

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

CLASS 1 -ACTS WHICH HAVE PASSED THE BARRIER ACT

None

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

ACT 1 – Act anent Pay Day Superannuation Commencement

Wednesday 6th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.8)

- 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.

ACT 2 – Act anent Seats on Presbyteries and Status of Assessors

Wednesday, 6th May, 2026

(Minutes 26.10.4)

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...”

ACT 3 – Act anent Special (Urgent) Meetings

Wednesday 6th May, 2026

(Minutes 26.10.5)

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

ACT 4 – Amendment to Act 18, 1983 (as amended 2004, 2012) anent Admission of Ministers from other Churches

Wednesday 6th May. 2026

(Minutes 26.10.6)

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.

ACT 5 – Repeal of Act 10, Synod 1988 anent Sale of Congregational Property (Excluding places of worship)

Wednesday 6th May, 2026

(Minutes 26.10.7)

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)

ACT 6 – Act anent Psalm Versions and Uniformity

Wednesday 6th May, 2026

(Minutes 26.10.8)

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.
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.

ACT 7 – Presbytery Consultation on Draft Statement on Divorce, Separation and Remarriage

Wednesday 6th May, 2026

(Minutes 26.10)

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.

ACT 8 – Listing of Reformed Theological College, Melbourne (RTC) as a Synod Approved College

Wednesday 6th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.12.1)

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”.

ACT 9 – Act anent Annual Leave Record Keeping

Thursday 7th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.13.2)

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.

ACT 10 – Act anent Deacons’ Court remittance of Payday Superannuation

Thursday 7th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.13.3)

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.

ACT 11 – Act anent Superannuation Support Fund Remittances

Thursday 7th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.13.4)

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

ACT 12 – Act anent Calculation of Advance Superannuation Support Fund payments

Thursday 7th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.13.5)

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

ACT 13 – Act anent Classification of Geelong Congregation as Aid-receiving for Superannuation Purposes

Thursday 7th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.13 supplementary)

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.

ACT 14 – Act anent Financial Assistance to Hawkesbury-Nepean

Thursday 7th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.16.3)

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.

ACT 15 – Capital Assistance to Hawkesbury-Nepean re boundary-realignment

Thursday 7th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.16 supplementary)

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.

ACT 16 – Withdrawal of approval of NIV (1984) and NASB Bible Versions in public worship

Thursday 7th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.21 Overture)

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.

ACT 17 – Suspension of Banner Subscription Increase

Thursday 7th May, 2026
(Minutes 26.22.3)

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.

ACT 18 – Relations with the Australian Free Church

Thursday 7th May, 2026

(Minutes 26.27.2)

The Synod 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.

ACT 19 – Act anent Southern Presbytery Fund

Thursday 7th May, 2026

(Minutes 26.28 Overture)

Synod grants 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.