

ACTS OF SYNOD 1982

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	None	

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Reporting of ministerial changes	Rec. 7, Administration Committee
2	Amendment to Act 1 Synod 1977 re Committee Reports	Rec. 9, Administration Committee
3	Communion rolls and membership statistics	Rec. 10, Administration Committee
4	Amendment to Act of Synod 1970 re seats in presbytery	Correspondence No. 9
5	Authorized signatories	Rec. 5, Finance Committee
6	Requests for finance	Rec. 8, Finance Committee
7	Missions Relief Fund	Rec. 4, Missions Committee
8	Regulations re Missions and Missionaries	Rec. 17, Missions Committee
9	Fraternal Greetings	Recs. 3, 4, Inter-Church Relations
10	Roman Catholic Baptism	Rec. 2, Section 2, Church Principles
11	Unity in the church	Recs. 2, 4, 5 and 6, Section 1, Church Principles Committee
12	Supply fees	Sederunt 15
13	Copies of Synod Minutes	Sederunt 15
14	Rescind Inter Church Recommendation 10, 1979	Sederunt 7

CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

None

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

ACT 1 - Reporting of ministerial changes

Monday 10th May 1982

(Sederunt 2)

Clerks of Presbyteries report to the Clerk of Synod in February each year any ministerial changes within the bounds.

ACT 2 - Amendment to Act 1 Synod 1977 re Committee Reports

Monday 10th May 1982

(Sederunt 2)

That Act 1, Synod 1977 Section 6 be amended to read as follows:

That in addition to any other meetings throughout the year, all Committees shall meet or correspond in the New Year prior to Synod so that all Reports and Recommendations can be in the hands of the Clerk of Synod 45 clear days prior to the opening of Synod so that they may be distributed prior to Synod.

ACT 3 - Communion rolls and membership statistics

Monday 10th May 1982
(Sederunt 2)

That Synod remind Presbyteries to ensure regular updating of communion rolls, and that membership statistics be inserted in the Presbytery record and that these be forwarded each year to the Synod Clerk. The statistics should be as at 31 December, and should be forwarded at least 45 days before Synod.

ACT 4 - Amendment to Act of Synod 1970 re Seats in Presbytery

Monday 10th May 1982
(Sederunt 3)

That the Act of Synod 1970 be amended as requested so as to read:
Synod rule that an ordained Minister of our Church giving residential supply in a Church Extension or Fully Sanctioned Charge be associated with, and under the general oversight of the presbytery of the bounds, or of the most conveniently situated presbytery, and if he give extended service of more than 3 months duration he have a seat upon the presbytery, provided he sign the formula.

ACT 5 - Authorized Signatories

Monday 10th May 1982
(Sederunt 3)

That the following be authorised signatories to all Synod Bank accounts and/or other relevant financial documents, any two signatures to be sufficient: D.L. McIntosh; N.A. McPherson; S.N. Ramsay; A.H. Steel; A.L. Tripovich; R.S. Ward; W.P. Gadsby.

ACT 6 - Requests for finance

Monday 10th May 1982
(Sederunt 3)

That previous legislation be rescinded to the extent of allowing that henceforth all requests for finance from Synod shall be forwarded by Presbyteries directly to the Finance Committee not later than 50 days prior to the meeting of Synod, and that Synod do now so resolve. And further, that the Committee bring appropriate recommendations to Synod.

ACT 7 - Missions Relief Fund

Tuesday 10th May 1982

(Sederunt 5)

That Synod adopt the regulations governing the administration of the Missions Relief Fund as contained in Appendix 111. viz:

MISSIONS RELIEF FUND REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

An anonymous gift of \$85,326.52 was received in June 1981. Synod records its gratitude to God for this gift and its appreciation of the generosity of the donor, and affirms its resolve to use the gift in accord with the desire of the donor as expressed through his solicitor to Rev. Dr Campbell Andrews for the relief of physical need.

(i) The gift is to be known as the Missions Relief Fund and is to be held by the corporate trustees and to be administered by the Synod through the Missions Committee who are to submit recommendations to each ordinary meeting of the Synod.

(ii) The terms of the gift permit the dispersal of the capital as well as the interest for the objects of the Missions Relief Fund, but for the time being, and in the interest of maximizing the value and usefulness of the Fund, sufficient interest is to be added to the gift to raise the sum invested to not less than \$100,000 by 31st December 1984. In order to endeavour to preserve the Fund against inflation and exchange effects, at the earliest convenient opportunity 50% of the invested sum is to be invested in a suitable equity-linked investment such as a suitable property trust.

(iii) Information concerning the several fields and mission activities of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and the Free Church of Scotland was provided to the donor through his solicitor by Dr Andrews, and suggestions were made by Dr Andrews for the employment of the Fund.

Accordingly

(a) after any addition to the invested sum the interest is to be disbursed for the relief of people suffering from illness and malnutrition, and from the effects of natural disasters such as fire, famine, flood, drought, earthquakes, civil disorder, war, etc., in areas where the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia and/or the Free Church of Scotland and/or other recognized evangelical relief agencies are engaged.

(b) salaries, travelling expenses and equipment of personnel employed in relief activities as well as the provision and maintenance of the buildings and vehicles they use, and the cost of medicines, protective foods, clothing, building materials, implements, seeds, etc., for people in need may be met from the Fund.

(c) for the present the Community Health Project initiated and being extended by Dr Helen Ramsay in the Chhapara area of the Indian Mission Field is to have first claim upon the Fund.

(iv) In administering the Fund in the several fields of the Free Church of Scotland the closest co-operation is to be sought with the Missions Board of the Free Church of Scotland.

(v) The financial transactions of the Missions Relief Fund are to be accounted for as a distinct fund in the Synod accounts.

ACT 8 - Regulations re Missions and Missionaries

Tuesday 11th May 1982

(Sederunt 6)

That Synod adopt the draft regulations in Appendix 1 as the regulations pertaining to missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia subject to the advice of the Procurator.

ACT 9 - Fraternal Greetings

Tuesday 11th May 1982

(Sederunt 7)

That we convey our fraternal greetings to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia (Clerk, 20 Fenwick Street, Geelong 3220) and send them a copy of our Synod reports and minutes, and advise them we have continued the remit of 1975 for the Southern Presbytery to meet with them to discuss closer relations, and that we would welcome opportunity to share together in areas such as publications and statements on public questions.

That we convey our greetings to the Free Reformed Churches of Australia (C/o Rev. K. Bruning, PO Box 12, Armadale W.A. 6112) and send them a copy of our Synod reports and minutes.

ACT 10 - Roman Catholic Baptism

Wednesday 12th May 1982

(Sederunt 10)

That Synod expresses the opinion that it is not inconsistent with the Scripture or our subordinate standards to hold that Roman Catholic "baptism" is invalid. However, given the long-standing consensus of the Reformed and Protestant Churches on this matter, together with the conscientious scruples of some members of this court, Synod resolves to refrain from further determination of the matter at this time, and to seek the opinion of other Presbyterian and Reformed bodies, both in Australia and overseas.

ACT 11 - Unity in the Church

Thursday 13th May 1982

(Sederunt 13)

1. That Synod urges all of our people to engage in a careful study of Ephesians chapter 4 and parallel passages as well as chapter 26 of the Westminster Confession of Faith entitled "Of Communion of Saints," with a view to the practical application of the principles contained therein.

2. Synod remind office-bearers that while they may exercise their right to vote against or dissent from findings of any court of our church, yet such does not exempt them from their ordination vow to submit to and concur with the government of this church.
3. Synod urges all office bearers to be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and to seek earnestly the forgiveness of Almighty God for past sins which have grieved the Holy Spirit and caused much hurt to the body of Christ.
4. Synod affirms that there is no deficiency in the Gospel of Christ as it is transmitted to us in the Authorised Version, the New International Version and the New American Standard Bible, each of these versions having Synodical approval.

ACT 12 – Supply Fees

Friday 14th May 1982

(Sederunt 15)

PULPIT SUPPLY

1. That all previous relevant decisions be rescinded.
2. That the minimum rate payable for Pulpit supply:
 - (a) For Ministers, Probationers or Students who have other sources of income be 10% of the weekly minimum stipend per service, plus travelling allowance.
 - (b) For short term supply and limited Pastoral work (e.g. by retired Ministers or Missionaries) be 50% Minimum stipend per week, plus accommodation and travelling expenses if necessary.
 - (c) For resident supply and full Pastoral work by a Minister, be minimum stipend plus accommodation and travelling expenses.
 - (d) For resident supply and Pastoral work by Probationers, or other supply, be 90%, minimum stipend, plus accommodation and travelling allowance.
 - (e) For resident supply and Pastoral work by a Student with no other source of income be - married 85% minimum stipend; single, 60% minimum stipend, plus accommodation and travelling expenses if necessary.¹². Anent Supply fees.

ACT 13 – Copies of Synod Minutes

Friday 14th May 1982

(Sederunt 15)

That copies of Synod minutes be made available to our people at a nominal charge.

ACT 14 – Rescind Inter Church Recommendation 10, 1979

Tuesday 11th May 1982

(Sederunt 7)

That Inter-church Relations recommendation No.10, 1979 be rescinded.