Dumisani web site www.dumisani.org. There are links there to Dumisani newsletters which will keep delegates abreast of what is happening at the Institute and Bible School. The PCEA has had a strong connection to South Africa, particularly through Dr Campbell Andrews, who made a 'remarkable contribution to the South African church as a medical missionary, preacher and church builder.' Dr Andrews spent around 22 years in South Africa from 1948-1964 and 1970-1975. In this later six years Dr Andrews was seconded to a Methodist hospital in King William's Town before he retired to Wauchope. Four years later the beginnings of Dumisani Theological Institute in King William's Town began as the Dimbaza Reformed Bible School.

Rev. Dr Alistair Wilson was appointed Principal of the Institute in 2006. Some new faces have helped bolster the teaching and administrative staff. Deon and Shelley Lombard are a wonderful God given provision: Deon will be Lecturer in Old Testament and Biblical Theology and Shelley will take on the role of Registrar / Senior Administrator. All being well, Dr John Ross and Mrs Elizabeth Ross will also join Dumisani from June 2008. What is most pleasing to see is the Institutes desire that everything that is done may be to the glory of God. There is a real focus on the future, recognition of the needs of the church in South Africa and that the students be made up of people whom the Lord has called to serve him in whatever capacity it might be.

In 2009 Dumisani will be applying for recognition to teach the syllabus leading to the degree of Bachelor of Theology. Accordingly, the Institute needs a greater library and particularly, commentaries to match the demands of the BTh. There is also the practical need of updating computer facilities which are old, extremely slow and unreliable. We can rejoice in that there has been a good start to the 2008 year with a healthy number of new and continuing students.

As delegates should be aware, Alistair Wilson and his wife Jenny will be visiting and speaking to our congregations over a period of three weeks in May coinciding with Synod 2008. Alistair and Jenny will also speak about Dumisani at the Synod Missions Evening. Please pray for their health and safety as they travel. Also, pray that they will be a great encouragement, heightening the profile of Dumisani amongst our congregations.

INDIA – Dr Dennis Muldoon reports:

India as a nation continues to experience rapid economic progress. The cities are bustling with new cars on new motorways. People shop in new supermarkets for brand name clothes- if they have the money. For most people these new products are beyond their budget. Over 70 % of the population still live in villages. I was told the sad story of a poor rural family who came to the city to get a better life. The father stepped off the train and was killed by a bus. The young mother committed suicide the next day, leaving their 18 month old baby orphaned.

Brief statistics for prayer for India:

- 31 states and 1618 languages
- 6400 castes and six religions
- Six ethnic groups and 29 major festivals

Presbyterian Free Church: Presbyterian Free Church became the official registered name of the Free Church of Central India (FCCI) in June 2007. I met Rev David John in Malaysia where he shared about the work of the Presbyterian Free Church. He is due to retire but still ministers in Premnagar Church, Jabalpur. He continues preaching and outreach into the neighbourhood. With his wife's help he opens a reading room at the church most days. He was contacted by Compassion India about a program to teach and feed poor children. The church plans to go ahead with this project in which poor children will come to the church each day for lessons and Bible teaching as well as a nutritious meal. Rev David John hopes to modify the roof of the church as a place for the children to meet.

Samit Mishra has been ordained and gone to Lakhnadon. Rev Shyam Babu plans to move to Jabalpur. There was some growth at Lakhnadon in the past year and work was going on to construct a wall around the property.

Vinay Das works with Grace Ministries and the Free Church at Chhapara. He leads in a fellowship in his local village. Pradeep John who teaches at the school works with Vinay in this local ministry. He plans to start theological studies while continuing to teach in the Mission School.

Lakhnadon Christian Hospital: The Medical Superintendent, Dr Adarsh Benn, has sent his usual comprehensive annual report. There was a 28% increase in tests in the hospital laboratory and good use of cardiac diagnostic services. They conducted free eye camps in surrounding villages and gave dental checks. A TB project was started to treat and raise awareness of this disease. A new ultrasound machine is proving a great help to the diagnostic work.

I was able to meet Dr Santhosh, the CEO of EHA in New Delhi. He gave a positive report about this hospital. I was referred to Dr Sidney Thyle who, under the new regional structure of EHA, is responsible for LCH. He assured me the grants sent by the PCEA were being properly utilised by LCH. Almost 40% of their funding is generated by the hospital, the remaining funds being from grants. PCEA funding amounts to about 3% of their total budget.

The Chhapara Community Health and Development Project: The Chhapara Community Health and Development Project works in 26 villages having a total population of 25,281. The major activities of the project are community organisation, adolescent girls training, HIV/AIDS and Malaria awareness as well as reproductive and child health services. Immunization status has reached 98% in some older villages. 1711 people were treated for malaria. This project is managed by Shadrach Khristi. PCEA was providing almost 50% of the funding to the Chhapara CHD Project. This project was recently combined with the Spandana Community Project running from LCH.

Mission Schools: Chhapara Mission School continues as a renowned educational institution in the district. Students have achieved well in exams and in extra curricular activities. Mr Michael John Kumar continues to give excellent Christian leadership. They have added new classrooms and provide scholarships to needy students using funds given by the PCEA.

Lakhnadon Mission School continues to expand with 11 classrooms and over 450 students. Rev Shyam Babu handed over management of this school on advice of the Free Church of Scotland Missions Board. He continues to teach Bible classes in the school.

Dr Dickson - New Delhi: Dr Dickson lives in Delhi where his wife teaches in a school for slum children. He took me to the slums on the outskirts of the city; a slum where many people keep buffaloes in small dairies. He has been asked to assist with veterinary services in this slum and is praying about such a ministry. Meanwhile he travels to interior places to conduct training in animal husbandry. In March 2008 he went to Darjeeling to assist Dr Tigi Verghis in such training for hill farmers.

Dr Tigi Verghis - Siliguri: Tigi has made further contact with Reformed churches in the Darjeeling hills. A student I taught at PTS is now the pastor in this district. Tigi met with the 'kirk session' and has started training the local folk in agriculture and development. He is very excited about this

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partnership with local churches in the hills. He rides his motorbike all day to get to church and then has to walk to the hill villages. He requests prayer for safety in the midst of ethnic tensions in Siliguri. There are frequent bandhs (strikes) and road closures as the people agitate for a separate state. His three boys are growing up with two now in school.

Presbyterian Theological Seminary: The PTS plays a strategic role in the growth and development of Reformed churches in India and Nepal. Most Reformed churches, including the PFC (FCCI), have a seat on the board of PTS and in fact PFC has two places allocated for sponsored students. Apart from teaching 23 BTh students during my leave there, I witnessed the 'ground breaking' for a new married students and staff hostel. PTS has to turn away many married candidates for lack of accommodation. One staff member is currently at PTC Melbourne doing post graduate studies, and another hopes to come to PTC in Sydney.

The Convener Adds: Rev Dr Dennis Muldoon represented the Missions Committee at the ICRC Missions Conference in Kuala Lumpur in late January 2008. A brief report of this conference is contained in Annex A.

SOUTH AMERICA – Mr Ian Conley reports:

PERU

Colegio San Andres: The sad loss of two students in a motor vehicle accident while on a visit to Scotland during the northern summer of 2006 still reverberates through the work in San Andres. The advice to date remains that there was no negligence by either the school or staff. So in the normal course of events any legal action would be unlikely to succeed. Due to matters taking place in Lima in the later part of 2007 it was deemed desirable for the Principal, Mr Donald Macaulay, and the Head of Secondary, Rev Tim Donachie, to leave the work. This they did in late 2007.

The loss of these senior staff caused some disruption and uncertainty within the school community. As Mr Clive Bailey was unable to take up the appointment of Principal until the end of the year, Rev Marcos Florit, a past principal, was requested to fill the gap. This he and Patty, his wife, did for some months settling down the school community.

Enrolments at the school are critical for the school's viability and its ability to function as a centre of academic excellence. An enrolment of at least 520 is now a matter for prayer by the churches. The school facilities remain cramped, but there is no viable alternative at the moment.

The possibilities for short-term volunteer assistance in teaching English remain. These are self-funded opportunities that need a commitment of at least 3 – 6 months. The last Australian volunteer (to San Andres) was Mrs Margaret Hockett who on her third trip as a volunteer was medically evacuated in 1992 at 70 years of age.

Moyobamba: The Moyobamba work continues to expand with a base congregation of five hundred, with three hundred regular attendees. There are daughter churches in outlying centres with a new work commencing in San Lorenzo this year. Pastor Dario will head up this work. The Puerto Maldonado work where Pastor Dario was knifed is in doubt, but the Moyobamba leadership has requested the Cuzco church to take over the commitment. The Moyobamba church has several assistant pastors and home missionaries in Moyobamba and surrounding centres. The church also supports two theological students and has strategy plans for expansion and outreach to other areas going out some years. The church continues its active outreach program amongst young people, ladies and in two of the local prisons.

The Moyobamba church established the Annie Soper School and enrolments in 2008 are targeted to be 300. The facilities are being improved and the major project for 2006/07 was the construction of a school assembly hall. This has been built and while not finished it is being used.

In July 2008 it is expected that the Rev David MacPherson and the family will move to Scotland. This move is to fulfil the residential requirements and provide the opportunity for schooling for the

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MacPherson children. David had preached in at least two churches in Scotland that are vacant charges. Rev MacPherson has been carrying the load of Acting Principal for Annie Soper during 2007. Wisdom is needed for both the choosing of a replacement “Senior Pastor” and a Principal for the Annie Soper School.

Two volunteers have been accepted to help in Annie Soper with English teaching during 2008. These are Elisabeth Edwards from the USA and Marion from the UK. In addition Karen McDonald from Inverness will be helping with the Moyobamba Clinic later this year. Suitable volunteers are welcome as they are native speakers of English and often bring other skills and experience with them. There is also considerable benefit to the volunteer and the home church.

Lima Evangelical Seminary: The Rev Donnie Smith continues in the leadership post of Rector of the Seminary. This Seminary remains the leading institution for theological training in Perú and as such is of strategic importance.

COLOMBIA

Bible Seminary Medellin: Dr Manuel Reaño continues to head up the Seminary as Principal. His schedule as leader of the Seminary is hectic. Also helping in the Seminary is Rev David Ford who has worked in both Perú and Scotland. Colombia is more stable of late but safety issues remain.

Malcolm McSwann Mission Relief Fund (MMMRF): There were no extra disbursements from this fund in 2007.

Prayer Calendar: The Convener has been compiling and distributing the prayer calendar and from all reports the information is well received by our congregations.

Finance Aspects: Following are the items reflected in the missions’ budget for 2008, which is tabled at the end of this report.

1. MMMRF funding for Rev Trevor Leggott: Mr Leggott furnished the Committee with a report indicating that 26% of his work time was spent on the relief of need amongst indigenous Australians during 2007. This is reflected in the budget for 2008, with 26% of his support coming from the MMMRF.
2. India:
 - a. The Chhapara Mission School: The Committee recommend that the Chhapara Mission School receive \$2,000, as per last year, from the MMMRF for scholarships and resources.
 - b. The Lakhnadon Mission School: The Committee recommend that the Lakhnadon Mission School receive \$1,500 from the MMMRF for scholarships and resources.
 - c. The Committee recommend continuing the support of the important medical work in India. Lakhnadon Christian Hospital: \$10,000, Chhapara Christian Health Centre: \$10,000 from the MMMRF.
 - d. The Committee recommend that Dr P. Dickson continue to receive support of \$2500 from the MMMRF.
 - e. The Committee recommend that the MA’RIFAT Trust that Dr Syed Rahamat Hussain has set up to support Taleem Centres receive \$10,000 from the MMMRF for the next three years. This amount each year will fully fund one Taleem Centre at Patna, Bihar over a three year period. Release of the funding will be subject to the feasibility report that the Free Church of Scotland Missions Board will conduct on-site in October 2008 and ongoing assessment. Refer to Annex B.

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3. CWI: The Committee continues to be greatly encouraged by the work of Paul Morris and KayChan Park. Therefore, the Missions committee recommend that CWI Australia again receive a grant of \$5,000 from Missions General Funds.
4. South America:
 - a. The Committee recommend continuing the provision of funds, \$6,500 from the MMMRF, to provide scholarships for needy students at Colegio San Andres, Lima, Peru.
 - b. The Committee also recommend that the Annie Soper School in Moyobamba receive \$2,200 which will provide scholarships for two needy children.
5. Dumisani Theological Institute: The Committee recommend that \$1,000 be granted from Missions General Funds to support the vital role of reformed teaching by the Institute.
6. Reformation Translation Fellowship Australia: As forecast at Synod 2007, the Committee recommend that \$1,000 be provided from Missions General Funds to support the RTFA project of publishing twenty evangelistic booklets for use in evangelism, discipleship and campus ministry among students in China's universities.

Proposed Deliverances:

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 confirm the secondment of the Rev. Trevor Leggott to serve as General Director of Australian Indigenous Ministries for a further three years from the 1/1/2009
3. That Synod delegates direct their congregations attention to the prayerful and financial support needed for Rev. Trevor Leggott in his ministry with Australian Indigenous Ministries
4. That Synod encourage congregational members to consider volunteering to help as native English speakers in either San Andres or the Annie Soper School.
5. That Synod adopt the budget for 2008 and express general agreement with the estimates for 2009.

Missions Budget 2008

	Budget	2007/Actual	2007/Proposed	2007/Estimate	2008/Estimate	2009/Estimate
Balance at 1 Jan 2007		90131	90131	90131	82658	82658
Income Investments & Assett Revaluation	27000	19926	Income Investments & Assett Revaluation	20000	Income Investments & Assett Revaluation	20000
Giving Missions General	9000	11011	Giving Missions General	10000	Giving Missions General	10000
	0	0				
Missions Support AIM: Giving	6000	9150	Missions Support AIM: Giving	8000	Missions Support AIM: Giving	9000
From the Frontiers Subscriptions	700	817	From the Frontiers Subscriptions	900	From the Frontiers Subscriptions	1000
	42700	40904	Income	38900	Income	40000
Expenditure			Expenditure		Expenditure	
Fiji Expenses	1100		Fiji Expenses	1100		
CWI	5000	5000	CWI	5000	CWI	6000
AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAW/LSL Levy)	38000	37964	AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAW/LSL Levy)	40300	AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAW/LSL Levy)	41000
Visiting Missionary Expenses	1000	3474	Visiting Missionary Expenses	1000	Visiting Missionary Expenses	2000
Dumisan Theol. Institute & Bible School	1000	1000	Dumisan Theol. Institute & Bible School	1000	Dumisan Theol. Institute & Bible School	1500
Admin: Postage, telephone etc	600	105	Admin: Postage, telephone etc	600	Admin: Postage, telephone etc	600
From the Frontiers, Banners	1000	806	From the Frontiers, Banners	1000	From the Frontiers, Banners	1100
Tupa Family		28	Reimbursement Rev Muldoon	969.16		
			RTFA Project	1000		
Total Expenditure	47700	48377	Total Expenditure	51969.16	Total Expenditure	52200
Closing Balance		85131	Closing Balance	69588.84	Closing Balance	57388.84

*Note: Refund for part of this expenditure expected from Dumisan in 2008.

Note: Account Balances 1 Jan 2008

DAA Bequest	79938
Missions General	2040
Missions Support Fiji	680
Missions Support Legg/AIM	0
Total	82658

	Budget	2007/Actual	2007/Proposed	2008/Estimate	2009/Estimate
Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund					
Income			Income		Income
Balance at 1 Jan 2007	508349	508349	Balance at 1 Jan 2006	526593	Balance at 1 Jan 2008
Income Investments & Revaluation	50000	83029	Income Investments & Revaluation	50000	Income Investments & Revaluation
	50000	83029	Total Income	50000	Total Income
Expenditure			Expenditure		Expenditure
Lakmadon Christian Hospital	10000	10000	Lakmadon Christian Hospital	10000	Lakmadon Christian Hospital
Lakmadon Mission School	1500	1500	Lakmadon Mission School	1500	Lakmadon Mission School
Chhapara Christian Health Centre	10000	10000	Chhapara Christian Health Centre	10000	Chhapara Christian Health Centre
Chhapara Mission School	2000	2000	Chhapara Mission School	2000	Chhapara Mission School
San Andres Schlorships	6500	6500	San Andres Schlorships	6500	San Andres Schlorships
Annie Sober Schlorships	2200	2200	Annie Sober Schlorships	2200	Annie Sober Schlorships
AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAW/LSL levy)	15000	9764	AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAW/LSL levy)	14200	AIM (TIL Part Salary, SAW/LSL levy)
Fees and Charges	200	175	Fees and Charges	200	Fees and Charges
Dr Dickson Allahabad	2500	0	Dr Dickson Allahabad	2500	Dr Dickson Allahabad
Reinvestment		22646	Taleen Centre (Dr Japla Hussain)	10000	Taleen Centre (Dr Japla Hussain)
Total Expenditure	49900	64785	Total Expenditure	59100	Total Expenditure
Closing Balance 31 Dec 2007	508449	508449	Closing Balance 31 Dec 2008	517493	Closing Balance 31 Dec 2009

Giving By Congregation 2007

	Brisbane	Armidale	Hastings	Hunter/Barrington	Manning	Anonymous	Hawkesbury (Nepean)	Hamilton	Knox	Narre Warren	Geelong	Ulverstone	Totals
Congregation/Fund													
Leggott/AIM	1200	150	1300	500	3671	1000	200	4000	1600	550	1750	340	9150
Missions General	1200	150	985	2040	3871	1000	100	25	750	750	1750	340	11011
Totals	2400	300	2285	2540	3671	2000	300	4000	2350	1300	3500	680	20161

ANNEX A: Missions Committee Report

ICRC REGIONAL MISSIONS CONFERENCE - KUALA LUMPUR: JANUARY 21-24, 2008

This is a brief report on the ICRC Missions conference held at Damansara Church in Kuala Lumpur from Jan 21-24 2008.

Those attending this conference were from Reformed churches in the Asia region. By country those attending were

Netherlands-4

Korea- 4

Burma -1

Indonesia- 4

PNG- 1

New Zealand - 3

India- 4

Malaysia-1

Australia -1

USA-1

Papers presented were

- “Equipping for ministry in Asia: ministers of the grace of God in the Asian context” presented by Dr Mohan Chacko
- “Engaging in ministry in Asia: Appropriate Creative Access to ‘Closed’ Places” presented by a Tentmaker Missionary in China
- “The Nevius Plan” Rev Paul Goeng Ho Bae
- “Extending our Ministry in Asia: Extending Further into Asia” Dr Poh Boon Sing

The papers were very informative and stimulated lively discussion. It was good to hear those ministering in the Asian context sharing their work, their vision and their problems. Dr Poh had returned from the UK to work in the University in KL. When he resigned to start full time ministry he was imprisoned for a year. Later his church was disrupted by foreign interference. In addition to the papers all delegates shared about their particular ministry. Some of these details are given below.

Dr Mohan Chacko: overview of Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS) in Dehra Dun

Presbyterian work in North India started in 1836 with the arrival of two missionaries from the USA. A few years later the Reformed Presbyterian group broke away and formed their own Presbytery. The church declined quite a bit through the years and Presbyterian Reformed influence in North India was completely lost. There was no place to train people for Reformed Presbyterian ministry. But in 1969 two presbyteries came together, they merged to become the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North India. They established a seminary, and PTS grew out of this partnership, starting in 1969. Current campus was purchased by American Presbyterians, who have an extensive work across India. When Dr Chacko joined the seminary in 1984 there were only 2 Hindi-speaking students from North India, and there was great concern to get more so that graduates could minister to people in their own language. Now there are about 50% of students from North India. The initial focus was on teaching people who would lead the Reformed Presbyterian churches, and second to do outreach. There is some shortage of faculty, so Dr Chacko extends an invitation for people to come to the seminary and teach. It's so good to know that the Reformed witness in India is growing. Pray that God would raise up a new generation of teachers who would be loyal to God and to the Word of His Truth.

Rev Hiralal Solanki (New Delhi)

There are more than fifteen Presbyterian denominations in India, and some of them are very large. We are Reformed Presbyterian Church of India (RPCI) and we cover the largest geographical area of all of these denominations. 8 congregations.

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Described the locations and numbers of congregations and teaching elders. Almost all of the pastors are supported by their own churches, but if a church cannot support a pastor there will be assistance from another congregation that is better-off financially. Mission work does not begin until members of the local congregation show some initiative in this direction.

Rev David John (Presbyterian Free Church of India; Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh)

Described the development of the denomination in different areas. Mentioned the concern for evangelism and the resources the church provides to assist outreach (eg, Christian library, where people from different religions come to study). Recently considered starting a technical school to help the young people, but could not get the financial resources to make it possible. Some of the young people work in unskilled labouring positions (rickshaw pullers and so on) and they will be docked wages if they go to church; no time available or allowed to learn anything about the Lord). Sometimes Rev John goes to the slum and sings, preaches, and people in the slums listen carefully for 30-40 minutes. Hardline Hindus say that Christians are bribing people into conversion, so Rev John has a collection to receive money from the poor instead of giving them money—to counter the accusations of the Hindus.

Compassion East India (an organisation out of Calcutta) contacted Rev John and asked if he wanted a shelter for poor children; he said yes. They provided resources. The children come to the centre for 2.5 hours per day and individual children are sponsored so they can receive food, Christian education, sing praises.

Rev Songate (RPCNEI, Manipur, North East India)

Described the movement of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North East India. Reformed Presbyterian Church started in 1979 in Manipur. Presbyterian Theological Seminary were providing capacity-building assistance as the church became established. By 1994 there were 21 local churches, with 4,500 in the denomination; 1999 gained a sister-church relationship with Reformed Church in the Netherlands. There are currently four presbyteries and four mission-fields. There are now 12,000 people in the denomination, and these people are coming both from numerical growth and also from converts from the mission-work. There are 90 congregations, 30 pastors, 5 evangelists, 35 missionaries who are locally-supported (small contribution from DVN).

The 4 mission fields are Myanmar, Assam, Tripura, Manipur. In Manipur there was a mass baptism of new believers in 2006, with 96 people baptised in one day. In 2007, December 12, 59 people were baptised in a mass-baptism.

This year there is a new plan for outreach in Tripura, in three places.

Sharing the needs so that we can pray:

- i. The problem of infrastructure to help new believers
- ii. The need to continue supporting the orphans (60 of them) in orphanages
- iii. Vocational training schools—more than 300 people are trained each year
- iv. Agricultural training centre in Assam
- v. 2007 a new project started: “Love in Action” for HIV sufferers

Rev Moses (United Reformed Church in Myanmar)

Gave a brief history of the growth of the Christian church in Myanmar, and described the development of the denomination. URCM has expanded to about 5 of Myanmar's 14 states. The denomination has two mission fields, and they are concentrating on outreach to Buddhists in Yangon. March 2008 will see the church's second convocation. There are many problems in the country, including inflation at the moment which makes it very hard to sustain the operations of the Bible school. Trying to work together to develop the federation of Reformed churches so that there is greater unity of Reformed Presbyterian believers in the country. 20 congregations, but many of them are very poor and the pastors must be tent-makers because they cannot support themselves by church giving. Described the fire that destroyed the church in 2005, but the government allowed them to

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rebuild—a very unusual event because normally the government would confiscate the land. The building is not yet completed, as there has not been money to finish it.

Br Jan Bronsema (Reformed Churches in the Netherlands—Liberated)

Described the ruling structure of the denomination, including the Synod, presbyteries, classis, and local congregations. Br Bronsema is a member of the committee on inter-church relationships. Described some of the ministries of the church, including the theological college, the organisations that facilitate mission

Additional information about the work in India

DVN has been involved for the last 10 years, working with Presbyterian churches, especially the RPCNEI. With our help the agricultural training centre has started, mission work has been done, but with a lot of local help. In Dehra Dun, we have been sending a teacher. In PFC in the North, there is a Himalayan Evangelistic Fellowship that has been very active in itinerant preaching in the north, in Nepal, and to the borders of Bhutan.

I trust this report is informative and serves as fuel for prayer for the work of Reformed churches in Asia.

I learnt of Reformed churches in Port Moresby and a small Bible college there. Rev Steve 't Hart has been serving there, sent by the Canadian RC and originally from the Free Reformed church of WA.

I shared with folk from RCNZ about the PCEA work in Fiji.

The work in Indonesia is geographically close to Australia but is still under the oversight of the Dutch Church. Pastors from NZ, Indonesia and also Australia are sent to Canada for theological study as training in the Netherlands is in Dutch.

Yours in Christ

Dr Dennis Muldoon

ANNEX B: Missions Committee Report

Outline of Proposal for a Taleem Centre at Patna, Bihar

Definition: Taleem centres are places where children from underprivileged families are provided education (nonformal-taught Bible stories). Health care is given through nurses along with free check ups by paediatricians; children having serious illness are taken to specialists. As malnutrition is rampant additional daily nutrition is provided for each child. Presently the Lord has been gracious so we are able to start two Taleem centres at Dehra Dun.

Need and History: India progresses in industrialisation and many join the bandwagon of a multinational economy and commercialisation, and a great hype is being created by our leaders in the media that India is economically becoming strong and a power to be reckoned in Asia. But the stark fact is that just as the rich are growing richer so the poor are poorer. The reality of daily life is very grim and many are driven to suicide because of abject poverty. The life of children of underprivileged families, many being Muslims who are considered second class citizens, has touched our heart.

We as a family started praying for these children in Dehra Dun and in Bihar where we visited in 2002. Many Muslims opened their heart to the Lord Jesus Christ. Then the Lord spoke to us 'why don't you do something'. From the earning of my medical practice we dedicated 60% towards support of the education and care of children and the first Taleem centre came into being in 2005.

As many secret believers started coming from Bihar for discipleship and we later started more visitations the horrific reality started speaking to us, so as Nehemiah's we started praying and weeping to the Lord Jesus for Bihar. It has a population of 82 million, with 87% in rural areas where they are isolated from information, services and supplies needed for survival. 57% of the population is below the poverty line (Govt. statistics) - in some areas it is 70%. Literacy rate is 47% in rural Bihar, infant mortality rate is 63 per 1000 live births and under 5 mortality rate is 105, and maternal mortality is 45 per 1000 live births.

A state with 37 districts, Bihar has a very high concentration of Muslims. It is a state with much lawlessness, notorious for caste related conflicts, mafias and dons and goons making mayhem for the common people who live in fear of kidnapping for ransom. The Lord Jesus took us to Bihar, and keeps taking us, and many received peace for the Lord Jesus as they trust in him and read his word daily. 8 secret churches came up.

We keep praying for 10 Taleem centres in Bihar at Siwan, Japla Hussain, and Patna. I also shared this concern with Free Church of Scotland Mission Board during my visit in 2007. Lord Jesus made it possible that with their help we would be able to start two centres. The need is still there for two more centres, one at Patna which is the capital city of Bihar and one at Hajipur, a satellite city to Patna. It is my humble request to all of you that please pray for these centres and if the Lord leads you please support two of these, or at least one at Patna.

Financial need for one Taleem centre: Start up cost of Rs40,000 for table chairs, blackboard, mats, fan. Rent: 8000pm, Salary for 2 teachers 2x3000: 6000pm, Travel: 2000pm, Nutrition 30 children: 12,500pm. Books and stationary for 20 children 20,000pa, Medical (vaccination, de-worming and check up): 20,000pa.

I know these amounts are very much and even as I write I feel nervous, but we all trust that our Lord can do the impossible. We would start with even minimal budget helping fewer children so what ever God leads you please come forward for this Macedonian call and let us together make a difference in the lives of these children.

Thanking you all, In Jesus name Dr Syed Rahamat Hussain

PS: Annual cost comes to Rs 353,500 = \$A9700.
Dr Rahmat has established a charitable trust called MA'RIFAT

TRAINING OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Members: M G Smith (Convener), J A McCallum, R W Murray, T W Yoa, D Manly, I Hamilton.

The committee did not meet during the year. Indeed, the committee had no business before it, in part due to the decision of Synod 2007 to authorise the Southern Presbytery to arrange instruction and examination of David Kerridge.

That a church with vacant congregations, and a number of ministers at, or approaching, the age when they are able to retire, has no students under the oversight of its Training of the Ministry committee is a matter of concern.

In the incident recorded in the gospels, where a paucity of labourers is noted, the instruction is to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field. There are other relevant instructions too—to make disciples; to entrust God’s truth to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others (stated on two occasions). We are also reminded that, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Further, we are told that the ascended Lord gave some, including pastors and teachers, “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

All this lays upon those who minister God’s word, in dependence on God’s help and blessing, the responsibility to pray, motivate, enable and equip others in God’s service that we might all be brought to maturity.

Nearly thirty years ago Richard Lovelace wrote, “... pastors gradually settle down and lose interest in being change agents in the church. An unconscious conspiracy arises between their flesh and that of their congregations. It becomes tacitly understood that the laity will give pastors places of special honour in the exercise of their gifts, if the pastors will agree to leave their congregations’ pre-Christian lifestyles undisturbed and do not call for the mobilisation of lay gifts for the work of the kingdom. Pastors are permitted to become ministerial superstars. Their pride is fed and their insecurity is pacified even if they are run ragged, and their congregations are permitted to remain herds of sheep in which each has cheerfully turned to his own way.”

While we are confident this hasn’t happened among us, it is a challenge to see that it doesn’t. Let us all encourage each other, and the church at large, to look to the great Head of the church to provide for us in the days that lie ahead.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

- Synod exhort the church to continue to ask the Lord of the harvest and Head of the church to send out more workers both for our situation and for the wider work of God’s kingdom.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY REPORT

ARMIDALE: The membership of the congregation remained static throughout 2007, with an average attendance of 45 at the morning Worship services. Two children were baptized during the year. Additionally, a young man who is a leader in the Armidale Boys Brigade, as well as an elderly widow who spent many of her years as a missionary in Nepal joined our congregation. 2007 also enfolded another Sudanese family into our midst. The congregation was supplemented by university students who also participated in some youth group activities. A Korean family left in December 2006 but were replaced with another Korean couple. Consequently, we are very grateful to the Lord for blessing us with such a multicultural congregation.

Three main evangelistic efforts were undertaken in 2007 - A study series, 'Six Steps to Talking about Jesus,' followed by a car rally, a church dinner in October; and a carols night in December. One lady introduced to the church through the outreach has attended worship twice recently (February).

Worship services have been generally well attended, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed six times, and the Sunday afternoon Bible study was changed to coincide with the Sunday-School classes after the morning worship service. Numbers have increased for which we thank the Lord. Three Sunday school classes operated during school terms and mission meetings were held coinciding with our monthly fellowship luncheons. The meetings at the Amity Nursing Home at 3:00 pm on the Lord's Day continue. The Ladies Bible Studies continue on Wednesday mornings with much blessing, though only a few attend. The weekly Prayer meeting on Thursday evenings has grown somewhat and also brings much blessing. The play group numbers diminished as children reached school age.

We continue to thank God for His blessing, care and love shown to us. Our desire is to be focused upon our great God and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ and that He may find us willing to be used as means to further His kingdom for His glory.

BRISBANE: The congregation remains in good heart despite the continued disappointments in finding a new minister. Further inquiries were made among the prospective ministers of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand, but without success. The Rev. George Ball agreed to come and preach with a view to a call. He later told us that he did not wish a call to proceed. Approaches have been made in several ways to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. While expressing sympathy with our position, they have declined to make our need known among their ministers. However, the way has been left open for the congregation to approach ministers on an individual basis and this is being followed up. In December, the Free Church of Scotland offices were asked to circulate the need among their ministers and students. No replies have been received so far.

During the vacancy only one service is being held each Lord's Day, with a fellowship lunch following the service and Sunday-School. This lunch is then followed by a time of prayer and Psalm singing for those who wish to stay. Bible studies are being conducted by the elders. One new member joined the congregation in 2007 – by disjunction certificate from the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands (Liberated). The Sunday-School continues each week.. The Annual Family Camp was held at Lennox Head in December. The guest speaker was the Rev. Paul Seiler, the minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Annerley. The "Playtime" Mothers' and Children's group is continuing to function and is attracting a number of local mothers.

The level of weekly offerings remains good. Once again we would note the outstanding contribution being made by the small group in Rockhampton.

HASTINGS RIVER: The work and witness of the Hastings Congregation continues as usual, with the preaching and teaching of the Word at Sabbath services in Wauchope and Kindee, together with the mid-week meeting for prayer and Bible study. A number of our members are now in care, or confined to their homes, requiring visitation and prayerful support and encouragement. The number of our young people remains small, but these are regular in attendance and are attentive and well mannered. Congregational statistics are regularly updated and available in Synod Reports each year and are sent to all congregations.

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NORTHERN RIVERS: We give thanks to God for his continuing care for us as a congregation and the privilege we have to have fellowship with and serve Him. We have 3 services each Lord's day - Grafton at 9 am, Maclean at 11 am and 4 pm., with a combined attendance of 50 to 60 for the morning services. However the evening service varies between 15-20 [with another 5 joining in by phone]. The morning Bible Study has grown to about 14 with those who had attended the evening study deciding to join. As a result we now have only one study. The telephone service is continuing and is appreciated by members from the Sunshine coast, Evans Head and the Retirement village. We are currently looking at alternate providers because of an increase in charges. The Sunday School continues in Grafton and Maclean with 2 attending in Grafton and 12 in Maclean. During the year 5 members passed away. We have some members who are in their nineties, or close to it, and are grateful to God for their faithfulness. Our membership now stands at 50 - A total Church Community of 80.

The givings in the congregation have increased by 25%. There is a considerable income from Property and Investment, and the Deacon' Court is mindful of its responsibility to be a good steward of these resources. The Church Hall at Maclean continues to serve seven community groups as well as the needs of the congregation. The Church in Lismore continues to be used by the child minding centre - Caring. All the Bethesda Units are occupied; there is a waiting list, and funds are available to cover all foreseeable demands.

We continue to look to the Lord to bless the work during 2008.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERY REPORT

ST GEORGES: The church located in the CBD of Sydney is an important witness in the city centre with visitors to the city be in attendance at most services. Regular worshippers travel up to 40 km to attend the services. The number of people attending meetings was stable during 2008 with a good mix of families with young children and older couples. A mid week meeting is held in the church in the city each Wednesday evening, and Sabbath School, Bible Class and Psalmody Practice on the Lord's Day. Attendances were typically, Lord's Day services (2x) 95 different people, Mid Week Meeting 35, Sabbath School 11, Bible Class 15 and Psalmody Practice 15.

The minister systematically preaches through books of the bible; there are four elders and no deacons at present but an election is planned to be held in 2008. The congregation is in a sound financial position and members in good spirits generally, but our prayer is that more would evidence spiritual growth by attending all the public means of grace provided.

HUNTER/BARRINGTON: Sunday Worship Services continue to be conducted weekly at Raymond Terrace (am) and Cardiff (am & pm). Services have been conducted fortnightly at Barrington. In recent months Worship services have not been conducted at Anna Bay due to the advanced years of the folk. Weekly live telephone broadcasts of Worship services to the sick and/or aged have been appreciated. Once per month 'Question & Answer' fellowship meetings have recently re-commenced. It is our prayer that these events will contribute to the development of biblical understanding and more faithful Christian living.

Prayer Meetings are held on alternate weeks at Raymond Terrace and in the Newcastle area. Our Minister has led stimulating and instructive exegesis of the early chapters of Genesis. Ladies Bible Studies have been conducted fortnightly at Raymond Terrace and Cardiff. An All-Age Sunday School has been conducted at Cardiff each week during school terms. Psalms tunes, the Shorter Catechism and the Scriptures have been taught faithfully each week to the children and adult participants. A Kids Club day was held on 9 January, 2008. The children of the congregation were joined by about 12 other children. A Kids Club afternoon is presently being conducted on the first Saturday of each month. The Congregation has been heartened by the resumption of the ministry of the Rev Tamata following his extended period of sick leave and the recent addition of two young families.

Synod Reports 2008

MANNING: Rev W. Peter Gadsby resigned the charge and as a minister of the PCEA on 13 March 2007. He had been the minister of this congregation for the past fifteen and one half years. Central Presbytery appointed Rev Jim Cromarty as Interim Moderator of the Congregation. During the year all the Congregational activities continued, with the able assistance of Mr Neil Robinson and all the Office Bearers. Mr Jim Cromarty conducted worship with assistance from his brother, John and visiting speakers. The Wingham Bible study/ prayer meeting was discontinued, and an evening service commenced in Taree. Mr Robinson faithfully continued to conduct worship services at Tinonee each Lord's Day night. Weekly Bible studies/ prayer meetings are held in Taree - afternoon and night, Wingham, Tinonee and Coopernook. Mr Robinson's work amongst the young people has resulted in greater numbers attending the Youth groups and Bible studies.

The congregation has supported the services and all are in good heart. There have been several additions to our formal membership, and others attending worship. During the year several of our much loved members have gone home to be with our Lord. During the year Rev George Ball was invited to visit the congregation with his wife, Rhoda with a view to a call. Consequently he was given a unanimous call. Mr Ball indicated his acceptance of the call and is expected to commence work in the charge in May, 2008. The congregation are prayerfully preparing for the ministry of Rev Ball.

Two elders, Messrs Keith Longworth and John Milligan, who have faithfully served the Lord in this congregation for many years were thanked and presented with suitable gifts.

The Bunyah property has been sold and the Tinonee blocks of land are now (2008) on the market.

HAWKESBURY/NEPEAN: Each Lord's Day services are conducted a.m. and p.m. with a Bible class prior to the a.m. service. Total attendance is about 20. Prayer meetings are conducted each week, one week in the lower Blue Mountains and one week in the church hall. Each Friday during school term a Lighthouse club for children is conducted with 12-15 children coming. The sick and elderly are visited in nursing homes at Kurrajong and Penrith. The minister has been preaching through Daniel and Revelation. The people appreciate simple reverent worship. Some in the congregation have faced critical needs with regard to employment and housing. We continue to trust in the Lord to supply all our needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

SYDNEY SOUTH: Worship is conducted each Lord's Day by the interim moderator. The congregation of 11 is very faithful and in good heart. A prayer meeting is held each fortnight and other fellowship meetings are arranged from time to time. Some of the congregation are confined to nursing homes but are visited by others in the congregation.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

NARRE WARREN: Just as the Lord said of Israel, "I have borne you on eagle's wings", so we can similarly testify to the Lord's continuing faithfulness over another year just gone. It has been a year of ups and downs. Finances remained good with no assistance required for the second year in a row. The preaching of the Word continues to be challenging and rewarding. The midweek meetings have been reduced to one meeting in Narre Warren— as the Pakenham and Bittern meetings were adjourned. Though small it has proved encouraging with some new faces who show keenness. The work of the Sabbath School continues with 9 pupils and committed teachers. The annual Kids Club was held in September with a good attendance of children. The ladies continue to meet under the leadership of Betty Simpson every other Wednesday morning with 16 ladies attending. We welcomed 2 new members – Amy Ball and Chad de Kretzer. Chad has been a great encouragement as he has organised and presented many of the children's addresses during the worship services. Amy has been doing a good job recording the services. One member's resignation was accepted and our only elder, Jim Simpson passed away late in the year. Nevertheless, as the Prophet Isaiah says, "I will mention the lovingkindness of the Lord and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has bestowed on us." (63:7).

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GEELONG: The congregation is in good heart and attendances have remained fairly steady over the year. Some are feeling their age and others face serious ill health. This affects the pattern of their attendance at church. The teaching of God's Word has brought a number of matters to our attention where we can see that our individual lives, and life as a congregation, is not what God would want it to be. Some specific issues continue to be prayerfully addressed. Our signage has been updated and augmented and the same design/colours are being used in a card which has been printed and will be distributed to the local community by AusPost. We continue to move forward in our journey with God, seeking to grow in our love and commitment and in our dependence on him.

ULVERSTONE: Although the Ulverstone congregation has been vacant since July 2005, we continue to know the sustaining providence and care of the Lord. We have been privileged to receive pulpit supply from 21 men over the course of the vacancy. These have come from a number of local, interstate and overseas locations. We gratefully received 7 weeks supply in August 2007 from Rev Drew Gregg, recently retired from the RPCI. In recent times Rev Raeburn Cameron-Smith from the SPC has assisted, together with both the local elder and assessor elders. However the bulk of the supply over the last year from March has been from PCEA student Mr David Kerridge, who in December last year married Mandy Philips. After their honeymoon, David and Mandy were welcomed into the congregation with a special function on the 12/1/08, which was also attended by some visitors from other churches. David's supply has been well received by many and we pray that both He and Mandy will know the Lord's guidance and blessing in coming months. Over the last year the congregation has enjoyed missions visits from Rev Paul Morris from CWI and from Cliff and Yvonne Langton, who represent the reformed Baptist works in India and the Philippines. Rev George Ball, who became Interim Moderator late last year was able to lead a grand expedition up Cradle Mountain on the 29th December – a truly memorable fellowship event.

KNOX-GLEN HUNTLY: The past year was generally a busy and encouraging one. The departure of Ian and Alina McKenzie to Scotland at the end of January ultimately reduced the attendance at Glen Huntly as it was not considered possible to continue bus in people from a long distance. However, the service at this centre at 11.30am has been well maintained, mostly by Mr Yoa, with some new faces. The Knox morning service was also well supported in numbers and significantly increased givings, the evening services is not so well attended, but is appreciated. The 2.30am Nuer service was maintained with typical numbers over 200. Several leaders attended training sessions during the year. There were two Sudanese weddings during the year jointly taken by Messrs Yoa and Ward. The year also saw the purchase and renovation of a property in Springvale suited as a manse and for small home meetings. It has been very useful although not adequate. Late in December the construction of three residential units suited for older persons and near the church was completed. They have been rented out for the present but could be available for church folk in the future. The finances are in sound shape and should underpin a good surplus in 2008 and beyond which will facilitate the acquisition of additional facilities/planting daughter congregations.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Incorporating General Treasurer's Report)

Committee members: AH Steel (Convener), J Audet, DE Kerr, JB Loudon, DJ Ramsay

Business attended to by the committee included:

1. Ministers' Minimum Stipend/Benefits

Current Level and Basis of Review of Minimum Stipend – Synod 2007 resolved the adjustment of Minimum Stipend – Cash and Non-cash components (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. No change is recommended by the Committee.

2. Stipend Assistance

Three Presbyteries have sought Stipend Assistance for 2008/2009, both on a strictly needs basis, on behalf of Deacons' Courts as follows:

\$ 21,000 – Armidale (up to 50% of Minimum Stipend)
\$ 21,000 - Hawkesbury-Nepean (up to 50% of Minimum Stipend)
\$ 10,000 - Narre Warren

\$ 52,000 Total
=====

Southern Presbytery advised they received a request from Ulverstone Deacons' Court for stipend assistance up to \$15,000, however, they resolved, in part, to advise the Finance Committee “.....at this point stipend assistance prior to Synod 2009 is not anticipated since induction is not anticipated before then”.

Funds available in the Church Extension and Stipend Accounts as at 31/12/07 were \$27,668. This balance will be fully utilised if the undrawn 2007/2008 assistance provision totalling \$27,500 is taken up before Synod 2008. Synod may need to draw on General Funds to provide future stipend assistance.

3. The Capital Assistance Fund

Synod 2007 resolved *The 8:14 Foundation* be known as *The Capital Assistance Fund*, approved revised regulations for the Fund with the Finance Committee being responsible for the administration and reporting to Synod each year.

Funds -

Fund balance as at -	31/12/07	31/12/06
Loan: Hunter-Barrington Congregation	9,240	0
Working Funds	87,735	90,765
	-----	-----
Total Funds -	\$ 96,975	\$ 90,765
	=====	=====

Total funds of \$96,975, excluding \$7,300 held on deposit, increased by \$6,210 (6.8%) for year ending 31/12/07 from interest received, share dividends and revaluations and the annual \$50 rent from St Georges Deacons' Court. No donations were received.

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Loan(s) –

Synod 2007 approved the transfer of a loan of \$11,800, as at 31/5/07, from Synod General Funds to The Capital Assistance Fund. This represented the reduced balance of a \$15,000 loan granted to the Hunter-Barrington Congregation on 13/6/06. They have continued to repay the loan by \$320 per month as arranged.

4. Estimates (Major Working Fund Receipts/Payments for 2008)

Estimates have been made for the ensuing year (Appendix 1). They only include income and expenditure for the major funds.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES

1. We record our thanks to God for the sufficiency of temporal provisions for the church since last Synod.
2. Adjustment of Minimum Stipend – Cash and Non-cash components (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2008/2009 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. Stipend Assistance for 2008/2009 be granted to the following Deacons' Courts, on a strictly needs basis:
 - \$ 21,000 - Armidale
 - \$ 21,000 - Hawkesbury-Nepean
 - \$ 10,000 - Narre Warren

GENERAL TREASURER

1. Financial Needs

The financial needs of the Synod were adequately provided for during 2007. Total funds increased by \$74,952 to \$1,648,371 after allowing for \$301,068 held on behalf of congregations (Davis memorial Bequest), ministers' superannuation levies etc.

The net increase of \$74,952 resulted from:

Increases –	
Capital Funds	\$ 28,225 Share revaluations
Other funds	\$ 27,128 Hamilton Congregation Dissolution
General Funds	\$ 22,576 AJ Harris bequest \$20,000/interest

	\$ 77,929
Decreases (Net) -	
Committee Working Funds	\$ 2,977 Donations/Share revaluations and Dividends/Interest less payments

<u>Net Increase in Funds -</u>	<u>\$ 74,952</u>
	=====

For details of Increases/Decreases see Notes 9 to 16 in Synod's Financial Statements.

2. Congregational Contributions to Synod Funds

Contributions of \$17,497 by congregations to Synod Funds during 2007 decreased by \$451 (3%) on 2006. Refer to Congregational Contributions Summary at back of Financial Statements for full details. "Other" contributions were only \$73 less than 2006.

3. Synod General Funds

A deficit of \$1,644 was recorded in *Synod General Working Funds* for the year ending 31/12/07. Refer to Income & Expenditure Statement (Page 2 of the Financial Statements) for full details.

Note 16 (Page 8 of the Financial Statements) shows Synod's General Working Funds total \$112,070. Of this total \$88,688 has come from bequests, with interest added, in more recent years and can be applied as resolved by Synod.

4. Synod Bank Account(s) Signatories

It is recommended that the Rev TI Leggott's and Rev GD Ball's names be added to the list of authorised signatories to operate Synod's bank account(s). Signatories to be any two of GD Ball, DE Kerr, TI Leggott, JA McCallum, AH Steel and AL Tripovich.

5. Books of Account Audit

A satisfactory audit report has been obtained from Partlett, Chave & Rowland, Chartered Accountants of Caringbah and is included in the published Financial Statements.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

1. Authorised signatories to operate Synod's bank account(s) be any two of GD Ball, DE Kerr, TI Leggott, JA McCallum, AH Steel and AL Tripovich.

Synod Reports 2008

FINANCE COMMITTEE - APPENDIX 1						
ESTIMATES - MAJOR WORKING FUNDS						
for twelve months ending 31/12/2008						
Fund	Balance as at 31/12/2007	Estimated Income to 12/08	Estimated Expenditure to 12/08	Estimated Surplus (Deficit)	Estimated Balance 31/12/2008	T'fer from Gen Funds
Church Extension	0	300	300	0	0	0
Chr/Extn - Stipend	0	3,000	42,000	-39,000	-39,000	39,000
Chr/Extn - Stipend (DAAB)	27,524	2,500	0	2,500	30,024	0
Missions - General	2,040	25,900	9,700	16,200	18,240	0
Missions - (Legg/AIM)	0	8,900	39,500	-30,600	-30,600	0
Missions - (PFCF - DAAB)	79,938	5,000	0	5,000	84,938	0
Missions - (Fiji Support)	681	0	0	0	681	0
Missions Relief	526,593	50,000	47,400	2,600	529,193	0
Training of Ministry	85,754	8,000	2,100	5,900	91,654	0
Youth & Fellowship	11,441	1,500	1,600	-100	11,341	0
General Funds (See below)	112,070	5,000	9,000	-4,000	108,070	0
Total Estimated Transfers from General Funds						39,000
General Funds - Estimated balance 31/12/2008						
					Donations/Interest/Dividends	10,570
					Bequest - IC McKinnon	15,000
					Bequest - SN Ramsay	60,000
					Bequest - AJ Harris	22,500
Estimated Balance of Synod General Working Funds as at 31/12/08						
after estimated shortfall in Chr/Extn - Stipend						\$ 69,070
Notes:						
1. Estimated deficit of \$30,600 in Missions - (Legg/AIM) can be covered from balances in Missions General and Missions - (PFCF-DAAB).						

SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE

RS Ward (Convener 1978), Messrs JB Loudon, J Audet, D Ramsay

A: SUPERANNUATION FUND

Mr Gadsby resigned from the PCEA ministry 13/03/2007. The average age of the 10 current members is about 58.1 years, with an average of 14.36 years of service with the PCEA.

1. Membership

Name	Service from	Service to 30.6.83	Total service at 31.12.07	Year 65
S.R.Tamata	16.10.1998	00.00	09.45	2006
R.W.Murray	11.12.1968	11.72	35.57	2006
J.A.McCallum	28.06.1985	00.00	23.50	2007
R.S.Ward	20.03.1976	07.28	31.78	2010
M.G.Smith	16.06.2006	00.00	01.54	2013
T.I.Leggott	11.03.1989	00.00	18.80	2014
D.K.Muldoon	29.11.2002	00.00	05.09	2017
G.D.Ball	01.12.1997	00.00	10.08	2020
D.P.Smith	16.11.2001	00.00	06.12	2025
T.W.Yoa	09.05.2006	00.00	01.64	2024

Note: Mr Murray's service excludes a one year absence in Scotland 1975/76. Other commencement dates are ordination or induction except Mr Ball whose service as an ordained minister began 1/12/97, and Mr Yoa from date of admission by Synod.

The Superannuation Guarantee levy is 9% from 1/7/2002. Congregations which employ a preacher for an extended period on a supply basis are liable for this levy and should contact the Committee for advice/ assistance.

2. Church Contributions to Superannuation

1. *Superannuation Levy:* An email was issued 19/11/2007 indicating the levy for 2008 would be \$6,256 or \$1,564 a quarter based on estimated stipend of \$41,714 in 2008 (assuming \$20 increase 1/7/08). The concession to congregations receiving aid or that are vacant means that the levy for Armidale, Mt Druitt, and Manning reduces to \$1,414 a quarter, and for vacant congregations (Brisbane, Ulverstone also the special case of Hastings) to \$782 a quarter. From 1/1/2009 the Committee expects to reduce the levy by 0.5% to 14.5%.

2. *Superannuation Support Fund:* The old Widows and Orphans, Aged/Retired Ministers accounts have been consolidated into this account. The Capital stands at \$158,628, interest/dividend earnings were \$8,526, and accumulated working funds at year end were \$8,526.39. Given the uncertain start to financial markets and the inflation outlook, we are not recommending a draw down into the Levy account in 2008 except in respect of the any amount above 105% of the balance at 31/12/07 of \$167,155.11 ie. the excess of \$175,513.

3. The Fund

1. *Default Fund:* All but two of our members have chosen HESTA, our default fund, for their contributions. The other two retain membership of the ING Fund.

2. *Performance:* Results for the year to 30/6/07 are sent direct to members by the ING or HESTA, but before this occurred were also circulated in an information memo to members from the Convener dated 1/08/2007. The ING return for the past three years on the default of 50% Capital Guaranteed and 50% Managed Growth has been :

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	5 years to 6/07
Capital Guaranteed	5.45%	6.85	6.50	5.02
Managed Growth	13.11%	14.88	13.20	9.80
Average	9.28%	10.865%	9.85	7.41 %

In the default Core Pool of the Hesta Fund, about 78% is invested in growth and 22% in defensive investments. Results have been: Core-pool 13.4% 14.4% 16.7% 12.1%

Hesta continues to marginally better the approximately equivalent ING Managed Growth option.

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4. Outlook: 07-08 looks as if it will be a year of marginal returns. Hesta's Core fund has never had a negative returns since commencement on 1/8/1987 [av to 30/6/2007 10.5%; lowest 0.5% in 01-02] Our previous providers had negative or close to negative returns as follows: Westpac 73-74: -13.72%; 1981-82: -1.9%; ING 01-02 +0.6%; 02-03 -0.1%. A negative return every 6 or 7 years is quite typical for growth funds.

B. Long Service Leave/Annual Leave

We remind Synod members of the provision by Synod 2003 of an extra week of annual leave (5 weeks in all), which must be taken, or the provision of LSL at a week a year at the local level. It is increasingly normal in the general community not to allow annual leave to accumulate beyond two years. We commend this as very appropriate.

C. Regulations

No changes are proposed other than the reduction of the levy in 2009.

Proposed Deliverances:

1. Synod, note the levy for 2008 of \$1, 564 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 \$8,526.39 to the amount treated as capital in the SSF, and the transfer of any excess above \$175,513 in the Superannuation Support Fund (capital and income) as at 31/12/08 to the Levy proceeds account.
3. Subject to the financial position continuing in a satisfactory state, Synod approve the reduction of the 2009 Levy to 14.5%.
4. 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.
5. Synod request Sessions and Deacons' Courts to keep a close eye on ministers' leave entitlements to ensure ministers do not suffer burn out through failure to take it, and that Presbyteries keep this in mind in the annual examination of records.

N.S.W. TRUST CORPORATION
'THE TRUSTEES OF THE SYNOD OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA'

Members: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer

Deed Box and Common Seal: The Locked Deed Box of the Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia is lodged with the National Australia Bank Ltd, 163 Rowe Street Eastwood NSW. The old embossed seal has been returned and is in the safe-keeping of the Clerk. It would be prudent to have an audit of the contents of the deed box on a regular basis and there is a proposed deliverance concerning this.

The following deeds were uplifted from the deed box during 2007:

- 20/08/07: Old System Conveyance No.711 Book 1482 - Barrington Church property.
 Sent to Bowen-Thomas & Barlow, Solicitors of Gloucester to enable registration of Plan of Subdivision. The title is yet to be returned.
- 24/12/07: Certificate of Vol.7198 Fol.155 – Bunyah Church property.
 Sent to Stacks, Solicitors of Taree, for sale of property.

The seal was applied to the following documents during 2007:

217	11/07/07	Mortgage Discharge: KD Schultz
218	17/08/07	Subdivision: Argyle St Barrington
219	15/11/07	Transfer on Sale: 1259 Willina Rd Bunyah
220	15/11/07	Contract for Sale: 1259 Willina Rd Bunyah
221	28/11/07	Power of Attorney AH Steel re C Hodge Mortgage
222	21/12/07	Discharge of Mortgage AC 831285 C Hodge
223	21/12/07	Transfer Under Power of Sale: C Hodge

Bequests: A bequest was of \$20,000 was received from the Estate of the Late AJ Harris. There were no specific conditions attached to the bequest.

Investments: Review of Results as at 31/12/07:

Diversification - Specified Capital Funds

Amount Invested	Percentage of Total	Strategy Benchmark	Strategy Range	Where Invested
26,006	7%	5%	5% - 10%	Banks/Trustee Coys
65,000	19%	30%	20% - 40%	1 st Registered Mortgages
46,300	13%	15%	10% - 25%	Bonds/Debentures
213,751	61%	50%	40% - 60%	Equities (Shares/Units)
<u>\$351,057</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>		

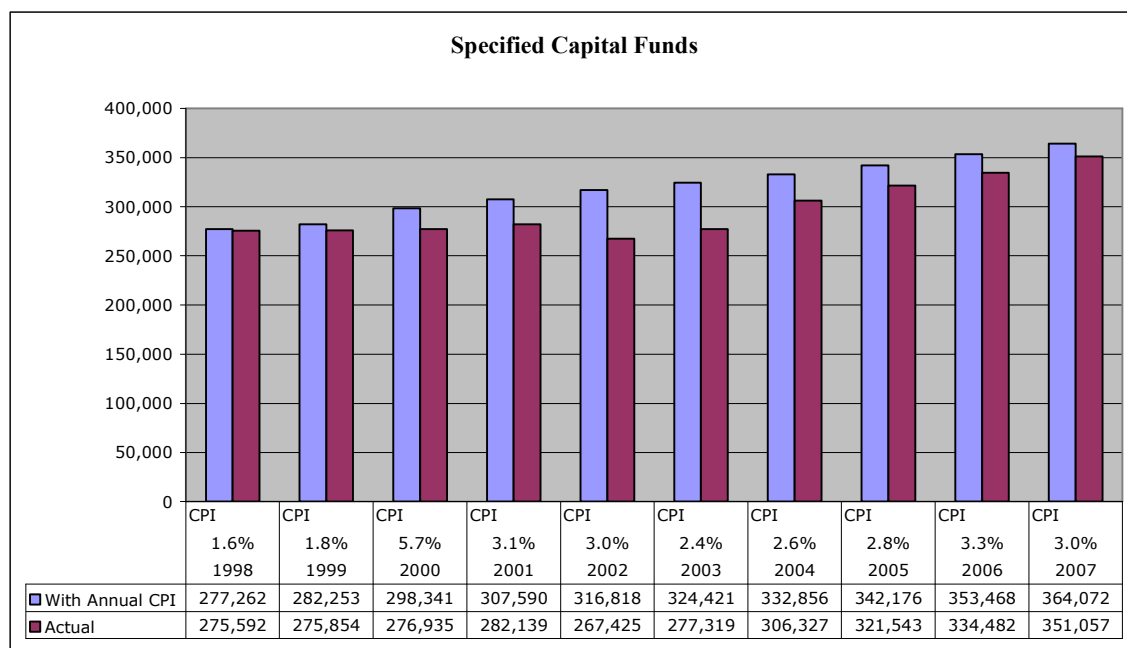
Investments are within the Strategy Ranges except for Equities at 61% which is 1% outside the range of 40%-60%

Return on Investments:

Growth: Total investments were increased by \$16,575 representing a return of 4.96% against a Target of 3.5% (CPI of 3.0% plus 0.5%). As at 31/12/07 the total of Specified Capital Funds “Actual” (\$351,057) still lagged behind the total of Capital Funds “with Annual CPI” added (\$364,072) by 3.57% (\$13,015). This is an improvement on the 2006 difference of 5.37% (\$18,986).

The gap between “Actual” funds invested and Actual “With Annual CPI” added has been reducing over the past six years. It is hoped it will be removed in 2008 so that “Real Value” of Specified Capital Funds is maintained.

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Income: Income of \$16,071 represented a return of 4.80% against a Target of 8.14% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 6.39% Plus 1.75%).

Overall return: Growth of 4.96% plus Income 4.80% = 9.76% overall return on investments totalling \$334,482 as at 1/1/07.

Summary: Target was exceeded for Growth by 42% but Income fell short of target by 41%. Two aspects affected these results. Capital Gains portion of distributions received from Managed Fund investments were reinvested for the first time, resulting in a significant increase in Growth but greatly reducing Income. Income was also reduced by approximately \$3,500 by interest not being received (7 months @ 9.00%) on a 1st mortgage contribution of \$67,000 (See Mortgage Enforcement below). Targets for both Growth and Income will be reviewed for 2009 because of the changed practice of reinvesting the capital gains portion of distributions received from Managed Funds.

Mortgage Enforcement: On 8/12/07 the NSW Trustees, jointly with the Trustees for Victoria exercised their Power of Sale in the enforcement of a mortgage investment when they sold at auction the security for a 1st mortgage loan investment of \$375,000 with NSW contributing \$265,000 and Victoria \$110,000. The loan was drawn on 14/12/06 maturing on 14/12/07 with interest payable at 9.00%pa (lower rate) and 13.00%pa (higher "penalty" rate). Monthly interest payments were received until 14/5/07 but then fell into arrears requiring the Trustees to exercise their Power of Sale in the matter.

The Sydney suburban residential property was sold for \$531,000 and settlement in the sale effected on 5/2/08 when \$432,634 was received representing repayment of the principal of \$375,000, outstanding interest of \$39,689 (at higher rate of 13.00%pa) to settlement date, and reimbursement for associated selling costs and lawyers fees of \$17,945. The return on the investment was 14.33% over 14 months.

Trustee Membership: Difficulties arise from time to time with one or more of the Trustees being unavailable because of ill health, travel or other commitment. There is a need for a formal mechanism for temporarily substituting unavailable persons for property or investment matters.

Proposed Deliverances:

1. Substitute Members of the Body Corporate in NSW: Pursuant to Section 14 of the Synod of Eastern Australia Property 1918 Act the Synod resolves that in the event of any of the Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of Synod being unavailable for necessary decisions and/or execution of documents, the immediate past Moderator or, failing him, the one next preceding him who is able and willing to act, shall be the Moderator for the purpose of the Property Act, the Convener of Law and Advisory Committee shall be the Clerk, or failing him a person nominated by that Committee; and the Convener of Finance Committee shall be the Treasurer, or failing him a person nominated by the Finance Committee; and such substituted person or persons shall be entitled to make decisions and execute documents as if the holder of the office of Moderator, Clerk or Treasurer, as the case may be. A record shall be kept of any substitution and report made to the ensuing Synod.
2. Deed Box Audit: Synod directs that, commencing in 2009, and every three years thereafter, that the Clerk of Synod and the General Treasurer carry out a joint inspection to verify the content of the Deed Box, and that the Clerk make report of their findings to the following meeting of Synod.

**QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION
'PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA'**

Members: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer

Deed Box and Common Seal: The title deeds of the Church Property at Kalinga are held in the Locked Deed Box of the Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia with the National Australia Bank Ltd, 163 Rowe Street Eastwood NSW. The Common Seal is held by the Clerk of Synod. There were no applications of the Common Seal in 2007.

Proposed Deliverances: Nil.

**THE TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA**

Members: JRB Webster (1966), JB Loudon (1985), WJW Hanna (1994),
AH Steel (2001 Secretary), DJ Ramsay (2002)

Administration: All business requiring attention was transacted via email. A quarterly report was sent to all members of the Body Corporate by the Secretary which included a record of business transacted and an update of investments made on behalf of Synod. Business requiring the Trust Corporation's attention included:

Bequests: No new bequests were received by Synod or reported to the Secretary by congregations during 2007.

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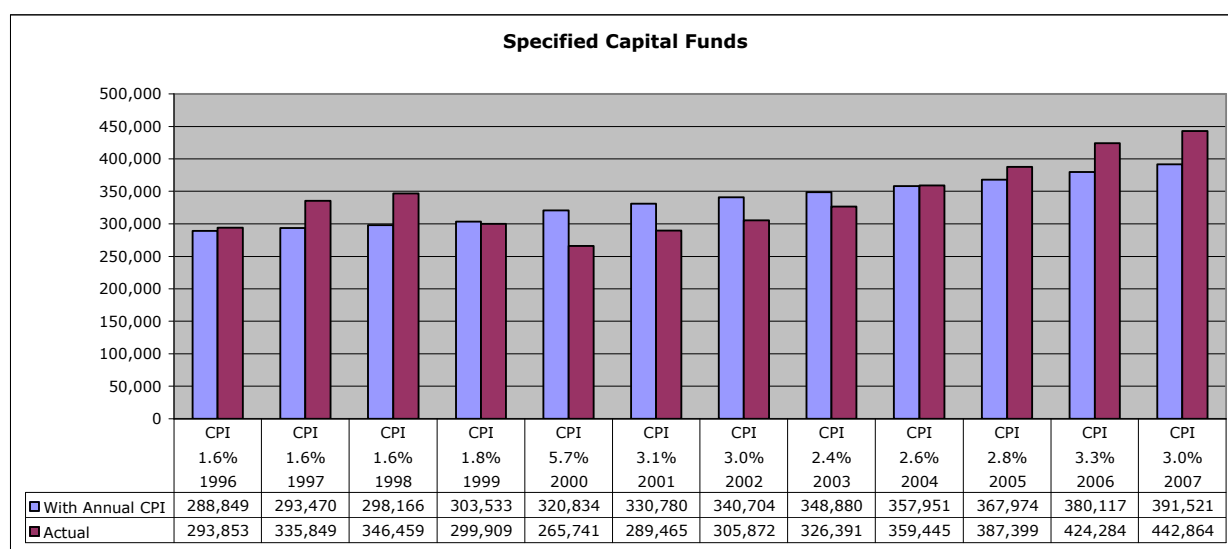
Investments – Specified Capital Funds (Bequests)

Diversification: Investment of *Specified Capital Funds* were within the Investment Strategy *Benchmark Ranges* as at 31/12/07 except for *Cash (1%)* which was slightly lower than the 5% - 10% range.

Actual as at Amount	31/12/07 Percentage	Asset Class	Investment Strategy	
			Benchmark	Range
3,316	1%	Cash	5%	5% - 10%
110,000	25%	Mortgage	30%	20% - 40%
70,000	16%	Debentures	15%	10% - 25%
259,548	58%	Shares/Units	50%	40% - 60%
442,864	100%		100%	

Return for twelve months ending 31/12/07:

Growth: Total investments increased by \$18,580 representing growth of 4.38% against a Target of 3.5% (CPI of 3.0% plus 0.5%) The target was exceeded by 25%.



The total value of Specified Capital Funds continues to appreciate at a rate greater than annual inflation (CPI). An excess of \$51,343 (13.11%) existed as at 31/12/07.

Income: Income of \$21,355 represented a return of 5.03% against a Target of 8.14% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 6.39 % Plus 1.75%).

Target shortfall was 38.17%

Overall return: Growth 4.38%. Income 5.03% = 9.41% overall return on investments totalling \$424,284 as at 31/12/06.

Summary: Investments are adequately *Diversified* and with continuing low inflation (3.00%) our *Investment Strategy Objective* was achieved in *Growth*, and *Real Value* of assets maintained. However, *Income* for the twelve months ended 31/12/07 again fell short of our target. This was caused by approximately \$6,000 interest not being received (7 months @ 9.00%) on a 1st mortgage contribution of \$110,000 (See *Mortgage Enforcement* above). Growth would have been 8.42% (Target 8.14%) had the borrower not defaulted in his interest payments.

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Mortgage Enforcement: On 8/12/07 the Trustees for Victoria jointly with the NSW Trustees exercised their *Power of Sale* in the enforcement of a mortgage investment when they sold at auction the security for a 1st mortgage loan investment of \$375,000 with Victoria contributing \$110,000 and NSW \$265,000. The loan was drawn on 14/12/06 maturing on 14/12/07 with interest payable at 9.00%pa (lower rate) and 13.00%pa (higher “penalty” rate). Monthly interest payments were received until 14/5/07 but then fell into arrears requiring the Trustees to exercise their *Power of Sale* in the matter.

The Sydney suburban residential property was sold for \$531,000 and settlement in the sale effected on 5/2/08 when \$432,634 was received representing repayment of the principal of \$375,000, outstanding interest of \$39,689 (at higher rate of 13.00%pa) to settlement date, and reimbursement for associated selling costs and lawyers fees of \$17,945. The return on the investment was 14.33% over 14 months.

Property Holdings: *Hamilton Congregation Dissolution/Purchase of Springvale property:*

In terms of Synod 2007 resolution (Minutes 07.31) the Congregation was dissolved and all assets held in trust for the purposes of the Congregation were thereafter held for the purposes of the Synod vide the Free Presbyterian Church Property Act 1953 (6.11). The realisation of all assets amounted to \$447,164.

In June 2007 the Synod Administration Committee approved the release of \$420,427 of these funds to purchase property for the Glen Huntly-Dandenong extension work of the Knox congregation vide Synod 2007 minute 07.38. The purchase price of this residential property at 24 Edmond Street, Springvale was \$395,000 to which was added acquisition costs of \$2,458 and minor alterations, renovations etc. of \$22,969, bringing the total outlay to \$420,427. This resulted in net funds of \$26,737 remaining to be held by Synod, of the \$447,164 realised as a consequence of the dissolution of the Hamilton congregation.

Deeds/Bonds and Common Seal:

Title Deeds/Student Bonds Custody: Changes to deeds and bonds held in *Safe Custody* at the National Australia Bank, Eastwood during 2007 were the lodgement of Certificates of Title for:

- 10 Bentley Street, Wantira
- 24 Edmond Street, Springvale

Common Seal Application: The Common Seal was applied to the following documents during 2007:

Executed	by	Details	On behalf of
23.06.07	AHS/JBL	Transfer CT Vol 7130 Fol 942 Purchase 24 Edmond St, Springvale Vic-	Knox
28.11.07	AHS/JBL	Power of Attorney to AH Steel (Sale Contract Mtge enforce C Hodge)	Synod
21.12.07	AHS/JBL	Discharge of Mtge RegNo.AC831285 C Hodge 58 New England Dr, Kingsgrove	
21.12.07	AHS/JBL	Transfer Under Power of Sale ID 20/11/12082 - C Hodge	Synod
11.11.07	DJR/JRBW	Request for Direct Crediting of Divns -Cwlth Prop Office Fund	Geelong
11.11.07	DJR/JRBW	Request for Direct Crediting of Divns - CFS Retail Prop Trust	Geelong

Proposed Deliverances

Nil.

ARCHIVES

Archivist: Rowland S.Ward

I have continued collecting material, sorting it and, when complete and relevant, binding same. I summarise past reports here, and add some new data.

1. RECORDS LODGED WITH OTHERS

Location data for material not held at Knox PCEA Melbourne but lodged by us elsewhere is as follows:

Assembly of the Free Presbyterian Church of Australia, minutes (complete 1913-61)

Ferguson Memorial Library of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales pursuant to resolution of Synod 97:48 (lodged 1998).

Synod of Eastern Australia, permanent minutes 1864-1955 (scroll from 1905 held by us)

Ferguson Memorial Library of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales pursuant to resolution of Synod 97:48 (lodged 1998) which also has first volume 1846-64.

Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria pre 1953 various

Presbyterian Church of Victoria Archives, Melbourne, pursuant to resolution of Synod 2001:47. Letter 15/5/2001 refers.

Free Presbyterian Church of South Australia various pre 1953

Mortlock Library, Adelaide, pursuant to Act of Synod 1989 (lodged 6/8/2003)

2. RECORDS HELD IN PCEA ARCHIVE

a. Minutes

Synod Minutes and Presbytery records are unchanged from the report in 2006.

b. Australian magazines

Church magazines are as reported 2004 with the addition of *The Witness* 1877-82 noted in 2006. This means we are still missing the following:

The Australian Witness & Presbyterian Herald 1872-74 weekly news ed. G.Sutherland

The Witness & Australian Presbyterian 1874-77 weekly news ed G.Sutherland

Copiers of above are available in Mitchell Library, Sydney

The Free Churchman Have 1882-89. Do not have 1890-93.

The Free Presbyterian Magazine ed W.McDonald Vol 1, 4 issues 1905-06; Vol 2, 4 issues from Dec 1906, lack 2.2, 2.34 & 2.4; Vol 4, 4 issues to Aug 1912, lack Vol 4:1.

The Free Church Quarterly 1889-1913 ed J.Sinclair – have photocopies only of 1895-97, 1898-1900; Of issues 1909-13, 7:1; 7:3 and issues after 7:11 (July 1911) are lacking.

Grass Roots (all lacking)

Church Heritage

This is the magazine of the Uniting Church Historical and Records Society NSW

We have a complete set bound in 7 volumes covering 1978-2006.

c. Bound pamphlet material

1. FPCV material 1863-1953 – one volume contents listed 2006

2. Pamphlets re PCEA schism 1884-1904 – one volume contents listed 2006

3. PCEA printed Synod Minutes 1881-1887 – one volume

d. Bound manuscript material

i. 1953 Union and Victorian Property Act

The union was championed by Rev Arthur Allen, supported by the Victorian ministers lest the church become unable to act, and was preceded by controversy over the status of the Paraphrases. It involved abandonment of the Assembly formed in 1913 as a federal arrangement, and the reception of the FPCV into the PCEA. The architect was F. Maxwell, Bradshaw, MA, LL.M., the Procurator.

Index

Ecclesiastical

- 01/04/1949 letter FMB to Nicolson & Graham
30/06/1949 letter Allen to FMB
07/03/1950 copy minute re 'amalgamation' (seems earliest Presbytery reference)
Notes on the Legal Position with respect to Property
02/07/1951 Allen to FMB
Notes on Suggested Union by FMB
Proposals for submission to Synod FPCV
Dec 1951 Copy of *Australian Free Presbyterian*
22 page paper signed Arthur Allen for Conference
15-17/1/51 Minutes of Conference at St Kilda
15/1/1951 Minutes of Synod FPCV
April 1952 Minutes of Synod PCEA
April 1952 Minutes of Assembly FPCA
25/11/1953 Draft of minutes for union Synod by FMB

Legal – Property Act

- 1952 Draft in typescript with list of corrections
1952 Draft Bill in typescript
1952 Explanatory Memorandum in typescript
1952 Rough Draft (parliamentary proof)
1953 Printed Bill – 1st reading – Hansard Report
1953 Act 5691 passed FMB's Notes on Act
Notes by FMB re register of members of body corporate
Draft Act re application of seal
Draft Act re Sale/Mortgage procedure
Papers re Regulation re Leasing

Other items

- 1961-63 Re legality of continuing meetings of the Assembly
1947-52 Papers re exclusion of Paraphrases
1969 Memo by FMB re Directory for Public Worship
1983/84 FMB opinion re Regulative principle and use of Psalms

ii. Papers re NSW Trustees legislation 1918-2004

Papers related to Incorporation in NSW 1918 as '**The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia**'. Proposed comprehensive amendment drafted by F.Maxwell Bradshaw MA, LL.M 1966, generally in line with the Victorian Act of 1953, Actual amendment 2004 to date (2008) relating simply to indemnity of members of the incorporated body.

Index

1. Model trust deed from earliest times
2. Draft "Free Presbyterian Church of NSW Property Management & Consolidation Act"
3. 'Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act', Synod's draft (not as finally enacted)
4. Report of Select Committee of Legislative Council & Minutes of Evidence, February 1918
5. Draft Bill of Parliament (virtually as per Synod's draft)
6. Bill as enacted (changes in Sec 8, 10 & 12 from Synod's draft [£150 figure inserted])
7. List of Properties prepared by Lobban & Lobban, Solicitors, 1918
8. Lobban & Lobban Advice re Kempsey property sale, 23 April 1918
9. N.A.McPherson to H.C.Nicolson 17 Dec 1953 re Bowraville sale

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10. Detailed listing/accounting for pre-1864/65 property and property acquired later in 19th century that passed from the church by R.S.Ward, May 1992.
 11. List of properties as at 31 Jan 1990.
 12. J.L.Clugston's Observations for Counsel, and Counsel's opinion 28 May 1992 and Supplementary Advice 1 June 1992 re Richmond Property & Summary of matter by R.S.Ward
 13. Letter FMB to J.A.Harman 13 August 1965 re amendment Act
 14. Undated Memorandum by FMB re options
 15. Letter S.N.Ramsay to FMB 13 April 1966 advising Synod's preferences
 16. First draft by FMB of amendment Act
 17. Notes by FMB on first draft
 18. Letter FMB to Hunt & Hunt 10 February 1967
 19. (part) Letter FMB to J.A.Harman noting H & H had missed point
 20. Letter from Eric E. George (solicitor & Hunter elder) to FMB 7 Sept 1970
 21. Letter FMB to EE George 31 Dec 1970
 22. undated but early 1971, letter FMB to JAH re minor adjustments to draft
 23. Some notes by FMB on draft FMB for guidance of sessions
 24. Letter SNR to FMB 20 Jul 1971 re omission of schedule of lands
 25. Letter FMB to SNR 23 Jul 1971 explaining this
 26. Letter FMB to SNR re incorporation in Qld but explaining H&H/George issue
 27. Letter SNR to FMB 16 May 1974 re incorporation in Qld
 28. Letter FMB to R.S.Ward 11 Apr 1987 re members of body corporate not trustees in law therefore they lack statutory protection from liability.
 29. Copy of 1918 Property Act as amended 2004 with evidence.
- Other
- Papers re proposal of Mr V. Sutherland re house & 10 acres at Penrith, 1920
L&A Committee report 1992 & FMB's Draft Act as amended at January 1993.

iii. South Australian Property negotiations 1982-2006

e. Published books

It is proposed to list these next year, along with overseas magazines

Proposed Deliverance: That congregations and committees be encouraged to deposit significant material in the Archives retaining an extra copy locally.

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia

Presbytery

Rev. M. Shand
Clerk of Presbytery
58 Gladstone Road
Herrick. Tas. 7264
31 January 2008

Mr. Trevor Leggott
Clerk of Synod
Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia
P0 Box 579
SPRINGWOOD N.S.W. 2777

Brothers in Jesus Christ,

Separation of Penguin congregation of EPC in 1965

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour.

I write on behalf of the Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia (EPC). The content of this letter may come as somewhat of a surprise to you in that it deals with events that took place over forty years ago. However, given the importance of the matters, our Presbytery felt that it ought to correspond with you concerning these matters.

At the last meeting of our Presbytery, the Presbytery revisited certain decisions of our Presbytery in 1970 relating to the separation of Rev. Eric Turnbull and the former Penguin congregation of our denomination in 1965 (our denomination then being known as the Reformed Evangelical Church [As some would be aware, that congregation, subsequently became a congregation of the PCEA. The reason that our Presbytery revisited these matters was because it was brought to our attention that some injustice may have been done to Rev. Turnbull and to the PCEA as a result of subsequent decisions taken by our Presbytery in 1970.

Having researched and reviewed the matter, the Presbytery passed the following motion:

That the Presbytery having reviewed the matter of the church 's dealings in September 1965 with Rev. E. Turnbull and the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia (PCEA) at the time of the separation of the Penguin congregation from the Reformed Evangelical Church and the subsequent judgments of the Presbytery in December 1969 and July 1970 and having arrived at the conclusion that the manner in which those judgments of 1969 & 1970 were arrived at was not right, the Presbytery authorises the clerk:

- 1. To write to Rev. E. Turnbull acknowledging that a wrong was done to him by our Presbytery in that the court having released him after due process and with brotherly sentiments and prayers for God's blessing in 1965, then proceeded in 1969 to revisit the matter and to subsequently approve a report titled "A Report by a Committee of the Presbytery re the Separation of the Penguin congregation" in which the separation was categorised as a schismatic act, and that we apologise to him for any discouragement or offence that this may have occasioned to him; and*

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2. *To write to the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia indicating to them that upon review of the sentiments expressed in a report titled "Report by a Committee of the Presbytery re the Separation of the Penguin congregation" dated 1970 by this church which was forwarded to their Presbytery, we believe that the actions of the PCEA with respect specifically to the Penguin congregation, given the then pertaining circumstances, have been wrongly characterized as schismatic, and we regret this and any offence or estrangement that this may have occasioned.*

In order that you might understand the motion in context, I have set out below the facts of this matter, as best as the Presbytery can ascertain them from our existing records. These facts are not intended to be exhaustive, but simply to enable sense to be made of this letter and the recent decision of our Presbytery.

1. In 1965, Rev. E. Turnbull and the office bearers of the Penguin congregation of the REC adopted the doctrinal position of Professors John Murray & Ned Stonehouse regarding the Free Offer of the Gospel. This led Rev. Turnbull and the elders of the Penguin congregation to declare their intention to leave the REC and join the PCEA.
2. It was believed by the Presbytery of the REC that the manner in which Rev. Turnbull and the Penguin office bearers were attempting to proceed was not proper, according to our Practice. The concerns of the Presbytery were communicated to the PCEA and it appears that the PCEA encouraged Rev. Turnbull and the Penguin office bearers to appear before the REC Presbytery regarding their doctrinal views and to address their request to leave the REC and to become a congregation of the PCEA.
3. On 11 September 1965, following encouragement from the PCEA, Rev. Turnbull and the majority of the office bearers from Penguin appeared before the REC Presbytery. On that occasion, Rev. Turnbull acknowledged the authority and jurisdiction of the REC Presbytery over himself and accepted the rebuke of the Presbytery for his actions.
4. Rev. Turnbull was asked the grounds upon which he sought release from the REC. His view, at that time, was that the Westminster Confessional Standards allowed two views on the Free Offer of the Gospel. He acknowledged respect for the view held by the REC, as regards the rejection of the Free Offer of the Gospel, as espoused by Professors Murray and Stonehouse, but indicated that he did not believe it to be correct to limit one's confessional liberty to that one view.
5. The finding of the REC Presbytery on that occasion was that there were proper grounds upon which to release Rev. Turnbull and the Penguin congregation, to join the PCEA. The resignations of the members of the Penguin congregation of the REC were accepted, and it was moved that the PCEA be accordingly notified that the REC had released the Penguin congregation and its office bearers to join the PCEA.
6. On that occasion, our Presbytery expressed the sentiment that if it had wronged Rev. Turnbull and the other brethren in Penguin, either as a court or individually, it sought their forgiveness and hoped that they might in the future co operate in the work of the Lord. Further, Rev. C. Rodman, the then moderator of the Presbytery thanked Rev. Turnbull and his fellow office bearers for attending the Presbytery and conforming to its proceedings, so that all those attending could be faithful to their vows of office. Speaking of the office bearers from Penguin, the moderator said that he looked upon them all, as godly men who feared and loved God. He assured them on behalf of the Presbytery that there was no bitterness, only sadness in their leaving, and wished them all well. He then led in prayer for God's blessing upon Rev. Turnbull and his fellow office bearers, following which the Moderator extended the right hand of fellowship to those men who were departing from the REC.
7. Following this meeting, the majority of the Penguin congregation transferred to the PCEA. Some members and office bearers still adhered to the REC, but worshipped with the PCEA in Penguin until the Burnie congregation of the EPC was established in April 1970.
8. In 1969, the issue of Rev. Turnbull being released to join the PCEA was revisited by our Presbytery, for reasons which are not entirely clear. The catalyst appears, in part to have been, tensions that had arisen between the REC and PCEA members in Penguin. As a result, a report titled, A Report by a Committee of the Presbytery re the Separation of the Penguin Congregation

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was prepared for our Presbytery. That report concluded that Rev. Turnbull's separation, together with that of the Penguin congregation from the REC, was a schismatic act.

9. On 4 April 1970, the EPC Presbytery (as it had become by that time), made the following findings, as regards the separation of Rev. Turnbull and the Penguin congregation from the EPC and the involvement of the PCEA.
 - The office bearers of the Penguin congregation broke their vows and created a schism in separating from the REC;
 - The PCEA aided in that schism;
 - The transfer to the PCEA was accomplished by un-Presbyterian procedures; and
 - The release by the REC Presbytery in 1965 was based on a false premise, namely, liberty of conscience.

In reflecting upon the methodology employed and the decisions made by our Presbytery in 1970, the recent meeting of our Presbytery concluded that the process followed in 1970 was flawed. It was not appropriate for our Presbytery in 1970 to revisit the separation of the Penguin congregation in 1965, in the manner that it did.

As indicated in the motion set out above, our Presbytery has concluded that a wrong was done to Rev. Turnbull by our Presbytery in 1970 in that having released him, after due process and brotherly sentiments and prayers for God's blessing in 1965, it then revisited the matter again in 1970, styling the separation as a schismatic act. In light of how the matter had been finalized in 1965, our Presbytery considers that it was inappropriate to revisit the matter in the manner that the 1970 Presbytery did.

We have written to Rev. Turnbull apologizing for the hurt and discouragement that, no doubt, the actions of our Presbytery in 1970 occasioned to him and to others.

We also wish to indicate to you that we believe that our Presbytery's characterization in 1970 of the PCEA's involvement in these matters as schismatic was unjust. We regret the offence that such characterization has caused. We also regret the estrangement that this decision of our Presbytery has occasioned between ourselves and the PCEA. While we still reject the views of Murray and Stonehouse regarding the Free Offer of the Gospel, nonetheless, the characterization of the PCEA's role in the separation of our former Penguin congregation as schismatic was inappropriate.

Yours in the service of Jesus Christ



Rev. Mark Shand
Presbytery Clerk

Correspondence Item 2



Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia
SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

Clerk: Rev Dr Rowland S. Ward, BA, BTh (Hons), ThD
26 Roxburgh Road, Wantirna 3152
Tel/Fax: 9720 4871 Int + 613 9720 4871

Email: rowlandw@optushome.com.au

20 March 2008.

Clerk of Synod of Eastern Australia

Dear Brother,

At a duly constituted meeting of Southern Presbytery on 19 March 2008, inter alia,

David Kerridge

It was resolved unanimously to overture Synod that whereas Presbytery has not at this time had enough time to assess the progress of David Kerridge in the light of certain issues raised with him since his acceptance as a student by this Presbytery on 25 July 2007, but is optimistic that he will satisfy Presbytery on these matters, Presbytery overture Synod to authorise Presbytery in Synod's name to admit him as a regular student for the ministry at such time as Presbytery judge fit.

(The Overture is as below)

Extracted from the records of Southern Presbytery,

Rowland S. Ward
Clerk

OVERTURE OF SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

WHEREAS Presbytery has not at this time had enough time to assess the progress of David Kerridge in the light of certain issues raised with him since his acceptance as a student by this Presbytery on 25 July 2007, but is optimistic that he will satisfy Presbytery on these matters,
THEREFORE Presbytery overtures the Synod of Eastern Australia to authorise Presbytery in Synod's name to admit him as a regular student for the ministry at such time as Presbytery judge fit.
OR to do otherwise for this object as they in their wisdom see fit.

Correspondence Item 3



Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia
Southern Presbytery

Clerk: Rev Dr Rowland S. Ward, BA, BTh (Hons), ThD
26 Roxburgh Road, Wantirna 3152
Tel/Fax: 9720 4871 Int + 613 9720 4871
Email: rowlandw@optushome.com.au

20 March 2008.

Clerk,
Synod of Eastern Australia

Dear Brother,

At a duly constituted meeting of Southern Presbytery on 19 March 2008, *inter alia*,

Permission to borrow sought by Knox

An overture was submitted from the Knox Deacons court. The same was approved and directed to be transmitted to the Clerk of Synod. Dr Ward was appointed to state the overture.

(The Overture is as attached)

Extracted from the records of Southern Presbytery

Rowland S. Ward
Clerk

Attachment to Correspondence Item 3



Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

Knox Congregation – ABN 83 721 316 991

James Forbes School of Theology

Rev Dr Rowland S. Ward, BA, BTh (Hons), ThD

26 Roxburgh Road, Wantirna 3152

Tel/Fax: 9720 4871 Int + 613 9720 4871

Email: rowlandw@optushome.com.au

5 March 2008.

Clerk of Southern Presbytery,
26 Roxburgh Rd,
Wantirna 3152

Dear Sir,

At a duly constituted meeting of Knox Deacons' Court 8 January 2008, *inter alia*,

11. Approval to borrow

It was unanimously resolved that we request Presbytery to overture Synod to permit the borrowing of up to \$300,000 on the security of the property acquired or existing property other than the church, to fund additional facilities for the extension of our work, subject to written demonstration of the capacity to service any loan being submitted to and approved by Southern Presbytery. Dr Ward was left to put the request in due form.

The overture is as attached.

Extracted from the records of Knox Deacons' Court.

J. Dekter,

CLERK OF DEACONS' COURT

OVERTURE FROM KNOX CONGREGATION

WHEREAS there is need for additional facilities for the work proposed to be centred on Springvale (there being a manse but no adequate meeting place);

AND WHEREAS there is also the need to anticipate 10 or 15 years ahead with a view to securing sites in developing areas;

AND WHEREAS the congregation has significant debt-free income-producing assets and anticipates a reasonable surplus each year such as would support borrowings, and also has the capacity to realise existing assets in an orderly way to meet liabilities;

AND WHEREAS the time and cost of obtaining necessary Synod approval for borrowing is best avoided by a prudent provision enabling efficient action in the event of favourable opportunities;

NOW THEREFORE the Knox Deacons' Court overtures the Southern Presbytery to permit the overturing of Synod to grant approval for the borrowing of up to \$300,000 from external sources, to fund additional facilities for the extension of the work, subject to written demonstration of the capacity to service any loan being submitted to and approved by Southern Presbytery along with extract minutes approving the proposal from the Congregation and Deacons' Court, the security being the property acquired or existing property, other than the church;

OR to do otherwise for this object as in their wisdom they deem best.