

The Synod of Eastern Australia



To meet at the
Knox Church Facilities
Melbourne Congregation
Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

2nd – 4th May 2011

Standing Committee Reports

“Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.”

CONTENTS

TIMETABLE.....	1
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.....	2
CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS.....	5
LAW & ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	6
TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE.....	11
CHURCH & NATION COMMITTEE	12
MEDIA COMMITTEE.....	12
YOUTH & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE	14
MISSIONS COMMITTEE	19
INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE.....	29
SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE	31
FINANCE COMMITTEE.....	34
TREASURER.....	36
QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION.....	39
NSW TRUST CORPORATION.....	39
TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA.....	41
PRESBYTERY REPORTS.....	43
CORRESPONDENCE	
Item 1 Overture NP re Rev DP Smith and Armidale	48
Item 2 Overture CP re Superannuation	51
Item 3 Overture CP re Conflict of Interest	52
Item 4 Overture SP re Reception of Student	54

TIMETABLE FOR SYNOD 2011

Time	Monday 2 May	Time	Tuesday 3 May	Wednesday 4 May
	Synod to Commence with Session 1 at 4.30pm Monday 2nd May	9.00am	SESSION 3 Devotions and Prayer. Law and Advisory Training of Ministry	SESSION 6 Devotions and Prayer. Superannuation Finance Trust Corporations.
		M/Tea 10.30am		
		12.30pm	Lunch	Lunch
4.30pm	SESSION 1 Constitution of Synod. Retiring Moderator's Sermon. Presbytery Rolls. Welcomes (New members, guests, associations as required). Thanks to Retiring Moderator	2.00pm	SESSION 4 Church and Nation Media (Banner Website Archives) Youth and Fellowship Missions	SESSION 7 Presbytery Reports Synod in Committee: Strategy for the Future Sjirk Bajema Reports of Examiners of Records. Appointment of Moderator-elect Time and Place of Next Synod
6.00pm	Dinner	6.00pm	Dinner	Dinner
7.00pm	SESSION 2 Election of Moderator for 2011/2012. Administration	7.00pm	SESSION 5 Inter-Church Relations Delegates from Other Churches	SESSION 8 Missions Evening
7.45pm	Moderator's address. Thanks to Moderator.			
8.30pm	Close	8.30pm	Close	Closure of Synod

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Ministerial Movements:

Rev Alan Tripovich resigned as minister of the Hastings River Congregation as of 30th June 2010, with his name added to the roll of resigned ministers.

Rev James Klazinga was inducted to the pastoral charge of the Brisbane Congregation on 3rd September 2010.

Rev David Kerridge was inducted to the Hastings River Congregation on 11th December 2010.

Rev Andres Miranda was inducted as a collegiate minister of the Knox Congregation on 29th January 2011.

Timetable:

The timetable proposed for this Synod is set to commence at 4.30pm. Tuesday evening Session 5 is set aside for Inter-Church Relations, with an opportunity for visitors to hear delegates from other churches. Wednesday afternoon Session 7 has been set aside to meet in committee with Rev Sjirk Bajema to lead in a time to consider vision and strategy for the future. Synod will conclude with the close of the Missions Night on Wednesday evening.

Presbyteries and Committees may meet when Synod is not in Session according to normal procedure.

Correspondence:

	<u>Date received</u>	<u>From</u>
1.	04.03.11	Overture from Northern Presbytery Re Leave of Absence for Rev DP Smith & Status of the Armidale Congregation
2.	09.03.11	Overture from Central Presbytery Re Changes to Superannuation Committee
3.	09.03.11	Overture from Central Presbytery Re Conflict of Interest in Church Courts and Committees
4.	15.03.11	Overture from Southern Presbytery Re Reception of Student for the Ministry

Congregational Statistics:

See the table appended to this report.

Expression of Sympathy:

We are not aware of the death of any former member of the Synod.

Synod Committees Membership and Method of Operating:

With emails, and other electronic means of communication, committees no longer need to be composed on a regional basis. The proposed resolutions clarify the expected protocols for members using such means of communication.

Committees:

Minor changes have been made to the committee structure: Mr Miranda has replaced Mr Robinson on the Missions Committee and replaced Mr Smith as Convener. Mr Klazinga has replaced Mr Smith on the Youth and Fellowship Committee.

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, Media: D.K.Muldoon (Convener Church and Nation), S Bajema (Convener Media and Banner), M.G.Smith (Website), R.S.Ward (Archives), D.Kerridge

Youth and Fellowship: G.Hamilton (Convener), J.D.Klazinga, A.A.Miranda, S.Carswell, T. Reeve

Finance: A.H.Steel (Convener), D.J.Ramsay, T. Buck, D.E.Kerr, J.Audet.

Superannuation: R.S.Ward (Convener), D.J.Ramsay, S.Bajema, J.Audet.

Missions: A.A. Miranda (Convener), D.P.Smith, T.I.Leggott, D.K.Muldoon, I.Conley, J.Greensill.

Training of Ministry: M.G.Smith (Convener), J.A.McCallum, R.W.Murray, T.W.Yoa, D.Manly.

Draft NSW Property Act Amendment, Presbytery Responses:

Synod 2010 10.14 resolved as follows: *1. Synod remit the following overture to Presbyteries for their consideration and approval or otherwise. The voting is to be recorded and the result given by extract minute to the Clerk of Synod by 31 December 2010.* The following responses were received:

Northern Presbytery: It was moved, seconded and carried that the Presbytery disapprove the proposal to amend the text of the 1918 Legislation by deleting Section 2[2]b on page 9 of the 2010 Synod Reports. For the motion and against the Proposal: 5 Against the motion and for the Proposal: 0.

Central Presbytery: Resolved that the proposed draft amendment to the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act 1918 accompanying the overture remitted to Central Presbytery by Synod 2010 (minutes 10.14.1) not be approved by this Presbytery. (voting: 7 for, 0 against).

It was further resolved that: Whilst the draft amendment of the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act 1918 includes necessary amendments, it includes superfluous material and excessive duplication. Inadequate provisions should be strengthened, omissions included and changes made to sections which are at variance with the constitution and laws of the church. To this end this Presbytery recommends that the NSW Trustees draft a fresh amendment to update the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act 1918 as amended 2004.

Southern Presbytery: Presbytery, noting that the proposed revised Property Act closely follows that in Victoria since 1953, with some appropriate additional clauses, cordially approves the proposed amendment. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Proposed Deliverances:

1. That Correspondence Item 1 be received and considered with the report of Northern Presbytery.
 2. That Correspondence Item 2 be received and considered with the Superannuation Committee Report.
 3. That Correspondence Item 3 be received and considered following the Law and Advisory Committee Report.
 4. That Correspondence Item 4 be received and considered following the Training of Ministry Committee Report.
 5. That Synod repeal Sections 1 and 2 of Act 1, Class 2 of Synod 1983 (as amended) and re-title the said Act "Reports and Correspondence to Synod".
 6. That Synod enact as follows:
 1. Synod appoints such standing and occasional Committees as deemed appropriate.
 2. Normally a Synod Committee shall consist of no more than five members, and given the prevalence of electronic means of communication, these members do not normally need to be geographically close to each other. Members are expected to serve on their Committee for at least three years unless otherwise decided by Synod.
 3. Committees have the power to seek assistance and advice from other qualified persons if considered appropriate.
 4. All members of a Committee have a responsibility to contribute promptly to its deliberations and proposals. When using emails the subject line should include reference, in an agreed form, to the Committee concerned. 'Reply to all' should be used in all responses so that each member is aware of the responses of all other members and can interact accordingly, just as if they were personally present. Members have the responsibility of advising of any change to their email address. The use of employer-provided email addresses should be avoided. When using a conference call (audio or video) care must be taken to give each member opportunity to contribute, and decisions arising out of such hook-ups are to be very clearly expressed at the time and circulated in written form immediately thereafter.
 5. Committees are encouraged to begin their work soon after each Synod and where appropriate to divide the work among themselves. Committees may elect a Vice-convener to understudy the Convener so as to maintain the work if the Convener is not available.
- This Act may be cited as "Synod Committees: membership and method of operating"
7. That Committee Structure as noted in the report be adopted.
 8. That the following examiners of records be appointed:

Northern Presbytery	Rev. A Miranda and Hawkesbury Nepean elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. D. Kerridge and Knox Melbourne elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. J. Klazinga and Northern Rivers elder.

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS AS AT 31.12.2010

Congregation & no. of elders/deacons	Communicants				Typical Attendance of different persons each LD		CHURCH COMMUNITY BY AGE Total attendance if everyone present who worships at least once a month plus the housebound but not including visitors passing through.						Baptisms	Sunday-School classes/ pupils	Youth midweek participants
	09	+	-	10	09	10	>4	4-11	12-18	19-64	65+	Total			
Brisbane-4/1	*42	3	6	39	48	50	3	13	7	28	9	60	0	4/19	0
Nor R-4/3	53	2	1	52	63	60	4	9	3	24	39	79	0	2/13	0
Armidale-2/2	11	0	1	12	50	30	1	8	7	14	3	33	0	3/16	10
Hastings-4/0	33	1	1	33	39	42	3	4	2	26	13	48	0	2/5	0
North. P-14/6	139	6	9	136	200	182	11	34	19	92	64	220	1	11/43	14
Manning-5/3	60	0	1	59	60	59	0	1	2	31	40	74	0	2/6	32
Hunter-3/4	*45	0	0	45	58	52	2	9	5	9	28	53	0	4/11	0
St Geo - 4/3	62	0	8	54	65	65	3	11	5	49	23	91	1	3/10	0
Mt Druitt-2/0	22	3	0	25	23	51	4	7	3	26	11	51	2	1/5	16
Sydney Sth-2/	11	0	0	11	15	15	0	2	3	7	2	14	0	1/2	0
Cent P-16/10	201	3	9	194	221	242	9	30	18	122	104	283	6	12/28	49
Knox-3/0	38	6	6	38	60	59	8	13	3	39	15	78	6	2/12	7
AN – Nuer - English	0 6	44 -	- -	44 6	200 26	180 26	35 2	45 4	25 5	120 14	2 2	227 27	0 0	2/45 1/5	0 0
Narre W-1/1	31	5	1	35	47	49	2	4	4	28	17	55	0	2/8	0
CarrumDs 1/0	0	11	-	11	-	11	0	0	3	8	4	15	0	0	0
Geelong-2/0	23	2	2	23	24	23	1	0	2	11	16	30	0	0	0
Ulvstne-1/1	25	0	6	19	40	26	0	2	11	9	13	35	1	2/11	14
Sthrn P-8/2	123	68	15	176	375	374	48	68	53	229	69	467	7	9/81	21
TOTALS -38	463	77	33	507	796	798	56	128	89	488	234	970		32/164	108

* = adjusted from last year

No return was received from Sydney South so last year's figures have been used.

2010 Deaths: Northern Rivers 2; Hastings 1, Manning 1, Narre Warren 1, Ulverstone 1 Total: 6

Presbytery reports should give some idea of reasons for change during the year. Noteworthy is the increasing interaction with newer settlers. Mt Druitt has a number of Tongans attending and fitting in well; The Hunter ministers conducts a monthly service for two groups of Fijians – one monthly service at Cardiff, another at Mayfield, with a total of 64 involved. They are not integrated at this point. Knox continues the Sudanese work.

LAW & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

1. Handbook: As approved by Synod 2010 the Handbook and Decision Book on the church website were duly updated following the Synod.

2. Marriage:

Given the current pressure on Christian values from some aspects of Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination legislation, as well as pressure for same-sex marriage to be recognized, and the danger to the Church if her doctrinal position dated from 1647 is seen as less than clear-cut in the light of these recent developments, we recommend that the Synod reaffirm its commitment to the statement in the Confession Faith 24.1, namely marriage is to be between one man and one woman. Given the perennial significance of issues related to family and marriage it could also be useful for Sessions and our people to have a short statement like those on other subjects in 2000 (see Decision Book, under Church & Nation Committee).

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

We believe that God established the family relationship with marriage as a covenant between one man and one woman for life, and with sexual union taking place only within the marriage relationship. God is against sin but he is for the family. God intends that a secure and loving marriage relationship provide the context for the birth and nurture of children. We also recognize that God does not give all the gift of marriage and that the single state is to be respected and honoured as well.

We recognise that sin can fracture relationships so that divorce on the grounds of sexual immorality or irremediable desertion of marriage obligations is sometimes appropriate, the ultimate cause being the hardness of the human heart. We also recognize that the temptation to sexual relationships between persons of the same gender can exist and that yielding to such temptations is serious sin for which repentance is necessary. Pornography likewise is a sinful snare that debases and corrupts human life.

Given the way sin affects all our lives, compassion for those ensnared in improper relationships or addictions is necessary at the same time as a Biblical presentation of the solution in Jesus Christ. In the fellowship of God's family, the Church, married couples may strengthen their relationship, and the brokenness of all our lives may be overcome and healed through the love of Christ and the support of other believers.

3. Interviewing women, children and vulnerable adults:

There is a general question over the lawfulness, and certainly the appropriateness, of interview of parties by an all male Session when females or minors are involved. The usual solution to this is to provide a clear alternative procedure such as that passed with the consent of all presbyteries by the Free Church of Scotland in 2008. We have not yet done so, and while the times when we would need such a procedure may be infrequent, a good procedure is desirable before it is needed. We have made the minimal modification to the Free Church of Scotland legislation to relate it to our church, and propose this be enacted as an interim act (and thus valid only until next Synod) and sent down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act.

4. Change in position of Free Church of Scotland on worship:

We note with concern that the obligation of officebearers' vows to adhere to inspired songs in church worship appears to have been ignored in the decision reached on 19 November 2010 by a plenary Assembly, and that Barrier Act procedure was put aside. We would hope there may be some mitigation of the decision at the Assembly in 2011 by confining other songs to Scripture portions, and that the pragmatic approach which seemed to be very prominent may not be applied to other matters of importance. It is understood that the subject will come before the annual Assembly in May 2011.

5. Proposed Property Act amendment (Victoria):

At a duly constituted meeting of the Southern Presbytery on 25/2/2011 it was resolved unanimously to request the Law and Advisory Committee to submit proposals to Synod 2011 for the amendment of Parliamentary Act 5691 Victoria 1953 (Free Presbyterian Church Property) on the grounds that up to

date legislation for the more efficient management of its property is desirable. The additional clauses to be usual to such Acts and to give power to pool trust funds for investment purposes, to vary trusts where appropriate, and power to enter into joint use of property with other denominations. These clauses have been recognised as necessary by the Synod Treasurer in his comments on the draft of an amendment of the NSW legislation. While the Charities Act 1978 (Victoria) was amended in 2005 to provide some cover in respect of the first two matters it is not in the form most suited for a church. A self-explanatory draft appears as Appendix 1. These are common clauses for church trusts. It is believed these clauses have general support and we have MPs ready to sponsor the Bill in the Victorian Parliament.

Proposed Deliverances:

1. For removing any question about the Church's position in the light of more recent attitudes to marriage, Synod reaffirm its commitment to the statement in the Confession of Faith 24.1, namely, marriage is to be between one man and one woman. Synod commend the short statement on Marriage and Family Life in the Report to the use of our people in ways they may find appropriate.

2. The Synod transmit the following Overture about interviewing Women, Children and Vulnerable Adults to Presbyteries under the provisions of the Barrier Act and meantime enact the same as an Interim Act.:

1. *Whereas the Synod reaffirms the need to have clearly defined procedures available for all Church Courts to follow; and*
2. *Whereas it is imperative that the Church meets the standards set out in civil regulations for best practice in modern society, particularly with regard to the interviewing of women, children and vulnerable persons, and in so far as these standards do not involve principles or practices in conflict with Scripture; and*
3. *Whereas sensitivity applies in all situations where women appear before an all-male Court, especially in relation to breaches of the seventh commandment or in any matter where questions of an intimate nature are raised; and*
4. *Whereas the Free Church of Scotland enacted under Barrier Act with the consent of all Presbyteries identical legislation to that now proposed except for the necessary modifications to relate it to this Church;*

WHEREFORE it is hereby enacted and ordained that:

1. Where judgment is announced with information that a complaint has been lodged by a member of the Church court, parties before the court should be informed of the possibility that the complaint may be abandoned so that the decision complained against stands. This possibility may be a factor in whether or not a party before the court decides to appeal.

2. It is open to anyone who appears before a Church court to be accompanied by a friend or support person. Depending on the circumstances of the case, the support person may be legally qualified. On such occasions, the Church court itself should arrange to have a legal assessor present. The court should receive no less than seven days notice of such attendance in order to make its own arrangements, if required.

3. Sensitivities apply in all situations where females appear before an all-male court, especially in relation to breaches of the seventh commandment or in any matter where questions of an intimate nature arise. If a female is a potential witness in a matter which could lead to the disciplining of a Church member, another female should, where practicable, conduct the initial interview of the female, for the purposes of obtaining a precognition, which could inform the decision whether to institute disciplinary process. In any such situation, the following regulations shall apply:

(a) The female who provides such assistance should be a mature believer, preferably a communicant member of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, or, where this is not possible, a professing Christian in another denomination. Such a female should possess appropriate professional qualifications and experience of the procedures and issues involved in interviewing females, whether from a legal, social work or similar background.

- (b) The female must be appointed by the Church court involved. No interviews should be conducted by individuals who are not so appointed.
- (c) The principal questions should be prepared in advance by the relevant Church court in liaison with the female who is to undertake the interview. At the discretion of the interviewer, supplementary questions may be asked in the light of answers received.
- (d) Presbyteries are responsible to keep a list of suitably qualified females to undertake such interviews.
- (e) Interviewers' reasonable expenses shall be paid by the appropriate court.

4. In the event that, having considered the precognition obtained, the Church court considers that a disciplinary process should be instituted the general procedures applicable in all Church courts, as set out in the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* shall be followed. In the event that it is deemed necessary to have a female give evidence to a Church court the court should consider in advance whether or not any special measures – such as giving evidence from behind a screen or via live video link or by a prior written statement or with a supporter - are practicable and appropriate. Before reaching a decision on whether such measures are appropriate, parties to the disciplinary process should have an opportunity to be heard.

5. In circumstances in which a minister or elder requires to interview a female in confidence, for example in connection with a pastoral matter, he should carefully consider the most appropriate venue for such an interview so as to ensure, so far as possible, that others are in close proximity.

6. Church courts should ensure that in all instances of the interview of a child (being a person under the age of sixteen) or other vulnerable witness (being a person who is not a child but in respect of whom there is a significant risk that the quality of his evidence would be diminished by reason of mental disorder or by reason of fear or distress in connection with giving evidence), the interview is conducted in a skilled manner and in a low-key environment, with questions being simple and non-leading, and with the child or other vulnerable witness being given a break or rest period at any time requested. Careful reflection is necessary, having regard to the whole circumstances of the case including the welfare of the child or other vulnerable witness, before any Church court seeks to have such a witness give evidence on a matter involving Church discipline.

7. If it is deemed necessary to have a child or other vulnerable witness give evidence to a Church court the court should consider in advance whether or not any special measures - such as giving evidence from behind a screen or via live video link or by a prior written statement or with a supporter - would be practicable and appropriate. If there is a significant risk that the quality of the witness's evidence would be diminished through mental disorder, fear or distress, or if it is felt that the giving of evidence without such special measures would be detrimental to welfare of the witness, an appropriate measure from such measures should be introduced where practicable provided its introduction, in the particular circumstances of the case, would not prejudice the legitimate rights of the party who is the subject of the disciplinary process. Before reaching a decision on whether any such standard or special measures are appropriate, parties to the disciplinary process should have an opportunity to be heard.

9. An individual who is the subject of a disciplinary process in connection with an allegation of sexual misconduct shall be prohibited from conducting his own defence. In such circumstances, a representative shall be appointed to conduct his defence.

This Act may be cited as 'Act Concerning Interviewing Women, Children and Vulnerable Adults by Church Courts'.

Presbyteries are requested to give their approval or disapproval with votes recorded and send advice to the Clerk of Synod by 31 December 2011 so that the Committee may report to Synod 2012.

3. Synod approve the proposed amendment of the Free Presbyterian Property Act as set out in Appendix 1 and direct the Committee to arrange for its submission to the Parliament of Victoria.

APPENDIX 1

Free Presbyterian Church Property Amendment Act 20**

Preamble

1. The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia wishes up to date legislation for the more efficient management of its property.
2. The Church desires power to pool trust funds for investment purposes, to vary trusts where appropriate, and power to enter into joint use of property with other denominations.
3. It is expedient to enact legislation for this purpose.

The Parliament of Victoria therefore enacts:

1 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to amend the Free Presbyterian Property Act 1953 to provide for more efficient management of the Church's property.

2 Commencement

This Act comes into operation on the day after the day on which it receives the Royal Assent.

3 Existing Section renumbered

Existing Section 10 is renumbered 13.

4 Pooling of trust funds

The following Section 10 is inserted

- 10.** (1) Where the body corporate hold money on trust for different purposes or activities it shall be lawful for the body corporate from time to time to invest the money or any part or parts thereof as one fund and to distribute income arising therefrom rateably among the several purposes for which the money so invested is held and any loss arising from any such investment shall likewise be borne rateably.
- (2) The body corporate may make advances out of the money referred to in sub-section (1) for any purpose of or relating to the Church.
- (3) Any sum advanced under sub-section (2) shall be deemed an investment of the money and shall bear interest at a rate fixed by the body corporate in accordance with the rules and the sum advanced and the interest thereon shall be deemed to be a charge on the assets of the Church.

5 Variation of trusts

The following Section 11 is inserted

- 11.** (1) Subject to sub-section (2), in every case where by reason of circumstances subsequent to the creation of the trusts, including trusts declared under this section, to which any property vested in the body corporate is for the time being subject, it has in the opinion of Synod become impossible or impracticable to carry out or observe the trusts, it shall be lawful for the Synod by resolution to declare that opinion, and by the same or any subsequent resolution to declare other trusts for or for the use, benefit or purpose of the Church instead of the first-mentioned trusts, and the first-mentioned trusts shall thereupon by force of the resolution cease and determine, and the property shall thereupon be held upon the other trusts accordingly.

- (2) The property shall be dealt with for the same purposes as nearly as may be as the purposes for which the property was immediately before the resolution held unless the Synod by resolution declares that by reason of circumstances subsequent to the creation of the first mentioned trusts it is, in the opinion of the Synod, impossible or impracticable to deal with or apply the property or some part thereof for the same or like purposes, in which case the property or that part thereof may be dealt with or applied for the use and benefit of the Church for such other purposes as may be declared by resolution of the Synod.

6 Joint use of property with other denominations

The following Section 12 is inserted

- 12.** (1) In this section, ‘scheme of co-operation’ means a scheme entered into by the body corporate with the permission of Synod:
 - (a) with or involving a church of another denomination or any activity of such a church, and
 - (b) involving the body corporate.
- (2) The body corporate may permit property to be used and managed for the purposes of a scheme of co-operation on such terms and conditions as the Synod determines.
- (3) Any proceeds derived by the body corporate from such a scheme of co-operation are to be applied in the manner decided by Synod.
- (4) Conditions that the Synod may determine under this section include:
 - (a) conditions with respect to the making of monetary contributions towards the acquisition, construction, alteration, maintenance or repair of property vested in or held on behalf of a co-operating church or congregation, and
 - (b) the giving or taking of security over any property.
- (5) Property may be used in accordance with a scheme of arrangement except to the extent that the property is subject to an express trust expressly forbidding its use in that manner.
- (6) Property is not to be regarded as property that is subject to an express trust expressly forbidding its use under a scheme of co-operation merely because it is held on trust for worship within or for the purposes of, the Church.

TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

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

The committee did not meet during the year. We have, however, dealt with a number of items of business.

1. Awareness of God's Blessing in the past Year.

We record our thanks to God for the three inductions which have taken place in these last months and for the provision of the ministry of God's word and pastoral care from which these three congregations thereby benefit.

2. Lack of students/applicants, particularly from within Australia.

This year we have again seen an absence of men applying as students/applicants for ministry within the PCEA. Of particular concern is the absence of applications from within our own congregations. The church as a whole may wish to reflect on the reasons for this. Do we properly value the ministry of God's word? Do we properly respect, support and encourage those who have undertaken to minister in this way?

3. Enquiries from prospective minister.

The convener responded to an enquiry from a graduate of Westminster Seminary California which seemed promising. An assessment was sought which indirectly drew attention to our worship practice. When that matter was pursued no further response was forthcoming.

4. Responsibilities of the Committee.

Synod 2010 varied the wording of the Act describing the responsibilities of the Committee to allow the use, additionally, of the internet and/or of digital media. The committee are hoping to make some training material available in the course of this year using a web-based approach. However, there are technical and practical matters which will need to be resolved for this to become a reality.

5. A Prospective New Student.

At a meeting of the Southern Presbytery earlier this year an application from Mr. Denver D. Boehret was favourably received and passed onto the Committee. The Committee views Mr. Boehret's application with favour and has advised the Presbytery accordingly, with the requirement that his studies include Homiletics and Pastoral Care. Following normal procedure, we understand that the Southern Presbytery will be asking Synod to ratify its decision to accept Mr. Boehret as a recognised Student for the ministry. We rejoice in this development, and see it as an answer to prayer. We are aware that Mr. Boehret has made a request for financial assistance with his studies and are happy for that request to be brought before Synod in the overture from Southern Presbytery.

Proposed Deliverances

1. Synod gives thanks to God for the present provision of ministers and the past provision of students/applicants for the ministry from which we continue to benefit. Synod exhorts the church to thank God for his provision and 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.
2. Synod notes the hope of the Committee to prepare web-based training materials. Synod encourages prayer for those involved; that they may be granted wisdom in their endeavours, and that resulting material will prove useful and will be well used.

CHURCH AND NATION

This committee has the ‘mandate to speak in the name of the PCEA on public issues where there is a consensus position and to acquaint Synod, Presbyteries and Sessions of significant issues’. Most ministers address issues of public concern within their ministry. Some are active in groups that oppose abortion and euthanasia. The Biblical teaching on such issues is unequivocal. In The Presbyterian Banner issues of public concern are often addressed in a helpful manner.

Marriage continues to be under threat in our society. It was disappointing to see the highest office in our land become occupied by a person in a *de facto* relationship, a woman who by example despises the institution of marriage. We see the institution of marriage, a creation ordinance, under threat from the homosexual lobby. We must be vigilant in prayer and in opposing changes to the law advocated by the ungodly. We should be active in bringing the Biblical truths before our community and before local members of parliament.

MEDIA COMMITTEE

Report on ‘The Presbyterian Banner’

The ministry of our denominational magazine continues on apace. Every month, bar the break at the end of the year, our team in Narre Warren is involved in putting together another issue, through the Editor and his contributors and proof-reader, publishing it through a local printer, putting the mailing packages together through Barry & Pat Cochrane, and then mailing it out through another member of our church, John Holmes (also our Treasurer).

Thus far we have found more than enough news and other material to warrant a continued monthly publication, and this has been supported by a growing number of subscribers to the printed version. The number printed each month has increased from 95 till 140. This is even despite the subscription increase needed for the colour cover and extra postage charges. The on-line version comes out at the end of the month before the issue month and is also seeing an increase in terms of those who download it – particularly some issues over others!

Not all our ministers participate in the work of the magazine, but an increasing number do offer ready and helpful material. Of these Rowland Ward contributes a regular historical column, George Ball provides upbuilding biblical expositions, and I am grateful for the quantity of church news coming through, with suitable digital photos. Please keep it coming!

I would urge prompt payment of subscriptions and also encourage more congregations to take up a bulk subscription and thus positively promote the cause of Christ. As one can see, there has been a distinct effort to make ‘The Presbyterian Banner’ a magazine of ‘coffee table’ quality, thus able to be easily shared with neighbours and visitors. Where possible a theme will be developed in a particular issue, such as the place and value of the psalms in the February 2011 issue.

Financial Statement for year ended 31-12-10

RECEIPTS

Balance 01-01-10	1518.51
Subscriptions	3233.00
Bank Interest	41.28
	<hr/>
	\$4792.79

PAYMENTS

Printing	2585.25
Postage & labels	556.77
Bank Fees	9.50
Heat Sealer Repair	<u>64.90</u>
	3216.42
Balance 31-12-10	<u>1576.37</u>
	\$4792.79

S. Bajema, Editor

Report on Website:

Maintenance and development of the church website (www.pcea.org.au) has continued throughout this past year. New material has been added in three categories, although this has all been done by the webmaster; in recent years no articles or other material have been contributed by others.

Maintenance of the sub-sites of congregations has been carried out as required, and some congregational sites are being developed. Two representatives of congregations have been given access to the site to enable them to make such changes/additions to their congregation's sub-site as they desire.

In the calendar year 2010 the website averaged nearly 750 distinct visitors per month. These visitors averaged nearly two visits each (1.788) and viewed, on average, 7.4 pages per visit. Visitors continue to come from a large number of countries.

An increasing number of people are using the website as a means of contact. Where messages are not delivered directly to the appropriate person they are forwarded on by the webmaster. A number of 'religious spam' messages are received, although these are not generally sent to the contacts of congregations.

Digital editions of *The Presbyterian Banner* are able to be downloaded by any visitor to the website. The current editions of the handbook and decision book are also available as are the minutes of Synod 2010. Other material—reports and minutes from previous years, for example—is available but access is restricted. Members of Synod who require access, and have not yet requested it, should contact the webmaster.

The website is a window through which people may learn about the PCEA, and the God we worship and serve. As more people contribute, and as congregations develop their own sub-sites, the potential to make a positive impact will be more and more realised.

M G Smith, Webmaster

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Members: *G.D. Hamilton (convener), T. Reeve, P. Smith, S. Carswell, A.Miranda.*

Committee business was conducted via email during the year and the committee was able to meet during the Stanwell Tops Family Camp in January 2011.

Memory Work

In 2010 our Sunday Schools reported as having presented 75 certificates (2009 - 112) across 4 congregations. It was encouraging to receive notification of certificates issued from some of our congregations as per the table below.

Congregation	Bris	N. Riv	Arm	Hast	Mann	Hunt	Hawkes	St. Grg	Knox	NaWar	Gee I	Ulv
Met. Psalms												
Infants												1
Junior								3				
Senior				1				3				1
Scrip. Mem.												
Junior				2				3				2
Senior								1				2
Psalm Tunes												
Junior				5				8				2
Senior				5								3
Catechisms												
Section 1				1				1				2
Section 2												
Section 3								1				
Section 4								1				1
Section 5								1				1
Section 6												
Section 7												
The Ten Comm.												
Exodus 20:1-17								3				1
Books of the Bible												
Repetition in order								2				5
Essays												
Infants		1		1				3				1
Junior		1		1								1
Senior				2								2
Total Cert.	0	2	0	18	0	0	NA	30	0	0	NA	5

NA – Not Applicable (notified to Convener that no Sunday school conducted at present)

It is encouraging to see the children being taught the Scriptures, the Catechism and Psalm singing. We acknowledge those who are so faithfully teaching the children in our congregations.

It is disappointing that many congregations are not submitting statistics to the convener for inclusion in this report. Synod 2009 confirmed the committee recommendation that certificate statistics be sent through to the convener for reporting purposes. Whilst it is granted that all of the exact content of the Prescribed Work may not suit particular congregations, if the reason for not submitting statistics was

Synod Reports 2011

that nothing was performed by the children from the Prescribed Work, it would be a concern if items such as catechism memorisation and scripture portion memorisation for example cannot be included in a Sunday/Sabbath School syllabus.

Essays: Essay prizes were given to 13 children, 4 less than in 2009. This included 6 infant entries, 3 junior entries and 4 senior entries. It is encouraging to see the young people reading their Bible and writing very interesting answers to the set questions. They were surely blessed of the Lord in doing this work. A certificate is awarded to each participant with feedback on their work as well as a book prize or book voucher to the value of \$20, \$25 and \$30 respectively for the different age groups. It was most pleasing to receive return thanks from some of the children. We encourage more of the children in the church to put pen to paper and write an essay.

Birthday Roll: Mrs. Margaret Kinder sent out birthday cards to 142 children in 2010. During the year 13 children reached the age of 12 years and subsequently removed from the roll. Please notify Margaret of any children who could be receiving greetings from the church family on their birthday. The cards are sent with prayer for the child and their family. It is important that any changes to addresses within your congregation of those who receive birthday cards be updated and forwarded to Margaret.

Breakdown is as follows:-

Manning	21	Hawkesbury/Nepean	4	Geelong	0
St. Georges	10	Brisbane	15	Northern Rivers	12
Knox/Glenhuntly	28	Ulverstone	6	Narre Warren	8
Armidale	9	Hastings	10		
Hunter/Barrington	14	Sydney South	2		

Expenses for 2010 up to and including 31st December.

110 Stamps at .55cents each	= \$60.50
32 Stamps at .60cents each	= \$19.20
63 sheets card at .20cents each	= \$12.60
100 Envelopes at (\$4 for 50)	= \$8.00
Estimated printer ink	= \$46.50
Total	= \$146.80

Search Work: Mrs Irene Steel continued as coordinator of this program. 9 children were presented with book awards in 2010 (13 in 2009). The following children completed the questions in 2010 and have been awarded book prizes:

Senior Section: Andrew Hamilton, Cameron Hamilton, Chris Hamilton, Shaun Hamilton.

Intermediate Section: Rebecca Hamilton, Simone Hamilton.

Junior Section: Mahala Zuill, Ronnie Zuill, Vashti Zuill.

Churchwide Family Camp 2011: The committee met prior to the commencement of the churchwide family camp for a time of prayer seeking the Lords blessing on the time of fellowship to follow. We believe that the Lord surely did answer our prayers and many attendees commented on being spiritually built up, encouraged and refreshed during the camp. Thanks to Rev. David Kerridge for providing the following report:

Family Camp 2011, Stanwell Tops: This year the Family Camp was held at The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops. Stanwell Tops is located south of Sydney, perched on the escarpment, overlooking the south coast of NSW down towards Wollongong. It was a beautiful setting for a wonderful experience. Even though the weather was erratic, the camp ran like clockwork, thanks to Glen Hamilton (the Camp co-ordinator), the Youth and Fellowship Committee, Alan Stewart, and the friendly and helpful staff of the conference centre.

Rev. George Ball gave the opening address from the first verses of Acts chapter 1, highlighting the Holy Spirit's presence and vital involvement in the events of Acts, even so far as to rename the book the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Each subsequent day of the camp began with a time of prayer, and each

Synod Reports 2011

talk was preceded by a devotion on various aspects of the being and work of the Spirit. We also had a wonderful Psalmody time, very skillfully led by Sonja Hamilton, practicing some new tunes before the main talk and after dinner.

The theme of the camp was The Holy Spirit in Biblical Christianity, and we were challenged and enlivened by the main speaker Rev. Iain Smith's talks on the subject. Rev. Smith brought us from our relationship and union with God at conversion right through aspects of fellowship as believers with the Lord in the Spirit, to challenges to live in the Spirit, bearing our cross, following our Lord, and finally to seek our ultimate destination, growing in the Spirit, glory-bound. We again thank Iain for his warm exposition of a subject that is often neglected in our day to day lives as Christians, and for the wonderful time of fellowship we enjoyed together with him in the Spirit.

Small discussion groups followed each of the main talks and, speaking for our group, I believe they were a great way to think more deeply on the subjects that Iain raised (as well as go on a few really interesting tangents!).

The free time after lunch was a valuable time too to relax and retreat from the pressures of everyday life, catch up with brothers and sisters in Christ, and to spend more time thinking about the topics raised. There was, of course, fun to be had playing in the table tennis competition (if you survived the first round, that is, which I didn't!). The Hamilton clan dominated again this year, and the tournament came down to a titanic struggle between old rivals Glen Hamilton and his nephew Shaun. (Shaun won). The pool was a great spot on hot days, some bushwalked and collected photos and some specimens of bush flora, some played basketball or volleyball... there was lots to do.

Evenings were filled up with practical matters: On Tuesday night Peter Smith gave a talk on the struggles of living in this society as Christians with particular reference to marriage; Wednesday was Mission night where we heard of the work of CWI amongst the Jews and met Kay Chan Park and farewelled Paul Morris, and then heard Greg Fox deliver a presentation on the wide-spread work of Middle Eastern Reformed Fellowship (MERF), particularly their radio ministry reaching millions across the Middle East, into Africa, and also in Asia.

Attendance at the camp was good, but the particularly encouraging aspect was the large number of young people who were there. Also a matter of great encouragement, so I understand from a number of people, was the presence of 6 ministers from the church. I hope we can use these times (and perhaps have them more regularly) to be built up, to be challenged, to have fellowship with our brothers and sisters from Brisbane to Tasmania - To have a place where the wider church can come together and seek a future that honours the Lord and rejoices in our God, and that the Holy Spirit would bless us as we gather together, just as I believe he did at the 2011 Camp.

Annual Churchwide Family Camp: The committee considered the merits of conducting an annual churchwide family camp during the year. The concept was flagged at the Stanwell Tops Camp and received popular support from those in attendance. Subsequently it was decided that if there is a demand to have fellowship in this way that the committee should do all it can to encourage and provide opportunity for this to take place. The committee would like to propose that we conduct a Family Camp in January 2012 and monitor the support level from attendees. The Grevillea site at Stanwell Tops was already booked out and a tentative booking has been placed with Naamaroo Conference Centre at Lane Cove for January 3rd – 6th 2012. One consequence of conducting an annual camp will be that the subsidy amount offered to families will have to be reduced to ensure the Youth and Fellowship working funds are not depleted (The shortfall of the 2011 camp was in excess of \$3000). To help reduce costs of the camp it was decided to reduce the duration of the camp by one day. This should still enable 4 main addresses to be conducted during the camp if the opening address is conducted by the main speaker on the Tuesday night. The basic camp program utilised for previous camps seems to be working quite well with positive feedback received from those in attendance. Recommendation 6 seeks Synods approval of this initiative.

Brisbane Camp: Another successful camp was organised by the Brisbane congregation in 2010. Thanks to Mr. Stewart Carswell who provided the following report:

Synod Reports 2011

Many from Brisbane and Rockhampton headed south to the PCEA Brisbane Family Camp held at Lennox Head. The venue for the two day camp (26th-28th November) was the Presbyterian “Camp Drewe” site that has become a favourite meeting place for many within our church. In fact, 85 devoted campers travelled from Sydney, Wauchope, McLean, Brisbane and Rockhampton PCEA and other denominations to enjoy fellowship, friendship and sound biblical teaching (or maybe it was just a chance to have a weekend away basking in glorious sunshine near surf beaches, lakes, bush and peaceful surrounds?)

Jim Klazinga (PCEA Brisbane) spoke on the Trinity with particular contrast on the role of The Trinity in the Mormon and Jehovah Witness beliefs. The two engaging studies presented on Saturday were followed by much discussion. The younger children participated in organised games after each study while the NSY (not so young) were herded into groups for participation of a more spiritual nature. After lunch, many descended on the nearby surfing beach for swimming, boogie boarding, walking, beach cricket and football. Some swam in the tea tree lake while others opted to share a quiet cuppa with friends while not disturbing those catching up on valuable rest for the evening concert.

A sombre feeling preceded the concert as some mourned the absence of our favourite entertainer (Eric the Puppet) but the incredible gifts given from the Lord to our eager performers exceeded all expectations. The audience was treated to psalm singing, scripture recitals, singing, dancing and a showcase of musicians including pianists, flautists, saxophonist and violinists. The evening concluded with the much loved trivia night and team challenges – who would have ever thought that someone (Young Hee) could peel an apple with a butter knife so skillfully and quickly.

The tremendous sound of God’s people lifting their voices in praise was enjoyed immensely in the Psalmody prior to the Sunday morning worship service. Jim explained the Trinity from a Biblical perspective and his insight and explanation were appreciated by all. Our master chef delivered her final scrumptious meal at lunch (thank you Barbara for not going to Scotland this year), followed by the camp pack up and departure of much loved friends and church family members. We were all thankful to God for providing yet another joyous opportunity to gather together and we eagerly await the 2011 camp on the 25-28th November.

Prescribed Work 2011: Provided below is the prescribed work for 2011:

Metrical Psalms	1st certificate	2nd certificate
Infants (< 7 yrs)	Psalm 23/121	Psalm 67/100
Junior (8-12 yrs)	Psalm 25:1-7	Psalm 119:97-104
Senior (13-17 yrs)	Psalm 147:1-8	Psalm 111

Scripture Memory

1 st certificate (Junior)	John 14: 1-7
2 nd certificate (Senior)	1 John 4: 7-16

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalm Tunes: Please choose appropriate Psalm from preferred book (sol fa copies are available from convener)

Junior	St. Lawrence	Senior	Wiltshire
	Zurich		Naomi
	Eastgate		Sheffield
	Duke Street		Perfect Way

Catechism

Section 1	1-10	Section 4	39-62
Section 2	11-22	Section 5	63-88
Section 3	23-38	Section 6	89-107
		Section 7	1-107 word perfect

Synod Reports 2011

Books of the Bible

Correct repetition of the Books of the Bible in order.

Essays

Infants (<7)

Q. Read Luke Chapter 15: 1-7. Illustrate the lost sheep being found. What causes joy in heaven? What does it mean for you?

Junior (8-12) (up to 400 words)

Q. Read Daniel Chapter 6. Why was Daniel put into the Lion's Den? How was he saved? What do we learn from Daniel? You may wish to include an illustration.

Senior (13-17) (1000 words)

Q. Why were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego thrown into the fiery furnace? Also, in Daniel Chapter 5 relate in your own words what occurred with Belshazzar and Daniel. What lessons do we learn from these accounts?

Prescribed Work Ten year Plan

Work continued on the ten year plan for prescribed work. Acknowledgment is given to the work completed on this by previous Youth and Fellowship Committees. The current section being worked on is the Metrical Psalms memorisation.

Youth and Fellowship Budget for 2011

The budget for 2011 is provided below. It should be noted that the Brisbane congregation have not requested the budgeted amount of assistance for the running costs of the Brisbane family camp for the last couple of years.

Brisbane family camp	200
Search work prizes	300
Birthday cards	200
Essay prizes	400
PCEA Family camp 2012	<u>400</u>
TOTAL	<u>1500</u>

Proposed Deliverances:

1. Synod thank all Sunday School teachers and youth leaders for their dedicated work in teaching the young people.
2. Synod thank Mrs Margaret Kinder for sending birthday greetings to children.
3. Synod thank Mrs Irene Steel for setting and assessing Search Work questions and awarding prizes to the children.
4. Synod remind Deacons Courts of the church to include the Youth and Fellowship Committee Working Funds as a worthwhile special collection and to seek financial support from their congregation.
5. Synod request that certificate statistics be sent through to the convener for reporting purposes.
6. Synod confirm the initiative of the committee to implement an annual church-wide family camp.
7. Synod recommend that Presbyteries/local congregations examine the need for Youth activities/camps and seek to provide opportunities for fellowship.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Committee Members 2010-2011

D.P. Smith (Convener), I Conley, J Greensill, D Muldoon, N Robinson and 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 The committee met formally on the 28th February 2011. Additionally, communication, dialogue and discussions have been carried out by telephone and email throughout the ecclesiastical year.

Mission Field Reports

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES – Rev Trevor Leggott reports:

In 2010 there has been good consolidation of ministries right across the AIM field in the Northern Territory and NSW in particular. There remains much to be developed in Queensland and plans are in place to extend the AIM network in South Australia. AIM continues to draw applicants for service from a wider range of Presbyterian and Reformed churches, with new personnel from the Free Reformed Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church now coming on board. On reflection AIM now have personnel representing most of these Australian churches.

The Theological Education by Extension (TEE) program has made good progress under the oversight of Amos Leana and Bob Quinn. It has been especially gratifying to see local Indigenous groups taking the training on board, with five pilot programs now under way at Minto, Mt Druitt, Dubbo, Eden and Albury. During 2011 we plan to extend the training to Queensland centres, and to explore the possibility of developing courses for non-literate oral learners in traditional tribal areas of the Northern Territory.

A few years ago I sought to reconnect small groups across Northern NSW where AIM had ministries in the past. From just one church in Dubbo and a struggling few in Gilgandra, we now have a fraternal of some 24 leaders in the towns of Moree, Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri, Brewarrina, Gilgandra and Dubbo.

The renewed Alice Springs work is progressing well under the oversight of Phil Stuart and there are plans to place three new couples in the NT in 2011. The AIM property in Darwin, which was previously set up as a Bible College, is being converted to allow more on site permanent accommodation. The facility, built in the 1980s after cyclone Tracy, is a sound modern complex and will be developed as the AIM NT Ministry Centre. Plans are to accommodate up to four couples on site and to provide facility for in-service training, seminars and conferences. This facility will also be a base for the translation work currently being done in association with SIL, the Bible League and Scripture Union, and for NT TEE program.

TEAM Partners (Tentmakers Encouraging Aboriginal Ministry) continue to play an important role in ministry to Aboriginal people across our field. When Christians take up secular work in areas such as health and education ideal opportunities quickly develop for such roles to have a strong and positive influence amongst the local people. AIM has new couples working as teachers, medical personnel and hospital and prison chaplaincy.

Synod Reports 2011

Langham Preaching Seminars are planned for later in 2011 with the aim of improving the level of Biblical preaching. This will be a week of lecturing, group sessions and personal reflection, focusing on Biblical study, sermon development and practical application.

It has been encouraging to have a growing interest, support and involvement from folk within the PCEA. Of particular note is the work of Clive and Rosalie and Richard and Diane Alley who have helped builder Neil Bootes to undertake major renovation work on some of our NSW properties. These couples have established good bonds of fellowship in their time together, and they plan to travel to Darwin for an extended time to help in the upgrade of the facilities there later in 2011.

We have been blessed with a number of new personnel to further develop Gospel ministry in an area of incredible need amongst Australia's first inhabitants. I ask that you might pray with us as we give thanks to the Lord and His people, and as we continue to look to the Lord and His people to supply the financial resources necessary to develop and maintain these much needed ministries.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS TO ISRAEL

Rev. Paul Morris and his wife Judy are very well known to all in the PCEA. Most of you would realise that Paul has extended his stay in Australia, resolute in God's providence to find the right person to continue the work. While a replacement for Paul has yet to eventuate there have been some unexpected blessings during this time of change for CWI. Paul and Judy leave Australia to return to the UK on the 28th March.

Paul extends his heartfelt thanks to the PCEA for our constant support and faithful prayers during his time at the helm of the mission. He sent the following to inform us of the arrangements that are now in place. There are some things mentioned that Synod should bring before the throne of God.

KayChan and Sue Park will continue their unique ministry of outreach to Israelis in Australia. They have expressed to the Council their hope to live in the Bondi area again and Council would value your prayers as they discuss this in the days ahead.

Craig Myers will work in CWI's Bondi office for 2 days a week to keep all the administrative work flowing smoothly. The office fronts onto Ocean Street, giving opportunities to meet Jewish people who pass by. Craig and his wife Cheryl, who is a Jewish believer, have had a long association with CWI, so they know the work well and are deeply committed to it.

Julian Bull is presently engaging in pastoral ministry in Perth with Grace Fellowship but has agreed to represent CWI in Western Australia on a volunteer basis during 2011. Julian has had an interest in Jewish mission for many years, an interest which began 30 years ago when he was the pastor of Newtown Baptist Church where the ministry of Miss Stargatt and Miss Black of Sydney Messianic Fellowship was based. A regional CWI committee has now met under his leadership, having the goal of raising the level of awareness, prayer support & financial support of the work of CWI among faithful local churches in Perth and beyond. There are plans for a quarterly prayer meeting and a visit to Perth by KayChan Park in October 2011. There is the hope of a conference when Mike Moore visits from the UK. Julian will be prayerfully considering how he may increase his involvement in 2012 to include making CWI's ministry better known among existing and new supporters in other parts of Australia.

Graham Jefferys will assist in making our ministry more widely known on a voluntary basis. Graham is a retired missionary living in Tahmoor and will be speaking in churches in the area of NSW from Penrith to the Southern Highlands. The local committee in Melbourne are looking in faith to the day when the Lord will again raise up a missionary to work with CWI among the 40,000 Jewish people living there. The committee is planning occasional outreach meetings in the CBD.

The CWI Council meets in Sydney - a gifted and experienced group of men and women who will, by God's grace, continue to guide the development of CWI's ministry in Australia in the days to come. They would appreciate your prayers for the Lord's grace and wisdom as they meet.

DUMISANI THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE – The Convener reports:

DTI has faced some big challenges over the past 12 months. The global economic downturn has meant that donations have waned as people necessarily re-evaluate what they can support. A secondary, but equally unhelpful situation, is the continuing strength of the South African Rand to the British Pound. Added to this, there have also been some personal issues, forced retrenchments and health concerns within the faculty staff. Nevertheless, the Principal, Rev. Alistair Wilson, details some joyous occasions in the midst of what he calls “Testing Times.”

James 1:2: “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”

This text from James has been in my mind a great deal recently. The last year has been a testing time for Dumisani Theological Institute. That is not to say that there have not been moments of joy and occasions of encouragement, but it is probably fair to say that the staff team feel rather bruised. We also recognize that the kinds of trials, which we have experienced have been of a very different nature to the trials experienced by brothers and sisters in some parts of the world where they may be ill-treated, tortured, imprisoned or even killed because of their faith in Jesus Christ. But our trials have been trials nonetheless. In the midst of these trials, James’ words provide both encouragement and challenge.

Let me first mention some real encouragements we have known during 2010, then survey briefly the bumpy road on which we have been travelling and then finally outline the issues which we will need to address in the coming months and in which, perhaps, you will be able to support us in prayer and in other ways.

Encouragements: We have known several significant encouragements in the past year.

Graduating students: At the heart of our work at Dumisani is the training of men and women for service in the church of Jesus Christ. In 2010, we saw a good number of students make progress in their studies and several students complete their degrees. I will highlight just three of the students who received their awards at our Awards Ceremony in March 2011. Rev Buntu Mtshhe, a minister of the Free Church in Southern Africa, completed his BA Honours degree; Mr Wayne Grätz completed his BTh degree (with outstanding results) and Mrs N. Masabalala also completed her BTh. It is a particular achievement for Mrs Masabalala who has been doing her studies part-time over a total of eight years by attending evening classes. In addition to these three students, another student named Fezile completed all the requirements for his BTh from NWU with excellent results. Unfortunately, Mr Mathiso could not receive his degree this year because he has one more year of formal registration with the university to complete.

Sunday School Work: We started the year with a great encouragement in that Rev Victor Nkatha joined us as Sunday School Project Worker and Junior Lecturer, as a result of funds raised for Sunday School work by children of the Free Church of Scotland. Throughout the year, the team who lead the regular workshops gave direction and encouragement to dozens of Sunday School Teachers, including a record attendance of around 110 at one workshop!

Building Project: It was very exciting to see a proposal in drawings and then a 3D digital model for a proposed new building which would allow Dumisani to work much more effectively as a college. The issue of buildings had been discussed by the Board of Governors for many years and so there was a real sense of progress and anticipation as the drawings and model were unveiled.

Visitors: We have had numerous visitors during the course of the year. These visits are always encouraging for the Dumisani community and often they provide an opportunity to serve the wider Christian community. Notable among our visitors in 2010 were Prof I. Howard Marshall in March and, in October, Dr Jamie Grant (a former colleague of the Principal) and Rev. David Meredith, Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland.

Synod Reports 2011

Challenges: Along with these significant encouragements, however, we experienced some tough times, in three areas in particular.

Finances: We have known for around two years that the international economic climate was becoming more difficult and that this would inevitably affect our income. What we had not anticipated was that the strength of the Rand against the Pound Sterling (as well as against some other currencies) would have a devastating impact on our income. In a frighteningly short period, we went from having a very encouraging income stream to facing a significant deficit, which quickly ate into our reserves. Towards the end of 2010, it became clear that drastic action was required to safeguard the institution.

Staff retrenchments: With deep regret, the Board of Governors agreed to “retrench”, or make redundant, two of our administrative staff, Mr Ikho Magodla and Mrs Lilitha Mshweshwe. As you will imagine, this was an extremely painful decision and the impact on the morale of the remaining staff was very negative. Although we have begun the new year with new resolve, the pain of the retrenchments is still felt.

Family circumstances: In addition to the difficulties faced by Dumisani, several family members of the staff team have experienced difficult times. Bethany Wilson and Tara Lombard have both faced significant health challenges and have been in hospital for surgery. One student also lost three members of his immediate family over a period of six months. Then towards the end of last year, Elizabeth Ross was bitten by a dog in a shop, which has left some ongoing health issues and has had a major impact on the Rosses plans for return to the UK.

Between these various issues, we commented more than once of our awareness of a spiritual battle going on hidden from our eyes.

Issues to address: But we hold on to the words of James, which are the words of God, that trials are an opportunity to rejoice in God (not in the trials themselves), knowing that he is working out his purposes in us. So we look to the future positively, seeking his provision and we ask you to join with us in praying for this.

Finances: Humanly speaking, all our future plans, including any building project, really depend on increasing our income so that it meets our expenditure. Of course, while we must plan and work, this really depends on God moving his people. We have been deeply touched by the support of the Lord’s people all over the world. Please pray with us that God will continue to provide for us through his church

New Staff: We will say goodbye to Norman and Angela Reid in July 2011 and to John and Elizabeth Ross in October/November 2011. In doing so, we say goodbye to two very experienced and very well-qualified pastors and teachers and to their wives who have made numerous invaluable contributions to the work. It is still not clear what funding and suitable personnel will be available to replace one or both of these men. Please pray for clarity about available finance and for a clear call for those who the Lord intends to carry this work forward.

Thank you for standing with us in this work, in prayer and support, even in the trials. We pray that each one of us may know that perseverance which God gives us so that we might eventually be “mature and complete, not lacking anything”.

Alistair I. Wilson

INDIA Dr Dennis Muldoon reports:

Taleem (discipleship) Centre, Maharajgang, Bihar: In January this year Dennis Muldoon and his wife, Elizabeth, had the opportunity to make a private visit to this centre which Dr Rahamat commenced with the support of the PCEA in 2008. A full report has been given to the committee along with a few of the photos taken. They were accompanied by Dr Rahmat and his young colleague in ministry, Sajjad. In Maharajgang, a town with a population of c.25, 000 (literacy rate 50%; 40% for females) they met the children in two classrooms; 110 children in all. The children were given a midday meal of rice, dhal and vegetables, before being escorted home. The children come from poor

homes and often face abuse because of the flesh trade in this district. Bihar is the most populated and most lawless state in India.

In his report Dr Muldoon wrote, 'The Lord's work is about people, about helping people in their need; both physical and spiritual (Mat 9: 35). People are the focus of Rahmat's ministry; people of Muslim background. His focus is upon people who are poor and marginalised. I have gone back and read the initial proposal and earlier reports on this project. One aim was to keep young people from becoming militant Muslims because of their poverty. Later in a survey Rahmat, or rather his sister, found a community involved in the flesh trade, another outcome of poverty.

'In Maharajgang we meet Kaiser, Rahmat's younger sister who is the principal of the school. After she came to the Lord in 1998 she went from house to house to help the children. Kaiser is a graduate, married with two children. We met her husband, Mr. Abrar, also a believer who works in the Post Office.

'It was moving to meet the people whom the Lord had placed upon the hearts of Dr Rahmat and his wife over four years ago. The people, especially the children (but not the environment!) left a deep impression on our hearts. We praise God that the children are being loved, being taught to read and write, and being told the gospel of Jesus Christ in this place where the love of God has not been seen before. We saw no churches or Christian witness in this town. I asked Rahmat about other Christians. He said he had met one Pentecostal man some years ago'.

Presbyterian Free Church: Rev Shyam Babu and Rev Samit Mishra are the ministers at Lakhnadon and Chhapara respectively. The situation at Jabalpur remains unresolved. The congregation at both major centres is growing as targeted outreach continues. Recently the leader of a village was converted and gave a place for worship in the village. At Lakhnadon a Vacation Bible School was held in May with 110 attending. Rev Babu has work in 12 villages. At Chhapara a mission training camp was held in September and at a camp for seekers at the end of the year 80 new believers were disciplined. 'We decided to invite only selected new believers this year due to hostile atmosphere around' writes elder Pradeep Kumar. Mr Brijlal Dhurvey has commenced studies for the ministry at PTS in Dehradun.

Lakhnadon Christian Hospital: Prayers for a surgeon were answered this year with the arrival of Dr Heman Prasad at the hospital. He came with his wife, a paediatrician, and baby daughter. Dr Adarsh Benn completed his term as medical superintendent. Dr Prasad has come with a vision to revamp the hospital, and raise its profile in the district. Already the patient numbers are increasing. He writes 'to enable villagers to access surgical services I have introduced a package deal for each surgery wherein the patient agrees upon a certain sum of money which is about half the cost of any other hospital for the surgery'. The other major change at the hospital was the retirement of the administrator, Mr Malche, in August 2009, and the appointment of Mr Albert Chandu in November 2009.

The LCH annual report for 2009-10 has been received. The report includes detailed financial statements as well as thanks to the PCEA for their donation. PCEA contributes just over 7% of the total foreign contribution. The Chhapara Project has been integrated with the Spandana Community Development Project. Along with primary health care, including HIV/AIDS awareness, this project conducts village self help groups, and in this last year has begun a watershed and agriculture project.

Mission Schools: Chhapara Mission School continues with over 900 students from nursery to grade 12. There are 40 Christian teachers. Mr Michael John Kumar continues to give faithful Christian leadership. This Christian school is a major school in the region, with many children from non-Christian homes attending. Lakhnadon Mission School has 450 students..

Dr Dickson – New Delhi. Dr Dickson was encouraged by the visit of the Muldoon's in January 2011. He was able to take them to his veterinary clinic in the old car that he had recently been given. He showed them the small clinic from which he is ministering to a community of dairy people on the outskirts of Delhi. They did not have time to visit a family with whom he is sharing the gospel after making contact through his vet work, although they did meet the Hindu man who owns the building he

Synod Reports 2011

uses as a clinic. Dickson had recently returned from south India where he was able to brush up on his vet skills, after many years working as a training coordinator at Allahabad.

Dr Tigi Verghis – Siliguri. Dr Verghis continues to work in rural development in the state of West Bengal in India, including the Darjeeling Hills. He is now the project director, but still takes his bike into the hills to visit projects run by the Reformed Presbyterian churches. Although the Muldoon's were not able to visit Dr Verghis in January 2011 they were able to assist him with seeds and other resources.

Pandita Ramabai Mukti Mission – the Convener reports: Mukti Australia selected five young women with the sponsorship given by the PCEA in late November. Five different congregations represented at the Family Camp in January have asked to be the correspondent to each of the five ladies. The sponsorship contributes directly to the health, education, emotional wellbeing and spiritual development of each young woman. As the website states, 'When you give a child hope, you create a future.' Girls with hope grow into women with a future. They can go back into the community confident, equipped and ready to be the 'salt and light' God intended them to be.

SOUTH AMERICA – Mr Ian Conley reports:

PERU:

Colegio San Andres: It is still a matter of praise that the enrolments are tracking above the 600 mark. This contributes significantly to the financial viability of the school and allows flexibility in managing the staffing and building budgets. Likewise the academic results achieved by the final year students are very satisfying to all associated with the school.

The two scholarships provided from the McSwan bequest have assisted students and families who would not otherwise be able to attend San Andres. Again for this academic year additional funds have been donated by PCEA members to assist with scholarships. These scholarships help not only the students involved but also assist in lifting the profile of the school.

The planned court case against the school and the previous principal has been postponed until March 2011. As this report is being written February a cloud remains over the school and while this remains the possibility the transfer of the school to a local Board can not go ahead. It is a matter of prayer that this matter be resolved quickly and fairly.

At the school new class rooms and renovations are being undertaken over the end of year break. The extra enrolments enable the carrying out of repairs, improvements and upgrading from local funding.

The possibility for short term volunteer assistance in teaching English or possibly other areas of needed expertise remain. These are self funded opportunities that need a commitment of at least 3-6 months. Young (and sometimes not so young) people from mainly Scotland have contributed to the school in this way.

Moyobamba: In the absence of Rev David MacPherson the work has continued under local leadership. It is still a very missionary minded church with outreach church planting in surrounding centres close to Moyobamba as well as in Arequipa and in San Lorenzo which is situated in the Loreto Province to the north of Moyobamba. Nicholas, the Pastor/Evangelist, has married a local lady and this facilitates access to both the mestizo and tribal communities. The work in Lluylluvucha, a suburb of Moyobamba, is continuing to grow and the numbers that transferred across from the main congregation are being replaced by new attendees.

Rev David MacPherson (Aberdeen Scotland) retains a keen interest in the Peruvian work and returned to Perú for some weeks mid 2010 to further the work there. David and Dr Apolos Landa plus others from the Moyobamba congregation continue planning and negotiating for the establishment of a Christian University in the Moyobamba area on land that the Church owns. As in Australia the granting of University status is an involved and lengthy process. The Lima Seminary now has this

Synod Reports 2011

status and the Diego Thompson Teachers College has commenced the process. Opportunities for a multi campus institution are being investigated.

Enrolment in The Annie Soper School is expected to be above 300 again this year. The two scholarships provided under the McSwan bequest for needy students are of great benefit. The opportunity for volunteer assistance at the school remains.

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. As noted above the Seminary now has tertiary status.

COLUMBIA:

Bible Seminary Medellín: Dr Manuel Reaño has resigned his position as Principal of the Seminary and is on Sabbatical leave. The last two years have been particularly stressful and difficult for Dr Reaño, his family and the Seminary. The Rev David Ford has returned to Scotland permanently due to health problems. Financial constraints continue to affect the Seminary, students and prospective students. Colombia is more stable than it was some years ago but safety issues remain.

.....

Malcolm McSwann Mission Relief Fund (MMMRF): There were no extra disbursements from this fund in 2010.

Prayer Notes: The Convener continues to compile and distribute the prayer notes bi-monthly and from all reports the information is well received by our congregations and overseas recipients. It is an excellent means in providing for informed prayer and therefore delegates are urged to recommend its use amongst their congregations and at their weekly prayer meetings.

Finance Aspects: Following are the items reflected in the missions' budget for 2010, which is tabled at the end of this report.

1. AIM:

The secondment of Rev. Trevor Leggott to Australian Indigenous Ministries is the committee's primary mission in Australia. It is wonderful to see the hand of God working through many years of solid foundational work and now having just the right people for the various areas joining the mission. This again is evidence that the Lord is blessing the work.

Fundamental to this work continuing is the need for funding. As the budget shows, the missions general account is diminishing. The Anderson bequest has been used to make ends meet for the past few years, however, this bequest will only fund one more year. It is imperative, therefore, that Synod delegates realise this critical situation and take appropriate measures in their respective charges to support the work more substantially.

MMMRF funding for Rev Trevor Leggott: Mr Leggott furnished the Committee with a report indicating that 32% of his work time was spent on the relief of need amongst indigenous Australians during 2010. The committee, however, determined to leave the percentage at 25% as per 2009. This is reflected in the budget for 2011, with 25% 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.

Synod Reports 2011

- c. The Committee recommend continuing the support of the important medical work in India to Lakhnadon Christian Hospital of \$10,000.
 - d. The Chhapara Christian Health Centre has ceased to operate, as we knew it. The Spandana Community Health Development Project has subsumed the original health work we had been funding and is a very substantial endeavour reaching into many fields. The committee recommend that the Project receive \$5,000 from the MMMRF.
 - e. The Committee also recommend that Dr P. Dickson continue to receive support of \$2500 from the MMMRF.
 - f. The committee recommend that \$10,000 from the MMMRF be received by Dr Rahmat Hussain for the continuing work of the Taleem centre.
 - g. The committee recommend sponsorship for the five children in the Pandita Ramabai Mukti Mission India, commenced in 2010, from the MMMRF to the amount of \$1,800.
3. CWI: The Committee continues to be greatly encouraged by the work of CWI. Considering that there will be only one full time worker until Paul Morris is replaced the Missions committee recommend that CWI Australia receive a grant of \$3,000 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 \$1,500 be granted from Missions General Funds to support the vital role of reformed teaching by the Institute.

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 1/1/2012.
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 2011 and express general agreement with the estimates for 2012.

MISSIONS BUDGET 2011

General Funds

	Budget	2010	Actual	2010	Budget	2011	Estimate	2012
Balance 1 Jan 2010		57,388		57388		38,070		27,508
(Miss Gen, DAA, Fiji, AIM Leggott)								
Income Investments	21,000		17849		18,000		20,000	
(Miss Gen 18K DAA 3K)							14,000	
Giving Missions General	8,000		8300		8,000		8,000	
Missions Support AIM: Giving	6,000		5366		6,000		6,000	
From the Frontiers Subscriptions	800		647		600		600	
Income	35,800	35,800	32161	32161	32,600	32,600	48,600	48,600
Expenditure								
Fiji Expenses	681		0		681			
CWI	6,000		6000		3,000		6,000	
AIM (TIL Part Salary, SA Levy)	38,500		43011		36,562		45,000	
Visiting Missionary Expenses	1,000		0		1,000		1,000	
Dumisani	1,500		1500		1,500		1,500	
Admin: Postage, telephone etc	500		96		500		600	
From the Frontiers, Banners	900		872		600		600	
Total Expenditure	49,081	49,081	51478	51478	43,162	43,162	54,700	54,700
Closing Balance		44,107		38070		27,508		21,408

Note: Account Balances 1 Jan 2011	
DAA Bequest	37389
Missions General	0
Missions Support Fiji	681
Missions Support Legg/AIM	0
Total	38070

IC 4 March 2011

Synod Reports 2011

Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund

	Budget	2010	Actual	2010	Budget	2011	Est	2012
<u>Income</u>								
Balance at 1 January		396971		396971		58501		14395
Income Investments	27000		15297		15000		15000	
Revaluation	10000		2126					
Transfer from Equities A/C Capital							45000	
Total Income	37000	37000	17423	17423	15000	15000	60000	60000

<u>Expenditure</u>								
Lakhnadon Christian Hospital	10000		10000		10000		11000	
Lakhnadon Mission School (See *1)	1500		3000		1500		2000	
Chhapara Christian Health Centre	10000		10000		5000		0	
Chhapara Mission School (See *1)	2000		4000		2000		2500	
San Andres Scholarships	6500		6500		6500		7000	
Annie Soper Scholarships	2200		2200		2200		2500	
AIM (TIL Part Salary, SA levy)	12833		8661		17206		15000	
Fees and Charges	300		366		400		200	
Dr Dickson Allahabad	2500		2500		2500		2500	
DTI Relief Funds South Africa	2200		2200		0		0	
Taleen Centre (Dr Japla Hussein)	16000		9400		10000		10000	
Mukti child sponsorships	1800		1800		1800			
Correction in Valuation from 2009			858					
Revaluation of shares in Managed Funds			3294					
Total Expenditure	67833	67833	64779	64779	59106	59106	52700	52700
Closing Balance 31 Dec		366138	See *2	349615		14395		21695

Note 1: From 2010 delayed, payment problems

Note 2: Working account: \$58501.11, Equities account: \$291113.64

<u>Equities Account</u>	Budget	2011	Est	2012
Balance at 1 Jan 2011		291114		291114
Income Revaluation Shares Managed Funds	15000		15000	
Income Retained Investment Income				
Total	15000	15000	15000	15000
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Transfer to Working Account	0	0	45000	45000
Closing Balance 31 Dec		306114		261114
Total Funds Held McSwan Relief Funds		320509		282809
Net Funds Movement from previous year		-29106		-37700

INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

1. CHURCHES WITH WHOM WE HAVE FRATERNAL RELATIONS.

1:1 Free Church of Scotland. (FCS). 1954 and 2005.

The Church held a Plenary General Assembly in November 2010 at which it authorised (by a vote of 98 to 84) the use of uninspired hymns and musical instruments in the worship of the church. This represents a landslide decision in the practice of the church as it reshapes and redefines what we have long understood 'purity of worship' to mean. We are extremely disappointed at this decision which implies that the inspired book of praise is inadequate, and are dismayed by the fact that this decision did not go down to Presbyteries according to the Barrier Act, and are concerned about the disruption this will cause in the church.

1:2 The Reformed Churches of New Zealand. (RCNZ). 2002.

We note with pleasure that Rev. Jim Klazinga has been inducted in the Brisbane charge – having formerly been a minister in the RCNZ. On 22 February 2011 Christchurch was struck by an earthquake which shattered the city centre and affected many other parts of the city. There are three congregations of the RCNZ in Christchurch – Bishopdale, Christchurch and Dovedale. Rev. Robert van Wichen (Bishopdale) writes, 'By God's grace the lives of all our members have been spared and (for the most part) our homes have too. . . . Our congregations have gotten off relatively lightly as most of our members are in the less affected parts of the city. Relatively few of our members have been financially affected by the earthquake and collectively we have the resources to support those who have. . . We expect that, sooner or later, some of our members as well as many others in Christchurch are going to come under financial pressure as the full impact is felt'. The three churches combined have launched a 'Disaster Relief Fund' as an opportunity to witness to the truth of the Gospel and to distribute to those in need. We remember in prayer our brethren in Christchurch. We look forward to having Rev. Michael Flinn present at Synod.

1:3 Reformed Churches (Liberated) the Netherlands. (BBK). 1999.

The Synod of the BBK is currently in session. It meets every three years and was scheduled to commence on January 29, 2011 in Harderwijk. Delegates from foreign churches have been invited to attend the Synod on the week of March 28th – April 2nd. The convener has sent apologies and greetings.

1:4 The Orthodox Presbyterian Church. (OPC). 2007.

An invitation has been received to attend the General Assembly of the OPC (founded June 11, 1936) planned to meet in Sandy Cove Conference Center, NE Maryland from June 8-14. 'This year is a very special Assembly as it will be celebrating 75 years of the Lord's gracious dealings with the OPC'.

1:5 The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia. (RPCA). 2004.

The PCEA was represented at the induction of Rev. Graeme Hart in McKinnon on 6/2/11. The RPCA was represented at the induction of Rev. Andres Miranda at Knox on 29/1/11. Relations with the RPCA remain cordial. We understand that the RPCA are continuing to consider and consult regarding our offer of Mutual Eligibility (2010).

1:6 The Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. (RPCI). 2006. Nothing to report.

1:7 The Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America. (RPCNA). 2008. Nothing to report.

1:8 The Presbyterian Free Church of India. (PFCI). 2010. Nothing to report.

2. CHURCHES WITH WHOM WE HAVE CONTACT.

2:1 The Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia. (PRCA).

We are disappointed at the apparent lack of enthusiasm at our offer to establish fraternal relations (2008).

Synod Reports 2011

2:2 The Southern Presbyterian Church of Australia. (SPCA).

We continue to enjoy a cordial relationship with the SPCA. We appreciate the help they have given in supplying Ulverstone. On 22/10/2010 the Moderator of the Southern Presbytery wrote suggesting closer relations and ultimate union. Rev. Iain Smith was the much appreciated speaker at the Family Camp in January 2011 and encouraged us to continue to work at our relationship.

2:3 The Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia. (EPCA).

Following the apology received by Synod 2008, expressing regret over allegations in 1971 of schismatic conduct by the PCEA in its reception of Ulverstone in 1965; relations have developed positively. Following representations from the Southern Presbytery the 1971 article, 'Universalism and the Reformed Churches' was deleted from the EPC website with (we understand) the full agreement of the EPC Presbytery. The EPCA was represented at the induction in Brisbane of Rev. Jim Klazinga on 3/9/10

2:4 The Christian Reformed Churches of Australia. (CRCA). Nothing to report.

2:5 The Australia Free Church. Nothing to report.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES.

1. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia (PCEA) meeting in Melbourne 2-4th May 2011 expresses its deep disappointment and grief at the outcome of the Plenary Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland in November 2010. We are disappointed that the decision of the Assembly implies that the inspired book of praise is inadequate for Christian worship. We are dismayed that such a momentous decision did not go down to Presbyteries by way of the Barrier Act, and we are concerned about the possible impact this will have on the unity of the church.
2. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia (PCEA) meeting in Melbourne 2-4 May 2011 sends warm Christian greetings to the General Assembly of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church meeting in the Sandy Cove Conference Center, North East, Maryland, 8-14 June 2011. In particular we join with you in giving thanks to our Gracious God as you commemorate this special 75th General Assembly of the OPC. The OPC has since its inception been known and recognised for its vigorous affirmation of the truths of historic Christianity and Reformed orthodoxy as it is expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith. The PCEA and the OPC have enjoyed a long and cordial relationship over the years. We were both members of the RES and both founding members of the ICRC. We were delighted that a formal ecclesiastical relationship was established in 2007. We appreciate the great emphasis the OPC makes on world mission – something we readily see at the ICRC conferences. We regret that none of our men will be able to be present at your gathering, but we as the apostle declares, 'are bound to thank God always for you.' May the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, preserve you and prosper you as you seek to serve Him faithfully in all things.
3. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia (PCEA) meeting in Melbourne 2-4 May 2011 sends warm Christian greetings to our brethren in the Christchurch Presbytery of the Reformed Churches of New Zealand. In particular we express our sympathy and sorrow at the distress and shock that you have experienced as a result of the terrible earthquake on 22/2/11 which affected many parts of Christchurch. We are thankful to know that the lives of all your members were preserved as well as their homes. We commend your desire and efforts to reach out to your neighbours in a practical and tangible way in order to express Christian compassion. We commend the Christchurch Reformed Churches (CRC) Earthquake Relief Fund to the church; in particular to Deacon's Courts and individual members. The Convener will keep the church informed of any further developments.

SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE

RS Ward (Convener 1978), Messrs S Bajema, J Audet, D Ramsay

A: Superannuation Fund

1. Membership

Name	Service from	Total service at 31.12.10	Year 70
S.R.Tamata	16.10.1998	12.12	2011
R.W.Murray	11.12.1968	38.57	2011
J.A.McCallum	28.06.1985	26.50	2012
R.S.Ward	20.03.1976	34.78	2015
M.G.Smith	16.06.2006	04.54	2018
T.I.Leggott	11.03.1989	21.80	2019
D.K.Muldoon	29.11.2002	08.09	2022
G.D.Ball	01.12.1997	13.08	2025
S. Bajema	17.01.2009	01.97	2028
T.W.Yoa	09.05.2006	04.64	2029
D.P.Smith	16.11.2001	09.12	2029
J.D.Klazinga	20.05.2010	00.61	2034
D.J.Kerridge	25.11.2010	00.08	2040
A.A.Miranda	01.12.2009	01.08	2042

The average age of the 14 current members as at 31/12/2010 is about 55.8 years, with an average of 12.6 years of service with the PCEA.

Note: Mr Murray's service excludes a one year absence in Scotland 1975/76. Unless otherwise indicated the commencement dates are ordination or induction except Mr Ball whose service as an ordained minister began 1/12/97, Mr Yoa from date of admission by Synod. Mr Miranda was added upon his commencement of full time supply in Melbourne 1/12/2009, Mr Klazinga on his commencement in Brisbane 20/5/2010 (inducted 3/9/2010) and Mr Kerridge was added upon his commencing supply at Hastings 25/11/2010 (ordained 11/12/2010). The Superannuation Guarantee levy is 9% from 1/7/2002. Congregations which employ a preacher aged under 70 on a supply basis where earnings are \$450 per month or more are liable for this levy and should contact the Committee for advice/assistance.

2. Operation

1. Superannuation Levy on congregations

Following the request for review at Synod 2009, last year the levy calculation was simplified but the pooling principle was preserved by Synod 2010. This generally commends itself and has been the principle of the fund since its foundation over 40 years ago. It needs to be appreciated that over much of a minister's period of service the contribution for Super for him may be at a higher rate than the levy on his congregation [eg. Sydney West where the congregation pays 10% but the minister receives 18%] and it is proper that congregations when vacant contribute to the common pool. Under this scheme the burden on congregations is: for non aid-receiving congregations 14%; for aid-receiving with PCEA ordained supply 10% or an extra minister 11.0% and for vacant charges without a supply minister 5%. The levy is based on the stipend at 1/1/2011 of \$44,895pa.

2. Superannuation Support Fund & Levy proceeds account

The Capital/quasi capital stands at \$168,290 at 31/12/10, having increased by 2.6% before the income of \$9,691 was added. The fund arises from specific legacies and forfeited benefits under earlier no longer existing provisions. The intention is to support the levy proceeds account from time to time given that contributions to ministers may be at a higher level than the levy. The levy proceeds account fell from \$13,356 to \$7,080 in 2010, and is expected to be overdrawn by about \$10,000 in 2011 and perhaps \$14,000 in 2012 disregarding increases after 3 years proposed in this Report. An adjustment to enable a shortfall in the levy account to be met is allowed for in the regulations. An increase in the levy back to its original 15% may be necessary down the track but hopefully can be avoided.

Synod Reports 2011

3. Contributions to ministers' accounts

The current position is that for the first five years of service the contribution is 10% of minimum stipend rising to 18% thereafter. The current Superannuation Guarantee (SG) law says that you do not have to pay super contributions for those 70 years of age and older, while self-employed persons cannot contribute beyond age 75. Synod 2009 agreed that we reduce Superannuation contributions for ministers from the end of the quarter in which they attain 70 years to 5% of minimum stipend only and to nil from their attainment of age 75. Our present generous contribution assumes a man will be reasonably provided for by normal retirement age. To continue to contribute generously mistakes the purpose of Superannuation and burdens God's people. Beginning on 1 July 2013, the Gillard government has proposed SG will gradually increase from its current level of 9%, reaching 12% on 1 July 2019 and that from 1 July 2013 it will apply to those up to age 75 and not 70 as at present. It is likely that the net effect on retirement income will not be all that great given that higher superannuation amounts will impact pension entitlements.

4. Superannuation Review

We considered the performance of other funds during the year but see no reason to change from HESTA as the default fund. Members are free to make investment choice within the default fund. The Committee is not privy to such choice nor does it wish to be so.

We have also considered whether the disparity between the 10% for the first five years and the 18% thereafter can be reduced. The justification for the disparity is that at 10% we are already paying more than the 9% required by law, there are significant costs associated with training and or bringing in ministers from elsewhere, and our prime concern must be to support those who serve the PCEA long term. Of course there are disparities between individual members circumstances. Some may have inherited wealth, others none of this. Some have families, others not. In a day when wives did not work outside the home we spoke of what was needed to support the minister and his wife in retirement. Nowadays many wives work and have superannuation from that, and so in retirement the couple will have two superannuation benefits. Whatever may be the possible impact on ministerial effectiveness of an income-earning wife, it seems no more suitable or practical to take the wife's superannuation into account than inherited wealth. Indeed, some long-standing members of the PCEA scheme such as Ray Murray and the Convener had some years at 5% because of our youthfulness when others were higher. We can't revisit such issues.

Still, there is something to be said for increasing Super for ministers in the early years. Irrespective of what the government does, in respect of ministers who have completed less than 5 years service at the end of 2010 we propose that from 1 January 2011 the contribution after the end of the quarter following the first three years of service rise from 10% to 12% (the additional cost is estimated at \$4,520 in 2011 and \$1,800 in 2012 and perhaps \$3,000 in 2013) and that in respect of service beyond the quarter in which a man turns 70 and up to age 75 the church contribution be adjusted above the existing 5% as and when the law requires it (no impact as yet since the law is unchanged).

5. The Superannuation funds performance

Default Fund

All but two of our members have chosen HESTA, our default fund, for their contributions. The default for HESTA is their Core Fund. One member retains membership of the One Path Fund (formerly ING) and another has retirement account arrangements with a major bank.

Performance

The return on the default settings for each Fund compare as follows:

	OnePath	HESTA
1 year to 30/6/10	+ 5.35	+10.1
5 years to 30/6/10	+ 2.4	+ 4.6

The Government proposal for a "MySuper" low cost account will not have great bearing on the HESTA Fund as it already is a low cost fund.

Outlook

At the date of preparation of this report the outlook remains uncertain. We said in the 2009 Report that several years will probably need to elapse before there is a sustained recovery in the world economy.

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 up to age 70. 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. Superannuation Committee Regulations

We draw attention to the composition of the Superannuation Committee in its Regulation A1 which requires it be composed of two members of the Fund and two non-members. This regulation seeks to reflect the spirit of the equal representation guidelines required by policy committees of public offer superannuation funds under the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act* 1993. In this way, even at the level of the proposals brought in a Synod Report, there is the endeavour to show a balance in the interests of contributors and beneficiaries, even though actual decisions are made by Synod and not the Committee.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES

1. Deacons' Court should note the levy for self-supporting charges is \$1571 per quarter that is 14% of the stipend of \$44,895pa as at 1/1/2011. For aid-receiving charges with PCEA ordained supply it is 10% (\$1122 per quarter) for self-supporting charges with an extra minister 11.0% and for vacant charges without a supply minister 5%. The levy is based on the stipend at 1/1/2011 of \$44,895pa.
2. Synod resolve that from 1 January 2011 the contribution after the end of the quarter following the first three years of service rise from 10% to 12%, and that in respect of service beyond the quarter in which a man turns 70 and up to age 75 the church contribution be adjusted above the existing 5% as and when the Superannuation law requires it
3. Synod remind fund members of the advisability of seeking professional advice in regard to both choice of Fund and investments within any particular fund, and the effects of recent changes in Government legislation, so that it meets their particular needs, as this is their responsibility and not that of the church.
4. 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 to ensure outstanding entitlement is minuted at least once a year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Incorporating General Treasurer’s Report)

Committee members: AH Steel (Convener), J Audet, T Buck, DE Kerr, DJ Ramsay

Business attended to by the committee included:

1. Ministers’ Minimum Stipend

Level and Basis of Review of Minimum Stipend –

After taking into account rates paid by other Presbyterian churches in NSW and Victoria, the continuing increases in average weekly earnings and CPI the committee recommends the current level (\$861 per week) and basis of review of the minimum stipend be continued.

2. Stipend Relief

The General Treasurer reported he had advised Presbyteries that it was estimated there would only be approximately \$11,000 available in Stipend Relief/Synod General Funds as at 30/4/11 to fund Synod general expenses and stipend assistance. He subsequently indicated to the Committee that this estimate had risen to \$12,500 because a donation of \$1,500 had been received. Therefore, after retaining say \$3,000 for Synod general expenses, a balance of \$9,500 will remain which could be applied to Stipend Relief.

Assistance Sought –

Requests for Stipend Relief for 2010/11 were received from Central and Southern Presbyteries on behalf of congregations within their bounds. Northern Presbytery advised they were Overturing Synod direct for financial support for the minister in Armidale on compassionate grounds from 14/3/11 to 31/12/11 (8 months from 1/5/11) for up to 50% of the Minimum Stipend. Amounts requested from Synod, on a needs basis, are as follows:

\$ 14,965 – (43%)	Armidale (8 months X 50% of Minimum Stipend - \$44,895pa as at 1/1/11)
\$ 9,000 - (26%)	Hawkesbury-Nepean
\$ 11,000 - (31%)	Narre Warren
-----	-----
\$ 34,965	(100%) Total (2010/11 - \$60,400)
=====	===

It is therefore estimated that Synod will not be able to provide the full amount of financial assistance requested.

As a consequence, Synod 2010 resolutions (Minutes 10.32.) will apply:

4.b “Should there be insufficient Synod funds in hand, at the time of the annual Synod, to meet requests for stipend relief from congregations, the amount allocated to each congregation shall be equal to the percentage of their assistance sought when applied to the total of stipend relief applied for by all congregations.”

4.d “ Where Synod is unable to provide the full amount of aid requested and funds are received for stipend relief after it has approved allocations for assistance sought by congregations, such funds are to be allocated to the respective congregations in the same proportion as the approved allocations were made. Aid-receiving congregations may then take up additional funds to bring total aid received up to the limit approved by Synod.”

Synod Reports 2011

In terms of the above resolutions the Committee therefore recommends Synod approve allocations as follows:

\$ 4,085 – (43%)	Armidale – <u>Subject to the prayer of Northern Presbytery’s Overture to Synod being granted.</u>
\$ 2,470 - (26%)	Hawkesbury-Nepean
\$ 2,945 - (31%)	Narre Warren
-----	-----
\$ 9,500 (100%)	Estimated funds available
=====	====

3. The Capital Assistance Fund

Total funds of \$103,729 excluding \$7,300 held on deposit, increased by \$3,395 net (3.2%) for year ending 31/12/10 from interest received, share dividends and revaluations and the annual \$50 rent from St Georges Deacons’ Court. No donations were received.

Loan(s) –

No loans were outstanding as at 31/12/10.

In July the Committee received a request from Knox Congregation for a loan of up to \$600,000 from Synod funds to assist in the redevelopment of the church and hall complex at 183-185 Grange Road, Glen Huntly, Victoria.

The request was considered in terms of Synod regulations (Decision Book page 91point 6) and the following recommendation made to the Synod Administration Committee:

Loans (2) totalling \$550,000 only be approved in lieu of the \$600,000 requested:

\$110,000 *Synod Capital Assistance Fund* loan

\$440,000 *Synod Committee Funds* Loan

\$550,000 In all
=====

The Finance Committee was subsequently advised the loans had been approved by the Administration Committee and were to be repaid in full by 30 June 2011.

As at 31/12/10 no drawings had been requested as delays in construction had been experienced. Following advices from the Knox minister and receipt of an extract minute dated 25/2/11 from Southern Presbytery indicating their agreement to an extension of the repayment date as approved ie. “The loans to be progressively drawn from 1/10/2010 and repaid in full by 30 June 2011”, the Committee recommends the repayment date be amended to “The loans to be progressively drawn and fully repaid within nine months from the date of the first drawdown”.

4. Estimates (Major Working Funds Receipts/Payments)

Estimates have been made for the major working funds to 31/12/11 – See Appendix “A”

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES

1. We record our thanks to God for the sufficiency in temporal blessings the church as a whole has enjoyed since last Synod.
2. Adjustment of the Minimum Stipend, Cash and Non-cash components (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2011/2012 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.

Synod Reports 2011

3. Stipend Assistance for 2011/2012 Synodical year (1/5/11 to 30/4/12) to the following Deacons' Courts, be approved up to the following LIMITS:

\$ 14,965	– (43%)	Armidale (8 months X 50% of Minimum Stipend - \$44,895paas at 1/1/11)	
		<u>Subject to the prayer of Northern Presbytery's</u>	
		<u>Overture to Synod being granted</u>	
\$ 9,000	– (26%)	Hawkesbury-Nepean	
\$ 11,000	– (31%)	Narre Warren	
-----	-----		
\$ 34,965	(100%)	Total	
=====	=====		

As it is estimated there will be insufficient Synod funds available to fully provide the amount of aid requested, Synod approve ALLOCATIONS hereunder in terms of Synod resolutions (Mins 10.32.4b.4d)

\$ 4,085	– (43%)	Armidale – <u>Subject to the prayer of Northern Presbytery's</u>	
		<u>Overture to Synod being granted.</u>	
\$ 2,470	– (26%)	Hawkesbury-Nepean	
\$ 2,945	– (31%)	Narre Warren	
-----	-----		
\$ 9,500	(100%)	Estimated funds available	
=====	=====		

4. The repayment terms of the loans (2) from Synod Funds totalling \$550,000 granted to Knox Deacons' Court to assist in the redevelopment of the church and hall complex at 183-185 Grange Road, Glen Huntly, Victoria and approved by the Synod Administration Committee in August 2010 be amended:

From: "The loans to be progressively drawn from 1/10/2010 and repaid in full by 30 June 2011"

To: "The loans to be progressively drawn and fully repaid within nine months from the date of the first draw down".

.....

GENERAL TREASURER

1. Financial Needs

Although the financial needs of the Synod were adequately provided for during 2010 total funds decreased by \$83,992 (6%) to \$1,334,097 after allowing for \$257,926 held on behalf of congregations (Davis Memorial Bequest), ministers' superannuation levies etc.

Net decreases occurred in:

Capital Funds	\$	8,808
Working Funds	\$	75,184

Net Decrease in Funds	\$	83,992
		=====

The major contributing factor to the net decrease in working funds was significant drawings against *Missions(TI Leggott support)* and *Stipend Relief/General Funds*. Refer to the Missions Committee report, Finance Committee report (above) and Notes in Synod's Financial Statements for more detail.

2. Stipend Relief

Prior to Synod 2010 the *Stipend Relief Fund* was overdrawn \$10,525 caused by drawings for the 2009/10 Synodical year. This balance had to be cleared from *Synod General Funds*. I now seek confirmation of this action.

As it was estimated there would be insufficient *Stipend Relief* funds to meet requests for the Synodical year 2010/11, Synod 2010 set allocated limits for Stipend Relief, in addition to the usual total amounts approved. These allocations totalled \$44,600 and came from *Synod General Funds*. Armidale Deacons' Court drew their allocation by 31/12/10 but needed further assistance however, Narre Warren and Ulverstone Deacons' Courts advised they did not consider they needed to draw the full amount of assistance allocated to them by Synod. I was therefore able to provide a further \$5,790 to Armidale which brought their assistance up to the Synod approved limit of \$21,500 (ie. 50% of the minimum stipend). I also seek confirmation of this action.

3. Contributions to Synod and Congregational Funds

Contributions of \$21,186 by congregations to Synod Funds during 2010 increased by \$4,256 (25%). Refer to the Congregational Contributions Summary at back of the Financial Statements for further detail.

4. Synod General Working Funds

\$44,600 was transferred from *Synod General Working Funds* for Stipend Relief as reported above. This expenditure fully utilised the balance of funds received in recent years from bequests (IC McKinnon, SN Ramsay and AJ Harris). In addition, a deficit of \$12,481 was recorded in Income and Expenses for the year ending 31/12/10. This was mainly caused by covering a shortfall in *Stipend Relief* account of \$10,525. The closing balance of Synod General Working Funds was \$4,872. Refer to *Note 12* in the Financial Statements for more detail.

Because of bequests received since 2002, especially the most generous one from the Estate of the late DA Anderson of \$163,000 for Stipend Relief, Synod has been able to provide significant financial assistance to congregations, however, it is now unable to continue to assist at the same levels.

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 DELIVERANCES

1. Synod confirm the charging of the deficit of \$10,525 as at 31/12/10 in *Stipend Relief Working Funds* to *Synod General Working Funds*
2. Synod confirm the reallocation of \$5,790 of *Stipend Relief funds* from Narre Warren to Armidale Deacons' Court.

Finance Committee

Appendix A

Estimates 2011

Fund	Balance as at 31/12/2010	Estimated Income Int/Divnds to 12/11	Estimated Givings & Other	Estimated Expenditure or Transfers to 12/11	Estimated Surplus (Deficit)	Estimated Balance 31/12/11	T'fer needed from Gen Funds
Capital Assistance Fund	111,029	8,000	0	110,000	-102,000	9,029	Nil
Church Extension	0	50	0	0	50	50	Nil
Stipend Relief	0	3,000	7,321	9,500	821	821	Nil
Stipend Rel (Armidale)	0	0	4,085	4,085	0	0	Nil
Stipend Rel (Haw-Nep)	3,944		2,470	6,414	-3,944	0	Nil
Stipend Rel (Narr-War)	14,968		2,945	17,913	-14,968	0	Nil
Stipend Rel (Ulv'stone)	2,643		0	2,643	-2,643	0	Nil
Missions - General	0	16,000	8,000	6,681	17,319	17,319	Nil
Missions - (Legg/AIM)	0	0	6,000	36,562	-30,562	-30,562	Nil
Missions - (DAABeq)	37,389	2,000	0	0	2,000	39,389	Nil
Miss Relief (Equities)	291,114	15,000	0	0	15,000	306,114	Nil
Miss Rel (Working Fnd)	58,501	15,000		59,106	-44,106	14,395	Nil
Training of Ministry	128,036	7,500	0	23,000	-15,500	112,536	Nil
Youth & Fellowship	11,482	1,300	0	1,500	-200	11,282	Nil
General Funds	4,872	2,000	0	4,500	-2,500	2,372	Nil

Notes:

1. Estimated Expenditure of \$110,000 for "Capital Assistance Fund" represents contribution to Knox Deacons' Court Loan.
2. Givings "Other" include "Allocated" funds from Stipend and/or General Funds
3. The estimated balance as at 31/12/11 for congregational Stipend Relief accounts assumes all "Allocated" funds have been drawn by that date.
4. "Estimated Expenditure or Transfers" for congregational Stipend Relief accounts includes:
 - Narre Warren - Re-allocation of undrawn relief to Armidale \$5,790
 - Transfer of undrawn relief to Stipend Relief \$3,178
 - Ulverstone - Transfer of undrawn relief to Stipend Relief \$2,643
5. The estimated shortfall of \$30,562 in "Missions (Legg/AIM)" can be covered by transfers from "Missions General" and "Missions - (DAABeq)".

**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 2010.

Proposed Deliverances: Nil.

**NSW TRUST CORPORATION
'THE TRUSTEES OF THE SYNOD OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA'**

Members: Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer

Bequests

No new bequests were received by Synod during 2010.

Deed Box

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 following deeds were uplifted from/lodged in the box during 2010:

- Uplifted Conveyance No. 954 Book 996 and prior documents – Wauchope church/manse.
- Lodged Qualified Certificate of Title Identifier 4/1156714 – Wauchope church/manse

It was reported to last Synod that the title deeds for the Raymond Terrace and St Georges churches were converted from Old System Title to Torrens Title by the NSW Department of Lands and the obsolete documents were sent to the respective Deacons' Courts. However, it has since been learnt that as the Old System documents continue to be evidence of title for as long as the Torrens Title certificate of title remains Qualified, they should be retained in safe keeping for that period. Raymond Terrace and St Georges Deacons' Courts have therefore been requested to return the Old System documents to the Trustees for safe keeping in the deed box.

Common Seal Applications

There was only one application of Common Seal during 2010:

- Contract for Sale – Wauchope Manse (Part church/hall/manse title)
As at the time of writing (11/3/11), the matter had not been settled.

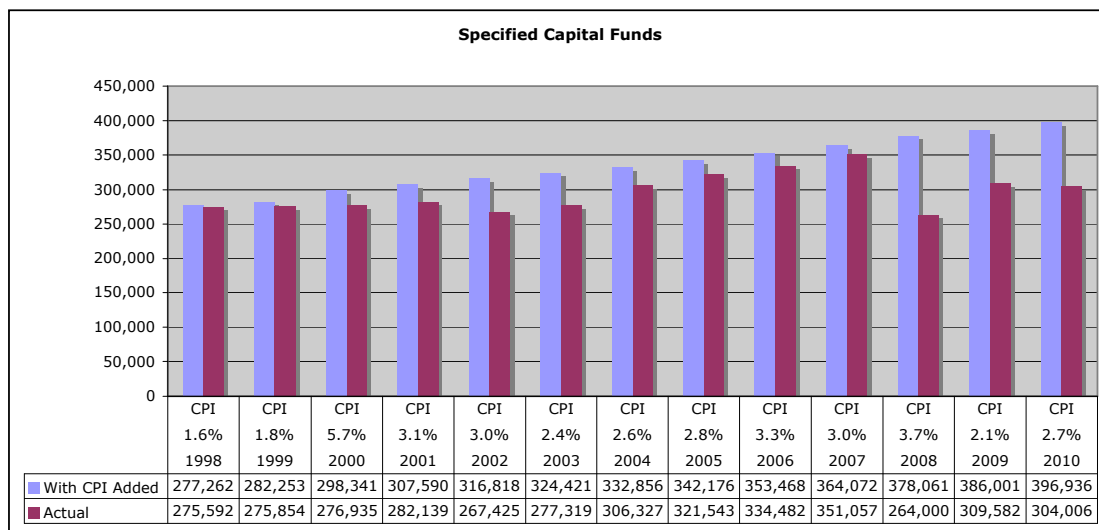
Investments: Review of Results as at 31/12/10 -

Return on Investments:

Growth –

Total investments decreased by \$5,576 (2009 increased by \$45,581) representing a fall of 1.8% against a positive Target of 2.7% (CPI). Share values have been marginally “up and down” during the year.

Synod Reports 2011



The total value of Specified Capital Funds “Actual” (\$304,006) fell short of the total of Capital Funds “With Annual CPI” added (\$396,936) by 23% (\$92,930). This has slipped a further 4% on 2009. Whilst the gap between “Actual” and “With CPI added” was closing from 2002 to 2007 this was lost in 2008. The rate of growth has not been as great since.

Income – Income of \$16,245 (2009 was \$19,008) represented a return of 5.25% against a Target of 5.35% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 4.35% Plus 1.00%).

Overall return – Growth (negative 1.8%) Income 5.25% = 3.45% (2009 was 4.05%) overall return on investments totalling \$309,582 as at 31/12/09.

Summary -

Investments are considered to be adequately Diversified in the current economic climate.

Our Investment Strategy Objective was virtually achieved in Income (0.10% shortfall).

However, our goal to maintain “real value” ie. to “keep up with inflation” is still not being achieved, with 2010 Growth falling short of our target by 4.5%

Diversification - Specified Capital Funds:

Actual as at 31/12/10		Asset Class	Investment Strategy	
Amount	Percentage		Benchmark	Range
138,807	46%	Cash (Banks)	5%	5% - 10%
0	0%	Mortgage	30%	20% - 40%
0	0%	Debentures	15%	10% - 25%
165,199	54%	Shares/Units	50%	40% - 60%
304,006	100%		100%	

Additional funds are currently held in *Cash (Banks)* because of the inability to arrange suitable 1st registered mortgage investments and bank owned finance companies ceasing to offer debentures to investors. *Shares/Units* are within Strategy Benchmark/Range.

Proposed Deliverances:

Nil.

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

Members: Synod Moderator (GD Ball), Clerk (TI Leggott) Treasurer (AH Steel) - Secretary

All business requiring attention was transacted via email and included:

Bequests – Property Holdings - Deeds/Bonds and Common Seal

No new bequests were received by Synod or reported to the Secretary by congregations, no property dealings occurred and no changes to deeds and bonds held in *Safe Custody* at the National Australia Bank, Eastwood, occurred during 2010.

Common Seal

Only one application of the Common Seal was made during 2010:

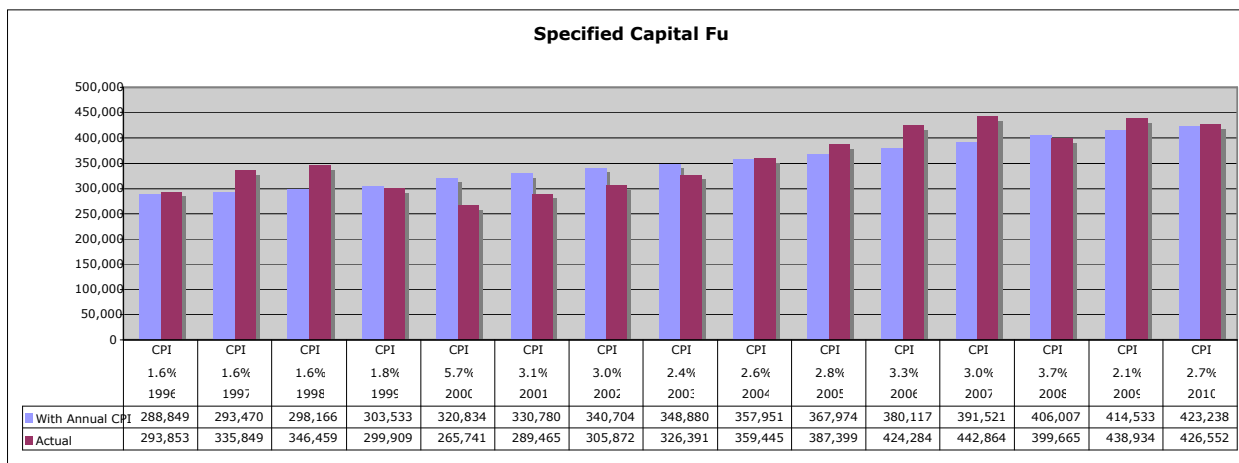
No.	Date Executed	Executed by	Document Executed	On behalf of
91	02/12/10	AHS/TIL	CFS Retail Property Trust Direct Credit for distributions.	Geelong

Investments – Specified Capital Funds (Bequests)

Return for twelve months ending 31/12/10 –

Growth

Total investments decreased by \$12,381 (2009 increased by \$39,269) representing a decline of 2.82% against a positive Target of 2.7% (CPI). No changes were made in equities held. Values for these were marginally “up and down” over the whole period.



The total value of Specified Capital Funds (“Actual” \$426,552) just managed to continue in excess of “Real Value” by 0.78% (\$3,314) ie. appreciating by at least the rate of annual inflation (CPI).

Income – Income of \$23,521 (2009 was \$26,527) represented a return of 5.36% against a Target of 5.35% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 4.35% Plus 1.00%).

Synod Reports 2011

Overall return –Growth (negative 2.82%) Income 5.35% = 2.53% (2009 was 16.47%) overall return on investments totalling \$438,934 as at 31/12/09.

Summary

Investments are considered to be adequately Diversified in the current economic climate. Our Investment Strategy Objective was achieved in Income but not in Growth.

Diversification

Actual as at 31/12/10		Asset Class	Investment Strategy	
Amount	Percentage		Benchmark	Range
183,316	43%	Cash (Banks)	5%	5% - 10%
0	0%	Mortgage	30%	20% - 40%
0	0%	Debentures	15%	10% - 25%
243,236	57%	Shares/Units	50%	40% - 60%
426,552	100%		100%	

While investments in *shares/units* were within the Strategy Range, *Cash (Banks)* at 43% was well above the Benchmark range of 5% - 10%. During 2010 there was not opportunity to invest in 1st registered mortgages or bank owned finance companies. However, \$180,000 is to be contributed to the Knox Congregation Loan of \$550,000 approved by the Synod Administration Committee in August 2010 but not yet drawn.

Proposed Deliverances –

Nil.

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY REPORT

ARMIDALE: Worship was conducted each Lord's Day in the morning and evening. A lady's Bible study, prayer meeting and youth group were held regularly. Sunday School classes continued, as did an adult Bible class after the morning worship. Additionally, a regular service in a local nursing home continued weekly throughout the year.

The uncertainty of funding for stipend, combined with some adherents returning to their home countries and another moving to Sydney, left many wondering how the congregation could survive. Despite time set apart weekly for fervent prayer, congregational numbers have remained low. This situation has had a disheartening effect on the majority of attenders.

Notwithstanding this, we know that the Lord is in control and pray that he may revive his work in Armidale.

BRISBANE: After a substantial period of awaiting visa approval, Rev. Klazinga was given permission to immigrate to Australia, and arrived around the end of May to take on his responsibilities. A little over two months later, his family was able to join him. He was inducted to ministry in our congregation on Friday, 3 September.

Services Since the new pastor's arrival, we have begun holding two services each Lord's Day, with a fellowship lunch following the morning service and Sunday School. Afternoon services were held at trial times of 2 pm and 5 pm, with 5 pm becoming the established time.

Membership During 2010, three members have joined the congregation, including Jim & Julie Klazinga, who brought with them 6 of their seven children. A local family with two older children also began attending services as regular visitors.

Session Mr. John Greensill requested and was issued a disjunction certificate. Session noted with appreciation his excellent work over the years as an elder. Session also appreciated the excellent work of Dr. Wes Hanna serving as interim moderator during the time of vacancy. Rev. Klazinga has begun serving as moderator.

Deacons' Court The level of weekly offerings remains good. Some of our savings had to be dipped into in order to cover some of the moving and settling costs for the new minister. Once again we would note the outstanding contribution being made by the small group of retired people in Rockhampton.

Sunday School and Youth Work The Sunday School continues each week. Session recently met with the Sunday School teachers to discuss their plans and resource requirements, and to personally express our appreciation for those who share the teaching responsibilities. Pastor Klazinga has recently begun a course on the Westminster Confession held at the same time for youth beyond the Sunday School years. Some youth fellowship evening were held in the later part of 2010, with the hope that regular activities and studies will be begin taking place in the near future.

Camp Drewe The Annual Family Camp was held at Lennox Head in December. The speaker was Pastor Klazinga. He led a couple of studies and the Sunday morning service focusing on the biblical doctrine of the Trinity, particularly as it relates to Mormon and Jehovah's false teachings on this subject. Attendance was very good, and included members from other PCEA and Presbyterian congregations.

HASTINGS: There have been some historic changes in the Hastings Congregation over the last months. We have seen the retirement of Rev. Alan Tripovich after 43 years of service and the induction of Rev. David Kerridge.

Synod Reports 2011

Since December, the congregation has undergone, and continues to be in the midst of, a time of consolidation and reorganisation which has, thankfully, progressed quite smoothly and to the general satisfaction of all. Sabbath School has recommenced at the church following the morning service, which itself has been moved to 10am. An adult Westminster Confession of Faith class runs concurrently with the Sabbath School. The weekly prayer meeting has been reinstated with an amended format. We have also seen some renewed interest from people who have been on the fringes wanting to see what is going on. We hope to be able to capitalise on this interest to attract new “old” members and perhaps also entice existing adherents to take up membership. Psalmody practise follows the Wauchope afternoon service, alternating with the Kindee services fortnightly.

We have had three funerals in the time since Rev. Kerridge’s induction of long standing members and past adherents: Mrs Jean Steel; Mrs Dot Andrews and a Mrs Mary Harris, a one-time member who died at 104 who, although she had been living in WA for a number of years, had requested to be buried in the district, with Rev. Tripovich conducting the service. Due to the situation of Rev. Tripovich having known the deceased in each case, and having one particular request for him, he conducted each service.

Attendance has been up in Wauchope over the holiday period, but has returned to normal levels in the last few weeks. Kindee continues with between 4 and 8 attending the 7pm service. Average weekly offerings have increased, and the Deacon’s court has received a generous donation towards the purchase of a new P.A. system – which has been partly utilised. We are also grateful to the Lord for a sizable offering to the work of the ministry in the latter part of the year.

In all, we give thanks to the Lord for a smooth transition of ministries, and his continued blessing on us as a congregation as we look to the future of this part of His vineyard.

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.

1. We have 2 services each Lord's day - Grafton at 9 am, Maclean at 11 am, with a combined attendance of 50 to 60 for the two services. Approximately 15 – 17 attend the Grafton Service, and approximately 40-43 the service in Maclean. The morning Bible Study on Wednesday has about 14 attending regularly. The telephone service is continuing and is appreciated by members from the Sunshine coast, Evans Head and Ballina. Some 9-10 people receive the service this way on a regular basis.

2. The Sunday School continues in Grafton and Maclean with 3 attending in Grafton and 6 in Maclean, with 3 able teachers, Roberta Murray, Wendy McLaren and John Greensill. The numbers in the Sunday School have decreased through age, and non – attendance but we are very pleased that one who has finished with the Sunday School has now progressed to attending the service regularly. We continue to be grateful to parents and grandparents for their support through the year.

3. This year the Lord has called to himself two members of long standing. One of these was a Deacon who had faithfully served the Lord until indifferent health prevented him from attending the meeting of the Court. Some members are in their nineties and several have been members of the Congregation for more than 70 years. They are demonstrations to us all of the grace and faithfulness of God. At the other end of the scale we are grateful for a number of young families attending in Grafton and Maclean. We are especially pleased to record that two persons from out with our church have begun attending the Service on a regular basis. Early this year, the Session revised the Roll. It now stands at 51 [53 before the Revision] and our total Church Community at about 80.

4. Congregational Givings during 2010 averaged almost \$900 per week. There is a considerable income from property [Manse Rental] and Investment, and the Deacon' Court is mindful of its responsibility to be a good steward of these resources. During last year we allocated a considerable amount of money for Mission work in India. To date this has not been sent, pending further information about the Financial Situation there. We continue to make the Manse in Maclean available without charge to the Lower Clarence Christian Education Board for the operation of an Op - shop. The agreement is that they, in return, contribute \$10,000 to the work of Special Religious Education in

Synod Reports 2011

the High Schools - \$5,000 to Maclean, and \$5,000 to the Grafton City Christian Education Board. So far the Op Shop had been very productive, with an Annual income of \$60,000. During the year a shed was erected on the Manse grounds which aids the operation of the Op Shop. In return, they have offered to donate a considerable amount to the Church as an expression of their appreciation [without diminishing giving to the SRE work]. The Deacons Court intends to make this income available for assistance to other Congregations or worthy causes. We also continue to support substantially the work of the Gideons, and the work of MERF. Also during the year one of our members donated in excess of \$6,000 to the special Mission work carried on by Michael Alley in Africa. The Church Hall at Maclean continues to serve a number of groups in the community as well as the needs of the congregation. The Church and Hall in Lismore continues to be used by the child minding centre - Caring.

5. The Bethesda Retirement Units are operated by a Management Committee under the supervision of the Deacons' Court. All units have been occupied throughout the year. Funds are in hand to cover all foreseeable demands.

We continue to look to the Lord to bless the work during 2010.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERY REPORT

Hawkesbury Nepean

The congregation which meets at Mt Druitt in western Sydney has been blessed by the Lord as it continues to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to the vast population of western Sydney. Worship services are conducted each Lord's day at 11am and 6pm, with a Bible class at 10 am and Sunday School at 11.30am. A Prayer meeting is held each Tuesday evening.

Outreach to the young people of the district centres upon a Lighthouse club and a Youth club on Friday afternoon and Friday evening respectively. While numbers are sometimes low we have seen quite a lot of children pass through these clubs. The people of this district tend to be highly mobile with some leaving for a year or so and then returning. We pray that the little that some hear of the gospel will remain with them and by God's grace bring forth fruit in their lives. Ministry to the elderly and terminally ill two nursing homes continues.

During the year folk from a Tongan church began to worship with us. Despite language barriers and differences in form of worship they feel blessed worshipping with us. They are keen to learn new tunes for the Sing Psalms metrical version, and have a practice time each Saturday evening in the church hall. They meet prior to worship for a time of singing and preparation. The Bible text is read in Tongan during the morning worship. Twelve new members were received and others are keen to join. Two baptisms were conducted.

Manning

We give thanks to our Heavenly Father who has provided for us during another year. We give thanks for the spirit of fellowship in the Session and in the congregation. The attendance has remained steady with the addition of one new family who has been attending faithfully with us for some months now. The minister has completed preaching through the Gospel of Matthew and the book of Genesis. All the weekly meetings have continued with good support.

The Wingham Church building has recently been sold for \$149,000. The Manse is currently on the market. We also have purchased an acre block on the outskirts of Taree – just off the Wingham Road for \$149,500, with a view to building sometime in the future – if the Lord wills. We believe this to be a very good site in a good location at a good price. The Tinonee building is getting some repairs done at present. The Taree building has recently been painted and a large notice board erected which is able to display a message.

Synod Reports 2011

We are always in need of workers who are able to serve in various capacities – in the small Sunday school and Kid's Club, etc. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. We, however, continue to sow the seed – trusting that there will be a harvest one day. 'He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.' (Psalm 126: 6).

Hunter Barrington

The Hunter Barrington Congregation is thankful to the Lord for the continual maintenance of the gospel ministry among us. Worship services continue in the two main centres of Raymond Terrace and Cardiff, and an occasional service is held in Barrington conducted by Mr S Upton. The telephone link for the services in Cardiff and Raymond Terrace continues for the housebound.

All Age Bible and Sunday School is held at Cardiff during school term time prior to the Morning Service. There has been a real effort on behalf of parents in recent days to come with their children and be on time. The pre-school/ kindergarten aged Sunday School continues in Raymond Terrace, also during school term time. Ladies Bible Studies continues on the 1st and 3rd weeks of the month; Wednesday at 10am in Cardiff, and Thursday at 10am in Raymond Terrace. The topic of study this year is the Book of Hebrews. The Question and Answer Fellowship Meetings which was discontinued for some months in Cardiff has been resumed. The after church morning tea and fellowship continues in Raymond Terrace every week.

In conjunction with other local denominations we support the two Christians teachers who teach Religious Instruction in the two local High Schools. The minister continues to conduct a service in Cardiff on the fourth Lord's Day of the month as an outreach to a group of Fijian nationals. During the year contact was made with a second group of Fijians who meet in Mayfield Uniting Church. He is now involved with their service on the first Lord's Day of the month.

Mr Miller continues to battle ill health but has recovered sufficiently to be involved in Sessional work and we hope that he will, before long, resume as Session Clerk. Towards the end of the year Mr John Kerridge was inducted into eldership of the congregation.

Mr Robin Tso arrived last November. We have now received his Disjunction Certificate from the Holyrood Abbey Church of Scotland. The congregation is looking forward to receiving him as a member, and we are also looking to ordain him as an elder and eventually to approach the Presbytery to license him in the near future.

St Georges

Worship services have now been held in St George's church for 150 years. We continue to hold two services on the Lord's Day and a mid-week meeting in the church on Wednesday evenings even though a number of the thirty odd who gather, come from the outer suburbs of Sydney. Average attendance has varied little during 2010 with 62 attending the morning service and 45 the evening. A weekly Bible Class, Sabbath School and Psalmody practice are also held. Hardly a Lord's Day passes without visitors joining with us in public worship.

There are ever increasing "Special Events" in city streets resulting in clearways and road closures. These events make it difficult for some members to attend services, especially the elderly and families with children who travel long distances necessitating use in some cases of car and train or bus trips to get to the church.

Nevertheless, the congregation continues to be in good spirits generally, and thankful that we are still able to gather for public worship in a central location. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless this witness in the great city of Sydney.

Sydney South

The congregation, which meets at 9.00am for worship in the Bexley North community hall, continues in good spirit. Sunday school is held at 9.30am and a prayer meeting each fortnight in a family home.

Synod Reports 2011

The members are regular in attendance. We have seen one lady join the congregation recently. One member is becoming competent in preaching the gospel which is a blessing for the congregation and the interim moderator.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY REPORT

General: The Presbytery has continued to operate in a harmonious way during the past year. A feature was the conducting of three Saturday morning sessions for office-bearers and other persons interested. The qualifications for office, the vows of office, and sections of the Handbook were included. We had a very encouraging response, and excellent fellowship which bodes well for future constructive progress. We propose to continue such times in the coming year, and look for additions to our leadership ranks in 2011-12.

As well as receiving a group at Carrum Downs (about 25kms south of All Nations) on 22 October 2010, we also saw All Nations in Mulgrave progress and become a sanctioned charge as of 31 March 2011. It was also a joy to be able to receive a student for the ministry at our February 2011 meeting.

Strategy: The strategy of the Presbytery for extension work is bound up with the use of the material resources of the Knox Congregation, and their plans are supported by the Presbytery. The former church building at Glen Huntly is in the process of conversion into five 2BR units. The \$50,000 income from its former use as a Child Care Centre is no longer available and the congregation is eating up reserves while building takes place, but the eventual outcome should provide funds to replace the income lost, secure manse provision for All Nations and enable sites to be purchased in Carrum Downs and the rapidly expanding Pakenham (21km east of Narre Warren where we already have some members). Travel time by car from centre to centre averages around 25 to 30 minutes.

We are convinced that we have a work to do, and even if the opportunities did not look as encouraging as they are we would still need to be answering the call of our Saviour and Lord.

Congregational: On the congregational side, Knox had a positive year with increased attendance and givings. All Nations maintains a morning English service with a typical attendance of around 25. The afternoon service attracts a good congregation of Sudanese who speak the Nuer language. We have made progress during the year and near year-end began to receive communicant members. As at the end of February these number 59.

Narre Warren continued the positive progress noted last year. Good progress has been made on the financial front. Carrum Downs, our newest centre, meets in the Lyrebird Community Centre for a morning service. Geelong has continued in a modest way, not without some encouragements, and it is hoped that under the Lord's blessing the work will build up on sound lines.

Ulverstone no longer has residential supply but Messrs Smith, Miranda, Ward and Bajema have visited the congregation as well as others, including our friends in the Southern Presbyterian Church. Mr Bajema has been appointed Interim-Moderator.

Statistics are included in the Administration Committee report. A description of land and buildings was included in the report last year and has not changed. The completion of the Glen Huntly project later this year will exhaust the obvious potential to better use our real estate.

In all our work the blessing of the Lord by his Spirit is essential if lasting work for God's kingdom is to be done. We ask that the other congregations remember us in prayer as we do you.

Respectfully submitted, Rowland Ward, Clerk

CORRESPONDENCE Item 1



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

CLERK

Rev. David Kerridge, 3/16 Cobblers Place, Wauchope, NSW, 2446
Phone: 02 65853581 Mobile: 0411 023344 Email: dkerridge@gmail.com

Clerk of Synod,
Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia
PO Box 579
Springwood
NSW 2777

28th February, 2011

Dear Mr Leggott,
OVERTURE FROM NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

At a duly constituted meeting of the Northern Presbytery at 33 Tallwood Street, South Grafton, at 1.00 pm on Friday, the 25th February, 2011,
Inter alia,

“Correspondence:

4. From Armidale Deacons Court – Petition re Finances. [25/1/2011]
9. From the Rev. D.P.Smith – Request for Leave of Absence for 6 months.

8.4 and 9. It was agreed that these two matters be considered together. It was moved, seconded and carried that the two items of Correspondence be received.

[1] Request for Leave of Absence. It was moved seconded and carried that the Rev. Peter Smith be granted six months Leave of Absence from the 14th March until the 14th September, 2011, and that Mr. Murray be appointed as Interim Moderator of the Congregation during that period, it being understood that, during this period, Mr. Smith would be available for occasional or residential supply. It was also moved, seconded and carried that on compassionate grounds during this period Mr. Smith receive half the current minimum Stipend, and half the normal Manse Allowance [\$11,193 + \$2,470 = \$13,663] if he is not receiving payments for residential supply. It was further moved, seconded and carried that Mr. Jim Klazinga be appointed Moderator of Presbytery for this period of time.

[2] Petition for Financial Assistance. Mr. Smith appeared in supported of the Petition and gave details of the financial need in Armidale and answered questions.

[1] It was moved, seconded and carried that, that the prayer of the Petition not be granted, and that we advise the Armidale Congregation that as from the 14th September, 2011, the Congregation will become a Preaching Station under the oversight of the Northern Rivers Session and Deacons Court; that the pastoral tie will be severed; and that the local Session and Deacons Court will be dissolved.

[2] It was further moved, seconded and carried that during the Transitional period, 14th September – 31st December, Mr. Smith receive the full minimum stipend and manse allowance unless he serves elsewhere, and that Presbytery make every effort to provide pastoral work for him within the bounds of the Presbytery.

[3] It was further resolved that the Presbytery Overture the Synod of Eastern Australia, in the following terms:

[1] Whereas the Minister in Armidale, Mr. Smith, has requested, and been given, Leave of Absence on compassionate grounds for a period of six months, 14th March – 14th September;

Synod Reports 2011

[2] And whereas the Presbytery, on compassionate grounds, has resolved, through the Congregation, to provide up to half the Minimum Stipend to Mr. Smith during this period of time;

[3] And whereas it has resolved to reduce the Status of the Armidale Congregation from a fully sanctioned Charge to a Preaching Station under the oversight of the Northern Rivers Congregation as from the 14th September, 2011 due to continued financial difficulties;

[4] And whereas the Presbytery has resolved to provide a Transitional Period of Ministry for Mr. Smith within its bounds until the end of 2011;

We now ask the Synod of Eastern Australia to continue Financial Support for the Minister in Armidale on compassionate grounds [1] for his six months Leave of Absence, 14th March – 14th September; and [2] for his continued support until the end of 2011, such support to be on a needs basis up to [proportionately] 50 percent of the Minimum Stipend – Mr. Kerridge, and Mr. Campbell to appear in support of the Overture.

[END of EXTRACT MINUTE – OVERTURE APPENDED BELOW]

Yours in Christ Jesus,

David Kerridge

Clerk of Presbytery

OVERTURE FROM NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

WHEREAS the Minister in Armidale, Mr Smith, has requested, and been given, Leave of Absence on compassionate grounds for a period of six months, 14th March – 14th September;

AND WHEREAS the Presbytery, on compassionate grounds, has resolved, through the Congregation, to provide up to half the Minimum Stipend to Mr Smith during this period of time;

AND WHEREAS it has resolved to reduce the Status of the Armidale Congregation from a fully sanctioned Charge to a Preaching Station under the oversight of the Northern Rivers Congregation as from the 14th September, 2011 due to continued financial difficulties;

AND WHEREAS the Presbytery has resolved to provide a Transitional Period of Ministry for Mr. Smith within its bounds until the end of 2011;

THEREFORE Presbytery overtures the Synod of Eastern Australia to continue Financial Support for the minister in Armidale on compassionate grounds; [1] for his six months Leave of Absence, 14th March – 14th September; and [2] for his continued support until the end of 2011, such support to be on a needs basis up to [proportionately] 50 percent of the Minimum Stipend.

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

CORRESPONDENCE Items 2 &3



Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

Central Presbytery

Clerk: Rev Dr Dennis K Muldoon, BScAgr, PhD, BD, MA (Theol)
PO Box 3007 Mt Druitt Village, NSW, 2770
Ph 02 97240877

2 March 2011
The Clerk
PCEA Synod
PO Box 579
Springwood, 2777

Dear Rev Leggott,

At a duly constituted meeting of Central Presbytery on 1st March 2011 at Raymond Terrace it was resolved to overture the 2011 Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia with regard to two matters. These overtures, along with the extract minutes (unconfirmed), are as follows

Extract minutes of 1/3/2011

8. Other Business

Draft Overture re superannuation

Resolved to present this overture to Synod after removal of premise c.

Resolved Dr Muldoon and Mr Steel appear and support this overture to Synod 201 1

Resolved that in terms of Handbook p95 (superannuation committee section A4), a copy of the overture to Synod re superannuation to be forwarded to the Synod Superannuation Committee.

OVERTURE re Superannuation

To the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

Whereas superannuation is compulsory under the Federal Government Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992, where stipend payments exceed \$450 per month with the minimum contribution rate being 9% of the minimum stipend.

And **Whereas** Synod makes an additional employer contribution of 9% of minimum stipend, paying the total contribution of 18% of minimum stipend, to a Complying Superannuation Fund of the minister's choice, for those ministers with more than five years service with the church.

And **Whereas** the additional employer contribution by Synod for ministers with less than five years service is 1% (total contribution 10%) and for ministers aged 70 to 75 years 5% (Superannuation Guarantee contribution ceasing at 70 years)

And **Whereas** Synod has set a minimum weekly stipend, payable by Deacons' Courts to all ministers within their charge from the date of their induction to retirement.

And **Whereas** the minimum stipend is not based on years of service or age, as is the case with current additional employer superannuation contributions.

And **Whereas** Synod sets levies on Deacons' Courts to fund contributions to ministers' superannuation accounts:

14% - Self supporting charge one serving minister

Synod Reports 2011

11% - Additional ministers in same charge

10% - Aid receiving charge one minister

5% - Vacant charge or charge with serving minister aged 70 years more

And **Whereas** Synod maintains a Superannuation Support fund which can be drawn on to supplement contributions made to ministers' superannuation accounts.

And **Whereas** inequalities exist in the current rates of superannuation levies on Deacons' Courts and contributions made to ministers accounts compared with the basis of payment of minimum stipend (2nd Cor 8:13, 14).

And **Whereas** the Law & Advisory Committee reported to Synod 2010 that they had accepted an overture regarding Conflict of Interest, stating it 'spells out what is generally understood to be sound practice'.

And **Whereas** it is considered there is a potential conflict of interest within the Synod Superannuation Committee, with half of the members "to be members of the Retirement Fund" ie. be beneficiaries of the current Synod Superannuation legislation (Decision book p95).

Now therefore Central Presbytery humbly overtures the Synod of Eastern Australia to take these premises into consideration and to enact:

- a. The administration of Superannuation on behalf of ministers be under the purview of the Synod Finance Committee.
- b. The Finance Committee make recommendation to Synod to remove the current inequalities in the administration of ministers' superannuation.

Or to do otherwise for this object as Synod in its wisdom may deem best.

Draft Overture re conflict of interest

Resolved to present this overture to Synod as presented.

Resolved Dr Muldoon to appear and support this overture to Synod 2011.

OVERTURE re Conflict of Interest

To the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

Overture as accepted by Southern Presbytery on 20/2/2010 and presented to the Law and Advisory Committee of Synod 2010 with minor modifications

Whereas God has been pleased to place the oversight of his church in the hands of church courts;

And **Whereas** that oversight should not only be according to good order, but be seen to be according to good order;

And **Whereas** the members of church courts have been saved by the grace of Almighty God, yet they remain sinful human beings;

And **Whereas** from time to time church courts deal with matters in which a member, or members, of that court have, or may seem to have, a conflict of interest;

And **Whereas** it is commonly recognized that conflicts of interest can occur in financial matters; but members of church courts may also be affected by other matters, such as matters involving family members;

And **Whereas** the Scriptures clearly warn against showing partiality in our dealings with others (Deut 1.17; Deut 16.19; Prov 24.23; 1 Tim 5.21);

Synod Reports 2011

Now therefore Central Presbytery humbly overtures the Synod of Eastern Australia to take these premises into consideration and to enact as follows:

a. Remind all church courts that all members are obliged to act with impartiality as servants of Christ, and that where there is or is perceived to be a real or possible conflict of interest whether in financial matters or by virtue of marriage or family relationship, or anything else, that interest should be

(1) declared before consideration of the business,

(2) noted in the minutes and

(3) the person should withdraw from the meeting unless the court resolves that the conflict is not an obstacle to him participating in the matter, or a specific provision allows him to remain and participate.

b. The lawfulness of such a resolution may be taken under review in the examination of records if not previously the subject of appeal or complaint. A person or court failing to declare a conflict of interest or breaching the conflict of interest principle is subject to discipline appropriate to the case.

c. If the court would be without a quorum due to a member or members excusing themselves, then consideration of the matter should be deferred until suitable arrangements can be made to resolve the quorum issue. If the conflict of interest affects the moderator of the court then he should arrange for another member present to moderate the meeting of the court in his absence. If the conflict of interest is anticipated, then these arrangements may be made in advance.

Or to do otherwise for this object as Synod in its wisdom may deem best.

Yours in Christ

Dr D.K. Muldoon

Clerk, Central Presbytery

CORRESPONDENCE Item 4



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA
SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY**

Clerk: Rev Dr Rowland S. Ward, BA, BTh (Hons), ThD
26 Roxburgh Road, Wantirna 3152
Tel: 9720 4871 Int + 613 9720 4871
rowland.ward@gmail.com

12 March 2011,

Clerk,
Synod of Eastern Australia,

Dear Brother,

At a duly constituted meeting of Southern Presbytery on 12 March 2011, *inter alia*:

A very positive reference in favour of Mr Boehret dated 2/3/2011 was received from the Principal of PTC, Dr Douglas Milne.

The letter from the Training of Ministry Committee dated 9/3/2011 was received. The application had been viewed with favour and the recommendation of Southern Presbytery that Homiletics and Pastoral Care be included in the course, had been made a requirement of Mr Boehret's studies. The Committee were aware of Mr Boehret's request for financial assistance with his studies and are happy to leave that decision with Synod.

Accordingly, it was resolved to admit Mr Boehret to provisional recognition as a student for the ministry, and to overture Synod 2011 in the following terms.

To the Synod of Eastern Australia appointed to meet in Melbourne 2 May 2011

WHEREAS on 25 February 2011 the Southern Presbytery recommended the studentship application of Mr Denver Daniel Boehret, BEng (Hons), a member of the Knox Congregation, to the Training of Ministry Committee;

AND WHEREAS the Training of Ministry has favourably considered the same and advised the Presbytery accordingly on 9 March 2010;

AND WHEREAS the Presbytery on the 12 March 2011 received Mr Boehret as a student for the ministry;

NOW THEREFORE the Southern Presbytery, in further following out the prescribed procedure, seek
(a) ratification by Synod of Mr Boehret's reception by Southern Presbytery and
(b) the favourable consideration of his request for a loan, in lieu of allowances, to assist in financing the balance of his MDiv studies at the Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne, expected to be completed by the end of 2012,

Or to to otherwise for this object as Synod in its wisdom may see fit.

The Moderator & Clerk were appointed to state the overture. (attached)
Extracted from the records of Southern Presbytery.

Rowland S. Ward
Clerk

OVERTURE OF SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY

Re: Mr Denver D. Boehret, BEng (Hons)

To the Synod of Eastern Australia appointed to meet in Melbourne 2 May 2011

WHEREAS on 25 February 2011 the Southern Presbytery recommended the studentship application of Mr Denver Daniel Boehret, BEng (Hons), a member of the Knox Congregation, to the Training of Ministry Committee;

AND WHEREAS the Training of Ministry has favourably considered the same and advised the Presbytery accordingly on 9 March 2010;

AND WHEREAS the Presbytery on the 12 March 2011 received Mr Boehret as a student for the ministry;

NOW THEREFORE the Southern Presbytery, in further following out the prescribed procedure, seek

(a) ratification by Synod of Mr Boehret's reception by Southern Presbytery and

(b) the favourable consideration of his request for a loan, in lieu of allowances, to assist in financing the balance of his MDiv studies at the Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne, expected to be completed by the end of 2012,

Or to do otherwise for this object as Synod in its wisdom may see fit.