

# **The Synod of Eastern Australia**



## **Minutes**

**Of the 165<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
Held at Wauchope NSW  
8th May to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

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**12.1 OPENING**

Within the Wauchope Church building of the Hastings congregation, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012, at 4.00pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met and was constituted with worship, conducted by the Moderator, the Rev MG Smith.

**12.2 MODERATOR'S SERMON**

Mr Gavin Smith read from 1 Samuel 4 and 7:2-12 and spoke to the text referring to God's Covenant People under the three heads: 1) A needy people were a covenant people. 2) Priorities are expressed in choices. 3) Choices have consequences. The Moderator welcomed members and guests to the meeting of Synod.

**12.3 ASSOCIATION OF DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES**

Mr Ball introduced Mr Jan Bronsema delegate, from the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, and it was resolved that Mr Bronsema be associated with the court.

**12.4 THANKS TO RETIRING MODERATOR**

After words of appreciation it was resolved that the retiring Moderator be thanked for his sermon, and that it be published in *The Presbyterian Banner*.

**12.5 ASSOCIATION OF OTHER MINISTERS**

Rev Peter Smith, Rev Alan Tripovich and Rev Andre Scheepers were welcomed to the synod and it was resolved that they be associated with the court.

**12.6 WELCOMES**

The moderator welcomed Mr Stewart Carswell and Mr Denver Boehret as new members of Synod.

**12.7 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERIES**

The Certified Rolls of Presbyteries were tendered. Apologies for non-attendance were received from those marked † below.

<b>Northern Presbytery</b>	<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Commissioned Elders</b>
Brisbane	JD Klazinga	S Carswell
Hastings	DJ Kerridge	D Hamilton
Northern Rivers	Vacant	R Campbell
Northern Presbytery Appointment	WJW Hanna†	
<b>Central Presbytery</b>		
Hawkesbury/Nepean	DK Muldoon	GA Neil
Hunter/Barrington	SR Tamata †	JF Kerridge
Manning	GD Ball	FN Robinson
St. George's	JA McCallum	AH Steel (Treasurer)
Synod Appointment:	TI Leggott (Seconded to AIM)	
<b>Southern Presbytery</b>		
Geelong	MG Smith	DPT Manly
Knox	RS Ward	J Dekter†
Knox	AA Miranda	
All Nations	TW Yoa	D Boehret
Narre Warren	S Bajema	T Buck†
Ulverstone	Vacant	I Hamilton

**12.8 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

The Clerk presented the Administration Committee's Report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Clerk presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

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. |

Proposed deliverance 4 was defeated.

## 12.9 NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of motion were called for and read.

## 12.10 CLOSURE OF SESSION

The session was closed with prayer at 6.05pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

MG Smith  
Moderator

# SESSION 2    TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012    7.15PM

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 7.15pm.

## 12.11 MINUTES

The minutes of Session 1 were read and confirmed.

## 12.12 ELECTION OF NEW MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that the Rev Sjirk Bajema had been appointed Moderator-elect. It was moved and seconded that this appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried and Mr Bajema took the chair.

## 12.13 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Moderator addressed the Synod reading from Acts 20:17-38 and spoke under the heading: The PCEA: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Reformation Church of Geneva? The moderator spoke of seven aspects: 1) The passion of God's man in his preparatory work, 2) The continuation of God's passion in those following, 3) The focus on solid biblical preaching and teaching, 4) The dignity of man in God's image, 5) The arrival of other like-minded men, 6) Interaction with those of like-mind and others, 7) The struggles within and without. Seven vital aspects that are just as relevant for the church today.

## 12.14 THANKS

After words of appreciation it was resolved that the Moderator be thanked for his address, and that his address be published in "*The Presbyterian Banner*".

## 12.15 PRESBYTERY REPORTS

Mr D Kerridge presented the report for Northern Presbytery. Mr Muldoon presented the report for Central Presbytery. Mr Ward presented the report for Southern Presbytery. It was resolved that the reports be received.

## 12.16 CLOSURE OF SESSION

Notices of Motion were called for. The session was closed with prayer and praise at 8.35pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

S Bajema  
Moderator

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 9.00am. The Moderator read from 2 Timothy 3:10-8:4 and shared in devotions focusing on the first three aspects of his address: 1) The passion of God's man in his preparatory work. 2) The continuation of God's passion in those that followed. 3) The focus on solid biblical preaching and teaching. The Moderator led the court in prayer.

**12.17 MINUTES**

The minutes of Session 2 were read and confirmed.

**12.18 CORRESPONDENCE ITEM 1: PETITION FROM NORTHERN PRESBYTERY**

Synod took up consideration of Correspondence Item 1, a Petition from Northern Presbytery relating to closure of services at Armidale, and sale of the church property.

It was resolved that the Petition be treated as an Overture.

Mr D Kerridge presented the Overture:

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.

It was resolved that the Overture be sustained.

**12.19 NOTICE OF MOTION: RE PETITION FROM NORTHERN PRESBYTERY**

Mr Steel presented his motion. It was resolved:

1. That permission be granted to Northern Presbytery to sell the church property at 35 Kirkwood Street, Armidale, at fair market value, and the NSW Trustees be authorised to execute necessary documents.
2. That \$50,000 of the net proceeds from the sale of the church property at 35 Kirkwood Street Armidale be applied to the Synod *General Funds* with the balance being credited to the Synod *Capital Assistance Fund*.

**12.20 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr Ward, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

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.

## **12.21 ASSOCIATION OF DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES**

Mr Ball introduced Rev Andrew Stewart, delegate from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia. The Moderator welcomed Mr Stewart and it was resolved that Mr Stewart be associated with the court.

## **12.22 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr Ward, continued with the Committee proposed deliverances. It was resolved:

**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 Retired 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.

### **12.23 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr MG Smith, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

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 Kumnick 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.

It was resolved that synod meet in closed court.

After discussion it was resolved that:

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.

It was resolved to meet in open court.

Mr Robin and Mrs Vanessa Tso were invited to join the meeting. The Moderator addressed comments to Robin thanking him for his application and encouraging him in the progress of his application, and wishing him and Vanessa every blessing for their future.

Mr Ian Hamilton led the court in prayer.

### **12.24 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr Muldoon, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The convener presented the proposed deliverance and it was resolved that:

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

### **12.25 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

The session closed with praise and prayer at 12.30pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

S Bajema  
Moderator

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 2.00pm.

**12.26 MEDIA COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr Bajema, being Moderator, vacated the chair to present the report. Mr Ball took the chair. Mr Bajema presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received with special thanks to the good work done by the editor. Mr Bajema returned to the Moderator's chair.

**12.27 WEBSITE**

The Convener, Mr MG Smith presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received.

**12.28 MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr Miranda, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

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.

**12.29 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr Ball, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener noted that letters of greeting had been received from the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland. The convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

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.

**12.30 NOTICE OF MOTION**

Mt Steel presented the motion and it was resolved: That \$165 per congregation (\$1,980 in all) be contributed to Synod General Funds to cover the cost of sending a representative(s) of the PCEA to the ICRC in Wales in August 2013. The amount to be added to the cost of this Synod.

**12.31 YOUTH & FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr G Hamilton, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

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.

The court noted that Mr Hamilton was stepping down as Convener and took the opportunity to thank him for his contribution as Convener, giving indication of appreciation by acclamation.

### **12.32 DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES**

Mr Ball introduced Mr Jan Bronsema, delegate from the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands, and Mr Bronsema was invited to address the Synod. Mr Bronsema brought a greeting and addressed the Synod. At Mr Bronsema's suggestion the Synod joined in praise, singing Psalm 67. (Mr Bronsema's address is included as an appendix to the minutes.)

Mr Ball introduced Rev Andrew Stewart, delegate from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia, and Mr Stewart was invited to address the Synod. Mr Stewart brought a greeting and addressed the Synod.

The Moderator thanked both men for their addresses. The Synod joined in worship through singing Psalm 103 after which Mr Ward led in prayer.

### **12.33 SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Rev Dr Ward, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

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, and self-supporting charges with serving ministers aged 70 years and over, 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.

### **12.34 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

Notices of motion were called for and the session was closed with prayer at 5.50p.m.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

S Bajema  
Moderator

**SESSION 5****WEDNESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012****7.10PM**

The session was opened with praise and prayer at 7.10pm.

**12.35 MISSIONS EVENING**

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Glenda de Jager and Lorraine Francis from Mukti Mission and invited them to speak. Glenda first led in an interview with Lorraine, sharing something of her personal walk. Lorraine led through a very interesting presentation of the work of Mukti with women and children in India. Lorraine provided interesting answers to a number of questions from those present.

Trevor Leggott gave an update on his work as General Director of AIM, sharing about some of the new personnel, the progress of the Theological Education by Extension program, and the encouraging situation of the Indigenous Churches in various centres.

**12.36 CLOSURE OF SESSION**

The session was closed praise and prayer at 8.30pm.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

S Bajema  
Moderator

The session was opened with praise and prayer. The Moderator read from Galatians 3:26-4:20 and shared in devotions focusing on the final four aspects of his address: 4) The dignity of man in God's image, 5) The arrival of other like-minded men, 6) Interaction with those of like-mind and others, 7) The struggles within and without. The Moderator led the court in prayer.

The minutes of Session 4 and 5 were read and confirmed.

Notices of motions were read.

### **12.37 FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Convener, Mr A Steel, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was resolved that:

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 1<sup>st</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> 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"

### **12.38 GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT**

The General Treasurer, Mr AH Steel, presented his report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Treasurer presented the proposed deliverance and it was resolved that:

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

### **12.39 NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Clerk presented the motion and it was resolved that Rev Dr WJW Hanna be granted a seat on Northern Presbytery whilst he serves as interim moderator of the Northern Rivers congregation.

### **12.40 NOTICE OF MOTION**

The Clerk presented the motion indicating some modification to the structure of Committees. It was resolved that Mr Klazinga replace Mr Miranda as convener of Missions, Mr Miranda replace Mr Klazinga on Training of Ministry, and Mr Miranda takes convenership of the Youth and Fellowship Committee.

### **12.41 NSW TRUST CORPORATION**

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received.

### **12.42 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION**

The Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received.

### **12.43 THE TRUSTEES FOR VICTORIA**

The Secretary Mr AH Steel presented the report on behalf of the Trustees. It was resolved that the report be received.

#### **12.44 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS**

The minutes of the Northern Presbytery for 2010-2011 were reported to be in order. The minutes of Central Presbytery for 2010-2011 were reported to be in order. The minutes of Southern Presbytery for 2010-2011 were reported to be in order. It was resolved that the Presbytery Reports be received and attested.

#### **12.45 MODERATOR-ELECT FOR SYNOD 2013**

The Clerk nominated Rev Andres Miranda. It was resolved that the Rev Andres Miranda be appointed Moderator-elect for Synod 2013.

#### **12.46 TIME AND PLACE OF SYNOD 2013**

The Clerk reported that the Hastings Congregation had indicated their willingness to host Synod again in 2013. It was resolved that Synod 2013 be hosted by the Hastings Congregation at Wauchope in the first half of May 2013, with the date being determined by the Administration Committee and notice given by the end of October 2012.

#### **12.47 TREASURER'S REPORT RE COSTS INCURRED BY SYNOD 2012.**

The General Treasurer, Mr AH Steel, gave an indication of costs incurred by Synod 2012.

#### **12.48 THANKS**

The Moderator expressed his thanks to the members of Synod for the fellowship and participation and encouragement.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the court to the Clerk for his work.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the court to the Synod Treasurer for his efficient work and support.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the court to the Hastings congregation for hosting the Synod and for their hospitality. The Moderator expressed thanks to the ladies for their presence, fellowship and assistance. The Synod expressed agreement through acclamation.

The Clerk expressed the thanks of the court to the Moderator for his leading of the Synod and for his address and devotional messages. The Synod expressed agreement through acclamation.

#### **12.49 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of this closing Session 6 were read and confirmed.

#### **12.50 CLOSURE OF SYNOD 2012**

Synod 2012 was closed with the singing of Psalm 148 and prayer and the benediction at 11.50am.

TI Leggott  
Clerk

S Bajema  
Moderator

**ACTS OF SYNOD 2012**  
**Appended by the Direction of Synod (09.50)**

**Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Act</b>	<b>Reference</b>
1	Nil	

**Class 2 (Others)**

<b>No</b>	<b>Act</b>	<b>Reference</b>
1	Sale of Armidale Church property	12:19-1,2
2	Act concerning Interviewing Women, Children and Vulnerable Adults	12:20-1
3	Modification of Act 6 Class 2 Synod 2004: Allegations of Sexual Misconduct	12:20-2
4	Amendment to name of Victorian Property Act	12:20-3
5	Act concerning Ministers without Charge & Resigned/Retired Ministers, 2012	12:22-4
6	Act concerning Reception of Ministers from Churches with whom there is Mutual Eligibility, 2012.	12:22-5
7	Amendment to Act of Synod 1983 concerning Students & Homes Missionaries	12:22-7a
8	Amendment to Act of Synod 1983 as amended 2004 concerning Admission of Ministers from Other Churches	12:22-7b

**ADDRESS FROM MR J BRONSEMA  
DELEGATE FROM THE REFORMED CHURCHES OF THE NETHERLANDS**

Appendix (see 12:32)

**Speech to the Synod of Eastern Australia at Wauchope 2012.**

**By J. Bronsema on behalf of the Reformed Churches of the Netherlands.(RCN)**

Br. Moderator and delegates to The Synod of Eastern Australia, dear brothers in Christ, Thank you for the invitation to attend your Synod 2012 here in Wauchope. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be here again after 5 years. On behalf of the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands, I offer you warm Christian greetings. Regularly we think of you in our prayers, especially during hard times like natural disasters. We pray that you may be steadfast in faith, hope and love.

Contacts: Yes, it is already 5 years ago that we personally met at the Synod in Newcastle in 2007. In the meantime there were some other contacts. We met Dr. Dennis Muldoon shortly at the Asia Conference of Reformed Churches in Kuala Lumpur. He was on his way to Dehra Dunn to teach at PTS. I do not know whether you attended the ICRC meeting in Christchurch. We use these occasions to be in contact with our sister churches. This way we make good use of our limited capacities.

A few years ago we started to send yearly a so called “Springletter”. In this letter we inform our sister churches about developments in the RCN. And there is the quarterly magazine “Lux Mundi”, published by BBK (our Committee for Relations with Churches Abroad) with articles we think are interesting for other churches as well. We welcome articles from our sister churches to be published in “Lux Mundi”. We receive from you the “Presbyterian Banner”. We are grateful for that. In this way we get to know each other better and we can be more specific in our prayers for each other.

This Synod: Thank you for sending us your Standard Committee Reports. The Synod of Eastern Australia. It is a tall name for our little sister from down under. But small is beautiful. I can see that in many things. The brothers here seem to know each other very well. I also like the detailed Presbytery Reports. There you can see in what way Christ is taking care of you. The Gospel is preached and spread, in the churches on Sunday, on Sunday Schools and activities for fellowship. May He bless this work to the glory of His Name.

Reading the report of your Missions Committee, I was impressed by God’s Grace, who enabled you to participate in so many activities in other parts of Australia and abroad, to bring the Gospel to immigrants and Australian Indigenous people. In the lobby we can share some experiences. Support for education and training for the ministry is also very important. I see that happen in Africa, South America and India. Our churches entered into a sister church relation with the Presbyterian Free Church in India. Our aid department (DVN) is providing some help there.

I think it is appropriate to conclude my address and let us sing together Psalm 67, and ask for the Lord’s blessing by doing so. Thank you very much.