

ACTS OF SYNOD 1986

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	None	

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Fijian work: status as a preaching station	Sederunt 2
2	Distribution of Committee Reports, Minutes, etc.	Sederunt 4
3	Establishment of 'Synod special visit account'	Sederunt 4
4	Synod bank account signatories	Sederunt 4
5	Accounts with institutions additional to Westpac	Sederunt 4
6	8:14 Foundation regulations - amendments	Sederunt 5
7	Requiring annual audited account for The Presbyterian Banner	Sederunt 5
8	Presbytery meetings - cost sharing	Sederunt 6
9	Armidale property purchase authorisation	Sederunt 6
10	Co-ordination by Church Extension and Supply Committee of financial assistance to all aid-receiving charges	Sederunt 6
11	Requiring annual budget to be prepared by Church Extension & Supply Committee	Sederunt 6
12	Missions Relief Fund regulations - amendment	Sederunt 6
13	Requiring specified Presbyterial oversight of congregations within their bounds	Sederunt 8
14	Lease of Broadmeadow property - authorisation	Sederunt 8
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16	NSW Trust corporation - emergency arrangements	Sederunt 8
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28	Amendment of Act 8, class 2, 1985 re sale of Melbourne property	Sederunt 13

CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

None

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

ACT 1 - Fijian work: status as a preaching station

Monday, 19 May 1986

Sederunt 2

Synod ordain that the work in Fiji be recognised as a preaching station under the supervision of the Committee and the station be known as the Presbyterian Church of Fiji.

ACT 2 - Distribution of Committee Reports, Minutes, etc.

Monday, 19 May 1986

Sederunt 4

That copies of Synod Committee Reports, Annual Accounts and Minutes be sent to ministers, representative elders, congregational treasurers, and clerks of Sessions and Deacons' Courts.

ACT 3 - Establishment of 'Synod special visit account'

Monday, 19 May 1986

Sederunt 4

That the balance remaining from the Professor MacMillan visit be placed in a Synod special visit account and that congregations be invited to make periodic contributions to this account with a view to future visits from noted Christian preachers.

ACT 4 - Synod bank account signatories

Monday, 19 May 1986

Sederunt 4

It was further resolved that signatories to Synod banking and other financial documents now be:

W.P. Gadsby, A.L. Tripovich, R.S. Ward, J. McCallum, J.G. Harris, D.L. McIntosh, N.A. McPherson, any two signatures to be sufficient.

ACT 5 - Accounts with institutions additional to Westpac

Monday, 19 May 1986

Sederunt 4

Synod authorise the use of accounts with banking institutions additional to Westpac.

ACT 6 - 8:14 Foundation regulations - amendments

Tuesday 20 May 1986

Sederunt 5

1. Synod express appreciation for the continued support of the Foundation.

2. Deposits may be now made with the Foundation for any agreed period up to 5 years.
3. Term deposits may continue to earn interest at the nominated rate after completion of the nominated term, to be repayable at call.

ACT 7 - Requiring annual audited account for The Presbyterian Banner

Tuesday 20 May 1986

Sederunt 5

That an audited account for "The Presbyterian Banner" be presented to Synod annually.

ACT 8 - Presbytery meetings - cost sharing

Tuesday 20 May 1986

Sederunt 6

Synod noting the heavy burden resting upon the congregations of the Southern Presbytery with reference to travelling expenses for Presbytery meetings direct Presbytery treasurers to consult and arrive at a formula whereby each Presbytery contributes an equal share of the travel costs to Presbytery meetings within our church. That the amount per Presbytery be calculated on the basis of 3 ordinary meetings of Presbytery per year.

ACT 9 - Armidale property purchase authorisation

Tuesday 20 May 1986

Sederunt 6

Synod direct and authorize the Armidale Deacons' Court to investigate the purchase of an existing building suitable for the congregation in the \$60,000 price range; that should a suitable property be located and funding from the 8:14 Foundation and other available funds be adequate, that the body corporate The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia be authorized to sign such documents as may be necessary to effect the purchase, a moderate mortgage of the property acquired and/or the Armidale manse being also authorized. In the event of a purchase being possible, an appeal for gifts and loans direct to Deacons' Courts and through the church magazine is authorized.

ACT 10 - Co-ordination by Church Extension and Supply Committee of financial assistance to all aid-receiving charges

Tuesday 20 May 1986

Sederunt 6

As well as reporting on and co-ordinating financial assistance for official Church Extension charges (ie. currently Brisbane and Armidale), the Church Extension & Supply Committee fill a like role in respect of Sanctioned Charges (ie. land and buildings fully paid for) which are aid receiving (ie. currently Grafton and Ulverstone). and that future requests for financial assistance by such charges be directed to this committee rather than to the Finance Committee.

ACT 11 - Requiring annual budget to be prepared by Church Extension & Supply Committee

Tuesday 20 May 1986

Sederunt 6

For accounting purposes Stipend and Church Extension funds be consolidated in Synod Accounts, and that a budget of anticipated income and expenditure be included in the Church Extension and Supply Committee's report to each Synod.

ACT 12 - Missions Relief Fund regulations - amendment

Tuesday 20 May 1986

Sederunt 6

Synod amend Regulation 1 of the Missions Relief Fund regulations (1982) by deleting the words "are to submit recommendations" and substituting the words "must account for the distribution of the funds". The amended regulation now reads:

1. 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 must account for the distribution of the funds to each ordinary meeting of the Synod.

ACT 13 - Requiring specified Presbyterian oversight of congregations within their bounds

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 8

In addition to an annual report to Synod from each Presbytery covering all congregational and other work in the bounds, Presbyteries are directed to give special oversight, assistance and encouragement to aid-receiving congregations, and to require regular reports from all Sessions and Deacons' Courts describing concisely but with detail specific efforts made to extend the witness in their area and the result.

ACT 14 - Lease of Broadmeadow property - authorisation

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 8

Synod instruct the body corporate "The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia" to execute the lease dated 16th August 1984, and to take such steps as may be practical to ensure the lease from time to time is reviewed to reasonable market value. And further authorize the body corporate to execute the new lease, subject to Central Presbytery's approval, and application of the proceeds in terms of the 1918 Property Act.

ACT 15 - Sale of Taree manse - authorisation

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 8

That the Manning River Deacons Court be authorized to sell the existing manse in Taree at fair market value and to apply the proceeds to the purchase of a more suitable manse and that the body corporate "The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia" be authorized to execute all necessary documents.

ACT 16 - NSW Trust corporation - emergency arrangements

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 8

In the event of either or both of the Moderator and General Treasurer being unavailable this year for signing and sealing documents, then for the purposes of the NSW Property Act the Rev. K. MacLeod and Mr J.G. Harris be the Moderator and Treasurer of Synod respectively and as required.

ACT 17 - Mary Ashman bequest - application

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 8

That the legacy of Mrs Mary Ashman when received be allocated in equal proportions to the Missions and Training of the Ministry Funds. The Missions portion to be invested for the time being and the interest paid to the General Missions Fund: the remaining portion being dealt with as required by the Training of the Ministry Committee.

ACT 18 - Seats on Presbytery for ministers not inducted

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 9

- a) The Synod regulates the granting of seats on presbyteries to ministers who are not inducted, as follows: Such a man must be ordained. Unless appointed as an assessor he must reside within the bounds of the presbytery on which he receives a seat, and the Synod must be satisfied that a task substantially equivalent to a pastoral charge is committed to him, or that he is able and willing to assist in the courts of the church and circumstances (nature of task, fewness of other ministers, etc.) suggest granting a seat is for the church's distinct advantage. The Synod reviews granting of seats under this provision from time to time.
- b) Nothing in this Act affects the right of ministers not inducted to be elected as ruling elders in the congregations to which they attach themselves, nor the right of church courts to give a voice but not a vote to uninducted ministers of the church in good standing.
- c) An ordained minister of the church giving regular full time residential supply in a Church Extension or Fully Sanctioned Charge is for that period under the oversight of the presbytery of the bounds, and if he gives extended service of more than three consecutive months he has a seat on the presbytery automatically if necessary to give a quorum (or by the decision of the presbytery otherwise) provided that in all cases he sign the formula.

d) In line with the spirit of the Federal Relations Act 1954, ministers of the Free Church of Scotland working with agencies such as Christian Witness to Israel and entitled to a seat on Presbytery under rules of the Free Church of Scotland, shall likewise be granted a seat when on secondment to parallel work in Australia.

e) All previous legislation on this subject is repealed except to the extent that it is incorporated herein.

ACT 19 - Ministers without charge, and resigned ministers

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 9

a) A Register of Ministers without Charge and a Roll of Resigned Ministers shall be kept by the Clerk of Synod.

b) When a minister's resignation of his charge has been accepted by his Presbytery it also decides whether his name should be placed on the Register of Ministers without Charge, or merely placed on the Roll of Resigned Ministers. Should a Presbytery resolve that the name not be included in the Register, the minister is entitled to be informed of the reason(s) and may bring the matter before Synod in due form.

c) When a minister's resignation of his charge has been accepted by his Presbytery, the Clerk of Presbytery provides him with a certificate of his standing and an Extract Minute of the Presbytery's decision. The Presbytery Clerk also notifies the Clerk of Synod by Extract Minute.

d) Upon receipt of the Presbytery's advice, the Clerk of Synod shall place the name of the resigned minister upon the Register or the Roll, as the case may be. If upon the Register, then the minister shall be eligible for call, but if upon the Roll the minister shall not be eligible for call unless his name is transferred to the Register as hereinafter provided.

e) In no case shall a resigned minister remain on the Register for more than three years from the date of his resignation, unless application is made to the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident before the expiry of the three year period. If such application is made, the Presbytery obtains such information as may be appropriate before coming to a decision. If such application is not made, the Clerk of Synod removes the man's name from the Register to the Roll at the end of the three years.

f) The name of a minister on the Register or the Roll may be removed at his own request and must be removed if he becomes a minister of another church. A minister desiring his name to be transferred from the Roll to the Register shall petition Synod through the Presbytery within whose bounds he is resident.

g) Ministers without Charge and Resigned Ministers shall be under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery within whose bounds they are resident.

h) The Synod specifically direct that this Act does not apply to ministers who, subsequent to resignation of their charges, have been granted seats in Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, nor to those who now or hereafter may be granted seats in terms of "Act concerning seats on presbyteries for ministers not inducted" of Synod 1986.

i) All legislation of previous Synods on this subject is repealed except to the extent that it is incorporated herein.

ACT 20 - Calls to ministers resigned from the Free Church of Scotland

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 9

Synod direct that in regard to a minister who has resigned a charge in the Free Church of Scotland and wishes to be eligible to be called to a charge in the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia in terms of the Federal Relations Act (1954), procedure shall be as follows:

- (1) Within two months of his arrival in Australia he shall present to the Presbytery within whose bounds he has taken up residence a Certificate from the Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland which accepted his resignation.
- (2) Provided that this Certificate shows that the minister resigned in good standing and that it is dated no more than three months prior to its presentation to a Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia the said Presbytery may instruct the Clerk of Synod, by Extract Minute, to include the minister's name in the Register of Ministers without Charge.
- (3) Before a Presbytery of this Church proceed to moderate a Call to a minister resigned from the Free Church of Scotland, it must receive written assurance from the Clerk of Synod that the name of the minister has been included in the Register in terms of the foregoing clauses.

Synod further direct that:

A probationer or licentiate of the Free Church of Scotland who wishes to be eligible for a Call or Appointment in the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia shall furnish a certificate of his standing from the Clerk of Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland to the Clerk of Synod in order for his name being included in the Register.

(This Act is parallel to Act 1 Class 2 of the Free Church of Scotland, 1974)

ACT 21 - Normal retirement age of ministers

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 9

Synod repeal Act 4 of Class 2 (Synod 1984) and resolve that in future the normal age for retirement of ministers from inducted service be 65 years except with the express concurrence of the Presbytery following visitation of the charge.

ACT 22 - Amendments to NSW Property Act of 1918

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 10

1. That Synod, recognizing the need for amendments to The Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act of 1918, and having considered the proposed Bill to amend the said Act included in the Reports to this Synod, hereby adopts the proposed Bill in lieu of that adopted by Synod in 1985.
2. That Synod remit the proposed Bill to presbyteries for their consent in terms of the Barrier Act, 1697, returns to be made by 31st December 1986.
3. That Synod direct the Clerk of Synod to circulate the proposed Bill to Sessions, Deacons' Courts and Congregations in New South Wales for their approval.
4. That the following instructions be conveyed to Sessions, Deacons' Courts and Congregations, and followed by them:

- (a) when a unanimous decision is achieved, the Moderator is to declare it so, and the fact is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting; should there be any dissents, these are to be recorded, and the number of them stated in the minutes; the minutes are to be thereupon confirmed;
- (b) the confirmed relevant extract minutes of the respective meetings are to be typed on A4 sheets of paper, one side only, and certified by Clerk and Moderator;
- (c) the extracts thus prepared are to be forwarded to the Clerk of Synod as soon as practicable following their confirmation and certification;
- (d) where there is disapproval of the proposed Bill, a clear, concise and complete statement of the reasons is to be furnished to the Clerk of Synod with the above-mentioned extracts;
- (e) all returns are to be in the hands of the Clerk of Synod by 31st December 1986, in order that the Law & Advisory Committee may commence the steps necessary to obtain legislation in terms of the proposed Bill should the required approvals be given by lower courts and congregations.

ACT 23 - Bounds of Northern and Central Presbyteries

Wednesday 21 May 1986

Sederunt 10

Synod declare the bounds of Northern Presbytery to be the Hastings Municipality and to the north and west of the same in New South Wales together with the whole of Queensland; and the bounds of Central Presbytery to be the Manning Municipality and south and west of the same in New South Wales.

ACT 24 - Congregational financial records and auditing

Thursday 22 May 1986

Sederunt 11

a. Each Deacons' Court appoints one or more Treasurers, not necessarily member(s) of the court. The Treasurer receives, disburses and accounts for all monies under the care of the Deacons' Court, as it directs, and produces for inspection, when required, all books of accounts together with all relevant vouchers. All monies received by the Treasurer for whatever purpose shall be banked promptly as received in an account kept in the church's name, viz. Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia ... Congregation, at least two signatories being required for withdrawals.

All payments shall be made by cheque. Church offerings are to be counted by two persons designated by the Deacons' Court while in each other's presence, and the figure entered into a book and initialled by both persons.

b. The Deacons' Court gathers the monetary contributions of the congregation, takes charge of them and of any other monies received by or for the use of the congregation, and disburses them for the purposes for which they were contributed. The Deacons' Court keeps proper and adequate books of account and other financial records, and complies with the auditing and other requirements laid down by the Synod.

c. The audit shall be a complete examination of the books so that the revenue and expenditure may be safeguarded and the correctness of the various accounts and the information as disclosed by the

annual statements may be properly verified. The auditor shall be a competent person or persons not being a member of the Deacons' Court. It is preferable that the auditor has accountancy experience.

d. The auditor shall be supplied by the Deacons' Court with an annual statement of the Court's receipts and expenditure together with a statement of funds showing investments and also particulars of any form of mortgage or loan. The statement of funds may be in the form of a balance sheet in regular form showing the whole assets and liabilities of the congregation and its organizations.

e. The auditor shall examine the church offering book and compare with the bank deposits and the bank statement shall be reconciled with the cash book. He shall ensure that all amounts paid are applied to the purposes for which they were contributed and no other. The auditor is entitled to examine all the records and in particular should sight the certificates covering any investments or loans.

f. After the accounts have been duly prepared and audited they are submitted to the Presbytery of the bounds for attestation if the Presbytery finds them to be in order. Once attested the accounts are ready to be presented at the annual meeting of the congregation.

ACT 25 - Provident Funds regulations - amendment

Thursday 22 May 1986

Sederunt 11

That from 1.1.1987 Section B 1 of the Provident Fund Regulations be amended to substitute for the words "and to be paid before the close of the calendar year" the words "and to be paid in two approximately equal half-yearly instalments by the close of the calendar year".

ACT 26 - Presbyterial review of youth activities and reporting to Youth & Fellowship Committee

Thursday 22 May 1986

Sederunt 12

Synod requests Presbyteries to review and encourage youth activities within the bounds and forward brief, regular reports to this committee.

ACT 27 - Psalter Revision Committee - abolition

Thursday 22 May 1986

Sederunt 12

Synod combine the Psalmody Committee and the Psalter Revision Committee.

ACT 28 - Amendment of Act 8, class 2, 1985 re sale of Melbourne property

Thursday 22 May 1986

Sederunt 13

Synod approve the location of the Melbourne manse in an area suited to the needs of the Melbourne congregation subject to the consent of the Deacons Court and Congregation and to this extent vary the decision of Synod 1985 Correspondence Item 6. 3(b).