

ACTS OF SYNOD 1981

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	None	

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Stipend Adjustments	<i>Sederunt 3, Finance & Property item 2a and 2b</i>
2	Contributions to General Fund	<i>Sederunt 4, Finance & Property item 3</i>
3	Honorariums	<i>Sederunt 4, Finance & Property item 4</i>
4	Travel expenses for delegates	<i>Sederunt 4, Finance & Property item 5</i>
5	Stipend Relief for Grafton, Richmond-Brunswick and Ulverstone	<i>Sederunt 4, Finance & Property item 7 and 7a</i>
6	Requirement of 75% vote for supported missionary work	<i>Sederunt 4, Missions item 3</i>
7	Establishment of missionary work in Fiji	<i>Sederunt 4 & 6, Missions, items 4-8</i>
8	Granting Seat on Presbytery to Rev J Graham	<i>Sederunt 6, Missions, item 13</i>
9	Sanctioned Charge Status for Armidale	<i>Sederunt 6, Missions, item 13</i>
10	Appointment of Rev. S Tamata to Fiji work	<i>Sederunt 8, Missions, item 19</i>
11	Application of funds from sale of Bushgrove property	<i>Sederunt 8, Overture from Northern Presbytery</i>
12	Statement on Greek and Hebrew texts and English translations	<i>Sederunt 11</i>
13	Humble acknowledgement	<i>Sederunt 11</i>
14	Statement to former minister of St Kilda and his people	<i>Sederunt 12</i>
15	Supplementary versions of Psalms	<i>Sederunt 12, Psalmody item 5</i>
16	Reappointment of Psalter Revision Committee	<i>Sederunt 12, Psalter Revision, items 2-4</i>
17	Discontinuation of R.E.S membership	<i>Sederunt 14, Inter Church Relations, items 1-2</i>
18	Application of funds from sale of Winnaleah Manse	<i>Sederunt 14, Trustees</i>
19	Revised regulations for Retirement Fund and Long Service Leave	<i>Sederunt 14, Trustees, items 9-14</i>
20	Appointment of Rev. R.S. Ward as Trustee of Retirement Fund	<i>Sederunt 15, Trustees, items 15</i>
21	Appointment of Dr J C Andrews and E R Lee as assessors to Southern Presbytery	<i>Sederunt 15, Overture from Southern Presbytery</i>

CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

Nil

CLASS 2 – ACTS OF SYNOD OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE CHURCH

ACT 1 - Stipend Adjustments

(Sederunt 3, Finance & Property item 2a and 2b)

1. That the minimum stipend (currently \$168.00 per week) be increased with the first payment after 1st January and 1st July each year, by the full average percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index as published by the Bureau of Statistics. The amount of increase to be advised to Deacons Courts by the General Treasurer.
2. Child allowance to remain at the present rate for the time being.

ACT 2 - Contributions to General Fund

(Sederunt 4, Finance & Property item 3)

That annual congregational contributions to the General Fund for administrative costs be set at \$150 for aid-receiving congregations and \$200 for self-supporting congregations.

ACT 3 - Honorariums

(Sederunt 4, Finance & Property item 4)

That the following honorariums be paid: Clerk \$30; General Treasurer \$30; Moderator \$15; Assistant Clerk \$15; Assistant General Treasurer \$15; Banner Editor \$60; Assistant Editor \$30.

ACT 4 - Travel expenses for delegates

(Sederunt 4, Finance & Property item 5)

That travelling expenses of Synod delegates be paid at the usual rate Economy Class rail travel, or First Class with sleeper for those requiring to travel overnight, or air fare for Tasmanian delegates.

ACT 5 - Stipend Relief for Grafton, Richmond-Brunswick and Ulverstone

(Sederunt 4, Finance & Property item 7 and 7a)

That stipend relief of the following amounts be paid for 1981/82 Grafton \$1500; Richmond-Brunswick \$1400. That an amount of \$4500 be budgeted for stipend assistance to the Ulverstone congregation for the period to 30/6/1982 and that this be available strictly on a needs basis on request to the Finance, Committee with the approval of Presbytery.

ACT 6 - Requirement of 75% vote for supported missionary work

(Sederunt 4, Missions item 3)

That a 75% majority vote be required to approve the commencement of a missionary work for which this Church will assume major responsibility.

ACT 7 - Establishment of missionary work in Fiji

(Sederunt 4 & 6, Missions, items 4-8)

1. That Synod resolve to initiate a missionary work in Suva, Fiji under the direction of Mr S. Tamata.
2. That the immediate aim of the witness in Fiji will be the commencement of a literature ministry with an Evangelical and Reformed emphasis, if possible in conjunction with a Christian Bookshop and Reading Room.
3. That the ultimate aim will be the establishment of a self-supporting, selfgoverning and self-propagating Church consistent with the doctrine, worship, discipline and government of the P.C.E.A.
4. That Mr Tamata remain in Australia until September, 1982. That the greater part of this time be spent supplying the Brisbane Congregation.
5. That the Missions Committee be requested to present the Fiji Project to the Church at large and Presbyteries, Sessions and Deacons Courts be requested to stimulate interest and a sense of responsibility in the project.
6. That in the event of Mission income to Synod 1982 not reaching 75% of the total budget estimate, that the Fiji Project be reviewed by Synod 1982.

ACT 8 - Granting Seat on Presbytery to Rev J Graham

(Sederunt 6, Missions, item 13)

That we welcome Rev. John Graham and family to Australia. That we note that the Federal Relations Act renders him eligible for a seat on our Church Courts and, accordingly, grant him a seat on the Presbytery within which he is residing and working.

ACT 9 - Sanctioned Charge Status for Armidale

(Sederunt 6, Missions, item 13)

Synod re-classify the Armidale Congregation to Stage 3 Sanctioned Charge Status.

ACT 10 - Appointment of Rev. S Tamata to Fiji work

(Sederunt 8, Missions, item 19)

That the presbytery within whose bounds Rev. Tamata be labouring, be authorised to ordain him for missionary work in Fiji and he be given a seat on that Presbytery.

ACT 11 - Application of funds from sale of Bushgrove property

(Sederunt 8, Overture from Northern Presbytery)

That the prayer of the overture be granted in terms of Section 8 of the Property Act, 1918 and, with the consent of the Grafton congregation and the Northern Presbytery, the Synod authorize the use of the monies from the sale of the Brushgrove property for the purposes of the Grafton congregation.

ACT 12 - Statement on Greek and Hebrew texts and English translations
(Sederunt 11)

That we, the Ministers and Elders of the Synod of Eastern Australia, earnestly desiring and prayerfully seeking harmony and unity within our Church, conscious of our vows of adherence to the whole doctrine of the Westminster Confession of Faith in terms of the Formula of subscription, and having obtained competent advice assuring us that within the Constitution of this Church office-bearers are not bound to hold to any particular Greek or Hebrew text as the best, or to any particular English translation as the best, but that on these questions there is liberty of conscience, affirm our intention to work together for the cause of Jesus Christ, respecting members' rights to their own opinions on these questions, and together to seek to come to a better understanding of the matter of texts and versions of God's holy Word.

Nothing in this affirmation shall be taken to mean that the Church is unable to gain access to the Providentially preserved pure text of Scripture, or to suggest that a translation may be equated with the original, inerrant text.

ACT 13 - Humble acknowledgement
(Sederunt 11)

That we Ministers and Elders of the Synod of Eastern Australia acknowledge our responsibility in having contributed to the divisions in our Church, thus causing hurt to the body of Christ.

ACT 14 - Statement to former minister of St Kilda and his people
(Sederunt 12)

That Synod agrees to the following statement, and agrees to convey it immediately to the former Minister of St Kilda and his people
'We re-affirm that we are always ready to receive representations from those who approach the Synod in a spirit of meekness, with the respect due for its authority under Christ, and in conformity with the laws of the Church and proper Presbyterian procedure.
Synod also expects and requires that lower courts will display similar readiness and draws to the attention of them all the statement of unity agreed upon this day.'

ACT 15 - Supplementary versions of Psalms
(Sederunt 12, Psalmody item 5)

That the Psalter revision committee be encouraged to press on in its attempts to supplement our 1650 Psalter with other accurate translations and appropriate tunes.

ACT 16 - Reappointment of Psalter Revision Committee

(Sederunt 12, Psalter Revision, items 2-4)

1. That the Committee be reappointed with power to consult with other qualified persons on textual and musical aspects, and to seek suggestions and/or cooperation from them as individuals or as representatives of their denominations.
2. That the Committee produce an inexpensive but attractive format a selection of alternative versions with music after reviewing same and seeking wider comment from other informed persons and taking into account the comments of congregations noted at Synod 1979, and that this booklet be made available to those requiring it at a moderate charge, and to be used where judged for edification, its value and use to be reviewed by Synod in three years time in the light of experience.
3. That the Committee's appointment be continued for a period of 5 years with a view to report being made as to progress and possibilities towards a fresh translation of the whole Psalter which would have acceptance beyond our own denomination as well as within it.

ACT 17 - Discontinuation of R.E.S membership

(Sederunt 14, Inter Church Relations, items 1-2)

1. That in view of the deteriorating situation within G.K.N. and the little progress made at R.E.S. 1980, that our membership with R.E.S. be discontinued.
2. That R.E.S. be informed of Synod's decision, and fees outstanding be paid.

ACT 18 - Application of funds from sale of Winnaleah Manse

(Sederunt 14, Trustees)

That the proceeds of the sale of the Winnaleah Manse be transferred to the trust of the Ulverstone Congregation, the principal to be available for capital expenditure, subject to the approval of Southern Presbytery, and the interest to be employed for the work of the Ulverstone Congregation.

ACT 19 - Revised regulations for Retirement Fund and Long Service Leave

(Sederunt 14, Trustees, items 9-14)

1. That Section A of the Revised Regulations be adopted.
2. That Section B of the Revised Regulations be adopted.
3. That Section C of the Revised Regulations be adopted.
4. That Section D of the Revised Regulations be adopted.
5. That there be added to Section C 5 the words: Unless a contrary ruling is given by Synod on a specific case the maximum allocation to the Retirement Fund for married males entering the scheme after May 1981 is 10% and not 15% as previously, and pro rata for single men and women.
5. That legislation of previous Synods affecting Retirement Fund and Long Service Leave Fund be rescinded.

ACT 20 - Appointment of Rev. R.S. Ward as Trustee of Retirement Fund

(Sederunt 15, Trustees, items 15)

That Rev. R.S. Ward be appointed an additional Trustee of the Retirement Fund of the P.C.E.A.

ACT 21 - Appointment of Dr J C Andrews and E R Lee as assessors to Southern Presbytery

(Sederunt 15, Overture from Southern Presbytery)

1. Synod recognise that there are obvious advantages in additional members being appointed to Southern Presbytery in the event of difficulties in resolving problems concerning Mr Turnbull and his people, and therefore appoint Dr J.C. Andrews and Rev. E.R. Lee in regard to this matter, such special assessors' appointment by Synod to be effective upon the passing of an appropriate resolution to that effect by the Presbytery.
2. Synod make provision for the expenses of special assessors authorizing Southern Presbytery to open a special fund to receive contributions for that purpose should it be necessary, and to write to all deacons courts throughout the church accordingly.