

ACTS OF SYNOD 1989

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	None	

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Formation, Status, Oversight and Review of Congregations	16.8
2	Appointment of Archivist for PCEA historical material	16.9
3	Provision for archiving of Free Pres. Church of South Aust. records	16.10
4	Standardization on the calendar year for all PCEA financial matters	19.2
5	Annual fraternal greetings to be sent to fellow ICRC members	20.7
6	Reclassification of Brisbane Congregation to Fully Sanctioned Charge	24.7
7	Acknowledgment of Presbytery's recognition of Sydney South	24.8
8	Declaration of PCEA policy regarding Free Church of Central India	25.4
9	Faith and Life Committee renamed to Church and Nation Committee	33.1
10	Requiring Presbytery approval of major capital works	38.2
11	Adoption of chapters 1 to 3 of new Church Practice	40
12	Leasing of property in NSW (supplementary provisions)	50
13	Leasing of property in Queensland	51
14	Provident Fund Regulation B1 (a) amendment	55.6

CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

None

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

ACT 1 - Formation, Status, Oversight & Review of Congregations

Wednesday 29th March 1989

Minutes 89.16.8

Synod enact as follows:

Formation, Status, Oversight & Review of Congregations

- a. The presbytery has a general responsibility and duty relative to the well-being of the church and its work, and of the congregations, and all congregational property, organisations and activities, within its jurisdiction, in consequence of which it exercises a general oversight of congregational affairs and of the interests of the church within its bounds, and sees that the law of the church and all lawful directives received from time to time from the Synod are obeyed within its bounds.
- b. The presbytery has a special responsibility to all those residents within its bounds who are not connected with some other branch of the Christian Church and takes such steps as it deems necessary and practicable, including house to house visitation under the direction of sessions, to locate such persons and make Gospel ordinances available to them.
- c. In sparsely populated areas within its bounds, or where the number of persons is too few to form an organised congregation, it is the duty of the presbytery to arrange for periodical visits or such other actions as will make the services and ordinances of the church available to such persons.

d. In areas within its bounds where rapid development, accompanied by increasing population, is apparent, it is the duty of presbytery, by the erection of new charges or preaching stations, or by the rearrangement of existing ones, to see that adequate provision is made for the religious needs of such areas, the mind of affected existing congregations being always obtained.

e. A number of persons in a locality wishing to be supplied with Christian ordinances may apply for the same to the presbytery within whose bounds they live. If the presbytery judge it expedient to grant their request, the presbytery establishes a preaching station and places it under a session. A presbytery may itself originate a preaching station. A preaching station may be raised to the status of a fully organised congregation by the presbytery when it is satisfied as to the stability of the membership roll and the viability of the work, and the Synod Clerk is advised by extract minute of the Presbytery resolution. However, in cases where the proposed sanctioned charge is not fully self-supporting both as to revenue and capital needs, the Presbytery must first obtain the consent of the Synod.

ACT 2 - Appointment of Archivist for PCEA historical material

Wednesday 29th March 1989

Minutes 89.16.9

That Synod records and papers not required by the Clerk be suitably stored in the Wantirna Church building with Rev. R.S. Ward as Archivist, and that any court or individual desirous of so doing, be permitted to lodge historical material with the Archivist also. Synod requests Mr Ward to submit a list of material in the Archives to the next Synod and also requests Presbyteries and Sessions to furnish details of records they have to Mr Ward in order that what is lost or unlocated may be known and inquiries about records can be appropriately directed.

ACT 3 - Provision for archiving of Free Pres. Church of South Aust. Records

Wednesday 29th March 1989

Minutes 89.16.10

Synod approve the lodging of records of the Free Presbyterian Church of South Australia in the State Archives subject to provision for access to bona fide researchers.

ACT 4 - Standardization on the calendar year for all PCEA financial matters

Wednesday 29th March 1989

Minutes 89.19.2

That all matters relating to finance be based on the Calendar year and all budgets and requests for finance be from January to December in each year.

ACT 5 - Annual fraternal greetings to be sent to fellow ICRC members

Wednesday 29th March 1989

Minutes 89.20.7

That Synod's fraternal greetings be conveyed annually by the Clerk of Synod to all our fellow members of the ICRC.

ACT 6 - Reclassification of Brisbane Congregation to Fully Sanctioned Charge

Wednesday 29th March 1989

Minutes 89.24.7

That Brisbane Charge be recognised as a fully sanctioned charge from Jan. 1st 1990.

ACT 7 - Acknowledgment of Presbytery's recognition of Sydney South

Wednesday 29th March 1989

Minutes 89.24.8

Synod receive with joy Central Presbytery's recognition of the Sydney South Preaching Station as a Fully Sanctioned Charge.

ACT 8 - Declaration of PCEA policy regarding Free Church of Central India

Wednesday 29th March 1989

Minutes 89.25.4

Synod declares its support for the development of the Free Church of Central India, for the medical work, and health projects and for the work of the school.

ACT 9 - Faith and Life Committee renamed to Church and Nation Committee

Thursday 30th March 1989

Minutes 89.33.1

That this Committee be renamed, Church and Nation Committee.

ACT 10 - Requiring Presbytery approval of major capital works

Thursday 30th March 1989

Minutes 89.38.2

Synod now enact in terms of Section 3.20 of the draft revised Church Practice appended to this report. 3.20 Application to the presbytery of the bounds is to be made by a deacons' court for permission to erect, extend, significantly alter, remove or demolish any buildings belonging to the congregation. Reference must be made to presbytery before commencement, particularly with respect to financial and insurance aspects. Evidence of the session's approval will be necessary.

ACT 11 - Adoption of chapters 1 to 3 of new Church Practice

Thursday 30th March 1989

Minutes 89.40

Synod expresses its appreciation for the input of individuals and church courts to the revision of the Church Practice over the past seven years, and now substitutes Chapters 1 to 3 of the Practice as bound with Synod Reports 1989 for pages 1-9 and 13-18 of the Free Church of Scotland Practice (1964 edition), and to that extent varies the legislation of Synod 1978 (adopting the 1964 edition) and Synod 1983 (commending the draft revised practice published that year as 'a useful adjunct' to the Free Church of Scotland Practice).

ACT 12 - Leasing of property in NSW (supplementary provisions)

Friday 31st March 1989

Minutes 89.50

Synod request Presbyteries to ensure that leases be executed in accordance with the Property Act and the legislation of Synod. In the case of any existing leases not executed by the Trustees, the Trustees are authorised to acknowledge if otherwise in order, that the execution thereof by the relative Deacons' Courts, is in agreement with the provisions of the NSW Property Act 1918, Section 14 (The appointment of Agents).

ACT 13 - Leasing of property in Queensland

Friday 31st March 1989

Minutes 89.51

Synod hereby appoints the Presbytery of the bounds its agent for approving the lease of congregational property in Queensland, 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 a fair market value, with provision for regular review to that level.

The body, Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, as incorporated under the (Qld.) Religious, Educational, and Charitable Institutions Act 1861-1967, 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 of Eastern Australia.

ACT 14 - Provident Fund Regulation B1 (a) amendment

Friday 31st March 1989

Minutes 89.55.6

That Section B1 (a) of the Regulations of the Provident Funds Committee be amended to read as follows:

a. An annual levy of 8.5% of the minimum stipend for the year to 30th June, such levy to apply to every vacant and settled sanctioned charge as a preference burden after stipend, and to be paid in two approximately equal half-yearly instalments by the close of the calendar year. Aid to aid-receiving charges is to allow for the payment of the levy. With effect from 1st January 1989, a charge that is vacant for part or all of a year shall be entitled to a 50% reduction on the amount of levy pro rated for the duration of the vacancy unless it is receiving extended residential supply from a minister for whom contributions are being made to the Superannuation and/or Long Service Leave Funds in respect of that period of supply.