

ACTS OF SYNOD 1999

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	Nil	

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Shared Ministries	99.20
2	Third Millennium Provident Fund	99.26.4
3	Amended Provident Fund Regulations	99.26.5
4	Mandate of Church and Nation Committee	99.34.1
5	Relationship with the Reformed Churches of Australia	99.43.5
6	Stipend Support - Mr. Leone Tupua	99.48.2.1.1
7	Support - Mr. S. Coles and family	99.51.2.1.3
8	Support - Rev. T.I. Leggott	99.51.2.2.1
9	Reception of Dr. Dennis Muldoon as student for the ministry	99.54
10	Presbytery Reports	99.58

CLASS 1 – ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

Nil

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

ACT 1 – Shared Ministries

Tuesday 20th April 1999

Minutes 99.20

That Synod does now enact that in situations where there is:

- a. a shortage of ministers of the P.C.E.A. available in Australia, or
- b. where financial considerations would make it difficult to support two ministers without assistance from Synod,

Presbytery may agree to moderate in a call to a minister to share his ministry between not more than two neighbouring sanctioned charges. In agreeing to moderate in such a call, the presbytery should take into account:

- a. whether the charges are close enough to each other to enable one person to pastor both adequately,
- b. whether the numbers of members and adherents are such that they can be pastored by one person,
- c. whether agreement to this arrangement has been reached between the congregations, as well as between their sessions,
- d. whether a workable arrangement has been reached between the deacons' courts of the charges as to the minister's remuneration and benefits, other expenses, and with regard to a manse.

The procedure to be followed in such a case is essentially that in section 4.59 of the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* and the following sections, except that separate meetings to moderate in the call are held in each congregation, and that the call must be of the “closed” type, i.e., the name of the minister involved must appear in the edict appointing the meeting of the presbytery with the congregation to moderate in the call. The edict must also indicate that the call is to a shared ministry with another named congregation.

Where the minister named is already the minister of one of the two congregations, the above procedure is modified to the extent that the call only comes from the vacant congregation, and the presbytery only meets with that congregation, but the presbytery should assure itself that the congregation whose minister is being called has agreed.

The wording of the call itself should be in the following, or similar, terms:

CALL

To *Preacher of the Gospel*

We, the undersigned Elders, Deacons and Communicant members of the Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia at desire to promote the glory of God and the good of the church.

We do not have a pastor settled among us, and, and with the concurrence of the Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, we would like to invite you, for our part, to a shared ministry of both congregations [OR, we would like you to share your ministry to them, with us].

We are assured by reliable information and our own experience of your ministerial abilities, piety and prudence, and of your suitability to our needs.

By this Call we invite and entreat you to undertake the work of a Pastor among us, and to shepherd us in the ways of the Lord for the extension of his kingdom.

Should you accept this Call, we promise you all due respect, encouragement and obedience in the Lord, and undertake to contribute to your fitting maintenance as God may prosper us.

In witness of this we have signed our names this day of19....

We, the undersigned adherents of theCongregation, heartily concur in the above call.

Where such an arrangement has been sanctioned by presbytery, and a call has been accepted,

- a. Each charge shall retain its own courts and be entitled to send its own commissioner to the higher courts of the church,
- b. The arrangement shall be reviewed each time the charges become vacant,
- c. The arrangement may be terminated by the minister demitting one of the two charges.

ACT 2 – Third Millennium Provident Fund

Tuesday 20th April 1999

Minutes 99.26.4

For ease of administration and promotion the two existing W&O/ARM Funds and the Supplementary Benefits Fund be treated as one in the published accounts under the name of the Third Millennium Provident Fund, preserving all legal obligations on specific funds within it that may have specific terms attached; that we continue to treat the funds involved as capital to the extent of not less than \$80 000 at 31/12/1999, and that additional contributions by way of gift or bequest be invited, the Committee being empowered to publicise the Fund from time to time.

ACT 3 – Amended Provident Fund Regulations

Tuesday 20th April 1999

Minutes 99.26.5

The Committee's Regulations be amended as follows:

- i. That Section B1 be headed "Congregational Levy Fund (Retirement and Long Service Leave),"
- ii. That Section B2 be headed "Third Millennium Provident Fund" and read:
"This fund was named by Synod 1999 to embrace existing funds for aged and infirm ministers and/or widows and orphans of such, as well as the Supplementary Benefits Fund formed from contributions forfeited by members of the Retirement Fund under its vesting provisions. The funds as at 31/12/1999 to the extent of \$80 000 are regarded for the time being as capital funds.

Source of Funds

- a. gifts, whether capital or otherwise,
- b. investment income
- c. other sources as Synod may determine.

How funds applied

- d. by allowance according to circumstances to aged or infirm ministers and/or the widows and/or orphans of such (see Section E below). Synod 1999 resolved that members of the Retirement Fund admitted since 1/1/1999 and existing members who retire or die after 1/1/2002 will not be eligible in view of the significant increase in superannuation contributions by the church and the likelihood that those retiring in the future will exceed the target and thus not be entitled to a pension in any case.
- e. by contribution to the Retirement Fund as determined by Synod from time to time on recommendation of the Provident Funds Committee."

- iii. Omit Section E3 (re Supplementary Benefits Fund).
- iv. That the following sentence be added to Section E1 of the Provident Funds Committee Regulations:

"In view of the increase in contributions to the Retirement Fund made by the church in recent times and planned for the future, pension payments will not be made to members of the Retirement Fund admitted to it after 1/1/1999 nor to those existing members who retire or die after 1/1/2002. Existing pensioners will not be affected.

ACT 4 – Mandate of Church and Nation Committee

Tuesday 20th April 1999

Minutes 99.34.1

The Church and Nation Committee have the mandate to speak in the name of the P.C.E.A. on public issues of faith and conduct where there is a creedal or consensus position, and to acquaint Synod, Presbyteries and Sessions of significant issues, and printed or other sources available to assess them Biblically.

ACT 5 – Relationship with the Reformed Churches of Australia

Wednesday 21st April 1999

Minutes 99.43.5

Synod take note of the request from the Reformed Churches of Australia to clarify our mutual relationships, and direct the Committee to pursue this matter and report to the ensuing Synod.

ACT 6 – Stipend Support - Mr. Leone Tupua

Wednesday 21st April 1999

Minutes 99.48.2.1.1

Synod approve stipend support from Missions General Fund of Mr Leone Tupua to continue at 100% during 1999, and 75% during 2000. Leone Tupua,;

ACT 7 – Support - Mr. S. Coles and family

Thursday 22nd April 1999

Minutes 99.51.2.1.3

Synod support Mr Stuart Coles and family for a period of two years (est. total \$40,000) from the Malcolm McSwan Missions Relief Fund, subject to the confirmation of the viability of the proposed agricultural project following the three months' initial appraisal phase.

ACT 8 – Support - Rev. T.I. Leggott

Thursday 22nd April 1999

Minutes 99.51.2.2.1

Synod express its continued commitment to the prayerful support of the Rev. Trevor Leggott in his role as Administrative Secretary of the Australian Indigenous Ministries, and confirm its intention to support him fully in this role for the period 2000-2002.

ACT 9 – Reception of Dr. Dennis Muldoon as student for the ministry

Thursday 22nd April 1999

Minutes 99.54

That Dr. Dennis Muldoon be granted recognition as a Student for the Ministry, the first year of such recognition being probationary.

ACT 10 – Presbytery Reports

Thursday 22nd April 1999

Minutes 99.58

In regard to Congregational Reports, Synod request that Presbyteries in future submit a Presbytery Report as per Act 13, Synod 1986 and thus a summary of salient facts about each pastoral charge together with specific reference to any discussion or proposals for extension to new areas – a suggested length per Presbytery of one page.