

## ACTS OF SYNOD 1993

### Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	Nil	

### Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Resignation of Clerk (Rev. W.P. Gadsby)	93.8.1
2	Memorial minutes (F. Maxwell Bradshaw and H.C. Nicholson)	93.8.5
3	Appointment of Rev. Dr. W.J.W. Hanna as Clerk	93.12.19
4	Delegate to 1993 Free Church of Scotland General Assembly	93.14
5	Amendment of Provident Fund Regulations	93.25
6	Scope of Auditor's appointment	93.26
7	Reception of Mr. Harry Klomp as student for the Ministry	93.27.5
8	Amendment of Mission Relief Fund Regulations	93.34.11
9	Appointment of delegates to ICRC conference	93.39.1
10	Adoption of statement regarding Inter-Church Relations	93.39.2
11	New South Wales Property Act	93.49
12	Attestation of Presbytery Records	93.57
13	Stipend Relief for Ulverstone	93.54.4
14	Stipend Relief for Armidale	93.54.5
15	Increase in basic rate of pension	93.56
16	8:14 Foundation loan to Armidale	93.60
17	Greetings to 1993 Free Church of Scotland Assembly	93.61
18	Sesquicentenary Celebration Committee	93.62

### CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

Nil

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

#### ACT 1 – Resignation of Clerk (Rev. W.P. Gadsby)

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.8.1

Synod does now accept with regret the resignation of Rev W.Peter Gadsby as Clerk of the Synod of Eastern Australia and record its appreciation of his diligent and efficient discharge of the Clerkship since his appointment in 1982.

**ACT 2 – Memorial minutes (F. Maxwell Bradshaw and H.C. Nicholson)**

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.8.5

Synod approve the following memorial minutes and direct that extracts be sent to the families concerned:

**F. Maxwell Bradshaw, MA, LL.M**

With the passing of Mr Bradshaw on 11 May 1992 the Synod lost one whose wise counsel and professional skill as a barrister had been freely at its disposal for more than 50 years. His remarkable memory, keen historical sense and first class analytical skills made him an invaluable and unsurpassed source of information and guidance on anything to do with the constitution of Scottish Presbyterianism. He was an unostentatious man, and a warm-hearted friend of our church. He contributed in a very marked way to the resurgence and furtherance of Calvinism in Australia because of his pivotal role in the continuation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. We thank God for every remembrance of him and commend his widow, Jillian, and daughter, Rachel, to the God of all grace.

**H.C. Nicholson, AASA, ACIS**

Harald Nicholson was born at Lerwick in the the Shetland Islands in 1908. He came to Sydney in 1927 and a few years later joined the PCEA. He became an elder in 1938 and denominational Treasurer in 1940, a position he discharged with diligence and faithfulness until 1971. After his removal to Melbourne in 1947 he continued to serve the congregation there. He was a Trustee in terms of the Victorian Property Act from 1953 to 1979. Becoming involved in journalism he wrote the *Lerwick* column in the *Ringwood Croydon Mail* from 1954 until a few months before his death. In this column, as well as in the *In Focus* column in the PCEA magazine, Harald Nicholson used his penetrating intellect to further the expression of Christian faith in everyday life and exercised a wide influence in this way and through his own example. Our sympathy is extended to his widow and family.

**ACT 3 – Appointment of Rev. Dr. W.J.W. Hanna as Clerk**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.12.19

That Rev R.S. Ward be appointed Clerk of the Synod of Eastern Australia and Rev Dr W. Hanna be appointed Assistant Clerk, the appointments to be reviewed at Synod 1994.

**ACT 4 – Delegate to 1993 Free Church of Scotland General Assembly**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.14

It was resolved unanimously that Rev Dr.J.Campbell Andrews be commissioned in terms of the Federal Relations Act as this Synod's delegate to the 1993 General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland.

### **ACT 5 – Amendment of Provident Fund Regulations**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.25

Synod amend the Provident Funds Regulations Sections C2, C6 and C8 (a) to read as follows:

**C2.** When a minister is duly inducted into a charge, in normal circumstances his membership in the Fund will be effective from the date of induction. Licentiates will be added to the Fund upon licence and commencement of residential supply to the extent of any Superannuation Guarantee or like legislation and contributions after ordination and induction adjusted to take account of what has been contributed previously.

**C6.** Contributions for missionaries are made from Missions Funds; contributions sufficient to cover any Superannuation Guarantee Levy or the like for students employed in supply work are made from Training of Ministry Funds.

**C8.** The following guidelines apply to the exercise of the discretion referred to in C3 above:

a. The benefit resulting from contributions under Superannuation Guarantee or the like legislation are fully vested in the member. In respect of any amounts in excess of those required to be legally vested in the member, vesting occurs to the extent of 50% after five years active service and a further 10% thereafter until full vesting is reached after 10 years. It is understood that a member must make arrangements to meet any undischarged financial liability to the church before amounts not vested by law will be paid to him. Amounts forfeited by reason of this clause will be applied towards contributions by the church on behalf of other members, and an equivalent amount taken from the levy on congregations and placed to the credit of the Supplementary Benefits Fund (see E3 below).

### **ACT 6 – Scope of Auditor's appointment**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.26

Synod confirmed that Mr. Higgins' appointment, as Auditor, is a normal, standard audit appointment.

### **ACT 7 – Reception of Mr. Harry Klomp as student for the Ministry**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.27.6

Synod confirms Southern Presbytery's decision to receive Mr Harry Klomp as a student for the ministry and assure him of our prayerful support.

Synod encourages Mr Harry Klomp in the undertaking of his theological studies and agrees to give support as determined by Synod.

**ACT 8 – Amendment of Mission Relief Fund Regulations**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.34.11

Synod resolves that Mission Relief Fund Regulations (Act 7 Synod 1982 as amended by Act 12 Synod 1986) be amended by adding the following sentence to the preamble: "In October 1992 an additional amount of \$263,503 was received from the Estate of the original donor, Mr Malcolm McSwan of Wilson's Creek, New South Wales with a further \$82,664.71 added in 1993 when the estate was finalised, the total received from Mr McSwan thus being \$431,493."

**ACT 9 – Appointment of delegates to ICRC conference**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.39.1

Rev. W.P. Gadsby be appointed as delegate to the ICRC meeting.

Mr Ward be appointed as a second delegate to the ICRC conference, providing that this does not involve expense to Synod.

**ACT 10 – Adoption of statement regarding Inter-Church Relations**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.39.2

The Synod approve and adopt the following statement regarding Inter-Church Relations:

**FRATERNAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CHURCHES**

There should be one simple rule to the following effect:

Fraternal Relations should exist between Churches that openly and practically profess the true faith of Christ as summarised in one or more of the classical Reformed symbols - ie the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Belgic Confession, the Canons of the Synod of Dort.

Certain duties and courtesies devolve upon churches sustaining fraternal relations.

1. There should be a spirit of cordial love and trust as becomes brothers in the faith.
2. There should be an attitude of mutual helpfulness. Each should be willing to share problems and difficulties with the others. By the same token each should be allowed to exhort to more exact obedience any who appeared to relax faithfulness to their avowed confession. This should not invite to an inquisitorial interference but to strengthening one another in love for Christ.
3. There should be a willingness to accept certificates of communicant membership, normally without personal examination.
4. There should be in the highest courts of the Churches a cordial welcome to visiting delegates from other Churches recognised as in fraternal relationship. This need not amount to according membership in the court to the visiting delegate.
5. There should be a willingness to allow ministers of one Church access to the pulpits of fraternal Churches as a matter of courtesy.

6. Churches should exchange copies of the Acts and Proceedings of their highest courts or at least inform one another of major decisions.

**ACT 11 – New South Wales Property Act**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.49&51

The Law and Advisory Committee be requested to organise a fresh draft Amendment of the New South Wales Property Act 1918, and that Sessions in New South Wales be invited to submit suggestions to assist the Committee in bringing forward an up-to-date draft amendment - suggestions to reach the Committee by 30/9/93.

**ACT 12 – Attestation of Presbytery Records**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.57

The Permanent Record and Minutes of the three Presbyteries were reported in order and Synod accordingly resolved they all be attested.

**ACT 13 – Stipend Relief for Ulverstone**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.54.4

That in accordance with the decision of Synod 1992 Ulverstone be granted 50% Stipend Relief for the remainder of 1993 and also 50% Stipend Relief for 1994 on a needs basis.

**ACT 14 – Stipend Relief for Armidale**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.54.5

That in accordance with the decision of Synod 1992 Armidale be granted 50% Stipend Relief for the remainder of 1993 and also 50% Stipend Relief for 1994 on a needs basis.

**ACT 15 – Increase in basic rate of pension**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.56

That the basic rate of the weekly pension be increased from \$52 to \$54 (married) and from \$36.40 to \$38 (single) with effect from 1/7/93.

**ACT 16 – 8:14 Foundation loan to Armidale**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.60

Synod approve the application by Armidale for a loan to finance the purchase of the property at 35 Kirkwood Street, Armidale noting that at least \$40,000 in addition to the present balance in the 8.14 Foundation will be required.

**ACT 17 – Greetings to 1993 Free Church of Scotland Assembly**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.61

*The Synod resolved unanimously to forward greetings in the following form to the 1993 Free Church of Scotland General Assembly.*

**TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia sends greetings in the Lord on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Disruption by which the Church of Scotland was freed from the encroachments of the State on her liberties under Christ.**

In remembering the Disruption of the Establishment on 18 May 1843 we recall the repercussions it had in the British colonies and how *The Synod of Australia in connection with the Established Church of Scotland* refused to change its legal and moral connection with the Established Church, thereby leading to a disruption of the Australian Synod under the leadership of such honoured preachers of the Gospel as William McIntyre and James Forbes.

*The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia* was formed in Sydney on 10 October 1846 to give practical expression to the independence of the Australian Church from another which in practice compromised the Confession's teaching on the Headship of Christ. It was therefore also founded to maintain consistent assertion of the ancient constitution of historic Presbyterianism in its whole-hearted loyalty to the word of Christ. Since 1953 it has incorporated the faithful remnant of *The Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria* organised by James Forbes in 1846, and its identity in terms of constitutional principle has been recognised in the *Federal Relations Act* enacted by your Assembly in 1952.

As we look back over the years we note that our "1900 Crisis" came over the years 1859-65 with compromising unions backed by the Free Church Assembly during those years. Yet if the remnant church in Australia struggled on without recognition from the Free Assembly, we give thanks for the constitutionalists in the Free Church of Scotland, and for the vindication of the minority who continued the Free Church in 1900. We also recall the practical assistance given by your church when the facilities of the College were made available following Rev S.P.Stewart's visit to your Assembly in 1908 and Professor Donald Maclean's visit to Australia in 1910. From 1913 to 1981 a total of 19 candidates of the Australian church who later served as ordained ministers, received their training in Edinburgh, and one of them served as a Professor. We are also very appreciative of visits from various of your ministers and Professors over the years, most recently that by Principal-emeritus Clement Graham to this Synod meeting, and the mutually used facility by which ministers of your church may be called to Australian pastorates and vice versa.

We have also had the privilege of sharing with you in the Missionary task with Australian personnel at various times on each of the three fields of Peru, South Africa and India, beginning with Rev Dr J.Campbell Andrews, our first overseas missionary, in 1948, whose fame is in all your churches also and whom we have commissioned to attend the Disruption Commemoration Assembly.

Brethren, together we look back and see God's gracious hand in our history, and it is our pleasure to express to you our greetings in the name of Christ, the only Head of the Church. Although times and circumstances change yet it is our prayer that you will be enabled to serve the Lord with an even greater energy, faithfulness and sacrifice in the future years as did the Disruption generation, and that as parts of the church of our common Lord our fellowship will continue and be strengthened to our mutual good and to God's glory.

The names of the ministers in order of ordination and the names of commissioned elders of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, April 1993, are here recorded:

J. Campbell Andrews (retired), Stewart N. Ramsay (retired), Edwin R. Lee (retired), William M. Mackay (PLC, Melbourne), Alan L. Tripovich (Hastings River), Raymond W. Murray (Grafton), Kenneth MacLeod (Maclean), John Pateman (retired), Rowland S. Ward (Melbourne), John M. Cromarty (Geelong), W. Peter Gadsby (Manning River), John A. McCallum (Sydney), John S. Graham (CWI, Sydney), Peter A. L. Hill (Ulverstone), James A. Cromarty (Hunter/Barrington Rivers), Trevor I. Leggott (Armidale), W. J. Wesley Hanna (Brisbane), *ministers*; H. Tim Yee *licentiate*; Messrs R.A.Lawson, J.D.Ramsay, R.L.Campbell, A.Cameron, K.Dawson, D.Caughey, K.Longworth, P.Grant, A.H.Steel, G.A.Neil, N.A.McPherson, J.R.B.Webster, N.G.Triffett & G.J.Moodie, *commissioned elders*.

Signed in the name and by the authority of the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, 22 April 1993.

William M. Mackay, Moderator Rowland S. Ward, Acting Clerk

**ACT 18 – Sesquicentenary Celebration Committee**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1993

Minutes 93.62

It was resolved that Messrs E.R.Lee, W.M.Mackay, W.J.W.Hanna, R.S.Ward and a representative of St George's Congregation form this Committee, E.R.Lee Convener.