

## ACTS OF SYNOD 2009

### Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	None	

### Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Superannuation Regulations Amendment Act	09.22.1
2	Superannuation System Review	09.23
3	Minimum Stipend	09.24.2
4	Stipend Relief and Presbyterial Visitation	09.24.3
5	Giving for Church Funds	09.25.5
6	Stipend Assistance	09.25.6
7	Permission for less Than Minimum Stipend	09.26
8	Change to Trustees Victoria	09.37
9	Delegates to ICRC Conference	09.38.3

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

None

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

#### ACT 1 – Superannuation Regulations Amendment Act

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Minutes 09.22.1

Synod approve the following amendments to the current Superannuation Committee Regulations:

- a. the following addition immediately after the second last sentence in Section C 5 of the Superannuation Regulations: Superannuation contributions for members from the end of the quarter in which they attain 70 years is limited to 5% of minimum stipend/non-cash benefits figure and reduces to nil from their attainment of age 75.
- b. the substitution of the following words for those in Section B 1 a) of the current Superannuation Regulations: SANCTIONED CHARGES (a) As from 1/4/2009 an annual levy of 14.5% of the minimum stipend/non-cash benefits as estimated at the beginning of each calendar year, such levy to apply to every sanctioned charge as a preference burden after stipend, and to be paid in four approximately equal quarterly instalments by 28/2, 31/5, 31/8 and 30/11 in each year. Aid to aid-receiving charges is to include the levy but a discount of 20%, or as otherwise resolved from time to time by Synod resolution, is to be allowed for those settled charges receiving stipend assistance from Synod.
- c. the substitution of the following words for those in Section B 1 c) of the current Superannuation Regulations: VACANT CHARGES c) As from 1/4/2009 the discount for vacant congregations and congregations which are not required to make Superannuation

contributions for their inducted or full-time supply minister will be increased from 50% to 60% for the period the situation applies. A discount of 80% of the levy otherwise payable will apply for vacant congregations paying Superannuation Guarantee [SG] contributions for full time residential supply for the period the situation applies.

This Act may be cited as Superannuation Regulations Amendment Act (Class 2, Synod 2009)

### **ACT 2 – Superannuation System Review**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Minutes 09.23

The Superannuation Committee undertake a thorough overall review of the current Synod “Superannuation System”. The review to include:

1. The current level of contribution made by the church for the various categories of ministers, to Superannuation and/or Retirement Benefits. Particularly the case of ministers who are aged 70 years or greater so that there is some continuing contribution made for their retirement until it is effected.
2. The current level of Superannuation Levy placed on the various categories of sanctioned charges, by the Synod. Particularly the case of congregations which are not required to make Superannuation contributions on behalf of their inducted ministers or full time Supply ministers.

### **ACT 3 – Minimum Stipend**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Minutes 09.24.2

The Minimum Stipend – Cash and Non-cash components, (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2009/2010 be \$822 per week (\$42,861 pa.) ie. to remain unchanged from the last review on 1/1/09. The six monthly reviews due on 1/7/09 and 1/1/10 to be suspended and the situation to reviewed and recommendation made to Synod 2010.

### **ACT 4 – Stipend Relief and Presbyterial Visitation**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Minutes 09.24.3

Where a congregation has requested Stipend Relief of approximately 50% of the Minimum Stipend for the 2009/10 Synodical year, Presbytery is to conduct a Presbyterial Visitation during 2009, unless one was conducted in 2008, paying particular attention to the ongoing viability of the congregation and its efficient working with a view to the progressive reduction of aid over five years as detailed in Synod’s Decision Book page 92 Sections 2 & 3.

### **ACT 5 – Giving for Church Funds**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Minutes 09.25.5

Synod encourages regular, sacrificial and cheerful giving to the needy funds of the Church, particularly Stipend Relief, and urges Sessions and Deacons' Courts to take the lead in encouraging this Biblical response to present need. The Finance Committee of Synod is authorised, upon advice of the Synod Treasurer, to make appeal from time to time as may be appropriate by direct correspondence to local church courts as well as through the Presbyterian Banner.

### **ACT 6 – Stipend Relief Distribution**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Minutes 09.25.6

Stipend Assistance for 2009/2010 (1/5/09 to 30/4/10) be granted to the following Deacons' Courts, on a strictly needs basis and subject to the availability of funds at the time of the request. Requests to be made at least on a quarterly basis from 1/5/09:

\$ 21,400	Armidale (up to 50% of Minimum Stipend - \$42,861 as at 1/1/09)
\$ 21,000	Hawkesbury-Nepean
\$ 20,000	Narre Warren
<u>\$ 10,000</u>	Ulverstone
<u>\$ 72,400</u>	Total

### **ACT 7 – Permission For Less Than Minimum Stipend**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Minutes 09.26

Synod note that where mutually acceptable between the minister and the congregation, a Presbytery is permitted to approve an appointment or settlement, or its continuation, at a stipend/non-cash benefits level less than the minimum stipend set by Synod from time to time, provided that it is satisfied that the financial position of the person and their dependents is adequately provided for both as regards income and superannuation, and that the interests of any congregation concerned are appropriately taken into account. This provision may be suitable for a new minister with limited experience, or for pioneering work or for a small congregation with modest resources. Normally the basic figure should be not less than 80% of the minimum stipend/non-cash benefits, unless a tentmaker model is envisaged, and may rise in steps to the minimum level over say five years. Any variation from the norm is to be minuted by the Presbytery and reviewed annually.

### **ACT 8 – Change to Trustees for Victoria**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Minutes 09.37

Pursuant to Section 3 (13) of the Free Presbyterian Church Property Act 1953, Synod appoint that as from the rising of this Synod the trustees in terms of that Act shall be the Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer for the time being of the Synod of Eastern Australia.

Synod also resolved: That in the event of any of the Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer of Synod being unavailable for necessary decisions and/or execution of documents, the immediate past Moderator or, failing him, the one next preceding him who is able and willing to act, shall be the Moderator for the purpose of the Property Act, the Convener of Law and Advisory Committee shall be the Clerk, or failing him a person nominated by that Committee; and the Convener of Finance Committee shall be the Treasurer, or failing him a person nominated by the Finance Committee; and such substituted person or persons shall be entitled to make decisions and execute documents as if the holder of the office of Moderator, Clerk or Treasurer, as the case may be. A record shall be kept of any substitution and report made to the ensuing Synod.

**ACT 9 – Delegates to ICRC Conference**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Minutes 09.38.3

That Synod appoint two delegates to attend the International Conference of Reformed Churches scheduled to meet in Christchurch from 15-22 October 2009.