

ACTS OF SYNOD 1988

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	None	

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Amalgamation of Committees	Sederunt 2
2	Abolition of Administrative Levy	Sederunt 2
3	Responsibility of Finance Committee	Sederunt 2
4	Southern Presbytery Travelling Expenses	Sederunt 2
5	Report about Fiji work required	Sederunt 3
6	Annual Collections for CWI and Missions Relief Fund	Sederunt 3
7	Establishment of New Charges	Sederunt 3
8	Updating of NSW Old System Titles	Sederunt 4
9	Leasing of Property in NSW	Sederunt 5
10	Sale of congregational property (excluding places of worship)	Sederunt 5
11	Appointment of New Trustee in Victoria	Sederunt 5
12	Discussions with Reformed Presbyterian Church	Sederunt 5
13	Discussions with Free Reformed Church	Sederunt 5
14	Biennial Family Rallies	Sederunt 6
15	Fellowship Travel Assistance Scheme	Sederunt 6
16	Presbyterian Theological College (Vic.) Approved	Sederunt 9
17	Provident Fund Regulation E2 Amendment	Sederunt 9
18	Provident Fund Regulation C5 Amendment	Sederunt 10

CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

None

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

ACT 1 – Amalgamation of Committees

Monday 4th July 1988

Sederunt 2

That previous legislation be rescinded to the extent necessary to permit the amalgamation of the Psalmody, Publications and Faith & Life Committees, the new Committee to be styled the "Faith & Life Committee," and that Synod so enact.

ACT 2 – Abolition of Administrative Levy

Monday 4th July 1988

Sederunt 2

That the Administrative Levy be abolished and Congregations urged to remember administrative needs in their givings to the General Fund.

ACT 3 – Responsibility of Finance Committee

Monday 4th July 1988

Sederunt 2

Synod rescind Act of Synod 1974 (Rec. 7 p12) and Act of Synod 1983 (Rec. 5 p6) except in so far as they are incorporated herein and enact as follows:

The Finance Committee has the responsibility of co-ordinating all requests for finance by standing committees (other than the Provident Funds Committee) and presenting a succinct report to each Synod so as to enable the Synod to be fully aware of its capacity or otherwise to meet those requests, and the level of additional giving which may be required. Each Presbytery and Synod Committee is enjoined to provide such information to the Finance Committee as will enable it to fulfil its remit.

ACT 4 – Southern Presbytery Travelling Expenses

Monday 4th July 1988

Sederunt 2

Synod (1) rescind Act 8 of Class 2 Synod 1986; (2) agree that 60% of the cost of airfares to and from Tasmania in the course of the proper exercise of the Southern Presbytery's oversight be met in future by the Synod General Fund upon the Clerk of Southern Presbytery furnishing a certified extract of a relevant Presbytery resolution as to costs; and (3) grant the sum of \$700 from Synod General Fund for this object for the period to Synod 1988.

ACT 5 – Report about Fiji work required

Monday 4th July 1988

Sederunt 3

Synod ask the Missions Committee to report to Synod 1989 concerning our responsibility as a church to engage in regular pastoral oversight by visitation of our congregation in Fiji and to make an appropriate recommendation.

ACT 6 – Annual Collections for CWI and Missions Relief Fund

Monday 4th July 1988

Sederunt 3

Synod recommend that annual collections be taken up for C.W.I. and the Missions Relief Fund in our Congregations; and in Congregations where such collections are not taken up, the needs of C.W.I. and Missions Relief Fund be brought before the respective Deacons Courts.

ACT 7 – Establishment of New Charges

Monday 4th July 1988

Sederunt 3

That Synod agree in principle to aim with the Lord's help at the establishment of 1 additional charge every 2 years.

ACT 8 – Updating of NSW Old System Titles

Monday 4th July 1988

Sederunt 4

That Synod agree in principle to aim with the Lord's help at the establishment of 1 additional charge every 2 years.

ACT 9 – Leasing of Property in NSW

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 5

Synod enact as follows:

LEASING OF PROPERTY IN NSW

Pursuant to Section 6 of the Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act of 1918, the Synod hereby appoints the Presbytery of the bounds its agent for approving the lease of property belonging to a Congregation, provided that the Presbytery is satisfied as to:

- (a) why the lease is desired;
- (b) how the proceeds will be used;
- (c) the period of any one lease, which shall not exceed 12 months except in the case of investment property, where normal commercial terms shall apply; and
- (d) the rental received, that it represents fair market value, with provision for regular review to that level.

The body corporate, The Trustees of the Synod of Eastern Australia, is hereby authorized to execute such Presbytery-approved lease documents, and is directed to report on this to the ensuing annual meeting of the Synod.

ACT 10 – Sale of Congregational Property (Excluding places of worship)

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 5

Synod hereby authorizes the Presbytery of the bounds to give approval in the name of Synod, to the sale of property vesting in the relevant trust corporation, other than places of worship, provided that:

- a) the Congregation has been informed of the reasons for the proposed sale, and the purpose for which the funds realized will be used, and has given its consent, certified to the Presbytery by extract minute;
- b) in the case of the sale of a manse the Presbytery has been satisfied that the provision of a suitable manse is assured upon the sale of the old;
- c) the sale and related purchases are handled in their legal aspects by a competent firm of solicitors; and
- d) in all respects the provisions of the applicable Act of Parliament, and legislation of Synod are adhered to.

The Synod further directs and authorizes the applicable body corporate to sign and seal all necessary documents and to report the transactions to the ensuing ordinary meeting of Synod.

ACT 11 – Appointment of New Trustee in Victoria

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 5

That Rev. William Morton Mackay, School Principal, of Burwood (Melbourne) be appointed a member of the body corporate, The Trustees for Victoria of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, to fill the vacancy created by the death on May 10, 1988 of Mr James Hill.

ACT 12 – Discussions with Reformed Presbyterian Church

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 5

That Southern Presbytery be requested to continue discussions with the RPCA, particularly with respect to their new constitution and that Presbytery keep the Inter-Church Relations Committee fully briefed on developments.

ACT 13 – Discussions with Free Reformed Church

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 5

That discussions with the FRCA be continued with a view to clarifying further the points of difference or confusion which have been raised.

ACT 14 – Biennial Family Rallies

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 6

Synod urge Presbyteries to continue to organise annual Rallies on a local basis, and that a church-wide Family Rally be organised during the Christmas-New Year holidays. This Rally to take place every second year at a suitable accessible location in N.S.W. and that assistance be given to any fellowships who travels interstate and who is encountering economic hardship.

The first of these be held commencing on Boxing Day, 1989;

The Fellowship Committee in conjunction with the host congregation determine the theme of the Rally and allot topics and invite speakers; Papers be prepared by Fellowship members for presentation at each morning session and a guest speaker be featured at the evening sessions and afternoons be free time;

At the Synod prior to the Rally, the Committee give formal notice of all the details for the forthcoming Rally.

ACT 15 – Fellowship Travel Assistance Scheme

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 6

A Travel Assistance Scheme for fellowships attending Rallies be introduced.

- (a) The Rally must be either the one approved by Presbytery or the Church-wide Family Rally.
- (b) The organising committee is to determine the needy cases and must take into account such matters as the number of fellowships from the one family, whether out of work, and distance to be travelled. The maximum assistance would be 20% of fares (25% for Tasmania) with a maximum of \$300 per Presbytery per year and in the case of the Church-wide Rally the maximum assistance of 20% of fares (25% for Tasmania) apply only to those travelling interstate with a maximum of \$600 per Rally.

For the time being this scheme is to be funded from the interest accruing from the Port Macquarie property investment.

ACT 16 – Presbyterian Theological College (Vic.) Approved

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 9

In addition to the Free Church College Edinburgh, the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria be regarded as a suitable alternative for the academic training of our students, to be supplemented by such studies as the Committee deems appropriate for each student.

ACT 17 – Provident Fund Regulation E2 Amendment

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 9

That the following sentence be added to Section E2 of the Regulations: 'For the purpose of calculating any pension entitlement the target benefit is the nett benefit received from the Retirement Fund after deducting the Superannuation Tax applied with effect from July 1, 1983'.

ACT 18 – Provident Fund Regulation C5 Amendment

Tuesday 5th July 1988

Sederunt 10

That the following sentence be added to Section C5 of the Regulations: 'Where it becomes evident to the Provident Funds Committee that the target benefit will be exceeded if the standard church contribution is maintained, the church contribution for that member may be suspended or reduced, and the amount uncontributed placed to the credit of the Supplementary Benefits Fund - it being always understood that such amounts can be paid in to the Retirement Fund later if necessary to meet any shortfall from the target'.