

## ACTS OF SYNOD 2002

(Note: The original minutes did not identify the Acts passed at the 2002 Synod. The following list has been compiled by examining minutes to identify Acts)

### Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	Nil	

### Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Rescind amendment to Act1, Class 2, 1983	02.11.6
2	Amendment to Special Religious Education Act 1997	02.11.10
3	Rules for Special Religious Education Teachers in NSW	02.11.11
4	Fraternal Relations with RCNZ	02.28.4
5	Stipend arrangements for Rev. T.I. Leggott	02.38.3
6	Appointment of Rev. S. Tamata as missionary in Fiji	02.38.7-9
7	Increase to Minimum Stipend	02.44.2
8	Stipend Relief 2002/2003	02.44.4
9	Loan to Hunter-Barrington Congregation	02.47
10	Amendment to Max Hutton (Ulverstone) bequest	02.50.1
11	Investment Strategy – Victoria	02.50.2
12	Investment Strategy – NSW	02.51.2

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

Nil

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

#### ACT 1 – Rescind amendment to Act 1, Class 2, 1983

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.11.6

Synod rescind decision of Synod 2000 (Minutes, 00.58) that:

‘Act 1, Class 2 Synod 1983 be amended so that Clause 6 reads:

*The Clerk of Synod shall arrange for Committee Reports, Correspondence and Proposed Deliverances to be printed, and he distributes them so that they are in the hands of members not later than 21 days before the opening of Synod, extra copies being produced for binding with the minutes in due course.*

and that in Clause 4, 45 days be altered to 50 days.’

**ACT 2 – Amendment to Special Religious Education Act 1997**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.11.10

Synod amend the Act anent Special Religious Education passed by Synod 1997 (97.30) so that the Statutory Declaration therein be altered to read as follows:

***Volunteer’s Statutory Declaration***

*I, ..... hereby solemnly and sincerely declare that:*

*1. I have never been convicted of any criminal offence which involves:*

- a. an act of violence towards another person,*
- b. sexual assault,*
- c. any offence against a minor person, or*
- d. the provision of prohibited drugs.*

*2. I understand that spot checks may be made to verify the above and hereby give my permission for any police checks which may be necessary and, for identification purposes, I advise that my date of birth is .....*

*3. I understand that, should I fail to meet my commitments as set out above, I could be asked to withdraw from the ministry of Special Religious Education in schools.*

*4. If there be any charges in regard to the above I will notify the minister of my congregation, forthwith, in writing.*

***I make this declaration conscientiously believing it to be true and in accordance with the provisions of the Oaths Act of 1990.***

***Signature:* ..... *Date:* .....**

***Witness:* .....**

*(Justice of the Peace or Solicitor - Name in Full)*

**ACT 3 – Rules for Special Religious Education Teachers in NSW**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.11.11

That Synod enact that Presbyteries and Sessions in New South Wales ensure that all persons to be authorised by the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia as teachers of Special Religious Education in New South Wales, be required to complete a 'Prohibited Employment Declaration' as prescribed by the Government of New South Wales, in addition to complying with the Guidelines and completing the Statutory Declaration prescribed by Synod 1997 and amended by Synod 2002 – and that these completed Declarations be retained on file in the congregation of which the person is a member, minister or adherent.”

#### **ACT 4 – Fraternal Relations with RCNZ**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.28.4

Synod formally recognise the RCNZ as churches with whom we have Fraternal Relations in terms of our 1993 Act of Synod, and direct the Committee to work towards practical expressions of our unity in Christ, as Reformed churches in Australasia.

#### **ACT 5 – Stipend arrangements for Rev. T.I. Leggott**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.38.3

The Rev. T.I. Leggott be paid the full minimum stipend, as adjusted from time to time, this to be back-dated to 5.09.01; and that the full superannuation contribution continue to be made on his behalf from Missions funds.

Synod express its continued prayerful support of the Rev. Trevor Leggott in his role as Administrative Secretary of the Australian Indigenous Ministries, and confirm his secondment for a further three years from 1.01.03.

#### **ACT 6 – Appointment of Rev S.R. Tamata as missionary in Fiji**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.38.7-9

1. Synod appoint Rev. Tamata as a Missionary of the PCEA to minister in the PFCF in Fiji, and grant him a seat on the Central Presbytery, which has the oversight of this work.
2. Synod request the Central Presbytery to arrange a suitable occasion recognising Mr. Tamata's commissioning to the Fiji work, and commending Muriel and himself to the grace of God for their labours in Fiji.
3. The Rev Mr. Tamata be appointed for a term of three years. The leave arrangements are to be four weeks leave per year with economy return airfares for Mr. and Mrs. Tamata paid from Missions Committee funds if required; this arrangement will fulfil the home leave obligations.
4. Synod adopt the revised 'PCEA Missions Regulations' that were submitted to Synod 2001.

#### **ACT 7 – Increase Minimum Stipend**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.44.2

The current *Minimum Stipend* of \$550 per week be increased by 12.00 %, the increase to be made over two years, viz., 6.00 % (\$33.00 per week) from 1/7/02, with a further increase of 6.00 % (\$33.00 per week) from 1/7/03, the six monthly review of *Minimum Stipend* to continue on the present basis and the Child Allowance to remain at \$5 per dependent child per week, payable while the child completes his secondary education.

**ACT 8 – Stipend Relief 2002/2003**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.44.4

Stipend Relief for 2002/2003 be granted to Armidale Deacons' Court up to \$15,000, Narre Warren Deacons' Court up to \$4,000 and Ulverstone Deacons' Court up to \$13,000, all on a strictly needs basis.

**ACT 9 – Loan to Hunter-Barrington Congregation**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.47.1-4

It was resolved that, subject to the agreement of the Session, Deacons' Court and Congregation to the sale of the vacant land at Minmi Road, Edgeworth:

1. Synod approve the application by the Hunter-Barrington Deacons' Court for financial assistance up to \$210,000 to enable them to complete the purchase of a church/hall/cottage complex at Cardiff, N.S.W.
2. Up to \$45,000 of this amount be provided by a loan from the 8: 14 Foundation funds – repayments to be rents received from the cottage included in the complex, currently \$160 per week, which will fully repay the loan in approximately 5 years. Repayments are to commence after full clearance of a Bridging Loan also granted to assist in the purchase of the Cardiff property. No interest is to be charged on the 8: 14 Foundation loan.
3. A Bridging Loan of up to \$165,000 be provided from other Church funds – repayment in full to be effected from the proceeds of sale of vacant land at Minmi Road, Edgeworth, N.S.W., within six months of the settlement of the purchase of the Cardiff property – interest to be charged at the *Official Cash Rate* as set by the Reserve Bank of Australia plus a margin of 1.75 % per annum (Currently 4.50 % + 1.75 % = 6.25 % per annum).
4. Synod authorise the 8: 14 Foundation Committee to liaise with other Committees and Deacons' Courts with a view to funding the Bridging Loan of \$165,000.

**ACT 10 – Amendment to Max Hutton (Ulverstone) Bequest**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.50.1

Synod resolution regarding the Max Hutton bequest to the Ulverstone Congregation (Minutes 99.29) be amended by inserting the following words:

“and is to be invested on the instructions of the Ulverstone Deacons' Court and in line with any guidelines which may be set from time to time by Synod,”

the resolution then to read:

“Synod gives thanks to God for the legacy from Mr. Max Hutton of Ulverstone, and directs that it be held by the Victorian Trustees as follows:

- i. 100 % of the legacy is to be held for the Ulverstone Congregation *and is to be invested on the instructions of the Ulverstone Deacons' Court and in line with any guidelines which may be set from time to time by Synod*, the income to be available to the congregation for its general purposes, and the capital to be available for capital expenses or major building maintenance, but subject to the approval of the Presbytery of the bounds, ...”

**ACT 11 – Investment Strategy - Victoria**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.50.2

The Investment Strategy outlined in the Report be adopted.

*The relevant wording the Report as follows:*

**Investment Strategy**

**Objective**

- To achieve a real rate of return over inflation from the investment of funds and be risk averse.
- To grow Bequest Funds after inflation, by 0.50% pa.
- To achieve income from the Bequest Funds of 1.75% pa above the Official Cash Rate set by the Reserve Bank of Australia.

**Strategy**

- Investment portfolio to embrace Risk and Return with adequate Diversification.
- Investments to take into account liquidity requirements.
- Investments to be made in a balanced portfolio:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>
Cash (Banks)	5%-10%	5%
1 <sup>st</sup> Registered Mortgages	20%-40%	30%
Bonds/Debentures	10%-25%	15%
Equities (Shares/Units)	40%-60%	<u>50%</u>
		<u>100%</u>

**Application**

Investments to be brought into Asset Classes and Ranges by 31/12/02 by reducing present equities when opportune.

**Review**

To be reviewed annually as at 31<sup>st</sup> December

## ACT 12 – Investment Strategy - NSW

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2002

Minutes 02.51.2

The Investment Strategy submitted by the Victorian Trust Corporation for adoption, be also adopted for the New South Wales Corporation.

*The relevant wording the TVic Report as follows:*

### Investment Strategy

#### Objective

- To achieve a real rate of return over inflation from the investment of funds and be risk averse.
- To grow Bequest Funds after inflation, by 0.50% pa.
- To achieve income from the Bequest Funds of 1.75% pa above the Official Cash Rate set by the Reserve Bank of Australia.

#### Strategy

- Investment portfolio to embrace Risk and Return with adequate Diversification.
- Investments to take into account liquidity requirements.
- Investments to be made in a balanced portfolio:

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		<u>100%</u>

#### Application

Investments to be brought into Asset Classes and Ranges by 31/12/02 by reducing present equities when opportune.

#### Review

To be reviewed annually as at 31<sup>st</sup> December