

The Synod of Eastern Australia

MINUTES
OF THE 178TH ANNUAL MEETING
WAUCHOPE, NSW, 5TH TO 8TH MAY, 2026

Table of Contents

ACTS OF SYNOD 2026.....	2
26.1 OPENING.....	3
26.2 MODERATOR’S SERMON.....	3
26.3 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERY.....	3
26.4 ASSOCIATION OF DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES.....	3
26.5 ELECTION OF MODERATOR.....	4
26.6 MODERATOR’S ADDRESS.....	4
26.7 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.....	4
26.8 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.....	5
26.9 CRCA DELEGATE’S ADDRESS.....	8
26.10 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONTINUED.....	8
26.11 YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE.....	12
26.12 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE.....	13
26.13 SUPERANNUATION and INSURANCE COMMITTEE.....	13
26.14 RPCA DELEGATE’S ADDRESS.....	15
26.15 AFC DELEGATE’S ADDRESS.....	16
26.16 FINANCE COMMITTEE.....	16
26.17 GENERAL TREASURER.....	17
26.18 NSW TRUST CORPORATION.....	18
26.19 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION.....	18
26.20 VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION.....	18
26.21 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE.....	18
26.22 THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT.....	19
26.23 ARCHIVIST’S REPORT.....	19
26.24 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE.....	19
26.25 RCNZ DELEGATE’S ADDRESSES.....	20
26.27 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE.....	20
26.28 PRESBYTERY REPORTS.....	23
26.29 MISSIONS COMMITTEE.....	23
26.31 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS.....	25
26.32 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE.....	25
26.33 MODERATOR-ELECT.....	26

26.34	TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT SYNOD	26
26.35	THANKS	26
26.36	CLOSURE OF SYNOD	27

ACTS OF SYNOD 2026

Class 1 (Barrier Act Procedure)

No	Act	Reference
	[Proposed Declaratory Act anent Creation Days sent down to Presbyteries]	26.8.2

Class 2 (Others)

No	Act	Reference
1	Pay Day Super Commencement	26.8.1
2	Seats on Presbyteries and Status of Assessors	26.10.4
3	Special (Urgent) Meetings	26.10.5
4	Amendment to Act 18, 1983 (amended 2004, 2012) anent Admission of Ministers from other Churches	26.10.6
5	Repeal of Act 10, Synod 1988 anent Sale of Congregational Property (Excluding places of worship)	26.10.7
6	Psalm Versions and Uniformity	26.10.8
7	Presbytery Consultation on Draft Statement on Divorce, Separation and Remarriage	26.10
8	Listing of RTC, Melbourne as Synod-approved College	26.12.1
9	Annual Leave Record Keeping	26.13.2
10	Deacons' Courts Payday Superannuation Remittances	26.13.3
11	Superannuation Support Fund Remittances	26.13.4
12	Calculation of Advance Superannuation Support Fund Payments	26.13.5
13	Classification of Geelong Congregation as Aid-receiving for Superannuation Purposes	26.13 supplementary
14	Financial Assistance to Hawkesbury-Nepean	26.16.3
15	Capital Assistance to Hawkesbury-Nepean re boundary realignment	26.16 supplementary
16	Withdrawal of approval of NIV (1984) and NASB usage in public worship	26.21 Overture
17	Suspension of Banner Subscription Increase	26.22.3
18	Relations with Australian Free Church	26.27.2
19	Southern Presbytery Fund	26.28 Overture

SESSION 1**TUESDAY 5th MAY 2026****4:30PM****26.1 OPENING**

Within the Wauchope Church building of the Hastings River Congregation, on Tuesday 5th May 2026, at 4.30pm, the Synod of Eastern Australia met. The Moderator, Rev Jim Klazinga, took the chair, and extended a welcome. Those gathered joined in praise, singing Psalm 92 and reading from Deuteronomy 4:25-40.

26.2 MODERATOR'S SERMON

The Moderator preached on Deuteronomy 4:35. He spoke about the glory of God at the centre of Reformed Theology. God has manifested His glory in Jesus Christ. He is and He is One.

The gathering sang from Psalm 9. The Moderator constituted the meeting, leading in prayer.

26.3 ROLLS OF PRESBYTERY

The Certified Rolls of Presbyteries were tendered.

Northern Presbytery	Ministers	Commissioned Elders
Brisbane	JD Klazinga	S Carswell
Hastings River	[vacant]	G Hamilton
Northern Rivers	DJ Kerridge	J Greensill
Central Presbytery		
Manning	[vacant]	TI Leggott
Hunter	[vacant] GD Ball -Resident	I Miller
	Supply	
Sydney West	DK Muldoon	D McIntosh
St George's	R Tso	A Steel
Southern Presbytery		
Geelong	JCA Forbes	D Ramsay
Melbourne	D Lachman	
Ulverstone	Z Dotson	M Pilgrim

The Moderator welcomed Rev. David Lachman to his first Synod as an ordained Minister of the PCEA.

26.4 ASSOCIATION OF DELEGATES FROM OTHER CHURCHES

Rev Robin Tso introduced delegates from other churches: Rev Lauren Nels from the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia; Rev, Aaron Warner from the Reformed Churches of New Zealand; Rev Shanmugam Partheepan from the Free Church Continuing; Rev Graeme Hart from the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia; Rev. John Nelson from the Australian Free Church. It was intimated that Mr Derek De Jong from the Southern Presbyterian Church is expected to attend from Wednesday.

It was moved seconded and carried that these men be associated with the court. The Moderator advised them of the conditions of association. The Moderator welcomed the delegates to the Synod.

26.5 ELECTION OF MODERATOR

The Clerk reported that the Rev. Robin Tso had been nominated as the incoming Moderator. It was moved and seconded that the appointment be confirmed. The motion was carried.

CLOSURE OF SESSION

The session was closed with the singing of Psalm 116 and prayer by the Moderator at 5:35pm

DJ Kerridge
Clerk

JD Klazinga
Moderator

SESSION 2

TUESDAY 5th MAY 2026

7:00PM

The Session was opened by the Moderator, Mr Tso, with the singing of Ps 115:1-11, prayer led by the Moderator, and the reading of Lamentations 3:1-33 at pm.

26.6 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Moderator delivered his opening address on the subject "Great Is thy Faithfulness". He spoke on the darkness of despair, the declaration of hope and our dependency on grace.

MINUTES

The Moderator reminded the Court of Handbook 6.1 and urged good conduct. The Minutes of Session 1 were read and confirmed.

26.7 ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

The Clerk presented the Administration Committee's report. It was resolved that the report be received.

The Clerk presented the proposed deliverances and it was moved, seconded and carried:

1. That the proposed Timetable for Synod 2026 be confirmed.
2. That the proposed Committee Structure, along with other appointments, as listed in the report be considered in the final session of Synod.
3. That item C1 be taken with Church and Nation Committee business; item C2 be taken with Law and Advisory business.
4. That item C3 be taken with Presbytery reports.
5. That the following Examiners of Records be appointed:

Northern Presbytery Rev. D. Muldoon and Mt Druitt Elder
Central Presbytery Rev. D. Lachman and Ulverstone Elder
Southern Presbytery Rev. D. Kerridge and Northern Rivers Elder

Notices of Motion were called for and received.

CLOSURE OF SESSION

The court joined in singing Psalm 67. The Moderator closed the session with prayer at 8:30pm.

DJ Kerridge
Clerk

R Tso
Moderator

SESSION 3 WEDNESDAY 6th MAY 2026 9:00AM

The session was opened at 9am with the singing of Ps 86:10-15 and prayer by Mr Jim Klazinga, followed by a devotion by the Moderator on John 3:30 The Character in the Gospel Ministry: The Temptation, Conviction and Declaration.

The Synod adjourned to have the official photo taken at 9:35am and recommenced at 9:57am with prayer by Mr Kerridge.

MINUTES

The Minutes of Session 2 were read and confirmed. Mr Ball thanked the Moderator for his address from the previous evening.

26.8 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Forbes, presented the report. It was moved and seconded that the report be received.

Mr Lachman moved a motion on notice and it was seconded, that Synod does not receive section 3 of the Law and Advisory Committee report on the "Laying on of hands at ordination" and rennumbers all other items accordingly.

Mr Carswell led the court in prayer. Synod adjourned for morning tea at 10:30am and reconvened at 11am. Mr Greensill led the court in prayer.

On the advice of Moderator and Clerk the Convener fell from his original motion that the report be received in its entirety. He determined to address each section of the report by its numbered section and spoke to section 1. He moved that section 1 of the report be received. The motion was seconded.

Mr Steel moved a motion on notice regarding:

"-Appendix "A" Biblical Principles for Sustentation of Ministry (Page 13)

“Additional Considerations

2. "The ATO sets no limit on Non-Cash Benefits but Synod has imposed its own limit of 40% of minimum stipend. This appears to be arbitrary and unnecessary from both a biblical perspective and a tax/legal perspective. It is suggested that this be reviewed.”

That the Report be received with the exception of - Additional Suggestions Point 2. in the Appendix “A” accompanying it.

The motion was seconded. The motions were put against each other, and Mr Steel’s motion was preferred. Upon being put to the vote Mr Steel’s motion carried.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverance from item 1.1:

1. Sustentation and “PayDay Super”

1. **Sustentation** - Synod recognises the biblical example of a common fund as the ordinary means for sustentation of ministry and instructs the Law and Advisory Committee to bring forward detailed proposals to the next Synod for how such a fund could be operated within the PCEA.

The deliverance was seconded.

Mr Steel moved a motion on notice regarding Law & Advisory Committee - Proposed Deliverance 1 - Sustentation and PayDay Super - 1.1 - Sustentation (Page 8)

That Synod confirms its longstanding (since 1886) understanding of and practice of the scriptural principle contained in Galatians 6 v 6 ie. Congregational ministers be supported by the free-will offerings of the congregational members.

The motion was seconded. The motions were put against each other, and Mr Steel’s motion was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, Mr Steel’s motion did not carry.

The Convener presented section 2a of item 1.

2. “PayDay Super”

- a) Congregational treasurers are advised that the administration of superannuation as part of payroll will be expected of them from no later than 1 July 2026 and that, if necessary, the Superannuation Committee can assist them in transitioning to this new system.

Item 1.2a) of the proposed deliverances was moved and seconded. Upon being put to the vote, the deliverance carried.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverance for item 1.2b:

2b) Synod instructs the Superannuation Committee to give consideration to how the management of the relevant centrally held funds may be streamlined with a view to dissolving the committee.

Item 1.2b) was moved and seconded. The vote was tied regarding the deliverance. The Moderator voted to retain the status quo and against the deliverance.

The Convener presented section 2 of the report. It was moved, seconded and carried that the section of the report be received.

The Convener presented proposed deliverance 2

2. Declaratory Act re Westminster Confession 4.1

Synod resolves to send the following overture to presbyteries in accordance with Barrier Act procedure, in the meantime passing it as an Interim Act. Returns from Presbyteries are to be sent to the Synod clerk no later than 31 December 2026:

WHEREAS

1. This Church has been unsettled at times by diversity of opinion over the meaning of the phrase “in the space of six days” in Westminster Confession 4.1,
2. In the providence of God, this Church now finds itself with unanimity of opinion among the inducted ministers and opportunity to make a declaration on the matter,
3. It is highly desirable for the future peace and stability of this Church that the matter be clarified,

NOW THEREFORE

Synod, with consent of Presbyteries, declares that:

The phrase “in the space of six days” in Westminster Confession 4.1 is held to teach, as the received doctrine of this Church, that the creation occurred in the timeframe of six, literal, consecutive, days. This Church disowns allegorical or figurative interpretations which seek to accommodate instantaneous creation or creation over long ages, as also literary interpretations in which the creation week is held to be merely a literary framework rather than a literal, historical account.

The deliverance was moved and seconded.

A motion on notice was moved by Mr Dotson, and seconded, regarding Law and Advisory Deliverance 2: “Declaratory Act re Westminster Confession 4.1”

That it is proposed the Synod pass simple Class 1 Legislation given as a motion below:

WHEREAS the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia understands the Westminster Confession of Faith’s language in “in the space of six days” in 4.1 to mean the world was created in six 24-hour days as recorded in the historical account in the Book of Genesis chapters 1-2. THEREFORE, the Synod of this church reminds Presbyteries, Sessions and the Training of the Ministry Committee to ascertain the views of all ministers seeking admission, candidates for the ministry, as well as potential Elders and Deacons and to ensure they are in agreement with the Holy Scriptures and Confession of Faith

Mr Dotson’s motion was seconded.

CLOSURE OF SESSION

Dr Muldoon led the court in prayer and the Synod adjourned for lunch at 12:33pm.

DJ Kerridge
Clerk

R Tso
Moderator

SESSION 4

WEDNESDAY 7th MAY 2025

2:00PM

The court resumed at 2:00pm.

The session was opened with prayer by Mr Hamilton and the singing of Psalm 116:1-8.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous Session were read and confirmed.

Mr Lachman proposed an amendment to Mr Dotson's motion:

In words "The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia understands be replaced with "The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia resolves that" and the words "The world was created in six, distinct, consecutive, historical, normal days" replace "six 24-hour days". Mr Dotson accepted the amendments.

Mr Dotson fell from his motion.

The Convener proposed that the Committee deliverance be amended to remove the second whereas 2. and remove the proposal to pass it as an Interim Act.

The committee deliverance 2, as amended, was put to the vote. The deliverance was carried.

26.9 CRCA DELEGATE'S ADDRESS

The Moderator called for Mr Lourens Nels to address the Synod. Mr Nels declared their appreciation of the close relationship that the CRCA has, and has had with the PCEA, over the years. We have a shared desire to see the Church grow as Christ Jesus grows His Church. Mr Nels advised that the CRCA has 7513 members, organised in seven classes. The next CRCA Synod is due in May 2027 to be held in Wollongong. Mr Nels reported the 2024 reaffirmation of the complementarian position of the CRCA in accord with Belgic Confession Article 7. Mr Nels informed us that they are praying for the PCEA that we may have wisdom, courage and clear discernment.

26.10 LAW AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONTINUED

The Convener, with the agreement of the Committee, withdrew item 3 of the Report regarding the laying on of hands and its accompanying deliverance.

Mr Lachman fell from his motion regarding the reception of section 3 of the report, already moved and seconded in the previous session.

Mr Forbes presented the Overture from the Southern Presbytery regarding the laying on of hands. Mr Forbes moved that the crave of the overture be granted in the terms of the Overture, viz: The Southern Presbytery requests that Handbook 4.72 be clarified accordingly to read "The person is then ordained to the office of the holy ministry by prayer and the laying on of the hands of the ministers of the presbytery..."

Mr. Lachman moved a motion on notice that Synod receives the overture from the Southern Presbytery on "laying on of hands" and forwards it to the Law and Advisory Committee for further consideration.

The motion was put against the Overture and Mr Lachman's motion was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, Mr Lachman's motion carried.

The Synod adjourned for afternoon tea at 3:35pm and resumed at 4pm.

The Convener presented sections 4, 5 and 6. of the Law and Advisory Committee Report regarding seats on Presbytery; terminology for special meetings; and eligibility for a Call. The Convener moved that the report sections be received. The motion was carried.

The Convener presented proposed deliverance 4:

4. Seats on presbytery and status of assessors – Synod clarifies that assessors are not ordinary members of a presbytery and do not, by virtue of their appointment, have a right to sit on Synod.

a) Delete Handbook 4.3d and place the asterisk after 4.3c

b) Renumber Handbook 4.3e as 4.3d and add: "Such membership is extraordinary and does not convey a right to sit on Synod."

Amend first line of Handbook 5.3 to read: "The Synod consists of all ordinary members of presbyteries..."

The deliverance was moved, seconded and carried.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverance 5:

5. Special (urgent) meetings – Synod resolves that what was previously called an *extraordinary* or *pro re nata* meeting should now be called a *special urgent* meeting. Handbook 4.16 is to be amended accordingly, together with all other references throughout the Handbook.

The deliverance was moved and seconded.

Mr Lachman moved a motion on notice regarding Deliverance 5 of the Law and Advisory Committee: That the deliverance be amended to read "unanticipated special urgent meeting (pro re nata)" as this clarifies that a pro re nata meaning cannot be held if the Business was anticipated.

Mr Lachman's motion was put against the Committee deliverance. Mr Lachman's motion was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, Mr Lachman's motion carried.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverance 6:

6. Amend Act 18, 1983, (as amended 2004, 2012) - Synod amend the last two paragraphs of *Act 18, Class 2, 1983 (as amended) anent Admission of Ministers from other Churches* as follows:

The presbytery has no power to admit him, but transmits its report to the Training of Ministry Committee, together with any remarks or recommendations it may see fit to add. The Training of Ministry Committee makes such further enquiries as seem appropriate and the case is reported to the next meeting, or a pro re nata meeting, of Synod for its decision. Synod will normally interview the applicant and may set additional requirements as appropriate.

Authority to admit him having been granted by Synod, the clerk of presbytery is to add his name to a special list entitled "Ministers of other churches eligible for call" and inform him in writing that he is now eligible for election and call by congregations of this church for a period of three years. If he has resigned from his previous denomination, is resident within the bounds of the presbytery, and wishes to be admitted as a minister without charge, then the presbytery requires the applicant to answer the questions prescribed in Act of Synod 1952 (II) for "Probationers before they are licensed to preach the gospel", and to sign the Formula. After prayer and a suitable address

by the moderator, he is admitted into communion and declared a Minister (or probationer) of the church eligible for call, but he may not moderate meetings of Presbytery or Synod until he has been duly inducted to a charge.

The amended deliverance was moved, seconded and carried.

The Convener presented section 7 of the Law and Advisory Report regarding the sale of Congregational Property. It was moved and seconded that the section of the Report be received.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverance 7:

7. Act 10, Synod 1988 anent Sale of Congregational Property (Excluding places of worship)

a) Synod repeal *Act 10, Class 2, Synod 1988 anent Sale of Congregational Property (Excluding places of worship)*.

b) Handbook 3.22 is amended as follows:

3.22 MORTGAGE/SALE OF PROPERTY

Where mortgage or sale of congregational property is desired, the Deacons' Court shall ensure that the congregation and relevant higher courts are informed of the reasons for the sale and/or mortgage, the purposes for which the funds realised will be used and how repayment will be funded. Sale, mortgage or other encumbrance of church property cannot take place without the approval of the congregation and relevant higher courts. ~~The sale of church property requires the approval of the congregation.~~ In respect of congregational property in New South Wales, the proceeds of a mortgage can only be applied to the erection, improvement or maintenance of a church, manse or school-house on land held for the congregation. (Synod of Eastern Australia Property Act 1918, section 10). ~~[Relevant Synod legislation includes Act of Synod 1958 (Class 1) re Victorian Act; Act of Synod 1984 re NSW Act.]~~

~~Synod 1988 (Act 10) gave authority to the Presbytery of the bounds to approve in the name of Synod the sale of property other than places of worship where a) the Congregation has been informed of the reasons for the proposed sale, and the purpose for which the funds realized will be used, and has given its consent, certified to the Presbytery by extract minute; b) in the case of the sale of a manse the Presbytery has been satisfied that the provision of a suitable manse is assured upon the sale of the old; c) the sale and related purchases are handled in their legal aspects by a competent firm of solicitors; and d) in all respects the provisions of the applicable Act of Parliament, and legislation of Synod are adhered to.]~~

~~The congregation must consent as certified by extract minute; in the case of a manse the Presbytery must be satisfied that the provision of a suitable manse is assured upon the sale of the old; a competent firm of solicitors must handle the legal aspects; and the legislation of the Synod and the applicable Act of Parliament must be adhered to. Sales of places of worship require Synod approval.]~~

Should it be impracticable to wait until the annual Synod, a congregation desiring to mortgage property ~~(other than church buildings)~~ may submit a Presbytery-approved proposal to the Finance Committee in terms of the existing Capital Assistance Fund procedure and the Administration Committee is authorised to make a decision after receiving recommendation or otherwise from the Finance Committee. (Act 9, 2008)

The deliverance was moved, seconded and carried.

The Convener presented section 8 of the Law and advisory report regarding Psalm versions and uniformity. It was moved and seconded that the report be received. The vote was tied. The Moderator voted for the reception of the report section.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverance 8:

8. Psalm versions and uniformity

1. Synod acknowledges that the current diversity of psalters in use within our small denomination tends to disunity. Synod recognises the historic principle of uniformity and recommits to work towards uniformity in psalm versions, as also in all other significant areas of worship.
2. Synod rescinds, as unconstitutional, Act 12, Class 2, 1991 and the resolution of Synod 1992, minutes 71(4) - *“Synod remind Sessions to monitor closely the use of versions of the Psalms so as to ensure accuracy and a reasonable commonality of tunes and metres with the 1650 Psalter, and further request that well-considered efforts to further improve the manner of praise be implemented.”*
3. Synod reaffirms that oversight of the mode of conduct of worship within congregations belongs to presbyteries not sessions, as reflected in Handbook 2.8.

The deliverance was moved and seconded.

Mr Steel moved a motion on notice regarding Law & Advisory Committee - Proposed Deliverance 8(2)

“- Psalm versions and uniformity (Page 10)

8. Psalm versions and uniformity

2. Synod rescinds, as unconstitutional, Act 12, Class 2, 1991 and the resolution of Synod 1992, minutes 71(4) -

"Synod remind Sessions to monitor closely the use of versions of the Psalms so as to ensure accuracy and a reasonable commonality of tunes and metres with the 1650 Psalter, and further request that well-considered efforts to further improve the manner of praise be implemented."

Synod reaffirms that oversight of the mode of conduct of worship within congregations belongs to presbyteries not sessions, as reflected in Handbook 2.8.”

Mr Steel’s motion was put against the proposed deliverance and the proposed deliverance was preferred.

Mr Klazinga proposed an amendment to strike the words “as also in all other significant areas of worship”. Mr Klazinga’s motion was put against the deliverance 8.1. and was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, the amended proposed deliverance carried.

The Convener presented the remainder of the report (sections 9 to 13). It was moved, seconded and carried that the remainder of the report be received.

The court joined in singing Psalm 100.

Mr Reeve was called to speak to the Majority Report of the Panel on Divorce, Separation and Remarriage. It was moved and seconded that the report be received.

Mr Forbes moved a motion on notice that Synod advise Mr Reeve and Mr Miller to make appropriate amendment to the report before presenting it for reception. The motion was seconded.

CLOSURE OF SESSION

The Synod adjourned for dinner at 6:03pm.

DJ Kerridge
Clerk

R Tso
Moderator

SESSION 5

WEDNESDAY 6th MAY 2026

7:00PM

The Synod resumed at 7:00pm with prayer, led by Mr Leggott.

Notices of motion were called for all remaining business for Wednesday.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous Session were read and confirmed.

Mr Forbes' motion was put against Mr Miller's motion for reception of the Majority Report. The motion for reception was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, the motion for reception carried.

Mr Forbes dissented and protested with reasons to be submitted to the Clerk.

Mr Reeve presented the Majority Panel Report.

Considerable discussion followed.

The Moderator ruled that standing orders be suspended until 10:00pm.

Mr Forbes presented his Minority Report. It was moved and seconded and carried that the report be received.

Discussion followed.

Mr Miller moved the Majority Report proposed deliverance. It was seconded.

Mr Klazinga moved an amendment to the Majority report deliverance: Synod resolves to send the draft statement to Presbyteries for comment. It further instructs Presbyteries to report back to the Panel by 1st December so that a revised statement be prepared for Synod 2027. The motion was seconded. The Majority Panel members agreed that the amendment become the deliverance.

The deliverance of the Minority Report was put against the amended deliverance of the Majority Report. The deliverance of the Majority report was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, the Majority Report deliverance, as amended, was carried.

26.11 YOUTH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Carswell, presented the report. It was resolved to receive the report. The Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was moved, seconded and carried that:

1. Synod encourages the committee to proceed with the organisation of the family and youth camps in 2026 and pray that these will result in spiritual growth and building godly relationships.
2. Synod pray for those involved in teaching Sunday-school and youth classes and for the children and youth in the Church.
3. Synod thank Irene Steel and Nic and Amelia O'Dell for the scripture search work and birthday card greeting and uphold them in prayer.

4. Synod thank John and Judy Greensill for the use of their property for the youth camp, and the Northern Rivers congregation for their generosity, and for wisdom as the committee consider future options.

26.12 TRAINING OF MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Kerridge, presented the report. It was resolved that the report be received. The Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was moved, seconded and carried that:

1. That Synod note the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Reformed Theological College, Melbourne (RTC) which has established them as a Synod-approved College under Act 16 (1983 as amended), and that the RTC be so listed in the Handbook at Section 4.49A “Training”.

It was moved that the Synod move into closed court.

The Synod met in open court. It was moved, seconded and carried:

2. That we would earnestly and regularly pray for the provision of candidates for the ministry from within our ranks, help from sister churches, and men ready for office-bearing in our congregations.

26.13 SUPERANNUATION and INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Tso, presented the report. It was moved, seconded and carried that the report be received.

The Convener moved the proposed deliverance 1 that the Synod receive the report. It was seconded and carried.

CLOSURE OF SESSION

The session closed with prayer by the Moderator at 10:05pm

DJ Kerridge
Clerk

R Tso
Moderator

SESSION 6

THURSDAY 7th MAY 2026

9:00AM

The session opened with prayer, a reading from 1 Timothy:1-17 and the singing of Psalm 19:1-8 followed by a devotion from the Moderator on 1 Timothy 1:15. The heart of the Gospel Ministry: The Great Saying; The Great Saviour; The great Sinner.

MINUTES

Mr Forbes tendered his Dissent with reasons, viz:

The language of the report is inappropriate. It claims that the reasons I have given for recommending dissolution of the panel are not my true reasons. The report claims to know my mind, and presumes a right to state, on my behalf, opinions and motives that I have never held or expressed. It is not true and should not have been received by Synod. In addition, the manner in which the report refers to the divergence over 1 Corinthians 7:39 publicly casts doubt on my orthodoxy as a minister of the gospel and should not have been raised in this way or received by Synod in this form.

The Minutes of the previous Session were read and confirmed.

The Moderator vacated the chair to continue with the proposed deliverances of the Superannuation Report. Mr Klazinga assumed the chair.

The Convener moved the proposed deliverance 2:

2 Synod strongly encourages Deacons' Courts and Sessions to utilize the provided Minister's Holiday Leave Record Form to accurately track leave entitlements and prevent unfunded liabilities. Presbyteries are to ensure evidence of ministers' outstanding holiday leave is included with other records presented for annual examination and attestation.

The deliverance was seconded and carried.

The Convener moved the proposed deliverance 3:

3 Synod resolves that effective **1 July 2026**, all Deacons' Courts assume responsibility for remitting the full 17% superannuation contribution to the minister's super fund concurrent with the stipend payment, to ensure compliance with Payday Superannuation legislation.

The deliverance was seconded.

Dr Muldoon moved a motion on notice that Synod adopt a modified option A under D2. 'Options considered and rejected'. Namely, 'All Deacons Courts remit funds to the Synod to run a central payroll system, and that assistance from an accountant be sought, and funded, as required.

Mr Leggott asked that the motion be ruled out of order. The Moderator refused to rule the motion out of order.

The court adjourned for morning tea at 10:37am. and resumed at 11:00am

Dr Muldoon's motion was seconded.

The motion was put against the deliverance and the deliverance was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, the deliverance carried.

The Convener moved the proposed deliverance 4:

- 4 Synod resolves that** the Superannuation Support Fund remit the requisite subsidy to Aid-Receiving and non-vacant congregations on a **quarterly basis in advance**.

The deliverance was seconded and carried.

The Convener moved the proposed deliverance 5:

- 5 Synod authorises** the Superannuation and Insurance Committee to calculate these advance payments based on the stipend rates at the commencement of the financial year.

The deliverance was seconded and carried.

The Convener tendered a Superannuation and Insurance Committee supplementary report included here for record:

The Committee received advice by Extract Minute from the Clerk of Southern Presbytery that, in response to a request from the Geelong Deacons' Court seeking financial assistance from Synod, the Melbourne Deacons' Court has pledged up to \$80,000 per year for three years towards the financial needs of the Geelong Congregation to support a full-time ministry. As a result, the Presbytery requests that the Geelong Congregation be deemed an aid-receiving congregation for superannuation purposes.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the report be received.

The Convener presented the supplementary proposed deliverance:

Proposed Deliverance

Geelong Congregation be classified as an aid-receiving congregation for superannuation purposes arising from the Melbourne Deacons' Court's pledging up to \$80,000 per year for 3 years towards the financial needs of Geelong for full-time ministry.

The deliverance was seconded.

Mr Steel moved an amended motion on notice that given that Synod has confirmed Southern Presbytery's decision to "deem" Geelong Congregation as an *Aid-receiving Congregation*, the following controls are approved regarding drawdowns of the funds as pledged by Melbourne Deacons' Court viz. "financial assistance pledged up to \$80,000 per year for three years." They be:

- Strictly on a quarterly needs basis.
- Applications be submitted to the Melbourne Deacons' Court on a calendar quarter basis i.e. commencing 1st January/April/July/October and be accompanied with a Budget for the quarter being applied for.

The amended motion was not seconded and fell. Upon being put to the vote, the deliverance carried.

26.14 RPCA DELEGATE'S ADDRESS

Rev. Graeme Hart brought greetings from the RPCA. He spoke of the smallness of the denomination, especially felt since the closure of the Frankston congregation. They are thankful for the broader Reformed community and fraternal relations with the PCEA. Mr Hart reported that Frankston congregation had closed mid 2025 but retained evening services and studies in the hope of revitalisation. The congregation was closed finally at the end of the year. Rev. Andrew Stewart took up the role of lecturer in Systematic Theology at RTC. Rev. Andy McCracken was installed in the RPCA congregation at Geelong. The McKinnon congregation rejoices in 80 years of ministry and look to Christ Jesus to bless the ongoing work. Formal relations with the SPC were established last year. It is encouraging to see the PCEA re-establish links with the RTC (Melbourne).

Dr Muldoon led the court in prayer for the RPCA.

CLOSURE OF SESSION

The Session was closed with prayer by the Moderator at 12:38pm

DJ Kerridge
Clerk

R Tso
Moderator

SESSION 7 THURSDAY 7th MAY 2026 2:00PM

The session resumed at 2:03 pm and was opened with the singing of Psalm 34 and prayer by the Moderator.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous sessions were read and confirmed.

26.15 AFC DELEGATE'S ADDRESS

Mr Nelson brought greetings from the Australian Free Church Presbytery. He expressed the desire for the application of the AFC for union would be received. Mr Nelson reported that the work continues in Chadstone and Hamilton. They have been encouraged by people, especially young men, joining with services online. One online attendee is now a member and is studying at PTC Melbourne. The AFC has a strong interest in the support of missions and the TBS. They value their relationship with the SPC and interaction at SPC Camps. Invitations to preach in Melbourne PCEA and St George's have been accepted and are a cause of rejoicing in fellowship. Mr Nelson stated our common purpose is evident in our standards. He appreciated the frank discussions with the Inter-Church relations Committee. His desire was that, seeing we hold the same standards, to have unity, but unity based on Truth. We all have a duty to bear with one another's infirmities and rejoice in God's gifts and graces given to ministers and elders.

Mr Nelson brought an historical note to the attention of the court from PCEA Act 2, 1978 which sought to address the situation of ministers using other versions, giving them liberty to do so. Mr Nelson requested a sympathetic consideration of their application. He stated that theirs is not a novel position, being also held by the FCC and Heritage Reformed churches. Mr Nelson thanked the ICR Committee for their consideration and sought a resolution of the matter from the Synod directly. They are seeking a home with the PCEA as a matter of urgency.

Mr Miller prayed for the work of the AFC.

26.16 FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Convener presented the report. It was resolved to receive the report. The Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was moved, seconded and carried that:

1. We record our thanks to God for yet another year wherein the Synod has been able to meet all its commitments, make donations to missions and other churches and worthy charitable causes.
2. Adjustment of the Minimum Stipend, Cash and Non-cash components (Excluding Manse, Car and Telephone) for 2026/2027 be made on 1st January annually in line with the movement in the *Wage Price Index* as published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. In the event of a negative movement in any review period, no adjustment be made.
3. Financial Assistance of up to \$8,000 for 2026/2027 be granted to Hawkesbury-Nepean Congregation as follows:
 - Strictly on a quarterly needs basis.
 - Applications be submitted to the General Treasurer on a calendar quarter basis ie. commencing 1st January/April/July/October and be accompanied with a Budget for the quarter being applied for.
 - Be subject to the availability of funds.

The Convener presented the Finance Committee Supplementary Report. The report is included here for a record

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

This supplementary report is submitted as the Committee only received an application for a grant from the Synod *Capital Assistance Fund* on 5/5/26;

CAPITAL ASSISTANCE FUND

An application has been received from Central Presbytery on behalf of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Deacons' Court for a grant of \$42,000 to assist in the cost of a boundary realignment so as to create separate titles for the Church/Hall and Manse property at Mount Druitt.

The need for assistance in the region of \$30,000.00 was reported to Central Presbytery on 15 September 2023, who resolved "The H-N Deacon's Court be advised to make application for a grant from Synod's Capital Assistance Fund." Subsequently, the local Council has required that the installation of the new sewer line as part of the boundary realignment be managed by a Sydney Water certified engineering firm. This has significantly increased the costs and other fees involved. The Committee therefore recommends that Synod approves this application.

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

That a grant of up to \$42,000 from the Capital Assistance Fund be made to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Deacons' Court to assist in the cost of the boundary re-alignment and installation of a new sewer line so as to create separate titles for the Church/Hall and Manse property at Mount Druitt.

[END OF REPORT]

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Supplementary Report be received.

The Convener moved the amended supplementary proposed deliverance that a grant of up to \$42,000 from the *Capital Assistance Fund* be made to the Hawkesbury-Nepean Deacons' Court to assist in the cost of the boundary re-alignment and installation of a new sewer line for the Church/ Hall and Manse property at Mount Druitt.

The deliverance was seconded and carried.

26.17 GENERAL TREASURER

The General Treasurer presented his report. It was resolved to receive the report.

26.18 NSW TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk and presented the report. It was resolved to receive the report.

26.19 QUEENSLAND TRUST CORPORATION

The Clerk presented the report. It was resolved to receive the report. The Clerk moved the proposed deliverance:

That the Synod extend their permission to trustees to seek legal advice to clarify the current situation regarding eConveyancing in Queensland and report to Synod 2027.

The deliverance was seconded and carried.

26.20 VICTORIAN TRUST CORPORATION

The Secretary presented the report. It was resolved to receive the report.

The Moderator expressed his thanks to the Secretary, Mr Ramsay for his tireless work in his role. It was carried by the acclamation of the court.

26.21 CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Ball, presented the report. It was moved seconded and carried that the report be received.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverances, and it was moved, seconded and carried that:

1. In response to the NSW Conversion Practices Ban Act 2024, *Synod ‘encourages Christians to be unafraid to proclaim the truth of God’s word in matters relating to sexuality, marriage, identity and gender, and to provide prayer for those who seek to live a godly life in obedience to God’s word and aligned with God’s purposes, notwithstanding that they may be subject to a complaint under the Conversion Practices Ban Act for doing so.’*

2. Synod abhors every expression of racism in the church and society. We affirm that in Christ, **‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus’** (Gal. 3:28). We also affirm that in the church we welcome and embrace every nationality and colour upon acceptance of our terms of membership.

3. Synod affirms its conviction that the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest need of the Jew the Muslim and all false religions, and endeavours to pray for their conversion, and for the Lord’s blessing upon those who labour among them in the work of the gospel.

4. Synod resolves to consider how we might practically love one another as Jesus loved us – in the Synod, Presbytery, and in the local congregation.

The Synod adjourned for afternoon tea at 3:45pm and resumed at 4:05pm.

The Convener presented the remaining deliverances and it was moved, seconded and carried that:

5. Synod reaffirms the importance of serious, personal, systematic Bible study and persistent private and corporate prayer, and family worship. Synod commends the use of daily devotionals from a reformed perspective as a supplement to, but not a substitute for more serious Bible study.

6. Synod gives thanks for the faithful work of the editor of the Presbyterian Banner, Rev. Jim Klazinga, and for his endeavour to keep us connected, and his encouragement for us to pray for one another.

Mr Lachman presented the Overture from the Southern Presbytery regarding Bible Versions. It was moved, seconded and carried to receive the Overture.

Mr Lachman moved the prayer of the Overture, viz. that the Synod withdraw its approval for the use of the New International Version (1984) and New American Standard Bible in public worship. It was seconded and carried to grant the prayer of the Overture.

26.22 THE PRESBYTERIAN BANNER REPORT

The Editor, Mr Klazinga presented the report. It was resolved to receive the report. The Editor presented the proposed deliverances and it was moved, seconded and carried that:

1. Synod promote The Presbyterian Banner as the official magazine of the PCEA.
2. Synod continues to support the printing and mailing of the magazine, along with distributing pdf copies by email and making it available on the PCEA website.
3. Synod endorses the increase in the subscription price suggested in the report.

Mr Lachman moved a motion on notice that Synod donate \$4000 towards the work of the Banner and freeze the subscription cost until what time the editor sees fit to petition for an increase.

The Editor agreed to fall from his deliverance in favour of the motion.

4. Synod expresses thankfulness for the assistance of the Presbyterian Banner liaisons from the congregations.

26.23 ARCHIVIST'S REPORT

The Archivist presented the report. It was resolved to receive the report. The Archivist presented the proposed deliverance:

That Presbyteries, Congregations and individuals consider donations to the PCEA Archive.

26.24 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Convener presented the report. It was resolved to receive the report. The Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was moved, seconded and carried:

1. That the Synod commend the PCEA website to delegates and congregations and they be encouraged to participate in the life of the church online by active registration, collaboration and comment.
2. The Information Technology Committee proposed budget for 2026 be approved and funds provided for the work of this Committee.

26.25 RCNZ DELEGATE'S ADDRESSES

Rev. Aaron Warner brought greetings from the Reformed Churches of New Zealand (RCNZ). He thanked the members of Synod for a warm reception. The RCNZ was established in 1953 and has 23 churches, 3 church plants and approximately 3600 members. There is a lack of ministers and ministers elect. Mr Warner noted our common struggle in the church and nation, giving the example of restrictions on the presentation of the Gospel in both our lands. He was encouraged by our statement of position on Genesis and sympathised with our struggles with burdening our treasurers with extra work. They are in the process of finding a solution to help their own treasurers. He hopes we can continue to learn from one another to face the world with the light of the Gospel. He closed with a reading from 2 Cor. 4.

Mr Forbes prayed for the work of the RCNZ.

26.26 SPC DELEGATE'S ADDRESS

Mr Derek de Jong spoke on behalf of the Southern Presbyterian Church (SPC). He was grateful to be with us for this Synod and brought greetings from the SPC, and particularly Rev. Tom Budgen, Messrs John and Stuart Coles and Mr Brian Bosveld. He reminded the court that our friendship with the SPC goes back a long way and hopes that it will continue. He told us about his own first contact with the PCEA during his childhood. While living on the Hunter with his parents as a teenager in 1993, he met Rev. George Ball. He still has regular contact with the PCEA through our Ulverstone congregation and the long-standing relationship there. It is strengthened through regular pulpit swaps. Their Launceston congregation has had a wonderful increase by God's providence which has caused the problem of a lack of space and the need for more deacons. By God's grace they have been provided with a new church building and now have four elders and extra Deacons. In Hobart, elders supply along with the Interim Moderator, Rev. Tom Budgen. Winnaleah preaching station has been established under the oversight of Launceston with online streaming of services and occasional supply. Mr de Jong referred to Joshua 22 and stated that the SPC is invested in each other's spiritual welfare. He called us to stand together. They were praying for the PCEA that we might have unity, the provision of office-bearers and, overall, a love for Christ Jesus.

Mr Leggott prayed for Mr de Jong and the work of the SPC.

The Moderator vacated the chair to present the Inter-Church Relations Committee Report. Mr Klazinga assumed the chair.

26.27 INTER-CHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Mr Tso, presented the report without the matters concerning the AFC, until the presentation of the Minority Report.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverances that the Synod and it was moved, seconded and carried that:

General

1. Gives thanks to God for the churches with whom we have formal fraternal relations and for those with whom we have contact and resolves to pray for the Lord's blessing upon their work and witness.

Free Church of Scotland

5. Notes the draft proposals from the Free Church of Scotland to change its relationship with the PCEA. Synod confirms its desire that this would include provision for Free Church presbyteries to process calls from PCEA congregations to Free Church ministers, and notes that the Committee has communicated with the Free Church to this end.

ICRC Delegation

6. Approves Rev. Jim Klazinga as a delegate to the 11th General Meeting of the International Conference of Reformed Churches (South Korea, 15–21 October 2026), and agrees to pay his return economy airfare and other associated travel expenses.

7. Approves Rev. Robin Tso as a second delegate to the said meeting, and agrees to pay his return economy airfare and other associated travel expenses.

World Reformed Fellowship

8. Approves Rev. Jim Klazinga as the official PCEA delegate to the WRF General Meeting (28–30 October 2026, Seoul), noting that no additional travel expenses are anticipated given his attendance at the ICRC, and directs him to report back to the Committee on whether continued PCEA affiliation is beneficial.

PCA General Assembly of Australia

9. Approves Rev. Robin Tso and Rev. George Ball attending the Presbyterian Church of Australia's General Assembly of Australia (Scots Church Wynyard, Sydney, 7–11 September 2026) as fraternal representatives of the PCEA.

Dr Muldoon moved a motion on notice that the Convener of the Inter-Church Relations Committee seek contact with his equivalent in the GKSA – Reformed Church of South Africa. The motion was seconded and carried.

The Convener presented the part of the report relating to the AFC (Items 4.1.1-5). It was moved, seconded and carried that this part of the report be received.

Mr Forbes presented the Minority report. It was moved and seconded that the report be received.

Mr Steel moved that the Minority Report not be received.

CLOSURE OF SESSION

The Synod adjourned for dinner. The session was closed with prayer at 6:00pm

DJ Kerridge
Clerk

R Tso
Moderator

SESSION 8

THURSDAY 7th MAY 2026

7:00PM

The Session opened with the singing of Psalm 87 and prayer, led by the Moderator, at 7:10pm.

MINUTES

It was resolved to defer the confirmation of Minutes of the previous sessions to the next session.

The Moderator called on the Missions Convener to lead the Missions Evening.

Dr Muldoon delivered a presentation of his visit to Dumisani.

The Convener then introduced Rev. Shanmugam Partheepan to speak on the work of the Reformed Presbyterian Mission in Sri Lanka.

Rev. Partheepan spoke about his entrance into the Reformed faith and conviction of exclusive Psalmody and Sabbath observance. He spoke of the early days of the work in Sri Lanka and the blessings of growth over the years.

INTER-CHURCH Cont.

Inter-Church Relations Committee business continued.

The Moderator ruled that standing orders be suspended until 11pm.

The Minutes of the previous session were read and confirmed.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverance 2 regarding the AFC:

Australian Free Church

2. Resolves that the PCEA will not pursue union with the Australian Free Church at this time, given that key areas of difference in doctrine and practice have not yet been resolved.

The deliverance was seconded and carried.

Mr Forbes presented the deliverance from the Minority Report that:

1. Synod notes the wish of the Australian Free Church to discontinue discussions via the Inter-Church Committee at this time when doctrinal difference have not yet been adequately aired or resolved. Synod thanks the Australian Free Church for the opportunity to discuss with them over the past four years, and records its regret that a way has not yet been found to heal the division between our churches.

The amended deliverance was seconded. The Minority Report deliverance, as amended, did not carry.

The Convener presented the amended deliverance 3:

3. Directs the Clerk to communicate this decision to the AFC with appropriate courtesy.

The deliverance was seconded and carried.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverance 4:

4. Notes that the underlying theological concerns raised in the course of these discussions may be aired further, if the Synod sees fit.

The deliverance was seconded and carried.

26.28 PRESBYTERY REPORTS

Northern Presbytery Report

The Clerk of Presbytery, Mr Carswell, presented the Northern Presbytery report. It was moved, seconded and carried that the report be received.

Central Presbytery Report

The Moderator of Presbytery, Dr Dennis Muldoon, presented the Central Presbytery Report. It was moved, seconded and carried that the report be received.

Southern Presbytery Report

The Clerk of Presbytery, Dr Donald Ramsay, presented the Southern Presbytery report. It was moved, seconded and carried that the report be received.

It was moved, seconded and carried that a letter of sympathy be sent to Mrs Kumnick on behalf of the Synod.

The Clerk of Southern Presbytery, Dr Ramsay, presented the Overture of the Presbytery regarding a Presbytery Fund. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Overture be received.

Dr Ramsay moved that the prayer of the overture be granted in the terms of the Overture, viz. that the Southern Presbytery asks Synod to take these matters into consideration and grant permission for the proceeds from the sale of the Wantirna church be applied to a Southern Presbytery fund to be held and administered by Presbytery for the ongoing support of ministry within its bounds.

The motion was seconded.

Mr Steel moved that the prayer of the Overture be granted in the following terms: that in accordance with Synod 2025.27 resolution Melbourne Deacons' Court be authorised to:

1. Take charge of the proceeds from the sale of the Wantirna Church property for the time being.
2. To apply it in the purchase of a future place of worship OR towards future "Capital" (real property) expenditure, provided the congregation owns a suitable place of worship at the time when such property expenditure is needed."

Dr Ramsay's motion was put against the motion of Mr Steel and Dr Ramsay's was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, Mr Ramsay's motion was carried and the prayer of the overture was granted in those terms.

26.29 MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Dr Muldoon, presented the report. It was resolved to receive the report.

The Convener presented the proposed deliverances and it was moved, seconded and carried that:

1. The Synod gives thanks to the Lord for the opportunity and privilege to be involved in the work of missions at home and abroad, both in giving, in praying, and being directly involved during this past year.
2. Synod thanks congregations and individuals that gave generously towards removing over half of the salary backlog of the PFCCI Mission Higher Secondary School Chhapara, India.
3. Synod notes the donation of \$15,000 towards removing the backlog in teachers' salaries at the PFCCI Mission Higher Secondary School Chhapara, India.

4. Synod give thanks to Rev David Kerridge and Rev Dr Dennis Muldoon for visiting and reporting on mission centres in Sri Lanka and South Africa respectively on behalf of Synod.

5. Synod thanks the congregations that held mission events during the year and urges all congregations to consider inviting mission workers in person, or online, to give an update of their ministry, and field questions from church folk. Presbyteries could assist or coordinate.

The Convener moved proposed deliverance 6:

6. Synod adopt the Missions Committee Budget 2026/27 and expresses its general agreement with the estimates for this period.

The motion was seconded.

Mr Pilgrim moved an amended motion on notice that Synod amends the Missions Committee Budget 2026 to retain \$3000 funding estimates for Dumisani Theological College in accordance with Act of Synod 25.29 deliverance 5 and the subsequent 2026 Missions report. Further, Synod increases the budget for RPM Sri Lanka to \$6000 for 2026. Synod adopts the amended budget and expresses its general agreement with the amended estimates for this period.

Mr Pilgrim's motion was put against the deliverance and Mr Pilgrim's amended motion was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, the motion carried.

CLOSURE OF SESSION

The Session closed with prayer at 11:10pm

DJ Kerridge
Clerk

R Tso
Moderator

SESSION 9

FRIDAY 8th MAY 2026

9:00AM

The session was opened at 9:00am with the singing of Ps 121 and prayer by Mr Alex Steel, followed by a devotion by the Moderator on Matthew 9:35-38 – Pray the Lord of the Harvest: The Condition of Man; The Compassion of Christ; and the Command to Christ's Disciples.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous sessions were read and confirmed.

26.30 FCC DELEGATE'S ADDRESS

The Convener invited Rev. Shanmugam Partheepan to address the Synod. Rev. Partheepan brought greetings from the Free Church Continuing. He stated that the FCC values their relationship with the PCEA as we are united in doctrine and practice. We share a history and a future, knowing that the gates of Hell will not prevail against Christ's Church. He noted that we are in different countries but the work is the same. There is a similar culture in Scotland and Australia where the Gospel is scorned, however we are on the right side of history. Mr Partheepan quoted John Knox that one man with God

is in the majority. Doctrine is not determined by culture and so the Gospel is never out of date. Mr Partheepan advised us that he did not identify as Scottish and Sri Lanka has different struggles: the culture of the West assumes no god, the culture of the East assumes many gods but the answer to both is the revelation of the one, true God. Mr Partheepan prayed for the resourcing of the PCEA to serve Christ in Australia.

Mr Dotson prayed for the work of the FCC.

26.31 REPORTS OF EXAMINERS OF RECORDS

The Examiners of records presented their reports.

Dr Muldoon and Mr McIntosh reported on the Northern Presbytery records

Mr Lachman and Mr Pilgrim reported on the Central Presbytery records,

Mr Greensill reported on the Southern Presbytery records.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Presbytery records be attested.

26.32 COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Mr Lachman moved a motion on notice that the Synod move into Committee to determine the Committee Structure.

The following Committee Structure was approved:

Committee Structure:

Administration: Clerk (Convener), Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Presbytery Clerks.

Law and Advisory: J. Forbes (Convener), D. Kerridge, GD Ball, T Reeve, I. Miller.

Inter-Church Relations: R Tso (Convener), J Forbes, D. Lachman, Z. Dotson, D. Kerridge

Mr Forbes moved that the Information Technology Committee be renamed the Communications Committee, to include Banner and Archives, and that the Church and Nations and Publications Committee be retitled Church and Nation Committee. The motion was seconded and carried.

Church and Nation: Z. Dotson (Convener), GD Ball, I Miller, M. Pilgrim, T. Leggott.

Communications: D Kerridge (Convener and Archive), R Tso, N. O'Dell, B. Saljooghi, JD Klazinga (Banner).

Youth and Fellowship: S Carswell (Convener), Z. Dotson, M. Schmidt, M. Kerridge, M. Forbes.

Finance: AH Steel (Convener), DJ Ramsay, M. Pilgrim.

Superannuation and Insurance: R Tso (Convener), DJ Ramsay, AH Steel.

Missions: D. Lachman (Convener), DK Muldoon, J. Greensill, M. Hamilton, Z. Dotson, T. Leggott

Training of Ministry: D Kerridge (Convener), GD. Ball, R Tso, G Hamilton, I. Miller.

Other Appointments

PCEA Trustees for Victoria: D. Ramsay (Secretary), J. Forbes, D. Kerridge.

Panel on Divorce, Separation and Remarriage: GD Ball, D Kerridge, I. Miller, T Reeve.

It was moved that thanks be directed to Mr Tso, Mr Ball and Mr Klazinga for their service, and appoint Mr Tso to the Melbourne congregation as an assessor elder.

Dr Ramsay moved that the current assessors be thanked for their service.

The motions were put against each other and Mr Leggott's motion was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, Mr Leggott's motion carried.

26.33 MODERATOR-ELECT

Mr Muldoon moved that Mr Forbes be nominated as Moderator-elect.

Mr Leggott moved that Mr Robin Tso be nominated as Moderator-elect.

Dr Muldoon's motion was put against Mr Leggott's and Mr Leggott's was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, Mr Leggott's motion carried.

The Rev. R. Tso was nominated as Moderator-Elect for Synod 2027.

26.34 TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT SYNOD

Dr Muldoon moved a motion that the Synod be held in Brisbane in 2027.

Mr Miller moved the motion that Synod take place on the Hunter in 2027.

Dr Muldoon's motion was put against Mr Miller's and Dr Muldoon's motion was preferred. Upon being put to the vote, Dr Muldoon's motion was carried

It was agreed that the next Annual Synod take place in the church building of the Brisbane Congregation from Tuesday 4th to 7th May, 2027.

26.35 THANKS

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the court to the Hastings River Congregation for their kind hospitality, also to Mr Glen Hamilton for his work in preparation.

Mr Nelson expressed his thanks for the fellowship amongst the brethren and the addresses of the Moderator.

It was agreed that Mr McIntosh be thanked for his work as precentor.

A vote of thanks was expressed to the Moderator and to the Clerk for his work.

MINUTES

The Minutes of this final session were read and confirmed.

26.36 CLOSURE OF SYNOD

The 178th meeting of Synod closed with prayer, a benediction, the singing of Ps 133:1-7 at 12:05pm.

DJ Kerridge
Clerk

R Tso
Moderator