

The Synod of Eastern Australia



To meet at the
Wauchope Church Facilities
Hastings Congregation
Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

8th – 10th May 2012

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.....	2
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.....	3
CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS.....	5
PRESBYTERY REPORTS.....	6
LAW & ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	12
TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE.....	17
CHURCH & NATION COMMITTEE	19
MEDIA COMMITTEE.....	22
YOUTH & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE	24
MISSIONS COMMITTEE	29
INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE.....	38
SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE	40
FINANCE COMMITTEE.....	42
TREASURER.....	43
NSW TRUST CORPORATION.....	45
QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION.....	47
TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA.....	48
CORRESPONDENCE.....	50

TIMETABLE FOR SYNOD 2012

Time	Tuesday 8 th May	Time	Wednesday 9 th May	Thursday 10 th May
	Synod to Commence with Session 1 at 4.00pm	9.00am	SESSION 3 Devotions and Prayer Law and Advisory Training of Ministry Church and Nation	SESSION 6 Devotions and Prayer Superannuation Finance Trust Corporations Reports of Examiners of Records. Appointment of Moderator-elect Time and Place of Next Synod Closure of Synod
		M/Tea 10.30am		
		12.30pm	Lunch	Lunch
4.00pm	SESSION 1 Constitution of Synod Retiring Moderator's Sermon. Thanks to Retiring Moderator Presbytery Rolls. Welcomes (New members, guests, associations as required). Administration	2.00pm	SESSION 4 Media (Banner Website Archives) Youth and Fellowship Missions Inter-Church Relations Delegates from Other Churches	Synod Closes at the end of Session 6 at 12.30pm Lunch to follow before delegates depart
6.00pm	Dinner	6.00pm	Dinner	
7.00pm	SESSION 2 Election of Moderator for 2012/2013	7.00pm	SESSION 5 Missions Speakers Including Lorraine Francis Mukti	
7.30pm	Moderator's address. Thanks to Moderator. Presbytery Reports			
8.30pm	Close	8.30pm	Close	

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

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

Ministerial Movements:

Rev John Cromarty, on 10th May 2011, asked for his name to be removed from the roll of Resigned Ministers, and gave notice that he would relinquish membership of the Manning Congregation. He was admitted as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia on that date and is giving supply in the PCV from his home base in Geelong.

Rev Peter Smith concluded his ministry with the Armidale congregation as of 14th June 2011, and was granted leave on half stipend until 14th September 2011 when he officially ceased to be minister of Armidale. Following request from Northern Presbytery his name has been added to the roll of Ministers Without Charge. We are encouraged to learn of the success of an operation in February 2012 to remove a benign tumour.

Rev Ray Murray resigned as minister of the Northern Rivers Congregation effective from 29th February 2012. Thanks were recorded to Rev. Murray for his many years of service and the best wishes of Presbytery forwarded to Mrs Murray and to Rev. Murray for a long and happy retirement. As per Rev. Murray's request, Presbytery resolved that his name not be recorded on the Register of Ministers Eligible for a Call or the Roll of Retired Ministers.

Timetable:

With the progress of business over recent times it is felt appropriate to shorten the time of meeting so that Synod is set to start on Tuesday afternoon at 4.00pm and conclude at 12.30pm Thursday. Whilst previously notified to start at 3.30pm the time has been moved back to 4.00pm to help with flight timetables.

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

Correspondence:

- | | <u>Date received</u> | <u>From</u> |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 1) | 2.04.12 | Petition from Northern Presbytery
Re Closure of Services at Armidale and Sale of the Church Property. |

The Administration Committee confirmed the proposed action of the Finance Committee in complying with a request from the Knox congregation to increase the amount of loan to the Knox Congregation, to complete modification of the Glen Huntly property to enable completion and sale.

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.

Committees:

Suggested Committee structure remains unchanged from the previous year with the exception that J.D Klazinga replaces G. Hamilton as convener of Youth and Fellowship, and R.W. Murray on Training of Ministry.

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: J.D.Klazinga (Convener), G.Hamilton, 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, J.D. Klazinga, T.W.Yoa, D.Manly.

Presbytery Responses:

Act Concerning Interviewing Women, Children and Vulnerable Adults by Church Courts

Synod 2011 Law and Advisory Committee 11.15 resolved that Presbyteries are requested to give their approval or disapproval with votes recorded and send advice to the Clerk of Synod by 31st December 2011 so that the Committee may report to Synod 2012.

Responses were received as follows:

Northern Presbytery: Following discussion in which certain concerns were raised and answered, the Presbytery was requested to approve or disapprove the remit. The Presbytery voted unanimously to approve the remit. Those who had concerns about the wording of the Act, but not the tenor, were directed to present these in writing to the next meeting of Presbytery.

Central Presbytery: Response to overture from Synod 2011 re. Interviewing women, children and vulnerable adults, coming down under the Barrier Act. It was resolved to support the remit from Synod. Vote 7 for, 0 against.

Southern Presbytery: It was proposed that Presbytery cordially approve the Act concerning Interviewing Women, Children and Vulnerable Adults. The motion was carried unanimously.

Combination of Central and Northern Presbytery:

The convener, having recently visited the congregations of the Northern Presbytery, raised with members of the committee the desirability of combining Central and Northern Presbytery, given:

- The combination of Grafton, Lismore and Maclean into the Northern Rivers.
- The closure of the Armidale work.
- The two inducted ministers only recently joining the church courts.

The suggestion is that the Central and Northern Presbyteries be temporarily combined for three years for the good ordering of procedures.

Proposed Deliverances:

1. That Correspondence Item 1 be taken with Presbytery Reports.
2. That Committee Structure as noted in the report be adopted.
3. That the following examiners of records be appointed:

Northern Presbytery	Rev. G Smith and Ulverstone elder.
Central Presbytery	Rev. D Kerridge and Geelong elder.
Southern Presbytery	Rev. J McCallum and Hastings elder.

4. That in the light of present circumstances, and in the expectation that more effective distribution of tasks and effort into endeavours to maintain and extend the Gospel in our land will be realised, the Central and Northern Presbyteries be combined under the name Central & Northern Presbytery to meet on 10 May 2012 immediately following the closing of this Synod to appoint a Moderator and Clerk, and set a time and place for their first ordinary meeting. The effectiveness of this combined Presbytery is to be reviewed by Synod 2015. The existing Central and Northern Presbyteries are requested to meet during Synod when Synod is not in Session with a view to confirming any as yet unconfirmed minutes so that same may be attested by this Synod.

CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS AS AT 31.12.2011

	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 m/week participants	
	10	+	-	11	10	11	>4	4-11	12-18	19-64	65+	Total				
Congregation Elders/deacons	10	+	-	11	10	11										
Brisbane 4/1	38	0	2	36	50	50	4	13	7	26	9	59	1	4/19	13	
Nthn Riv 5/3	52	-	2	50	60	60	4	8	5	21	38	76	0	2/10	0	
Armidaile 2/0	12	-	7	5	30	12	-	-	3	6	4	13	0	1/3	0	
Hastings 4/0	33	4	1	36	42	42	3	4	2	26	13	48	1	2/3	0	
North P 15/4	139	3	9	133	182	164	11	25	17	79	64	196	2	13/62	15	
Manning 4/5	59	2	4	57	59	58	-	1	2	28	39	70	0	2/6	40	
Hunter 4/4	45	2	3	44	52	52	6	2	3	25	24	60	2	4/12	8	
St George 4/3	54	2	1	55	65	65	4	11	4	45	21	85	1	3/10	0	
Mt Druitt 2/1	25	20	-	45	51	45	4	8	5	22	9	48	3	2/10	16	
Syd Sth 2/0	11	-	-	11	15	15	-	2	3	8	3	16	0	1/2	0	
Cent P 14/13	194	26	8	212	242	235	14	24	17	128	96	279	6	12/40	64	
Knox-3/0	38	-	6	32	59	52	4	13	2	29	17	65	6	2/8	7	
AN – Nuer	44	20	8	56	180	100		45	20	56	1	132	0	2/35	0	
AN - English	6	1	-	07	26	23	10 2	4	3	12	2	23	0	1/5	0	
NarreW 1/1	35	1	-	36	49	56	1	3	5	28	15	52	0	2/7	0	
CarrumD 1/0	11	-	-	11	11	11	0	1	3	6	6	16	0	0	0	
Geelong 2/0	23	-	1	22	23	20	1	0	1	9	17	28	0	0	0	
Ulverst 1/1	19	2	-	21	26	30	0	3	8	8	16	35	3	2/8	14	
South P 8/2	176	24	15	185	374	292	18	69	42	148	74	351	3	9/63	21	
TOTAL 37/19	509	53	32	530	798	691	43	118	76	355	234	826	11	34/165	100	

- Overall membership is up 4.1%, largely due to additions at Mt Druitt. The age structure of the community is about one third over 65. (excluding the Sudanese) compared to 13.5% in the total population.
- Deaths reported were 2 in Hunter, 1 each in 1 in Northern Rivers, Hastings & St George's, total 5 (6 in 2010)

NORTHERN PRESBYTERY REPORT

ARMIDALE: The situation of the Armidale congregation was very much on the hearts of all the charges in the Northern Presbytery in 2011, office-bearers and congregation members alike. During 2011, Rev. Peter Smith requested and was granted leave of absence by the Presbytery on compassionate grounds and subsequently resigned on 14th September, 2011. In the vacancy, every effort was made locally and by the Presbytery to continue to supply the Congregation with a diet of worship for the Lord's Day, and to encourage them in this difficult and distressing time. Numbers had waned since 2010 and continued to do so in 2011, and finances were meagre. After some time to consider their position and future, and after a number of Congregation, Session and Deacon's meetings at the close of 2011 and in early 2012, the Congregation sought leave to affiliate with the Trinity Church, Tamworth, with whom they have had a long association. It is with great sadness that we see this congregation close after an extended time of Reformed witness in the New England region. However, we look on the move not so much as a termination but rather as a transition and our confidence is in Christ who will continue to shepherd His people there.

BRISBANE: The Year of our Lord 2011 was another year in which we could testify to the faithfulness of the Lord and his on-going mercy and grace. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'" (Lamentations 3:22-24). 2011 was the first full year of Pastor Klazinga's ministry among us.

Services: Two services each Lord's Day were regularly held, at 10 am and 5 pm, with most being led by Pastor Klazinga. When he was unable to do so, Dr. Wes Hanna would lead the morning services, while various elders and visiting ministers led in the afternoon. It was not at all uncommon to have visitors worshipping with us, including some who came regularly. The Lord's Supper was celebrated regularly once every two months. On most Sundays a fellowship lunch would follow the morning service and Sunday School time.

Membership: During 2010, two young men, Ben Klazinga and Matthew Schmidt were interviewed by Session and admitted to communicant membership. We also had one baptism: David Scot, infant son of Joel and Anca Scot.

Session: The congregation was asked to vote on Dr. Wes Hanna being brought back into session as a ruling elder, which was met with overwhelming approval. He was re-inducted as elder during the morning service on 18 December. Session now consists of four ruling elders and the pastor. Mr. Ron Lawson served as the representative elder at Presbytery and Synod.

Deacons' Court: The Deacons' Court consists of four elders, the pastor, and one deacon. The level of weekly offerings remains relatively good, considering the size of the congregation. Some of our savings have had to be dipped into in order to cover on-going costs. Once again we would note the outstanding contribution being made by the small group of retired people in Rockhampton, who worship regularly with us via phone.

Education and Fellowship: The four Sunday School classes continue to be held each week during the school year after the morning worship services. The pastor also continues to lead a course on the Westminster Confession held at the same time for youth beyond the Sunday School years. Youth Group Friday Bible Study and games evenings were held semi-regularly at the Klazinga home. Two fortnightly Bible Studies led by the pastor met on alternate weeks. One would meet on Wednesdays in families' homes and studied the Book, "Meeting Jesus at the Feast: Israel's Festivals and the Gospel." The other met at the church and studied the book of Ephesians. A couple of Saturday morning Men's Study Breakfasts were held.

Camp Drewe: The Annual Family Camp was held at Lennox Head in November. The speaker was Rev. Andres Miranda. He led a number of studies and the Sunday morning and afternoon worship services, focusing on the theme: "Foundational Truths for Christian Stability." Attendance was down slightly from the previous year, but was still quite good, and included members from other PCEA and Presbyterian congregations.

HASTINGS: A year of establishment and consolidation in 2011 has gone well and the congregation is in good spirits, all for which we give thanks to the Lord. Services continue on the Lord's Day at 10am and 4pm in Wauchope, with adult Westminster Confession Classes and Sunday School running at 11:30am after morning tea. Kindee services are held each fortnight at 7:30pm. Attendance is good at the Wauchope morning service. Prayer meeting is conducted on Wednesday night and Psalmody Class in Wauchope after the evening service, occasionally. We enjoyed fellowship with the Taree Congregation on a number of their Friendship outings and at the Annual Sunday School Picnic.

Two adherents have become members in the congregation and we are greatly encouraged to see the continuing keen interest of a young lady who joins us regularly for morning and afternoon services. Regular visitors swell the numbers, especially around school holiday times. Some ex-members also attend the afternoon service since there is no worship in other churches in the town then. Numbers in Kindee have grown with the settlement of a lady and her son in the district.

Average weekly offerings for 2011 were \$834. Whilst we have not been able to establish a work in Port Macquarie as yet, the Hall has begun (early 2012) to be utilised by a group who meet there for worship on the Lord's Day afternoon. During early 2011, a search for a suitable property for a Manse continued. Towards the end of the year, while the Manse was not yet sold, the minister and his family were able to purchase their own home, and so the Deacons' Court looks toward buying a suitable investment property cum manse. The sale of the Manse was finally completed late in 2011, which released some funds to complete necessary refurbishments on the Wauchope Church Hall, with disabled access being one addition. A new website was put up at www.hastingspcea.org.au and is now linked in to the church website. It is slowly growing in content, and proving to be a great point of contact with the community and visitors. A new sign has replaced the existing one which dates back to the 50's or 60's.

We continue to look to the Lord to build His church on the Hastings River, and pray for revival to begin in our hearts and spread into the local community.

NORTHERN RIVERS:

1. 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. While we have had no additions to our number during the year we rejoice in the induction of Mr John Greensill as an Elder in the Congregation on the 5th June, 2011 and thank God for his work among us.

2. We have 2 services each Lord's Day – Grafton at 9 am, Maclean at 11am, 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 on the Sunshine Coast, Evans head and Ballina. Some 9-10 people receive the service this way each Lord's Day.

3. 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 service regularly. She leaves for University study this year. We continue to be grateful to parents and grandparents for their support through the year.

4. This year the Lord has called to himself a member who had attained the age of 98 – and who had been a faithful member since 1932. Some members are in their nineties and several have been members of the Congregation for more than 70 years. They are demonstrations to us 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. The Roll now stands at 50 and our total Church community at about 76.

5. Congregational givings during 2011 averaged \$920 per week. There is considerable income from property [Manse rental] and investment, and the Deacons' Court is mindful of its responsibility to be a

good steward of these resources. Our previous allocation of money to the Mission work in India has not yet been sent. We are waiting for the resolution of the financial difficulties there before proceeding. 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 which ensures a regular contribution of \$10,000 to the work of Special Religious Education in the High Schools in Grafton and Maclean. With an annual income in excess of \$60,000 – and the provision of a shed on Manse grounds for their work, they have insisted that the Church should benefit from the income generated, and return to the Congregation some \$5,000 per year. This money is available for assistance to other congregations or worthy causes. We also continue to support substantially the work of the Gideons, MERF, Dumisani, and the Bible League. 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. During the year, the Deacons' Court was able to do much needed repairs on the Churches in Grafton and Maclean.

6. 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.

7. Anticipating the future, we pray for your support during the impending vacancy in 2012. We pray that the vacancy will be short. We are also grateful that Mr Murray has indicated that he will be available for regular supply during 2012 should he be needed. We continue to look to the Lord to bless the work during 2012.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERY REPORT

MANNING: We give thanks to God who has provided for all of our needs during another year. The minister preached a series of messages from the book of Romans during the morning services and a series of messages from Exodus and Leviticus in the afternoon. The attendance is good in the morning but disappointing in the afternoon. The morning service is preceded by a time for prayer. There are five midweek meetings which are well supported.

We give thanks for the spirit of fellowship in the Session and congregation. We lost one faithful elder during the year when Ron Jones and his wife moved to live in Lismore. We give thanks for the good spirit in the Deacons Court. During the year a toilet for the disabled was installed in the church hall.

We are an ageing congregation. Some are no longer able to attend two services as once they did; and some no longer able to exercise the gift of hospitality as once they did. We are conscious of the need of the Lord's mercies and His reviving. Habakkuk 3: 2.

HUNTER -BARRINGTON: Worship Services continue to be conducted weekly at Raymond Terrace (am) and Cardiff (am & pm). Rev Tamata and Mr Tso conduct the Worship services with occasional relief being provided by a few suitably gifted members. Weekly live telephone broadcasts of Worship services to the sick and/or aged continue to be appreciated. Helpful & stimulating 'Question & Answer' discussions have been conducted at Raymond Terrace and Cardiff during monthly Fellowship morning teas & luncheons. It is our prayer that these events will contribute to the development of biblical understanding and more faithful Christian living.

Prayer Meetings/Bible studies have been held regularly on alternate weeks at Raymond Terrace and in the Newcastle area. This year meetings are conducted at Raymond Terrace by Mr Kerridge and other meetings are conducted by Mr Tso in the Anna Bay area. Rev Tamata conducts the meetings at Cardiff. Each group is studying the book of James. A regular Prayer Bulletin is provided to members in paper form & also on our website. Prayer for local & wider mission and our sister PCEA congregations is a priority. Ladies Bible studies have been conducted fortnightly at Raymond Terrace and Cardiff. Mrs Tamata is currently leading a series of studies based on the Beatitudes.

An All Age Sunday School has been conducted at Cardiff each week during school terms. Psalm tunes, the Shorter Catechism and the Scriptures have been taught faithfully each week to the children. Adult participants have been studying the Westminster Confession of Faith. A crèche is conducted on Sunday mornings at Raymond Terrace to provide for the children. Instruction in the Scriptures is an integral part of the activity.

Prayerful consideration is being given to suitable outreach activities in the Raymond Terrace and Newcastle areas. A holiday Kids' Club and the conduct of 'Christianity Explored' courses are being planned. Mr & Mrs Tso have been exploring opportunities for evangelism to Newcastle University students. Our prayer is that our Lord would open doors of opportunity for them.

ST GEORGES: St Georges is situated in the City CDB and draws its members from the greater Sydney area. Few live close to the church and many travel long distances (Berowra in the north 36km, Penrith in the west 54km and Cronulla in the south 30km) by car and public transport to attend. Those who drive to the two services on the Lords Day and the mid week meeting must pay road/bridge tolls and parking fees – this can amount to approximately \$26 on the Lords Day and \$10 mid week.

The time and number of the weekly Worship service, Bible Class, Sabbath School and Psalmody Practice has not changed in the past twelve months. During this time there has been a slight drop in the average attendance at worship services, currently 57 am., 42 pm. and 25 mid week. The Communicant members roll remained at 53 with the addition of 2 by profession of faith and removal of 2 longstanding members by death. We have three Sabbath School classes with 10 children attending and continue to have visitors attending on most Lords Days.

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

HAWKESBURY NEPEAN: The congregation meets at Mt Druitt in western Sydney. During the year we had a working bee during which many members and helpers painted the inside of the hall. The roof of the heritage church building is in need of repainting. The buildings are well used by the congregation; another group uses the hall on Sunday afternoons.

Worship services are conducted each Lord's day at 11am and 6pm. The minister has been preaching through the gospel of Luke and the book of Isaiah. We have a Bible class at 10 am, and at 11.30am a Sunday School with two teachers. On average six attend the prayer meeting on Tuesday evening. The Lord has added a few members during the year and brought others from time to time. We are glad to have Mr Allan Stewart installed as a deacon.

Outreach to the young people of the district continues with a Lighthouse club (of 12-16) and a Youth club (of 6-7) on Friday afternoon and evening respectively. Ministry to the elderly and terminally ill two nursing homes continues.

During the year the minister conducted classes on the Shorter Catechism on Saturday evenings. A training day for Sunday School teachers was conducted by a member from the Sydney South congregation. We rejoice in the Lord to see members growing in their knowledge and love of the Lord.

SYDNEY SOUTH: This small but faithful congregation meets in the community hall at Bexley North. Worship services are at 9am and Sunday School at 9.30. Two members are in nursing homes and unable to attend. A prayer meeting each fortnight, held in a home, is well attended and is a time of blessing.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERY REPORT

NARRE WARREN: We have much to be thankful for in our congregation. The commitment has steadily increased so that in many areas of church life there is an overall growth. We see this in the attendance at worship services but more noticeably in the spirit within the congregation. Nearly all our folk attending the morning worship service (about 96%+ stay for fellowship over refreshments in the hall afterwards). The desire for the folk to serve in different spheres of congregational life has increased. For example, we have good help at working bees. The financial giving has continued to increase at a most encouraging figure – recently the Deacon’s Court agreed that this year we would not be applying for Synod Aid, as our last year’s giving indicated we are able to go it alone. We also have the confidence that if we were to need extra funds the congregation would respond well. Last year we did a letter box drop in the neighbourhood of the church and while this only had the immediate impact of one gentleman coming for a morning service it did show a most encouraging response from the congregation in distributing over a good-sized area around the church. Over the last one to two years we have seen three local widowed ladies coming along regularly to our worship services.

The Adult Bible Study continued on being held twice per month, on a Wednesday evening. We use Matthias Media Interactive Bible Studies and have an excellent participation from the 10 who regularly attend. The Ladies Bi-Monthly Wednesday morning Bible Study continues in school term. They presently have around 8-12 attending. They use material also from a Sydney Anglican source. The Men’s Study Breakfast also continues on, usually on the first Saturday morning of the month. We are using John MacArthur’s very edifying book entitled *The Book on Leadership*. We usually have 5 – 7 men attending these. The Sunday School still consists of two classes, with about 6 – 7 students. A new teacher is now helping out with the Junior class and this means a helpful rotation of teachers. In addition to this, printed sermons are given out to those not able to attend church services, as well as some series being posted on the church’s website.

KNOX, WANTIRNA: The induction on January 2011 of Andres Miranda as Dr Ward’s colleague and successor was a happy occasion. Ministry as been shared at Knox with Andres taking most morning services at All Nations and many, mostly evening services, at Knox. The Ladies’ Bible Study and Mid-week prayer meetings have continued as well as the Monthly CWI prayer meeting. The roll has been revised. An attractive leaflet has been produced and distribution, especially at railway stations, has commenced. Student Denver Boehret has been given opportunity to exercise his gifts, and he was ordained to the eldership during the year. The manse was vacated by the Yoa family who have moved into their own home in Lynbrook, and it was renovated for the occupation of the Miranda family late in the year. Generally speaking it has been a stable year, and we are gearing up for more intentional outreach and for opportunities for fellowship at regular luncheons.

The delay with the conversion of the old Glen Huntly building into five 2BR residential units is disappointing. They work should have been completed in April 2011. The building contract was terminated 20/12/2011 and a contract signed with a new builder late February 2012 with completion expected the end of May 2012. The end value is in the order of \$3 million, and its contribution to the work and witness will be considerable.

ALL NATIONS, MULGRAVE: There was quite a sifting in the Sudanese section of the congregation during the year as the emphasis on the gospel not mere Nuer culture continued. Offerings actually increased although they are far from where they ought to be. The English service continued steadily. Numbers fluctuate but are typically in the low 20s. Tract evangelism is planned for March.

CARRUM DOWNS: At Carrum Downs we continue in a steady state. The group is stable and there have been no ructions in the last year. Finances are down but compensated for in Josee’s and my case by proportional increase in her Centrelink allowance. Our health is on a par with last year also. We are happy to receive into our midst just of late Trevor and Isabella Bryans who have come from St George’s. It has been pleasing to have the nine year old nephew of a member attending with him regularly. He seems very enthusiastic. However we had to said goodbye to two of our adherents.

Nevertheless we are thankful for the net gain, and look trustingly to the future under our Lord's good hand. Currently the possibility of acquiring the old Carrum Downs Memorial Hall site presents itself. Our Moderator (Dr Ward) has the details. Meanwhile the Lyrebird Community Centre premises continue to serve us very well.

GEELONG: The Geelong congregation continues in good heart, although those who spent time away over the summer were missed. Old age and ill health are also taking their toll on some members. The work continues in all its aspects with the mid-week meeting being an encouragement: attendance has increased and there is good participation in the Bible studies. We continue to cry to the Lord for a work of grace to be done in different lives. Members use cards with up to three names they have entered to remember these folk before the Lord in their personal times with the Lord, and then we together cry to the Lord during the morning service each week.

ULVERSTONE: The Ulverstone congregation has continued through 2011 conscious of the Lord's blessing in numerous areas. Some additional families commenced attending and average attendance at the Lord's day services late in the year was 30. Supply continued from a number of local and interstate sources. A highlight was the supply from Rev Andre (and Sue) Scheepers of the RCNZ in October 2011. This period saw two additional communicants added and three Baptisms. In December we also appreciated supply from Rev David Kumnick accompanied by Josee.

The supply from Rev Andre Scheepers was warmly received and the Session subsequently offered Andre the position of resident supply minister for a 12 month period, with a view to a call. This was accepted and the supply period commenced on the 15 Feb 2012. Services have reverted to two per Lord's day and the other regular items on the church program have also recommenced. The Sunday School has started the year with 8 in two classes. One family from Adelaide has recently relocated back to the congregation. The Men's prayer breakfasts and Women's Missionary Union meetings have recommenced.

There is an emphasis on advertising at this time to complement the arrival of Andre and Sue. The new congregational web site has been established with audio sermons and weekly service details are published in the local newspaper. An editorial item is set to appear following a recent interview with Andre and Sue. The summer car rally is set for the 3rd March and promises a large field of entrants.

We have much to give thanks to the Lord for, and look prayerfully to the instruction of God's word and the work of the gospel amongst us and the local community.

LAW & ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

1. Interviewing Women, Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Interim Act passed last year can now be converted into a standing rule following the consent of all Presbyteries, and we propose accordingly.

2. Sexual Misconduct (refer p.55 of 2008 printing of Church Handbook)

The Procedure approved in 2004/05 did not pass under the Barrier Act then, nor in 2008 when certain legislation was approved as sufficiently meeting the Barrier Act requirements, and therefore is not binding except in so far as it incorporates existing material passed under the Barrier Act. There was a reason for the 2008 omission: it was thought that there were some questions of practicality and legality that needed to be addressed, while the procedure might well be adjusted to embrace at least non-sexual child abuse as well.

Section D 4 needs a small rewording to avoid the suggestion that a complainant whose case is dismissed must be charged with defaming the accused, and Appendix 1 might be considered largely superfluous in the light of the Act about interviewing Women, Children and Vulnerable Adults.

The 2004/05 procedures appear to require mandatory reporting to the police where it is considered an incident may involve criminal behaviour. A convenient internet site summarizing reporting requirements in respect of child abuse (sexual or otherwise) is <http://www.aifs.gov.au/nch/pubs/sheets/rs3/rs3.html> It appears that only in South Australia is there at present an explicit obligation on ministers of religion to report suspected cases of child abuse. Bearing in mind the welfare and wishes of a victim it is at least open for debate whether mandatory reporting is appropriate in every instance, and we think the subject should at least be debated. We invite discussion and comment with a view to refining the 2004/05 legislation in a regular way.

Protocols of a number of denominations may be found at <<http://www.clergyabuseaustralia.org/>>

3. Amendment of the Victorian Property Act

As of date of writing the response of the Department of Justice to the amendments approved by Synod 2011 has been positive. Steps were taken immediately following Synod. The Attorney-General (Robert Clark) had expressed the view that amendment would appear to be appropriate. The Convener had met with officials of the department on 18/1/2012. The Convener had suggested the Act could be renamed the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia Property Act 5691/1953 to avoid confusion and some additional housekeeping adjustments had been suggested by the Department on 28/2/2012. The trustees and the Committee approved a response to the Department 1/3/2012. The draft of a Bill is expected soon, and legislation later in 2012 depending on the schedule of Parliamentary business. The Attorney has decided not to give the power to vary trusts which is common in New South Wales but rare in Victoria, and thinks that if difficulties arise the Charities Act 1978 should provide a means of relief.

4. Amendment of the NSW Property Act

On 30/9/2011 Central Presbytery had approved the draft in the minutes of Synod 2011 and made further suggestions. Advice was received from the Presbytery Clerk 9/12/2011. The mind of the Committee and the trustees is to wait until we have the amendment of the Victorian Act settled before bringing forward proposals for NSW. Meantime any suggestions are welcome.

5. Legislation re ministers without charge and resigned ministers

The intention of Act 19, Class 2, Synod 1986 (p. 77 of Handbook 1988 ed) [Ministers without charge and resigned ministers] - has been queried. The Act was taken over from the FCS Act of 1971 but the FCS updated their Act in 1990/1999 which clarified its intent in a helpful way.

More than one member of the Committee had considered that our 1986 Act applied to the situation where a minister resigns without retiring from ill-health, old age or other circumstances not affecting his ministerial character (cf. Handbook 4.55). If he resigned without retiring the Presbytery decided

whether he is placed on the Register (eligible for Call) or the Roll (not eligible for call). However, if a minister retires remaining in the PCEA does he go on either the Register or the Roll? His status is that of a retired minister in good standing and as such his church membership remains with the congregation to which he attaches himself and the Presbytery of the bounds continues to have jurisdiction over him for any disciplinary matters etc. that may arise. Should he cease to be a member of the PCEA he ceases to be under PCEA jurisdiction and would lose his right to be registered as a marriage celebrant under the PCEA heading.

The difficulty has arisen because the term 'retire' does not appear in the Act, while some practical issues of application needed attention to avoid confusion or misunderstanding, and hence the FCS revised the Act in 1990 with some additions in 1999. Given we've had confusion on the matter more than once, it seems appropriate to revise our Act too, and same has been taken over from the FCS with the necessary adjustment to relate it to the PCEA and to call the roll the Roll of Resigned or Retired ministers.

It might be noted that a retired minister is eligible to preach, preside at Communion and to act as Interim-Moderator either by appointment of Presbytery or as a substitute for the Presbytery-appointed Interim Moderator and his position is analogous to that of an assessor elder. He does not have a seat on Presbytery unless he comes under the provisions of the Act of 1986 concerning seats on Presbytery for ministers not inducted, but he does remain accountable to Presbytery for the discharge of any duties the Presbytery has given him.

6. Calls to Ministers without charge of Churches with whom we have Mutual Eligibility

Act 20 Synod 1986 set out provisions for calls to ministers resigned from a charge in the Free Church of Scotland. It required certificates of good standing to be dated no earlier than 3 months before they were presented to the PCEA Presbytery, and that the PCEA Presbytery instruct the Clerk of Synod to add his name to the Register of Ministers without a Charge eligible for call where it could remain for 3 years and was subject to renewal provisions.

Given that in 2005 we enacted Mutual Eligibility with the Free Church of Scotland and similarly for the RCNZ (2006) and the OPC (2007), it would seem that Act 20 of Synod 1986 should be rescinded and replaced by a more general enactment applying to all churches with whom we have established Mutual Eligibility. There is a similar provision in the church order of the RCNZ.

7. Recent legislation of the Free Church of Scotland

For reference the following are some of the more interesting Acts of the FCS in recent years:

1995/I:1 Class 1 - *Act anent Ministers, Professors and Ordained Missionaries unable to fulfil duties*

2006/X:10 Class 2 – *Act anent Appointment and Employment of Presbytery Workers*

2010/II:2 Class 1 - *Act anent the appointment of a Judicial Commission*

The General Assembly recognise the risk of exposing the Church to criticism or legal action where procedure allows a Church Court to act as investigator, prosecutor, jury and judge, involving the same personnel in the initial investigation, the prosecution of the charges, the consideration of the evidence and the final verdict.

The General Assembly consider that the small size of the Free Church is liable to give rise to concerns and difficulties in the processing of cases, and in particular that objective, detached, and just procedure may not be achievable or clearly demonstrated.

A judicial commission consisting of two ministers and two elders from each Presbytery has been established with membership maximum of 4 year term without a break.

2010/XVIII Class 2 - *Act anent Management of Absence due to sick leave of Ministers in Pastoral Charges*

2010/XIX Class 2 - *Act anent Annual Leave and Leave of Absence for Ministers in Pastoral Charges*
Annual leave is 6 weeks which must be taken annually, with 4 months sabbatical every 10 years for study, writing or extra-denomination work. No long service leave

2010/XXXIII Class 2 - *Act anent Use of Modern Technology in Conducting Church Business*

2011/XXVI Class 2 – *Act anent Improvement of Effectiveness of Presbyteries*

8. Proposed Government legislation which may affect the Church

a. The *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission* [ACNC] has proposed that from 1 October 2012 income tax exempt bodies will be automatically registered and from 1 July 2013 will be required to lodge an annual report in prescribed form. Small organizations (up to \$250,000pa revenue) will not require formal audit in accord with normal accounting standards, but the financial year will normally be 30 June. An annual information statement will need to be filed. It is one page but requires the total value of assets and liabilities to be noted as well as total income and total expenditure, also the sum raised by fund-raising and how such was spent. The relevant website is <http://acnctaskforce.treasury.gov.au> It should be noted the proposals are not yet in legislation and may be changed in some details (eg. financial year). However, at this stage we propose that Congregations take steps to include in their annual financial statement a fair realizable value for their assets: real estate, vehicle etc.

b. *Occupational Health and Safety laws in Australia* are being harmonised with the introduction of new model Work and Health Safety Laws. The laws commenced in NSW, ACT, NT and Queensland on 1 January 2012 and will commence soon in Victoria, WA, SA and Tasmania. Important bits of the new laws are:

- Employers and Directors can be held criminally negligent
- Workplace is extended to include the safety of any workers working overseas
- 'Employee' is now changed to 'worker' which includes volunteers and is likely to capture missions staff.
- It is a risk based legislation, which will likely put greater obligation on organisations

Deacons Courts should periodically check the Church property carefully to locate any hazards such as broken steps or defective guide rails, cracked or broken electrical fittings, fix them and minute the result. Voluntary workers should be supervised in such a way that the very young, the unskilled or the elderly are not left to do hazardous tasks. Incident report should be made at the time (sample form has been provided to all congregations by the Convener). A useful site is: <http://safeworkaustralia.gov.au>

9. Reception of Students/Ministers – medical reports

There appears to be an omission in our regulations that should be corrected. Deriving wording from the Free Church of Scotland Act of 1991, and after consulting with and having the approval of the Training of Ministry Committee, we propose relevant amendments.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES

1. Synod with the consent of all Presbyteries convert the Interim Act of Synod 2011 concerning **Interviewing Women, Children and Vulnerable Adults** into a standing rule.

2. In Section D4 of Act 6 Class 2 Synod 2004 [Procedures for Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Misconduct] the word 'may' is substituted for 'shall' and Synod invites comment on the floor of Synod now, or subsequently to the Committee, concerning any other amendments that are thought desirable.

3. Synod approve the amendment of the name of the Free Presbyterian Property Act 1953 to the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia Property Act.

4. With reference to Ministers without Charge and resigned/retired Ministers, the Synod repeal Act 19 Class 2 Synod 1986, except in so far as it is incorporated herein, and enact that:

1. A Register of Ministers without Charge and a Roll of Resigned or Retired Ministers shall be kept by the Clerk of Synod. Only those whose names are placed on the Register will be eligible for a call, and placement on the Register will be taken to imply an individual's sincere readiness to accept a call in appropriate circumstances. Congregations may not address calls to ministers whose names are on the Roll of Resigned or Retired Ministers.

2. When a minister's resignation or retirement from his charge has been accepted by his Presbytery, the Clerk of Presbytery shall inform the Clerk of Synod by Extract Minute. The Extract Minute shall

include the resolution of the Presbytery to place the name of the minister either on the Register of Ministers without Charge or on the Roll of Resigned or Retired Ministers.

3. The normal procedure shall be that the name of the resigning or retiring minister shall be placed on the Roll of Resigned or Retired Ministers. If the Presbytery resolve to place the name on the Register of Ministers without Charge, they must minute positive reasons for such placement on the Register, or subsequent continuance on or transference to it, and the Extract Minute furnished to the Synod Clerk shall contain these reasons. Such reasons shall be of the following order:

3.1 where resignation is due to a breakdown in health;

3.2 where resignation or severance of the pastoral tie is due to non-censurable incompatibility with his congregation;

3.3 where resignation is due to secondment by the Synod of the PCEA or its responsible Committee to other pastoral or para-pastoral work.

4. Placement on the Register shall not be granted where the resigning minister has accepted an appointment outside the PCEA other than by secondment as noted at 3.3 above.

5. If a minister whose name has been placed on the Register or Roll shall be admitted to the ministry or other full-time employment of another Church other than by secondment, his name shall be removed from the Register/Roll.

6. A Minister whose name is placed on the Register or Roll is required to notify the Clerk of Presbytery of any change of address. If a minister takes up residence within the bounds of another Presbytery of the PCEA, he shall also inform the Clerk of that Presbytery of his address.

7. In no case shall the name of a minister remain on the Register of Ministers without Charge for more than three years from the date of inclusion in the Register unless application for an extension of the period, conforming to the conditions of paragraph 3 above, be made to the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident before the expiry of the three-year period. When the minister resides outside the bounds of a Presbytery of the PCEA, his application for retention on the Register shall be made to the Presbytery of which he was previously a member. In no case shall a name remain on the Register for more than six years.

8. If a Presbytery instruct that a minister's name be placed on the Roll of Resigned or Retired Ministers, it shall remain on that Roll for his lifetime, subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 above and 11 and 12 below.

9. A minister whose name is on the Roll of Resigned or Retired Ministers and who desires to have his name transferred to the Register of Ministers without Charge shall petition the Synod through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident at the time, such petition to conform with the conditions of paragraph 3 above.

10. Ministers without Charge on the Register, and Resigned or Retired Ministers on the Roll shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident. If a minister takes up residence outside the bounds of any Presbytery of the PCEA, he shall remain under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds he last resided.

11. A request by an individual whose name is on the Roll of Resigned or Ministers to have his name removed from it shall be dealt with by the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides. That Presbytery after due investigation and on due grounds shown (such as, the individual concerned no longer holds communicant membership with a congregation of the PCEA) shall declare him to be no longer a minister of the PCEA and order that his name be removed from the Roll.

12. Each Presbytery of the Church shall maintain a list of ministers on the Roll of Resigned or Retired Ministers who have informed them that they are resident within the bounds of the Presbytery. Presbyteries are required to make due investigation annually that such individuals continue to associate with the PCEA and after due intimation to the individual concerned, may order their name

to be removed from the Roll if appropriate grounds are found.

This Act may be cited as “*Act concerning Ministers without Charge and Resigned/Retired Ministers, 2012*”

5. WHEREAS our mutual eligibility provisions hitherto assume calling ministers residing overseas, but do not cover clearly the position when ministers of such churches come to Australia without an invitation but wish to be eligible for appointment or call in the PCEA:

Synod direct that in regard to a minister in good standing of a denomination with whom mutual eligibility has been established, but who does not hold a charge or appointment with that denomination, and who comes to Australia without an invitation or call and wishes to be eligible for call after he arrives, the following provisions will apply:

1. He must make application to the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides within 2 months or thereabouts of his arrival in Australia. He must present full and satisfactory certificates of character and attainment including current clearance under any relevant child care legislation, and satisfy the other requirements of the relevant mutual eligibility legislation.
2. If the Presbytery is satisfied that he meets the requirements, - and it must make specific enquiry of the denomination holding his credentials and minute the result, - it directs the Clerk of Synod to add his name to the Register of Ministers eligible for call in terms of Act 19 Synod 1986, and the Synod Clerk is to advise all Presbytery Clerks that this has been done.
3. If there is any significant division of opinion on the application and/or any significant period when the applicant was outside the practical oversight of his denomination’s church courts, the application should be referred to the Synod for consideration and decision.

Act 20 of Synod 1986 [Calls to Ministers Resigned from the Free Church of Scotland] is repealed except to the extent that it is incorporated herein.

This act may be cited as “*Act concerning Reception of Ministers from Churches with whom there is Mutual Eligibility, 2012*”.

6. Synod direct Presbyteries to see to it that congregations under their care take steps to include a fair value of their assets in their annual financial statement as well as detail of any liabilities.

7. a. Synod resolve that *Act of Synod 1983 concerning Students and Homes Missionaries as amended 1990,1991 & 2004* be further amended so that after ‘his emotional and general health’ are added the words: ‘a written medical report should be provided as to his state of health and fitness for the ministry.’ and the Handbook 4.49 c (vi) is amended accordingly.

7. b. Similarly in *Act of Synod 1983 as amended 2004 concerning Admission of Ministers from Other Churches* the following words be added:

f) ‘a written medical report should be provided as to his state of health and fitness for the ministry.’ and the Handbook 4.51 is amended accordingly and the words “with whom we do not have Mutual Eligibility” are added to the title of the Act.

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 has had a busier year than of late. That we have been processing the applications of a number of candidates surely reflects answers to the prayers of the church; answers for which we give thanks.

1. Revd David Kumnick, BD, MA.

The application to be accepted as a minister of the PCEA from Mr Kumnick was forwarded to the Committee from Southern Presbytery in July 2011. Southern Presbytery had resolved, "Presbytery receive with pleasure Mr Kumnick's application for status as a minister of the PCEA noting his wish to identify fully with the PCEA as both a duty and privilege since our position reflects his stand. ..."

The Committee warmly welcomes his application and declares itself satisfied. In particular we note his previous ministry; his rejection of the Declaratory Statement of the Presbyterian Church of Australia; his induction as an elder in the PCEA with the commitments that entails; and his desire to fully identify with the PCEA.

The Committee therefore recommend that Mr Kumnick be declared a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

2. Mr Denver Boehret, BEng.

Mr Boehret was recognised as a Student for the ministry by Synod 2011. He is presently continuing his studies at the Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne. The Committee has received very satisfactory reports from Mr Boehret following each semester's studies. In addition, the Committee set an essay subject — "The Priority of Preaching in the Role of a Minister" — which was completed during the summer break.

The Committee commends Mr Boehret and his family to the prayers of Synod and of the church during this period of preparation for ministry, which makes many demands on him and his family.

3. Mr Robin Tso, BTh.

The Committee was forwarded an application from Mr Tso for recognition as a candidate for the ministry by Central Presbytery in December 2011. The Committee requested from Mr Tso a transcript of his studies, and copies of some essays and of a dissertation written as part of his course. After some delays this material has now been received.

The Committee recognise that Mr Tso has completed a four year Theological course at the Free Church of Scotland College Edinburgh, under the University of Glasgow; and that he is already an elder in the PCEA; and as noted by Central Presbytery (in November 2011), "that he has not yet been a member of the PCEA for two years".

The Committee declares itself satisfied with his course of studies and recommends that Synod accepts Mr Tso as a candidate for the ministry, with this proviso, that before he is taken on Trials for License, he present to the Presbytery a Certificate from the Training of Ministry Committee that he has satisfactorily completed an essay [5000 words] in Australian Church History set by the Committee, and any other work the Committee may deem necessary.

4. Responsibilities of the Committee.

The Committee has not pursued proposals to fulfil our stated responsibility to provide training for elders and others. The consensus within the Committee, and indications from the church more widely, led us to consider that the considerable time and effort involved was not going to be a worthwhile investment. Some useful resources have been linked to through the website (though not in the name of the Committee). However, some may consider even this as unnecessary given the search engines available to any internet user and therefore the resources they are able to access for themselves.

Proposed Deliverances

1. Synod gives thanks to God for answering prayer in regard to the provision of students/applicants for the ministry. Synod exhorts the church to continue to ask the Lord of the harvest and Head of the church to send out more workers both for our situation and for the wider work of God's kingdom.
2. Synod welcomes the application from Revd David Kunnick and declares him a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia upon his signing the Formula of Subscription in the presence of Southern Presbytery.
3. Synod is encouraged by the positive report of Mr Denver Boehret's progress. Synod commends him, and his family, to the prayers of the church during this demanding period of preparation for ministry.
4. Synod welcomes the application from Mr Robin Tso, and accepts him as a candidate for the ministry, with this proviso, that before he is taken on Trials for License, he present to the Presbytery a Certificate from the Training of Ministry Committee that he has satisfactorily completed an essay [5000 words] in Australian Church History set by the Committee, and any other work the Committee may deem necessary.

CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

Members: D.K. Muldoon (convener), S. Bajema, M.G. Smith, R.S. Ward, and D. Kerridge

This committee identified a number of issues in relation to living as a Christian in today's society. Each member of the committee has written briefly on an agreed topic. Since the Scriptures are 'the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy' God, we have gone back to the Bible for teaching on these issues.

Living in this World as a Christian, (including our attitude to consumerism).

The Christian's conflict with the world is described in just a few verses by John (1 John 2.15-17). "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him." The problem confronting us as we seek to live for God in this world is not only external - "the world" (vv 15-17), and the "evil one" (vv 13, 14) - but also internal - 'the flesh' (v 16), to translate Paul literally.

Two ways of living are implied; a way which pleases God and a way which displeases him. But it is crucially important that we grasp the basis on which living to please God can even be contemplated.

The Bible says, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation," (2 Cor 5.17) and goes on to make it clear that "All this is from God", and "through Christ," (v 18). "What counts is a new creation" (Gal 6.15). And so the Christian hope includes looking forward to "a new heaven and new earth" and a new city - "the new Jerusalem" (Rev 21.1-2). This change is described elsewhere in equally radical ways: a new birth (1 Pet 1.3), and new life (Rom 6.4). And it is emphasised that this is not a change we in any way brought about - we "were dead in our transgressions and sins" - rather it is all of God, through his grace, that we are made "alive with Christ" (Eph 2.1, 5; Col 2.13).

But this wonderful change which God has worked is to be reflected in our living. So, reflecting on the fact that "the first heaven and the first earth" will pass away (Rev 21.1), Peter asks, "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?" (2 Pet 3.11). And he goes on to answer his own question — "You ought to live holy and godly lives."

Paul expresses it this way, "you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ..." (Eph 5.8). Paul exhorts the Ephesian believers, "to be made new in the attitude of your minds" (Eph 4.23). And to those in Rome he writes, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, ... Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." (Rom 12.1).

If we are changed people then our thinking and attitudes are to reflect that change; and that includes our attitude to possessions. So the Lord Jesus himself says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, ... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matt 6.19, 21). "You cannot serve both God and Money." (v 24). "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. ... So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (vv 25, 31-33).

It is not that we are to do without all material things. Some are necessary, and "your heavenly Father knows that you need them". However, our focus, our highest desire, our greatest concern is to be elsewhere - God's kingdom and his righteousness.

M G Smith

Statement Regarding Public Office/Officials

The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia affirms its commitment to the words of our Lord regarding those set over us in Public Office. In His words in the gospel of Luke 20:25a we declare that what we owe to our secular rulers we are obliged to give to them. Thus it is that we exhort our members to pay what they are legally obligated to do in the way of taxes, government charges, and the like. We are also called upon, as the apostle Paul says in 1st Timothy 2:2, to pray for "all those in authority, that we might live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

At the same time, though, we must also state our higher allegiance to a ruler above our secular rulers. The Lord in speaking of how we must honour the secular authorities also spoke of our honouring God (Luke 20:25b). This is why we pray for our rulers that they will rule for the common good and not out of selfish interest. They have been placed there by none other than God, whether they acknowledge Him or not. Naturally, we pray that many of them will be Christians seeking to serve God in the public sphere, and for those who do not presently believe that they will come to faith. But for them all we pray that whether they are federal, state, or local representatives that they will indeed represent the community as a whole.

It is with sadness that we note the laws which have been passed regarding abortion. We believe human life as that made by God and formed in His likeness, ought to be protected and sustained. We grieve that many thousands of unborn human beings have been murdered in mother's wombs, and not for reasons of saving the life of the mother. Likewise we are saddened by the departure from God's Word in the proposed changes to the laws redefining marriage. At the beginning of human time God created man male and female and ordained marriage as the way He meant mankind to propagate and so fill the earth and live before Him.

We believe that those employed in various government departments, hospitals, police, emergency services, the armed forces, and so on, are public servants and thus not there to lord it over the community or to serve their vested interests or the interests of their political masters. This also applies to any particular secular or religious ideology which they personally hold. The civil magistrate is also identified by us in this role. His calling is to uphold the law and not to rewrite it. Furthermore, we plead that they may apply the law so that restitution and punishment is appropriate for the crime committed and the loss suffered by victims taken into account. As God laid down His concern for the widow and orphan in the Old Testament so we very much pray that those most helpless in society be cared for.

Refugess/Asylum Seekers

Scripture: Alienation, the sense of estrangement from one's traditional community or from others, is common in human experience and shows itself in a variety of ways. Christians are strangers and aliens in the earth because they are not yet in the place where their citizenship is held (1 Peter 2:11; Eph 2:19; Phil 3:20).

According to Exodus 12:43ff in Old Testament Israel you could have a social position as (1) a foreigner [*nokri*] not integrated into Israelite society and excluded from the Passover; (2) a temporary resident [*tosab*] or (3) an alien [*ger*] who has the opportunity to keep God's covenant and participate in the Passover; (4) a slave, who was eligible to participate in the Passover if circumcised; and (5) a native born Israelite.

In our society today, parallels might be foreigners who do not take citizenship, temporary residents, aliens who have come among us to live permanently, and Australian-born. In Israel the alien was to be treated with dignity and respect because the Hebrews had been aliens themselves (Deut 10:18-20).

Australia: Each year about 50,000 persons who arrive in Australia by plane overstay their visas, but not much is heard about them. Another 4,000 arrive without legal visas, principally by boat, and there is great debate in the community. Most without legal visas are eventually found to be genuine refugees, and of course these genuine refugees have committed no crime by seeking asylum.

Why the great debate? Is it because of the loss of life getting here and the danger of supporting a smuggling racket? That's a factor. Is it because of concern that persons of undesirable character will gain entry? That's a factor too, but it's why security screening occurs. Is it because it amounts to queue jumping by those with the money to the detriment of the many in refugee camps who have no money and languish in the camps for years? That's a factor too. However, I suspect much of the underlying attitude of recent years arises from the source of many asylum seekers in Islamic countries of the Middle East, and the fear they will not integrate.

It is true that there are legitimate fears, but we need to remember that people of the Islamic faith in Australia come from about 70 different ethnic backgrounds, and have wide differences among themselves. They do not form a monolithic block and many are seeking to escape oppressive regimes. As Christians we may differ on aspects of immigration policy, but we should always remember that we are aliens too, and that the best way of helping refugees in a spiritual and physical way is to welcome and befriend them as those who are made in God's image. They share a sinful nature with us and need to know the salvation of God. The easiest way to make extremists of new settlers is to show hostility to them. That is not the Christian way.

R. S. Ward

Euthanasia

The despair and torment that inevitably accompanies the desire to terminate one's own life is tragic. That some have and continue to do so is a concern that we all should bear in some way. For instance, we read in 1 Samuel 31:3-5 that both Saul and his armour bearer took their lives in desperate suicide.

Yet, some are putting emotive pressure on governments to introduce the practice of euthanasia to end the suffering of individuals suffering pain and despair, beginning with those who are terminally ill but with the real possibility of termination being extended to those who suffer intolerable emotional or mental anguish. It is legalised suicide, and when assisted, it becomes also murder.

The term 'suffering' is coupled with the word 'intolerable' to justify euthanasia. Yet such an adjective willfully ignores palliative care options today ensure that sufferers are given effective relief. What a tragedy to euthanise (such a polite term) a patient on the eve of the discovery of a superior palliative option, or in God's time and by His grace, even a cure. It is not unheard of for a patient known by current medical opinion to have only weeks to live, to far exceed all prognosticated life expectancy and even to regain quality of life. A physician assisting a suicide makes a horrendous decision on the basis of current knowledge and limited foresight, the physician blasphemously "plays god". Surely, the only qualification for terminating life should be omniscience and omnipotence, the prescribed experience eternal.

Euthanasia strikes at the very essence of our being. Promoters of euthanasia would have us acquiesce to the atheistic notion that our fellow man is a suitable arbiter of life and death. We refuse to do so. We maintain that there is in fact a higher authority vested solely in the Creator of life himself, the triune God. He has recorded his standards for life and death in Scripture. Exodus 20:13 and Romans 13:9 state the very clear standard for the sanctity of life: we are commanded not to murder.

Life is to be highly esteemed and protected. The reason for this is given in Genesis 9:6 'Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed; for in the image of God He made man.' In spite of mankind's disregard of this divine warning in every age, the Biblical ethic of the sanctity of life is common to Christian and non-Christian alike in our society because God has placed it at the heart of His creation from the beginning. (Rom. 1)

Pain and suffering are reminders of this world's guilt before God. To think that death might be an escape from intolerable suffering for those who will not acknowledge their Creator is extreme folly. Hebrews 9:27 states 'And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement.'

The good news of the gospel however is that the Lord Jesus Christ suffered the extreme pain of death and then overcame death by rising from it so that he might give eternal life to those who believe in Him.

D.Kerridge

Poverty

When the Lord brought his chosen people out of Egypt they suffered from hunger until God sent them manna and quail. Hunger is one of the outcomes of poverty. Lack of clothes and shelter are others (Luke 16:20,21). When the manna was gathered each person had sufficient for their needs – no more and no less (Exodus 16:18). When they came into Canaan the manna stopped; their food came from the land. At this point we first read about the poor in the land (Exodus 22:25). The context is about charging interest.

Synod Reports 2012

'There shall be no poor among you' (Deut 15:4). God's people in God's land were each given a plot of land on which to live. The Mosaic Law anticipated some people getting into difficulty/poverty. They might get into debt and sell themselves into slavery. In the Sabbath year all debts were to be cancelled and slaves set free. Some might sell their land also, but this was to be returned in the Jubilee year. There were also laws about gleaning. Such measures aimed at preventing persistent poverty. God commanded generosity towards the poor (Deut 15:11, Psalm 82:3).

The Sabbath year and Jubilee were rarely observed (2Chron 36:21). Rather the rich and powerful exploited and oppressed the poor in the land (Psalm 12:5). They charged excessive interest (Psalm 15:5). They denied justice to the poor. They took their land by force (1 Kings 21). The prophets condemned this disregard for the poor (Isaiah 1:17, Ezekiel 22:29, Amos 4:1). It was contrary to the commands given through Moses.

'He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for his Maker; he who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord' (Proverbs 14:31, 19:17). In Proverbs there is a lot of wisdom about poverty; wisdom about causes and treatment. Oppression is a sin; but the poor are not without sin. Sin is the basic cause of poverty (Proverbs 30:8,9).

Jesus came into this world of sin and poverty. He was born in a stable. He came to preach the gospel to the poor (Luke 4:18, Isaiah 61:1). He spoke of the consequences of neglecting a poor beggar; He told a rich young ruler to sell all that he had and give to the poor (Luke 16:19f, 18:22). It seems that his disciples gave to the poor from their common purse (John 13:29). But Jesus had come to deal with the cause of poverty, namely sin. The poor who were poor in spirit would be blessed. He did not glorify poverty as such, as done in the Roman Catholic Church.

From the very beginning the believers shared their possessions with poor members of the church (Acts 2:45, 4:34). Their focus was upon treasure in heaven not on earth. Deacons were ordained to manage the distribution of food to widows. Paul organised a collection from the churches for the poor believers suffering from famine in Judea. He urged generous and cheerful giving. He saw it a giving to the Lord. He operated on the principle of equality (2Cor 8:5, 8:14). God is the one who graciously gives us all things (Phil 4:19). God is glorified in and through the giver and the receiver (2Cor 8:12-15).

In Reformed churches we have deacons whose duty is to administer church property and finances. Part of their duty is to assess the needs of members and give help to those who have genuine need, such as widows, orphans and the like (James 1:27, 2:15f). Helping the poor is a responsibility and a privilege for all believers. It begins in the household of faith but does not stop there (Gal 6:10).

Proposed deliverance

Synod endorse the brief expositions of Scripture relating to important ethical issues and request that they be published in 'The Presbyterian Banner'.

MEDIA COMMITTEE

Report on 'The Presbyterian Banner'

We may thankfully report that the Lord has blessed the work of 'The Presbyterian Banner' again this past year of 2011. As you will note from the Financial Statement below, there was no loss recorded due to the increased subscription prices (due to colour printing and increased postage) but we actually came a head a little more than at the same time last year.

I warmly thank our team involved here, from the contributors to the proof-reader to the printing, packaging and then the posting. There are a number of hands involved in this process and I'm thankful the Lord has spared us to continue on in this work for Him.

Synod Reports 2012

The subscriptions remain on a par with last year, with 135 copies per month being presently printed. There is also an encouraging downloading of the magazine in its on-line version, and the number of complimentary electronic issues sent out by the editor has increased in number.

There are those ministers regularly contributing articles – I note here my brothers Rowland Ward, George Ball, & Jim Klazinga as particularly faithful in this – and I would use this opportunity to encourage our other colleagues to contribute at least one item a year. This may be a helpful article or local news – there are several congregations who have not yet in my time as editor passed on news and/or photographs for our magazine. We're sure there are things happening in your churches and would love to know what they are so that we can be encouraged and in prayer for you. And this is what we need to keep very much in mind – it is *our* magazine. The more we support it – prayerfully, financially, contributing articles and news – the more this will become so. There is a diminishing number of monthly denominational magazines in our land – the CRCA and the PCA have either stopped publishing altogether or do it on a quarterly basis – so here also is opportunity to show how serious we are to be united and involved churches in Australia.

We are encouraged by the positive comments of those receiving the printed version of *The Presbyterian Banner* and how it has been an effective promotion of our denomination and the Christian faith through them.

May God continue to bless this vital ministry amongst us.

Financial Statement for year ended 31-12-11

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Balance 01-01-11	1576.37	Printing	2637.39
Subscriptions	3310.00	Postage	503.35
Bank Interest	73.33	Bank Fees	18.40
			3159.14
		Balance 31-12-11	1800.56
	<u>\$4959.70</u>		<u>\$4959.70</u>

S. Bajema, Editor

Website

Maintenance and development of the church website (www.pcea.org.au) has continued throughout this past year. New material has been added, although this has again only been done by the webmaster. Maintenance of the sub-sites of congregations has been carried out as required; two congregations have chosen to move their sites to separate domains during this year.

In the calendar year 2011 the website averaged nearly 930 distinct visitors per month. These visitors averaged nearly two visits each (1.695) and viewed, on average, 4.8 pages per visit. Visitors continue to come from a large number of countries.

Digital editions of *the Presbyterian Banner* can be downloaded by any visitor to the website. The current editions of the Handbook and Decision book are also available as are the recent minutes of Synod. 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.

Some very significant updates have been made to the software we use (Joomla) and this is going to require a major rebuilding of the website in the coming months.

M G Smith, Webmaster

YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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

Committee business was conducted via email during the year and the committee was able to meet during the Naamaroo Family Camp in January 2012.

Memory Work

In 2011 our Sunday Schools reported as having presented 111 certificates (2010 - 75) 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	Geel	Ulv
Met. Psalms												
Infants												
Junior	10			2				5				
Senior				1				3				
Scrip. Mem.												
Junior	5			4				3				2
Senior	3							2				2
Psalm Tunes												
Junior				4				9				3
Senior				4				2				4
Catechisms												
Section 1								1				2
Section 2				2				1				
Section 3				1				1				
Section 4								1				1
Section 5								1				
Section 6								1				1
Section 7												
The Ten Comm.												
Exodus 20:1-17	1											
Books of the Bible												
Repetition in order	2			2				2				1
Essays												
Infants	2			1				4				1
Junior	6			1								3
Senior	1			1								2
Total Cert.	30	0	0	23	0	0	NA	36	0	0	NA	22

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 still not submitting statistics to the convener for inclusion in this report. Synod 2009 and 2010 confirmed the committee recommendation that certificate statistics be sent through to the convener for reporting purposes.

Synod Reports 2012

Essays

Essay prizes were given to 22 children, 9 more than in 2010. This included 8 infant entries, 10 junior entries and 4 senior entries. It is encouraging to see the increased number of young people reading their Bible and submitting answers to the set questions. We pray that they are richly blessed in the performance of searching out scripture and applying it to their individual circumstances. 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 for infants and \$25 for the Junior and Senior categories. We encourage more of the children in the church to put pen to paper and write an essay. Extra allowance for prizes has been provided for in this years' budget in anticipation of continued interest and essay submissions. The names of the children who submitted essays were published in the January Banner and are provided below:

Infants: Georgiana Lawson, Naomi Daniels, James Hickey, Jonathon Hickey, Eleanor Hanna, Tahnee Carswell, Belinda Hamilton, Steven Hamilton

Junior: Harrison Carswell, Michael Hanna, Isaac Klazinga, Caleb Klazinga, Rebecca Hamilton, Simone Hamilton, Joshua Ryan, Adam Ryan, Jessie Carswell, Irene Klazinga

Senior: Andrew Hamilton, Shaun Hamilton, Cameron Hamilton, Naomi Klazinga

Birthday Roll

Mrs. Margaret Kinder sent out birthday cards to 136 children in 2011. During the year 12 children reached the age of 12 years and subsequently were 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	19
St. Georges	10
Knox/Glenhuntly	26
Armidale	8
Hunter/Barrington	16
Hawkesbury/Nepean	4
Brisbane	13
Ulverstone	3
Hastings	8
Sydney South	2
Geelong	0
Northern Rivers	7
Narre Warren	7

Birthday Roll expenses for 2011 up to and including 31st December.

136 Stamps at .60cents each	= \$81.60
145 sheets card at .15cents each	= \$21.60
136 Envelopes at (\$4 for 50)	= \$8.00
Estimated printer ink	= \$30.00
Total	= \$145.20

Search Work

Mrs Irene Steel continued as coordinator of this program. 9 children were presented with book awards in 2011 (9 in 2010). We ask congregations and parents to encourage their children to complete the Search Work as an excellent means to engage children in searching and becoming familiar with the scriptures.

Synod Reports 2012

The following children completed the questions in 2011 and have been awarded book prizes or vouchers and their names were published in the January Banner:

Senior Section:

Andrew Hamilton, Cameron Hamilton, Chris Hamilton, Shaun Hamilton, Simone Hamilton

Intermediate Section:

Rebecca Hamilton, Aimee Carswell, Jessie Carswell

Junior Section:

Steven Hamilton

Annual Churchwide Family Camp 2012

The annual churchwide family camp was held at Naamaroo Conference Centre at Lane Cove on January 3rd – 6th 2012 with Rev. Dr. Rowland Ward as the main speaker. A deposit has been paid securing the Stanwell Tops Conference Centre for January 8th – 11th 2013. 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 Kay Hilberts for providing the following report:

Family Camp 2011, Naamaroo Conference Centre.

It's that time again to report on the wonderful time had by all at the family camp this year in Sydney. Everyone arrived at camp safely and after a time of meet and greet we settled into our accommodation. Food and accommodation were excellent this time and all would agree that not one person should have gone hungry. We had lovely weather for the duration with just a shower one day to cool the temperature down.

Our main speaker was Rev. Dr. Rowland Ward and the theme was God's Glory-A New People and a New World. Studies were from the book of Ezekiel. Studies were titled-God the Communicator, God the Lover, God the Life-Giver and God the Builder. Ezekiel is a book that can be hard to understand but Rowland certainly gave us a real taste of what it consists of and to encourage us to delve into it ourselves. Our mornings were set aside for the Studies followed by morning tea and then we broke up into our study groups where it was good to share our thoughts with those in our groups. Whilst we were in our study groups the children were given a fun time of craft and storytelling activities. At the final session one of the campers summed up the teaching in these words; "The LORD is building His perfect church despite the continual sins and backslidings of His people and His many judgments upon them."

Wednesday night our speaker was Rev. Jim Klazinga from Brisbane who spoke to us on the "Generation Gap". Quite a lot to think about after that talk but timely in our current fast paced world with some sort of new gadget seeming to materialise every day. Thursday night Rev. Dennis Muldoon and his wife Elizabeth brought us up to date with the most recent news of the work in India. There were slides of the work in some of the newer areas which was very enlightening.

During the course of the camp we had Psalmody at regular intervals very capably led by Sonja Hamilton. As well as practicing old favourites Sonja taught us a new tune that we sang to Psalm 145 (2nd). A lovely DLM called Guidance.

During our free afternoons the children and adults made great use of the pool and other amenities. Mark Hamilton and Cameron Smith were the sports coordinators. One highlight of the leisure time has always been the table tennis competition and this year was no exception. It was decided to make the senior section a doubles comp and Mark Hamilton and Cameron Smith defeated David Kerridge and Glen Hamilton in the final round. In the junior section Matt Southwell defeated Rebecca Hamilton in the singles final. Some other people made their leisure time into an educational walk with Tom Reeve and Ian Conley ably guiding us and helping us to better understand aspects of the bush and names of trees etc.

Synod Reports 2012

Thursday afternoon we had our concert which is always a lot of fun and there was a lot of talent in our midst. The event was very ably compared for the first time by Amy Ball. Well done Amy.

There were sixty six people booked in and we had up to six day visitors each day. Once again we had visitors from almost all of our centres and a large number of Ministers (6 staying and 1 visiting). It was lovely to see Dr. Helen Ramsay there for the first study on the Wednesday morning. Congratulations must go to the organising committee and to Glen Hamilton for the very efficient way in which every aspect of the camp functioned. I think that everyone would agree with me that it was a great camp and especially noticeable was the way the children, young and older interacted with one another and helped to “look out” for each other.

The camp was a credit to all and all Praise to our Heavenly Father who guided us each day and helped us to learn and absorb all aspects of teaching that we were given.

Brisbane Camp

Another successful camp was organised by the Brisbane congregation in 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 (25th-28th November) was once again at the Presbyterian “Camp Drewe” site. Campers travelled from Sydney, Wauchope, McLean, Brisbane PCEA and other denominations to enjoy fellowship, friendship and being built up in the faith.

Andres Miranda (PCEA Knox - Melbourne) spoke on the ‘The righteousness of Christ’, ‘The danger of self righteousness’, and ‘The problem of persistent guilt’ in the life of the Christian. Each address was followed by a time a discussion in smaller groups.

After lunch on Saturday, many descended on the nearby surfing beach for swimming, boogie boarding, walking, beach cricket and football. Thanks to Stewart Carswell and the Brisbane congregation for providing this opportunity to gather together and we eagerly await the 2012 camp in November.

Prescribed Work 2012

Metrical Psalms	1st certificate	2nd certificate
Infants (< 7 yrs)	Psalm 23/121	Psalm 67/100
Junior (8-12 yrs)	Psalm 95:1-6	Psalm 126
Senior (13-17 yrs)	Psalm 125	Psalm 103:1-10

Scripture Memory

1 st certificate (Junior)	Revelation 21:1-7
2 nd certificate (Senior)	Isaiah 53

The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20: 1-17

Psalm Tunes

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

Junior

Denfield

Sawley

New Lydia

Franconia

Senior

London New

Jerusalem

Gabriel

Doversdale

Catechism

Section 1 1-10

Section 2 11-22

Section 3 23-38

Section 4 39-62

Section 5 63-88

Section 6 89-107

Section 7 1-107 word perfect

Books of the Bible

Correct repetition of the Books of the Bible in order.

Essays

Infants (<7)

Q. Read the book of Jonah. What did Jonah do that was wrong in chapter 1? What happened to Jonah in the sea? What did he do in chapter 2, verse 1? What did Jonah do that was right in chapter 3? Include an illustration from the story of Jonah.

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

Q. Read Luke 12:22-34. What does this passage teach us about worrying too much? What does verse 31 mean to you? You may wish to include an illustration.

Senior (13-17) (1000 words)

Q. Read Ephesians 4:17-32. Explain what it means to 'put off the old man' and 'put on the new man'? Also explain what it means in verse 30 to "not grieve the Holy Spirit". What do we learn from this passage?

Prescribed Work Ten year Plan

Work continued on the ten year plan for prescribed work. The current section being worked on is the Metrical Psalms memorisation and essay questions.

Youth and Fellowship Budget for 2012

The budget for 2012 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 and therefore is no longer listed. Due to increased Essay submissions the budget has been increased for Essay prizes. The deficits for running the annual family camps continues to be a difficult area to manage, the 2011 deficit was over \$3000 and the 2012 deficit was around \$1500, while this is trending in the right direction we are conscious of the need to reduce this further at the same time as seeking to offer subsidies for families wishing to attend the camps and providing assistance to those travelling from great distances.

Search work prizes	300
Birthday cards	200
Essay prizes	500
PCEA Family camp 2013	<u>400 (deposit paid)</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$1400</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 recommend that Presbyteries/local congregations examine the need for Youth activities/camps and seek to provide opportunities for fellowship.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

A. Miranda (Convener 2011), I Conley, J Greenhill, D Muldoon, T Leggott, DP Smith.

CONVENER REPORTS

During the last 12 months, I have been greatly encouraged by the efficiency and vision of Missions committee members to spread the gospel of Christ, through the faithful commitments of Christian workers witnessing in Africa, South America, India and Australia. My roles as convener has been one of partnership and learning rather than making substantial contributions to a missional framework with good strategies and a growing determination to meet the different challenges that our local as well as overseas co-workers experience in the mission field. The spiritual and financial support of PCEA is important and deeply appreciated by organisations receiving our support. Mission work is demanding and although, releasing gifts is helpful, the obstacles that confront the success of missions can only be overcome by the involvement of the whole church in prayer. I trust pastors in our church are taking the initiative and are continually urging local congregations to pray together for the glorification of God's message around the world. Having said this, we should also thank God for overseas missionaries and new recruits now working among Indigenous Australians. We are also mindful that, the harvest is plentiful, and more labourers need to be sent out. For this reason, we should ask God to widen our perspective, and keep praying that He would raise workers from our midst, who will act, and take the gospel where it has been preached before. My prayer for this year is that, our denomination will perceive more and more the significance of participating in God's missions through generous giving and regular prayer. Missions it's too important to be left to a few enthusiasts.

MISSION FIELD REPORTS

Australian Indigenous Ministries: Rev. Trevor Leggott reports:

The consolidation and restructuring of ministries across the AIM field in the Northern Territory has progressed very well during 2011. New personnel have been placed at Tennant Creek and Barunga, with two new couples now located at the renovated ministry centre at Humpty Doo near Darwin. It has been personally very gratifying to now see three of the AIM centres functioning with effective indigenous elders running the local church affairs and reaching out to their own communities. At Katherine, Borroloola and Tennant Creek there are good strong church fellowships with indigenous elders overseeing the local ministries. Mission personnel focus on a Bible teaching support role.

Aboriginal Christians are a very positive influence for good in their communities, and this can be seen in the following very practical examples: The Tennant Creek church was holding outreach meetings in a public park in the centre of town every Friday night. The local shopkeepers were so pleased with this focus that they have offered to supply power, lighting and amplifying equipment. The community was so appreciative of the Katherine church that they donated us bus to help with their ministry.

The Borroloola community has donated \$30,000 from mining royalties to the local church for the upgrade of AIM facilities there. The NT Intervention remains a contentious issue. A major negative aspect has been that, whilst many of the outlying communities have taken positive steps and banned alcohol, those still wanting to drink have moved to become fringe dwellers in the major cities to get access to alcohol. Unfortunately drunkenness and the associated violence and abuse are getting so bad that it's becoming increasingly difficult to live in these places. There are three liquor outlets within 300m of our AIM centre in Alice Springs, one right across the road. Two of these three have the highest sales of canned beer of any outlet in Australia! In the major cities of Darwin and Alice Springs the development of local ministries has been problematic for many years, mainly because of the itinerant nature of the indigenous community.

People move to the cities usually only for short periods, for education and medical services etc. The focus on ministry in these cities has moved to a chaplaincy model, where AIM personnel provide ministry in hospitals, prisons and schools. A major project was the modification of what was to AIM Bible College at Humpty Doo near Darwin, to develop it into an operational base for the NT. It was a great blessing to have the voluntary services of a great team headed by builder Neil Bootes, along with Clive and Rosalie and Richard and Dianne Alley. Not only was much good work done but the time of fellowship was a great encouragement to me personally. A Korean Christian man, a tiler based in

Synod Reports 2012

Darwin, offered the services of his company to completely lay all the floor and wall tiles for the two units that were modified.

Plans are now underway for Neil and his team to do major renovations to the church and mission house on Palm Island following damage that was done during cyclone Yasi in early 2011. I thank God for the practical and sacrificial work done by these folk in their service for the Lord.

In Queensland the AIM Church Council is functioning well with oversight of the work in Palm Island, Townsville, Rockhampton, Woorabinda, Cherbourg and Inala. Each church has a group of committed elders although not with indigenous pastors. Leadership training remains a great need and the recently appointed pastor at Cherbourg, Willie Moses from PNG, has been appointed as their coordinator of training with a view to implementing the TEE training, with which he is very familiar. In NSW the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) program continues to make good progress under the oversight of Amos Leana and Bob Quinn. The first groups have progressed through the early studies and are moving on.

The need now is for further development of the curriculum. To facilitate this work the Bible Society has agreed to digitise the whole of the Missions Publications catalogue. The network of indigenous Christian fellowships in NSW continues to expand. With good pastoral care and oversight being provided, and a desire for more interaction, the group has extended to include Dubbo, Gilgandra, Moree, Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Coonamble, Goodooga, Collarenebri, Brewarrina and Fingal Heads. Leaders from these groups meet as the AIM NSW Fraternal on a regular basis for fellowship and training, along with holding events such as the Rivers Conventions at their various towns over each long weekend.

Part of my role as General Director is to “give initiative, guidance and direction to the overall work of AIM”. I pray that, as the Lord enables, the PCEA agrees with me that this is an important work of the Gospel amongst Australians first people and worthy of ongoing support.

Dumisani Theological Institute: Principal’s Report 2012:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the PCEA, and particularly the Brothers gathered in Synod, I greet you all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Board of Governors, staff and students of Dumisani Theological Institute continue to be very grateful for the interest, prayers and financial support of individuals and congregations of the PCEA. Your contributions to our work in various ways are very significant and we hope that you feel very engaged in the work with us.

Last year, 2011, was a significant time of transition for Dumisani. We faced many changes and many challenges but through it all we have seen the Lord’s faithfulness.

Staff: By the end of 2011, we had said farewell to three valued academic colleagues: Rev Norman Reid, Dr John Ross and uMfundisi Victor Nkatha. I want to pay tribute to the contributions which each of these men made to the work of Dumisani. Rev Reid and Dr Ross both wrote to me recently asking that their congratulations be passed on to the students receiving certificates at our recent Awards Ceremony. It is clear that Dumisani has had a significant impact on their lives and, although they have now left Dumisani, Dumisani has not left them! We also lost our Librarian, Nomaphelo Kwikwi, suddenly and unexpectedly, in March 2011 as she was required to complete an internship at another institution. The departure of a Librarian from a theological college is a very serious matter and we have had to make emergency arrangements for the past year. I wish to express my appreciation for Nomaphelo and the work she did for Dumisani and wish her the very best for her future. I am also grateful to our student body for their patience as we have tried to make workable arrangements to cover the Library in the absence of a full-time Librarian. Please pray with us that the Lord will supply the right person and the necessary finance so that we can have a full-time Librarian again soon.

But there have been welcomes as well as farewells.

Synod Reports 2012

Wayne Grätz (with Megan and Sarah and Bridget) and Greg Phillips (with Carol and Hannah and Ruth) have both joined our team at the beginning of 2012. Wayne is one of our own graduates and joins us in a dual role which involves some lecturing and also involves managing our marketing and recruitment more effectively, with a view to increasing local support for Dumisani. As a qualified school teacher, he brings excellent communication and inter-personal skills to both of these roles. Greg Phillips taught for a number of years at the Bible Institute of South Africa (BISA) in Kalk Bay near Cape Town. He is an experienced teacher and academic administrator, as well as an able scholar. Greg came to us with his own personal support which was a real blessing to Dumisani at a time when finances were limited.

In addition to these full-time appointments, we have been blessed to have the help of Dr Jack Whytock, Director of Haddington House in PEI, Canada, for a five-week period of intensive classes in Church History and Missiology. Jack was joined by his wife Nancy and daughter Janet for a week. This was a wonderful provision since we had no-one on the full-time staff who specialised in these areas. We hope that Dr Whytock and his wife will return for a similar block of teaching in the second semester.

Dr Whytock is the latest in a line of distinguished speakers who have visited Dumisani and given short series of lectures and (in the case of some*) spoken at our Awards Ceremony in the last few years. These have included: Rev Dr Noel Due* (Australia); Dr Jamie Grant (Scotland); Prof. I. Howard Marshall* (Scotland); Dr John Blanchard (England); Dr Derrick Mashau* (South Africa); Dr David Firth (England/South Africa/Australia!); Dr John Ross (Scotland/South Africa); Prof. Allan Harman* (Australia); Dr David Wenham (England).

In addition, we have had visits from several Moderators of the Free Church of Scotland. We would be delighted if it should prove possible for representatives of the PCEA to visit Dumisani at some point.

Governors: We continue to appreciate the support of our governors. We have also said goodbye to a number of our Governors who have moved away, namely Rev Norman Reid who returned to Ireland and Ds Dirk Pansegrouw, who has taken up pastoral ministry in the north of the country. We greatly appreciated the contribution both men made to our meetings. But we are also very pleased to welcome two new governors.

Ds Paul de Bruyn joins us as the new minister of the Gereformeerde Kerk in East London and even in his first meeting made a significant with his enthusiasm and helpful ideas and suggestions. We also welcome uMfu Mason Nkwelo, who brings his experience as a Dumisani student, as a minister of the Free Church in Southern Africa and also as an experienced businessman.

Students: This year (2012) we have some 50 registered students, which is a little lower than we would have liked, but includes a healthy number of new students.

At our recent Awards Ceremony, 11 students received certificates, including two B.Th graduates who demonstrated great commitment over a number of years and showed both determination and great ability as they completed their degrees part-time at a high standard.

Two other women had also successfully completed all their academic work for their BTh degrees but due to registration requirements could not receive their degrees this year. We hope they will graduate next year.

In addition to students following formal courses, we still have many students who do our basic correspondence course or who attend the regular Sunday School Teachers' Workshops. We consider these less formal opportunities for training to be extremely important. And then we still receive many requests for our booklets.

Future Opportunities: I believe that Dumisani can continue to make a significant impact on the church of this province and beyond through theological education. I am particularly excited about possibilities for working in cooperation with other missions, colleges and ministries so that we combine our strengths to be more effective in God's service. Let me mention just two areas where there have been recent developments:

Mukhanyo Conferences: Deon Lombard and I were invited to attend a conference in November 2011 in order to develop curricula at various levels, which would be suitable for theological education in the African context. There were many brothers and sisters there who are engaged in theological education in various parts of Africa and beyond and it was encouraging to develop relationships. A further conference is planned for November 2012 and we hope that Dumisani will also have representatives involved in that event.

African Pastors' Conference (<http://africanpastorsconference.com/>): Dumisani will host one of these conferences, which emphasise the importance of expository preaching and Reformed theology for local pastors and Bible teachers in Africa. It is exciting to see new opportunities developing to work with others in strengthening the local churches.

Support: Dumisani has always known great support from churches overseas, such as the Free Church of Scotland, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. And we value that support greatly. Without it, we could not function. However, we also want to challenge the churches of the Eastern Cape of South Africa to take ownership of this college and not simply to rely on overseas support.

Wayne Grätz will be helping us with this task and we continue to encourage relationships with local churches. During his visit, Dr Jack Whytock has given several "devotional" talks, which have been open to the wider community and we have been very encouraged to see a good number of local Christians attending these sessions. We believe that the relationship between Dumisani and local churches is growing stronger all the time and this is very pleasing. Yet, we do not anticipate that local support will make a significant contribution to our financial needs in the short term, so we continue to appreciate the financial support we receive from the PCEA, among others.

Dumisani faced significant financial challenges at the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 as a result of the global financial situation, which unfortunately required that we lose some of our administrative staff. This difficult but necessary decision, combined with quite severe cost-cutting, has enabled to balance our finances by the end of 2011. This is a great blessing, as we have seen other local colleges effectively cease to function due to financial constraints. We continue to look to the Lord for provision as we seek to provide an essential service for the good of biblical ministries in the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

Conclusion: As I reflect on the past year with all its changes, I see nonetheless, the faithfulness of God. "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lam 3:22-23 NIV)

Thank you, once again, for your partnership in the Gospel (Phil 1:6).

South America: Mr. Ian Conley reports:

Perú: *Colegio San Andres*: The 2012 intake of 150 new students has boosted the total enrolment to 751, the maximum set for San Andres. This is a matter of thanks and reflects well on the Leadership of the school. It also 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.

Final submissions to the long running court case were made early in 2012 but the matter may not be resolved by the courts until the second half of 2012. Attempts at mediation and settlement out of court have not been successful. It is a matter of prayer that this matter be resolved quickly and fairly. Transfer to local control is deemed to be unwise until this matter is settled.

Synod Reports 2012

Renovations were carried in the 2011/2012 summer break and these were completed in time for the commencement of term 1 at the beginning of March. 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. The principal will be providing further information to provoke consideration of this by PCEA members.

Moyobamba: The work has continued under local leadership, and the church remains very missionary minded. There is outreach and church planting in surrounding centres close to Moyobamba as well as in Tarapoto, Arequipa and in San Lorenzo which is situated in the Loreto Province to the north of Moyobamba. We understand that the Nicholas the Pastor/Evangelist in San Lorenzo and his wife have had some health problems towards the end of the year. The work in Lluylluvucha, a suburb of Moyobamba, is continuing to grow with the new congregation negotiating to build on a block the church owns. As with Australia this exercise is a somewhat frustrating experience, having to deal with the local government bureaucracy. It appears as if the numbers that moved across from the Moyobamba congregation are being replaced by new people in the main Moyobamba congregation. Rev David MacPherson (Aberdeen Scotland) retains a keen interest in the Peruvian work. 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. The possibility of linking with the Evangelical Seminary in Lima, which has government go ahead for consolidating university status, seems the most logical and streamlined approach to this project at this stage. The planning team is working on the feasibility of a multi site multi faculty institution with the Moyobamba site being one of the sites. As in Australia the granting of University status is an involved and lengthy process.

At the time of writing this report (March 2012) the enrolment in the Annie Soper School is unknown but it appears as if the slump in numbers experienced in late 2011 may have been overcome. There has been another new headmaster appointed, Mr Ricardo Martinez. The frequent changes in Headmaster are of some concern but the current appointment is an internal appointment so it is hoped that this will lead to a more stable leadership. 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 subject to the completion of the formal application and recognition process.

Colombia: Bible Seminary Medellín: Dr Manuel Reaño has transferred to a Christian counselling role leading men's retreats, and along with Patty his wife leading ladies and couples retreats. Dr Reaño is also sought out by Pastors and leaders for counselling where it is difficult for them to find assistance within their own organisation. In addition in late 2011 the Seminary requested Dr Reaño to act as a "roaming faculty" attending to requests by churches and other organisations for various teaching sessions.

Dr Reaño has also completed qualifications in "Virtual Education" in preparation for the introduction of a 100% on line training course under the auspices of the Seminary. Colombia is more stable than it was some years ago but safety issues remain particularly in some remote rural locations including one where Dr Reaño lead a men's retreat.

Central India: John Greensill reports:

Presbyterian Free Church: The work in Central India continues with challenges and also much to give thanks for over recent years, with increasing numbers of new believers.

Synod Reports 2012

Chhapara: The Rev Prakash Kumar Memorial Trust conducted the inter-religious conference (as reported in the February banner) and as a result of that there have been various opportunities to witness to and connect with the Jain and Sikh communities.

The school with 1100 students achieving good results is a vital employer of the Chhapara congregation. The problems associated with the provident fund and having to make regular back payments to the government has been a burden for quite some time. Therefore the staff are behind in receiving their salary payments.

The Indian Government policy of requiring schools to provide free education for up to 25% of their school enrolment numbers to the poor makes it challenging financially and dependent on foreign contributions. Endeavours to increase fees and overcome problems are being made. The Free Church of Scotland have sent a very experienced accountant to visit the schools and make recommendations.

Lakhnadon: The Rev Shyam Babu reports that average Sunday morning attendance in Lakhnadon is 80-100. The afternoon service is held at the mission school. There are many believers and seekers in surrounding villages. Mr Santosh Das and Mr Parsuram do missionary work in the Presbyterian Free Church at Lakhnadon.

Lakhnadon Hospital: The arrival of Dr Heman Prasad, a surgeon, filled a great need the hospital had and good reports are being received of his leadership and endeavour to build up all aspects of the medical work and witness. Heman's wife Jewel is a paediatrician and God willing they will be able to stay as a team in Lakhnadon for some time. New staff quarters were opened and the out-patient department totally renovated last year. Subject to finance, there is a desire to carry out other projects such as:

1. Replace ramshackle shops outside the hospital, on hospital grounds that are illegal. The new shops will provide rental income to help the hospital and its work.
2. Further renovations to existing in-patient department and refurbishment of old staff quarters.
3. Provision of emergency vehicles, so the current problem of people arriving at the hospital too late for help will be alleviated. eg in the rainy season 4-5 children a day die of diarrhoea because of this.

Letter Re: Latest Developments at Lakhnadon Hospital

Dated: 21 Mar 2012 (Heman)

Dear Friends in Christ, Greetings from Lakhnadon!

I want to inform you that my wife Jewel and I are leaving Lakhnadon Christian Hospital.

It has been almost 2 years at this hospital where I worked as a Surgeon and my wife as a Paediatrician, we were the only senior doctors and we loved the challenges at this hospital. The Lord has been graceful and has protected us all through our time here at Lakhnadon. I am very grateful to my Christian brothers from Chhapara who were a great support to me all through my time at Lakhnadon. Chhapara and Lakhnadon have almost become second home to me.

But the time has come to make an exit. We leave on the 25th of March 2012. It is indeed a very difficult decision for us to make to leave this hospital but there are many factors which have made us take this tough decision. I request you to kindly uphold us in your prayers. I want to be in contact with you even after we leave Lakhnadon Christian Hospital. Kindly use my personal mail ID for all future communications: hemanprasad@gmail.com

North India: Dr Dennis Muldoon reports:

Taleem (discipleship) Centre, Maharajgang, Bihar: This centre, established by Dr Rahmat with assistance from the PCEA in 2008, is for ministry to poor children from Muslim homes in this town in the backward state of Bihar. Through poverty and corruption many young girls end up in the flesh

Synod Reports 2012

trade across India. In this Taleem centre girls and boys are taught Maths, English and Urdu and the Bible. They are also given a meal each day. Rahmat was able to secure the rented premises for another year and the centre continues by the grace of God and PCEA support.

Rahmat is preparing audited accounts (year ends 31 March in India) of the project for the Mission Committee.

Rahmat, a widower, resides in Dehradun with his children where he ministers to Muslim converts. He visits Maharajgang on a regular basis. During a visit in December he gave blankets to poor families associated with the Centre. At his visit in March 2012 he conducted a worship service and Lord's Supper for 3-4 believers. On his return he brought two candidates for baptism- he teaches these the Reformed Faith from the Scriptures and the Shorter Catechism. There are a number of families seeking the truth in this centre. Two new teachers were appointed. Opposition to this work is never far away.

Dr Dickson – New Delhi: Dr Dickson's ministry to farmers on the outskirts of Delhi though a small veterinary clinic had grown. He was able to treat the goats of many slum dwellers during a recent diseases epidemic. Through this contact he has been able to bring the gospel to a number of families. He hopes to establish a facility for Artificial Insemination. He continues to assist a missionary working among Muslims in Kashmir and advise in rural ministries across north India. He is thankful for the financial support of the PCEA and the prayers of many in the PCEA.

Christian Witness to Israel: The convener reports:

CWI Australia and the CWI steering committee in Melbourne have recently approved the application of a married couple to work among the Jewish community in Melbourne. There are approximately 60-65,000 Jews (40% of Australia's Jewish population) living in the city's south-eastern suburbs. At present, CWI is working towards the logistical stages of this ministry to begin evangelisation as soon as possible. In agreement, with CWI policy, workers are ready to commence their work, when the adequate financial goals have been met. The salary is equivalent to an ordained minister's salary and their own accommodation. CWI Australia is responsible for extra costs which come from their General Fund. PCEA provides 3,000 dollars to support this General Fund. Kaychan continues to face strong opposition from Rabbi Eli Cohen who spends most of his time, lecturing on how to recognise and avoid Christian missionaries. Regarding the Wednesday outreach at Bondi Kaychan indicates that this outreach activity 'has some advantages, such as good position to hand out gospel tracks but also has some challenges like a council ranger who warned me not to hand out flyers on the street'.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES:

- 1) That Synod continues to express its commitment to missions through prayer and generous giving, stimulating the growth of this support in every local congregation.
- 2) That Synod commits itself to encourage those within our denomination to consider opportunities for volunteer work in Peru (Annie Soper school and Colegio San Andres).
- 3) That Synod adopts the Missions Committee Budget 2012 – 2013 and expresses its general agreement with the estimates for the aforementioned period.

MISSIONS BUDGET 2012

General Funds

General Funds	Budget	2011	Actual	2011	Budget 2012		Estimate 2013	
Balance 1 Jan 2011		38,070		38070		27365		11684
(Miss Gen, DAA, Fiji, AIM Leggott)								
Income Investments	18,000		20058		19000		20000	
(Miss Gen 18K DAA 3K)								
Giving Missions General	8,000		6625		7000		7000	
Miss Sprt AIM: Giving (inc \$60 book sales)	6,000		7313		7000		7000	
From the Frontiers Subscriptions	600		643		600		600	
Income	32,600	32,600	34,639	34639	33600	33600	34600	34600
Expenditure								
Fiji Expenses	681		0		681		0	
CWI	3,000		3000		3000		0	
AIM (TIL Salary, SAW/LSL Levy)	36,562		40108		42000		51000	
Visiting Missionary Expenses	1,000		0		1000		0	
Dumisani Theol. Institute & Bible School	1,500		1500		1500		0	
Admin: Postage, telephone etc	500		210		500		500	
From the Frontiers, Banners	600		523		600		600	
Rounding			3					
Total Expenditure*	43,843	43,843	45,344	45344	49281	49281	52100	52100
Closing Balance		26,827		27365		11684		-5816

Account Balances 1 Jan 2012	
DAA Bequest	26684
Missions General	0
Missions Support Fiji	681
Missions Support Legg/AIM	0
Total	27365
IC 12 March 2012	

Synod Reports 2012

Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund

	Budget	2011	Actual	2011	Budget 2012	Estimate 2013
Income						
Balance at 1 Jan 2011		58501		58501	40903	5503
Income Investments	15000		13851		18000	18000
Transfer from equity account			23685			31000
Total Income	15000	15000	37536	37536	18000 18000	49000 49000

Expenditure						
Lakhnadon Christian Hospital	10000		10000		10000	10000
Lakhnadon Mission School	1500		1500		1500	1500
Chhapara Christian Health Centre	5000		5000		2500	2500
Chhapara Mission School	2000		2000		2000	2000
San Andres Scholarships	6500		6500		6500	6500
Annie Soper Scholarships	2200		2200		2200	2200
AIM (TIL Part Salary, SA/LSL levy)	17206		13364		14000	15000
Fees and Charges	400		270		400	400
Dr Dickson Allahabad	2500		2500		2500	2500
Taleen Centre (Dr Japla Hussein)	10000		10000		10000	10000
Mukti child sponsorships	1800		1800		1800	1800
Total Expenditure	59106	59106	55134	55134	53400 53400	54400 54400
Closing Balance		14395		40903	5503	103
IC 17 March 2012						

<u>Equities Account</u>	Budget	2011	Actual	2011	Budget 2012	Estimate 2013
Balance at 1 Jan 2011		291114		291114	225801	225801
Income Revaluation Shares Managed Funds	15000		0		0	0
Income Retained Investment Income						
Total	15000	15000		0	0 0	0 0
<u>Expenditure</u>						
Transfer to McSwan Working account	0	0	23686		0	31000
Revaluation			41627		0	0
Total			65313	65313	0 0	31000 31000
Closing Balance 31 Dec 2011		306114		225801	225801	194801
Total Funds Held McSwan Relief Funds		320509		266704	231304	194904
Net Funds Movement from previous year		-29106		-82910	-35400	-36400
IC 17 March 2012						

INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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

The past year has been largely uneventful and a little disappointing. It's been disappointing that our effort to build on our relationship with The Southern Presbyterian Church in Tasmania (via the Southern Presbytery) has apparently stalled. It appears that the SPC have been in discussion with the Australian Free Church (the 'Turnbull group') and thought it inappropriate to pursue the subject of closer relations with ourselves at this time. It's been disappointing at the lack of response from the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Australia. It's been disappointing that our approach to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia offering mutual eligibility has not progressed beyond their letter of July 2010.

RPCA: The response from Andrew Stewart of the RPCA to our offer of Mutual Eligibility dated 26/7/10 reads as follows:-

“At its meeting in May our Presbytery received your letter and considered the suggestion from your committee that the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia agree to recognise the mutual eligibility of ministers to receive calls between congregations in our respective denominations. We agree with much of the thinking which lies behind this proposal and do seek to acknowledge those areas of agreement and common endeavour for the advancement of Christ's kingdom in Australia. This we have both expressed by entering into and maintaining fraternal relations between our two denominations.

We also recognise that entering into mutual eligibility will involve a step further. Within the Reformed Presbyterian family of Churches mutual eligibility is an acknowledgment by one Church that the office bearers of another Church are committed to the distinctive testimony of the Reformed Presbyterian Churches. That is why Reformed Presbyterian Churches have historically only extended mutual eligibility to sister Reformed Presbyterian Churches with whom we share a common Confession and Testimony. Consequently we do not believe that at this time we are able to commit ourselves to a move towards the mutual eligibility of ordained office bearers. We have decided to study the matter further and seek the counsel of those Churches with whom we presently do have sister church relations involving mutual eligibility. No doubt, as part of our ongoing correspondence we will, we will have the opportunity to discuss these matters again.

Please be assured that in coming to this conclusion we seek only to be faithful to the testimony which we believe Christ has committed to us while at the same time to holding dearly to brothers in other denominations, including the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. Be assured of our prayerful interest in your welfare and our desire to work with you in those areas where we can fruitfully co-operate”.

Andrew Stewart's most recent correspondence (27/3/12) reads as follows:-

“I can report some of the discussions that have taken place at our end since we received and responded to your committee's letter in 2010. Presbytery members took very seriously all the points made in your letter in favour of the mutual eligibility proposal. It seems that we are talking about different things when we speak about mutual eligibility. The RPCA conducts interchurch relations in at least two spheres. There is the sphere of other Reformed Churches in Australasia, one of which is the PCEA. We value those relationships and seek to develop them as meaningfully as we can. The other sphere is the world-wide family of Reformed Presbyterian Churches. Following our discussion of your letter we consulted with our sister denominations in North America, Ireland and Scotland about the nature of mutual eligibility and its implications. We understood that within this sphere mutual eligibility is a mechanism for indicating that a sister church requires of its office bearers what other RP Churches require and that includes explicit acceptance of the testimony of the RPC on Christ's Mediatorial Lordship and Worship - and that this is not the case within the PCEA. Our correspondence with these sister Churches confirmed this understanding.

Synod Reports 2012

As to the way forward, I can only indicate my own opinion and that we need to step back from mutual eligibility and look for the bigger picture. The big picture is, in my opinion, the work of the gospel in Australia. The immediate challenge is how we can encourage each other in the work of gospel proclamation. Whether or not mutual eligibility is a means towards that end we need to talk about that work and what we can do to advance it”.

The committee is disappointed that this correspondence makes it appear that the outcome of the discussions between our Southern Presbytery and the RPCA in 2006 has been ignored. It was made clear then that we had no problems with the statement in the RPCA Testimony regarding the Mediatorial Kingship of Christ. It was also made clear that we do require ministers by their vows to assert, maintain and defend the practice of exclusive psalmody. Given these facts, and given that mutual eligibility as we understand it, provides safeguards to the admission from the other church, we cannot see that the RPCA should have a deep problem with the closer relations that we suggest. It's not church union but is a practical expression of our Lord's teaching on the unity of believers.

OPC: We appreciated the visit of Rev. Jack Sawyer and Mr. Mark Bube from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in September 2011. We are grateful to the Southern Presbytery for hosting these men and organising meetings for them. A full report of their visit is recorded in The Presbyterian Banner November 2011. The Knox congregation have arranged for the visit of OPC minister Dr. Carl Trueman to Melbourne from 17- 30th July 2012, with a view to raising the profile of Biblical Christianity in the city. It has also been arranged that he will address the RTC students in Geelong.

RCNZ: We welcome Rev. Andre Scheepers who arrived in Ulverstone in February from the RCNZ.

ICRC: The next meeting of the International Conference of Reformed Churches is due to be held next year i.e. 2013 (DV) in Cardiff, Wales, from August 28th – September 4; hosted by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of England and Wales. Each member church is entitled to send two voting delegates and two advisors to the meeting.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES:

1. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia meeting in Wauchope 2012 expresses its sorrow at the divisions between the Reformed and Presbyterian churches in Australia and resolves as the Lord enables us to do all that we practically can to maintain and promote brotherly relations.
2. The Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia gives thanks to God for the churches with whom we have formal fraternal relations and for those churches with whom we have contact and resolves to pray for the Lord's blessing upon their work and witness.
3. We recommend that the PCEA should be represented at the ICRC in Wales in 2013. The Committee be free to make arrangements; any cost falling to Synod not to exceed \$2,000.

SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE

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

A: Superannuation Fund

Mr Murray requested in writing that church contributions after his attainment of age 70 on 7/10/2011 be foregone and he intended to draw his benefit in full at a convenient time. His retirement after just under 40 years of PCEA service was effective 29/2/2012. The average age of the 14 members current as at 31/12/2011 was about 56.8 years, with an average of 13.6 years of service with the PCEA.

1. Membership

<u>Name</u>	<u>Service from</u>	<u>Total service at 31.12.11</u>	<u>Year 70</u>
S.R.Tamata	16.10.1998	13.12	2011
J.A.McCallum	28.06.1985	27.50	2012
R.S.Ward	20.03.1976	35.78	2015
M.G.Smith	16.06.2006	05.54	2018
T.I.Leggott	11.03.1989	22.80	2019
D.K.Muldoon	29.11.2002	09.09	2022
G.D.Ball	01.12.1997	14.08	2025
S. Bajema	17.01.2009	02.97	2028
T.W.Yoa	09.05.2006	05.64	2029
D.P.Smith	16.11.2001	09.83	2029
J.D.Klazinga	20.05.2010	01.61	2034
D.J.Kerridge	25.11.2010	01.08	2040
A.A.Miranda	01.12.2009	02.08	2042

Unless otherwise indicated the commencement dates are ordination or induction except Mr Ball whose service as an ordained minister began 1/12/97, and Mr Yoa from date of admission by Synod. The Superannuation Guarantee levy is 9% from 1/7/2002. Congregations which employ a preacher 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.

1. Church Contributions to Superannuation

1. Superannuation Levy on congregations

With effect 14/9/2011 Armidale was reclassified as a preaching station and thus is no longer liable for Levy unless it has a supply minister. No change is proposed in the % of levy this year: the base rate remains at 14%.

2. Superannuation Support Fund & Levy proceeds account

a. The Capital/quasi capital SSF stands at \$158,717 at 31/12/11, having decreased by 5.7% due to the part of the fund in equities having declined during the year. The fund arises from specific legacies and forfeited benefits under earlier no longer existing provisions. The income in 2010 was \$9,891 and in 2011 \$10,610. The intention is to support the levy proceeds account from time to time given that contributions to ministers will not be fully covered by the levy.

b. The levy proceeds accounts fell from \$13,356 in 2009 to \$7,080 in 2010, and to nil in 2011 and would have been minus \$2,058 if some amounts applicable to 2011 had been paid in that year. It is expected that the levy will produce a deficit of around \$3,000 in 2012 amply covered by income from the SSF.

3. Contributions to ministers' accounts

The current position is that for the first three years of service the contribution is 10% of minimum stipend, rising to 12% after the end of the quarter in which a man attains three years service, and to 18% after the end of the quarter in which he attains 5 years service, reducing to 5% from the end of the quarter a member attains 70 years of age and to nil from age 75. To continue to contribute generously after this age mistakes the purpose of Superannuation and burdens God's people.

Synod Reports 2012

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 the 70 age limit will be abolished. As of the date of writing the legislation has not been passed. 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.

3. The Superannuation Funds

1. Default Fund

All but two of our members have chosen HESTA, our default fund, for their contributions. As no one currently has chosen the earlier default fund (Mercantile Mutual which became ING which became OnePath) we no longer report its results. The default for HESTA is their Core Fund.

2. Performance

The return on the default settings for Hesta was 10.1% for 2009/10 and 10% for 2010/11. The return for the five years to 30/6/2011 was 3.2%.

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.

3. 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. Regulations

No changes are required.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES:

1. Deacons' Courts should note the levy for self-supporting charges is \$1662 per quarter that is 14% of the estimated minimum stipend for 2011 (\$47,500). For aid-receiving charges with PCEA ordained supply it is 10% (\$1187 per quarter) for self-supporting charges with an extra minister 11.0% and for vacant charges without a supply minister 5%.

2. 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.

3. 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 REPORT

(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 (\$898 per week) and basis of review of the minimum stipend be continued.

2. Stipend Relief

No requests for Stipend Assistance were received from Presbyteries for the Synodical year 2012/13.

3. The Capital Assistance Fund

Total funds of \$113,693 excluding \$7,300 held on deposit, increased by \$2,663 net (2.4%) for year ending 31/12/11 from interest received, share dividends and revaluations and the annual \$50 rent from St Georges Deacons' Court. No donations were received.

Loan(s) –

On 31st May 2011 a loan of \$110,000 was taken up by Knox Deacons' Court as part of the \$550,000 funding granted to them by the Synod Administration Committee in 2010 for redevelopment of the Glen Huntly church/hall complex. This loan is interest free and was due for repayment by 29th February 2012 however, because of delays experienced an extension to 31/12/12 was sought (See *Knox Deacons' Court Loan* following)

4. Knox Deacons' Court Loan

In addition to the \$110,000 loan from *The Capital Assistance Fund* a further \$440,000 was approved from other Synod funds. Of this amount \$225,000 was drawn as at 31/12/11 with an undrawn balance of \$215,000. Interest being 7.24%pa as at 31/12/11 and paid quarterly. Repayment was also due by 29th February 2012, however, the Deacons' Court requested an extension to 31/12/12 as well.

On 1st March 2012 the Deacons' Court advised the contract with the original builder was terminated on 20/12/11 because his progress, workmanship etc. proved to be unsatisfactory. A fresh contract on a "Cost Plus" basis was entered into on 24th February with another builder to rectify problems and complete the project. It was estimated \$350,000 (in addition to the Synod loans of \$550,000) was required to complete it and provide \$40,000 to Knox Deacons' Court for working funds until 30/9/12. Then on 12th March the Committee received a request for permission to mortgage church property (3 residential units at 10 Bentley Street, Wantirna Vic) to borrow up to \$400,000 (\$50,000 margin on the estimated \$350,000) from their bankers or others. After due consideration the Committee forwarded the request with its recommendation to the Synod Administration Committee for their approval or otherwise in terms of the Church Handbook 3.22

Repayment of all loans is to come from sale of units, as required.

5. Estimates (Major Working Funds Receipts/Payments)

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

PROPOSED DELIVERANCES:

1. We record our thanks to God for the continual temporal blessings the church as a whole has enjoyed since Synod 2011.

2. Adjustment of the Minimum Stipend, Cash and Non-cash components (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2012/2013 be made on 1st January and 1st July in line with the movement in the *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (Full-time adult ordinary time earnings)* as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In the event of a negative movement in any six monthly review period, no adjustment be made.

3. The drawing and 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 approved in 2010 be amended:

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

To: "The loans to be progressively drawn and be repaid in full by 31st December, 2012"

.....

GENERAL TREASURER

1. Financial Needs

Although the financial needs of the Synod were adequately provided for during 2011 total funds decreased by \$147,416 (11%) to \$1,186,680 after allowing for \$232,419 held on behalf of congregations (Davis Memorial Bequest), missions specified etc.

Net decreases occurred in:

Capital Funds	\$ 57,086
Working Funds	\$ 90,330

Net Decrease in Funds	\$147,416
	=====

The main contributing factors to the net decrease in funds was the closure of a Managed Fund (AXA) by the Fund Manager and return of the investment, together with a decrease in the value of other Equity investments as at 31/12/11 (Refer Balance Sheet Notes 1 & 2 for details).

2. Contributions to Synod Funds and Other Missions etc. by Congregations

Contributions of \$17,508 by congregations to Synod Funds during 2011 decreased by \$3,678 (17%). However donations of \$22,505 to other Specified Missions increased by \$14,261 (173%). Refer to the Congregational Contributions Summary at back of the Financial Statements and Note 5 on page 5 for further detail.

3. Synod General Working Funds

Because of the support given to *Stipend Relief* over the past few years *Synod General Working Funds* have been run down to a balance of \$1,968 as at 31/12/11. To be able to meet the relief funds allocated by last Synod an amount of \$1,363 was charged against *General Working Funds*, however, permission is now sought to transfer this back from *Stipend Relief* as it is estimated they may be needed to meet Synod general operating expenses for the year ending 31/12/12.

5. Books of Account Audit

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

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE:

1. Synod approve the transfer of \$1,363 from the *Stipend Relief Funds* to the *Synod General Funds* account.

FINANCE COMMITTEE - APPENDIX "A"

BUDGET - SYNOD MAJOR WORKING FUNDS

For twelve months ending 31/12/12

Fund	Balance as at 31/12/2011	Estimated Income Int/Divnds to 12/12	Estimated Givings & Other	Estimated Expenditure or Transfers to 12/12	Estimated Surplus (Deficit)	Estimated Balance 31/12/12	Transfer needed from G/Funds
Capital Assistance Fund	3,693	2,500	110,000	0	112,500	116,193	Nil
Church Extension	548	40	300	0	340	888	Nil
Stipend Relief	3,002	3,500	7,200	3,000	7,700	10,702	Nil
Stipend Rel (Haw-Nep)	3,915	0	0	3,915	-3,915	0	Nil
Stipend Rel (Narr-War)	4,725	0	0	4,725	-4,725	0	Nil
Missions - General	0	17,800	7,681	13,797	11,684	11,684	Nil
Missions - (Legg/AIM)	0	0	42,000	42,000	0	0	Nil
Missions - (DAABeq)	26,684	1,200	0	27,884	-26,684	0	Nil
Miss Relief (Equities)	225,801	0	0	0	0	225,801	Nil
Miss Rel (Working Fnd)	40,903	18,000	0	53,400	-35,400	5,503	Nil
Training of Ministry	117,210	11,000	100,200	120,300	-9,100	108,110	Nil
Youth & Fellowship	16,005	1,000	4,865	14,517	-8,652	7,353	Nil
General Funds	1,968	1,500	500	3,500	-1,500	468	Nil

Notes:

- Estimated "Other" income of \$110,000 for "Capital Assistance Fund" represents anticipated repayment of a loan to Knox Deacons' Court for the Glen Huntly church/hall development.
- Givings "Other" for "Stipend Relief" include \$5,640 of undrawn allocations for 2011/2012 by Hawkesbury-Nepean and Narre Warren Congregations.
- Total support for year ending 31/12/12 for Rev TI Leggott is estimated at \$56,000.
(Stipend \$47,500 plus Superannuation \$8,500)

This is to be funded from:

Missions (Legg/AIM) Anticipated Congregational givings	7,000
Missions General Account	7,116
Missions - Balance of DA Anderson Bequest	27,884
	42,000
Missions Relief (Working Fund)	14,000
<u>Total Support to 31/12/12</u>	\$ 56,000

- Estimated income "Other" and "Expenditure" for "Training of Ministry" includes a loan of \$100,000 to Knox Deacons' Court for the Glen Huntly church/hall development.
This loan is to be fully drawn during the year and expected to be repaid by 31/12/12.

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 2011.

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 2011:

- 14/02/11 - Uplifted Certificate of Title 4/38286 – Wingham Church property.
- 22/06/11 - Lodged copies of Conveyance No. 390 Book 90 and prior documents – Raymond Terrace church/manse – Church Archivist unable to locate originals.
- 22/06/11 - Relodged Conveyance No 375 Book 62 and prior documents – St Georges Church property.
- 22/06/11 - Lodged Certificate of Title Ref. 255/41241 – Manning River Vacant land (15 Cedar Party Road, Taree).
- 22/06/11 - Lodged Loan Agreement dd. 6/5/11 \$40,000 – DD Boehret (Student)
- 22/06/11 - Uplifter Qualified Certificate of Title Identifier 4/1156714 –Wauchope Church/Hall/Manse
- 06/12/11 - Relodged Conveyance No 954 Book 996 and prior documents - Wauchope Church/Hall/Manse.
- 06/12/11 - Lodged Qualified Certificate of Title Ref. 12/1168214 & Plan – Wauchope church/Hall.

The changes listed above resulted from the sale of the Wingham Church, purchase of vacant land by Manning River Deacons' Court, sale of the Wauchope manse, a loan by Synod to a Student for the ministry and the relodgement of prior Old System documents for Raymond Terrace, St Georges and Wauchope churches.

Common Seal Applications

Applications during 2011 were:

No.	Date Executed	Document Executed
225	14/2/11	Contract for Sale - Church Wingham Folio ID 4/38286
226	14/2/11	Transfer - Church Wingham Folio ID 4/38286
227	14/2/11	Contract to Purchase - Vacant land Taree CT Vol.255 Fol.41241
228	16/5/11	Authy to Stacks release CT 255/41241 Manning - 15 Cedar Creek Rd
229	20/6/11	Plan Sub-Division Wauchope Manse Part Lot 4/1156714 & 1/159969
230	18/10/11	Transfer Sale Hastings Manse F/ID 11/1168214 formerly 4/1156714

Proposed Amendment to the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act 1918

Synod 2011 resolved, Minutes 11.19 (3) viz.:

1. "The Law & Advisory Committee, together with the Trustees of The Synod of Eastern Australia, consider the suggested draft amendment, taking into account responses received from Presbyteries, and submit a fresh draft amendment to Synod 2012."

Through correspondence by email with members of the Law and Advisory Committee it was felt prudent not to proceed with any amendment to the NSW Act until amendments to the Victorian Act are finalised.

Investments: Review of Results as at 31/12/11 –

DIVERSIFICATION - SPECIFIED CAPITAL FUNDS:

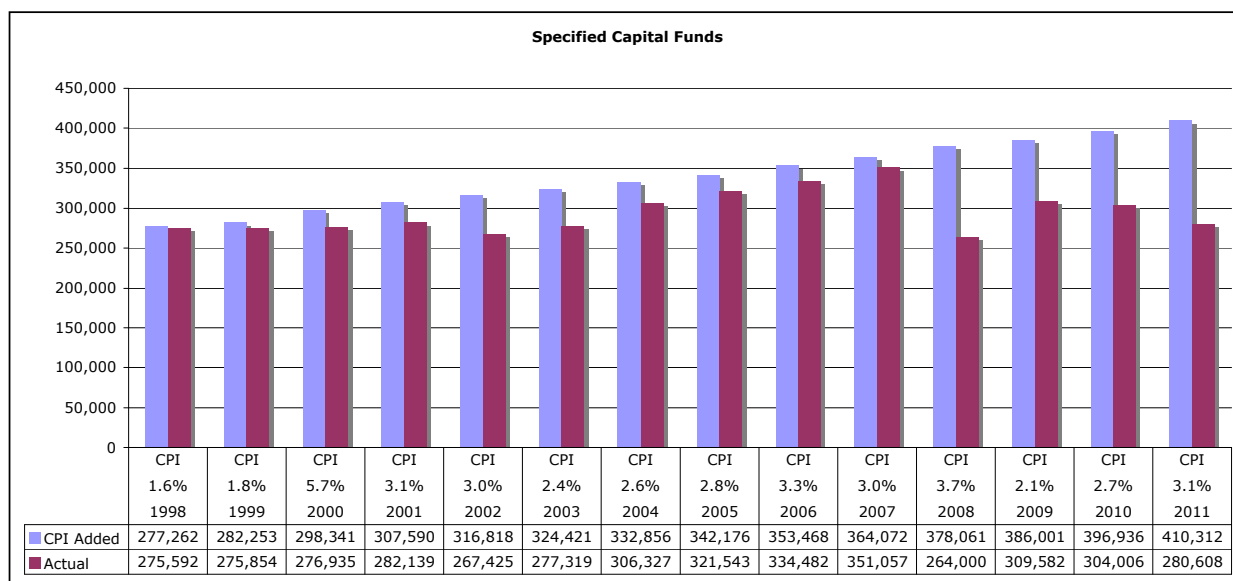
Actual as at 31/12/11		Asset Class	Investment Strategy	
Amount	Percentage		Benchmark	Range
141,106	50%	Cash (Banks)	5%	5% - 10%
0	0%	Mortgage	30%	20% - 40%
0	0%	Debentures	15%	10% - 25%
139,502	50%	Shares/Units	50%	40% - 60%
304,006	100%		100%	

Additional funds are currently held in *Cash (Banks – Government Guaranteed deposits)* 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*.

Return on Investments:

Growth –

Total investments decreased by \$23,398 (2010 decreased by \$5,576) representing a fall of 7.7% against a positive Target of 3.1% (CPI) . We fared better than the equities market generally which was down approximately 15%.



As can be seen in the above chart we made some recovery in “Actual” values in 2009 after the GFC in 2008. Nevertheless, we sustained falls in 2010 and 2011 to the point where current values are practically back were they were in 1998 when we started to monitor them.

It was necessary to sell one parcel of shares during the year to provide Committee working funds and the closure of a Managed Fund (AXA) by the Fund Manager and return of the investment, together with a decrease in the value of other Equity investments as at 31/12/11 resulted in the decrease in Specified Capital funds as above.

Synod Reports 2012

Income – Income of \$15,597 (2010 was \$16,245) represented a return of 5.13% against a Target of 5.69% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 4.69% Plus 1.00%).

Overall return – Growth (negative 7.7%) Income 5.13% = (negative 2.57%) (2010 was positive 3.45%) overall return on investments totalling \$304,006 as at 31/12/10.

Summary -

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

Our *Investment Strategy Objective* was virtually achieved in *Income* (0.56% shortfall).

However, our goal to maintain “real value” ie. to “keep up with inflation” is still not being achieved, with 2011 *Growth* falling short of our target by 10.8%

Proposed Deliverances: Nil.

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 2011.

Proposed Deliverances: Nil.

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

Members: Synod – Moderator (MG Smith), Clerk (TI Leggott) and 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 and no property dealings occurred. There were no changes to deeds and bonds held in *Safe Custody* at the National Australia Bank, Eastwood, during 2011.

Common Seal

Only one application of the Common Seal was made during 2011:

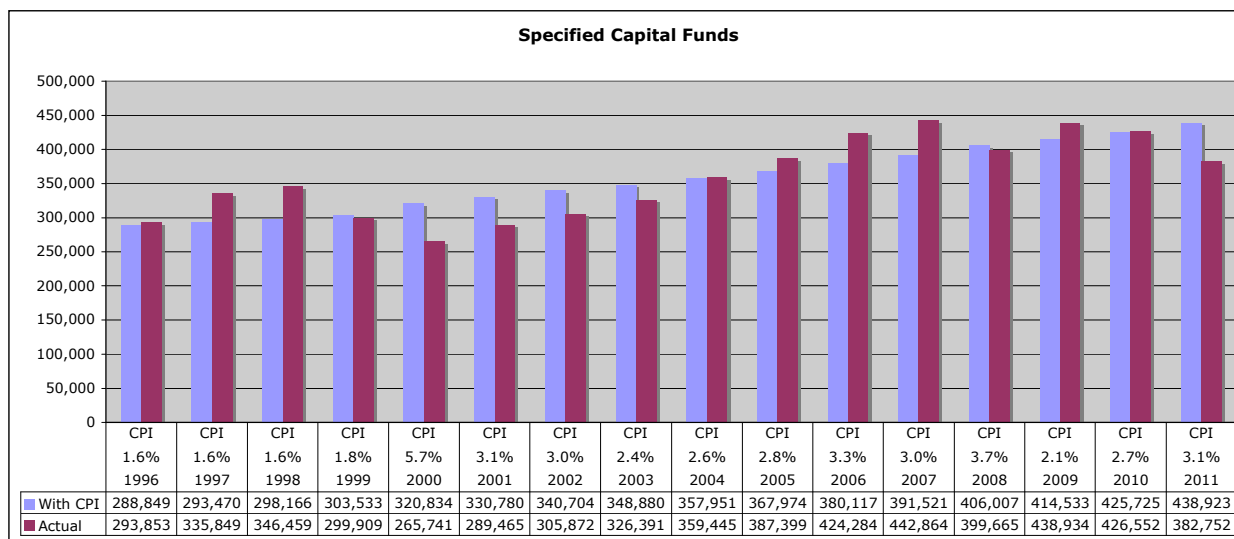
No.	Date	Executed	Document Executed	On behalf
	Executed	by		of
92	06/05/11	MGS/AHS	Loan Agreement - Loan of \$40,000 Denver D Boehret	Synod (ToM)

Investments – Specified Capital Funds (Bequests)

Return for twelve months ending 31/12/11 –

Growth

Total investments decreased by \$43,800 (2010 decreased by \$12,381) representing a decline of 12.19% against a positive Target of 3.1% (CPI). No changes were made in equities held. The decline was a little less than the stock market *All Ordinaries* Index which was down by 15%.



“Real Value” of Specified Capital Funds ie. keeping up with annual inflation (CPI). was not maintained as the “Actual” value of \$382,752 fell short by 12.8% (\$56,171)

Income – Income of \$27,249 (2010 was \$23,521) represented a return of 6.39% against a Target of 5.69% (Average Official Cash Interest Rate of 4.69% Plus 1.00%).

Overall return –Growth (negative 12.8%) Income 6.39% = (negative 6.41%), (2010 was negative 6.07%) overall return on investments totalling \$426,552 as at 31/12/10.

Synod Reports 2012

Summary

Our *Investment Strategy Objective* was achieved in *Income* but not in *Growth*.

Diversification

Actual as at 31/12/11		Asset Class	Investment Strategy	
Amount	Percentage		Benchmark	Range
58,316	15%	Cash (Banks)	5%	5% - 10%
125,000	33%	Cong Loan	30%	20% - 40%
0	0%	Debentures	15%	10% - 25%
199,435	52%	Shares/Units	50%	40% - 60%
382,751	100%		100%	

Amount held in *Cash (Banks)* is outside the Investment Strategy Benchmark but is not of concern. The amount in *Cong Loan* (Congregation Loan) represents part funding of a loan for \$550,000 to Knox Deacons' Court granted by Synod 2011.

Investments are considered to be adequately *Diversified* in the current volatility of equity markets.

Proposed Deliverances: Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE Item 1

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTERN AUSTRALIA
NORTHERN PRESBYTERY

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

2nd April, 2012

Dear Trevor,

Due to the closure of the Armidale Charge determined by Presbytery at a duly constituted meeting of 17th February, 2012, I herewith petition the Synod for permission to sell the church property at 35 Kirkwood Street, Armidale, NSW, and for the Synod to determine the application of any proceeds from the sale at its discretion. The relevant extract Minute is attached.

PETITION

To the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, this petition of the Northern Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia respectfully shows that;

WHEREAS the Armidale Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia has disbanded and,

WHEREAS the said Congregation has agreed to the sale of the Church building at 35 Kirkwood Street, Armidale, NSW,

NOW THEREFORE, the Northern Presbytery respectfully petitions the Synod to take these recitals into consideration and to grant permission to sell the Church building at 35 Kirkwood Street, Armidale, NSW, and apply the proceeds as Synod directs, or to do otherwise for this object as in its wisdom may seem best.

Dated the 2nd day of April, 2012.

Rev. D.J. Kerridge was appointed to present the petition.

EXTRACT MINUTE

Business Arising

1. Report from Armidale Interim Moderator.

Rev. G. Ball (Interim Moderator) reported on the situation in the Armidale charge. He thanked the assessor elders and local elders for their work and support in this difficult situation. He then spoke briefly on the imminent closure of the work. Since the last sitting of Presbytery, the Armidale Interim Session had met with the Congregation on 20th November, 2011. The Interim Moderator put a number of options to them regarding a way forward. As a consequence of this, the Congregation expressed a desire to seek pastoral oversight from Trinity Church, Tamworth. As part of his report, Rev. Ball referred to the minutes of the Congregational Meeting of the Armidale Congregation of 20th November, 2011 and 5th February, 2012, and the meetings of the Interim Deacon's Court and Interim Session on 4th February, 2012 which had been made available to the members of Presbytery for their information. The decision of the Deacon's Court and Session Meeting was to cease PCEA worship in Armidale, to authorise the issue of disjunction certificates to those who wish such, commend the remaining members and adherents to the care of the Trinity Church, Tamworth, and overture the Presbytery for the right to sell the property, with the proceeds to be applied as directed by Synod, and seek the concurrence of the Congregation to these decisions at a subsequent Congregation meeting. (5th February, 2012).

Synod Reports 2012

Mr Ross Campbell then moved the following motion:

“That this Court, taking a conjunct view of all the information presented in the Interim Moderator’s Report and in the proceedings of the Session, Deacons Court and Congregational/Preaching Station Meetings, resolve as follows:

[1] That in the light of a resolution agreed to at a duly constituted Congregational Meeting on the 5th February, 2012, viz, “*With effect as of this day public worship and congregational activities of the Armidale PCEA congregation cease, and the engagement of the people with the Trinity Church, Tamworth, commences*”- the Interim Session be instructed to issue Disjunction Certificates to all members and office bearers of the Armidale Congregation which was reclassified as a Preaching Station on the 7th October, 2011.

[2] That the Interim Session constitute itself as a Deacons Court, bring the Minute Book up to date, engross its final Minute in the record, confirm it, and transfer it to the Presbytery Clerk until such times as it can be transferred to the Synod Archivist.

[3] That the Interim Session be thanked for its work during this difficult period, and subsequent to the issue of the Disjunction Certificates, engross its final Minute in the record of the Session, confirm it, and transfer the records to the Presbytery Clerk for transfer to the Synod Archivist in due course.

[4] That Presbytery [through a special committee consisting of the Moderator, Presbytery Treasurer, and Mr. John Greensill] assume responsibility for the administration of all remaining finances, and all property formally held by the Armidale Congregation/Preaching Station until such times as this can be disposed of according to instructions from the Synod of Eastern Australia – with due regard being paid to the decisions taken by the Deacons Court at its meeting on the 4th February, 2012.

[5] That Presbytery petition Synod for permission to sell the Church Property in Armidale, and dispose of the proceeds according to instructions given by the Synod of Eastern Australia.

[6] That, as regards the “Armidale Preaching Station” so named by Presbytery at its meeting on the 7th October, it be placed under the oversight of the Northern Rivers Congregation, so that any residing in Armidale who want to remain in membership with the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, identified with its principles, provided with Gospel Ordinances, and given regular pastoral care, may do so in an orderly way in connection with an established congregation within the bounds of Presbytery.”

The motion as stated was seconded and considerable discussion followed. An amendment was moved, seconded and carried to accept the motion without clause [6], with the substitution of the word “apply” for “dispose” in clause [5], and also to advise any in Armidale desiring to remain with the PCEA that they may apply to the congregation of their choice. Mr Campbell was thanked for his efforts.

The Clerk was directed to petition Synod for permission to sell the Church property at 35 Kirkwood Street, Armidale and apply the proceeds as directed by the Synod.

Through the Moderator, Rev. G. Ball invited Mr K. Dawson to speak about the witness of the Armidale Congregation over the years. Rev. Ball then read an email from Rev. John Paterson of Trinity Church, Tamworth stating their support.

END OF EXTRACT MINUTE

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Rev. David Kerridge
Clerk of Presbytery