

ACTS OF SYNOD 1991

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	None	

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
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2	Recording of church life for posterity	14.16
3	Amending Synod Standing Orders, I. Minutes, Section 6	14.18
4	Loan to Manning Deacons' Court from 8:14 Foundation	21.b
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CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

Nil

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

ACT 1 – Archiving of church records

Wednesday 3rd April 1991

Minutes 91.14.15

Synod request any individuals who may hold old minute books and papers of church courts to return them to the relevant church court or the Archivist, and recommend that important or rare documents be copied and the original or copy be lodged in the Archives.

ACT 2 – Recording of church life for posterity

Wednesday 3rd April 1991
Minutes 91.14.16

Synod encourage congregations and Presbyteries to keep a photographic and written narrative of church life so as to preserve some record of the Lord's dealings for a future generation.

ACT 3 – Amending Synod Standing Orders, I. Minutes, Section 6

Wednesday 3rd April 1991
Minutes 92.14.18

Synod Standing Orders I. Motions, Section 6 be amended to read:

When the recommendations of Standing Committees are in the hands of members as prescribed by Synod, any competent amendments, alternative proposals or additional motions relevant to the business of that Committee shall be given in writing to the Clerk not later than the session preceding that in which the business of that Committee is to be taken up by Synod, and shall be read to the court before the close of that session.

ACT 4 – Loan to Manning Deacons' Court from 8:14 Foundation

Wednesday 3rd April 1991
Minutes 91.21b

That the sum of up to \$30,000 be loaned to the Manning Deacons' Court for a period of one year with the request that the Deacons' Court consider the sale of portion of the other property of the congregation if necessary, to repay the loan within that period or soon thereafter.

ACT 5 – Direction to Deacons' Courts re management of trust funds

Wednesday 3rd April 1991
Minutes 91.22.2

That Presbyteries remind Deacons' Courts of their responsibility in the management of Church Funds. Any action taken by them is to conform with Trustee Acts and Enabling Acts (Church Property Acts) within their State. In regard to the investment of funds, Deacons' Courts are required to:

- a) exercise **ordinary business prudence**;
- b) act **impartially**;
- c) invest **only** in securities **authorised by Trustee Acts** within their State.

The principles of **moderation** and **prudence** to be kept to the fore at all times.

ACT 6 – New Synod bank accounts and signatories

Wednesday 3rd April 1991
Minutes 91.22.5

That the General Treasurer be authorised to transfer Synod's bank accounts to the National Australia Bank, Eastwood NSW branch and that signatories to accounts and other associated financial documents should be any two of W.P. Gadsby, J.G. Harris, D.E. Kerr, A.H. Steel and A.L. Tripovich.

ACT 7 – Rescission of Act 15, Class 2, 1990 re inflation proofing

Wednesday 3rd April 1991
Minutes 91.23

This Court rescind Act 15, Class II of Synod 1990.

ACT 8 – Purchase of microcomputer for Synod accounts

Wednesday 3rd April 1991
Minutes 91.23

To assist in accounting for Synod's finances, quarterly reporting in *The Presbyterian Banner* and in meeting Synod's deadline of despatching the Annual Accounts and Report to Synod members at least 50 days prior to the scheduled opening of Synod, the Treasurer be authorised to purchase a microcomputer, software and peripherals at a cost no greater than \$4000.

ACT 9 – Regulations re missionaries: adopting Free Church provisions re PCEA

Wednesday 3rd April 1991
Minutes 91.28.8

Synod approves the procedure in relation to missionaries of the PCEA offering for service in the Free Church of Scotland Missions as embodied in the Regulations of that Church adopted 1990, and quoted in the Committee's report.

Relevant wording of Regulations quoted in the Report as follows:

- 1 Members of the Australian Church, resident in Australia, who desire to volunteer for work in Free Church of Scotland Missions, should apply, in the first instance, to their home Committee indicating the preferred sphere of labour. The Australian Committee would pass on this application, with its comments, to the Free Church of Scotland Foreign Missions Board.
2. When members of the Australian Church resident in Britain apply directly to the Free Church of Scotland Board for acceptance as missionaries, enquiry will be made by the Board forthwith as to whether they have any contractual obligations to the Australian Church. Where such a bond exists, even if of an informal nature, applicants will be instructed to direct their application via the Australian Church. Even where no such obligation exists the Board will notify the Australian Church of the application and invite its comments.
3. In the case of a missionary candidate who has trained for the ministry in Scotland under the jurisdiction of a Presbytery of the Free Church of Scotland it is competent for the Presbytery, if the

Australian Church so wish, to license the candidate. Ordination and induction or, in the case of unordained missionaries, the setting apart to the work, may be decided in collaboration with the Australian Church, in each particular case having regard to the desires of candidates and the circumstances of the appointments.

ACT 10 – Student allowances

Wednesday 3rd April 1991

Minutes 91.29.3

That Synod determine student allowances on the following basis:

- i. Single student living allowance - up to 50% of minister's stipend per annum.
- ii. Married student living allowance - up to 75% of minister's stipend per annum.
- iii. That other allowances remain unchanged.

ACT 11 – Disposal of surplus from sale of authorized history

Thursday 4th April 1991

Minutes 91.35.III

Synod rescind resolution 5, 1988 of the Publications Committee, and resolve that should there occur a surplus of income over cost in the distribution of the authorized history, *The Bush Still Burns*, such surplus shall be divided in the ratio of 1:4 between the Synod Publications Fund and the author.

ACT 12 – Supervision by Sessions of alternative psalm versions

Thursday 4th April 1991

Minutes 91.35.V

Synod take note of the diversity of Psalm versions currently in use within the Church, and encourage Sessions to maintain close supervision of these.

ACT 13 – Amendment of Act 4, Class 2, 1990 re Training of Ministry regulations

Thursday 4th April 1991

Minutes 91.36.2

Synod rescind item (g) in Act 4, Class 2, Synod 1990 (being amendment to Act 15, Class 2, Synod 1983) and replace with the following words:

Students are required to be in good standing as communicant members in a congregation convenient to their residence, and to give ample notice of any proposed change of address to their presbytery and to the Training of Ministry Committee. Students moving beyond the bounds of the presbytery to the bounds of another presbytery are to obtain a certificate of character and attainments so as to enable orderly transfer between presbyteries.

ACT 14 – Adoption of new Church Practice, ch.4 ‘The Presbytery’

Thursday 4th April 1991

Minutes 91.36.3

Synod adopt Chapter 4 (The Presbytery) of the new Practice, as printed in 1990 Synod reports and amended by Synod 1991, to replace the corresponding sections of the Free Church of Scotland Practice, 1964 edition, and to regulate procedure in church courts henceforth.

ACT 15 – Adoption of new Church Practice, ch.5 ‘The Synod’

Thursday 4th April 1991

Minutes 91.36.4

Synod adopt Chapter 5 (The Synod) of the new Practice, as bound with 1991 Synod reports to replace the corresponding sections of the Free Church of Scotland Practice, 1964 edition, and to regulate procedure in church courts henceforth.

ACT 16 – Amendment of Church Practice, ch.3.22b

Thursday 4th April 1991

Minutes 91.36.6

Synod amend item 3.22b of the Church Practice as adopted by Synod 1989 to now read as follows:

b. Guidelines for insurance cover generally (including vehicles) were set by Synod 1982. In 1990 the Synod effected a group insurance scheme for all church and manse buildings and church-owned contents allowing St George’s Congregation to opt out and make their own arrangements. The group policy is due on 2nd July each year, and each congregation contributes according to the insured value of its property.

c. Presbyterian ministers in the normal parish situation are not in a master-servant relationship and are not covered by Workers Compensation. In the eyes of the law they are self-employed and should make appropriate arrangements for protection against disability by accident and/or illness. However, congregations should ensure that any other persons who are ‘workers’ for Workers Compensation purposes are duly insured under applicable State legislation.

ACT 17 – Rescission of Act 21, Class 2, 1986 re ministers’ retirement age

Thursday 4th April 1991

Minutes 91.37

That in view of serious doubts concerning the lawfulness and validity of Synod's Act re: Retirement of Ministers from inducted service at age of 65 years, That Synod now rescind that Act as expressed by the Law & Advisory Committee in Proposal No. 4, Synod Minutes 1986 (p.18, 19).

ACT 18 – Delegate to be sent to 1993 International Conference of Reformed Churches

Friday 5th April 1991

Minutes 91.46.2

Synod resolve to meet the cost of sending one delegate to the 1993 ICRC meeting.

ACT 19 – Amendment of Provident Funds regulations Section C

Friday 5th April 1991

Minutes 91.48.5

Synod amend Provident Fund Regulations Section C as follows:

Add the following paragraph to C1:

Synod 1990 authorised the transfer of the trusteeship of the Fund to M.M.L. Superannuation Pty Ltd as trustee of the Mercantile Mutual Life Employer Sponsored Fund, administered in terms of a trust deed dated 28th April, 1988, and accordingly such transfer occurred effective 30th June 1990. This action was taken to avoid the costs of amending the original deed to comply with the Occupational Superannuation Standards Act 1987 and to facilitate administration.

Delete the paragraph under C5 beginning ‘Contributions for the’ and ending ‘level of 8%’

Delete Section C8, renumber C9 to C8 and delete C10.

ACT 20 – Authorization of sale of Hamilton Congregation church buildings

Friday 5th April 1991

Minutes 91.60

The sale of one or more of the four church buildings at not less than fair market value is approved subject to the approval of the Presbytery at the time of sale, and the proceeds to be held in trust for the Hamilton charge on the basis requested, and the income applied to the support of the ministry and witness of the Hamilton charge; and the Trustees for Victoria are authorized to sign and seal necessary documents accordingly.

ACT 21 – Appointment of new Synod Auditor: Mr T.O. Higgins, FCPA

Friday 5th April 1991

Minutes 91.61

Mr T.O. Higgins, FCPA, be appointed as Synod Auditor.