

ACTS OF SYNOD 1990

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	None	

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Presbyteries to provide written justification for financial grants applications	20.03
2	Sessions to encourage gifted men to become ministers of the Word	34.02
3	Training of Ministry Committee power to set student allowances	34.03
4	Amending Training of Ministry Consolidating Act (Act 15, 1983)	34.05
5	Confirmation of Dr W.J.W. Hanna's reception as student and home missionary	35
6	Biennial Easter Youth Rally	36.03
7	Deputation visits from overseas churches	41.07
8	Procedures for maintaining contacts with churches in India, Peru and South Africa	41.08
9	Authorization of specified gifts without express Synodical approval	41.12
10	Annual Church Directory to be funded from Synod General Fund	44.03
11	New Church Extension and Supply Committee regulations	46.01
12	Procedure when Presbytery lapses	46.02
13	Commissioners of a Presbytery prosecuting a call	46.04
14	Pension rate increase	58.03
15	Inflation-proofing of Synod investments	65.02
16	New insurance scheme	67
17	Appointment of new Treasurer	69

CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

Nil

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

ACT 1 – Presbyteries to provide written justification for financial grants applications

Wednesday 18th April 1990

Minutes 90.20.03

That each Presbytery explain in writing the need in particular congregations for funds when applying for grants, and this be passed on to the Finance Committee for consideration.

ACT 2 – Sessions to encourage gifted men to become ministers of the Word

Wednesday 18th April 1990

Minutes 90.34.02

That Synod draw to the attention of Kirk Sessions the need actively to encourage suitably gifted men to consider becoming ministers of the Word.

ACT 3 – Training of Ministry Committee power to set student allowances

Wednesday 18th April 1990

Minutes 90.34.03

That the Committee's actions in setting students' allowances be endorsed, and the Committee be authorized to vary the level of such allowances if it deem it necessary to do so.

ACT 4 – Amending Training of Ministry Consolidating Act (Act 15, 1983)

Wednesday 18th April 1990

Minutes 90.34.05

Synod enact as follows:

**ACT AMENDING CONSOLIDATING ACT
(Act 15 Class 2, Synod 1983)**

Sections 6 (d), (e) and the first paragraph of 6 (f) now read as follows:

(d) After examination of the candidate, the presbytery deliberates in private. If it views the application favourably at this stage, it communicates with the Training of Ministry Committee, which arranges whatever interviews it considers appropriate and reports its finding to the Presbytery. On receiving the Committee's recommendation, the presbytery shall follow it, unless it sees good cause to decide otherwise, in which case the application is held in abeyance pending reference by presbytery to the Synod (see 6.6).

e) If the presbytery and the Training of Ministry Committee are in favour of the applicant's reception, the presbytery shall admit him to provisional recognition, and shall overture Synod seeking confirmation of its action.

f) Once so accepted by Synod the first year is one of probation. Thereafter the presbytery must exercise regular oversight of the student and meet with him in private at least once in the ensuing year. At the end of the year of probation the presbytery may extend the period of probationary recognition by a maximum of one further year, or it may admit him to full recognition, provided that the presbytery is satisfied with him, and the Training of Ministry Committee report that his studies are satisfactory.

(g) Should this supervision become impracticable by a change in the student's usual place of residence to outside the charge of the Session, it is to report the circumstances to the Presbytery and Training of Ministry Committee.

In such cases the student is to advise the Presbytery and the Training of Ministry Comm. of his intentions so that suitable arrangements can be made for continuance of regular oversight and supervision as outlined herein.

ACT 5 – Confirmation of Dr W.J.W.Hanna's reception as student and home missionary

Wednesday 18th April 1990

Minutes 90.35

Synod confirm Dr Hanna's status as a student for the ministry and as a home missionary.

ACT 6 – Biennial Easter Youth Rally

Wednesday 18th April 1990

Minutes 90.36.03

It was resolved:

That there be a bi-ennial Youth Rally (at Easter) in the alternate year to the Family Rally.

ACT 7 – Deputation visits from overseas churches

Thursday 19th April 1990

Minutes 90.41.07

Synod records its support of further visits from overseas churches and requests the Committee to proceed with arrangements for 1991.

ACT 8 – Procedures for maintaining contacts with churches in India, Peru and South Africa

Thursday 19th April 1990

Minutes 90.41.08

Synod requests the Committee to continue its work on establishing procedures for maintaining contact with the national churches in India, Peru and South Africa and for receiving candidates for missionary service.

ACT 9 – Authorization of specified gifts without express Synodical approval

Thursday 19th April 1990

Minutes 90.41.12

Synod authorises the payment of amounts received for specified objects without the need for express Synodical resolution except in any case of specific difficulty.

ACT 10 – Annual Church Directory to be funded from Synod General Fund

Thursday 19th April 1990
Minutes 90.44.03

It was resolved:

That the Editor be asked to continue to provide an annual Church Directory with the first issue of the Banner of the year, the cost to be met from the Synod General Fund.

ACT 11 – New Church Extension and Supply Committee regulations

Thursday 19th April 1990
Minutes 90.46.01

Synod enact as follows:

REGULATIONS FOR THE CHURCH EXTENSION AND SUPPLY COMMITTEE
[Rescinding decisions of Synod 1979 (p.12 re Stages of Development), Synod 1982 (p.22 re Responsibilities), Synod 1985 (Act 9 Class 2 re Presbytery Reports), Synod 1986 (Act 10 re Reporting and Act 11 re Budget) except in so far as they are incorporated herein.]

1. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Church Extension and Supply Committee shall report to Synod each year on the work of Church Extension and Evangelism in all centres of witness. In particular, it shall report on and co-ordinate the provision by Synod of financial assistance to those centres not fully self-supporting. It fulfils this mandate by contact with the Presbyteries which are required to provide reports to the Committee in time for the Committee to make report to the annual Synod. In situations where there is difficulty obtaining supply during vacancies, the Committee shall also endeavour to assist the Presbytery of the bounds in co-ordinating supply.

2. COMMITTEE FUNDS

The funds available to the Committee include interest on monies invested for Stipend and Church Extension purposes, together with contributions made for such purposes from other sources. In its annual report to the Synod the Committee shall include a budget of anticipated income and expenditure for the next two calendar years including the year of the Synod which will consider the request, so as to assist in wise and stable planning. The Committee is empowered to appeal for funds to the church at large from time to time, but apart from modest variations dictated by prudence and common-sense, shall not expend funds other than as authorised by Synod.

Funds disbursed by Synod on recommendation of the Committee are for stipend of the minister, unless funds are received with some special condition. In such event the funds shall be used for the purposes designated by the donor.

3. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In order to facilitate and encourage the work of extension in new areas as well as existing charges which need to be worked up to self-support, the Synod may grant financial assistance, subject to funds being available. All assistance is on a needs basis with allocation being made on a calendar year basis two years in advance. Synod requires the recommendation of the Presbytery to be supported by a budget and evidence of the charge or station being efficiently worked according to some definite program of extension. The Presbytery shall send its recommendation to the Committee with such

supporting detail as may be appropriate, and the Committee shall make recommendation to the Synod having regard to the resources available and the merit of the application.

4. LIMITS ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- a. A **Fully Sanctioned Charge** which is not fully self-supporting may receive assistance on a needs basis but not exceeding an amount equal to 50% of the minimum stipend. In normal cases a progressive reduction in assistance to nil over 5 years will be expected.
- b. A **Special Development Charge** (in former years termed a Church Extension Charge) is one with sufficient promise and support to justify the appointment of a full-time minister who has a seat on Presbytery, if ordained, but who is not inducted. It may receive for the initial two years up to 75% of the minimum stipend or up to 100% if a manse has to be rented, but thereafter the limits will be 50% and 75% respectively, with a progressive reduction over a further 5 or 7 years to nil. The Charge will be responsible for the entire Superannuation and Long Service Leave Levy and will not receive a portion from the Committee's funds for these items.
- c. Financial assistance to a **preaching station** will normally not be given unless Synod classifies it as a Special Development Charge upon request of the Presbytery. A copy of the Presbytery submission shall be provided to the Church Extension Committee by the Presbytery well in advance of the Synod.
- d. Should the minister of an aid-receiving charge cease to act in that capacity, funding from the Synod shall cease during the period of vacancy.

5. LAND AND BUILDINGS

The necessary or desirable buildings for a congregation vary according to circumstances. The Synod seeks to provide assistance by way of grants and loans from the 8:14 Foundation and other designated monies, but funds for purchase of property are not available from the Church Extension Committee. If, during any stage of development of an aid-receiving work, the congregation considers it necessary to purchase real estate, this will have no bearing on funding through the Church Extension and Supply Committee except that the need may be thereby increased nearer to the maximum.

6. PAYMENT FOR PULPIT SUPPLY

The provisions of Act 12, Class 2 Synod 1983 apply.

7. MINISTERS FROM OVERSEAS

As enacted by Synod 1973, "it is required that any settled (ie. fully sanctioned) congregation inviting with a view to call or calling a minister from overseas, must ordinarily meet the cost from their own resources. However, providing funds are available, assistance may be obtained for this purpose by way of a loan [ie. from Synod] upon which interest must be paid - and the capital repaid within five (5) years."

ACT 12 – Procedure when Presbytery lapses

Thursday 19th April 1990

Minutes 90.46.02

Synod enact as follows:

PROCEDURE WHEN PRESBYTERY LAPSES [Rescinding Act of Synod November 11, 1857 and all other legislation on the subject except in so far as it is incorporated herein.]

A presbytery is a continuing court but its powers and functions lapse:

- a) when at the close of an ordinary meeting it neglects to appoint a time and place for its next meeting, or
- b) when a quorum is not present for an ordinary meeting;

and in either such event, the presbytery cannot again meet for business until it is convened by special summons issued to all members at least 14 days before the time fixed for the meeting, unless all members of the presbytery agree otherwise. The moderator must comply with a requisition for such a meeting addressed to him by two or more members.

ACT 13 – Commissioners of a Presbytery prosecuting a call

Thursday 19th April 1990

Minutes 90.46.04

Synod enact as follows:

COMMISSIONERS OF A PRESBYTERY PROSECUTING A CALL

If due to distance the presbytery prosecuting the call cannot be represented by commissioners, it is competent for it to appoint a minister or elder of the church who can be present to indicate an appeal on its behalf. Twenty-one days from the date on which advice of the presbytery's decision to refuse to transmit the call (and the reasons for it) is sent to the presbytery prosecuting the call is allowed for that presbytery to confirm adherence to the appeal made on its behalf, giving reasons, and failing such confirmation, the appeal falls.

In the case of an appeal against the decision by the commissioners of the prosecuting presbytery or by the commissioners of the congregation whose minister is under call, or in case of complaint by a member of the presbytery, the presbytery cannot proceed further until the appeal or complaint is fallen from or resolved by the judgement of the Synod.

ACT 14 – Pension rate increase

Friday 20th April 1990

Minutes 90.58.03

Synod resolve that the basic rate of pension be increased to \$47 (married) and \$33 (single) with effect from 1.07.1990.

ACT 15 – Inflation-proofing of Synod investments

Friday 20th April 1990

Minutes 90.65.02

It was resolved

That for the time being the Synod policy on offsetting inflation on investments be (a) that approximately 50% of the income on non-equity-linked investments be added back to the principal and treated as capital; (b) that this policy be implemented for the year 1990 and following, a phase-in period of two years being allowed to Committees which find it impossible to implement this policy immediately, so that for 1992 and following years all Synod Investments will be on this basis and Committee budgets prepared accordingly; (c) that this policy be capable of review and revision by a future Synod.

ACT 16 – New insurance scheme

Friday 20th April 1990

Minutes 90.67

The Insurance scheme outlined in Mr Ward's outline dated 16/04/1990 be adopted by Synod for its congregations, with the opportunity for St George's congregation to opt out and make their own arrangements.

ACT 17 – Appointment of new Treasurer

Friday 20th April 1990

Minutes 90.69

Mr A. Steel be appointed as Treasurer, from the rise of Synod 1991.