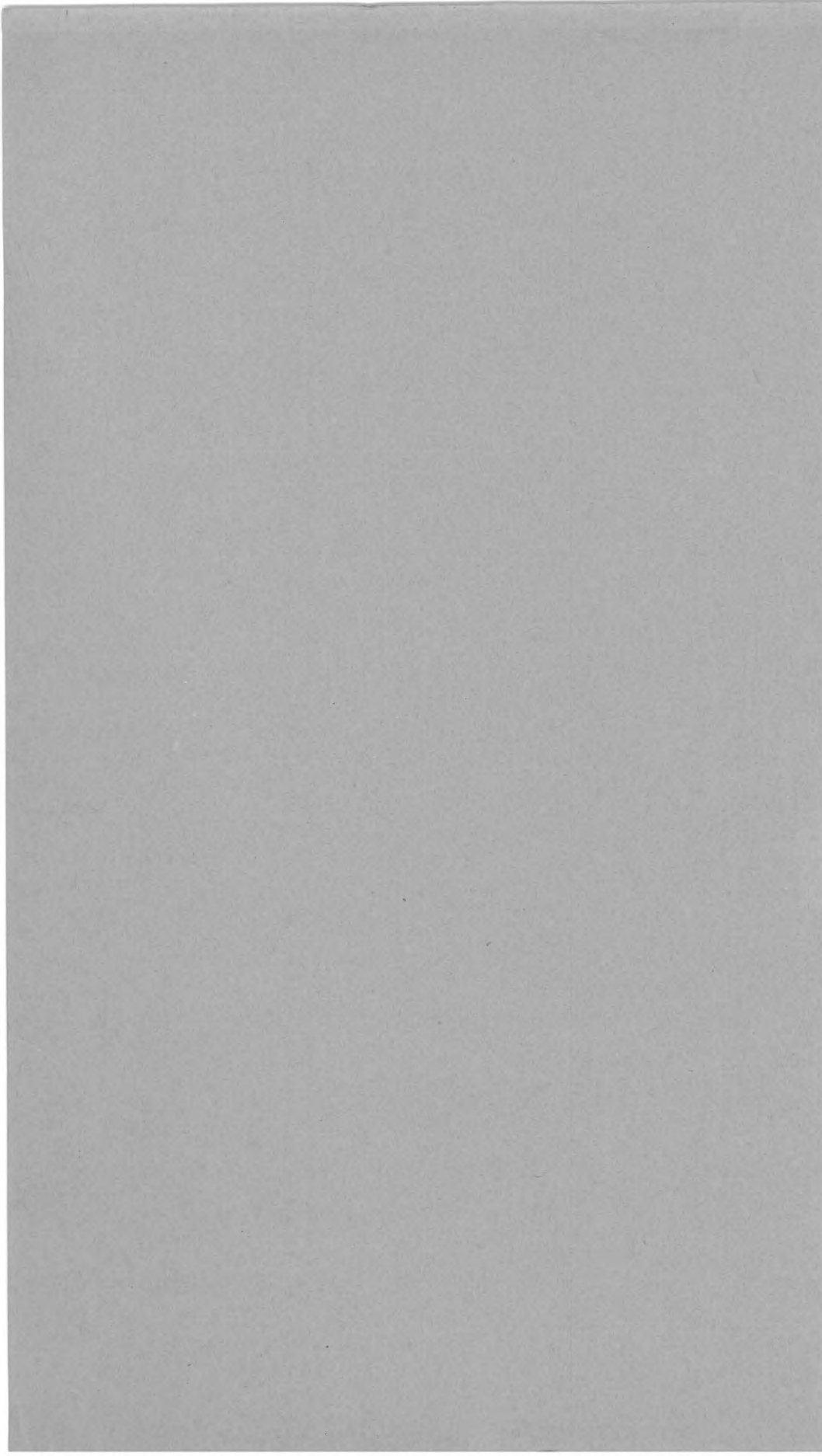


MINUTES
OF
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia



HELD IN MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER, 1957
SESSION TWENTY-SEVENTH

Melbourne:
BROWN, PRIOR, ANDERSON, Pty. Ltd., Presbyterian Church Printers
Printcraft House, 430 Little Bourke Street, C.i



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Past Moderators.....	5
Officials of the Assembly.....	7
Professors and Lecturers of Theological Halls.....	8
Notanda.....	9
Standing Committees.....	10
Special Committees.....	13
Roll of Assembly.....	16
Minutes of Assembly.....	21
Reports.....	64
Communications.....	169
Overtures.....	177
Petitions.....	186
Returns to Remits.....	I 4
Statement of Accounts.....	I 3
Detailed Index.....	216
Appeals.....	1

MODERATORS

OF THE

General Assembly of Australia

Rev. John Meiklejohn, D.D.*	1901-1902
Rev. Alexander Hay, D.D.*	1902-1903
Rev. David Bruce, D.D.*	1903-1905
Rev. P. J. Murdoch, M.A.*	1905-1906
Rev. T. E. Clouston, D.D.*	1906-1907
Rev. Peter Robertson*	1907-1909
Rev. John Ferguson*	1909-1910
Rev. W. S. Rolland*	1910-1912
Rev. J. Laurence Rentoul, M.A., D.D.*	1912-1914
Rev. George Davidson, M.A., D.D.*	1914-1916
Rev. Ronald G. Macintyre, C.B.E., C.M.G., M.A., D.D.	1916-1918
Rev. John Walker, D.D.*	1918-1920
Rev. James Gibson, M.A.*	1920-1922
Rev. John Mathew, M.A., D.D.*	1922-1924
Rev. James Crookston*	1924-1926
Rev. R. Scott-West, D.D.*	1926-1928
Rev. Alexander Crow*	1928-1930
Rev. Donald A. Cameron, M.A.*	1930-1943
Rev. G. R. S. Reid, M.A., D.D.	1933-1936
Rev. John Mackenzie, M.A., D.D.*	1936-1939
Rev. John Flynn, O.B.E., D.D.*	1939-1942
Rev. R. Wilson Macaulay, B.A., D.D.*	1942-1945
Rev. Alexander C. Grieve, B.A.	1945-1948
Rev. Julian R. Blanchard, O.B.E., B.A.	1948-1951
Rev. Richard Bardon, O.B.E., B.A.	1951-1954
Rev. Francis W. Rolland, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., M.A.	1954-1957
Rev. David J. Flockhart, M.A.	1957-

* Deceased

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
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LIST OF OFFICERS

RIGHT REVEREND THE MODERATOR:

DAVID JOHN FLOCKHART, M.A.
"Cooinoo", Turramurra, N.S.W.

CLERKS OF ASSEMBLY:

REV. J. M. STUCKEY, B.A.
Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic.
REV. G. ROSS WILLIAMS
6 Estella Street, Glen Iris, Victoria.

BUSINESS CONVENER:

REV. COLIN M. DYSTER, M.A., B.D., S.T.M.
43 Lord Street, Roseville, N.S.W.

THE PROCURATOR:

MR. DOUGLAS M. LITTLE, Q.C.
462 Chancery Lane, Melbourne, C.I, Victoria.

THE LAW AGENT:

MR. J. P. ADAM, M.A., LL.B., Dip.Ed.
459 Chancery Lane, Melbourne, C.I., Victoria.

ACTING TREASURERS:

**The Treasurership Committee of the State Assembly of
New South Wales.**

Convener, Mr. J. A. Morrison. Secretary, Mr. J. R. Mackay,
C/o. Box 100 CC, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S. Wales.) Assembly Hall,
Margaret Street, Sydney, N.S. Wales.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia

THE THEOLOGICAL HALLS

I.—ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE, SYDNEY

Convener Theological Hall Committee: Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom.

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

(In co-operation with Teachers from the Congregational and Methodist Theological Colleges.)

President: Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom.

Secretary: Rev. Prof. Haultain Brown, M.A., B.D., Ph.D.

Professors:

Exegetical Theology of the New Testament and Historical Theology:
Rev. J. Haultain Brown.

Systematic Theology: Vacant.

Associated as Acting-Professor: Rev. S. R. Bowyer Hayward, M.A., B.D.
(Leigh College, Methodist), Philosophy of Religion and O.T. Literature
and Life.

Lecturers:

Rev. J. Cruikshank, "Steel" Lecturer in Pastoral Theology.

Rev. J. A. Richardson, M.A., B.D., Hebrew.

Rev. W. D. O'Reilly, M.A., Dip.Soc.Sci. (Leigh College), Psychology
of Religion and Applied Christianity.

Mr. A. Hutchens, Voice Production and Culture.

Rev. Dr. F. Leatherland, Church History.

II.—ORMOND COLLEGE, MELBOURNE

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

Principal of Theological Hall and Professor of Old Testament Studies:
Rev. Hector Maclean, M.A., M.Sc., D.D.

Professor of New Testament Studies: Rev. J. D. McCaughey, M.A.

Professor of Systematic Theology: Rev. D. S. Hopkirk, M.A., B.D., B.Litt.,
Ph.D.

Professor in Church History: Vacant.

Associate Minister for Practical Training (Annual appointment by the State Assembly of Victoria): Rev. G. Ross Williams and Rev. S. W. Ray.
Supervisor of Extra-mural Studies: Rev. J. M. Young, B.A., B.D.

SENATUS

The Professors and such other Teachers in the Hall as the State Assembly may appoint from time to time.

President of Senatus: Rev. Principal H. Maclean.

Secretary of Senatus: Rev. J. M. Young.

Librarian: Rev. Prof. D. S. Hopkirk.

III.—EMMANUEL COLLEGE, BRISBANE

THEOLOGICAL HALL, QUEENSLAND

Professors:

New Testament Studies: Rev. H. S. R. Innes, B.A.

Theology: Rev. Professor J. F. Peter, B.A., B.D., Dip.Ed.

Old Testament Studies: Rev. Prof. L. G. Geering, M.A., B.D.

Lecturers:

Caldwell Morrow Lecturer in Church History: Rev. Prof. J. F. Peter.

Honorary Lecturers:

Apologetics: Rev. R. A. Busch, M.A., B.D.

Polity: Rev. T. C. Watson, B.A.

Director of Practical Training: Rev. W. Young, B.A.

Faculty:

The Professors and Lecturers, together with the Convener of the Committee on Theological Education (Mr. J. M. D. Stevens) and the Principal of Emmanuel College, constitute the Faculty of Theology.

IV—THEOLOGICAL HALL, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Convener of Theological Hall Committee: Dr. Alan Barr, M.B., B.S.

Directors of Theological Studies: Rev. F. W. R. Nichol, M.A., B.D., Ph.D.,
Tutors.

V—THEOLOGICAL HALL, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Convener of the Committee: Rev. R. S. Blance.

Theological Students in South Australia are required, except in special circumstances, to take their course of training at Ormond College, Melbourne.

NOTANDA

Place and Date of the next meeting of the Assembly: At Sydney, within the Assembly Hall, Margaret Street, on the second Wednesday of September 1959, at 7.30 p.m.

Instructions, etc.: See INDEX at end.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Judicial Commission

New South Wales

Rev. V. Clark-Duff
„ J. Gray Robertson
„ D. J. Flockhart
„ A. C. Grieve
„ T. McDougall
„ S. Russell Scott
„ Dr. W. Cumming Thom
Mr. J. R. Mackay

Victoria

Principal H. Maclean
Rev. W. D. Marshall
„ T. J. Riddle
„ G. Ross Williams
Mr. J. P. Adam
„ F. M. Bradshaw
„ G. D. McKinnon

Queensland

The Very Rev. R. Bardon
Rev. R. H. C. Crowe
Mr. R. S. Byrnes
„ J. S. R. Wyllie

West Australia

Rev. A. Macliver
Mr. J. T. H. Bolles

Tasmania

The Rt. Rev. K. MacLean
Mr. E. R. Henry

South Australia

The Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard
Rev. J. Priestley

Assembly Nominations

12 Required.

Rev. C. M. Dyster (N.S.W.)
Mr. A. E. Hunt (N.S.W.)
Rev. H. Harrison (N.S.W.)
Rev. C. J. V. McKeown (N.S.W.)
Very Rev. F. W. Rolland (Vic.)
Rev. Dr. Finlay Fraser (Vic.)
Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson (Vic.)
Rev. A. D. Marchant (Vic.)
Rev. Prof. J. E. Peter (Q'ld.)
Mr. J. M. D. Stevens (Q'ld.)
Senator K. Laught (S.A.)
Mr. P. J. Barblett (W.A.)

Convener: The Moderator General.

Code Committee

New South Wales

Rev. V. Clark-Duff
„ J. Gray Robertson
„ A. C. Grieve
„ T. McDougall

Victoria

Rev. E. W. S. Bishop
„ W. D. Marshall
Mr. J. P. Adam
„ F. M. Bradshaw

Queensland

Rev. R. H. C. Crowe
„ T. C. Watson

West Australia

Mr. P. J. Barblett

Tasmania

Rev. A. Connon

South Australia

Mr. H. E. Zelling

Assembly Nominations

7 Required.

Rev. G. Ross Williams (Vic.)
Mr. G. U. Nathan, (Vic.)
Mr. P. L. Head (N.S.W.)
Mr. A. E. Hunt (N.S.W.)
Mr. R. S. Byrnes (Q'ld.)
Rev. A. C. Eadie (W.A.)
Rev. John Priestley (S.A.)

Convener: Rev. E. W. S. Bishop.

College Committee

New South Wales

Rev. E. H. Vines
„ Dr. W. Cumming Thom
„ J. Haultain Brown
„ A. C. Grieve

Victoria

Rev. J. C. Alexander
„ Dr. A. C. Watson
„ S. E. Yarnold
„ J. M. Young

Queensland

Rev. T. J. Patterson
Mr. J. M. D. Stevens

West Australia

Rev. Dr. F. W. R. Nichol
„ Dr. A. A. Barr

Tasmania

Rev. A. Martin

South Australia

Rev. R. S. C. Blance

Assembly Nominations

7 Required.

Principal H. Maclean (Vic.)
Rev. J. C. Foyster (Vic.)
,, R. A. Miller (Vic.)
,, E. H. McL. Shugg (Vic.)

Rev. R. Swanton (Vic.)
,, H. Harrison (N.S.W.)
,, C. J. V. McKeown (N.S.W.)

Convener: Rev. J. C. Alexander.

Finance Committee

New South Wales

Rev. V. Clark-Duff
,, T. McDougall
Mr. J. A. Morrison
,, J. R. Mackay

Victoria

Rev. A. M. Clark
Mr. J. H. Cameron
,, C. Homer Fraser
,, G. D. McKinnon

Queensland

Mr. R. S. Byrnes
,, J. S. R. Wylie

West Australia

Mr. A. R. Foyster

Tasmania

Mr. N. C. Hope

South Australia

Mr. G. S. Davidson

Assembly Nominations

7 Required

Rev. H. McDonald (N.S.W.)
Mr. N. Chivas (N.S.W.)
,, W. M. Hodges (Vic.)
Rev. R. A. C. Crowe (Q'ld.)

Mr. R. W. Ralph (Q'ld.)
Rev. John Priestly (S.A.)
Mr. P. J. Barblett (W.A.)

Convener: Mr. J. A. Morrison.

Board of Missions

New South Wales

Rev. H. M. Bell
,, T. McDougall
,, H. F. McDonald
Mr. J. A. Morrison
,, N. Chivas

Victoria

Rev. J. Beatty
,, J. W. P. Gillan
,, A. R. C. Jamieson
,, A. E. C. Collins
,, J. M. Stuckey

Queensland

Rev. J. R. Sweet
Rt. Rev. R. M. Park
Mr. H. Munro

West Australia

Rev. T. Gibson
,, W. R. Hopkins

Tasmania

Rev. A. Christie-Johnstone

South Australia

Rev. G. T. McGregor
Dr. Chas Duguid

Assembly Nominations

Note: 10 Required.

Rev. G. Anderson (Vic.)
,, F. W. Cunningham (Vic.)
,, G. Fairservice (Vic.)
,, D. McRae (Vic.)
,, E. W. New (Vic.)

Mr. H. M. Rolland (Vic.)
Rev. N. W. Coombes (N.S.W.)
Mr. B. McIntyre (?)
Rev. J. N. Whyte (S.A.)
Mr. D. M. Allen (Q'ld.)

Convener: Rev. G. Anderson.

Reception of Ministers

New South Wales

Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom
,, A. C. Grieve
,, H. J. Hillman
,, T. McDougall

Victoria

Rev. E. W. S. Bishop
Principal H. MacLean
Rev. A. H. Michell
,, E. H. MacLean Shugg

Queensland

Rev. Prof. L. G. Geering
Rt. Rev. R. M. Park

West Australia

Rt. Rev. A. C. Eadie

Tasmania

Rev. H. L. Dunn

South Australia

Rev. A. E. Giles

Assembly Nominations

7 Required

Rev. V. Clark-Duff (N.S.W.) Rev. R. A. Maidment (N.S.W.)
/J. C. M. Dyster (N.S.W.) „ A. E. Giles (S.A.)
„ Dr. M. Mackay (N.S.W.) „ J. F. Forrest (Q'ld.)
„ C. J. V. McKeown (N.S.W.)

Convener: Rev. Dr. Cumming Thom

Board of Religious Education

New South Wales

Rev. A. L. Hewitt
„ C. M. Dyster
„ W. B. Gentle
„ E. H. Vines

Victoria

Rev. G. A. Beatty
„ V. F. Hadley
„ A. D. Marchant
„ C. Thomson

Queensland

Rev. R. A. Bush
„ R. E. Pashen
Mr. N. F. Nelson

West Australia

Rev. R. B. Sparks

Tasmania

Rev. F. Sadler

South Australia

Rev. R. S. C. Blance

Assembly Nominations

6 Required.

Rev. L. G. K. Blanchard (N.S.W.) Rev. J. M. Young (Vic.)
„ J. R. Barrie (Vic.) „ T. McDougall (N.S.W.)
„ L. F. Gunn (Vic.) „ W. Young (Q'ld.)

Convener: Rev. A. D. Marchant

Statistics Committee

New South Wales

Rev. G. F. Buckley
„ V. Clark-Duff
„ J. Gray Robertson
Mr. J. R. Mackay

Victoria

Rev. J. C. Foyster
Mr. H. Croll
„ G. D. McKinnon

Queensland

Mr. D. M. Allan
„ R. P. Gresham

West Australia

Mr. W. T. Jamieson

Tasmania

Rev. A. Martin

South Australia

Mr. J. McLellan

Assembly Nominations

7 Required

Rev. A. E. Brice (N.S.W.) Rev. W. L. Collins (S.A.)
„ H. J. Hillman (N.S.W.) Mr. G. S. Davidson (S.A.)
Mr. J. A. Morrison (N.S.W.) Rev. R. J. Scrymgeour (Tas.)
„ R. S. Byrnes (Q'ld.)

Convener: Rev. V. Clark-Duff

YEAR BOOK

New South Wales

Rev. G. F. G. Kerry
„ R. A. MacArthur
Mr. J. R. M. Mackay
„ Hugh Ross

Victoria

Rev. W. A. Alston
„ E. C. Day
„ W. M. Rolland
„ J. M. Young

Queensland

Mr. D. M. Allan
„ N. M. Henderson

West Australia

Mr. W. T. Jamieson

Tasmania

Rev. A. Martin

South Australia

Mr. J. McLellan

Assembly Nominations

7 Required.

Rev. R. Ramsay (Q'ld.) Mr. G. D. McKinnon (Vic.)
Mr. R. S. Byrnes (Q'ld.) Rev. H. J. Hillman (N.S.W.)
Rev. E. C. Day (Vic.) „ C. J. V. McKeown (N.S.W.)
„ D. McK. Jones (Vic.)

Convener: Rev. W. A. Alston

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Aids to Devotion. (Min. 165).

The Rev. W. A. Alston (Convener), the Very Revs. J. R. Blanchard and A. C. Grieve, the Revs. H. Cunningham, K. McC. Dowding, A. A. Dougan, H. L. Dunn, J. H. Gowdie, G. Gowrie, L. F. Gunn, W. D. Marshall, N. Pfeiffer, A. C. Watson, L. O. C. White, S. E. Yarnold, Profs. J. D. McCaughey and J. F. Peter, Messrs. G. Davidson, R. S. Byrnes.

Audio-Visual (Min. 175).

The combined State Audio-Visual Committee, with the New South Wales Section as the Executive with the addition of the Rev. C. T. F. Goy and the Rev. Hamilton Aikin. Convener:—The convener of the New South Wales Audio-Visual Education Committee.

Australian Inland Mission Board (Min. 86).

N.S.W.: Rev. L. G. K. Blanchard (Convener), Rev. J. Gray Robertson, Rev. H. J. Hillman, Rev. C. J. McKeown, Rev. W. C. R. Moore, Rev. C. Dane, Rev. J. Mallyon.

Victoria: Rev. E. H. McLean Shugg (Vice-Convener), Rev. A. S. Houston, Rev. C. T. F. Goy, Mr. H. M. Rolland, Rev. P. J. Thomas.

Queensland: Rev. A. Duff, Director of Home Missions.

South Australia: Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard, Mr. Gordon Davidson.

Western Australia: Rev. H. D. McAndrew (Commissioner), Rev. A. C. Eadie.

Tasmania: Rev. R. J. Scrymgeour

Superintendent: The Rev. J. F. Mackay.

Ballot (Min. 11).

Messrs. N. F. Nelson, H. M. Rolland, R. C. Purdie, J. Mannell, R. P. Gresham, Rev. A. McLachlan, Rev. J. Mullan, and Rev. G. F. G. Kerry (Convener).

Beneficiary (Min. 82).

Rev. A. M. Clark (Convener), Rev. E. E. Fabb, Rev. J. Priestley, Rev. R. S. Woodger, Rev. S. Russell Scott, Rev. V. Clark-Duff, Rev. Alexander Duff, Rev. J. I. Williamson, Rev. J. G. Thrum, Rev. A. J. McAdam, Messrs. G. D. McKinnon, W. M. Hodges, J. R. Mackay, J. A. Morrison, R. S. Byrnes, J. S. R. Wylie, H. M. Caire, and W. R. G. Mitchell.

Business (Min. 254).

The Clerks of the G.A.A., The Conveners of the Board of Missions, A.I.M., College Committee, Board of Religious Education, Reception of Ministers, Finance Committee, and Code Committee, The General Secretaries of the State Churches who are Ministers or Elders of the Church.

Christian Unity (Min. 60).

The State Committees on Christian Unity, with the New South Wales Committee as the Executive and the Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom as Convener.

Commission of Assembly (Min. 176.2).

N.S.W.: Rev. A. A. Dougan, Rev. C. M. Dyster, Rev. J. F. McKay, Messrs. E. A. Hunt, J. R. Mackay, J. A. Morrison.

Victoria: Rev. C. T. F. Goy, Rev. E. H. McL. Shugg, Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson, Messrs. J. H. Cameron, G. D. McKinnon, G. U. Nathan.

Queensland: Rev. R. H. Crowe, Rev. T. C. Watson, Messrs. R. S. Byrnes and J. S. R. Wylie.

South Australia: Rev. J. Priestley, Mr. H. E. Zelling.

Western Australia: Rev. T. Gibson, Mr. P. J. Barblett.

Tasmania: Rev. K. Maclean, Mr. E. R. Henry.

Commission on Christian Unity (Min. 176).

Rev. Prof. J. D. McCaughey (Convener), Rev. Prof. J. F. Peter, Rev. Prof. L. G. Geering, Rev. J. C. Alexander, Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson, Rev. J. Priestley, and Mr. J. P. Adam.

Alternates: Rev. A. A. Dougan, Rev. H. Harrison, Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom, and Mr. R. S. Byrnes.

Constitution and Functions of G.A.A. (Min. 29).

The Rev. V. Clark-Duff, Very Rev. A. C. Grieve, Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson, Rev. W. D. Marshall, Rev. C. Auldism, Rev. H. Dunn, Rev. J. Priestley, Rev. T. Gibson, Clerks of Assembly, the Procurator, Messrs. J. P. Adam, E. A. Hunt, Business Convener of Assembly, H. E. Zelling, P. J. Barblett, G. D. McKinnon, J. R. Mackay, and Rev. J. Gray Robertson (Convener).

Defence Forces Chaplaincy (Min. 219.4).

The State Chaplaincy Committees with Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell as Convener.

Ecumenical (Min. 229.4).

See World Council of Churches.

Fire Insurance (Min. 251).

Messrs. J. T. Bolles, H. W. Bracks, R. S. Byrnes, J. M. Carroll, C. N. Hope, G. D. McKinnon, W. H. Williams, J. S. Wyllie, Rev. H. Dunn, Rev. V. Clark-Duff (Convener).

Immigration (Min. 173).

Rev. J. P. Chalinor (Convener), James Jones, E. H. McL. Shugg, J. Symington, R. G. Butler, A. G. Harrison, F. Sadler, R. R. Martin, H. Harrison, S. Russell Scott, W. R. Matters, R. S. C. Blance, R. H. Vickers, A. Duff, E. H. Thorpe, A. C. Eadie, and Messrs. R. S. Byrnes and J. F. Callahan with power to add.

Minutes (Min. 12).

Rev. A. Macliver, Rev. A. Connon, Rev. R. H. C. Crowe (Convener).

Mission and Message of the Church (Min. 217.2).

Victoria: Rev. G. Beatty (Convener), F. Strickland, J. M. Stuckey, N. Faichney, S. Yarnold, J. C. Alexander, A. M. Dickie.

New South Wales: Rev. G. F. G. Kerry, Dr. M. Mackay, J. Mullen, B. Gentle, H. McN. Saunders, and Mr. Bruce Mansfield.

Queensland: Rev. Prof. Geering, J. F. Forrest, R. E. Pashen, H. J. Whitney and Mr. N. Nelson.

West Australia: Rev. Dr. F. W. R. Nichol, A. J. Watt.

South Australia: Rev. J. Priestley, J. D. Bentley.

Tasmania: Rev. H. Dunn, A. Christie-Johnson.

Nature and Functions of the Ministry (Min. 80).

Rev. Prof. J. D. McCaughey (Convener), Rev. W. A. Alston, Rev. L. F. Gunn, Rev. Prof. D. S. Hopkirk, Rev. R. Swanton, Rev. A. Dougan, Rev. Prof. J. F. Peter, Rev. J. C. G. Fischer, Rev. W. Scott McPheat, Rev. J. A. F. Whyte.

Public Questions (Min. 219).

Church Life and Work Committee of the New South Wales Assembly; Convener, the Convener for the time being of the New South Wales Committee.

Relationship of Church to State (Min. 219.4).

Rev. H. Aikin (Convener), W. A. Alston, Dr. A. C. Watson, D. Hodges, and Mr. H. M. Rolland.

Relations with other Presbyterian Churches! (Min. 236).

Rev. G. Renfrey (Convener), J. Beatty, A. Boag, E. E. Fabb, D. S. Hopkirk, D. McK. Jones, A. Martin, R. Swanton, Dr. A. C. Watson, E. W. Archer, Mr. F. M. Bradshaw, with seven members from New South Wales, four from Queensland, and one from each of the other States to be appointed by their respective State Assemblies, together with a representative of the Board of Missions. The Victorian Committee to be the Executive.

Sacraments and Seasonal Observances (Min. 250.2).

Victoria: Rev. F. P. Strickland (Convener), J. G. Bucknall, W. A. Alston, N. Brown, G. R. Williams, A. D. Marchant, Prof. D. S. Hopkirk, M. J. Guersen.

New South Wales: Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom.

Queensland: Rev. Prof. J. F. Peter.

West Australia: Rev. J. A. Watson, A. C. Eadie.

South Australia: Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard.

Tasmania: Rev. C. W. Auld.

Selection (Min. 10).

Rev. E. W. S. Bishop, Rev. A. Boag, Rev. H. J. Hillman, Rev. V. Clark-Duff, Rev. R. H. C. Crowe, Rev. A. Eadie, Rev. J. Priestley (Convener), and Messrs. J. H. Cameron, C. Homer Fraser, J. R. Mackay, N. Chivas, R. S. Byrnes.

Training of Women Workers (Min. 161).

Rev. E. H. McL. Shugg (Convener), Rev. J. Priestley, J. C. Alexander, E. H. Vines, C. M. Dyster, D. G. Cole, R. Maidment, Prin. H. Maclean, W. B. Hastie, J. I. Williamson, A. E. Giles, C. W. Auld, A. J. McAdam, H. McAndrew, J. Watson, J. R. Sweet, Prof. J. F. Peter, Deaconess C. Ritchie and Mrs. Holmes.

World Council of Churches (Representatives to Australian Council) (Min. 229.4).

The Moderator General, Revs. W. A. Alston, C. T. F. Goy, J. Alexander, V. Coombes, Dr. W. Cumming Thom, Prof. J. F. Peter, Mr. J. R. Mackay, Rev. A. C. Watson, and appoint these representatives together with the following (who shall act as Alternates to the Australian Council): Revs. T. MacDougall, G. A. Wood, J. P. Chalinor, J. Stuckey, Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard, Prof. J. D. McCaughy, Mr. R. J. Byrnes, Mr. G. Davidson, members of the Ecumenical Committee, the Rev. A. C. Watson to be Convener, and the Victorian members to be the Executive.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

ROLL

of

MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly Hall, Collins Street, Melbourne

on

The Second Wednesday in September, 1957

(September 11th)

at 7.30 p.m.

The Right Reverend the Moderator, the Rev. Frank W. Rolland,
C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., M.A.

Moderator Designate, Rev. D. J. Flockhart, M.A.

NEW SOUTH WALES

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Ministers

Elders

Rev. R. A. MacArthur.....	Mr. H. E. H. Atkinson
„ D. G. Cole.....	„ E. Brown
„ V. W. Coombes.....	„ N. Chivas
„ H. Cunningham.....	„ Frank Dickson
„ A. A. Dougan.....	„ T. T. Gammie
„ C. M. Dyster.....	„ C. H. Lamb
„ D. J. Flockhart.....	„ H. MacFarlane
Very Rev. A. C. Grieve.....	„ J. R. Mackay
Rev. H. J. Hillman.....	„ J. A. Morrison
„ A. L. Hewitt.....	„ D. K. Robertson
„ G. F. G. Kerry.....	„ Alister Ross
„ F. J. Mackay.....	„ John Ross
„ Dr. W. Cumming Thom.....	„ John D. Ross
„ E. H. Vines.....	„ Hugh Ross

BATHURST

Rev. W. H. Ives.....	Mr. A. J. Cargill
„ R. F. Mackay.....	„ T. J. Gordon

CANBERRA

Rev. H. Harrison	Mr. K. N. Blyton
„ A. L. Burns	„ R. H. Byrnes
„ J. H. Morrison	

DUBBO

Rev. K. Dyster	Mr. H. A. Miller
„ J. A. Ford	„ W. C. Ross

THE HASTINGS

Rev. S. F. Eldred.....	Mr. A. M. Hooke
„ C. J. Paton.....	

THE HAWKESBURY

Rev. F. J. Clark.....	Mr. W. F. Wharton
„ E. S. Robson.....	„ W. H. Williams
„ J. Mullan.....	

THE HUNTER

Rev. H. M. Bell	Mr. R. Clarke
„ G. A. Reid	„ D. C. Millar

ILLAWARRA

Rev. C. S. Boyall	Mr. T. Gray
„ A. Cleghorn	„ J. Haldane
„ J. E. Davies	„ G. Wood

MOREE

Rev. J. Goudie.....	Mr. T. R. Cameron
„ R. Anderson Caldwell	

MURRUMBIDGEE

Rev. W. E. Dorin Mr. J. Cowan
,, A. W. E. Seal
" P. Somerville

NEW ENGLAND

Rev. R. H. King Mr. C. Lisle
" N. E. Key ,, W. H. McBean

NORTHERN RIVERS

Rev. J. H. Gowdie Mr. S. H. Cullen
" J. Perkins ,, R. J. B. Jack
" H. McDonald ,, M. Kunkier

NORTH SYDNEY

Rev. L. G. K. Blanchard Sir William Durrant
" V. Clark Duff Mr. T. A. Elliott
" N. Monsen ,, J. B. Rae
" J. Gray Robertson ,, J. Mackay Sim
" S. Russell-Scott ,, S. Smith
" H. McN. Saunders ,, D. K. Thomson

ORANGE

Rev. H. V. Barratt Mr. M. W. Clemens
" G. B. Miller ,, W. Stewart

SCONE

Rev. A. W. Fraser Mr. J. P. Murrell

SYDNEY

Rev. T. McDougall Mr. D. R. Beaumont
" V ernon McKeown ,, S. Flint
" Dr. M. Mackay Rev. W. B. Gentle

SYDNEY SOUTH

Rev. M. A. McAlpine Mr.
" A. MacLachlan
" T. H. Turner

SYDNEY WEST

Rev. S. A. Eastman Mr. R. Sutherland
" K. A. Fox ,, R. G. Wardrop
" M. O. Fox
" A. C. MacLean

WAGGA WAGGA

Rev. D. M. Baird Mr. W. T. Allen
,, H. G. Peffer ,, A. C. Sellars
,, W. H. Stott

YOUNG

Rev. R. M. Crawford Mr. G. Baker
,, E. Ewin ,, J. McDonald
,, G. George ,, E. Penfold

QUEENSLAND

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Rev. J. F. Forrest ,, R. S. Byrnes
,, Prof. L. G. Geering ,, T. Gray
Rev. R. M. Park ,, R. P. Gresham
Rev. J. R. Sweet ,, N. F. Nelson
,, T. C. Watson ,, J. M. D. Stevens
,, H. J. Whitney ,, J. S. R. Wyllie

BRISBANE

Rev. H. M. Coutts Mr. A. A. Porter
" R. H. C. Crowe „ R. W. Ralph
" J. W. Van de Meene „ L. J. Williams
" Prof. J. F. Peter
" W. Young

MACKAY

Rev. T. R. Hall

MARYBOROUGH

Rev. D. H. Henry Mr. E. L. Barrett
" L. W. Wyer „ S. Marshall

MOWBRAY

Rev. A. Duff Mr. N. M. Henderson
" R. H. Vickers „ E. A. Parker
" A. R. Wilson „ I. Horwood

ROCKHAMPTON

Rev. J. M. Davison Mr. A. C. Shepherdson
" G. W. Taylor

TOOWOOMBA

Rev. W. R. Cowan Mr. A. C. Krieg
" R. B. McIntyre » R. Mercer
" C. H. Skerman

TOWNSVILLE

Rev. A. W. Law
" R. Painton

WARWICK

Rev. D. K. McLennan Mr. W. D. Costello

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard..... Dr. C. Duguid
Rev. J. Priestley..... Mr. H. Snow

ADELAIDE

Rev. P. H. R. Lockett Mr. G. S. Davidson
„ Dr. J. Munro Ford Dr. C. Duguid
„ T. R. Pritchard Mr. W. R. F. Tulloch

BELALIE

Rev. C. A. Harrison Mr. R. R. McEwin

ONKAPARINGA

Rev. A. S. Jones Mr. S. W. Burns

PENOLA

Rev. C. A. Gibson Mr. J. B. Clezy
Rt. Rev. I. H. Silke „ A. B. Scott

TASMANIA

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Rev. K. Maclean Mr. E. R. Henry

TASMANIA

Rev. A. Martin Mr. A. B. Stirling
„ A. Cannon „ W. Playsted
„ F. Zuiderduin „ D. H. Thomas

VICTORIA

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Rev. J. C. Alexander.....	Mr.	J. P. Adam
n W. A. Alston.....	.. .. "	W. J. Baker
n G. Anderson.....	.. .. "	F. M. Bradshaw
" E. W. S. Bishop.....	.. .. "	J. H. Cameron
" J. P. Chaliner.....	.. .. "	A. W. Coles
" E. C. Day.....	.. .. Dr.	V. Davies
" C. T. F. Goy.....	.. .. Mr.	C. Homer Fraser
" A. S. Houston.....	.. .. "	W. M. Hodges
" A. D. Marchant.....	.. .. "	W. Laught
" W. D. Marshall.....	.. .. "	N. J. McColl
" Prof. J. D. McCaughey .. .	.. .. "	G. D. McKinnon
Rt. Rev. F. W. Rolland.....	.. .. "	D. K. Miller
Rev. E. H. McL. Shugg.....	.. .. "	G. U. Nathan
" F. P. Strickland.....	.. .. "	B. Newton John
" J. M. Stuckey.....	.. .. "	H. M. Rolland
" Dr. A. C. Watson.....	.. .. "	A. J. Spencer

BALLARAT

Rev. J. A. Moscript.....	Mr.	W. H. Clark
" J. H. Roberts.....	.. .. "	J. Stickland
" J. Roodenburg.....	.. .. "	D. G. Walton

BEECHWORTH

Rev. T. Guest.....	Mr.	A. G. Jarvis
" W. Fraser Sutherland .	.. .. "	D. White

BENDIGO

Rev. J. W. Beecher.....	Mr.	G. Clarke
" P. W. Turner.....	.. .. "	R. Nixon

FLINDERS

Rev. J. A. Finlay	Mr.	E. W. Allison
" J. E. Lloyd.....	.. .. "	W. F. de Graaf
" F. Spencer.....	.. .. "	W. C. Greaves

GEELONG

Rev. M. J. L. Griffiths.....	Mr.	D. D. Davey
" A. D. Hallam.....	.. .. "	J. J. Dedman
" G. A. Wood.....	.. .. "	A. W. Dennis
" A. Yule.....	.. .. "	A. Forsyth

GIPPSLAND

Rev. D. M. Hodges.....	
" E. G. Miller.....	
" T. L. H. Roberts.....	

GOULBURN VALLEY

Rev. A. R. Barnett.....	Mr.	A. Crawford
" W. Morgan.....	.. .. "	H. Evans

HAMILTON

Rt. Rev. J. H. Bates	Mr.	A. Morris
Rev. N. Macleod .. . . .	.. .. "	D. R. Ross
" J. V. Mills	.. .. "	G. Spencer

MACEDON

Rev. Dr. W. F. Paton	Mr.	S. S. Berry
" R. W. Traill .. . . .	.. .. "	D. J. Fraser

MALLEE DOWNS

Rev. A. M. McMaster.....	Mr.	W. J. Jones
" Ian Thomson.....	.. .. "	F. R. Uebergang

MARYBOROUGH

Rev. J. C. Rainsbury Mr. J. Lee

MELBOURNE EAST

Rev. A. Crichton Barr Mr. J. H. Cormack
„ R. G. Foyster .. „ H. B. Lewis
„ W. B. Howden .. „ A. D. Reid
„ G. S. Taylor .. „ R. N. Wilson

MELBOURNE NORTH

Rev. H. Aikin..... Mr. G. Cogle
„ J. C. Foyster..... „ J. M. Davies
„ G. Fairservice..... „ K. G. Fleming
„ W. F. Gilmour..... „ T. Giffin
„ C. W. McLeod..... „ W. J. Inglis
„ R. Swanton..... „ J. T. Roberts
„ P. J. Thomas..... „ C. H. Stubbs

MELBOURNE SOUTH

Rev. A. Boag ... Mr. A. S. B. Carruthers
„ W. Harrison .. „ J. C. Smith
„ A. H. Michell .. „ A. S. Tannahill
„ R. A. Miller .. „ A. J. Vaughan
„ M. S. Padman .. „ K. Wilson

MELBOURNE WEST

Rev. A. I. Absalom..... Mr. D. F. Irvine
„ A. M. Clark..... „ E. S. Jenkin
„ A. M. Dickie..... „ C. Granger
„ Princ. H. Maclean..... „ R. A. Quail
„ S. E. Yarnold..... „ G. Trethowan

MILDURA

Rev. L. N. Bean..... Mr. A. J. Jenkins

MORTLAKE

Rev. N. Faichney..... Mr. L. J. Weatherly
„ H. A. Stamp..... „ A. Crothers
„ K. C. Wood..... „ W. A. Lea

SEYMOUR

Rev. H. W. Lane..... Mr. R. C. Roberts
„ D. Forbes..... „ T. H. Brown

WESTERN PLAINS

Rev. W. E. Blackwood..... Mr. L. J. Collins
„ C. G. Burt..... „ W. A. Drury

WIMMERA

Rev. W. J. Crick..... Mr. E. W. Hudgson
„ C. S. Petrie..... „ A. H. Walsgott

WEST AUSTRALIA

(Elected by the State Assembly)

Rev. H. D. McAndrew..... Mr. A. J. Fraser
Rt. Rev. J. G. Thrum..... „ D. W. Moore

FREMANTLE

Rev. T. Gibson..... Mr. R. C. Purdie
„ W. R. Hopkins..... „ A. McNeill

NORTH PERTH

Rev. A. Macliver..... Mr. H. W. Bracks
„ K. McC. Dowding..... „ P. J. Barblett

PERTH

Rt. Rev. A. C. Eadie..... Dr. A. A. Barr
Rev. F. W. R. Nichol..... Mr. J. T. H. Bolles

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

SESSION TWENTY-SEVENTH

FIRST SEDERUNT

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday the 11th day of September, 1957, at 7.30 p.m.

1. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened. Public Worship was conducted by the Right Reverend the Moderator-General, the Rev. F. W. Rolland, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., M.A., who preached from John I: 14. Constitution

Thereafter the Assembly was constituted with prayer.

2. The Roll of Assembly as printed was laid on the Table with changes intimated since the printing of the White Book, declared to be of interim authority, and ordered to be finally adjusted after the confirmation of the minutes tomorrow. Roll

3. The Clerk submitted apologies for absence from the Rev. T. McDougall, G. Renfrey, Mr. A. E. Forrest, Mr. Alister Ross, Mr. J. Beale, Mr. Alex. Sellars, Mr. S. P. Dart, Mr. R. A. Corderoy, and moved that the Assembly sustain them. Apologies

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. The Clerk read an acknowledgment from Her Majesty the Queen of the Assembly's loyal greeting in 1954. Acknowledgement

5. The Clerk read a letter of thanks from the Rev. Dr. G. R. S. Reid acknowledging the Assembly's greetings.

6. The Clerk intimated that the Board of Nominators had unanimously agreed to nominate to the House the Rev. David John Flockhart, M.A., as Moderator of this Assembly. The Clerk moved that the Assembly accept the nomination and elect the Rev. David John Flockhart, M.A., as Moderator of this Assembly. Moderator Elected

The motion was seconded by the Assistant Clerk and approved with acclamation.

7. The Rev. D. J. Flockhart was conducted to the Chair and welcomed and inducted by prayer by the retiring Moderator. Thereafter he delivered a suitable address on "The Church in the Modern World." Moderator Inducted

8. The Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson read the following loyal address and moved Loyal Address

That the Assembly adopt it.

LOYAL ADDRESS

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

May it please your Majesty,

We, your faithful subjects, Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, convened in General Assembly, take leave to express our loyalty to your Majesty's person and throne.

In the course of our deliberations we will constantly be reminded of the rapid development of this Commonwealth of Australia. We are within the area of the world where great nations are rising to new power. Migration from the United Kingdom and Europe continue to increase our population. We assure your Majesty that we are determined, by God's help, to take our part in this national development, and in loyalty to the Gospel, to make our special contribution to the moral and spiritual life of our people.

We pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your Majesty, upon His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh and your Royal House, and that He may grant you health and strength long to reign over us, and to set

before your people the example you have already shown of high and selfless devotion in the service of others.

Your Majesty's most faithful and loyal subjects,

The Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, convened in General Assembly.

Signed in our name, and in our presence, and at our appointment by the Rt. Rev. D. J. Flockhart, Moderator.

The Clerk seconded the motion, which was approved by a standing vote. The Assembly sang the National Anthem.

Business

9. The Junior Clerk submitted the Report of the Business Committee and moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Fix the ordinary meetings of the Assembly from 9.30 a.m. till 5 p.m., with an interval from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for luncheon; evening sederunt from 7 p.m. till 9.30 p.m. (no sederunt on Saturday).

"3. Approve the times allotted for speeches as set out at the beginning of reports. All times to be extensible by leave of the Assembly.

"4. Request that Notices of Motion be submitted in triplicate.

"5. Approve the Business set down for Thursday, 12th September, 1957:

9.45 a.m. Communion in Scots Church
Moderator General's Report
Communication 2
Overture 9
Communications 4, 7, 5 and 6

F.O.D.

12.30 p.m. Communication 10. Hear the Rev. W. A. Zeydner of the Nederlands Reformed Church
Statistics

F.O.D.

2.00 p.m. Constitutional Convention
Overtures 6, 7 and 8
Code

7.00 p.m. Communication 8
Christian Unity
Finance
Beneficiary
Fire Insurance

and for the following Fixed Orders of the Day:

7.30 p.m. Friday—A.I.M. Demonstration

7.30 p.m. Monday—Board of Missions Demonstration

"6. Give general approval to the following items:

Friday, 13th September

Appeal 1 (4 members N.S.W. Assembly)
College Committee
Overtures 1 and 4
Nature and Function of the Ministry
Overture 3

2.00 p.m. A.I.M.
Canberra Executive
Overture 5
Immigration
Defence Forces Chaplaincy

7.30 p.m. A.I.M. Demonstration

Monday, 16th September

9.30 a.m. Religious Education
Public Questions

2.00 p.m. Board of Missions
Ecumenical
Communication 11
Relationship to other Presbyterian Churches
Communication 9

7.30 p.m. Board of Missions Demonstration

Tuesday, 17th September

9.30 a.m. Appeal 2 (re Certificate of Status)

Reception of Ministers
Women's Studies
Wholesome Discipline
Aids to Devotion

"7. Appoint the Rev. Colin Dyster Business Convener of this Assembly and request the Rev. W. B. Hastie to assist him."

The motion was seconded and approved.

10. The Clerk reported that the following had been nominated as the Selection Committee, viz.:

Victoria: Rev. E. W. S. Bishop, Rev. A. Boag, Mr. J. H. Cameron, Mr. C. Homer Fraser. New South Wales: Rev. H. J. Hillman, Rev. V. Clark-Duff, Mr. J. R. McKay, Mr. N. Chivas. Queensland: Rev. R. H. C. Crowe, Mr. R. S. Byrnes. Western Australia: Rev. A. Eadie. South Australia: Rev. J. Priestley (Convener), and moved that the Assembly appoint them.

The motion was seconded and approved.

11. The Business Convener moved that the Assembly appoint Messrs. N. F. Nelson, H. M. Rolland, R. C. Purdie, J. Mannell, R. P. Gresham, Rev. A. MacLachlan, Rev. J. Mullan and Rev. G. F. G. Kerry (Convener) as the Ballot Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

12. The Business Convener moved that the Assembly appoint as the Minute Committee to scrutinize minutes, Rev. A. Macliver, Rev. A. Connon, Rev. R. H. C. Crowe (Convener).

The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Notices of Motion I-V were read and laid on the Table.

14. The House adjourned to meet on Thursday, the 12th September, N.M. 1957, at 9.45 a.m. at Scots Church for Holy Communion and thereafter for ordinary business at the Assembly Hall, which, having been duly intimated, the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

W. D. MARSHALL,
J. M. STUCKEY,

Clerks.

SECOND SEDERUNT

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Thursday, the 12th day of September, 1957, at 9.1₅ a.m.

Lord's
Supper

1 5. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in which the Moderator was assisted by the Very Rev. F. W. Rolland, the Rev. Alan Dougan, and his chaplains, the Rev. A. L. Hewitt and Rev. N. Paul.

Constitution

The Assembly proceeded to the Assembly Hall and the business sederunt was opened with prayer.

N.M.

16. By leave of the House, Notices of Motion VI-XVIII were laid on the Table and received.

Apologies

17. Apologies were received from Mr. R. C. Roberts and Mr. D. K. Robertson and sustained.

Report of the
Retiring
Moderator

1 8. The Very Rev. F. W. Rolland submitted the report of the Moderator-General and moved the Deliverance.

"That the Assembly—

"Receive the Report."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Thanks to
Retiring
Moderator

19. The Rev. J. M. Stuckey moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Record its warm appreciation of the work of the retiring Moderator the Very Rev. F. W. Rolland, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., M.A., during his term of office, and also that of Mrs. Rolland. Mr. Rolland by his friendly approach, his keen mind, and his dry wit ably guided the debates of the Assembly and with his wife has graciously and effectively represented the Church in his many engagements throughout the Commonwealth."

The motion was seconded and approved, and the Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Rolland.

Communica-
tion 2
Resignation
of Clerk

20. Communication 2 (from the Clerk of the Assembly) was laid on the Table and received.

The Junior Clerk moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive with regret the resignation of the Rev. W. D. Marshall, M.A., as Clerk of this Assembly as from the close of this Assembly.

"2. Place on record its gratitude for his long and faithful service.

"3. Call for nominations to fill the vacancy and instruct that they be lodged with the Clerks by Monday next at 5 p.m. for inclusion, if necessary, in the ballot on Tuesday, 17th."

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Mr. Marshall.

Overture IX

21. Overture IX was called for.

The Rev. J. M. Stuckey and the Rev. V. Coombes stated the Overture. Questions were called for.

The Rev. J. M. Stuckey moved:

"That the Assembly—

"Sustain the Overture.

"Amend Standing Order 107 by the insertion after the words 'courts of equal standing', of the words 'and also missionaries while under engagement by the Board of Missions who are on furlough and who are ordained Elders or Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia if they are not already representative of State Assembly or Presbytery'."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Associated

22. The Rev. J. M. Stuckey moved:

"That the Assembly—

"Associate the Rev. J. E. Owen and the Rev. I. N. Whyte."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Communica-
tion 4

23. Communication 4 (from the General Assembly of New South Wales, re 150th Anniversary of Ebenezer Church) was laid on the Table and received.

The Business Convener moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Declare the observance of the 150th Anniversary of Ebenezer Church on Saturday, 15th May, 1959, an official Assembly function, with the Moderator-General presiding.

"2. Invite the representative of the Queen in Australia, and the Prime Minister of Australia, to be present at this celebration.

"3. Refer the business of arranging the celebrations to the General Assembly of New South Wales."

24. The fixed order of the day was called for. F.O.D.
 Communication 10 (from the Nederland Reformed Church) was laid on the Table and received. Communication 10
 The Rt. Rev. W. A. Zeydner was presented to the Moderator and was welcomed and associated. Welcome to Rt. Rev. W. A. Zeydner
 The Rt. Rev. W. A. Zeydner addressed the House and presented a volume to the Assembly.
 The Moderator thanked Mr. Zeydner for his presence and his gift.
25. Communication 7 (from the General Assembly of Western Australia) was laid on the Table and received. Communication 7
26. Communication 5 (from the Victorian General Assembly re Presbytery Boundaries) was laid on the Table and received. Communication 5
27. Communication 6 (from the Victorian General Assembly re continuance of Union with South Australia) was laid on the Table and received. Communication 6
28. The Rev. V. Clark-Duff submitted the report on Statistics and moved the Deliverance. Statistics
 "That the Assembly—
 - "Receive the Report."
 The motion was seconded and approved.
29. The Rev. J. Gray Robertson submitted the report of the Convention on the Constitution and Functions of the General Assembly of Australia and moved the Deliverance. Constitution & Functions Convention
 "That the Assembly—
 "1. Receive the Report.
 "2. Continue the Committee consisting of the following members:
 The Procurator, Clerk and Business Convener of G.A.A., Revs. Victor Clark-Duff, A. C. Grieve, J. Gray Robertson, Messrs. J. R. Mackay, E. A. Hunt, Revs. A. C. Watson, W. D. Marshall, C. Auldism, Messrs. G. McKinnon, J. P. Adam, Revs. Hector Dunn, J. Priestley, Mr. H. E. Zelling, Rev. T. Gibson and Mr. P. J. Barblett.
 The motion was seconded and approved.
30. Overture VI was called for. Overture VI
 The Rev. T. Gibson and Mr. P. J. Barblett stated the Overture, Questions were called for.
 The Rev. T. Gibson moved:
 "That the Assembly—
 "1. Sustain the Overture.
 "2. Amend Standing Order 106 to read in its amended form—
 '106. A Court may appoint a Commission of one or more persons with full powers to deal with all matters submitted to the Commission by the appointing Court and any other urgent matters which may arise from time to time. When a Commission consists of two or more members, the Court appoints the Chairman.'
 "3. Remit the proposed amendment to State Assemblies, and through them to Presbyteries, for report through the Constitutional Convention to the Clerk before 31st August, 1958.
 "4. Give the proposed amendment interim authority.
 "5. Appoint a Commission of the General Assembly which it hereby does appoint, consisting of the Moderator (Chairman), Past Moderators-General, Clerks, Procurator, and Law Agent of the General Assembly, together with members from the States in the following proportions, viz. six from New South Wales, six from Victoria, four from Queensland, and two each from South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. (Any vacancy occurring to be filled by the G.A. of the State affected.) Sixteen of whom, representing at least four of the States, shall form a quorum, whereof eight shall be ministers, and such Commission of Assembly—
 (a) Shall be empowered to enter into and determine as they shall see cause every matter referred to them by or in virtue of any decision or order of the General Assembly, and to do everything contained in the instructions given to the Commission of General Assembly.
 (b) Is charged to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which it can prevent, as it will be answerable, and to this end the General Assembly empower the Commission to consider and determine such emergent matters as are deemed urgent and in need of executive or judicial action.
 (c) Is strictly enjoined in all its actings to proceed according to the Rules and Constitution of the Church and to do nothing con-

trary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in and for all its actings it shall be accountable to and censurable by the next Assembly as they shall see cause.

- (d) Is further restrained from enacting, amending or repealing any Rules or Regulations of the General Assembly or from entering into the consideration of any overture or motion proposing legislation or from meddling with any matter which has not been referred to the Commission by the General Assembly or which is not of the nature set out in Clause b of this appointment.
- (e) Is directed to submit its minutes duly confirmed, and relevant papers, to the next General Assembly through the Clerk.
- (f) Is instructed to meet at least once between the meetings of the General Assembly, in the first instance on the second Wednesday of September, 1958, at the Assembly Hall, Melbourne, and if necessary to adjourn from time to time.

"6. Appoint the members as follows:

- (a) The ex-officio members as set out in Clause 5.
- (b) Rev. J. G. Robertson, Rev. A. C. Grieve, Rev. V. Clark Duff, Rev. C. M. Dyster, Mr. E. A. Hunt, Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson, Rev. W. D. Marshall, Rev. E. H. McL. Shugg, Rev. G. R. Williams, Mr. G. U. Nathan, Mr. G. McKinnon, Rev. R. H. Crowe, Rev. T. C. Watson, Mr. J. S. Wyllie, Mr. R. S. Byrnes, Rev. J. Priestley, Rev. T. Gibson, Rev. K. MacLean, Mr. P. J. Barblett, Mr. H. E. Zelling, Mr. J. R. Mackay, Mr. E. R. Henry.

"7. And declare that thereafter the Commission of Assembly shall consist, in addition to ex-officio members, of representatives elected by State Assemblies."

31. It was agreed to take the motion clause by clause.

Clauses 1-4 were approved.

32. Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved the omission in Clause 5 of the words "which it hereby does appoint".

The amendment was seconded and approved, and the words omitted.

33. The Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard moved that the words "Past Moderators-General" be inserted after the word "Chairman".

The motion was seconded and approved, and the words inserted.

34. The Rev. T. McDougall moved:

"The omission all words after 6 (b) with a view to inserting the following words—Refer the matter of the election of members of the Commission to the Selection Committee to make nominations and report to a later sederunt."

The motion was seconded and approved, and the words omitted.

The Rev. T. McDougall moved the insertion of the words.

The motion was seconded and approved, and the words inserted.

35. The motion as amended was approved as follows:

The Rev. T. Gibson moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Sustain the Overture.

"2. Amend Standing Order 106 to read in its amended form—

'106. A Court may appoint a Commission of one or more persons with full powers to deal with all matters submitted to the Commission by the appointing Court any other urgent matters which may arise from time to time. When a Commission consists of two or more members, the Court appoints the Chairman.'

"3. Remit the proposed amendment to State Assemblies, and through them to presbyteries, for report through the Constitutional Convention to the Clerk before 31st August, 1958.

"4. Give the proposed amendment interim authority.

"5. Appoint a Commission of the General Assembly, consisting of the Moderator (Chairman), Past Moderators-General, Clerks, Procurator, and Law Agent of the General Assembly, together with members from the States in the following proportions, viz. six from New South Wales, six from Victoria, four from Queensland, and two each from South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. (Any vacancy occurring to be filled by the G.A. of the State affected.) Sixteen of whom, representing at least four of the States, shall form a quorum, whereof eight shall be ministers, and such Commission of Assembly—

- (a) Shall be empowered to enter into and determine as they shall see cause every matter referred to them by or in virtue of any decision or order of the General Assembly, and to do every-

thing contained in the instructions given to the Commission of General Assembly.

- (b) Is charged to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which it can prevent, as it will be answerable, and to this end the General Assembly empower the Commission to consider and determine such emergent matters as are deemed urgent and in need of executive or judicial action.
- (c) Is strictly enjoined in all its actings to proceed according to the Rules and Constitution of the Church and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in and for all its actings it shall be accountable to and censurable by the next Assembly as they shall see cause.
- (d) Is further restrained from enacting, amending or repealing any Rules or Regulations of the General Assembly or from entering into the consideration of any overture or motion proposing legislation or from meddling with any matter which has not been referred to the Commission by the General Assembly or which is not of the nature set out in Clause b of this appointment.
- (e) Is directed to submit its minutes duly confirmed, and relevant papers, to the next General Assembly through the Clerk.
- (f) Is instructed to meet at least once between the meetings of the General Assembly, in the first instance on the second Wednesday of September, 1958, at the Assembly Hall, Melbourne, and if found necessary to adjourn from time to time.

“6. Appoint the members as follows:

- (a) The ex-officio members as set out in Clause 5.
- (b) Refer the matter of the election of members of the Commission to the Selection Committee to make nominations and report to a later sederunt.”

36. Overture VII was called for.

Overture VII

The Rev. J. Gray Robertson and the Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson stated the Overture.

Questions were called for.

The Rev. J. Gray Robertson moved:

“1. That the Assembly sustain the Overture.

“2. That for the existing Rule 128, Article (iv) be substituted the following:

- (a) The General Assembly shall have functions legislative administrative and judicial supreme with regard to the doctrine worship discipline and government of the Church, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall without further direction from the General Assembly retain its existing functions with regard to the Missions to the heathen, the Training of Students, the admission of candidates to the Ministry, the reception of Ministers from other Churches, Welfare of Youth Work, and Home Missions, in so far as hereinafter provided.
- (b) The General Assembly by virtue of its supreme right and power to legislate in respect of the matters mentioned in the last preceding sub-article has the right, but, not without the consent of the majority of the Presbyteries of the whole Church and a majority of the State Assemblies, to bring about the union of the Church with any other Church without loss of its identity upon such terms as the General Assembly may find to be consistent with the principles doctrines and religious standards set forth in the Basis of Union or any amendment thereof made in accordance with the provisions therein contained.

That for the existing Rule 159 Article (xii), the following be substituted: The State General Assemblies shall until otherwise directed by the General Assembly continue to carry out their legislative administrative and judicial functions with regard to the government of the Church within their respective bounds.

“3. That the matter be sent down to Presbyteries through State Assemblies for report through the Constitutional Convention to the Clerk of the G.A.A. not later than 31st August, 1958.”

The motion was seconded.

37. Mr. F. Maxwell Bradshaw, according to Notice, moved the omission of Clauses 2 and 3 with a view to inserting the following:

"1. Refer the proposed scheme of amendment of the Articles of Agreement to the Code Committee to consider its validity and legal consequences, and to report to the next Assembly.

"2. If the Code Committee is of opinion that the scheme of amendment cannot validly be enacted or would result in undesirable legal consequences, direct the Committee—

(a) to draw up a statement of the defects found to exist in the working of the Assembly and its committees; and

(b) formulate, in so far as practicable, proposals to eliminate those defects,

and report to the next Assembly."

The amendment was seconded.

38. The Rev. E. W. S. Bishop moved as an amendment on the amendment.

"1. Refer the matter together with Mr. Bradshaw's proposed amendment to the Code Committee in consultation with the Procurator for consideration and report by 31st August, 1958.

"2. Send the matter down to Presbyteries through State Assemblies for consideration and report by them through the Code Committee by 31st August, 1958."

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The amendment was put as the motion and approved.

39. Notices of Motion XIX-XXV were laid on the Table.

40. The House adjourned to meet at 7 p.m., which having been duly intimated, the sederunt was closed with prayer.

N.M.
Adjournment

W. D. MARSHALL,
J. M. STUCKEY,

Clerks.

THIRD SEDERUNT

*At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne,
on Thursday, the 12th day of September, 1957, at 7 p.m.*

41. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer. Constitution
42. The Clerk intimated the corrections in yesterday's minutes and moved that the minutes as corrected be confirmed. Minutes
The motion was seconded and approved.
43. The Clerk intimated the corrections in the Roll of the Assembly and moved that the Roll as corrected be declared the Roll of this Assembly. Roll
The motion was seconded and approved.
44. Mr. J. A. Morrison moved according to notice: Procurator
Appointed
"That the Assembly—
"Appoint, in terms of Procedure and Practice, Chapter VI, Rule 232 (IV), Douglas Macfarlan Little, Esquire, Q.C., to be Procurator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia."
Mr. J. P. Adam seconded the motion, which was approved.
The Moderator intimated his appointment to Mr. Little, who accepted the appointment and addressed the House.
45. The Business Convener submitted the Report of the Business Committee and moved that the order of business be approved. Business
The motion was seconded and approved.
46. The Business Convener intimated that nominations for the Clerkship and Committees close at 12 noon on Monday, 16th September, 1957, and that nominations for the Clerkship be handed to the Clerk, and all others to the Chairman of the Selection Committee, and that the ballot be taken at 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 17th September, 1957. Nomination
for Clerkship
The motion was seconded and approved.
47. Communication 8 (from the Congregational Union) was laid on the table and received. Communication 8
48. The Report on Christian Unity was called for. Christian
Unity
49. Rev. V. Clark-Duff questioned the competency of dealing with the Report. Moderator's
Ruling
Challenged
The Moderator ruled that in his opinion the matter was competent.
The Rev. V. Clark-Duff moved:
"That the Assembly disapprove the Moderator's ruling."
The Moderator declared the motion disapproved on the voices.
50. A division was called for, the names to be recorded. Division
The Moderator declared the result of the division as follows:
For..... 56
Against..... 214
- For: Ministers—Rev. D. M. Baird, E. W. S. Bishop, R. Anderson Caldwell, A. Cleghorn, W. J. Crick, H. Cunningham, J. E. Davies, W. E. Dorin, A. A. Dougan, V. Clark-Duff, D. Forbes, Dr. J. Munro Ford, A. W. Fraser, W. F. Gilmour, M. T. L. Griffiths, T. Guest, W. Harrison, J. E. Lloyd, P. H. R. Lockett, N. Macleod, H. McDonald, V. McKeown, A. Martin, G. B. Miller, N. Monsen, W. Morgan, H. G. Peffer, J. Perkins, C. S. Petrie, T. R. Pritchard, J. Roodenburg, H. MacN. Saunders, S. Russell Scott, I. H. Silke, P. Somerville, W. H. Stott, R. Swanton, Ian Thomson, P. W. Turner, F. Zuiderduin. Elders—Messrs. D. R. Beaumont, D. M. Bradshaw, A. S. B. Carruthers, J. B. Clezy, J. Cowan, S. Flint, C. Homer Fraser, T. T. Gammie, J. Haldane, W. J. Inglis, R. J. B. Jack, M. Kunkier, C. Lisle, H. MacFarlane, J. B. Rae, W. Stewart.
Against: E. H. Vines, W. Clemens, J. R. Mackay, F. W. Nichol, W. R. Hopkins, T. C. Watson, R. M. Crawford, R. H. Crowe, R. H. Vickers, N. Henderson, J. H. Brown, D. Hodges, J. D. McCaughey, J. P. Adam, R. F. Mackay, D. G. Millar, G. A. Reid, A. J. Fraser, J. D. Ross, A. Watson, P. J. Barblett, A. H. Michell, H. V. Barratt, T. R. Hall, C. A. Wood, M. McAlpine, J. Mullan, Prof. H. Maclean, S. A. Eastman, M. McRay, R. Macarthur, G. F. G. Kerry, L. G. Geering, J. F. Peter, H. D. McAndrew, T. McDougall, C. Goy, W. Alston, J. Gray Robertson, J. Priestley, Charles Macleod, A. Clark, A. Dickie, J. H. Roberts, S. E. Yarnold, T. Roberts, C. Harrison, D. R. Miller, C. G. Wood, P. J. Thomas, D. D. Davey, D. G. Cole, V. W. Coombes, M. O. Fox, R. G. Wardrop, Hugh Ross, A. McNeil, G. Anderson, J. Mills, W. Marshall, J. Beecher, A. Yule, R. Purdie, E. A. Parker, N. Faichney, A. C. Krieg, Ian Horwood, J. A. Ford, I. Clarke, A. Shepherdson, A. R. Wilson, J. P. Mannell, A. Maclachlan, T. H. Turner, Dr. W. C. Thom, W. A. Lea, J. H. Cormack, G. F. Spenser, A. D. Reid, H. E. Atkinson, R. B. McIntyre, E. D. Henry, E. L. Barrett, W. D. Costello, C. A. Gibson, S. F. Eldred, T. A. Elliott, J. Morrison, K. Blyton, A. Porter, R. H. King, Newton John, J. Alexander, A. Eadie, H. Aiken, R. C. Foyster, J. Moscript, C. M.

Dyster, D. G. Walton, J. C. Smith, J. Goudie H. J. Whitney, A. G. Jarvis, R. Mercer, J. Lee, K. A. Fox, J. Finlay, D. V. Davies, R. Miller, B. Gentle, W. H. McBean, H. Coutts, A. L. Hewitt, W. Ross, J. T. H. Bolles, A. Barr, C. Duguid, G. Davidson, D. J. Clark, G. E. Baker, F. W. Rolland, C. S. Boyall, K. Dyster, W. H. Williams, W. F. Wharton, C. Stubbs, R. Clarke, W. E. Blackwood, J. H. Gowdie, W. M. Hodges, A. W. Dennis, A. W. Coles, H. M. Rolland, J. W. Van de Meene, A. Duff, G. Buitt, L. Blanchard, F. Strickland, J. R. Sweet, K. C. Wood, L. W. Whyte, G. Miller, W. Howden, N. F. Nelson, G. D. McKinnon, S. Marshall, R. Quail, E. S. Jenkin, H. A. Stamp, E. Penfold, W. Playsted, D. K. McLennan, D. F. Irvine, J. F. Forrest, J. M. Davidson, A. W. Law, W. F. Fabin, R. S. Byrnes, R. Painton, J. T. Roberts, G. W. Taylor, D. H. Thomas, H. W. Lane, N. J. Williams, Clyde Paton, A. M. Hooke, W. R. Cowan, C. H. Skerman, E. S. Robson, W. H. Ives, M. Maclean R. Sutherland, N. E. Key, F. Dickson, F. Sutherland, T. Gray, R. W. Ralph, R. Gresham, H. Harrison, J. S. R. Wyllie, G. U. Nathan, J. M. Stuckey, J. M. D. Stevens, E. H. M. Shugg, A. J. Hillman, G. Brown, D. J. Fraser, F. McKay, G. Cogle, R. W. Traill, L. N. Bean, T. Gibson, J. G. Thrum, A. Macliver, E. C. Day, D. W. Moore, H. W. Bracks, J. R. Blanchard, Sir W. Durrant, H. A. Miller, A. Cargill, W. A. Drury, E. G. Ewin, A. Crawford, J. E. Davies, Theo. Gray, A. S. Jones, G. Fairservice, N. Chivas, A. Burns, J. H. Cameron, A. D. Hallam, F. Spencer, A. C. Grieve.

The Moderator's ruling was upheld.

Christian
Unity

51. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom submitted the report of the Committee on Christian Unity and moved the Deliverance.

It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 3 was moved as follows:

"3. Receive the Proposed Basis of Union submitted by the Executive in accordance with Minute 82, Clause 6, of the 1954 General Assembly.

52. The Rev. Alan Dougan, according to Notice, moved the omission of the word "Receive" with a view to inserting in its place the word "Disapprove".

The amendment was seconded.

Extension
of Time

53. It was moved that the time be extended till the debate be concluded.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

54. It was moved that the time be extended till 10.30 p.m.

The motion was seconded and approved.

55. The Moderator indicated that in his opinion the motion had been sufficiently discussed.

It was moved and seconded that the question be now put.

The motion was approved.

56. The amendment was disapproved.

57. Clause 3 was approved.

58. Clause 4 was moved, seconded and approved.

59. By leave Clause 5 was moved and seconded and approved as follows:

"5. Express the opinion that the work of the Commission would be facilitated if it sought to agree first on the following matters:

(a) the Church's rule of faith;

(b) authority and discipline in the life of the Church;

(c) the ministry of the Church and the order of the Church—and draw the attention of its representatives to this opinion; and suggest to the Commission that when agreed statements on any or all of these topics become available they should be presented through the Christian Unity Committees to the three Federal Courts, and that from time to time some account of the state of the Commission's discussions be provided for the information of the Lower Courts of the conferring Churches."

Clauses 6-10 were moved, seconded and approved.

60. The Deliverance as a whole was moved as follows:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Thank all concerned for their diligence in implementing the decisions of the last Assembly.

"3. Receive the Proposed Basis of Union submitted by the Executive in accordance with Minute 82, clause 6, of the 1954 General Assembly.

"4. Approve the appointment of a Joint Commission of not more than 21 members, consisting of not more than seven members from each of the three negotiating Churches, the powers of the Joint Commission to include:

(a) The examination and amendment of any suggested Basis of

Union and any documents submitted to it by the Federal Courts or by the Federal Committees on Christian Unity.

- (b) The holding of regular conferences and preparation and circulation of relevant study material.
- (c) The submission of reports to the Federal Committees on Christian Unity.
- (d) The presentation, if possible, of a proposed Basis of Union to the Federal Committees on Christian Unity for submission to the next meeting of the three Federal Courts.

“5. Express the opinion that the work of the Commission would be facilitated if it sought to agree first on the following matters—

- (a) the Church’s rule of faith;
- (b) authority and discipline in the life of the Church;
- (c) the ministry of the Church and the order of the Church—
and draw the attention of its representatives to this opinion; and suggest to the Commission that when agreed statements on any or all of these topics become available they should be presented through the Christian Unity Committees to the three Federal Courts.
- (d) and that from time to time some account of the state of the Commission’s discussions be provided for the information of the Lower Courts of the conferring Churches.

“6. Instruct the Selection Committee to nominate to a later sederunt seven members to serve on the Commission, one to be their convener and four alternates.

“7. Authorize the Finance Committee to pay the necessary share of expenses connected with the meetings of the Joint Commission.

“8. Commend to the Committee on Christian Unity the study of the Report on ‘Relations Between Anglican and Presbyterian Churches’ and instruct the Committee, when an appropriate occasion arises, to bring to the attention of the Church the matters contained therein.

“9. Urge the Christian Unity Committee, before and until organic union with the Congregational and the Methodist Churches is achieved, to promote co-operation, to the fullest extent practicable, with these Churches, with a view to Christian Unity and economy in men and money.

“10. Reappoint the Committee, with Dr. Cumming Thom as convener.”

61. Notices of Motion XXVI-XXXII were read and laid on the Table.

N.M.

62. The House adjourned to meet tomorrow at 9.30 a.m. which, having been duly intimated, the sederunt was closed with prayer. **Adjournment**

W. D. MARSHALL,
J. M. STUCKEY,

Clerks.

FOURTH SEDERUNT

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Friday, the 13th day of September, 1957, at 9.30 a.m.

- Constitution** 63. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.
- Orders varied** 64. Leave was granted to vary the Orders of the Day.
- Private** 65. The House sat in private.
- Appeal 1** 66. The Appeal 1, by four members of the N.S.W. Assembly against the calling of a pro re nata meeting of the N.S.W. Assembly was laid on the Table.
A point of Order was taken against the competency of the Appeal.
67. Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved that a written opinion from the Law Officers be obtained on the point of Order.
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Debate Adjourned** 68. The Debate was adjourned (Min. 150).
- Public** 69. The House resumed in public.
- College** 70. The Rev. J. C. Alexander submitted the report of the College Committee and moved the Deliverance.
The Deliverance was seconded.
It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause, 1-3 were approved.
- Moderator's Ruling** 71. The Moderator ruled that an amendment which alters the original motion substantially requires the leave of the House because they are in fact contrary motions.
- Debate Adjourned** 72. The Debate was adjourned (Min. 199).
- Overture I** 73. Overture I was called for.
The Rev. H. J. Hillman and the Rev. R. A. Caldwell stated the Overture.
Questions were called for.
The Rev. H. G. Hillman moved:
"That the Assembly—
"1. Sustain the Overture.
Clause 1 was moved and seconded and approved.
Leave was given to fall from the remaining clauses.
The Overture was sustained.
- Overture IV** 74. Overture IV was called for.
The Rev. J. Priestley and Mr. G. S. Davidson stated the Overture.
Questions were called for.
Mr. G. S. Davidson moved:
"That the Assembly—
"Sustain the Overture."
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Overture II** 75. Overture II was called for.
The Rev. H. Stott and the Rev. H. J. Hillman stated the Overture.
Questions were called for.
The Rev. H. Stott moved:
"That the Assembly—
"Sustain the Overture." (Min. 197.)
The motion was seconded.
76. The Rev. M. O. Fox moved the adjournment of the debate in order to give notice for the Suspension of Standing Order 55 to recommit three of the Deliverance of the College Committee.
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Debate Adjourned** 77. The Debate was adjourned (Min. 195).
- Selection** 78. The Selection Report was read and laid on the Table and received.
The Rev. J. Priestley moved:
"That the Assembly—
"1. Receive the Report.
"2. Declare that further nominations, duly signed, close at 5 p.m. Monday.
"3. Fix the Ballot as an Order of the Day for Tuesday at 12.4.0 p.m."
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Communication 1** 79. Communication 1 (from the General Assembly of Queensland) was laid on the Table and received.
According to Notice the Rt. Rev. R. M. Park moved:
"That the Assembly—
"Instruct the Selection Committee to appoint an ad hoc Committee of nine (9) members to consider the contents of the Communication and report to a later sederunt of the House." (Min. 188.)
The motion was seconded and approved.

80. The Rev. R. Swanton submitted the report of the Committee on the Nature and Functions of the Ministry and moved the Deliverance. Nature and Functions of Ministry-

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Instruct the Committee to bring to the next Assembly the statement on the New Testament and Reformation bases of our conception of the ministry.

"3. Instruct Presbyteries to give consideration to the present grave situation occasioned through the encroachment of administrative, educational and social activities upon the fulfilment of the proper functions of the ministry of the Word and to report any suggestions for the remedying of this situation to the Committee by 31st December, 1958.

"4. Instruct the Committee to inquire if the doctrine of the Ministry as contained in the Scripture and in the Subordinate Standards of the Church Reformed prohibit the ordination of suitable men engaged in other callings, and if it prohibit Ministers from maintaining themselves by other than ecclesiastical work.

"5. Reappoint the Committee as follows: The Revs. Professor J. D. McCaughey (Convener), W. A. Alston, L. F. F. Gunn, Professor D. S. Hopkirk, R. Swanton, A. Dougan, Professor J. F. Peter, J. C. G. Fischer, W. Scott McPheat and J. A. F. Whyte.

The motion was seconded and approved.

81. Overture III was called for. Overture III

The Rev. S. R. Scott and the Rt. Rev. E. H. Vines stated the Overture.

Questions were called for.

The Rev. J. C. Alexander moved:

"That the Assembly—

*T. Sustain the Overture."

"2. Refer the whole question to the G.A.A. Committee on 'The Nature and Functions of the Ministry' for investigation and report."

The motion was seconded and approved.

82. The Rev. A. M. Clark submitted the Report of the Beneficiary Fund Committee and moved the Deliverance. Beneficiary

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Instruct the Beneficiary Fund Committee to confer with State Beneficiary Committees on the effect of Church Union on their respective Funds and report to the next Assembly.

"3. Instruct the Beneficiary Fund Committee in consultation with the Christian Unity Committee to make preliminary approach to the Methodist and Congregational Churches with a view to protecting the interests of contributors to the existing Funds of each Church, and the establishment of a United Church Beneficiary Fund.

"4. Reappoint the Committee."

The motion was seconded and approved.

83. The Right Honorable the Prime Minister, Mr. R. G. Menzies, and Dame Pattie Menzies, being present were welcomed by the Moderator.

Welcome to the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister

The Prime Minister briefly addressed the House.

The Clerk moved:

"That the Assembly—

"Thank the Right Honorable the Prime Minister and Dame Pattie Menzies for their presence and the Prime Minister for his brief address."

The motion was seconded and approved.

84. The Rev. J. Gray Robertson submitted the Report of the Australian A.I.M. Inland Mission and moved the Deliverance.

It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-16 were moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 17 was moved, seconded and approved in the following form:

"Approve the establishment of a Nursing Service Outpost at the tory if it should be found to be necessary after consultation with the Law Agent."

Clause 18 was moved, seconded and approved as follows:

"Approve the incorporation of the A.I.M. within the Northern Territory Kathleen Uranium Mine."

Clause 19 was moved and seconded as follows:

"Adopt the constitution of the A.I.M. as set out in the report."

85. Rev. K. A. Fox moved as an amendment to the constitution the omission of the words "Nominated by the existing Board and" in Paragraph 3a, and the addition of the words "to be nominated by the respective State Assemblies" to Clause 3a iii, so that the paragraph will read:

"3 (a) The Board shall consist of twenty-two members to be elected by the General Assembly as follows:

- (i) A Convener who shall be appointed from N.S.W.
- (ii) A Vice-Convener who shall be appointed from Victoria and shall preferably be a member of its Home Mission Committee.
- (iii) Additional State members as follows: Six from N.S.W., four from Victoria, two from Queensland, two from South Australia, two from Western Australia, and one from Tasmania, to be nominated by the respective State Assemblies."

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 19 was approved.

Clause 20 was moved, seconded and approved.

86. The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the report.

"2. Receive and adopt (a) Statement of revenue and expenditure and (b) balance sheet of the Australian Inland Mission for the period 1st April, 1954, to 31st March, 1957.

"3. Express satisfaction at the inauguration of the John Eyre patrol in Western Australia covering the goldfields and new land settlement area, from Esperance to Jerramongup.

"4. Express gratitude for the services rendered to the A.I.M. by Rev. H. R. Perkins, Rev. K. C. W. Beckett, Rev. J. H. Gregson, Rev. A. L. McKay and Rev. V. J. Murrell.

"5. Encourage ministers and elders throughout Australia to emphasize the challenge of inland service to prospective nursing sisters within their congregations.

"6. Approve the establishment of a nursing and welfare outpost at Coen and authorize the Board to conduct a special appeal for funds for this project.

"7. Commend the work being done in the School Children's Hostel, Hall's Creek, and commend the policy of conducting children's health camps in that area.

"8. Approve the establishment of the Secondary School Hostel in Darwin, under the joint administration of the Presbyterian, Congregational and Methodist Churches, and encourage the experiments within the hostel in connection with the assimilation of part-European children from Croker Island.

"9. Express gratification at the completion of the John Flynn Memorial Church, Alice Springs.

"10. Approve the further successful developments in connection with the co-operative work within the Northern Territory, and the extension of such work to Port Moresby.

"11. Approve the establishment of the A.I.M. Far North Children's Health Scheme, and approve a special appeal for funds for extensions to the Warrawee property.

"12. Urge the A.I.M. Board to proceed with the building of a nursing care wing at the Old-Timers' Settlement, Alice Springs, as soon as practicable, and approve a special appeal for funds for this project.

"13. Commend the Home Mission Council of Western Australia for their vigorous programme of developmental work and urge the implementation of stewardship campaigns wherever possible.

Express gratitude to all State Assemblies for assistance given to the West Australian Emergency Appeal, and urge generous support for the remaining two years of the approved plan.

"14. Reappoint Rev. J. F. McKay as Superintendent of the A.I.M. for a further period of six years.

"15. Urge the A.I.M. Board to continue investigations regarding the problem of co-ordinating patrol work with regular Home Mission work on all State boundaries.

"16. Instruct the Code Committee to investigate the whole procedure of inducting or setting apart ordained ministers working under the auspices of the A.I.M., and to take steps to evolve a procedure which will guarantee to such ministers continuity of Presbyterian status.

"17. Approve the incorporation of the A.I.M. within the Northern Territory if it should be found to be necessary after consultation with the Law Agent.

"18. Approve the establishment of a Nursing Service Outpost at the Mary Kathleen Uranium Mine.

"19. Adopt the constitution of the Australian Inland Mission as set out in the report.

"20. Elect the A.I.M. Board as follows:

N.S.W.—Rev. L. G. K. Blanchard (Convener), Rev. J. Gray Robertson,
Rev. H. J. Hillman, Rev. C. J. V. McKeown, Rev. W. C. R. Moore,
Rev. C. Dane, Rev. J. Mallyon.

Victoria—Rev. E. H. McLean Shugg (Vice-Convener), Rev. A. S.
Houston, Rev. C. T. F. Goy, Mr. H. M. Rolland, Rev. P. J. Thomas.

Queensland—Rev. A. Duff, Director of Home Missions.

South Australia—Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard, Mr. Gordon Davidson.

Western Australia—Rev. H. D. McAndrew (Commissioner), Rev.
A. C. Eadie.

Tasmania—Rev. R. J. Scrymgeour."

87. The Rev. E. H. McLean Shugg moved according to notice and by leave of the House: Changes to
Code
Referred

"j at the Assembly—

"Refer the changes suggested in his motion to the Code Committee to make the requisite alterations in the regulations in accordance with the constitution set out in the report and adopted in Clause 19 of the Deliverance."

The motion was seconded and approved.

88. The Rev. A. S. Houston moved: Thanks

"That the Assembly—

"Express high appreciation of the services rendered by the retiring Convener, Rev. J. Gray Robertson, through the past fifteen years."

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to Rev. J. Gray Robertson.

89. The Moderator informed the Rev. J. F. McKay of his reappointment as A.I.M. Superintendent. Re-appoint-
ment Rev. J.
F. McKay

The Rev. J. F. McKay thanked the House for their confidence in him.

90. The Rev. J. Priestley submitted the Supplementary Report of the Selection Committee and moved: Selection
Supplemen-
tary

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Declare that the elected representatives on the Commission shall be an equal number of ministers and elders.

"3. Declare nominations close at 1 p.m. on Monday."

The motion was seconded and approved.

91. The Rev. V. Clark-Duff submitted the Report of the Canberra Executive and moved the Deliverance. Canberra
Executive

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Congratulate the minister and congregation of St. Andrew's, Canberra, upon their care of the property and the erection of a parish hall and primary room.

"3. Express the view that no work towards the completion of the Church of St. Andrew be proceeded with until the 'National Memorial Church of St. Andrew's, Canberra, Building Account' be built up to considerable proportions or until the Assembly approve.

"4. Pronounce extension work in the Australian Capital Territory as urgently necessary; urge the Canberra Presbytery and the New South Wales Home Mission Committee along with the Canberra Executive to give attention to this; and request the Charles D. Lloyd Bequest (Australia) to subsidize this extension work as far as possible through the Canberra Executive.

"5. Appoint the Canberra Executive as follows: Rt. Rev. D. J. Flockhart (Convener), Dr. W. Cuming Thom, Rev. A. C. Grieve, Rev. V. Clark-Duff, Rev. C. M. Dyster, Messrs. J. A. Morrison and J. R. Mackay, with the two ministers of A.C.T. and Clerk of Canberra Presbytery."

The debate was adjourned (Min. 226).

92. Overture V was called for.

The Rev. H. Harrison and the Rev. J. Morrison stated the Overture. Overture V

Questions were called for.

The Rev. Dr. W. Cuming Thom moved:

"That the Assembly sustain the Overture."

The motion was seconded.

93. The debate was adjourned (Min. 224).

94. The Rev. A. S. Houston presented the Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell, who was welcomed by the Moderator. Debate
Adjourned
Welcome to
Chaplains
Principal Chaplain Russell addressed the House.

95. The Moderator congratulated Chaplain Stewart Calder, M.B.E., on his fine service at Woomera and its recognition by Her Majesty the Queen.

Chaplain Calder suitably responded.

Minutes

96. The Clerk intimated the corrections in the minutes of yesterday's sederunts and moved that they be confirmed.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Business

97. The Business Convener submitted the Report of the Business Committee and moved that the business as prepared for Monday be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

N.M.

98. Notices of motion XXXI -XLI were read and laid on the table.

Adjournment

99. The House adjourned to meet on Monday at 9.30 a.m., which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with prayer.

W. D. MARSHALL,
J. M. STUCKEY,

Clerks.

FIFTH SEDERUNT

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Monday, the 16th day of September, 1957, at 9.30 a.m.

100. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted **Constitution** with prayer.

101. Mr. J. A. Morrison submitted the Report of the Finance Committee **Finance** and moved the Deliverance.

The Deliverance was taken clause by clause.

Clauses 1-8 were moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 9 was moved and seconded.

102. The Debate was adjourned (Min. 104).

103. The Rev. A. D. Marchant submitted the Report of the Board of **Religious Education** and moved the Deliverance.

“That the Assembly—

“1. Receive the Report.

“2. Approve of the suggested alteration in the name of the Board from ‘The Board of Religious Education’ to ‘The Board of Christian Education’.

“3. Appoint the Rev. A. D. Marchant as Convener of the Board.

“4. Appoint the Rev. Ernest C. Day as Director of the Board of Religious Education for a further period of three years, commencing 1st January, 1958, at a salary of £1,250 per annum with house or house allowance and with the same variations that apply from time to time to the basic stipend in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

“5. Approve of the regulations as revised for the Overseas Study Fund as set out in paragraph 6 of the Report.

“6. Approve of the Constitution of the Joint Board of Graded Lessons of Australia and New Zealand as amended and set out in paragraph 13 of the Report.

“7. Appoint as Presbyterian members of the Joint Board of Graded Lessons the Revs. G. A. Beatty, E. C. Day, L. F. Gunn, V. F. Hadley, D. McKv Jones, and A. D. Marchant: the Rev. E. C. Day being the Presbyterian Co-Manager and Co-Editor on the Board.

“8. Reaffirm the principle that all profits derived within each State from the sales of Presbyterian and Joint Board publications belong to and are to be used solely for the purpose approved by the Assembly’s Youth Department in that State.

“9. Convey to all State Youth Committees, their Conveners and officers, the thanks of the Assembly for their devotion and enthusiasm, not only in the service of their own State, but also in loyal co-operation with the wider work of the Board.

“10. Convey to all Sunday School teachers, teachers of the Home Correspondence Sunday Schools, and leaders of young people, and Religious Instructors in State Schools, the thanks of the Assembly for their loyal and self-sacrificing labours in the service of Christ and of the young people in our Church and nation; and unite with them in the prayer that all who have responsibility for training the leaders of the coming generation may so bear themselves in these days of testing as to promote the power and the glory of God, and a world-wide Christian citizenship.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

104. Overture VIII was called for.

The Rev. J. Gray Robertson stated the Overture.

Questions were called for.

According to Notice the Rev. J. Gray Robertson moved:

“1. That the Assembly sustain the Overture.

“2. Alter Rule 127 Article (iii) by substituting for the word ‘sixteen’ the word ‘twenty-four’, and by the substituting for the word ‘five’ the word ‘eight’, except that in the case of Western Australia, in view of special circumstances, the total representation, for an interim period of ten years shall not be less than ‘twelve’ of whom ‘four’ shall be appointed by the West Australian Assembly.

“3. Send down the matter to Presbyteries through State Assemblies for report through the Constitutional Convention to the Clerk of the G.A.A. not later than 31st August, 1958.”

Clause 1 was approved, and the Overture was sustained.

Clause 2 was disapproved.

Clause 3 fell.

Overture VIII

105. The Debate on the Finance Committee was resumed (Min. 101). Clause 12 was moved and seconded as follows: "Approve the next General Assembly being held in Sydney in September 1960."

106. The Rev. J. Gray Robertson moved the omission of the figures 1960 with a view to insert 1959.

The amendment was seconded and approved, and being put as the motion was approved and the figures inserted.

107. By leave, Clause 9 was moved and seconded as follows:

"Resolve that the annual general assessment on State Assemblies be: Victoria, £2,200; New South Wales, £1,925; Queensland, £770; South Australia, £275; Western Australia, £220; Tasmania, £110."

The clause was approved.

Clause 10 and 11 were moved, seconded and approved.

108. According to Notice, Mr. Morrison moved additional Clause 13, which was seconded and approved.

109. By leave, Mr. J. Mackay moved additional Clause 14, which was seconded and approved.

110. The Deliverance as amended was approved as follows:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Note with deep regret the death of Mr. Bryan C. Fuller, Q.C., late Procurator; record with thanks and appreciation the eminent service rendered the Church and Assembly over a period of twenty years; approve the preparation of a Memorial Minute for incorporation in the 'Blue Book'; request the Right Reverend the Moderator-General to convey to the relatives the sincere sympathy of all members.

"3. Authorize the Treasurers to advance an amount of £6,500 to meet Assembly expenses till State assessments are received.

"4. Authorize payment of travelling expenses to delegates to next Assembly on the following basis:

(a) When not more than one night in train, second-class return fare.

(b) When more than one night in train, first-class return fare plus cost of sleeper.

(c) Tasmania—return fare from Tasmania to Melbourne in addition to rail fare where necessary.

"5. Approve, subject to receiving assessments from State Assemblies, payment to the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches an amount not exceeding £396 per annum from which sum is to be deducted the proportion of Presbyterian annual contributions to the Fellowship.

"6. Approve, subject to receiving assessments from State Assemblies, payment of the affiliation fee to the Geneva Central Office an amount not exceeding £405 per annum, from which sum is to be deducted the proportion of Presbyterian annual contributions to the Fellowship.

"7. Instruct the Finance Committee to pay £E25 to the World Presbyterian Alliance in respect of each of the three years.

"8. Approve, subject to receiving assessments from State Assemblies payment to the Inter-Church Migration Committee for the period 1958-60, an amount not exceeding £225.

"9. Resolve that the annual general assessment on State Assemblies be: Victoria, £2,200; New South Wales, £1,925; Queensland, £770; South Australia, £275; Western Australia, £220; Tasmania, £110.

"10. Approve payment for Moderatorial expenses at the rate of £400 per annum.

"11. Approve payment of honoraria as follows: Clerk of Assembly, £50; Junior Clerk, £25; Convener of Business Committee, £25.

"12. Approve the next General Assembly being held in Sydney, in September 1959."

"13. (a) Declare the Sunday immediately proceeding 24th July as General Assembly of Australia Sunday;

"(b) Urge ministers on that day to refer to the importance of this supreme court, the Moderator-General, and to seek the prayers of our people in support;

"(c) Invite congregations by special collections, or Committees of Management, by donations, to contribute to the work and upkeep of the G.A.A.

"(d) Request State Assemblies to implement this measure and authorize the Finance Committee to prosecute it;

"(e) Approve, from the proceeds of the Appeal, payment to the Col-

lege Committee for help to Western Australia, a sum of £200, per annum till next Assembly."

"14. Authorize the Finance Committee to meet the hospitality expenses of delegates on the basis of bed and breakfast, and advise the next Assembly of the increase necessary in the Assessments to the States."

111. The Rev. H. MacNeil Saunders submitted the Report on Public Questions and moved the Deliverance. Public Questions

It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded as follows:

"Express gratitude that Britain and France respected the demand of the United Nations to withdraw from Suez, while deploring the circumstances which led to such unilateral action."

112. The Rev. Keith Dowding, moved:

"The omission of the words, 'the circumstances which led to'."

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 3 was approved.

Clause 4 was moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 5 was moved and seconded as follows:

"Urge the Governments of the great Powers to make ceaseless efforts to reach a basis of agreement whereby the testing of all nuclear weapons can be abolished, with the provision of adequate means of inspection and report."

113. According to Notice, the Rev. A. L. Burns moved the omission of Clause 5 with a view to substituting the words:

"Declare that any use of radio-active material which would raise the prospective incidence of malignant disease in the present generation or threaten the genetic heritage of the entire human race is contrary to the revealed will of God, and cannot be justified as the lesser evil."

The amendment was seconded.

114. The Debate was adjourned (Min. 218).

11 5. The F.O.D. was called.

By leave of the House the Rev. G. Anderson submitted the Report of the Board of Missions and moved the Deliverance, as follows: Debate
Adjourned
Board of
Missions

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report and adopt the audited financial statements as printed.

"2. Record grateful appreciation of the service rendered by the missionaries of the Church and request the Moderator-General to convey to them the greetings of the General Assembly.

"3. Note the serious effects on the life and culture of the aboriginal people associated with Mapoon, Weipa and Aurukun, likely to result from the extensive bauxite mining development now being planned for the area, and authorize the Board of Missions in association with the Queensland Aborigines and Foreign Missions Committee to take all necessary action and to enter into such agreements as will safeguard the true interests of the aborigines and the missions concerned.

"4. Approve the proposal to establish a new mission station in the vicinity of the junction of the borders of Western Australia, South Australia and the Northern Territory and authorize the Board of Missions to continue negotiations with the three Governments concerned with a view to ensuring such capital and recurring grants and such reconciliation of the differing governmental ordinances as will be appropriate and necessary to the future welfare of the remaining Pitjantjara people thus to be brought under mission care.

"5. Approve the proposal now being negotiated with the Government of South Australia under which the Ernabella Mission will be extended to take in country up to one hundred miles further west in the Musgrave Range, to undertake further sheep and cattle running with a view to providing additional occupation and income for the aborigines.

"6. Record approval of the removal of the Mission from Wotjulum to Mowanjum near Derby and authorize further action towards the establishment of the Aged Aborigines' Village to accommodate exempted natives who become eligible for Commonwealth Age and Invalid Pensions.

"7. Support the functioning of the National Aborigines' Day Observance Committee and endorse its aim of informing and encouraging the white citizens of Australia towards providing for aborigines and part-aborigines a respected and welcomed place anywhere in the community as part of the process of assimilation.

"8. Express gratification that the missionary staffing position in the New Hebrides has improved and call upon the Church to encourage further trained teachers and nurses to volunteer for service in the group and also in other fields where, vacancies remain unfilled.

"9. Support the Board of Missions in its policy of accepting government subsidies to aid the expansion of its educational work in the New Hebrides, carried out in close partnership with the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides.

"10. Note with approval that the process of integration of the Mission and the Church of South India is making progress and that the Church has requested the Board to maintain the number of missionary personnel at the present level.

"11. Authorize the Board of Missions, at its complete discretion, to transfer mission property in India to the appropriate Trust Association of the Church of South India, provided the cost to the Board of such transfers is not excessive.

"12. Record gratification in the establishment of the Il Sin Hospital in Pusan, Korea, and thank those responsible for the provision of the new buildings and equipment.

"13. Reaffirm a present purpose to staff the Korea field, with seven men and a like number of single women missionaries if the Board's resources will permit and the circumstances remain favourable.

"14. Authorize the Board of Missions to proceed further with the programme of integration of the Mission and the Presbyterian Church of Korea, as far as is practicable and desirable, keeping pace with similar action being taken by other Presbyterian Mission Boards.

"15. Express gratification that two missionaries of the Church are now engaged as Fraternal Workers within the framework of the Synod of the Geredja Maseki Indjili di Timor with present headquarters at So'e.

"16. Endorse the action of the Board of Missions in providing a missionary residence and missionaries' working equipment as a free gift to the Timor Church, then ensuring both their customs-free entry into Indonesia and their title as the permanent property of the Christian movement in Timor.

"17. Call the Church to earnest and persistent prayer for the welfare, strengthening and effective witness of the Church in mainland China, the Presbyterian Church of Korea, the Church of South India, the Protestant Evangelical Church of Timor, the Presbyterian Church of New Hebrides, and our churches among the aborigines and Chinese in Australia.

"18. Note with deep interest the decision of the Asian Churches to establish the East Asia Christian Conference as a regional body including Australia and New Zealand, within the framework of the I.M.C. and the W.C.C., and support the National Missionary Council of Australia and the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches in maintaining their representation as fraternal members.

"19. Appoint Mr. A. W. Chapman, F.C.A., Auditor of the Board of Missions accounts for the ensuing three financial years.

"20. Reappoint the Rev. G. Anderson Convener of the Board of Missions.

"21. Reappoint the Rev. V. W. Coombes as General Secretary until 31st December, 1960, on the following terms: Salary, £1,250; home allowance, £250; car allowance, £125. And authorize the Board to make, from time to time, any necessary adjustments.

"22. Endorse the Board's action in appointing the Rev. H. F. McDonald as Assistant General Secretary and further confirm Mr. McDonald's appointment to the 31st December, 1960, on the following terms: Salary, £1,200; provision of manse; travelling expenses incurred in the service of the Board. Further authorize the Board to make, from time to time, any necessary adjustments.

"23. Authorize the Board of Missions to take such action and make such office staff appointments as are found to be necessary from time to time to cope with the expanding business of the Board Secretariat.

"24. Authorize the Board of Missions to continue making adjustments in supplementary allowances to missionaries to accommodate variations in living costs in the various fields (from time to time).

"25. Note with gratification the growth of the Chinese Church in Sydney and the arrangements now completed for their permanent use of the Fullerton Memorial Church property in Crown Street.

"26. In the event of the Chinese Church, Sydney, being able with Presbytery approval to proceed to call a minister, authorize the Board

of Missions to organize all necessary immigration permits and empower the Reception of Ministers' Committee to accept in full standing a Chinese minister approved by the Board of Missions and under such call provided the Committee is satisfied concerning the adequacy of such minister's training and ability and also providing that such acceptance will be limited to the duration of the minister's residence in Australia under immigration laws.

"27. Recognize the need for the early establishment of a residential Missionary College and authorize the Board to seek necessary funds to provide for its early realization.

"28. Draw the attention of the Code Committee to the change in Article 138 (vii) a, as set out in Minute 190, 'Blue Book' 1945."

The Secretary of the Board addressed the House.

The Deliverance was seconded and approved.

116. Communication 16, from the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides, was laid on the Table and received. **Communication 16**

The Rt. Rev. I. N. Whyte conveyed the greetings of the New Hebridean Church to the Assembly. **Greetings**

117. Overture X was called for. **Overture X**

The Rev. V. W. Coombes and the Rev. J. M. Stuckey stated the Overture.

Questions were called for.

The Rev. V. W. Coombes moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Sustain the Overture.

"2. Amend Regulation 187 by the omission of the word 'six' and the insertion of the word eight and the insertion of the words 'West Australia, Tasmania' after 'Queensland' in line 6."

The motion was seconded and approved.

118. The Rev. Geo. Anderson moved:

"That the Assembly—

"Request the Moderator of the New Hebrides Assembly to convey the greetings of this Assembly to the Church in the New Hebrides." **Greetings**

119. The House sat in private. **Private**

120. The Business Convener read Communication 17 from Miss May Turvey, and moved that the Assembly receive it. **Communication 17**

The motion was seconded and approved.

121. The Rev. V. W. Coombes made a statement on behalf of the Board of Missions.

122. The Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard moved:

"That the Assembly—

"Refer the matter contained in the Communication to the Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard, the Rev. V. W. Coombes and the Rev. J. F. McKay, for personal conference with Sister Turvey."

The motion was seconded and approved.

123. The House resumed in public. **Public**

124. The Business Convener submitted the Business Report and moved that the business order be approved. **Business**

The motion was seconded and approved.

125. Notices of Motion XLI-XLVI were read and laid on the Table. **N.M.**

126. The correction to the minutes were intimated and the minutes as corrected were confirmed. **Minutes**

127. The House adjourned to meet on Tuesday at 9.30 a.m. which, having been duly intimated, the sederunt was closed with prayer. **Adjournment**

W. D. MARSHALL,

J. M. STUCKEY,

Clerks.

SIXTH SEDERUNT

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Tuesday, the 17th day of September, 1957, at 9.30 a.m.

- Constitution** 128. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.
- Sympathy-** 129. The Moderator intimated the death of Mr. E. W. Hudgson, a member of this Assembly, and expressed the sympathy of the Assembly to the relatives and members of the Presbytery which he represented.
- Private Reception of Ministers** 130. The House sat in private.
131. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom submitted the Report on the Reception of Ministers and moved the Deliverance.
"That the Assembly—
"1. Receive the Report.
"2. Amend Rule 197 (e) by the omission of the words 'pass the Exit Examination . . . (down to) . . . College Committee' with a view to inserting the following, namely, 'fulfil such requirements as shall be determined by the Faculty of the Theological Hall which he attends and as shall be approved by the College Committee.'
132. "3. Receive the Petition (I) of the Rev. Wallace Kirkby, M.A., B.Sc., and grant the prayer of the Petition."
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Petition I** 133. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom submitted the Petition II from the Rev. D. C. Gray and moved that the Assembly receive it.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:
"That the Assembly—
"Grant the prayer of the Petition and require the Rev. D. C. Gray to serve for a further period of twelve months, ending 30th September, 1958, after receiving the approval of the Faculty and of the College Committee; the Executive then to make a final decision."
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Petition II (Rev. D. C. Gray)** 134. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom submitted the Petition III from the Rev. J. W. G. Jackson, and moved that the Assembly receive it.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved that the prayer of the Petition be not granted.
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Petition III (Rev. J. W. G. Jackson)** 135. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom submitted the Petition IV from the Rev. A. J. B. de P. Hetherington and moved that the Assembly receive it.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:
"That the Assembly refer back the Petition to the Committee for further investigation."
The motion was seconded.
- Petition IV (Rev. A. J. B. de P. Hetherington)** 136. On a point of order the Moderator ruled that the Petition was out of order.
137. The ruling of the Moderator was challenged, and it was moved that the Moderator's ruling be disagreed with.
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Moderator's Ruling** 138. The Rev. J. Priestley moved as an addition to the motion "and invite Mr. Hetherington to present his certificates to the Presbytery of Melbourne North".
The amendment was seconded and disapproved.
The motion was approved.
- Dissent** 139. The Rev. M. O. Fox and the Rev. K. A. Fox entered their dissent on the ground that the Petition should have been produced.
- Petition V (Rev. R. H. Bootle)** 140. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom laid on the Table Petition V of the Rev. Roy Hamilton Bootle and moved that the Assembly receive it.
The motion was seconded and approved.
The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:
"That the Assembly—
"Grant the prayer of the Petition and require the Petitioner to complete a reading course in Church Ministry and Sacraments to the satisfaction of a faculty and with approval of the College Committee."
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Petition VI (Rev. D. M. Campbell)** 141. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom laid on the Table Petition VI of the Rev. Donald Matheson Campbell and moved that the Assembly receive it.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:

“That the Assembly grant the prayer of the Petition under Rule 197, with a reading course to the satisfaction of Faculty, meanwhile fulfilling Home Mission requirements until 31st March, 1958.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

142. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom laid on the Table Petition VII of the Rev. W. Peck and moved that the Assembly receive it. **Petition VII (Rev. W. Peck)**

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Grant the prayer of the Petition subject to the receipt of a satisfactory medical certificate under Rule 197 (e).”

The motion was seconded and approved.

143. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming laid on the Table Petition VIII of the Rev. Warrick Walter Harkin and moved that the Assembly receive it. **Petition VIII (Rev. W. W. Harkin)**

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Grant the prayer of the Petition under Rule 197, with two years in a Theological Hall to the satisfaction of a Faculty, meanwhile fulfilling Home Mission requirements with the approval of the College Committee.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

144. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom laid on the Table Petition IX of the Rev. Leonard Townsend Newell and moved that the Assembly receive it. **Petition IX (Rev. L. T. Newell)**

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Grant the prayer of the Petition subject to the receipt of a satisfactory medical certificate, under Rule 197 (e), with two years in a Theological Hall to the satisfaction of a Faculty and with the approval of the College Committee, meanwhile fulfilling the Home Mission requirements.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

145. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom laid on the Table Petition X of the Rev. Charles Crawford Keefer and moved that the Assembly receive it. **Petition X (Rev. C. C. Keefer)**

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Grant the prayer of the Petition under Rule 197 (e), with two years in a Theological Hall to the satisfaction of a Faculty, thereafter fulfilling Home Mission requirements with the approval of the College Committee.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

146. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom laid on the Table Petition XI of the Rev. John Roberts-Thomson and moved that the Assembly receive it. **Petition XI (Rev. J. Roberts-Thomson)**

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Empower the Executive to deal with the Petition when it has been completed.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

147. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom laid on the Table Petition XII of the Rev. David Edward Pickering and moved that the Assembly receive it. **Petition XII (Rev. D. E. Pickering)**

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Allow the Petition to lie on the Table until the next General Assembly of Australia.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

148. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom laid on the Table Petition XIII of the Rev. Pui-Sam Mo and moved that the Assembly receive it. **Petition XIII (Rev. Pui-Sam Mo)**

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Do not grant the prayer of the Petition.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

149. The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom laid on the Table Petition XIV of the Rev. John C. Holt and moved that the Assembly receive it. **Petition XIV[^] (Rev. J. C. Holt)**

The motion was seconded and approved.
The Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Grant the prayer of the Petition under Rule 197 (e), with two years in a Theological Hall to the satisfaction of a Faculty, thereafter fulfilling Home Mission requirements with the approval of the College Committee.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

5 50. The Debate on the competency of Appeal I was resumed (Min. 68).

151. Mr. J. P. Adam stated the opinion of the Law Officers as follows:

Opinion of Law Officers

Anent Appeal from Decision of the N.S.W. General Assembly

(re Calling of pro re nata Meeting)

1. On 13th September 1957 the General Assembly of Australia referred to the Law Agents to advise on the competence of this appeal which had been challenged on constitutional grounds.
2. This Appeal is from a decision of a meeting of N.S.W. General Assembly on 10th August 1955 convened by the Moderator in response to a requisition for a pro re nata meeting of that Assembly “to receive consider and act upon the Report and Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry appointed by the last meeting of the said Assembly in relation to Knox Grammar School”. The meeting resolved: “That the action of the requisitionists and of the Moderator in convening the meeting be approved.”
3. The Appeal is based on alleged irregularity of procedure as set out in the Notice of Appeal.
4. There is no express provision in the Articles or elsewhere giving power to the General Assembly to entertain the Appeal. The competency thereof must, accordingly, in our opinion, be determined by reference to Rule 128 which provides that the General Assembly shall have functions legislative administrative and judicial supreme with regard to (inter alia) the doctrine worship and discipline of the Church. We should refer also to Rule 159.
5. “We are of opinion that the Appeal under consideration does not fall within the language of Rule 128. It does not relate to any matter with regard to which the functions of the General Assembly of Australia are expressed to be supreme.
6. Reference has been made in support of the Appeal to Declaration on the Nobile Officium of the General Assembly as set out in Rules 167 and following. Our view is that the Declaration is not effective to extend the functions of the General Assembly as appearing in Rule 128 and cannot, therefore, be of assistance in determining the matter.
7. It has also been urged that in 1933 the General Assembly of Australia dealt with an appeal from the General Assembly of Western Australia concerning a pro re nata meeting and this action is relied upon as a precedent. It does not appear that any question was then raised as to whether the Appeal was competent. In so far, however, as any decision then made is in conflict with the view we have expressed, it was in our opinion erroneous and should not be followed.
8. We, therefore, advise the General Assembly that the Appeal is not competent.

D. M. LITTLE, Procurator.

J. P. ADAM, Law Agent.

16/9/57.

1 52. The Business Convener moved that the opinion be received.

The motion was seconded and approved.

153. The Clerk moved:

“That the Assembly—

“In view of the Law Officers’ opinion declare Appeal I incompetent.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

154. Appeal II was called.

A point of order was taken against the competency of the Appeal.

155. The Moderator ruled that Appeal II is not competent.

156. The House accepted the Moderator’s ruling and resumed in public.

1 57. The Rev. J. A. Finlay submitted the Report of the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee and moved the Deliverance.

“That the Assembly—

Appeal I
(Debate
Resumed)

Opinion of
Law Officers

Appeal II

Public

Defence
Forces
Chaplaincy

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Congratulate (a) Senior Chaplain Hugh Cunningham upon his appointment as Chaplain-General; (b) Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell on the award of O.B.E.; (c) Chaplain S. C. Calder on the award of M.B.E.

"3. Appoint Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell Convener of the Committee.

"4. Record its appreciation of the services rendered by the Rev. A. S. Houston as Convener of the Committee for the past 15 years." The motion was seconded and approved.

158. The Moderator conveyed the congratulations of the Assembly to Senior Chaplain Hugh Cunningham upon his appointment as Chaplain-General and Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell on his award of the O.B.E. **Congratulations**

159. By leave, Chaplain A. McAllister addressed the House.

160. Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell addressed the House.

161. The Rev. E. H. McLean Shugg submitted the Report on the Training of Women Workers and moved the Deliverance. **Training of Women Workers**

"That the Assembly—

"Receive the Report."

The motion was seconded and approved.

162. The Moderator congratulated the Rev. V. W. Coombes on his re-appointment as General Secretary of the Board of Missions. **Congratulations**

163. The F.O.D. was called and the House sat in private and the ballot was taken. **F.O.D. (Ballot) Private**

164. The Business Convener submitted the Report on Wholesome Discipline and moved: **Wholesome Discipline**

"That the Assembly—

"Receive the Report."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Mr. J. P. Adam moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Instruct all ministers of the Church to observe the following requirements when they receive from a divorced person an application for re-marriage:

"(a) The minister should require the production to him of the original, or a true copy of the decree nisi; and must inspect a certificate that the decree has been made absolute. (Note: A letter from a solicitor is not sufficient.)

"(b) The minister shall inquire about the Church membership of divorced parties. If they are members, he shall ascertain whether they approached their minister and find what attitude he has taken. If it is ascertained that the parish minister has been approached, then such parish minister shall be consulted before any decision is reached to re-marry.

"(c) When discipline is being exercised by any session against a divorced party, no minister shall marry such party until the session or higher court of the Church has finally determined the matter."

"2. Thank and discharge the Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

165. The Rev. W. A. Alston submitted the Report of the Committee on Aids to Devotion and moved the Deliverance. **Aids to Devotion**

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the report.

"2. Appoint the Committee as follows: The Rev. W. A. Alston (Convener), the Very Revs. J. R. Blanchard and A. C. Grieve, the Revs. H. Cunningham, K. McC. Dowding, A. A. Dougan, H. L. Dunn, J. H. Gowdie, G. Gowrie, L. F. Gunn, W. D. Marshall, N. Pfeiffer, A. C. Watson, L. O. C. White, S. E. Yarnold, Profs. J. D. McCaughey, J. F. Peter and D. S. Hopkirk, Messrs. G. Davidson, R. S. Byrnes."

The motion was seconded and approved.

166. The Rev. W. A. Alston submitted the report on the Year Book and moved the Deliverance. **Year Book**

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report."

"2. Appoint the Rev. R. T. White, Editor at the honorarium of £50 per annum."

The motion was seconded and approved.

167. Leave was granted to the Committee on Temperance to meet at the rising of the House. **Leave to Meet**

168. The Clerk submitted the Report on returns to Remits and moved: **Returns to Remits**

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Approve Remit IV.

"3. Approve Remit V."

169. According to Notice, the Rev. E. H. McLean Shugg moved as an amendment the omission of Clause 3 with a view to the insertion of the words "Owing to the lapse of time since Remit V was sent down and also the acceptance of a new Constitution by this Assembly disapprove the Remit."

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The clause was omitted and the new clause inserted.

"4. Disapprove Remit A.

170. The Rev. J. C. Alexander moved as an amendment the omission of the clause with a view to inserting:

"Direct that the time for report by State Assemblies and Presbyteries which have not reported anent Remit A be extended to 30th June, 1959, and that the proposed changes be given interim authority until next Assembly."

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The clause was omitted and words inserted.

"5. Disapprove Remit B.

"6. Disapprove Remit C.

171. The Rev. J. C. Alexander moved as an amendment the omission of Clause 6 with a view to inserting:

"Direct that the time for report by State Assemblies and Presbyteries which have not yet reported anent Remit C be extended to 30th June, 1959, and that the proposed changes be given interim authority until next Assembly."

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The clause was omitted and the words inserted.

172. The Deliverance was approved as follows:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Approve Remit IV.

"3. Owing to the lapse of time since Remit V was sent down and also the acceptance of a new Constitution by this Assembly disapprove Remit V.

"4. Direct that the time for report by State Assemblies and Presbyteries which have not yet reported anent Remit A be extended to 30th June, 1959, and that the proposed changes be given interim authority until next Assembly.

"5. Disapprove Remit B.

"6. Direct that the time for report by State Assemblies and Presbyteries which have not yet reported anent Remit C be extended to 30th June, 1959, and that the proposed changes be given interim authority until next Assembly."

173. The Rev. J. P. Chalinor submitted the Report on Immigration and moved the Deliverance.

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Appoint the following Committee: Revs. J. P. Chalinor (Convener), James Jones, E. H. McL. Shugg, J. Symington, R. G. Butler, A. G. Harrison, F. Sadler, R. R. Martin, Hector Harrison, S. Russell Scott, W. R. Matters, R. S. C. Blance, R. H. Vickers, A. Duff, E. H. Thorpe, A. C. Eadie and Messrs. R. S. Byrnes and J. F. Callahan, with power to add.

"3. Appoint the Victorian members of the Committee the Executive and empower them to deal with immediate problems relating to immigration.

"4. Note with pleasure the contribution migrants are making to our national life and progress.

"5. Congratulate the Government on giving sanctuary to 15,000 Hungarian refugees and urge our people to give all possible assistance.

"6. Express gratification that since 1945 1,300,000 new settlers have come to Australia.

"7. Urge the Government to raise the annual intake of British migrants from the United Kingdom to 50 per cent of the total, and to provide adequate shipping.

"8. Commend to our people the 'Bring Out a Briton' campaign.

"9. Authorize the Treasurer to pay our quota towards the expenses of the Federal Inter-Church Migration Committee, namely, £42 per annum, to be collected from State Assemblies as set out hereunder: New South Wales, £14; Victoria, £14; Queensland, £5/12/-; Tasmania,

£2/16/-; South Australia, £2/16/-; Western Australia, £2/16/-; total, £42."

The motion was seconded and approved.

174. The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the House to Rev. A. S. Houston for his services as Convener of the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee. **Thanks**

The Rev. A. S. Houston suitably responded.

175. The Rev. C. T. F. Goy submitted the Report on Audio-Visual Education and moved the Deliverance. **Audio-Visual Education**

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Express appreciation of the services rendered to the Churches by the Australian Religious Film Society with congratulations for the great progress made in recent years.

"3. Appoint the combined State Audio-Visual Committees as the Audio-Visual Committee of the G.A.A.

"4. Appoint the N.S.W. Section as the Executive with the addition of the Rev. C. T. F. Goy and the Rev. Hamilton Aikin.

"5. Appoint as Convener the Convener of the New South Wales Audio-Visual Education Committee."

The motion was seconded and approved.

176. The Rev. G. F. G. Kerry submitted the Report of the Ballot Committee and moved the Deliverance. **Ballot**

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Confirm the election of the Standing Committees, Commission of Assembly and Commissioners on Christian Unity, as reported.

"3. Thank and discharge the Committee."

177. The Clerk intimated that there was only one nomination for the position of a Clerk, viz. the Rev. G. Ross Williams. **Clerkship (Rev. G. Ross Williams)**

By leave of the House the Clerk moved:

"That the Assembly declare the Rev. G. Ross Williams elected to the Clerkship."

The motion was seconded and approved.

178. The Moderator intimated his appointment to the Rev. G. Ross Williams who made the declaration de fideli.

179. By leave of the House the Clerk moved:

"That the Assembly elect the Rev. Colin Dyster as the Business Convener of this Assembly." **Business Convener (Rev. C. Dyster)**

The motion was seconded and approved.

180. By leave of the House the Business Convener moved:

"That the Assembly commission the Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard to represent the G.A. of A. at co-ordinate courts of other Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the countries he visits while overseas." **Commission to the Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard**

The motion was seconded and approved.

181. Notices of Motion XLVIII-XLIX were taken as read and laid on N.M. the Table.

1 82. The House adjourned to meet at 7 p.m. which, having been duly intimated, the sederunt was closed with prayer. **Adjournment**

W. D. MARSHALL,
J. M. STUCKEY,

Clerks.

SEVENTH SEDERUNT

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Tuesday, the 17th day of September, 1957, at 7 p.m.

- Constitution** **1 83.** The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.
- Business** **184.** The Business Convener laid on the Table the order of Business for tomorrow and moved that the Assembly approve the Order of Business. The motion was seconded and approved.
- Minutes** **185.** The Clerk intimated the corrections in the minutes of yesterday and moved that the Assembly confirm the minutes. The motion was seconded and approved, and the minutes were confirmed.
- F.O.D.** **1 86.** The **F.O.D.** was called.
- Rev. H. Whitney** **1 87.** By leave, the Rev. H. Whitney addressed the House in connection with Communication 1.
- Ad Hoc** **188.** The Rev. J. F. Forrest submitted the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee and moved the Deliverance (Min. 79).
Clauses 1-5 were moved and seconded as follows:
"That the Assembly—
"1. Receive the Report.
"2. Thank the Queensland Assembly for bringing before the G.A.A. the idea of a Tell Australia Movement on a national and interdenominational scale, and for its offer of the services of the Rev. H. J. Whitney as a Director of Evangelism if and when required.
"3. Declare its mind that at this stage the idea of such a proposed movement with its wide ramifications requires further study and clarification before being adopted.
"4. Declare that the saving communication of the Gospel is an essential function of the Church.
"5. Declare that we stand in a moment of history where the communication of the Gospel is possible in a degree unparalleled in history."
189. The Rev. H. MacNeil Saunders moved as an amendment the omission of the words in Clause 5 "stand in a moment of history" with a view to insert the words "we live in a time when".
The amendment was seconded and disapproved.
Clause 5 was approved.
Clause 6 was moved and seconded as follows:
"Declare that God uses and is using a variety of methods of evangelism, including Mass Evangelism, but that the evangelistic method most generally suited to our time is Lay Visitation Evangelism, through the witness of the congregation."
190. The Rev. A. M. Clark moved as an amendment the omission of the words "that God . . . but".
The amendment was seconded and approved, and the words omitted.
Clause 7 was moved, seconded and approved.
It was agreed to extend the sederunt till 10 p.m.
Clause 8 was moved, seconded and disapproved.
191. The Rev. M. O. Fox entered his dissent to the omission of the clause.
Clauses 9 to 13 were moved, seconded and approved.
192. The Deliverance as amended was approved as follows:
"That the Assembly—
"1. Receive the Report.
"2. Thank the Queensland Assembly for bringing before the **G.A.A.** the idea of a Tell Australia Movement on a national and interdenominational scale, and for its offer of the services of the Rev. **H. J. Whitney** as a Director of Evangelism if and when required.
"3. Declare its mind that at this stage the idea of such a proposed movement with its wide ramifications requires further study and clarification before being adopted.
"4. Declare that the saving communication of the gospel is an essential function of the Church.
"5. Declare its belief that we stand in a moment of history where the communication of the gospel is possible in a degree unparalleled in history.
"6. Declare that the evangelistic method most generally suited to our time is Lay Visitation Evangelism, through the witness of the congregation.
"7. Remind all ministers, kirk sessions and congregations of the

necessity to keep ever in view the inseparable relationship of stewardship, evangelism and Christian education.

"8. Instruct the Selection Committee to nominate to a later sederunt a Committee on the Mission and Message of the Church to study the issues raised and request it through the Spiritual Life and Work Committees or their equivalent in the State Assemblies to foster the study of 'Tell Australia' and literature related to lay visitation, evangelism in Presbyteries, kirk sessions and congregations, and foster the implementation of Clause 7 of the Deliverance, and report to the next General Assembly and appoint the Victorian members as executive.

"9. Instruct the Committee on the Mission and Message of the Church to confer with similar committees in other denominations with a view to co-operation in terms of Clause 9 of the Deliverance of Christian Unity.

"10. Authorize the Committee on the Mission and Message of the Church to represent the General Assembly in any conference regarding the projected visit of Dr. Graham, and for this purpose appoint the N.S.W. members as its executive.

"11. Thank the Division of Evangelism of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A, for its generosity in making available materials related to lay visitation evangelism.

"12. Thank and discharge the Committee."

193. The House adjourned to meet at 9.30 a.m. to-morrow, which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with prayer. **Adjournment**

W. D. MARSHALL,
J. M. STUCKEY,

Clerks.

EIGHTH SEDERUNT

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 18th day of September, 1957, at 9.30 a.m.

Constitution

194. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.

Overture II
(Resumed)

195. The Debate on Overture II was resumed (Min. 77).

S.O.
Suspended

196. According to Notice (Min. 76), the Rev. M. O. Fox moved the Suspension of Standing Order 55 with a view to recommitting Clause 3 of the College Committee proposed Deliverance.

The motion was seconded and approved.

197. A Division was called for (Min. 75).

The Moderator declared the result of the Division:

For—100.

Against—100.

The Moderator gave a casting vote against the Overture and declared the motion disapproved.

198. Rev. A. L. Burns moved:

“That the Assembly dismiss the Overture.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Overture was dismissed.

198 (a). Standing Orders were resumed.

S.O.
Resumed
College
Committee
Resumed

199. The debate on the Deliverance on the College Committee's Report was resumed (Min. 72).

Clause 3 was moved, seconded and approved.

According to Notice, Clause 4 was moved and seconded as follows:

4. Approve the following:
 1. There shall be a scheme for the reduction of the period of training for candidates over 40 years of age, who have been communicant members of the Presbyterian Church for at least three years. The scheme shall operate during the present critical shortage of ministers in the Church and shall be reviewed at each succeeding Assembly.
 2. Candidates shall be classified as follows:
 - (a) Those who, in the judgment of the College Committee, have acquired a training for and in a secular occupation which can be accepted as an alternative to the Preparatory Courses of Training.
 - (b) Home Missionaries who have exceeded seven years of acceptable service in the Home Mission Department and who have passed the minimum entrance requirements, viz. English and one other subject at matriculation standard.
 - (c) Others who have passed the minimum entrance requirements, viz. English and one other subject at matriculation standard.
 3. Candidates within all categories shall be accepted and admitted by the usual procedure as in Regulations 1 and 2 of the College Committee, except that candidates under category (a) shall not be finally accepted by State Committees until the College Committee has agreed to admit them to the Course of Training and candidates under category (b) shall have been favourably reported upon to the State Committee from the appropriate Home Mission Committee.
 4. The Course of Training for the categories already defined shall be as follows:
 - (a) Candidates shall be required to complete two years in the Theological Hall, with or without Hebrew, to the satisfaction of the Faculty concerned, and shall be required to submit one thesis and pass the Examination in Polity according to the requirements of the College Committee.
 - (b) Candidates shall be required to complete one year in the Faculty Course, and two in the Theological Hall, with or without Hebrew, to the satisfaction of the Faculty concerned, and shall be required to submit one thesis and pass the Examination in Polity according to the requirements of the College Committee.
 - (c) Candidates shall be required to complete one year in the Faculty Course, and three years in the Theological Hall, with or without Hebrew, to the satisfaction of the Faculty concerned, and shall be required to fulfil the normal requirements of the College Committee.
 5. All candidates shall be required to do full-time study without any other occupation during the academic session.

200. The Rev. J. H. Goudie moved the omission in section 2(b) of all words after "Home Mission Department".

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

201. By leave, the Rev. J. Priestley moved the insertion of the words "and with or without Greek" in Clause 4 (a) after the words "without Hebrew".

The amendment was seconded.

202. A Division was called for.

The Moderator intimated the result of the Division:

For—106.

Against—81.

The amendment was approved.

Clause 4 as amended was approved.

Clause 5-7 were moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 8 was moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 9 was moved, seconded and approved.

203. The Deliverance as amended was approved as follows:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Instruct the College Committee to take the mind of the Theological Education, Home Mission and Candidates for the Ministry Committees and other interested parties on the desirability of there being a G.A.A. Candidates for the Ministry Committee and on its functions, and that if favourable responses are received authorize the College Committee to set up through the Selection Committee a Provisional Committee with interim authority which shall act and report to the next Assembly.

"3. Repeal the previous regulations and enact the following as the regulations under which the College Committee shall work:

REGULATIONS

Admission to the Course of Training

1. The College Committee shall admit to the Course of Training for the Ministry applicants who

- (a) have been accepted by the State Committee responsible for Theological Education as 'Candidates for the Ministry' and are recommended by them for the Course of Training;
- (b) submit adequate evidence that they have passed the requisite examinations (see 2 (c) below).

2. The State Committee shall require an applicant for candidature for the ministry to

- (a) have been a member of the Presbyterian Church in full communion for at least six months prior to the date of application;
- (b) produce a certificate from the Presbytery within whose bounds he resides, stating that, after careful inquiry, the Presbytery is convinced that his character and personality are such as to fit him for the work of the ministry;
- (c) matriculate at a recognized university, unless he is over 20 years of age and unmatriculated on the date when his application is being considered by the State Committee, in which case they shall require him either (i) to proceed to full matriculation (adult matriculation if appropriate) or (ii) to pass a recognized matriculation examination (or an examination accepted by the College Committee as an equivalent) in English and at least one other subject not necessarily at one sitting.

The Course of Training

3. The Course of Training shall normally extend over a period of six years; three years (of which the first, the Preliminary Year, shall be regarded as probationary), known as years one, two and three, in a Preparatory Course, and three years, known as years four, five and six, in a Theological Hall Course. The Course of Training is intended to be one of full-time study and candidates must secure the permission of the Faculty (Senatus) to do extra work.

4. The State Committee, advised by the Faculty of the Theological Hall, shall grade all candidates into appropriate years and courses before the commencement of each academic year and shall submit such gradings to the College Committee for approval.

The College Committee may remove a candidate from the Course of Training at any stage of his course, after consultation on the matter

with the State Committee. If the State Committee determine that a man shall cease to be a candidate for the ministry, they shall notify the College Committee, who shall remove his name from the list of those doing the Course.

5. The Faculty (Senatus) shall direct candidates in their course of training and may transfer candidates from one to the other of the Preparatory Courses (University or Faculty) at any stage during years one to three.
Preparatory Courses

6. The University Course shall normally consist of full-time university study for a degree. Candidates will not be admitted to the Fourth Year until they have completed at least six university subjects.

7. The Faculty Course shall be designed by the Faculty and approved by the College Committee and shall consist of study of such subjects as English, History, Philosophy, Psychology, Logic, Greek and Hebrew and may include university subjects.

8. The non-university subjects in the Faculty Courses shall be pursued within the walls of the Theological Hall, or extra-murally, as may be determined by the Faculty. The Preliminary Year shall include Hebrew, but on the recommendation of the Faculty and with the approval of the College Committee, a candidate may discontinue it thereafter if he is doing the Faculty Course.

9. The Faculty shall draw up the syllabi for the non-university subjects in the Faculty Course and shall submit them for approval to the College Committee.

10. The Faculty shall ensure that all candidates (unless specially exempted) are adequately prepared in Greek and Hebrew before entering the Theological Hall Course and shall require them to take a special Introductory Course in these languages if necessary.

11. The Faculty shall conduct an examination in English Bible at the beginning of each academic year for all candidates except those in their first year of training, and shall report to the College Committee that such an examination has been held.

Theological Hall Course

12. Candidates who have qualified in their Preparatory Course shall be required to complete three years in the Theological Hall. Each academic year in this course shall cover 'a working session of six months' (Deed of Union).

13. The Faculty shall include in the Course of Training the basic subjects listed in Article viii (4) of the Deed of Union, namely 'Hebrew and O.T. Exegesis, N.T. Greek and Exegesis, Apologetic, Church History, Systematic Theology and Pastoral Theology and Training'.

The Faculty shall prepare syllabi in these subjects and submit them to the College Committee for approval.

The Faculty shall test candidates in these subjects at appropriate stages in their training by such means as examinations, critical exercises and theses.

The Faculty may exempt candidates who have entered the Hall via the University Course from Hebrew after their fourth year, reporting such exemption to the College Committee.

Exit Regulations

14. The College Committee shall issue an Exit Certificate to a candidate when

- (a) he has been certified by the Faculty as having completed the whole Course of Training to the satisfaction of the Faculty;
- (b) he has passed the tests set by the College Committee (see 15 and 16 below).

15. The College Committee shall conduct an examination in Presbyterian Polity on a syllabus which it shall set, which shall be taken by candidates at the end of their sixth year.

16. The College Committee shall require candidates to submit two theses during their fifth and/or sixth years, one on a subject in Biblical Studies and one in Theology or Church History, which shall be read by external examiners appointed by the College Committee.

Special Cases

17. The Executive of the College Committee is empowered to deal with special cases as they arise from time to time. If it departs from prescribed procedure in doing so, it shall report to the full Committee.

Visitation of Theological Halls

18. The College Committee shall arrange regular visitations to Theological Halls by visitors whom it appoints.

"4. Approve the following:

1. There shall be a scheme for the reduction of the period of training for candidates over 40 years of age, who have been communicant members of the Presbyterian Church for at least three years. The scheme shall operate during the present critical shortage of ministers in the Church and shall be reviewed at each succeeding Assembly.

2. Candidates shall be classified as follows:

- (a) Those who, in the judgment of the College Committee, have acquired a training for and in a secular occupation which can be accepted as an alternative to the Preparatory Courses of Training.
- (b) Home Missionaries who have exceeded seven years of acceptable service in the Home Mission Department and who have passed the minimum entrance requirements, viz. English and one other subject at matriculation standard.
- (c) Others who have passed the minimum entrance requirements, viz. English and one other subject at matriculation standard.

3. Candidates within all categories shall be accepted and admitted by the usual procedure as in Regulations 1 and 2 of the College Committee, except that candidates under category (a) shall not be finally accepted by State Committees until the College Committee has agreed to admit them to the Course of Training and candidates under category (b) shall have been favourably reported upon to the State Committee from the appropriate Home Mission Committee.

4. The Course of Training for the categories already defined shall be as follows:

- (a) Candidates shall be required to complete two years in the Theological Hall, with or without Hebrew, and with or without Greek, to the satisfaction of the Faculty concerned, and shall be required to submit one thesis and pass the Examination in Polity according to the requirements of the College Committee.
- (b) Candidates shall be required to complete one year in the Faculty Course, and two in the Theological Hall, with or without Hebrew, to the satisfaction of the Faculty concerned, and shall be required to submit one thesis and pass the Examination in Polity according to the requirements of the College Committee.
- (c) Candidates shall be required to complete one year in the Faculty Course, and three years in the Theological Hall, with or without Hebrew, to the satisfaction of the Faculty concerned, and shall be required to fulfil the normal requirements of the College Committee.

5. All candidates shall be required, so far as is practical, to do full-time study without any other occupation during the academic session.

"5. Remit the following proposed changes to State Assemblies and through them to presbyteries, for report by 30th June, 1959, through the Code Committee, to the next General Assembly:

(a) Repeal Rule 152.

(b) Amend Rule 153 by the omission of all words after 'Halls' in line 9.

"6. Amend Regulation 190 by the omission of all words after 'time to time' in line 2 and insert in their stead 'regulations for the course of training to be approved by the General Assembly.'

"7. Repeal Regulation 191.

"8. Commend the General Assembly of W.A. upon the establishment of a Director of Studies in the Theological Hall at Perth.

"9. Instruct the Committee to consider the establishment of evening courses in Theological Halls, so that suitable laymen may be enabled to qualify for an Exit Certificate while continuing in their ordinary occupation."

204. The House sat in private (Min. 215).

205. The Rev. J. C. Alexander submitted Petition 1 from the Rev. W. Purves and moved that the Assembly receive it.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Questions were called for.

The Rev. J. C. Alexander moved that the prayer of the Petition be not granted.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Private
Petition 1
(Rev. W.
Purves)

206. The Rev. P. H. R. Lockett moved that the Assembly grant the prayer of the Petition and direct the Petitioner to complete the course as set out in Clause 4, 4a of the College Committee's Deliverance.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Petition 2
(Mr. N. S. McCaw)

207. The Rev. J. C. Alexander submitted Petition 2 from Mr. N. S. McCaw and moved that the Assembly receive it.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Questions were called for.

The Rev. J. C. Alexander moved that the prayer of the Petition be granted and that the Petitioner be accepted into the Course of Training and that upon the completion of the Third Year of the extra mural course he be required to do two years in the Theological Hall without languages.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Petition 3
(Mr. A. W. Rogers)

208. The Rev. J. C. Alexander submitted Petition 3 from Mr. A. W. Rogers and moved that the Assembly receive it.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Questions were called for.

The Rev. J. C. Alexander moved that the prayer of the Petition be granted and that the petitioner be required to pass the entrance requirements to the Course and that thereafter he satisfactorily complete a three years' course in the Theological Hall, without languages, and that he fulfil the requirements of the College Committee.

The motion was seconded.

209. The Rev. H. Stott moved as an amendment the omission of the words "be required thereafter he".

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The motion was approved.

210. The Debate was adjourned (Min. 211).

211. The Debate was resumed (Min. 210).

Petition 4
(Mr. J. M. Blacklock)

212. The Rev. J. C. Alexander submitted Petition 4 from Mr. J. M. Blacklock and moved that the Assembly receive it.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Rev. J. R. Sweet and the Rev. A. R. Wilson stated the Petition.

Questions were called for.

The Rev. J. R. Sweet moved: That the Assembly—

"Grant the prayer of Petition and authorize the Presbytery of Mowbray to take John Merton Blacklock on trials for licence to preach the Gospel."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Petition 5
(Mr. C. J. Sharpe)

213. The Rev. J. C. Alexander submitted Petition 5 from Mr. C. J. Sharpe and moved that the Assembly receive it.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Petition was supported by the Presbytery of Sydney.

Questions were called for.

According to Notice, the Rev. J. Perkins moved:

"That the Assembly grant the prayer of the Petition and authorize the Presbytery of Sydney to take Mr. Cyril J. Sharpe on Trials for Licence."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Petition 6
(Mr. S. J. Shearn)

214. The Rev. J. C. Alexander submitted Petition 6 from Mr. S. J. Shearn and moved that the Assembly receive it.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Petition was supported by the Presbytery of Perth.

Questions were called for.

The Rev. J. C. Alexander moved that the prayer of the Petition be granted and that the petitioner be required to complete one year in the Extra Mural Course and two years in the Theological Hall, without Hebrew, and that he fulfil the requirements of the College Committee in submitting one thesis and pass the examination in Polity.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Public Code

215. The House resumed in Public (Min. 204).

216. The Rev. E. W. S. Bishop submitted the report of the Code Committee and moved the Deliverance.

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Instruct the Code Committee

(a) to issue the Rules and Regulations of the General Assembly which have been enacted or amended subsequent to the publication of, and in the same format as, "Constitution and Procedure and Practice", 1950, for distribution with each copy of the Blue Book of this Assembly;

- (b) to issue, in format suitable for insertion in the Code Book, Rules and Regulations hereafter enacted or amended for distribution with each Blue Book;
- (c) to make Rules and Regulations which have been enacted or amended since 1950 available for sale to those who are not members of the Assembly."

The motion was seconded and approved.

217. The Rev. J. Priestley submitted a supplementary report of Selection Committee and moved:

**Selection
(Supplementary)**

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Appoint the Committee on the Mission and Message of the Church as follows:

Victoria—Revs. G. Beatty (Convener), F. Strickland, J. Stuckey, N. Faichney, S. Yarnold, J. C. Alexander, A. M. Dickie.

"New South Wales—Revs. G. F. G. Kerry, Dr. M. Mackay, J. Mullen, B. Gentle, MacNeil Saunders, Mr. Bruce Mansfield.

"Queensland—Revs. Prof. L. G. Geering, J. F. Forrest, R. E. Pashen, H. J. Whitney, Mr. N. Nelson.

"Western Australia—Revs. Dr. F. W. R. Nichol, A. J. Watt.

"Tasmania—Revs. H. Dunn, A. Christie-Johnston.

"South Australia—Revs. J. Priestley, J. D. Bentley.

"3. Instruct the College Committee to report to the Commission of Assembly regarding the appointment of a G.A. of A. Candidates for the Ministry Committee.

"4. Reappoint Committees not specifically appointed.

"5. Thank and discharge the Committee."

The motion was seconded and approved.

218. The Debate on Public Questions was resumed (Min. 114).

**Public
Questions
(Resumed)**

The amendment was disapproved.

Clause 5 was approved.

Clauses 6-10 were moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 11 was moved and seconded as follows:

"Reaffirm our belief that the Christian Sunday should be kept primarily as a day devoted to the service of Christ, and not as a means of merely selfish pleasure."

The Rev. W. G. Blackwood moved the omission of Clause 11 with a view to inserting the following words:

(a) Adopt the Statement on "Sunday Observance" hereunder set forth; and declare it to be the finding of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

(b) Send the Statement to the respective State Assemblies for printing and distribution among our people.

The Statement

1. There is a vital connection between the Sabbath of the Old Testament and the Lord's Day, inasmuch as Jesus Christ claimed to be Lord of the Sabbath, and that "the Sabbath was made for man", not just for the Jew.
2. The Lord's Day or Christian Sunday is, therefore, set apart as a day of rest from all ordinary work, except works of necessity and mercy, and as a day for honouring Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, celebrating as it does His rising from the dead, and the Pentecostal bestowal of the Holy Spirit.
3. It is the privilege and duty of all people, whether under law or in grace, to participate in corporate worship and to use the Day specially for spiritual culture and refreshment, and for doing good in acts of mercy and service.
4. Though the Church refrains from condemnation of acts, which accord with the dictates of the individual's conscience, it claims that the call of the Sabbath comes from God, and therefore cannot be ignored without grievous hurt to the individual and to the community.
5. The Presbyterian Church of Australia must therefore request State and Municipal authorities and all charitable, commercial, sporting and entertainment organizations that they preserve the atmosphere necessary for the true purpose of the Lord's Day and refrain from permitting the organizing of gatherings that would put a strain upon the Christian conscience.
6. The Presbyterian Church of Australia is constrained to invite all Christian Churches to unite in a sustained and urgent call to all people to regard the Christian heritage of the Lord's Day as a definite challenge to engage regularly in public worship, to maintain

Christian ordinances and to accept it as a supreme opportunity for the spread of the Gospel, the building up of the Kingdom of God, and as a necessity for the further moral and spiritual progress of humanity.

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause II was approved.

Clause 12 was moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 13 was moved and seconded as follows:

"13. Express strong disapproval of all attempts to make political capital by fomenting religious differences, whether by the right or left, assert our belief in the necessity for strong Christian leadership in all political parties and encourage our people to take more responsibility in political and civic affairs."

The Rev. K. Dowding moved the omission of the words, "Express strong disapproval of all attempts to make political capital by fomenting religious differences, whether by the right or left".

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 13 was approved.

Clauses 14-17 were moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 18 was moved and seconded as follows:

"18. Empower (a) the Executive of the G.A. of A. Public Questions Committee to voice the mind of the Church, on matters affecting the moral and spiritual welfare of Australia, through the Moderator-General; (b) the Convener, in the absence of the Moderator-General, to express the mind and decision of the Executive."

The Rev. K. Dowding moved the omission of "Empower" with a view to inserting "Authorize"; and the omission of the words, "to voice the mind of the Church" with a view to inserting the words "to express an opinion".

The amendment was seconded and approved, and on being put as the motion was approved.

Clause 19 was moved, seconded and approved as follows:

"19. Record its grave concern at the racial discrimination practised in the policy of the South African Government and request the Federal Government of Australia to bring the matter before the United Nations as an item of immediate concern and inform the brethren in South Africa of their action and assure them of their prayers."

219. The Deliverance as amended was approved as follows:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Approve the statement issued to members of the Commonwealth Parliament regarding Government aid to Church schools, and reaffirm opposition to the granting of such aid.

"3. Express gratitude that Britain and France respected the demand of the United Nations to withdraw from Suez, while deploring the circumstances which led to such unilateral action.

"4. Express horror at the brutal suppression of the movement for Hungarian freedom by Soviet Russia, and call upon the United Nations to give full and careful consideration to the implications of the recent report prepared on this matter.

"5. Urge the Governments of the great Powers to make ceaseless efforts to reach a basis of agreement whereby the testing of all nuclear weapons can be abolished, with the provision of adequate means of inspection and report.

"6. Instruct the Public Questions Committee of the G.A. of A. to establish a subcommittee having power to enlist the aid of scientists, scholars and theologians amongst our Church members, and to commission it to prepare a study concerning (i) the impact upon international and social relationships of contemporary scientific discovery and technological development, and (ii) the pertinence to these vast changes, of fundamental Christian doctrine; and to report to the next G.A. of A."

"7. Call upon all Governments in Australia to take urgent steps to curb the publication of degrading literature in Australia.

"8. Declare that the abolition of the means test and the re-evaluation of age pensions is a necessary social reform, and that some 'humanizing' of the regulations to meet cases of special need would be a widely acclaimed advance, and affirm the importance of a comprehensive study of the social needs of the elderly, with special reference to their status in the community.

"9. Express strong disapproval of the stimulation of the vice of gambling by governmental approval of lotteries and art unions as means

of revenue for public and charitable objects, and call upon our people to abstain from these as a matter of conscience.

"10. Convey to the Prime Minister, the Minister for External Affairs, and the Leader of Her Majesty's Opposition in the Federal Parliament, the Church's profound regret that the violent persecution of Protestant minorities in Colombia is still continuing, and reaffirm support for all attempts to remove this denial of human rights and freedom.

"11. Reaffirm our belief that the Christian Sunday should be kept primarily as a day devoted to the service of Christ, and not as a means of merely selfish pleasure.

"12. Record our concern at the tremendous increase in divorce rates, now exceeding one marriage in eight, and urge the fullest possible measures to strengthen the bonds of holy matrimony, especially on the part of ministers in pre-marital counselling and the work of the various Marriage Guidance Councils.

"13. Express strong disapproval of all attempts to make political capital by fomenting religious differences, whether by the right or left, assert our belief in the necessity for strong Christian leadership in all political parties and encourage our people to take more responsibility in political and civic affairs.

"14. Commend the Commonwealth Government for its work in the Pacific Mandated Territories, and urge that more strenuous measures be taken to provide means of assimilation of our own aborigines into the rest of the community.

"15. Express the Church's warm interest in the International Geophysical Year and commend the venture as a means of increasing international goodwill.

"16. Reappoint the Church Life and Work Committee of the N.S.W. Assembly as the Public Questions Committee of the G.A. of Australia. Convener: The Convener for the time being of the N.S.W. Committee.

"17. Request State Public Questions Committees to report regularly to the Public Questions Committee.

"18. Authorize (a) the Executive of the G.A. of A. Public Questions Committee to express an opinion on matters affecting the moral and spiritual welfare of Australia, through the Moderator-General; (b) the Convener, in the absence of the Moderator-General, to express the mind and decision of the Executive.

"19. Record its grave concern at the racial discrimination practised in the policy of the South African Government and request the Federal Government of Australia to bring the matter before the United Nations as an item of immediate concern and that the Assembly inform the brethren in South Africa of their action and assure them of their prayers."

220. Notices of Motion L-LII were read and laid on the Table.

N.M.

221. The House adjourned to meet at 7 p.m. which, having been duly adjournment intimated, the sederunt was closed with prayer.

W. D. MARSHALL,
J. M. STUCKEY,

Clerks.

NINTH SEDERUNT

At Melbourne, and within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the 18th day of September, 1957, at 7 p.m.

Constitution 222. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.

Minutes 223. The Clerk intimated the corrections in the minutes of yesterday's sederunts and moved that the minutes be confirmed.

The motion was seconded and approved, and the minutes confirmed.

Overture V (Resumed) 224. The Debate on Overture V was resumed (Min. 93).

225. By leave, Overture V was fallen from

Canberra Executive (Resumed) 226. The Debate on the Canberra Executive was resumed (Min. 91).

227. Clauses 1-3 were moved, seconded and approved.

Clause 4 was moved and seconded.

Mr. G. U. Nathan moved the omission of all words after "necessary". The amendment was seconded and approved, and the words omitted.

Clause 4 as amended was approved.

Clause 5 was moved and seconded.

The Rev. V. Clark-Duff moved the omission of Clause 5 with a view to insert the following:

(a) Thank and discharge the Canberra Executive;

(b) Determine that disbursements for Church Extension work within the Australian Capital Territory from the C. D. Lloyd Bequest and other sources be made through the Home Mission Department of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales;

(c) Invite the Presbytery of Canberra to present a report upon the work and witness of the Church within the Australian Capital Territory to each meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

228. The Debate was adjourned (Min. 232).

Debate Adjourned

229. The Rev. Prof. J. F. Peter submitted the Report of the Ecumenical Committee and moved the Deliverance.

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Express gratitude to God for the new means of Christian enterprise and co-operation in the Australian Council and the World Council of Churches.

"3. Urge congregations and church members to support the World Council of Churches Fellowship by becoming members.

"4. Appoint the following as representatives to the Australian Council: the Moderator-General, Revs. W. A. Alston, C. T. F. Goy, J. Alexander, V. W. Coombes, Dr. W. Cumming Thom, Prof. J. F. Peter, Mr. J. R. Mackay, Rev. A. C. Watson. Direct the Finance Committee to pay travelling expenses of these representatives to the Annual Meeting; and appoint these representatives together with the following (who shall act as Alternates to the Australian Council): Revs. T. McDougall, G. A. Wood, J. P. Chalinor, J. Stuckey, Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard, Prof. J. D. McCaughey, Mr. R. S. Byrnes, Mr. G. Davidson, members of the Ecumenical Committee, the Rev. A. C. Watson to be Convener, and the Victorian members to be the Executive.

"5. Authorize the Ecumenical Committee to appoint, if practicable, delegates to the Third Assembly of the World Council."

"6. Authorize the Ecumenical Committee, when opportunity offers, to co-operate with appropriate committees in sister Churches in arranging reciprocal visits of churchmen between Australia on the one hand and the Soviet Union, other East European countries and China on the other."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Study Groups on Church Union

230. According to Notice, the Rev. R. B. McIntyre moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Approve the formation of informal study groups within presbyteries and parishes to give ministers, elders, office-bearers, members, adherents and young people of the Church the opportunity to consider carefully the implications of corporate union with other denominations.

"2. Request the Joint Commission, through the Federal Committee on Christian Unity, to make available to presbyteries relevant material, with the recommendation that such informal study groups be established wherever possible."

The motion was seconded and approved.

231. The Rev. J. H. Goudie moved according to Notice.

"That the Assembly—

"Request the Joint Commission on Church Union to give consideration to the incorporation of the word 'catholic' in the name of the proposed united Church."

The motion was seconded and approved.

232. The Debate on the Canberra Executive was resumed (Min. 228).

Canberra
Executive
(Resumed)

233. By leave, the Rev. H. J. Hillman moved an additional clause as follows:

"Commend to State Assemblies any appeal for funds deemed necessary by the Presbytery of Canberra and the Home Mission Department of New South Wales for Extension work in the Australian Capital Territory."

The motion was seconded and approved, and the clause added.

234. The Deliverance as amended was approved as follows:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Receive the Report.

"2. Congratulate the minister and congregation of St. Andrew's, Canberra, upon their care of the property and the erection of a parish hall and primary room.

"3. Express the view that no work towards the completion of the Church of St. Andrew be proceeded with until the 'National Memorial Church of St. Andrew's, Canberra, Building Account' be built up to considerable proportions or until the Assembly approve.

"4. Pronounce extension work in the Australian Capital Territory as urgently necessary.

"5. (a) Thank and discharge the Canberra Executive.

(b) Determine that disbursements for Church Extension work within the Australian Capital Territory from the C. D. Lloyd Bequest and other sources be made through the Home Mission Department of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales;

(c) Invite the Presbytery of Canberra to present a report upon the work and witness of the Church within the Australian Capital Territory to each meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia."

6. Commend to State Assemblies any appeal for funds deemed necessary by the Presbytery of Canberra and the Home Mission Department of New South Wales for Extension work in the Australian Capital Territory."

235. Communication 12 (from the A.S.C.M. re co-operation) was laid on the Table and received. Communica-
tion 12

The Rev. Dr. A. C. Watson moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Welcome the desire of the Australian Student Christian Movement for closer relations with the Churches, and commend its work on behalf of the Church and the Churches in the student world.

"2. Request State Assemblies to give the fullest possible support to the work and witness of the Movement.

"3. Commend to ministers, sessions, and congregations the observance of the Universal Day of Prayer for students on the fourth Sunday of June in each year."

236. Mr. F. M. Bradshaw submitted the Report of the Committee on Relations with other Presbyterian Churches and moved the Deliverance. Relations with
other
Presbyterian
Churches

"That the Assembly—

"1. Instruct the Board of Finance to continue the annual contribution of £50 to the funds of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.

"2. Instruct the Committee to:—

- (a) Make suitable arrangements for the celebration in Australia of the Quater-centenary of the Church of Scotland;
- (b) Draw attention of State Assemblies to the Quater-centenary;

"3. Authorize the Committee to approach other branches of the Reformed Church in Australia with a view to inviting them to join our celebration of the Quater-centenary.

"4. Reappoint the Committee with the Rev. G. Renfrey as Convener and add a representative of the Board of Missions."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Communication 9

237. Communication 9 (from Western Australia re Persecution of Reformed Church in Spain) was laid on the Table and received.

The Rev. H. MacNeil Saunders moved according to Notice,

"That the Assembly—

"Respectfully request the Minister for External Affairs to instruct the representative of the Commonwealth Government at the U.N.O. to raise in the U.N. Assembly the matter of the action of the Spanish Government in closing the Protestant Theological Seminary in Madrid." The motion was seconded and approved.

Communication 8

238. Communication 3 (from the New South Wales Assembly re Interim Presbytery of Northern Australia) was laid on the Table and received.

Communication 11

239. Communication 11 (from the Commission for Inter-Church aid and service to refugees) was laid on the Table and received.

Communication 15

240. Communication 15 was laid on the Table and received.

According to Notice, the Rev. C. Dyster moved:

"That the Assembly—

"Place the needs of the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica before our people through presbyteries for sympathetic and generous consideration."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Overture XI

241. Overture XI was called for.

The Rev. M. O. Fox stated the Overture.

Questions were called for.

The Rev. M. O. Fox moved;

"That the Assembly sustain the Overture and remit it to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for return through the Code Committee to the Clerk by 31st December, 1958."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Temperance

242. The Rev. S. A. Eastman moved:

"That the Assembly—

"1. Remit to the G.A.A. Public Question Committee matters concerning Temperance.

"2. Thank and discharge the Temperance Committee."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Thanks

243. The Rev. H. MacNeil Saunders moved that the Assembly thank the Rev. S. A. Eastman for his work in connection with Temperance.

The motion was seconded and approved.

244. The Moderator conveyed the thanks of the Assembly to the Rev. S. A. Eastman.

Alcoholism

245. According to Notice, the Rev. R. A. MacArthur moved:

"That the Assembly—

"Request the Public Questions Committee to study the pastoral role of the minister and congregation towards the alcoholic and the drug addict and their families, and report to the next meeting of the G.A.A." The motion was seconded and approved.

Federal Advisory

24S. The Business Convener moved:

"That in view of the appointment of a Commission of the G.A.A., the Assembly discharge the Federal Advisory Committee."

The motion was seconded and approved.

A.I.M. Associates

247. The Rev. J. F. McKay moved:

"That the Assembly authorize the A.I.M. Board as occasion demands to associate with Board and Executive meetings, ministerial members of field staff and a recognized medical adviser."

The motion was seconded and approved.

248. According to Notice, the Rev. K. A. Fox moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Direct the attention of the College Committee to experiments in education for fast reading at R.A.A.F. Staff College at Point Cook and the University of Melbourne and request the Committee to consider its relation to Theological Education.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

249. By leave of the House, the Rev. J. Priestley moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Refer to the Commission of Assembly the allocation of £20 to the Committee on the Mission and message of the Church and instruct the Finance Committee to report on the matter to the Commission.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

250. The Rev. J. M. Stuckey submitted the Report on the Sacraments and Seasonal Observances and moved the Deliverance.

“That the Assembly—

“1. Receive the Report.

“2. Continue the Committee with instructions to report to the next G.A.A.

“3. Instruct the Selection Committee to fill vacancies on the Committee.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

251. The Rev. V. Clark-Duff submitted the Report on Fire Insurance and moved the Deliverance.

“That the Assembly—

“1. Receive the Report.

“2. Request the Fire Insurance Committee to consider the desirability of the formation of a Presbyterian Insurance Company and report to the next General Assembly.

“3. Appoint the Committee as follows: J. T. Bolles, H. W. Bracks, R. S. Byrnes, J. M. Carroll, C. N. Hope, G. D. McKinnon, W. H. Williams, J. S. Wyle, Rev. V. Clark-Duff (Convener) and the Rev. H. Dunn.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

252. The Business Convener moved:

“That the Assembly express its thanks to the Hospitality Committee, especially the Convener (the Rev. F. Strickland), the Rev. G. Nathan, to the ladies who helped at the Assembly luncheons and afternoon teas, to the Minister and Trustees of Scots Church, to the members of the office staff, to the Organist (Miss Campbell), to the Council of the Presbyterian Ladies' College, to the Assembly Printers and the representatives of the press, to the Assembly Officer and all others who contributed to the welfare and comfort of the members of the Assembly.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

253. The Business Convener moved:

“That the Assembly thank the Rev. W. B. Hastie for his valuable assistance to the Business Convener and, therefore, to the business of the House, and approve the payment of an honorarium of £20 to Mr. Hastie.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

254. The Business Convener moved:

“That the Assembly—

“Constitute the Business Committee of General Assembly of Australia as follows:

“The Clerks of the General Assembly.

“The Conveners of the Board of Missions, A.I.M., College Committee, Board of Christian Education, Reception of Ministers, Finance Code.

“The General Secretaries of State Churches, who are Ministers or Elders of the Church.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

255. The Clerk moved:

“That the Assembly appoint the Clerks and the Rev. G. Ross Williams a Commission to examine and confirm the minutes of the seventh and eighth sederunts.”

The motion was seconded and approved.

256. The Business of the Assembly being now concluded, the Moderator briefly addressed the Assembly.

Direction to
College
Committee

Reference
re Expenses

Sacraments
and Seasonal
Observances

Fire
Insurance

Thanks

Thanks to
Rev. W. B.
Hastie

Business
Committee
Appointed

Commission
on Minutes

Close of
Assembly

The Assembly joined in singing Psalm 122, after which the Moderator, having intimated that in pursuance of the Assembly's appointment, the next General Assembly would convene in the Assembly Hall, Sydney, on the second Wednesday of September, 1959, at 7.30 p.m., the Session was closed with the Benediction.

W. D. MARSHALL,
J. M. STUCKEY,

Clerks.

The Minutes of Wednesday Sederunts, having been carefully corrected, are confirmed as instructed in Minute 255 thereof

Signed on behalf of the Assembly,

23rd September, 1957.

D. J. FLOCKHART,
(Moderator)

MEMORIAL MINUTE

Bryan Cecil Fuller, Esq., Q.C., B.A., LL.B., was a member of a prominent family in the Illawarra district of New South Wales, notable for its loyalty and devotion to the Church, he was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne, and at the University of Sydney. He was appointed Procurator of the General Assembly of Australia in 1936, in succession to Mr. Justice J. A. Ferguson. He served with distinction in this office for twenty years. His mental ability, legal knowledge and experience, and broad understanding of the procedure of the Courts of the Church, enabled him to make a valuable contribution to the work of the General Assembly and its Committees. He was actively engaged in such a task when his life was cut short by an accident, on March 23rd, 1956. The Assembly records its appreciation of the eminent service rendered to it by the late Bryan Cecil Fuller, as its Procurator.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

AND OTHER PAPERS

PRESENTED TO

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
AUSTRALIA**



MELBOURNE, SEPTEMBER, 1957

Reports

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION 1. (Min. 188.)

Communication I requests the G.A.A. to consider the implementation of a plan of Evangelism on a national and interdenominational scale; and the offer of the services of the Director of Evangelism by the Queensland Assembly.

The Committee believes that two fundamental questions are posed by the communication—the one, “Is the time ripe for a definite essay _ in Evangelism?”; and the second, “If so, by what method can it be carried through most effectually?”

The Committee feels that a matter of such major importance ought to have had long and serious consideration by a special committee, and recognises that the limitations of time and opportunity of reference preclude the committee from the careful analysis and discussion necessary to present a report worthy of the subject.

I The Committee began its investigations by accepting the following pre-suppositions:

- (1) Evangelism is the proclamation of good news; and this good news is summarized in Art. 115 of the Deed of Union as follows—
“He (God) has provided a salvation sufficient for all, and adapted to all and offered to all in the Gospel.”
Thus evangelism is the communication of the gospel.
- (2) The communication of the gospel is the one reason for the existence of the Church.
- (3) The gospel can be fully communicated only when it is embodied—when it becomes incarnate; i.e. that, though ordinarily a herald of news may believe or disbelieve the news he proclaims, the gospel can be fully communicated only when the proclaimer has a total belief in the good news which is proclaimed.
- (4) The communication of the gospel may therefore be made through individuals whose lives attest that they believe their proclamation to be true; but the communication is best made when it proceeds out of the quality of the life of a proclaiming community—that is, when it proceeds out of the redeemed life of the Body of Christ.

II It cannot be denied that over some generations the local congregations of the Church, and the Church in its superior Courts has made a proclamation differing from the gospel. Those rarely or intermittently attending public worship could not fail to detect the dissonance between the spoken word about a God who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, and the lived word of dejection within the life of the congregation. Only in exceptional cases did the local congregation face a situation other than that of a static or declining membership, and a creeping paralysis which looked longingly to the spacious days of the past. The story of the years was the story of effort by superior courts to stem an outflowing tide by making grants to sustain the most needy charges, and ever questioning whether advance in missionary activity were possible. Because of this it became inevitable that the proclamation of good news should be made not by the worshipping community, but by individuals. The years of the captivity of the Church have been the years of what may be referred to loosely as the years of mass evangelism. Because the dejection and defeatism of the local congregation was not an instrument through which the Gospel could be communicated, then God used an alternative instrument.

III The year 1957 presents a somewhat different situation. These are exciting days, adventurous days, days in which the whole climate of the life of the local congregations is changing, so that they are becoming agents through which the Gospel can again be communicated. It is undeniable that if despair and dejection in the local congregation repelled folk from the Christian Church and her Lord, then, when hope lives in the Church, both the Church and her Lord become attractive. When Christ is lifted up in

the corporate life of the Church, He draws men unto Him. And this regaining of attractive power is the mark of this year.

IV While the Committee presents the following analysis, it is conscious of the inadequacy of their content and breadth, but it believes that the major factors are indicated, if not adequately assessed.

(1) The Causes of Dejection.

A thesis might well be written on the breakdown of a theology and philosophy by which man might live. It is probable that the first world war shattered the prevailing spirit of optimism rising out of man's achievements, and left man disillusioned. But it is certain that, as the population grew, the Church generally remained static or declined in membership, and the remnant were forced to spend their energies in maintaining an existing institution rather than expanding a living organism. The need of self-preservation induced a self-centredness which tended to feel that that peripheral group which used the Church for its own purposes but failed to support the Church were disloyal. It followed that this peripheral group was thought to be indifferent or antagonistic to the Church; and the general attitude was one of harsh judgment rather than an awareness that for this very group there was a salvation designed and adopted and offered to them. Self-centredness destroyed awareness and issued in defeat and dejection.

(2) Movements toward Hope.

Both positive and negative factors have influenced the recovery of hope within the Church.

The emergence of political ideas which appeared to offer utopia but failed in a short historical period to produce that fruit; the inability of democracy to adjust itself quickly to sudden changes in world affairs, the ferment of nationalism, the loosening of ties within a world empire, the technological advances reaching through atom and hydrogen bombs to intercontinental ballistic missiles, dealt serious blows to what remained in man's belief about his self-sufficiency.

How far the new theological emphasis of Barth and Brunner have penetrated beyond the chosen few ministers sufficiently gifted to understand and absorb their teaching is difficult to assess, but it is beyond doubt that the overtones of the bell rung by Karl Barth has influenced the life of the Church. The culmination of years of work in ecumenical movements in the formation of the World Council of Churches is a major factor.

There is little doubt that the ferment begun by John Lawton and continued through George MacLeod worked within the Church. Individuals and groups eagerly wondered whether there was not some way by which the mysticism of the prophets could not become incarnate within an active community. But no programme emerged. Nevertheless there was a growing feeling in the last years of the first half of the century that around the corner something awaited. Could the word become flesh in the Church?

The year 1950 brought a spate of books on the new half-century. Men spoke of signs of hope in a world of despair, of a new theology, of a new fellowship, of the re-emergence of the priesthood of believers through lay activity. After Evanston a new influence of American thought and pattern of Church life and organization began to be apparent.

It is an accepted statement in Australia that the sign of the breaking of the drought is that springs begin to flow. And the first few years of the second half of this century saw the trickles from tiny fountains beginning to join to form an increasing stream.

(3) The Present Situation.

(i) Fund Raising. It was a logical necessity that, if dejection and despair was rooted in the local congregation at the point of its inability to pay its way, that this was the point at which a cure must begin. Whether we like it any more than the exiles liked the idea of Cyrus as deliverer, or not, the fact is that the impact of the Wells Organization on the local congregations and, through them, on the whole life of the Church, has been profound. It does appear incredible that God should use Hitler as the rod of His anger and a purely commercial fund-raising organization as a means of releasing the life of the Church.

It is without doubt that churches were dying of financial want amid financial plenty.

It is without doubt that because of the changed financial structure the old framework of thinking in terms of lack and insufficiency is outmoded.

It is without doubt that the response of peripheral members to the challenge to make a weekly sacrificial gift to the Church has dissolved antagonism and brought awareness to the local congregation.

And it is without doubt that men and women released from the necessity of spending all energies in maintaining an organization are seeking ways in which to expend those released energies in propagating an expanding organism.

(ii) Stewardship. It was inevitable that the inadequacy of fund raising should be recognized and that the concept be lifted into the realm of stewardship in which Christians recognized their responsibility to administer, not just a part of their money, but the totality of their being, as stewards before God.

This, then, is the situation which the Church faces to-day. It is a moment in history when, under the Spirit of God, political, theological, technological and a multiplicity of apparently diverse movements have coincided to present an opportunity to proclaim the Gospel such as has not existed for some generations. All things have gathered together. The fullness of the time is come when man is ready to hear good news, and the Church is prepared to proclaim it.

V Is it possible for the Church to answer the challenge of this moment? Or is the Church unprepared to make an unparalleled penetration?

(a) It could be platitudinous to assert that God supplies the need of the Church. But in this case this is no platitude. The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. instructed its Director, George E. Sweazy, to prepare a handbook for Lay Visitation Evangelism, and this is available. Sweazy sets out definite logical steps by which the released man- and womanpower of the local congregations can be organized by the Kirk Session and trained to make the proclamation of their faith. These trained folk go two by two into the homes of those closely or not even associated with the Church and invite them to take the first step toward the Christian faith and Church membership. Those who hear the invitation and gave assent to it are then taught the doctrine and polity of our faith and the way in which a responsible Christian acts in society. At the close of the teaching the catechumen, confronted with the gospel in the life of the congregation, resolves whether he has come to the point of decision and whether he will seek to profess publicly his faith and be admitted, after examination by the Session, to Church membership. This whole process occurs within the body—not isolated from, but within it.

It might be urged that, while this method may apply in America, it is questionable whether it would apply equally in Australia. The general answer of course is that the salvation offered in Jesus Christ is designed to meet the deep needs of man, whether Australian or American.

But there is a mounting body of evidence that the method has succeeded in a wide variety of places in Australia. It was first used in Victoria in an inner suburban charge with striking success. Since then it has been used in a number of charges of varied social groupings and on each occasion with success.

In South Australia it is an accepted policy that Lay Evangelism must be preceded by Stewardship, and Stewardship succeeded by Lay Evangelism. (John Thompson Peters has used a phrase "the double thrust of Stewardship and Lay Evangelism".) In a wide variety of charges, rural, industrial, country towns, new housing areas and residential suburbs, the story has been consistent—an approximate doubling of the Communion Roll.

More recently the method has been applied in Queensland with quite similar results. It is reasonable to conclude that, because it is a proclamation by the body, from within the body, of the good news that there is a salvation designed by God and suited to the need of man, it can be used as a method of penetration in Australia.

(b) While it is not the purpose of this Report to go beyond an endeavour to answer the fundamental questions of whether the time is

ripe to adventure in evangelism and whether there is a method by which evangelism can proceed, it would be incomplete without some reference to the advances being made through Christian Education. Suffice it to say that there is becoming available an increasing literature designed to make still more effective the witness of the local congregation.

VI. Practical Considerations.

(1) **"Tell Australia."** The Committee has given consideration to the proposal and is of the opinion that, while there is a great deal of merit in the proposals outlined in the Rev. H. J. Whitney's book, the time of penetration is now, rather than in 1960. The Committee believes that the use of the method of lay evangelism ensures that the penetration will be from the grass roots up rather than seeming to be imposed from above to work down into the life of the local congregation. At this stage it recommends members of Assembly to study the book in conjunction with other literature related to Lay Evangelism, but it is not prepared to recommend to the Assembly the setting up of a national interdenominational movement.

(2) **Dr. Graham.** The Committee believes that Dr. Graham has had a remarkable world influence, but that it is not essential to the penetration of evangelism that he should come to Australia. It reiterates its presupposition that the communication of the gospel is best made when it proceeds out of the quality of the life of the proclaiming community. It believes that the effect of a visit by Dr. Graham would be to heighten a psychological attitude of receptiveness, and for that reason would welcome his visit. At the same time the Committee recognises that the effectual response to the gospel must be grounded, not in emotional receptivity, but in the response of the whole man in love and loyalty to a risen Lord. The Committee recommends that the Assembly heartily support the proposed visit of Dr. Graham.

(3) The Need for a Director of Evangelism.

The root question here is whether penetration by lay evangelism should be the strictly normal and continuing activity of the life of the congregation. That this is so is suggested by another of the presuppositions—that the one reason for the existence of the local congregation is that the quality of its life should be the vehicle of evangelism. It would appear, therefore, that minister and kirk session see themselves placed within a congregation with one primary purpose—of developing a congregational life that does evangelize. It follows, therefore, that there is no specific place for a Director of Evangelism.

But actual practice is at variance with theory. In both South Australia and Queensland many congregations have invited guest directors to assist them in the planning, training of visitors, and the oversight of the essay. Similarly, in Victoria, a minister who has completed such an essay is usually invited to advise another congregation so doing.

In addition, the Presbyterian Church in U.S.A., has a Division of Evangelism with a large field and administrative staff.

Possibly the major need at this stage is the preparation of suitable teaching material for catechumen classes, and it is possible that the service of a skilled person might be used, in conjunction with the Board of Christian Education, for this purpose. The teaching literature produced by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., after a number of years of consideration is now available.

(4) The Use of Publicity.

While every means should be used to awaken folk to an awareness that there is good news, radio, television, and even the printing press ought to be seen as adjuncts to evangelism rather than means of evangelism.

If evangelism is the proclamation of good news by an embodied word, then of necessity a gadget, however intricate or widespread, cannot take the place of the redeemed community. The Committee recommends the use of all possible publicity provided that publicity itself is not confused with evangelism.

AIDS TO DEVOTION (Min. 165)

The Book of Common Order was published in March 1956 and at the time of making up this report 730 copies have been sold; this represents half of this publication. Immediately after publication there was a high percentage of sales. This rate is not likely to continue and a reprint will therefore not be necessary for some time. The Committee nevertheless is looking over some necessary revision, also considering the inclusion of some additional matter when the next issue is printed, and will welcome any suggestions as to services for which no provision has been made or any comments on existing ones.

The Assembly directed the Committee to give consideration to the revision of the Church Hymnary. The Committee of the New South Wales Assembly was functioning under a similar commission and was asked to undertake this inquiry. It was learned from the Church of Scotland that no revision of the Hymnary was contemplated, and in this matter it is impossible for our Church to proceed alone. In regard to congregational praise, it is to be regretted that in many parishes the Metrical Psalms appear to be neglected. This cannot be persisted in without impoverishment. There is a great wealth of devotional expression in this sacred literature which links us with the past and with the words and expressions with which our Lord was familiar. The little book, issued by the Church of Scotland, "Praise for the Christian Year", is most valuable in aiding a wise and varied selection. There is room, too, in our services, for the introduction of Prose Psalms, and it is hoped that some thought will be given to this aspect in the future.

W. A. ALSTON, Convener.

AUSTRALIAN INLAND MISSION (Min. 84)

The task of the A.I.M. is gradually expanding in its varied programme as fresh and revolutionary changes take place in the northern and central sectors of the continent. The difficulty in interpreting the line of policy which should be followed is sometimes increased by unpredictable mining discoveries and the consequent movements of people, and this one reason alone must always compel the A.I.M. to be ready for quick adjustments to changing situations. In presenting this report, the A.I.M. Board is fully cognizant of the tremendous challenges still to be faced, and with God's guidance and the supporting prayers and practical support of the whole Church, it is hoped that the work will go forward to meet the needs in the rapidly changing environment of Northern and Central Australia.

Board Meetings

Meetings of the Interstate Executive were held with full State representation on the following dates: 2nd and 3rd November, 1954; 19th and 20th April, 1955; 12th and 13th July, 1955; 1st and 2nd November, 1955; 27th and 28th March, 1956; 17th and 18th July, 1956; 6th, 7th and 8th November, 1956; 26th and 27th March, 1957. A full Board Meeting was held on 16th-17th July, 1957. The N.S.W. Executive has met regularly each month.

Board Honours

Since last General Assembly of Australia, the Board registers with gratification the following awards to its own members for outstanding service to Church and community: Rev. J. Gray Robertson (Convener), O.B.E.; Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard, C.B.E.; and Dr. G. Simpson, O.B.E. Rev. K. F. Partridge was also honoured with the award of M.B.E. for his long services as an A.I.M. padre; the Rev. C. T. F. Goy, member of the Board and ex-member of staff, was elected Moderator of the Victorian Assembly during the period 1955-6; while Rev. John Gregson, a member of staff, was elected Moderator of the Assembly of Western Australia for the period 1955-6.

Convener

Rev. J. Gray Robertson, O.B.E., B.A., B.D., Convener to the A.I.M. Board, has now completed the record term of service of fifteen years, and in that office has brought distinction to himself and the Mission for his devoted, thorough and skilful direction of the affairs of the Board. Mr. Robertson has made several trips to the inland gaining first-hand knowledge of the needs and problems of the work. At the death of our late Superintendent, Very Rev. Dr. J. Flynn, Mr. Robertson delivered the address at the service in St. Stephen's Church, Sydney, and later conveyed the ashes by air to Alice Springs where he conducted the historic service at Mt. Gillen. Mr.

Robertson directed the Board and undertook endless personal responsibility throughout all the negotiations connected with the planning and building of the John Flynn Memorial Church in Alice Springs. The foundation-stone ceremony was conducted by the Convener on 26th June, 1954, and on 5th-6th May, 1956, he conducted all the historic opening ceremonies in connection with the Memorial Church. In the New Year Honours of 1954, Her Majesty the Queen gave recognition to Mr. Robertson's service by creating him an officer of the Order of the British Empire. When the Duke of Edinburgh paid a special visit to Alice Springs on 18th November, 1956, Rev. J. Gray Robertson, as Chairman of the United Board, represented the United Church in north Australia and preached the sermon at the service in the John Flynn Church when the Duke of Edinburgh read the Scripture lesson. At the A.I.M. Board meeting held in Sydney on 17th July, Mr. Robertson intimated his desire to be relieved from the office of Convener and in acceding to this request the Board records its immeasurable debt to Mr. Robertson for his outstanding term of service.

Field Staff

The following represents a complete list of present A.I.M. field staff:

Patrol Padres

- Rev. H. D. McAndrew, B.A., B.D.—A.I.M. Commissioner in W.A. and South-West Patrol.
 Rev. V. J. Murrell—Sturt Patrol, S.A.
 Rev. J. W. S. Lang—Uranium Fields Patrol, N.T. (co-operative scheme).
 Rev. A. T. Cottrell—Kimberley Patrol (W.A.).
 Rev. C. R. Ford, B.Sc.—Cape York Peninsula Patrol, Qld.
 Rev. A. W. Grant—Alice Springs and Central Patrol, N.T. (co-operative scheme).
 Rev. W. J. Bates—Tennant Creek Patrol, N.T. (co-operative scheme).
 Rev. R. R. E. Maitland—West Queensland Patrol, Qld.
 Rev. H. R. Hovenden—Land Settlement and Goldfields Patrol, W.A.
 Rev. W. S. McPheat, M.A., B.D., M.Th.—Mount Isa.

Nursing Sisters (Hospitals)

- Sister H. Filmer, Male Nurse I. G. Filmer—Birdsville Hospital.
 Sister E. M. King, Sister B. Hill—Hall's Creek Hospital.
 Sister B. Symonds, Miss C. Lofts—Oodnadatta Hospital.
 Sister D. M. Gibson, Sister C. M. Savage—Radium Hill Hospital.
 Mr. and Mrs. T. Lane—Dunbar Hospital.
 Sister I. Hall, Sister M. McIntyre—Fitzroy Crossing.

Special Appointments

- Mr. W. R. Curtis—Supervisor, Old-Timers' Home.
 Mr. H. Smith—Caretaker, John Flynn Memorial Church.
 Mr. T. G. Booth—Home Missioner, Boulder.
 Mr. J. T. Berridge—Home Missioner, Carnarvon.

Far North Children's Health Scheme

- Sister M. Turvey—Matron.
 Miss S. Tee—Nursing Aide.

Hostels

- Sister M. Hatfield—Matron, A.I.M. Hostel, Alice Springs.
 Miss I. Acland—Assistant, A.I.M. Hostel, Alice Springs.
 Sister Lois Hurse—Matron, School Children's Hostel, Hall's Creek.
 Miss S. Sandral, B.A.—Assistant, School Children's Hostel, Hall's Creek.
 Miss Una Ross, B.A., Dip.Ed.—Matron, School Hostel, Darwin.
 Miss Elizabeth Murdoch—Hostel Assistant, Darwin.
 Miss Mary Gowan—Hostel Assistant, Darwin.

(The staff of Darwin Hostel work directly under the United Church of North Australia.)

Patrolling Ministry

This work has gone forward with comprehensive coverage, and in some areas there is solid evidence of cohesion and consolidation. Financial returns from this work are never commensurate with the heavy expenditures involved, but with well-selected men carrying out this specialized itinerant ministry, the sustained effort of long years is now showing the effectiveness of this type of witness. The stage has now been reached where it is increasingly necessary for the A.I.M. to co-ordinate its patrol work with the work

of regular Home Mission Stations and sanctioned charges in the outlying areas. In this particular regard there remains a whole field yet to be explored, because it is one of the significant omissions in the Presbyterian witness within Australia, that such an unbridged gap exists between the A.I.M. field and Home Mission areas.

A new patrol has been commenced in the land settlement area between Esperance and Jerramongup in Western Australia. Rev. H. W. Hovenden has taken up this work in a new vehicle, and is already moving among the settlers in this stretch of country. Other new padre ministers include the Rev. R. R. E. Maitland who has undertaken the West Queensland Patrol, Rev. W. S. McPheat who is doing special work in Mt. Isa, and Rev. W. J. Bates who operates from Tennant Creek. Rev. K. C. W. Beckett of the Kimberley Patrol accepted a call to Kaniva, Victoria, in August 1955; Rev. A. L. McKay of West Queensland accepted a call to Cairns in February 1957; and Rev. V. J. Murrell of the Sturt Patrol has accepted a call to The Leigh, Victoria, on 1st September, 1957. All these ministers with sterling records of service in the inland are now back in normal parishes with a larger contribution to make to the wider Church. A patrol padres' conference was held in Alice Springs after the opening ceremonies of the John Flynn Church on 8th May, 1956. All patrol padres are equipped with sturdy trucks, and in some cases four-wheel-drive vehicles are now in use.

From time to time discussions have taken place on the Board regarding the status of ordained ministers serving on the staff of the A.I.M. The practice which has been followed from the beginning has been for the Board to issue an invitation to a selected minister to undertake special work. Such ministers have been subsequently granted seats in named Presbyteries and Assemblies, and thereby their rights and privileges have been guaranteed. However, the time has come when it is considered that a more regular procedure should be evolved for all ministers who accept appointment under the auspices of the A.I.M. Accordingly it is recommended that this whole matter be referred to the Code Committee for examination and appropriate action.

Nursing Services

Six hospitals have been constantly staffed, and apart from staff at Dunbar outpost, nursing sisters have all served their agreed period of appointment. It has been necessary, in some cases, to adjust terms of appointment to one year instead of two years, so that emergencies could be met.

During the past three years, substantial renovations have been carried out at Oodnadatta, Birdsville and Dunbar. The property at Fitzroy Crossing is under review at the present time, and additional accommodation for the nursing of aborigines is being planned in consultation with the West Australian Government. The cost of maintenance of all hospital properties is necessarily high, and where no water and power facilities exist there are constant problems with heavy equipment.

Members of the nursing staff have entered into their work with a sense of dedication. Sunday Schools are conducted at Oodnadatta, Birdsville, Radium Hill and Hall's Creek by the nursing staff. A significant characteristic of the present nursing work is the growing service being given to the aborigines and half-castes. At Birdsville, Oodnadatta and Fitzroy Crossing, this work has greatly increased, and indeed at the last-named outpost it appears from statistical records that the aboriginal community are now totally dependent on the hospital care of the A.I.M.

New Outpost at Coen

Arising out of a complete survey of Cape York Peninsula made by Rev. C. R. Ford over the last five years, the Superintendent made a special visit to the area in 1956, and the Board has now decided to launch a forward policy in these parts.

The first phase of this forward movement is the establishment of an institution which will give visibility to the Church and meet the present urgent needs of the people. A contract has been signed with W. C. Kynaston & Co., Cairns, for £15,650, for the building of an outpost at Coen, so planned to provide facilities not only for hospital work but also for accommodating a small number of children who are enrolled for schooling from distant cattle stations. A small meeting room is also included in the design, so that whatever the future of the township of Coen, this building will be a valuable asset for the work of the Church in the whole area. If in due course a base hospital is established at Weipa, the A.I.M. outpost at Coen would still be strategically placed to act as a clearing centre for such a hospital and also serve for other wider church purposes.

It is impossible for the Board to finance this project from ordinary funds, and therefore it will be necessary to make special appeals throughout the Commonwealth. The Parramatta Fellowship Association, N.S.W., have pledged themselves to provide certain important equipment for this outpost, and it is hoped that people everywhere will be similarly minded in taking a share in this new work.

Approaches have also been made to the A.I.M. regarding the possibilities of establishing nursing facilities in other pioneering areas of north Australia, and if the Mission is to remain true to its original charter, it must be prepared for any sacrifice in sharing the hardships in these developmental areas.

Hostels

The Hostel for School Children at Hall's Creek has now established itself as an integral institution of the East Kimberley area. Sister Gwen Harland, a member of the Canterbury Church, Victoria, gave a splendid term of service as Matron, and was succeeded by Mrs. Lois Hurse at the beginning of 1957. All accommodation within the Hostel is completely taxed, the children being mostly from distant cattle stations. The Christian impact of this work is already showing itself within the homes of the people, and there is no doubt this type of witness can be one of the important factors in the training of Christian citizens of the north. Religious education is an integral part of hostel life, and Miss Susan Sandral is doing special work in this department.

The Hostel for Bush Mothers and Babies, in Alice Springs, shows a steady record of service to the community of Central Australia over the past three years, and during the building operations and opening ceremonies of the church, was used for the accommodation of workers and visitors. This Hostel continues under the administration of the A.I.M. as a contribution to the co-operative witness in Alice Springs.

In Darwin the A.I.M. has also taken its due share- of responsibility in establishing a hostel in the town for secondary school children. The three members of staff are members of the Presbyterian Church, Holbrook, N.S.W., and already this institution is branching out in a distinctive service whereby half-caste children from Croker Island are admitted as regular inmates.

Old-Timers' Homes

Since the last General Assembly six new cottages have been erected on the old-timers' settlement near Alice Springs. On the capital outlay for this institution the Commonwealth Social Services grant the regular £ for £ subsidy, and this has enabled the Mission to finance this project from general funds. This has been a considerable drain on the resources of the Mission, and the further capital outlay required for this most important work will necessitate some type of special appeal. Twelve old-timers are now in residence, and during the last year there have been three deaths, the most notable of whom was Mr. George Edginton, who was the only remaining member of the F. R. George exploration party in 1898.

The time has come when it is imperative to provide a nursing-care centre, with general recreational facilities at the Old-Timers' Settlement. As it is the only institution of its kind in the whole of the Northern Territory, it is incumbent upon the A.I.M. to develop the project in such a way that it adequately meets the need. Not only does public opinion compel us to move forward; but we are morally committed to a Christian task. The estimated outlay for the new nursing unit is approximately £12,000. When this new wing is completed, it will also be necessary to appoint nursing staff.

The garden development at the Old-Timers' Settlement has been one of its most gratifying features, under the supervision of Mr. W. Curtis, and this in itself makes the settlement a place of attraction for visitors and tourists to Central Australia.

West Australian Emergency Appeal

Pursuant to Minute 227, 1954 (B.B.), the A.I.M. Board immediately implemented definite policies in an endeavour to meet the emergency missionary task in Western Australia. Rev. H. D. McAndrew was appointed Commissioner to Western Australia, and on 1st February, 1955, took up duties in directing Home Mission developmental work in the country areas. A special report is appended from the Commissioner.

The total expenses connected with the Commissioner's work, including provision of vehicle and a manse, has been contributed by the A.I.M. to this emergency programme. Maintenance costs for two years have amounted to £2,615/2/6

The A.I.M. Board also carried out the instruction of the General Assembly in asking a planned approach to all State Assemblies for a special subsidy of £2,500 per year for a period of five years, for Home Mission developmental work in the west. A select committee was subsequently convened, which recommended the following allocations to State Assemblies on the basis of communicant membership:

	Percentage	Amount
Victoria.....	45.8	£1,145 0 0
New South Wales ...	32.8	£820 0 0
South Australia.....	3.3	£82 10 0
Queensland.....	15.8	£395 0 0
Tasmania.....	2.3	£57 10 0

The Victorian Assembly approved of an appeal to the individual church members of the State for £1,000. The N.S.W. State Assembly approved of an appeal for £820 per year to be carried out throughout the N.S.W. Church on the first Sunday of June for five years. The Queensland Assembly agreed to make an appeal to all congregations and their Board of Finance resolved to subsidize congregational giving on a £ for £ basis. The South Australian Assembly agreed to raise their allocation through their normal budget scheme. The Tasmanian Assembly made a direct donation of their full quota for their first year.

The following figures will indicate the total amounts from each State up to 30th June, 1957:

	1955-6	1956-7
New South Wales . . .	£932 16 3	£459 11 6
Queensland.....	498 13 5	335 17 0
South Australia . . .	82 10 0	82 10 0
Tasmania.....	57 10 0	
Victoria	653 19 7	553 14 6
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£2,225 9 3	£1,431 13 0

It appears that all States, except Victoria, have generously responded to this Appeal, and substantial help has been directed to Western Australia. A special report shows how the money has been applied in Western Australia.

Far North Children's Health Scheme

In 1956 the Board launched a new project known as the Far North Children's Health Scheme. Mrs. Fred McKay laid the foundation as the first Matron of the scheme, serving in an honorary capacity, and was succeeded by Sister May Turvey. By this scheme, needy children, regardless of colour, class and creed, are brought from the north of South Australia, and the Northern Territory to "Warrawee", where specialized treatment is given. Limited accommodation has prevented the scheme from dealing with large numbers of children, but an average of six needy cases have been accommodated during the past year, and already the nature of the work being done is making its own impact on the inland.

This project also is compelling the Board to face up to additional capital outlay so that adequate facilities can be provided.

An extra allotment of land has therefore been purchased, adjoining "Warrawee" property at the Grange, for the sum of £3,800, thus providing a frontage area which is suitable for long-range developments. Plans have been approved for additional buildings, and the present problem is to find sufficient financial accommodation for this and similar urgent needs.

The seaside children's camps which have been conducted by the A.I.M. since 1933, are now being made an integral part of the Far North Scheme, and each year approximately 45 children are brought from inland areas for health holidays during the Christmas and New Year periods.

The operation of the Far North Scheme has also stretched into the Kimberley area, where a group of children were recently taken to Lee Point in Darwin for a health holiday.

John Flynn Memorial Church

The John Flynn Memorial Church was officially opened by the Governor-General of Australia, His Excellency Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, and was dedicated by the Right Rev. F. W. Rolland, Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, on Saturday, 5th May, 1956. This historic service, conducted by the Convener, Rev. J. Gray Robertson, was so timed as to coincide with the hour of the fifth anniversary of the death of our late

Superintendent. The following Moderators of State Assemblies were also present and took part in the ceremony: Right Rev. Dr. W. Cumming Thom, Moderator of N.S.W. Assembly; Right Rev. C. T. F. Goy, Moderator of Victorian Assembly; Right Rev. R. S. C. Blance, Moderator of South Australian Assembly; Right Rev. J. H. Gregson, Moderator of West Australian Assembly. Special apologies were presented from the Right Rev. R. H. C. Crowe, Moderator of Queensland Assembly, and Right Rev. A. Christie-Johnson, Moderator of Tasmanian Assembly. The Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard, ex-Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, conducted the service of dedication of the Communion Table. The organist for the occasion was the Rev. L. G. K. Blanchard, member of the Board, and a special hymn was written by Mr. Robert Steel Byrnes, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. Mrs. Flynn, widow of our late Superintendent, graciously acceded to the invitation to present the key to His Excellency the Governor-General for the official opening.

The Federal Parliamentary parties were represented by the Right Honourable R. G. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia, and the Honourable N. Makin acted as representative of Dr. H. V. Evatt, Leader of the Opposition. The Federal President of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Mr. H. J. Bird, assisted by Dr. George Simpson, representing the Victorian President, Dr. J. McF. Rossell, N.S.W. President, Mr. T. H. Cameron, Queensland President, and Mr. W. L. Sanderson, S.A. President, unveiled the Flying Doctor plaque within the church. The Methodist Church of Australasia was represented by the Rev. Dr. G. C. Barber, ex-President-General, and the Congregational Church of Australia and New Zealand was represented by Rev. D. C. Ryan, who was also present in the capacity of Chairman of the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches. Her Majesty the Queen sent a special cable message for the occasion and this was read by His Excellency the Governor-General prior to the official opening. A.I.M. padres from all patrols were present and gave assistance with the detail arrangements of the ceremony. Mr. R. B. Plowman, first Patrol Padre of the A.I.M., was present as a special guest, as was also Mrs. W. H. Boland, the original A.I.M. Nursing Sister. There were approximately 25 ex-A.I.M. nursing sisters present, who handed to the Convener their gift of the Communion Table on behalf of the A.I.M. Nursing Service. Mr. Alfred Traeger was unable to be present owing to illness but was represented by Mr. M. B. Anderson of the former A.I.M. radio services. Board representatives from the States were: Rev. A. Duff, Q'land; Rev. A. S. Houston, Victoria; Rev. E. H. McLean Shugg, Victoria; Mr. H. M. Rolland, Victoria; Dr. G. Simpson, Victoria; Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard, South Australia; Rev. H. D. McAndrew, Western Australia; Rev. L. G. K. Blanchard, N.S.W.; Mr. D. G. Wyles, N.S.W.; and Miss W. Strachan, senior member of the Melbourne office team, represented the voluntary workers throughout Australia.

The huge gathering of people, made up of pastoralists and their families from all over the inland, old-timers from our own settlement, friends of the Mission from all over Australia, and almost the entire local population, created a sight in Alice Springs which probably will be unique in its history. A particular feature was the presence of the native choir from Ernabella of the Presbyterian Board of Missions. This choir, under the leadership of the Rev. R. M. Trudinger, led in praise when the doors of the church were flung open. A colour film entitled "Deep in the Heart" has been produced by the A.I.M. Board, portraying the dramatic story of the opening of the church and it is now being circulated in the different States.

During the building of the church, the A.I.M. Superintendent, Rev. J. F. McKay, acted as liaison between the Board, architect and builders involving supervision at the main points—Sydney, Adelaide and Alice Springs—and represented invaluable work in seeing that the contract ran smoothly, resulting in economy in expenditure and the hastening of the completion of the project.

The complete cost of the John Flynn Memorial Church, with all furnishings, amounted to £40,895, and the purchase of the manse next door to the church involved a further expenditure of £10,193. A total amount of £35,981 was raised in the John Flynn Memorial Church Appeal. The A.I.M. Board records its deep appreciation to the hundreds of people within Australia, who by their gifts and talents assisted in the erection of this unique memorial, and pays due tribute to the architect, Mr. A. A. Philpot, and builders, Messrs. J. A. Richards & Son. On Friday evening preceding the opening ceremony, the Superintendent unveiled the plaque in the Pioneers' Memorial Garden, where rest the ashes of James Alfred Richards, the contractor who was killed in the John Flynn Church during building operations on 16th August, 1955.

The first service of worship within the John Flynn Church was a Presbyterian one, conducted by the Convener, Rev. J. Gray Robertson, O.B.E., B.A., B.D., on Sunday morning, 6th May, 1956. The Moderator-General, the Right Rev. F. W. Rolland, preached the sermon, and the lessons were read by the Rev. E. H. McLean Shugg, Vice-Convener of the Board, and by the Right Honourable R. G. Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia. The ex-Moderator-General and all State Moderators present were also associated with the conduct of the service. It is estimated that 1,000 people took part in this worship, most of whom were gathered outside where amplifiers were erected.

On the evening of Sunday, 6th May, 1956, your Convener, as Chairman of the United Church Board, presided at the inaugural service within the John Flynn Memorial Church of the United Church in North Australia. His Excellency the Governor-General of Australia, Sir William Slim, read the lesson. The Methodist Church of Australasia was represented by Rev. Dr. G. C. Barber, and the Congregational Union of Australia and New Zealand was represented by Rev. D. C. Ryan, both of whom delivered addresses to the congregation. The Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, the Right Rev. F. W. Rolland, acting on behalf of the General Assembly of Australia, after his address to the people, formally declared that the John Flynn Memorial Church was therefrom available for the worship of co-operating congregations working together within the United Church in North Australia. The Rev. A. W. Grant (Presbyterian Minister) and Rev. A. A. Quick (Methodist Minister) were presented to the Rev. J. Gray Robertson, who extended due welcome and solemnly set them apart in prayer. The A.I.M. Board desires to express gratitude to the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions for the presence of the Ernabella Mission Choir at all the services during the opening ceremony and for the part they played in the praise of the services.

So that this General Assembly of Australia will know the position relating to the John Flynn Memorial Church, the following statement is presented, extracted from the minutes of the A.I.M. Board:

- “1. The John Flynn Memorial Church was erected by the A.I.M. on behalf of and by authority of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, on the strict understanding that it should be Presbyterian property.
- “2. On the same understanding the John Flynn Memorial Church was erected and furnished by gifts in money and kind made by many donors throughout the Commonwealth and abroad.
- “3. The church, after being officially opened by the Governor-General, was dedicated accordingly by the Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- “4. The church is vested in the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, who act as Trustees for the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- “5. It was only after the considered opinion of the Procurator and Law Agent that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia agreed that no valid grounds existed why the John Flynn Memorial Church, a property of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, should not be used by co-operating congregations, and that the A.I.M. Board was both able and pleased to make the John Flynn Memorial Church available for the use of the congregation of the United Church in North Australia in Alice Springs, according to the principles of joint work as approved by the three denominations.”

It should also be reported that Alice Springs is not a regular parish of the Presbyterian Church, but is part of an area (the Northern Territory) which was placed in the hands of the A.I.M. and designated as a “special Home Mission area” by the General Assembly of Australia. Up to the present the John Flynn Memorial Church is a typical Missionary Church, the use of which is determined in relation to the needs of the area by the Mission Board whose commission it is to “bring the Christian influence to bear upon the dwellers and sojourners in the Northern Territory and Central Australia”; and the A.I.M. Board is responsible to the General Assembly of Australia in fulfilling this commission in the Northern Territory.

The United Church in North Australia

Pursuant to Minute 228 (B.B.), 1954, the A.I.M. Board has proceeded to give leadership within the Northern Territory in a comprehensive scheme of co-operative work. The pattern evolved by the Very Rev. Dr. John Flynn in

1940, whereby co-operative work has been carried on in Darwin for sixteen years, now operates throughout the whole Northern Territory. The United Church Board, which is a co-operative committee of the A.I.M. (Presbyterian), the Department of Overseas Missions (Methodist), Methodist Inland Mission and the Congregational Union, meets three times annually, so timed as to coincide with A.I.M. Board meetings, and this Committee supervises the joint work within the Northern Territory. The Rev. J. Gray Robertson has been Chairman of the United Church Board for a number of years. Principles of co-operation have been accepted by the United Church Board whereby in common agreement the total pastoral work is carried out in four main areas: (a) Alice Springs and patrol; (b) Tennant Creek Patrol; (c) Uranium Fields Patrol; (d) Darwin town. There are three ordained Presbyterian ministers and two ordained Methodist ministers in the co-operative team. Each minister retains the complete rights of his own denomination but conducts his pastoral work as part of a united witness. In Darwin, property is held under Trust Deed on behalf of the three co-operating congregations.

In addition to the co-operative work within the Northern Territory, the merger scheme between Presbyterians and Congregationalists at Kalgoorlie-Boulder has continued to produce satisfactory results. Rev. Harold Perkins completed his meritorious five-year appointment at Kalgoorlie, and was then translated to St. Kilda, Melbourne. The present appointee is a minister of the Congregational Church, Rev. H. W. Cater, who was invited from England to take up this special work. The inter-Church arrangement in South Australia continues without spectacular results, but with a steady witness at Leigh Creek Coalfield. Under the same scheme, a new church has been erected at Radium Hill, by the Interchurch Association, which was opened on the 10th August by the Very Rev. J. R. Blanchard, C.B.E., Chairman of the Association.

Port Moresby

In 1945 and again in 1948 the General Assembly of Australia authorized the Board to extend its activities to the people in the islands and dependencies north of Australia. The Board gave consideration in 1951 to providing contact with the scattered people in New Guinea and adjacent territories, but the difficulties of men and money made it impossible. However, in 1956 the problem was again faced, and at the request of the Ela Protestant Church the Board resolved to extend the pattern of work which has proved so successful at Darwin, to the township of Port Moresby. Accordingly, in consultation with the Methodist and Congregational Churches, the co-operative scheme has been extended in Port Moresby where the A.I.M. will bear one-third of the cost in a five-year programme of church development. A manse is being built at Boroko, and the Congregational Church has been invited to nominate the first minister.

Incorporation in Northern Territory

In order to comply with Northern Territory legislation in connection with a long-term special purposes lease for the Old-Timers' Settlement at Alice Springs, and to provide security for subsidy from the Commonwealth Social Services Department, it was necessary for the Board to take urgent steps to apply for the incorporation of the A.I.M. within the Northern Territory. The name, object and purposes of the mission were filed in the memorandum of incorporation as shown in the constitution referred to in another section of this report.

Constitution of the A.I.M.

A meeting of the full Board of the A.I.M. held in Sydney on 17th July, 1957, gave detailed consideration to the constitution of the A.I.M. In view of the extraordinary expenses involved in convening full meetings of the Board under the constitution which was proposed at the 1951 General Assembly, it was resolved to reconsider this whole matter and present to the General Assembly now in session the following proposed constitution, which reduces the number of membership to twenty-two.

1. There shall be a Special Committee of the General Assembly of Australia entitled The Australian Inland Mission Board, responsible for the management of the Australian Inland Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

2. The functions of the Board shall be to promote the spiritual, social and general welfare of the people who live in the Inland and remote areas of the Commonwealth of Australia,

and to co-operate, where possible, with State Home Mission Committees for the Home Mission work of the Commonwealth, and where necessary with the Board of Missions.

The sphere of its work is the whole of the Northern Territory, and in the States to boundaries determined by agreement with the respective State Home Mission Committees; and also in Islands adjacent to Australia.

Membership.

3. (a) The Board shall consist of twenty-two members to be nominated by the existing Board and elected by the General Assembly as follows:

- (i) A Convener who shall be appointed from N.S.W.
- (ii) A Vice-Convener who shall be appointed from Victoria and shall preferably be a member of its Home Mission Committee.
- (iii) Additional State members as follows: Six from N.S.W., four from Victoria, two from Queensland, two from South Australia, two from Western Australia and one from Tasmania.
- (iv) The following ex officio members: The Superintendent, the General Secretary and the Treasurer.

(b) In nominating members from N.S.W., Queensland and Victoria, the Board shall include the Superintendent or Director of Home Missions in the said States.

(c) The Convener and Vice-Convener shall be elected at each General Assembly and be eligible for re-election.

(d) The Board shall meet at least three times each year.

(e) Alternates may be appointed to keep State-representation up to strength at any meeting.

Executive.

4. The N.S.W. members of the Board with the Superintendent, General Secretary and Treasurer shall constitute the Executive, which shall be responsible to the Board for its actions. The Executive shall normally meet monthly.

**Convener &
Vice-
Convener.**

5. The Convener shall preside at all meetings of the Board and its Executive. In his absence from Board meetings the Vice-Convener shall preside. In the absence of both, the Board shall appoint its own Chairman for that meeting. In the absence of the Convener from a meeting of the Executive, the members present shall appoint their own Chairman.

In the event of extended absence of the Convener, he shall apply for leave of absence to the Board, which shall appoint an Acting-Convener of the Executive.

Vacancies.

6. Any vacancies occurring between meetings of the General Assembly shall be filled by the Board, which shall receive and deal with any resignations from the Board or its Executive.

**The Super-
intendent.**

7. (a) The Superintendent shall be a minister in full standing with the Presbyterian Church of Australia. He shall be appointed by the General Assembly of Australia for a period of six years terminable by six months' notice on either side, and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(b) His duties shall be to have oversight of the total work of the A.I.M. and to implement the policy of the Board.

(c) All matters affecting policy shall be brought by the Superintendent to the Board, and, if possible, he should confer beforehand with the Convener.

After decisions of the Board or its Executive he shall confer with the Convener in the implementation of such policy.

(d) The Superintendent shall report to all stated meetings of the Board and Executive and, unless absent from the place of meeting due to his duties, he shall be in attendance.

(e) Office accommodation shall be provided for the Superintendent, who shall have full use of the Office facilities, and access to all documents, ledgers, accounts, and correspondence in connection with the work of the Office of the A.I.M.

(f) In regard to his movements as Superintendent to any part of the Field or Interstate City he shall exercise discretionary powers. In special cases he shall proceed according to the direction of the Board or its Executive, at all times keeping the Convener advised of his movements and whereabouts.

(g) The Superintendent shall confer with, advise and encourage members of the Staff of the A.I.M. in the Field, and be the liaison between them and the A.I.M. Board and its Executive. Normally communications from the Board to the Field Staff shall go out through the Superintendent.

8. The appointments of General Secretary, Treasurer, or other executive officers shall be made by the Board. **Appointments.**

9. The General Secretary shall perform the normal duties of a Secretary, at all times in close co-operation with the Convener and the Superintendent. **General Secretary.**

10. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping all ledgers, cash books, and banking records, receive all moneys, and pay all accounts, and must submit statements thereon for confirmation. He shall advise the Board, Convener and Superintendent on the financial position of the A.I.M., and report to all meetings of the Board and Executive on the financial aspects of the work." **Treasurer.**

Federal Home Mission Work

The A.I.M. has continued to subsidize the pastoral work of the following places in Western Australia: Bunbury, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, Boulder. At Carnarvon and Boulder the A.I.M. has regularly appointed Home Missionaries on its staff. At Mount Isa in Queensland, Rev. W. S. McPheat, an A.I.M. Patrol Padre, has been appointed, and a programme of work is under way whereby in three years this frontier parish will be a regular sanctioned charge of the Queensland Church, working under a modified scheme related to its geographical setting.

The problem which is being tackled by the A.I.M. at the present moment in this field relates basically to the strategy to be employed in co-ordinating "special Home Mission work" (including patrol work) with that of the normal Home Mission Stations. Rev. W. S. McPheat in Mount Isa is making special research on this problem, and whereas there is no standard solution, certain planned strategy needs to be evolved so that all gains can be duly consolidated and brought into working relationship with State Assemblies.

An addendum report gives a summary of State Home Mission activities which are of special interest from a Federal point of view.

Financial

The period under review has been one of the most demanding in the whole history of the Mission. This situation was largely created by the capital outlay in connection with building projects in Alice Springs. It should be noted that the total accounting for the supply of all materials for the building of the John Flynn Memorial Church was handled by our own staff members and that the contract for the building of the church was for labour only. Although this necessitated an extraordinary amount of detailed work, made more difficult by the long line of communication, the financial statements were all carried out according to schedule and the final outlay was reduced by a considerable sum. Total amount of capital outlay in Alice Springs, including church and manse, was £51,086. An additional item of capital expenditure in Alice Springs was in connection with the building of several new cottages at the Old-Timers' Homes. Moreover, the cost of providing seven new vehicles, transceiver sets, projectors and other equipment, in addition to the heavy costs of reconditioning and maintaining trucks and vehicles, and of increased salaries, has imposed a more than proportionate load on the resources of the Mission during the last three years. The main financial problems facing the A.I.M. at the present are:

- (a) Greatly increased expenditure for straight-out maintenance of essential work with no indication of a commensurate increase in regular income.
- (b) Certain developments which are taking place concurrently, and which are presenting the Mission with inescapable challenges in so far as capital outlay is concerned, such as Coen Hospital, Nursing Wing at the Old-Timers' Homes, Far North Extensions.

The A.I.M. Board desires to emphasize to the Assembly that reserve funds are so depleted that it is impossible for the Mission to face up to new and heavy responsibilities without special appeals to the whole Church, and to people beyond the Church. The Board, as in the past, expresses its willingness to accept responsibility for raising adequate funds within Australia,

provided the Assembly grants the charter to prosecute approved appeals in all parts of the Commonwealth.

A study of the statement of revenue and expenditure and balance sheet will reveal the present position. It will be noted that there are considerable funds in the specific fund account which are not available for use in activities which come within the present scope of the Mission.

Superintendent

Rev. J. F. McKay has completed his first term of appointment of six years, and during that time has given the kind of leadership which has made the period one of the greatest in the recent history of the Mission. It can be safely claimed that all the practical and down-to-earth work in connection with the building of the John Flynn Memorial Church, was done by Mr. McKay, and he is the integrating force in all the field activity of the Mission. The Board unanimously recommends the reappointment of Rev. J. F. McKay for a further term of six years.

J. GRAY ROBERTSON, Convener.

Superintendent's Report

New Era in the North

Some critics maintain that north Australia has never been explored. The truth is, a new and incredible era is here. Whereas, up to these present tumultuous days, north Australia has given the impression of being an "outsider" in the scheme of things, now the time has come when fresh world thought-forms are compelling us to take sober stock of the peculiar resources of our erstwhile despised areas. Uranium and aluminium ores are not new discoveries, but they have assumed a new and revolutionary place in present-day thinking and economy. Which means that north Australia, henceforth, must have an indisputable place in the pattern of our total life.

There is no doubt that we are at the beginning of another pioneering age—and, as far as Australia is concerned, all alert eyes are turning to the area north of Capricorn, where once it was imagined that not even white man could reasonably exist. This is how the wheel of change seems to move; and the frantic search for "new era" materials is progressively revealing just how dramatically north Australia is adapted for its tremendous future role.

He is a dull soul who does not thrill to the possibilities of the mineral wealth in the whole stretch of country from Rum Jungle, Pine Creek, Tennant Creek, the South Alligator, Borroloola, the Roper, down to Mount Isa, Mary Kathleen, and up to Weipa. There is something in this sweep of the north which throbs with new life, waiting to be born.

Every "watcher of the skies" will also share the pioneering zest in the search for oil. It is more than a fever which is sending prospecting parties and drilling companies into Exmouth, Derby, Cape York and New Guinea.

Side by side with this "new life movement" is the stolid application of science and skill to agricultural projects, on the Fitzroy, and at Humpty Doo; and never before has there been such alertness in the pastoral field. The "red water" line is now a salutary safeguard for Centralian beef and store cattle. Annual stud bull sales in Alice Springs are at last established, and cattlemen in the Barkly and Kimberleys are entering into a new phase of herd and beef production.

The significant thing is that it is already evident that, in this new phase, the former pioneering methods are not only radically changed, but have almost disappeared. Pioneering with pick and shovel, and with horse and bullock-teams, does not fit into the modern context. Nowadays, four-wheel-drive vehicles, heavy mechanized equipment and helicopters are almost as normal in the untamed north as kangaroos.

Which all means a disturbing yet stimulating "call to arms" for the Church. We cannot afford just to amble along while our industrial contemporaries race forward looking back over their shoulders.

Moreover, the A.I.M. would be totally lacking in vision if it were not prepared to acknowledge its historical function in such a situation. For surely, the charter of our Mission has always been to give leadership in interpreting the Gospel in the context of the Inland.

Our colleagues of the Foreign Mission Department are beginning to apply themselves to the complete reconstruction of policies at Weipa—and we sensitively share with them this adventurous romance for the good of the aboriginal people. For it is obvious that the bauxite development must veritably introduce a complex age, as full of danger as of bounty, for these Stone-Age citizens.

But the task of the A.I.M. remains bracingly indefinable. For, wherever pioneers go, in the whole far-reaching regions of the Inland, and the north, the A.I.M. must either be there before them or, at the worst, travel out in their company—and, at all points cogently represent the Gospel in action. This means that it is our responsibility to be a kind of prophetic “geiger counter”, indicating to all comers that nothing in the wide world is unrelated to the Spirit.

The next decade will determine whether we are of sufficient stuff to meet this challenge—and whether we are really prepared for the ashes out of which come glory.

The startling possibilities are breathtaking—and if solid thinking and praying can accompany our sacrificial working, then we stand the chance not only of integrating a total and relevant faith and life in north Australia, but also of showing that the Church is most truly the Church when it accepts the mission of a servant.

Need for Modifications in Patrol Policy

As the A.I.M. gives itself more completely to the task of co-ordinating its patrol work with regular Home Mission work in the outlying areas, it becomes more evident how difficult it is to bridge a gap which has been neglected so long. This applies particularly in Queensland and Western Australia, and even in the far west of New South Wales. It is unfortunate that some of the good pastoral and agricultural areas have been looked upon as too far out for Home Mission work, and too close in for A.I.M. work. This situation again calls for a specialized strategy whereby regular coverage can be guaranteed in settlements and townships where a “patrolling ministry” is not adequate. The patrol system of pastoral work will remain a distinctive feature of A.I.M. activity for long years to come, but in certain growing communities a modified approach is already becoming urgently necessary so that hard-won gains can be duly consolidated. A suggested scheme for “inland chaplains” with Home Mission status, working under the interim-moderatorship of the patrol padre, will probably be presented to the Board for consideration in 1958.

Field Administration

With greater concentration of A.I.M. activities in all the major areas, it is becoming increasingly necessary to bring ordained ministerial staff into more direct relation with the administration of the Mission. It is hoped that it will not be long before patrol padres will have regular representation on the A.I.M. Board and also that regional padres’ conferences can evolve recommended field policies for presentation to the Board.

Itineraries and Duties

The following is a summary of activities for the period 1954-7: Office work, Sydney, 66 weeks; special work in Alice Springs, 78 weeks; deputation and field visits, etc., 12 weeks.

The responsibilities connected with the building of the John Flynn Memorial Church occupied constant months of work in the period 1954-6. These duties entailed:

- (a) Preliminary work of preparations on site, removal of former building and of trees, erection of work sheds for contractors.
- (b) Supervision of quarrying of building stone in Strangway Ranges, 70 miles from Alice Springs, and of cartage and crushing.
- (c) Arrangement of transport of cement, steel, joinery, roofing material, furnishings and equipment from Adelaide.
- (d) Issuing of all building materials, including sand, gravel, building stone, etc., to contractors on regularized invoice system.
- (e) Supervision of all sections of work, not included in contract, including fencing, paths, gardens, lawns, outdoor pulpit and forecourt, all furnishings, painting.
- (f) Payment of sub-contractors, time-keeping of general workmen.
- (g) General supervision of whole contract.
- (h) Supervision of all plaques and general preparations for opening ceremony.
- (i) Supervision of erection of six new cottages at Old-Timers’ Settlement.

Whilst the building projects in Alice Springs were in progress, appeals were carried out by letter, personal deputation, and through “Frontier News” for the John Flynn Building Fund, and in this way an additional £16,000 was raised.

Visits were paid to the Victorian Assembly (October 1954), New South Wales Assembly (May 1955, May 1957), Queensland Assembly (May 1955), West Australian Assembly (May 1956) and Tasmanian Assembly (March 1957). Field visits have been paid to Radium Hill, Oodnadatta, Darwin (4), Katherine, Rum Jungle, Tennant Creek (2), Mount Isa (2), Weipa, Coen and Cooktown, Canberra (3), Cairns and Townsville. Other duties have included the production of three issues of the "Frontier News" and other publicity, assistance in the production of three films, organizing of trip of Her Excellency Lady Slim to the Inland, launching of the Far North Children's Health Scheme, various church services, public meetings and film evenings.

Appreciation

At the conclusion of my six-year appointment I desire to express sincere gratitude for the co-operation of Board Members and Field Staff, as well as the understanding assistance given by Mrs. Flynn and the voluntary teams in all States. Let me also acknowledge the deep sense of missionary dedication displayed by Mrs. McKay and our children as they willingly shared the sacrifice of long periods of separation.

FRED MCKAY, Superintendent.

Addendum Report

State Home Missions

Home Mission work in the States includes a considerable amount of Church Extension besides maintaining the witness of the Presbyterian Church in areas not strong enough to sustain a full charge. New centres of population created by Government housing schemes or by free enterprise building are keeping the Church alive to its task of outreach. The beneficial effects of stewardship campaigns is being evidenced; nevertheless, Home Mission departments are still obliged to practise economies. Man-power shortages are ever with us but some progress is noted in every State.

(a) Victoria

Home Mission work in Victoria includes a considerable amount of Church Extension. While holding the position in old static stations, we have been confronted with new centres of population, created artificially by our Government Housing Commission throughout the State, and other areas, especially around our metropolis, where private development has followed naturally on our increase in population.

Around the metropolis we have thirty new Causes and, in addition, have ten new sites obtained which, in the near future, will be occupied by young congregations.

In the country there are eighteen new congregations.

Some of these new congregations founded since the conclusion of the war are already full charges.

The development has been accentuated by stewardship campaigns in our older established charges, which make assistance to new causes (generally specified) one objective. This sponsoring has occurred already in twelve instances, with help varying from £100 to £1,000, and aid also with workers and payment for the stipend of Home Mission assistants or deaconesses. In the country sponsoring has been even more liberal. One "mother" congregation has paid £5,236 for building, plus £1,022 for land, and also is paying the stipend of a student assistant at £637 per annum.

Both man-power and finance are problems for the Home Mission Committee. We have found "retired" ministers ready and able to undertake the care of young congregations. Their experience and powers of leadership have proved invaluable in Church Extension. Finance has been met with the aid of a reserve fund which the H.M.C. built up with foresight of post-war Church Extension and, as stated above, some strong congregations have rendered practical assistance, in addition to their contributions for Home Missions through the budget.

We have made no reference to South Australia or Tasmania, though they along with Victoria are regarded as one field by our Committee for both financial grants and provision of man-power.

Our total staff at the present time is 66 in Home Missions stations, plus 30 special charges which we subsidize.

(b) South Australia

It was a matter of great satisfaction that the Assembly resolved that the union with Victoria should be continued for a further period of ten years. The continued interest of the Victorian Assembly through its Home

Mission Committee has meant that the whole Church in South Australia has been given an opportunity to become stabilized.

At present there are two Home Mission stations in South Australia, one of which is vacant (Walleroo), and the other is staffed by a candidate for the ministry. This latter station is in the new satellite town of Elizabeth, and the Presbyterian Church had the honour of being the first denomination to conduct regular services of worship in the new town. The minister at Port Adelaide is assisted by another candidate for the ministry, whose main work is at Largs North. At the end of 1956 the income at Largs North was about £100 p.a., and its communicant membership was two. Following on a stewardship and lay evangelism programme, the income increased to £900 p.a., and the number of communicants to 50. No sanctioned charges are staffed by Home Missionaries.

The number of charges being assisted by grant from the Victorian, South Australian, and C. D. Lloyd funds, is being steadily reduced because of the impact of stewardship, and the communicant membership of the same charges has shown a phenomenal growth following lay evangelism. The general feeling in South Australia is one of great optimism.

(c) Tasmania

In Tasmania the Home Mission Auxiliary has a three-fold task. In the first place it has the task of maintaining our Presbyterian witness in outlying areas, such as Stanley, Gladstone, Queenstown, and assisting older congregations which now find it difficult to exist—Deloraine, Swansea. During the period under review, we have paid in grants about £1,000 per year to our Home Mission stations to assist with stipends and travelling allowances. Much of this money has come from Victoria, but in April 1957, Tasmania took over all the Home Mission grants from Victoria and is now paying its own way. We feel that this is a big step forward. The eight Home Mission stations are Deloraine, Swansea, West Tamar, Lilydale, Queenstown, North Launceston, Gladstone and Stanley.

The second task is that of Church Extension—the opening up of new causes in the rapidly expanding areas around Hobart, Launceston, Burnie, and Devonport. Land has been purchased in new suburbs and already Sunday Schools have commenced in some of these areas. The Home Mission Auxiliary assists in the purchasing of land and with the establishment of new causes.

The third part of our work is the witness of our Church in the hydro-electric areas in central Tasmania. The work commenced in 1950 and is being carried on by the Rev. A. Solomon, who is the minister of Bothwell and H. E. C. area. He visits five hydro construction camps and villages and preaches the Gospel, visits the people and gives religious instruction in the schools. The Home Mission Auxiliary assists with a grant for travelling.

There is an awakening in the Tasmanian Church and our own young men are now coming forward to accept the challenge of Christ.

(d) New South Wales

The expansion and development throughout the State have continued during the past three years, and have confronted the Department with a serious challenge. The resources at the disposal of the Committee to meet the opportunity have become exhausted and the Church faces a grave situation. The growth of new suburbs and new housing areas continues and our young people perforce are making their homes in these areas. Unless our Church is able to establish itself where our young people are, the future progress of our Church must be disquieting. The developmental progress of the State shows little signs of abating and the possibility of consolidation is remote, unless it is decreed that no further extension can be attempted. The Committee faces serious shortages in man-power and in money.

The staff is approximately the same as three years ago; unfortunately during the recent months losses from the service have been heavier than usual, while the increasing number of vacant charges has made heavy demands upon our man-power. The Assembly in May 1957 realized the urgent need to secure a much greater flow of students for the ministry, and there are encouraging signs of an awakening in this respect, but the problem of meeting the immediate crisis remains. To meet the crisis the Committee has sponsored an overture for a shortened course which is to be considered by the Assembly. The demands of the course itself, particularly the requirements of Entrance, have added to the difficulties of the Committee.

The positions regarding the staffing of frontier charges has improved, and there is a proposal to place the work of the Far West—based on Ivanhoe—under the care of the A.I.M. For two years a deaconess, Mrs. K. Browning,

has represented the Church at Cobar and the results of her work in that town and in the vast area of the station, have been encouraging.

The work in the Snowy Mountain area has developed considerably and for the past three years the Rev. J. H. Morrison has been the minister of the Snowy-West Monaro Charge, a venture in which the Maintenance of the Ministry and Home Mission Committees have united to give considerable financial support.

At the request of the Canberra Executive, the Federal Capital Territory was visited by the Superintendent in May 1957, and a report on Church extension needs was submitted to the Executive.

Two Dutch ministers who arrived in the country have been settled in parishes and the Committee has subsidized the work of Dutch and Hungarian ministers to enable work among migrants to be effected. Rev. Lajos Bescke, who has ministered faithfully to the Hungarian community for a number of years, left Australia in January 1957 to accept a call in Canada.

The Committee during the past three years has supervised the work of pulpit supply, and approximately 40 vacancies confront the Committee with serious problems.

The financial problems of the Committee have been exceptionally difficult. The accumulated deficit has risen to £11,000, a result due on the one hand to insufficient income from congregations through the budget, and on the other hand, to the increased amounts granted for subsidies, heavy removal expenses and the burden of interest borne by the Department for Extension work.

The amounts outstanding to the Department on the purchase of sites, and the erection of churches, halls and manses, exceed £150,000 and the Trustees are not prepared to make any further advances. During the past three years, six stations have been advanced to full status, but in addition a number of vacant charges temporarily staffed by missionaries have inducted ministers. The number of new Home Mission stations created is 15, the total reaching 75, while a number of assistantships have been added. In addition, 14 new congregations have been established.

In spite of the financial stringency, 6 churches, 27 halls and 8' manses have been erected, while an additional 22 sites have been acquired. Some sites have been sold advantageously.

The appeal for £100,000 for Church Extension did not reach expectations while the amount gained from legacies has not been as large in past years.

Though the problems confronting the Committee are many and serious, a growing awareness on the part of the Church to the vital need for Church Extension, an awakened determination to secure students for the ministry, and the encouraging success of various stewardship campaigns in Home Mission stations as well as parishes, give hope for the future.

(e) Queensland

A survey of the comparative strength of Home Mission work in the eastern States of Australia in relation to sanctioned charges emphasizes the tremendous importance of Home Mission for our Queensland Church. The Queensland Church is able to maintain its witness throughout a vast area only by the maintenance of a team of home missionaries whose numerical strength in relation to ordained ministers in charges at the time of writing is in the proportion of eight ministers to over five missionaries. Undoubtedly Queensland is, and will remain, a Home Mission Church unless there is a very steep increase in the recruitment of students for the ministry. In view of this large proportion of missionaries in relation to ordained ministers it follows that sanctioned charges must bear a far greater weight of financial responsibility towards Home Mission extension than the other two eastern sister States, for the following two reasons:

- (a) The Queensland Home Mission Department is practically dependent on the Budget for the payment of subsidized stipends, and
- (b) a lesser number of sanctioned charges must carry a greater number of Home Mission stations.

The two most significant trends in the work of Home Missions in Queensland over the last three years has been the splendid rate of recruitment since Assembly 1956 and the success that has attended stewardship campaigns directed by the Wells Church Fund Raising Organizations.

Staff Recruitment.—For the twelve months ending May 1955 there were five resignations and five recruitments. For the year 1956 there was one resignation and one recruit. Faced with a very difficult staff problem at the beginning of 1956, the Committee on Home Missions recommended to the

Assembly the division of missionaries into two classifications: (a) student missionaries, who would be guaranteed a minimum stipend of £7/10/- per week in the southern area, £8 in the central area and £8/10/- in the northern and western zones; (b) non-student missionaries, the current basic wage with a manse or the manse allowance adopted by the Board of Finance. This classification was approved by the Assembly which called for a constant drive by ministers and elders for a recruitment of experienced married laymen for the important task of Home Missions. The Committee informed the Assembly that eleven men were required urgently to maintain the work, 25 for positive extension. Since May 1956, sixteen new men have been appointed to the staff with a loss of five through termination of the services of some and the resignation of others. The Committee has made a net gain of eleven men. The response from the Church to this appeal has been most heartening. It is confidently anticipated that as the rate continues the Committee will be able to embark on a constructive programme of extension.

Stewardship Campaigns.—The story of the stewardship campaigns directed by the Wells Church Fund Raising Organization in five Home Mission charges is phenomenal and most encouraging. Before the canvasses each charge was finding it difficult to meet the stipend of the missionary. In one charge the stipend was being heavily subsidized from the budget, whilst in two other charges the Committee of Management was dependent upon the success of an annual fete to meet the missionary's stipend. In the three country charges the Home Mission Committee has been relieved of any financial responsibility in subsidizing the stipend of the non-student missionaries because stewardship has enabled the Committee of Management to meet the current basic wage without difficulty. The outstanding charge was that of Callide Valley, where two years ago the Committee was struggling to meet the minimum stipend of £6 per week to the married missionary. The financial objective set for the canvass was £12,000 over three years. The canvass was finished with £17,000 promised. The charge is moving forward to the implementation of building projects in an extensive area, undreamed of before the stewardship canvass. Inspired by the success attending these five Home Mission charges, other congregations are giving serious attention to the possibility of engaging in similar campaigns.

Faced with the prospect of more and more charges tapping the financial potential within their bounds, and confident that more and more missionaries will offer for the service of the Master, the Committee on Home Missions in Queensland is seeking to formulate plans on a high policy level that will bring cohesive unity to the important work of Church extension in the State.

Extension.—New work commenced in Queensland is as follows: The creation of a new Home Mission charge of Blackall-Barcaldine following the appointment of an experienced missionary to Blackall; new work was begun at Inala which promises to be a satellite city ten miles from Brisbane; Harristown, Toowoomba; South Maroochy; whilst an extra Home Mission charge was formed in Brisbane by the disjunction of two preaching places into two Home Mission charges. The Committee is giving serious consideration to the need of carrying the Church's witness to areas between the bounds of sanctioned charges beyond the thickly populated fringe of our eastern coastline and between the patrol areas of the A.I.M. padres. These are vacuum areas demanding a new approach. Either the Home Mission Committee must challenge young ordained ministers to give themselves for a limited period to this work, or else the Committee must commission a special order of home missionaries for this urgent unique work. The response of pioneer Presbyterian families to the Church in the extension work commenced during the last year is vocal testimony of the fact that Presbyterian families have remained loyal for many years even though the Church has apparently neglected them. There are many other loyal Presbyterians still awaiting the entry of our Church into country long possessed by their pioneer forefathers. Too few missionaries, too little finance may be too late in the not too distant future. An urgent challenge is being sounded out to a Church that must be more adventurous in the Kingdom of God.

Seized with the importance of manning strategic vacant sanctioned and strong Home Mission charges in the far north and the far west which in the opinion of the Committee and Presbytery could proceed to an early call, the Committee prepared an overture to the 1956 Assembly seeking for power to direct licentiates into such charges for a period of one year's service after exit examinations. The overture was not sustained.

Changes in Financial Policy.—Extensive alterations to the regulations of the Home Mission Committee were made by the 1955 Assembly following

acceptance of a vital change in the financial policy recommended by the Committee. Before 1955 Assembly, local Committees were required to forward to the Home Mission Committee all moneys received from ordinary revenue in order to meet the cost of the home missionary's salary. Believing that this discouraged local committees in a positive reorganization of their finances through straight-out giving and encouraged them to emphasize more and more the raising of finances through special efforts, the Committee formulated new regulations. These were approved by the Assembly and as a consequence the initiative for the raising of finances for work of Home Missions rests now with the Committee on Home Missions and local Committees of Management. The Home Mission Committee sets the contribution to be paid by the Committee of Management towards the home missionary's salary. It may be more or less than the minimum stipend guaranteed by the Church. Provided the Committee of Management meets this set contribution, all surplus money can be used for capital expenditure provided congregational approval has been granted. In the main this financial policy has proved most beneficial, particularly in those charges where committees of management have been most active in the reorganization of their finances.

Preaching Supply.—In 1955 supply fees were revised for occasional supply. The preaching fee for ordained ministers was raised from not less than £5/5/- per Sunday to £6/6/- and for home missionaries and students in theology from £4 to £5 per Sunday with fares to and from the place supplied, with hospitality provided. Congregations paying stipends of £100 per annum above the regional minimum are required to pay an additional £1/1/- per Sunday.

The Dual Office of Secretary for Aboriginal and Foreign Missions and Director of Home Missions.—The Committees on Aboriginal and Foreign Missions and Home Missions met in joint conference in February 1957. Complete unanimity was reached on the desirability of terminating the dual office as early as possible with a view to the appointment of one man as Secretary of Aboriginal and Foreign Missions and another as Director of Home Missions. A special report of the joint committees is being prepared for the 1957 Assembly. The clauses in the deliverance seek for a variation of the terms of the present appointment of the Rev. J. R. Sweet as Secretary of Aboriginal and Foreign Missions and Director of Home Missions as from 31st August, 1957, by his appointment as Secretary of Aboriginal and Foreign Missions as from 1st September, 1957, until 31st October, 1958, and for the appointment of a Director of Home Missions as from 1st September, 1957.

Chaplaincy to Institutions.—The Rev. Malcolm McDermant concluded his second five-year appointment as Chaplain to Institutions as at 31st December, 1956. He has been appointed for a further two years. The Committee on Home Missions with whom the Queensland Assembly has entrusted the responsibility of seeking for an adequate ministry to institutions, has become increasingly aware of the physical impossibility of one chaplain maintaining an adequate ministry to the hospitals, gaols and aged homes of the Brisbane metropolitan area. It is the policy of the Home Mission Committee to appoint a man of adequate training and of suitable gifts as a minister to the Goodna-Redbank Home Mission Charge so that he might be responsible for the chaplaincy of the Goodna Mental Asylum.

Psychiatric Clinic to the Mentally Ill.—Some attention has been given to the need for the creation of a psychiatric clinic composed of ministers and Christian doctors who could bring all their skill and experience to bear on a ministry of preventive healing to men and women temporarily deranged as a result of mental stress and wrong emotional attitudes. The 1956 Assembly accepted the recommendation of the Committee in the appointing of a special committee to investigate the possibility of creating such a clinic in Brisbane.

Church Ministry to the Dutch.—With a steady influx of Dutch Presbyterian migrants into Queensland, the Church has been conscious of the need of a Dutch chaplain to exercise a ministry to migrants on their arrival at the migrant centre of Wacol and to maintain a liaison between them as they settle in the State and the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. In 1954 it was resolved that a Dutch chaplain should be appointed to the Dutch congregation in Queensland. Accordingly with the demission of the Rev. J. Van de Meene from the Toowong Charge he was inducted by the Presbytery of Brisbane into the Dutch congregation in Queensland on 22nd December, 1954. The Home Mission Committee nominated another young Dutch minister in the person of the Rev. J. C. G. Fischer early in 1955. Mr. Fischer arrived in Queensland in July of the same year and after serving acceptably in a Home Mission appointment on the Darling Downs, he was called to Redcliffe,

Brisbane. With the residence of two Dutch ministers in Brisbane it is now possible for one of them to engage on an itinerant ministry from time to time throughout the State, whilst the other is available for urgent pastoral needs within the metropolis.

The New Course.—The University of Queensland provides a diploma of divinity course for students who are recommended by the Faculty of Theology as students for the ministry, even though they have not obtained matriculation. Naturally the Faculty is anxious to encourage unmatriculated students to avail themselves of this special course. This of course is the most important reason why no student for the ministry in Queensland since the beginning of the new course has been graded as an extra-mural student for the first three years of the preparatory course in training. Circumstances over the initial transitional period from the old to the new course have enabled the Home Mission Committee to co-operate with the Faculty in this policy, however it is recognized that the requirements of such a more academic course is making a heavier demand upon the student missionaries and consequently the Home Mission charges being served by these student missionaries are receiving less attention in the important pastoral ministry. The Committee on Home Missions, the Committee on Theological Education and the student missionaries find themselves dissatisfied with the division of loyalties demanded from student missionaries. Further, the Committee on Home Missions has emphasized to the Queensland Assembly that a system of student assistantships which requires a student to serve four years in the metropolitan area and two in the country must break down over a period of years. Under the old Home Mission course, the proportion of three years in the country and three in the metropolitan area made administration easier. The change from four years in the metropolitan area and two in the country, must lead inevitably to one unfortunate result, viz. the creation of more Home Mission charges in Brisbane, the closing down of more and more in the country unless the two Assembly Committees can resolve the problem by the Committee on Theological Education obtaining sufficient finance to encourage more and more students to study full time, whilst the Home Mission Committee can recruit more non-student missionaries. Another alternative, of course, would be change in the policy now being followed in Queensland to enable married student missionaries to follow an extra-mural course for the three years of the preparatory course of training. Only time will indicate whether this will be necessary. The important determining factor may be the number of single men offering for the ministry as against the number of married men entering the Home Mission service and seeking to study for the ministry. Of the 16 recruits since May 1956, all are married except one widower, eight are non-students, whilst the remaining eight have signified their desire to study for the ministry.

Faced with pressure of these practical problems the Home Mission Committee recommended to the 1956 Assembly the creation of a special committee who could investigate the problems of the two committees with objective thinking with a view to bringing some constructive policy before the 1957 Assembly for consideration.

(f) **Western Australia**

Since the 1954 General Assembly there has been a distinct change for the better in the general situation in Western Australia, although this may not appear in particular statistics for another few years.

However, there are now 24 charges, including two special (i.e. Church Extension) charges and the united congregations at Kalgoorlie and Bunbury (the latter of which is occupied by a Presbyterian minister), against 19 charges in 1954. All are settled except two, and in one case a minister is under call from abroad. This is the first time for many years that such a situation has prevailed in the West.

There are nine Home Mission stations against six in 1954, whilst other extension work is being developed within the context of various charges, with the help of Home Missionary assistance. Of these Home Mission stations one is in the position of becoming a sanctioned charge, were a minister available, and another is rapidly approaching that position.

There are 14 Home Missionaries on the active staff, against eight in 1954. Of these, 11 are proceeding with the course of studies, and at least two, or perhaps three, other candidates who do not desire to undertake field work at this stage. In addition the admission of three further applicants is pending. Despite some losses the position shows a most encouraging improvement both in the number of men offering and in their quality. Already some of them have made a significant contribution in the field, in spite of lack of experience.

As criterion of a changing situation, several charges which in 1954 were in need of substantial financial assistance have become self-supporting; others, such as Narrogin, have progressed from being indigent Home Mission station to sustentation charges; and even former "preaching places", such as Kondinin in the country and Canning Bridge in the metropolitan area, have assumed similar stature. In addition, work long neglected through force of circumstances has been resumed and several new causes launched.

Another significant fact, although it is impossible to give statistical proof in this space, is that in practically every charge and Home Mission station throughout the field there are forward-looking plans afoot for the development of the means which will make possible a better witness. Much of this has been made possible by stewardship campaigns of one sort and another which, whilst not achieving the spectacular results experienced in other States, have nevertheless been modestly successful and the benefit of which is being felt either directly or indirectly in the Home Mission field.

Yet another criterion is in this: That during the three years under review two churches have been built in the Home Mission field, three hall-churches, and several others are in the advanced planning stage, and a number of manses have been acquired. In addition, a number of sites have been acquired, or are in the process of being acquired, for imminent future use.

In the forward movement indicated, two steps taken by the 1954 Assembly have been of vital importance. The *Emergency Fund* has enabled the Church in the West to undertake commitments in the country areas which must otherwise have been long deferred. The rehabilitation of Narrogin, the rapid development of Kondinin, the extension of promising work from Albany, the resumption of work in the Northam and Merredin areas, all owe much to this help.

Secondly, the appointment of the Commissioner for the A.I.M. (the Rev. H. D. McAndrew) has made available the guidance and help of experience in the country field a very necessary element in this scattered State, where important work must so often be given to inexperienced men and where proper moderatorial oversight and help is almost impossible to maintain.

For the practical help given thus, and for the moral stimulus afforded the local Church, our very sincere thanks is offered. It is evident that the continuance of this assistance for a little longer may see the Western Church in a far better position to face its own obligations adequately.

The encouraging assistance given also by the *Lloyd Bequest* Committee must be mentioned. The faith of those responsible for the administration of this fund means much, both practically and morally. We firmly believe that their faith will be justified in the result.

One indication that this is so is in the fact that the giving of the local Church to the cause of Home Missions has trebled in the past three years. There is every indication that this trend will continue, in spite of the fact that other heavy commitments, such as theological education and social services, are being very courageously shouldered.

Since the matter touches on future policy and planning for both the West Australian Assembly and the General Assembly of Australia, it appears to be timely to mention that some of the assumptions on which appeal was made to the 1954 Assembly have already been borne out by experience. The established fact that large-scale land settlement will be undertaken in the areas based on Esperance is a case in point. It is difficult to assess the implications of this experiment at this stage. The one thing certain is that they will be considerable. Then, in the second place, the topical discussion of the north-west and the possibility that another State may be created in that region, is another case in point. Such considerations may throw the emphasis on the future, and that in a day when there is so much to be done in the present. However, such challenging aspects of the gravitation to the West in national policy must be taken into account in the policy shaping of the Church. Inasmuch as one-third of Australia's land area is involved, there is surely an even sharper challenge to the National Church than in 1954—as well as to the Church in Western Australia.

It is difficult to state in words what may be, at any particular time, "the mood of a Church". However, it can be said that "the mood" of the Church in the West is one of optimism. There is much actual building and there is much looking ahead. During the past three years there has been a growing sense of oneness with the National Church, stimulated by the interest shown in our necessities to some measure. There has also been a growing desire to attain the stage when the Church in Western Australia will no longer need to look for help to the east but rather play its full role, along with the National Church, in meeting the large-scale challenge which is developing on this seaboard.

Report of A.I.M. Commissioner to Western Australia, June 1957.—The appointment was taken up on 1st February, 1955, and by mutual arrangement between the A.I.M. Board and the W.A. Assembly a Field Committee, under the chairmanship of Rev. A. C. Eadie, Chairman of the Home Missions Council, was appointed to act with the Commissioner in relation to the field of operations.

Believing that the first task confronting home mission extension was to ensure that people nominally under pastoral care were being adequately tended, a co-ordinated plan of rehabilitation was adopted and pursued in the hope that from fields reclaimed it would be possible to follow leads into new areas.

The first phase involved the reorganization of the vacant home mission stations serving a 120-mile span of country from Williams eastwards through Narrogin and Yealering to East Kondinin. The area was divided into two with bases at Narrogin (serving Narrogin-Yearling) and Kondinin (serving Kondinin-Kulin and districts). Narrogin-Yealering was created a special charge, and under the ministry of Rev. J. F. Boon, who was appointed two years ago, the charge has progressed to the stage of becoming a sanctioned charge and calling its minister in its own right. A Home Missionary, Mr. J. Hamilton, was appointed to the Kondinin-Kulin Home Mission Station and consolidation of existing centres has proceeded together with extension into new important centres. In each case cars were purchased with Emergency Fund assistance, and repayments are being made. Last year the Kondinin folk erected a fine brick church, costing £4,300 finished, and more recently have disposed of the unsuitable cottage that served as a manse and bought an almost new commodious residence for £2,600. Narrogin are pressing on with a long-deferred plan to build a hall. The further subdivision of this field to make a third charge or station must be faced in the not distant future.

The importance of the hinterland of Albany demanded consideration, and conferences with the Session of the Albany Church resulted in that church accepting the oversight of the Plantagenet district covering the town of Mt. Barker and the adjacent districts of Kendenup and Carbarup. Formerly served on infrequent occasions by A.I.M. patrol, this district is responding well to the regular services conducted by the minister of Albany.

The third phase affects the whole of our Home Mission work on the Eastern Goldfields line. For a long time the Presbyterian Church has had a struggle to maintain its existence in Northam and more recently a long vacancy has discouraged the faithful few. A strip of country extending north-eastwards to Koorda has now been attached to Northam as a means of bringing more frequent services to that country and also to give the Northam congregation some opportunity of fulfilling its true mission by extending beyond itself. Land in Koorna has been acquired for a church and the community are keen to build when funds are raised. A car has also been purchased for the station, which will make repayments.

Further eastwards, recent attention has been given to Merredin and district, which for many years has been linked with the adjacent Home Mission station of Kellerberrin. The appointment of a home missionary has given hope to those who have helped to maintain this clause. A car and manse have been purchased and as a first step towards developing preaching places away from the town the former patrol services at Mukinbudin and Wialki have been brought within the sphere of Merredin's influence, with more frequent services.

The Commissioner has surveyed the general field of land settlement along the south and made occasional patrols into the wheat-belt and south-west. The needs of the Goldfields and Bunbury united congregations, both of which became vacant, have also received attention and occasional visits are paid to Carnarvon. Certain lines of progress in the field are already suggesting the shape of future development. The future is full of challenge and opportunity. The great distances, the thinly spread population, and our remoteness from the larger and more virile centres of organized Church life may be regarded as the defensive factors that will make Western Australia for a long time to come fundamentally a Home Mission State. But on the other side the changing face of the State as seen in movements of population is constantly recalling us to that positive sense of mission which proceeds from the Church's obedience to her Master. The prominence given to the West at the time of the last G.A.A. on account of the oil search in the north has given place to the tremendous impetus given to land settlement in the south by the activities of the Chase Syndicate, an American interest, which has secured a concession of several million acres of land for subdivision into farms. The A.I.M. Board has already seized the possibilities of this interesting venture and has appointed a patrol padre to follow the

settlers and be alongside them in their settling-in process. It is confidently-expected that this ministry will make way for a more settled ministry as the scope of a Home Mission station or a charge becomes apparent. In other parts of the State elements of the south-west patrol have been grafted on to Home Mission stations and charges in the field of operations.

Within the limitations of man-power and money all apparent avenues of advance have been exploited. In this connection the very considerable help raised by means of the A.I.M. Emergency Fund authorized by the last G.A. has enabled extensive planning to be undertaken. Apart from the direct benefits of the Fund, from which grants have been paid towards salaries, and advances (which are recoverable) made for buildings and cars, there have been worth-while indirect advantages, insofar as the W.A. Home Mission Council has been left freer to deploy its resources in challenging fields not under the purview of the Commissioner and Field Committee. Not less than these tangible benefits, this gesture by the eastern States churches has been an inspiration to the brethren in the West as they tackle the problems that are peculiar to that State.

The Commissioner has been strengthened in his work by the consideration given by the A.I.M. Board, and by the encouragement and splendid co-operation of the Chairman (Rev. A. C. Eadie) and members of the Field Committee; and not least by the devotion of the men in the field to their tasks.

H. D. McANDREW, Commissioner.

AUDIO-VISUAL EDUCATION REPORT (Min. 175.)

In view of the fact that most of this work is being done on a State level, and that during the last inter-Assembly period no meeting of the G.A. Committee, was held, the report is necessarily brief.

It is felt however, in view of the rapid strides being made in religious tele-casting, that the occasion may soon arise when a G.A.A. Committee will be necessary.

In recent years, great advances have been made in the use of sound films and strip-films, both in quantity and quality. The Australian Religious Film Society has trebled its output in all States. This inter-church and non-profit organization is of great value to the churches insofar as it is instrumental in keeping cost of hirings down to a minimum and in maintaining a constant and fresh supply of available materials to all users. The Society still relies on the generous donations of many people to continue its work and progress. A great deal of gratitude is owed to Mr. Norman Perrier who for so many years has laboured in an honorary capacity for the Society. The appreciation of the work of the Society and a special message of thanks to Mr. Perrier could be transmitted to those concerned from this Assembly. Both in N.S.W. and in Victoria, Religious Television Societies on an inter-church basis have been set up and both are producing presentations for their respective Television Stations. The World Council of Churches has given its imprimatur to these Societies. In view of the fact of the progress made in recent months among the N.S.W. Group, it is suggested that the Assembly change the venue of the executive of this Committee to Sydney for the ensuing period.

C. T. F. GOY, Convener.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min. 9.)

The Order of Business up to the reception of this report is as follows:

Wednesday, 11th September, 1957

- 7.30 p.m. Opening of Assembly
- Public Worship by the Retiring Moderator, the Right Rev. F. W. Rolland, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.
- Assembly constituted with prayer
- Roll
- Apologies
- Associates
- Nomination, Election and Induction of Moderator
- Moderator's Address
- Loyal Address
- Business Committee
- Election of Selection Committee.

The order for Thursday, 12th September, is set out in the Deliverance. Suggestions for other days will be reported on for approval at the beginning of the evening sederunt of the previous day.

To simplify office and hospitality arrangements it is suggested that there be no sederunt on Saturday, but that the Assembly meet at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, the 16th instant.

J. M. STUCKEY, Convener.

BENEFICIARY FUND (Min. 82.)

The important decisions of the last Assembly in the matter of Christian Unity and the apparent affirmative vote throughout the Church for resumption of negotiations with sister Churches has a very definite effect on the work of this Committee. Whereas negotiations with State committees on the question of commencement of the G.A.A. Fund, in the present circumstances, are in abeyance, there arises the more far-reaching question of the effect of Church Union on all State Funds, and the operation of the Beneficiary Fund or Funds in a United Church.

The setting up of an Australian Fund under our present regulations with all States participating, would not only have been a benefit to the Church and its ministers, but would have simplified the approach to Unity with the Methodist and the Congregational Churches in the matter of Beneficiary Funds. However, the work already done does provide a good basis for discussion with our State Fund Committees and with sister Churches in order to arrive at an equitable arrangement for a United Church. Your Committee therefore recommends that it be authorized to initiate discussions with State Beneficiary Fund Committees to ascertain the effect of Church Union on State Funds and also, acting in consultation with the Christian Unity Committee, to make preliminary approach to the Methodist and Congregational Churches with a view to protecting the interests of contributors to the various Funds of each Church, and the establishment of a United Church Beneficiary Fund.

A. M. CLARK, Convener.

CANBERRA EXECUTIVE (Min. 91.)

It will be remembered that the last G.A. of A. had before it two petitions, of which one was from the congregation of the Church of St. Andrew bearing on the incompleteness of the church building. Before proceeding to Canberra an attempt was made to ascertain the mind of the Executive. Very early this revealed a diversity of opinion in the Executive, as to whether the completion of the church was a more urgent need, than that of increasing the number of churches and/or preaching stations in the Australian Capital Territory. Nevertheless, it was decided to meet the congregation as the General Assembly had directed. This was done, and as a result of the meeting together in Canberra, the following resolutions were carried:

1. "That this meeting of 16 members of St. Andrew's congregation is of the opinion that steps should be taken to complete a National Church of St. Andrew, Canberra, at the earliest date.
2. "That at the next meeting of the Canberra Executive consideration be given to the following resolution, namely, that the views of the Canberra Executive be sought on the question of church extension within the Australian Capital Territory."

These resolutions were carried by the members of the congregation present at the meeting, and they are now brought before the notice of the General Assembly.

They were submitted to a meeting of the Canberra Executive following, when the Executive expressed its mind as follows:

1. "That the time is not opportune for any special appeal for the completion of the Church of St. Andrew, Canberra.
2. "That any appeal to the wider Church should have relevance to the extension needs of the Parish of St. Columba, Canberra.
3. "That the prime consideration of both parishes is for consolidation and extension work."

That still expresses the mind of the Executive. The resolutions were communicated to the Sessions of St. Andrew, and St. Columba. Nevertheless, the Canberra Executive was asked by the Session of St. Andrew's and the

Committee of Management to transmit a letter written in their name to the General Secretaries of the Churches in the States of Victoria, N.S.W., Queensland and Western Australia, asking if the respective Finance Committees of the States would be prepared to support (with the approval of the State Assembly in each case) the financing of the completion of the Church of St. Andrew, Canberra, in either its original or a modified form, by a method of finance which was outlined, or an alternative method proposed by them in the event of a request being made by the G.A.A.

Notwithstanding the resolutions expressing the mind of the Executive, the communications to the General Secretaries of the Church in the States were forwarded by the Executive, without comment, as they were considered not to conflict with the resolution of the G.A. of A. 1954, Minute 272, paragraph 3, namely—

“Authorize the opening of a ‘National Memorial Church of St. Andrew’s, Canberra, Building Account’ for the completion of the church, according to plan, or its modification, with the proviso that no work be undertaken in connection therewith until the money required is in hand.”

It was noted that the proposal of the Session and Committee of Management proposed “when half the required sum was in hand the balance should be borrowed”. At the time of the writing of this report we have no knowledge of the reaction of the various State Committees on Finance, or Finance Boards.

It was estimated that the completion of the church according to the original plan would be now in the vicinity of £160,000; while the completion, according to an aesthetically satisfactory modified design, might cost, at present, £65,000.

The view of the Executive is that the far more pressing need is that of the extension of church services, and accordingly the erection of churches, in other centres. And, at the request of the Executive, the Home Mission Superintendent of the New South Wales Church, visited the Australian Capital Territory to survey and report on church extension in the territory. Hereunder is a copy of the Superintendent’s report:

Canberra—Church Extension Report—8th and 9th May, 1957

At the request of the Canberra Executive, the Federal Capital Territory was visited on 8th and 9th May, 1957, for the purpose of submitting a report on the matter of church extension in the area.

Investigation.—Under the guidance of Rev. H. Harrison and Rev. B. K. Burton, who afforded me every assistance and information, the suburbs of Braddon, Ainslie, Ainslie North, O’Connor, Turner, Dickson, Lyneham and Campbell were viewed and on the Thursday morning considerable time was spent in the Planning Department of the Commonwealth, where officials placed plans, maps and projects before us for inspection and supplied us with valuable information.

On the return journey from Adaminaby, Narrabundah and Yarralumla were also viewed.

Present Position.—Though the population of Canberra has doubled during the past ten years, the Presbyterian Church has the same churches at St. Andrew’s, St. Columba’s and St. Ninian’s as existed twenty years ago. It is expected that the population in the next decade will be doubled, reaching approximately 70,000. As the Presbyterian percentage of the population is greater in Canberra than the average throughout Australia, and as the new suburbs will be more than two miles distant from either St. Andrew’s or St. Columba’s, the need for church extension is imperative if the Presbyterian Church is to occupy an important place in the Capital Territory.

Local Viewpoint.—Local office-bearers were not interviewed, as it was felt this lay outside the scope of our investigation. It is understood, however, that the local position is as follows:

St. Andrew’s.—Present commitments and the need for considerable repairs to the church and manse will prevent the congregation providing substantial financial assistance for church extension projects; the congregation is also of the opinion, we understand, that it is inadvisable to secure sites or erect buildings at **Narrabundah** and **Yarralumla**. It is claimed that St. Andrew’s is meeting the needs of Presbyterians in these suburbs, and St. Andrew’s draws strongly from Yarralumla. Bus services are fairly frequent, and Canberra possesses a larger car-owner group than most cities. The congregation is prepared to help in extension work on the other side of the river as far as its resources permit.

St. Columba's.—The congregation at St. Columba's has not yet completed its plans for the erection of the new building at Braddon, and in view of past history it would appear that this congregation will not be able to assist financially in any church extension programme.

While the above matters may lie outside the scope of this report, it is felt that any real assessment of the extension situation must take cognizance of the financial possibilities of the local congregations. Unless considerable capital sums are available from other sources, any church extension plans must take into account the limited resources at the disposal of the authorities concerned.

As a result, we have endeavoured to estimate the projects which require priority. Narrabundah. In our opinion it is now too late to commence operations in the Griffith-Narrabundah area; the Commonwealth authorities do not propose, owing to drainage and sewerage difficulties, to extend the Narrabundah area beyond present buildings. When development again commences it will represent an entirely new area. Yarralumla is being served by St. Andrew's, but extension beyond this present suburb, though not immediate, must be watched. The Methodist Church is in this present area.

Turner and O'Connor are well established residentially and other Churches are working in this area. St. Columba's has contact with most of the Presbyterian families, 83 in O'Connor and 89 in Turner. The new suburb of Lyneham is developing beyond St. Ninian's and when a new road connecting O'Connor and Lyneham is constructed passing to the rear of St. Ninian's, this old church and the site can become the centre of Church activity, covering Lyneham, O'Connor and Turner.

North Ainslie is reaching the limit of its development, and the new suburb of Dickson is in course of construction. 118 Presbyterian families are known to be in the North Ainslie area, and a site is available on the corner of Davenport and Officer Streets, which we believe will meet the requirements of North Ainslie and Dickson. It is more than 1 mile from the Braddon Church. The Commonwealth plans another suburb beyond Dickson and this development must be watched. The site at North Ainslie will only be available for a short period, and an early decision is necessary.

On the Duntroon road another suburb, Campbell, is to be constructed, but we believe St. Columba will be conveniently situated for families in that suburb.

The recommendations appended have endeavoured to keep in mind (1) present situation and needs; (2) future development and planning; (3) the realities of the situation locally and in the Church at large; (4) financial requirements and resources available. In this connection it appears that not more than 29 to 25 per cent of the funds required for the erection of buildings will be available locally, and the larger portion of the amount required must be found by a Commonwealth appeal to individuals or State churches. It must be borne in mind that the majority of denominations working in the Federal Capital are erecting their buildings with financial support contributed throughout the Commonwealth. The wisdom or otherwise of this suggestion is a matter which lies outside the scope of our inquiry and is for determination by the Canberra Executive and no recommendation is made.

Recommendations

1. First priority be given to the acquirement of the site at North Ainslie on the corner of Davenport and Officer Streets, and the erection of a church to seat say 150-200 with hall attached—cost to be about £12,000. It is understood that if finance is available a separate hall is desirable.

2. Within twelve months a hall to be erected on the St. Ninian's site, at a cost of say £5,000; services to be conducted each Sunday with usual congregational activities.

3. In the preliminary period both North Ainslie and St. Ninian's to be worked from St. Columba's, using acceptable supply available locally, until it is deemed opportune to establish a charge or home mission station.

4. The subsidy of £50 paid annually to St. Columba from the N.S.W. Home Mission Committee and any additional subsidy which may be determined, to be set aside for church extension activities in the North Ainslie and St. Ninian's areas.

5. Application to be made to the Lloyd Bequest Trustees for an additional grant for church extension activities in the area.

6. As soon as the extension in the Yarralumla area reaches the planning stage, steps to be taken to secure a suitable site.

7. A definite decision to be reached recognizing that sites be not secured at Narrabundah and Campbell.

H. J. HILLMAN, Home Mission Superintendent.

No extension enterprise has been undertaken since the last meeting of the General Assembly in 1954. The population is mounting, and the homes of the people are occupying a visibly expanding area.

The Central Church of St. Andrew has added a hall and primary room at an approximate cost of £16,000, and the congregation are to be commended on opening this additional building, free of debt.

St. Columba's has had a change of minister, since the last Assembly. The Rev. W. A. Pordage was transferred to Narrandera, and the Rev. Brian Burton was, in due course, inducted as his successor.

St. Columba's Church.—The Committee of Management has been engaged in the preparing and adopting of a plan for a church, or a general purposes building, as an adjunct to the present building, while at the same time a campaign has been conducted with a view to obtaining a substantial financial support for the scheme. What success has been achieved the Canberra Executive is unable to say, for no report has yet been furnished. The change in minister apparently retarded the movement, temporarily.

Canberra Debt.—The Rev. H. Harrison went to Queensland and addressed the General Assembly on Thursday, 23rd May, for twenty minutes, receiving a warm ovation at the end. It is understood that the matter of the Queensland contribution was referred to the Board of Finance, Mr. Harrison, by invitation, also met the members of the Board of Finance. It is now more hopeful that something will be done by Queensland with respect to the balance of the Canberra debt.

D. J. FLOCKHART, Convener.

CHRISTIAN UNITY (Min. 48, 51.)

The work of the Committee has been based on the instructions of the 1954 General Assembly, which were in part (Minute 82, clauses 3 and 6):

"3. Direct that in State Assemblies, Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and congregations, a vote be taken on the desirability or otherwise of entering into negotiations with the Congregational and Methodist Churches with a view to corporate union on a basis to be agreed upon by the three Churches and to be submitted at a later date. The question to be as follows:

'Are you in favour of the Presbyterian Church of Australia resuming negotiations with the Congregational and Methodist Churches with a view to Corporate Union?'

"6. Instruct the Executive, should the vote be in the affirmative, to confer with the corresponding Committees of the other two Churches and prepare a possible Basis or Union to be submitted to the next Assembly."

The result of the voting in the various States was as follows:

	Assembly		Presbytery		Session		Congregations	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
New South Wales	138	62	234	111	1,209	334	13,267	3,875
Queensland.....	86	26	96	26	486	78	6,245	1,139
South Australia	12	19	3*	1*	16f	6f	904	670
					(4 equal)			
Tasmania.....	12	8	10	4	64	24	801	355
Victoria	78	36	16*	3*	205f	52f	18,154	7,617
Western Australia	29	—	24	6	74	9	1,089	102

* Figure refers to number of Presbyteries.

f Figure refers to number of Sessions.

The Executive was satisfied that the vote could be accepted as a very clear affirmative and so proceeded towards the creation of a first Draft Basis of Union, which is set out hereunder:

DRAFT BASIS OF UNION

of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches
to form the United Church of Australia

I. Preamble

The Congregational Union of Australia and New Zealand, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia, rejoice in their historical continuity with their parent Churches, which were the product of the progressive Reformation, and through them claim direct descent from the Church of the New Testament and from Jesus Christ, her King and Head.

They recall with gratitude to Almighty God the services that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they have been able to render to succeeding generations in Australia since first their ministers voyaged with free settlers to this¹ new land or were called by congregations which desired to worship according to the custom of their fathers.

As Australia grew into nationhood they have become increasingly conscious that their ministry to the people has been hindered by division. Since the creation of the Australian Commonwealth in 1901 they have together examined the causes which have kept them apart in the earnest hope that, by God's blessing, misunderstandings and hinderances might be removed and the Christian faith and fellowship expressed more worthily through their united witness.

The three Churches believe that the United Church, formed upon this Basis of Union, will be more effective in building up a Christian Commonwealth and in contributing to world evangelism. The three Churches, therefore, pray that as good stewards of God's grace they may be guided and blessed in the formation of the United Church.

And to Him shall be the glory.

II. The Name of the Church

1. The name of the Church to be formed by the three uniting Churches shall be the United Church of Australia.

2. It shall be the aim of the United Church to foster the spirit of unity in the hope that in due time it will find its proper expression in a truly Australian Church.

III. Membership

1. All the members of the three uniting Churches shall be members of the United Church.

2. Admission of new members shall be by profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and a covenant to serve Him in all duties and relationships.

IV. The Faith of the Church

1. The United Church of Australia is part of the Holy Catholic or Universal Church; worshipping one God, Almighty, all-wise, and all-loving, in the Trinity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; adoring the Father, infinite in majesty, of whom are all things; confessing our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son, made very man for our salvation; glorying in His Cross and Resurrection, and owning obedience to Him as the Head over all things to His Church; trusting in the promised renewal and guidance of the Holy Spirit; proclaiming the forgiveness of sins and acceptance with God through faith in Christ, and the Gift of Eternal Life; and looking for the consummation of the Kingdom of God in the return of Christ and the manifestation of His Glory in the world.

2. The supreme standard of the United Church is the Word of God contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

3. The subordinate standards of the United Church are the Creeds commonly called the Apostles' and Nicene.

4. The United Church holds in honour the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Savoy Declaration, and John Wesley's Forty-four Standard Sermons and Notes on the New Testament.

5. The United Church has the inherent right, as part of the Universal Church wherein the Lord Jesus Christ has appointed a government in the hands of Church office-bearers, free from interference by civil authority, but under the safeguards for deliberate action and legislation provided by the Church itself, to legislate, and to adjudicate finally, in all matters of doctrine, worship, government, and discipline in the Church; to frame or adopt its subordinate standards and doctrinal statements, to declare the sense in which it understands them, to modify the forms of expression therein, or to formulate other doctrinal statements and to define the relation thereto of its office-bearers and members, but always in agreement with the Word of God and the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith contained in its standards and doctrinal statements, of which agreement the Church shall be sole judge, and with due regard to liberty of opinion in points which do not enter into the substance of the faith.

V. The Ministry

1. The United Church acknowledges the ministries of the uniting Churches as ministries of Christ in His Word and Sacraments. Recognizing that their ministries have been, in God's providence, manifestly used by the

Holy Spirit, the United Church determines that at the inauguration of union all ministers of the uniting Churches shall be accepted as ministers of the United Church in full status.

2. Recognizing the desirability of preserving the merits of both the settled pastorate and the itinerancy, the United Church declares—

- (i) that the existing pastoral relationships at the inauguration of union shall not be disturbed;
- (ii) that the existing appointment of Methodist ministers may be continued up to seven years after the inauguration of union;
- (iii) that the pastoral relationship shall be without time-limit except as prescribed for elsewhere.

3. Ministers shall be inducted to pastoral charges and departments by the Synod.

4. Any pastoral charge, in view of a vacancy, may extend a call to any properly qualified minister or ministers, and final confirmation shall rest with the Conference on the recommendation of the Pastorate Committee which shall comply, as far as possible, with the expressed wishes of ministers and local councils.

5. A minister who receives a call shall intimate this to the Pastorate Committee or he may seek a change of pastoral relationships by applying to the Pastorate Committee.

6. When a pastoral charge has a vacancy during the Conference year, through death or other emergency, the President of the Conference shall confer with the Chairman of the Synod and the Local Council and shall, as far as possible, make arrangements for the filling of the vacancy for the remainder of the Conference year, after consultation with a sub-committee of the Pastorate Committee.

7. Provision shall be made for the transfer of ministers from one Conference to another.

8. The minister first named in each pastoral charge shall be the Superintendent Minister who shall preside at meetings of the local council.

9. Every minister or probationer, duly appointed to a pastoral charge, shall have the right to conduct services in the churches or other places of worship in connection with the said pastoral charge; and the right of occupancy of the manse in connection with the said pastoral charge, subject, however, to the rules and regulations of the United Church.

VI. Training for the Ministry and Ordination

1. The policy of the United Church shall be to provide an educated ministry and to this end the normal course of study shall include adequate training in the Theological Hall prefaced by an Arts course at the University with a term of pastoral probation. For those to whom such a course is impossible, or inadvisable, the United Church shall provide special pre-Hall training.

2. Candidates for the ministry who, at the inauguration of union, have entered on their course in Theology shall be allowed to complete it on the conditions which obtained when they began, but this privilege shall expire within six years from the date of the inauguration of union.

3. In the ordination service before the Conference the candidates shall answer prescribed questions regarding their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, their call to the office of the Christian ministry and their motives for seeking a place in the ministry, their acceptance of the Scripture as containing sufficiently all doctrines required for eternal salvation, and their willingness to conform to the discipline of the United Church.

VII. Worship of the Church

In the worship of Almighty God the United Church will conserve for the common benefit the spiritual riches which have been gained by the three uniting Churches in their separate existence (as in the Manual for Ministers, the Book of Offices, and the Book of Common Order), recognizing freedom to use a variety of services, liturgical and non-liturgical, to meet the needs of various congregations, and to preserve the distinctive values in the different traditions of worship.

VIII. The Sacraments of the Church

The United Church accepts the two Scriptural Sacraments of Baptism and the Holy Communion were given by Christ and as means of grace through which God works in believers. While the operations of divine grace cannot be limited, these Sacraments are effective signs of the Gospel and spiritual seals of the promises of God.

IX. The Organization of the Church

A pastoral charge consists of one or more congregations under the charge of one or more ministers.

The following are the Councils and Courts of the United Church:

1. The Church Meeting, over which the minister or his nominee shall preside.
2. The Elders' Session, over which the minister or his nominee shall preside.
3. The Local Council (for the pastoral charge), over which the minister or his nominee shall preside.
4. The Synod, over which a chairman shall preside.
5. The Conference, over which a president shall preside.
6. The General Assembly, over which the Moderator shall preside.

The relation between the Church Meeting and Elders' Session, the Local Council, the Synod, the Conference and the General Assembly shall be determined by the principle that each court shall have power to deal with matters referred to it by the next succeeding higher court and to remit consideration of matters which it deems expedient to the next succeeding lower court.

It shall be recognized that the local congregations shall be entitled to continue the organization and practices (including those practices relating to membership, church ordinances and worship, Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies) enjoyed by them at the time of the union, in accordance with the principles of the United Church. Representatives from a governing body or court in the next higher governing body or court shall be chosen as at the time of union.

X. The Church Meeting

The members of a local church shall meet annually, and more frequently if deemed advisable.

In the constitution of the Church Meeting and other church councils present practice in the uniting churches at the inauguration of union shall be continued until determined otherwise by the United Church.

The Church Meeting shall have the power to appoint a committee for the management of the temporal and financial affairs of the church.

XI. The Elders' Session

The Session shall be composed of lay preachers, and of elders who are chosen by those in full church membership. Elders shall hold office under regulations to be passed by the General Assembly.

The Session shall share with the minister in the oversight of:

1. The admission of persons into full membership, and the granting of certificates of removal.
2. The conduct of members, with power to exercise discipline.
3. The administration of the Sacraments.
4. The religious training of the young, and the organization of meetings for Christian fellowship, instruction and work.
5. The order of public worship, including the service of praise and the use of the church edifice, in consultation with the minister.
6. The care of the poor, and the visiting of the sick.

XII. Trustees

The Trustees' Meeting shall consist of the minister of the local church and Trustees of property for which the local church is responsible. It shall meet quarterly or more often as required. Its powers shall be the oversight of the property of the local church in accordance with the provisions of the Model Trust Deed and the regulations of the Conference.

XIII. The Local Council

1. Where the pastoral charge consists of one congregation the duties of the Local Council may be undertaken by the Church Meeting or the Elders' Session.

2. In the event of congregations in a pastoral charge being too distant from one another, as in some outer suburban or country districts, the functions of the Church Meetings may be assumed by the Local Council.

3. The Local Council shall consist of the minister or ministers of all congregations in the pastoral charge, the lay preachers, the elders, the senior superintendent of each Sunday School within the pastoral charge, and members of the Trustees' Meetings within the pastoral charge, all such

representatives being members of the church. The Local Council shall be presided over by the superintendent minister, and it shall meet quarterly.

4. The functions of the Local Council shall be:

- (i) The maintaining of the ministry within the pastoral charge;
- (ii) The managing of the finance of the pastoral charge and the raising and disbursing of moneys for congregational, pastoral charge, conference and other church purposes;
- (iii) The securing of contributions for missionary and other general objects of the United Church, and the fostering of efforts within the pastoral charge in aid of Home, Inland and Overseas Missions;
- (iv) The establishing of new churches within the pastoral charge, subject to the regulations of the Conference;
- (v) Electing from members of the Local Council representatives to the Synod and the Conference;
- (vi) Forwarding memorials and recommendations to the Synod and/or the Conference, touching the general work of the pastoral charge or referring to the general work of the United Church, including petitions and appeals from the Elders' Sessions which the Local Council may approve;
- (vii) Reviewing and issuing calls to ministers, considering from time to time the pastoral relations within the pastoral charge, and generally determining matters relating thereto in harmony with the regulations of the Conference governing the same;
- (viii) Recommending to the Synod suitable candidates for the ministry;
- (ix) Appointing elders according to regulations to be passed by the General Assembly.

XIV. The Synod

1. The Synod shall consist of:

- (a) The ordained ministers inducted to pastoral charges within the bounds of the Synod;
- (b) Other ordained ministers specially appointed by the Conference to be members of the Synod;
- (c) Elders and/or non-ministerial members to equal the number of ministers, these elders or non-ministerial members to be appointed by the Church Meeting, the Elders' Session or Local Council according to local conditions.

2. The Synod shall be held at least quarterly and shall be presided over by the Chairman of Synod, who shall be elected annually by the Conference.

3. The powers of the Synod shall include the following:

- (i) The oversight of the pastoral charges within its bounds and the making of recommendations to the Conference concerning the creation of new pastoral charges or churches;
- (ii) The review of the records of the pastoral charges, with the power to recommend division, alteration and rearrangement of existing boundaries of pastoral charges;
- (iii) Receiving and disposing of petitions and appeals from the lower courts;
- (iv) Transmitting petitions and appeals to the higher courts;
- (v) Examining and recommending to the Conference candidates for the ministry;
- (vi) Superintending the education of students looking forward to the ministry, and certifying them to Theological Colleges;
- (vii) Reviewing annually the courses of candidates for the ministry and, when they have fulfilled the prescribed requirements, licensing them to preach and recommending them to Conference for ordination, and inducting them;
- (viii) The oversight of the conduct of ministers within the bounds of the Synod (the Synod being the court to which any complaints against ministers shall be directed);
- (ix) Nominating representatives for appointments by the Conference to the Pastorate Committee;
- (x) The consideration of matters remitted by higher courts;
- (xi) Adopting measures for promoting the religious life of the pastoral charges within the bounds of the Synod;
- (xii) The exercise of such other powers as may be granted to the Synod by the Conference;
- (xiii) Appoint ministerial and non-ministerial representatives to the General Assembly according to regulations to be passed by the General Assembly.

XV. The Conference

1. The Conference shall meet annually and shall consist, as nearly as may be, of an equal number of ministerial and non-ministerial members, comprising:

- (a) All ministers who are members of the Synods within its bounds, or such proportion thereof as the Conference may from time to time determine;
- (b) Non-ministerial representatives equal in number to the ministers;
- (c) Other members as determined by the Conference.

2. The Conference shall be presided over by the President, who shall be elected in a manner to be determined by the Conference.

3. The Conference shall:

- (i) Appoint annually a Pastorate Committee which shall make recommendations to the Conference to ensure that, as far as possible, every pastoral charge within the bounds of the Conference shall have a minister or ministers and that every effective minister shall be related to a pastoral charge;
- (ii) Determine the number and boundaries of the Synod within its jurisdiction, have oversight of them, and review their records as submitted by Synods;
- (iii) Receive and dispose of appeals and petitions, subject to the usual right of appeal;
- (iv) Examine and ordain candidates for the ministry who have fulfilled the prescribed requirements and have been recommended by Synods;
- (v) Exercise control over the properties of the Church within the bounds of the Conference;
- (vi) Have charge of the schools and colleges of the Church within the bounds of the Conference, and take what measures are deemed advisable for the promotion of Christian education;
- (vii) Establish departments, institutions and funds for the Church, and city missions, and appoint committees, councils or boards and officers for these departments, institutions and funds, and city missions, and receive reports concerning them and give them instructions and authority, subject always to the direction of the General Assembly;
- (viii) Have oversight of the religious life of the Church within its bounds, and adopt such measures as may be judged necessary for its promotion;
- (ix) Appoint an equal number of ministerial and non-ministerial representatives to the General Assembly according to regulations passed by the General Assembly;
- (x) Consider matters referred to it by the General Assembly;
- (xi) Exercise such other powers as may be granted to it by the General Assembly.

XVI. The General Assembly

1. The General Assembly shall consist as nearly as may be of equal numbers of ministers and non-ministerial representatives chosen by the Conferences and Synods according to regulations to be passed by the General Assembly. Its regular meeting shall be held every third year or as determined by the General Assembly. The Moderator, who shall be a minister of the Church, shall be the official head of the United Church of Australia, and during his term he may be relieved of his local pastoral or other duties.

2. The General Assembly is the supreme court of the United Church. Included in its powers shall be the following:

- (i) To determine the number and boundaries of the Conferences, have oversight of them, and review their records as submitted by the Conferences;
- (ii) To consider and decide on all matters affecting the doctrine, worship, order and discipline of the United Church, including the power of determining, interpreting, changing, adding to, and modifying, its constitution, laws, doctrine and policy, and the exercise of ecclesiastical discipline, subject to the conditions:
 - (a) That any change in the statement of doctrine or conditions of membership shall not be contrary to the provisions of Section III, "Membership", and Section IV, "The Faith of the Church", in this Basis of Union;

- (b) That the freedom of worship at present enjoyed in the uniting Churches shall not be interfered with in the United Church.
- (iii) To legislate on all matters respecting property, subject to the limitations elsewhere provided in this Basis of Union;
- (iv) To prescribe and regulate the course of study of candidates for the ministry;
- (v) To make regulations for the admission of ministers from other Churches, and to receive such ministers from other Churches;
- (vi) To receive and dispose of petitions and appeals, etc., from Conferences;
- (vii) To determine the missionary policy of the United Church, and to provide for the undertaking and vigorous prosecution of Home, Inland and Overseas Missions, either directly or through the Conferences;
- (viii) To establish departments, institutions and funds of the Church, and to appoint committees, councils or boards, and officers for these departments, institutions and funds, and to receive reports concerning them and to give them instructions and authority;
- (ix) To receive reports on the schools and colleges, departments and other institutions of the Church, and to take what measures are deemed advisable for the promotion of Christian education and evangelism;
- (x) To correspond with other Churches;
- (xi) And in general to adopt such measures as may tend to promote true godliness, preserve the unity and well-being of the United Church, and advance the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world.

3. The United Church has the right, without loss of its identity, to unite with any other Church in which it finds the Word to be purely preached, the Sacraments administered according to Christ's ordinance, and discipline rightly exercised.

XVII. Lay Preachers

1. The office of lay preacher shall be recognized as part of the organization of the United Church.
2. In each pastoral charge where practicable a meeting of lay preachers shall be constituted and shall meet quarterly. Such a meeting may appoint for a probationary period and test and train candidates for the office of lay preacher. Such candidates may, after examination and approval by the Lay Preachers' Meeting and after passing the necessary Conference tests, be admitted to the status of lay preacher.
3. Lay preachers shall be publicly set apart to their office.
4. When it is impracticable to hold a Lay Preachers' Meeting, all the functions of that meeting shall be discharged by the Local Council.

XVIII. Home Missions, Inland Missions and Overseas Missions

1. In the administration of the missionary work of the United Church there shall be three departments:
 - (a) Home Missions, including all the Home Mission work within the Conferences;
 - (b) Inland Missions, including the work of the United Church in north Australia and the work in other sparsely settled parts of Australia, directed by the General Assembly;
 - (c) Overseas Missions, including the missions already established overseas and among the aboriginal population of Australia or missions that may be established in other countries. The exact definition of work in these various departments shall be made by the General Assembly.
2. For the oversight and administration of these departments there shall be departments and boards, to be elected in such a manner and endowed with such powers as the Conferences may determine in the case of Home Missions and as the General Assembly may determine in the case of Inland Missions and Overseas Missions.
3. In recognition of the very valuable services rendered by the Women's Missionary Societies in the uniting Churches, the union, constitution, and lines of work of these societies shall be determined by the joint action of their boards, subject to the approval of the General Assembly.
4. Careful attention will be given by the officers of the London Missionary Society in Australia and the Department of Overseas Missions of the Methodist Church of Australia and the Foreign Missions Department

of the Presbyterian Church to the effect of the union of the Churches upon their overseas missionary work and the necessary adjustments which union will demand. It may be found that the main alternatives, as far as the work of the London Missionary Society is concerned, may be:

- (a) Maintenance of some kind of relationship with the London Missionary Society and sharing financially and otherwise in its work;
- (b) Requesting the London Missionary Society to hand over to the United Church some part of its work that is commensurate in cost, or nearly so, with the contributions from the Congregational Union of Australia before the inauguration of union.

5. Arrangements will be made to place under the administration of the departments or boards of Home Missions, Inland Missions and Overseas Missions in the United Church the moneys and funds administered by the denominational boards or committees or departments of the uniting Churches for work in Home Missions, etc., before the inauguration of union.

XIX. Christian Education

1. In promoting a policy of Christian education in the Churches, among children, young people and adults, of the United Church there shall be established a Department of Christian Education uniting the work of the Young People's Departments of the uniting Churches. The boards which shall administer the Department of Christian Education shall be elected by the Conferences and endowed with such powers as the General Assembly may determine.

2. There shall be placed under the administration of the Department of Christian Education the funds administered by the Young People's Departments of the uniting Churches before the inauguration of union.

XX. Evangelism and Public Questions

1. In furthering the work of evangelism and public questions in the United Church there shall be established a Department of Evangelism and Public Questions. The boards which shall administer this department shall be elected by the Conference and endowed with such powers as the General Assembly may determine.

2. There shall be placed under the administration of the Department of Evangelism and Public Questions the funds raised for these enterprises in the uniting Churches before the inauguration of union.

XXI. Publishing Interests

It shall be left to the General Assembly of the United Church to determine how far the publications now issued by the uniting Churches will be amalgamated.

XXII. Schools and Colleges

1. All the schools and colleges connected with the uniting Churches shall, as far as possible, sustain the same relation to the United Church as, under their charters or constitutions, they sustained to their Churches before the inauguration of union, until the General Assembly shall determine otherwise and necessary legislation shall give effect to changes made thereby.

2. In addition to the governing boards or councils of the several schools and colleges there shall be appointed by each Conference a Board of Education, which shall have such a general oversight of the educational interests of the United Church within the bounds of that Conference as the General Assembly may assign to it, and carry out such measures as may be decided in reference thereto.

XXIII. Church Properties

1. When the Basis of Union has been adopted, Acts of Parliament will be sought whereby the union will be confirmed. Provision will then be made for property—real and personal—now vested in the uniting Churches, or held in trust for them, to be vested in, belong to, or be held in trust for, the United Church, in accordance with the conditions of the Basis of Union; and, as to the property of a church, congregation, or pastoral charge, shall be held upon trusts set forth and declared in a Model Trust Deed; and, as to any property subject to special trusts, shall be held on existing trusts, but shall take effect as if the United Church had been referred to in the conveyance, transfer, devise, bequest, gift, or other instrument under which such property was given or acquired for Church purposes.

2. Provision will be made to secure that gifts under conveyance, transfer, devise, bequest, gift or other instrument, that had been intended for the benefit of the uniting Churches shall be vested in the United Church.

3. The United Church shall make proper provision to guard the rights or privileges of any minority which may be opposed to union.

XXIV. Retiring and Supernumerary Funds, etc.

Provision for retiring allowances or annuities for aged and infirm ministers, and for the widows of ministers, will be a necessity in the United Church. As soon as practicable after the inauguration of union, expert guidance will be sought respecting the contributions that would be necessary to make such funds financially safe, and as to the scale of annuities that could be safely paid therefrom. Whatever amalgamation of such funds may become possible after the inauguration of union, it is understood that the claims and interests of all present annuitants who have interest in such funds, and of all members of the funds whose claims have not yet matured, shall be fully recognized and guarded to the extent of the benefits provided by the funds of which they are members at the time of the inauguration of union.

XXV. Relation with Other Churches and with Governments

1. The United Church shall maintain full communion and fellowship with those Churches with which the uniting Churches had been in communion in other parts of the world before the inauguration of union. An ordained minister of any Church which is in full communion with any of the uniting Churches may, if he comes to serve the United Church as one of its ministers, be received by the United Church according to the rules of the Church.

2. The United Church shall of right be free in all spiritual matters from the direction or interposition of any civil government.

XXVI. Procedure for Voting Upon Union

Following the approval of this Basis of Union by the General Conference of the Methodist Church, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and the Biennial Assembly of the Congregational Church, to be held in 1957-8, this Basis of Union, as approved or amended, shall be sent down for amendment and suggestions to the courts and congregations of the uniting Churches. Any amendments or suggestions shall then be considered by the Federal Church Union Committees of the uniting Churches, and following this consideration the Basis of Union shall be submitted to the courts and congregations for a final vote and report to the following meeting of the Biennial Assembly of the Congregational Union, the General Conference of the Methodist Church, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Appendix A

The Inauguration of Union

The outstanding act which will truly inaugurate the union of the Churches will be the partaking of the Holy Communion by those assembled as the ministers and members of one Church. In the process of accession to the United Church the following procedure shall be followed:

Each denomination shall inform the Secretary of the Joint Church Union Committee of the decision of its governing body and members to enter the union on the Basis of Union.

At the service of inauguration a representative of each uniting Church shall read the resolution of his Church accepting the Basis of Union, and shall place on the communion table a copy of the Basis of Union signed for and on behalf of his Church by its presiding officer and secretary. He shall also place on the communion table a bound volume containing the signed statements of the ministers of his Church who declare their assent to the Basis of Union and their acceptance of the constitution of the United Church. The form of this declaration shall be, "I, A.B., assent to the Basis of Union as set forth in the Basis of Union of the United Church of Australia, and accept the constitution of the United Church of Australia."

This act shall be followed by prayers offered by representatives of the ministries and membership of the uniting Churches, asking God to accept and bless the work of the United Church. The Holy Communion shall follow and shall solemnize the consummation of the union of the United Church.

This first Draft Basis was drawn up at a meeting in Melbourne of the three Federal Conveners, and was submitted to the Federal Committees. Some months ago the Presbyterian Federal Convener met in Melbourne with

the Presbyterian State Committee of Victoria, and also shared in a joint conference with representatives of the three Churches, when a frank interchange of views lasted for several hours. There is a clear difference of opinion between the Federal Executive and a majority of the Victorian State Committee on the value of the Draft Basis and on the procedure to be followed, and this, no doubt, will be expressed at the meeting of the General Assembly. It is the unanimous opinion of the Executive that no time should be lost in preparing a Basis of Union that can be sent down to courts and congregations; and that a meeting of the General Assembly in September 1959 would be valuable in giving a lead to the other negotiating Churches, which would meet soon afterwards.

The Convener desires to express his gratitude to the Committee for its helpful attitude to its great task, to the other Federal Conveners for their brotherly co-operation and hospitality, and to his colleagues in Victoria for their courtesy and Christian forbearance even in the midst of strong debate and disagreement.

W. CUMMING THOM, Convener.

CODE (Min. 216.)

1. Procedure anent the question of relating Ministers of United Congregations, and their Congregations, to the Courts of the Church (G.A.A. B.B. 1954, Min. 288, and Overture 111)

In accordance with the direction of the Assembly in 1954, the Committee considered how ministers (Presbyterian and/or Congregational) of established united congregations, and such congregations, could be related to the Courts of our Church and reports that, if the General Assembly decides to proceed with the matter, this might be done by amendment of Standing Order 107 to provide that ministers of temporary unions of Presbyterian charges with congregations of another denomination authorized by a State General Assembly, may be associated.

2. Printing Alterations to the Code

In response to a suggestion by the Code Committee of the Queensland Assembly, this Committee recommends that rules and regulations of the General Assembly of Australia which have been enacted or amended subsequent to the publication of "Constitution and Procedure and Practice", 1950, be printed in the same format and a copy issued with each Blue Book of this Assembly and also made available for sale to those who are not members of the Assembly.

E. W. S. BISHOP, Convener.

COLLEGE (Min. 70.)

The College Committee desires to report as follows upon its activities since the 1954 Session of the General Assembly.

The Problem of the Shortage of Ministers

There are many indications that one of the most acute problems we in the Presbyterian Church of Australia are now facing is the shortage of ministers—there are nearly 100 vacant charges throughout the Commonwealth. Overtures from the N.S.W. and South Australian Assemblies draw attention to the desperate need for more men.

The only line of solution being proposed is that of hustling men through a year or two of training to get them into the ordained ministry quickly. If the College Committee opposes this, it would like the Assembly to understand that it does so, not out of a lack of concern for the shortage but out of a deep conviction that we need and should not sacrifice quality for quantity. The problem should be tackled, we believe, along the positive lines of a systematic and thorough-going drive for the enlisting of suitable men, rather than a negative one of making the training course much easier to attract second-rate men.

The College Committee has been given by the General Assembly as its principal function, the maintenance of a uniform standard of theological training throughout the Commonwealth, and the general oversight of such training. But there appears to be no body at the Federal level which is charged to assist the States in the securing of candidates for training. The position seems to be that while all States have Theological Education or Hall

Committees and Home Mission Committees, and while Queensland and N.S.W. have "Candidates for the Ministry" Committees, nothing is being done in the way of launching a nation-wide canvass for men, there is little or no correlation of efforts and no exchange of ideas between States.

The College Committee believes that we need a special committee at the G.A.A. level to inquire into the total manpower needs of the Church, to consult States on their methods of placing the claims of the ministry before men, to act as a clearing house for information, etc., to stimulate consultation with other Churches on the problem, and devise ways of meeting the shortage. The College Committee itself does not feel that it is the best equipped body to do this, as its Executive consists largely of Theological Hall staff deeply committed in relation to the widespread ramifications of training men after they have offered. It therefore proposes that the General Assembly instruct it to take the mind of the State Theological Education Committees, Home Mission Committees, and Candidates for the Ministry Committees and other interested parties on the desirability of a special G.A.A. Committee and on its functions, and if favourable responses are forthcoming that it be empowered to set up through the Selection Committee a Provisional Committee which would go into action in this field and report to the next General Assembly, whereafter it would, if the General Assembly so decided, become a regular Committee of the General Assembly of Australia.

The College Committee realizes that we should immediately make provision, as an experiment for a limited period, for shortening the period of training for older men and accordingly proposes along the lines as set out in the Deliverance.

Course of Training

After a provisional period of three years, the last General Assembly, with considerable modifications, adopted a new course of training as embodied in the regulations at present operating. The Committee, whilst certain that the change from the old to the new system has been generally beneficial, has in certain aspects regarded the past three years as a continuation of the experimental period, and now, in submitting a complete redrafting of the regulations (after submitting the proposals to the State Committees and following a two-day conference of the full Committee) seeks approval for certain substantial modifications, the most important of which, with the situation to which they are related, are as follows:

In a day of rising educational standards in the community generally it is imperative for the Church to keep persistently before herself the necessity of raising the general cultural standard of ministerial candidates if its ministry is to have a relevance in the contemporary world. Moreover, it is only upon an adequate basis in this respect that specialized theological training, which is so necessary for the health and vitality of the Church as it seeks to guide men into the thoughts and the ways of God, can proceed. The Committee, whilst conscious that more candidates are pursuing university studies than formerly, is convinced that the most effective way to improve the standard of the whole course is to start at the beginning by raising the standard of entrance, the ultimate objective being that every candidate be a matriculant. Towards this end it proposes therefore that the Special Entrance Examination conducted by this Committee in English and Modern History at a level lower than matriculation (which appears to have been taken over from the Special Entrance Examination to the former Home Mission Course) be abolished. The provision for entrance for older candidates is now largely met by the recent institution of adult matriculation in various universities so that the number of candidates submitting for this Special College Committee Examination has been very few (four in 1956). It is now proposed to fix the minimum standard, in lieu of this, at two matriculation subjects (including English) and that only in the case of candidates over 20 years of age.

The Committee is not unaware of the need of securing more candidates in a day of serious ministerial shortage, but it is fully convinced that any endeavour to remedy this situation by a reduction in educational standards would ultimately have disastrous effects upon the Church. However, as an important step in the direction of meeting this need without the sacrifice of existing standards, it is now proposed that candidates be permitted to enter upon the preparatory Faculty Course (that is the Church-directed course, designated in the existing regulations as extra mural, which replaced the old Home Mission Course) without being necessarily involved in regular home mission or parish duties. This, it is envisaged, will draw upon a new supply of candidates who for various reasons find it necessary to continue in their

secular vocations, but in the meantime can pursue the non-university, Church-directed studies of the Faculty Course preparatory to admission to the three years in the Theological Hall.

Article VIII of the Articles of Agreement clearly envisages that one of the main functions of this Committee was the conducting of a series of uniform Entrance and Exit Examination to and from the Theological Hall (under the existing regulations this Exit has been discarded and the Exit renamed Final). However, a departure from a rigid uniformity was made in 1929 by which the various State Faculties drew up diverse syllabi for Exit, which, with differently nominated examiners, were approved by the College Committee. Increasingly it became felt that the method of conducting examinations by written papers was educationally a questionable method of maintaining standards and unduly restrictive in relation to the teaching facilities at the various halls. Accordingly, after a period of trial, the General Assembly of 1954 approved the present regulations by which the former Exit Examinations (covering two or three years of the Hall Course) were abolished and a uniform Final Examination at the end of the sixth year substituted, in the theory and practice of Biblical Studies, and of Doctrine and Polity. Now, after three years of trial, the Committee is of opinion that the present examination is defective in that it is difficult to define the area of the examination, to distinguish clearly between the theoretical and practical aspects of the various subjects and between the joint subjects of Doctrine and Polity. Under these circumstances, the opinion of the Committee is that a move should be made to a minimum of written examination papers. Accordingly it is proposed that the Final Examination be restricted to the subject of Presbyterian Polity, a subject with which every candidate should be conversant and concerning which it will be practicable for this Committee to set a definite syllabus without unduly restricting the general curriculum of the Theological Halls. However, it is further recommended that candidates be required during their fifth and/or sixth years to submit two theses, one on a subject in Biblical Studies and one in Theology or Church History, which shall be set by the professors or lecturers concerned and read by external examiners appointed by the College Committee. The advantages of this would be that it would provide a fairer test of the candidate's ability than a written paper; it would eliminate the necessity of the Committee going over the heads of the Faculties to define the precise scope of the written examinations; it would spread the examining over two years; and that it would provide a useful indication of the quality of the work being done by both student and Hall concerned.

It is further proposed that in order to maintain the efficiency of the Halls the College Committee shall arrange regular visitation by visitors it appoints to provide direct contact, and to bring to the notice of both any problems and afford the opportunity of suggesting any improvements.

In connection with changes in the Course of Training further alterations in the Articles of Agreement (viii h and j) and Regulations 190 (I) are necessary as recommended in the deliverance.

Theological Hall, Perth

The last General Assembly approved of a plan for the appointment of a Director of Theological Studies in Perth and towards the realization of this aim allocated the sum of £200 from the Annual Appeal on General Assembly Sunday, which helped to make possible the appointment of the Rev. Dr. F. W. R. Nichol to the position in 1955. The value of this forward move in giving a new stimulus to theological education in the West is indicated by the fact that whereas in 1954 there was only one regular candidate in the course the number has now increased to eight, and it is planned to raise the position of Director to a full-time appointment thus realizing an important development towards the aim of the Church, as declared in the Articles of Agreement, of having "all its Halls equipped with not fewer than three Professors, such Professors to be separate from any pastoral Charge" (viii b).

For the maintenance of this work, thus effectively begun, it is necessary that the General Assembly continue with its financial assistance through the appeal in connection with General Assembly of Australia Sunday.

Personnel of Committee

In 1956 Professor John McIntyre of Sydney was appointed to the distinguished Chair of Divinity in Edinburgh. During his sojourn in Australia Dr. McIntyre was a valued member of this Committee and made a notable contribution to theological thought in the Church. New ex officio members of the Committee are Dr. F. W. R. Nichol and Professor L. G. Geering, who

in. 1956 was appointed to the newly established Chair of Old Testament Studies at Brisbane.

Candidates

During the three-year period, 1955-7, a total of 102 candidates entered the Course of Training, whilst 69 were issued with Exit Certificates. There were 11 removals from the list of candidates. The total number in training in 1957 is 171 (N.S.W., 57; Queensland, 37; Victoria, 69; W.A., 8).

Examination on the Sacraments

The last Assembly, owing to existing abuses, gave interim authority to new regulations restricting the eligibility of Home Missionaries to submit for this examination. The consequence, as intended, has been a decline in the number sitting for the examination from 22 in 1951-4 to 8 in 1954-7. Of the latter, five passed and three failed.

General Assembly Petitions

The following ministers from other Churches completed the courses of study prescribed for them: F. A. Hoad, C. J. Paton, G. A. Woolcock (St. Andrew's); A. I. Trotman (Emmanuel); C. G. Burt, D. C. Harper, R. C. McLean (Ormond); W. R. Hopkins (W.A.).

J. D. Penman passed the Entrance Examination of the College Committee in 1955 and is now in his second year in the Theological Hall.

J. L. Priestley failed to pass the Entrance Examination of the College Committee.

Special Case

M. E. Gowers was granted an aegrotat pass in the Exit subject of Philosophy of Religion on the grounds of ill-health.

J. C. ALEXANDER, Convener.
R. SWANTON, Secretary.

CONSTITUTION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE G.A. OF A. (Min. 29.)

In its Report to the Assembly of 1954, this Committee recorded that the functions of the Assembly had extended gradually beyond the limitations of Article of Agreement iv, to matters like fire insurance and broadcasting; that the membership of the Assembly might be reduced in numbers; that it needs a Standing Committee with authority to deal with business arising between sessions of the Assembly; and that the Church would be more effective as a truly Australian Church than as a federation of State interests. The Assembly authorized and appointed a Constitutional Convention to examine the Deed of Union and the Standing Orders, and to recommend needed changes. This has been done.

The Present Position.—The first task of the Convention was to get a picture of the present position. It found that the G.A. of A. has not the powers of a General Assembly. It cannot oversee the Church throughout the whole continent, nor speak for it authoritatively on many matters of great moment. It is weak in its relations with the Commonwealth Government. It is weak in relations with its sister Churches; we can meet them on equal terms in the States, but in the Commonwealth we cannot. It is weak in its relations with Churches overseas. It should become in fact what it is in name—The Presbyterian Church of Australia. The difficulties of realizing this ideal spring from the very size of the continent, which makes fellowship, understanding, and a common opinion difficult to achieve; and from the lack of power to legislate on matters and activities not provided for in the present Constitution.

Recommendations.—The Convention then prepared a series of recommendations and, as ordered by the Assembly, sent them to State Assemblies for their opinions. The recommendations were sent in the following form:

1. The time has arrived for the creation of a Presbyterian Church of Australia which will be truly national in character, and the G.A. of A. law officers are instructed to draft the necessary amendments, with power to co-opt the law officers of the State Assemblies, and to submit their proposals to the Convener of the Convention within a reasonable time.

2. (a) The G.A. of A. should meet every second year.

(b) A Commission of Assembly should meet in each intervening year.

(c) The Commission should consist of six representatives from the State of Victoria, six from New South Wales, four from Queensland, two

from each of Tasmania, South Australia, and Western Australia, together with the Moderator-General, the Procurator, the Law Agent and the Clerks of Assembly, any vacancy occurring to be filled by the General Assembly of the State affected.

(d) The membership of the General Assembly should be reduced by one-third.

3. The cost of hospitality for members should be an Assembly expense.

4. The nomination of the Moderator of the General Assembly of Australia should be made by the Commission of Assembly.

The Reports from State Assemblies, and in some cases from Presbyteries, are summarized as follows:

Queensland G.A.—Approve, with the following amendments: Clause 1 to read: The time has arrived for reconsideration of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church of Australia with a view to closer union, and the G.A. of A. Officers. . . . Clause 2: Omit (d) (Reduction of membership by one-third).

New South Wales G.A.—General approval, and transmit this to the G. of A., together with the suggestions by Presbyteries. Presbyteries: Fifteen Presbyteries give general approval, two disapprove, two made no report.

Suggestions by Presbyteries.—One opposes biennial meetings; two suggest 25 per cent reduction in membership; one would add the Immediate Past Moderator to the Commission, and would not reduce Assembly membership; one approves biennial meeting, subject to reduction of membership by one-third; one suggests following numbers of ministers and of elders in G.A. of A.: State Assemblies, N.S.W. and Vic. 6, Queensland 3, S.A., W.A. and Tasmania 2; Presbyteries, one for every ten charges or part thereof; one favours biennial meetings; one suggests the Assembly should choose a Moderator-Nominate for next Assembly.

Victoria.—Recommendations were sent to Presbyteries. The Clerk reports: (a) The majority of Presbyteries endorse the movement towards a truly National Church; (b) Almost all are opposed to any reduction in number of representatives; (c) Almost all are concerned about the suggested smallness of the Commission. Presbytery of Onkaparinga (S.A.), in sympathy with the need for a truly National Church; approves Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4; thinks any move for a Presbytery of Northern Australia might better originate from the G.A. of South Australia.

Western Australia G.A.—(a) Approve the principle of a truly National Church, while preserving authority of State Assemblies to deal with matters of a peculiarly State character; (b) Approve G.A. of A. meeting every second year, with a Commission to meet in each intervening year; (c) Recommend Commission be constituted in proportions of W.A. Overture of 1954, viz., Vic. and N.S.W. 6 each, Queensland 4, S.A., W.A. and Tasmania 2 each, with the Moderator-General, the Clerk and the Procurator; (d) Approve reduction of membership by one-third.

South Australia G.A.—Approve Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Alteration of Articles of Agreement.—The law officers agreed that if the Church is to become a National Church in fact as in name, the General Assembly must be supreme, not only with regard to Doctrine, Worship and Discipline (128, Article iv), but also with regard to Government. They were asked to draft amendments and additions to the Articles of Agreement which, if made, would effect this.

At the stage the Convention suffered a severe loss through the death by accident of the Procurator, Bryan C. Fuller, Q.C., on the day after the meeting at which the above-mentioned decision was made.

Drafts of the proposed new Rule 128 (Article iv), and Rule 159 (Article xii) were prepared by the Law Agent, Mr. J. P. Adam, and were approved by the Convention. These will be brought before the Assembly by Overture.

Northern Australia.—The attention of the Convention was attracted, by the impending opening of the John Flynn Memorial Presbyterian Church at Alice Springs, to the operation of Presbyterianism in the Northern Territory. The Chairman and Secretary were instructed to petition the General Assembly of New South Wales, on behalf of the Committee on the Constitution of the G.A. of A., to take steps to form a Presbytery of Northern Australia. That Assembly granted the petition, and believing that the new and unusual conditions in the area necessitate a new and unusual approach, resolved to establish "The Interim Presbytery of Northern Australia", with bounds comprising the Northern Territory, together with any other area or areas to the west and/or east thereof as may be added to it. It further resolved

that the Interim Presbytery be attached to the N.S.W. General Assembly, and that the action taken be brought before the G.A. of A.

A Commission was appointed to establish the Interim Presbytery. The Commission has reported that it had done so, and it presented an Overture from the Interim Presbytery anent its Constitution and Functions. Upon consideration of the Overture, the Assembly resolved: (a) That the functions of the Interim Presbytery be reconsidered in the light of the needs of the Northern Territory; (b) That a Special Committee be appointed to confer with the Interim Presbytery on the organization of the Church in the Northern Territory and report to next Assembly, and (c) That ministers who are members of the Interim Presbytery have seats in the N.S.W. General Assembly, together with the same number of elders.

The action taken in this matter was reported by the N.S.W. Assembly to the Clerk of each State Assembly. The G.A. of South Australia replied that, in its opinion, the Constitutional Convention exceeded its order in making its petition, that the necessary conditions for erecting a Presbytery in northern Australia do not exist, that if such a Presbytery were erected its attachment to the S.A. Assembly should be considered, that the conditions under which a Presbytery would be possible should be investigated, but it notes the difficulty arising from the existence of the United Church in northern Australia.

The action of the N.S.W. Assembly in this matter has been set forth in its Report to the G.A.A.

J. GRAY ROBERTSON, Convener.

DEFENCE FORCES' CHAPLAINCY (Min. 157)

As usual, the main part of the Committee's report is contained in the separate reports (included below) by the Chaplain-General and the Principal Chaplain of the Air Force, with the addition for the first time of a short report by the Rev. W. F. Gilmour, Presbyterian representative on the Nominating Committee of the Navy.

We record with deep regret the death of Chaplain-General A. H. Stewart, E.D., on 3rd November, 1956, after a somewhat protracted period of ill-health.

The Executive of the Defence Forces' Chaplaincy Committee forthwith proceeded with arrangements for the election of a successor to the office in accordance with the Regulations set forth in Min. 126, Sec. 4, B.B., G.A.A. 1948.

A sub-committee under the Covenership of Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell was appointed to contact each State Committee and call for nominations for the office, and subsequently to prepare voting papers and arrange for the required number of votes from each State, conclude the election and report to the Executive.

The result of the election was the choice of the Rev. Hugh Cunningham of Eastwood, Senior Chaplain in New South Wales.

This information was conveyed to the Moderator-General, who then nominated Senior Chaplain Cunningham to the Military Authorities, and Chaplain Cunningham was officially appointed Chaplain-General as from 1st March, 1957.

Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell has continued to render splendid service to the Air Force and the Presbyterian Church. His outstanding personality, fine organizing ability and long service in the Air Force have given him a remarkable standing and influence throughout this arm of the Services, and brought honour to our Church. We congratulate him upon his promotion to Air Commodore and upon the award of O.B.E. conferred upon him.

Chaplain W. F. Gilmour, in his position as Nominator to the Navy, is the only link with the Navy and our serving chaplains. He has carried on in this rather unsatisfactory position with energy and discretion, but your Committee feels strongly that the whole situation of the Church's relationship to its Navy chaplains and to the naval authorities needs clarification and improvement.

Your Committee has made several attempts to secure a review of the position, but so far without result.

Death of Chaplain-General A. H. Stewart, E.D.

Chaplain-General A. H. Stewart was appointed a Chaplain 4th Class A.A.C.D. in September 1932.

Towards the end of 1940 he was appointed to Australian General Base Depot, and in 1941 he sailed for the Middle East, being promoted the following year to Chaplain 3rd Class, and later to Assistant Chaplain-General.

Returning to Australia in 1943, he was appointed Senior Chaplain H.Q.

In 1946, he became Chaplain-General, holding this office until his death in November 1956. He was awarded the E.D. that same year.

Chaplain-General Stewart loved his chaplaincy work, and gave himself to it with all his heart. He served with courage and distinction through the whole of World War II, and was very popular with officers and men.

A. S. HOUSTON, Convener.

Report of Chaplain-General H. Cunningham to G.A.A., 1957

At the outset and before presenting my first report as Chaplain-General to the General Assembly of Australia I wish to express by sincere appreciation of the honour conferred on me by our beloved Church in electing me as successor to the late Rev. A. H. Stewart as Presbyterian Chaplain-General. This honour I must share with the Church in N.S.W. and with my own congregation at Eastwood.

It was with considerable diffidence that I considered a suggestion that I should stand for nomination as I was fully aware of my own short-comings and very sensitive of the many responsibilities such an appointment would place on me. On the other hand some of my colleagues felt the experience gained as a chaplain in World War II and subsequently as Convener of the Committee on Chaplains to the Defence Forces of the N.S.W. Assembly and Senior Chaplain would be invaluable to the Church, and of considerable help to those serving her so faithfully in the Services.

I shall endeavour with God's help to carry out to the utmost of my ability the duties that now devolve upon me as the Presbyterian Chaplain-General. I ask for the prayers and the utmost co-operation of all the brethren in my task.

Consecration of Colours

On the 12th of May at Canberra, A.C.T., I was privileged to take part in the consecration of the colours of the 3rd Battalion. On the 26th of May I was present at Wollongong on the occasion of the presentation and consecration of the colours of the 34th Battalion.

Moral Leadership Course

I supervised the P.D. section in the Moral Leadership Course at the Jungle Training Centre, Canungra, Queensland. The course began on Monday, 3rd June, and concluded on the night of Friday, the 7th. This I believe was the first course of its kind. Other courses have been held but the personnel attending them have been selected. On this occasion the Moral Leadership Course was included as part of the training which the battalion had to undergo in preparation for service in Malaya. Officers and men attended.

Lectures were given, after which groups discussed various aspects of the subject of the lecture. A general discussion then took place. It was gratifying to find the men had a keen interest in the subjects discussed and needed no encouragement to take part.

Emphasis was laid on the Christian way of life as opposed to that of Communism. The importance of the Ten Commandments in character building was stressed.

There is no doubt such a course will be of tremendous value to those young men in helping them to solve many of their personal and domestic problems and in giving them a clearer understanding of the ideals upon which the democratic way of life is founded. Fourteen chaplains were at Canungra and each of them made a valuable contribution to the course and helped to make it an outstanding success.

Our Church is grateful for this splendid opportunity of presenting the challenge of the Gospel to our young men and women in the Services.

A second course is to be held at Canungra commencing on 22nd July for the remainder of the 3rd Battalion R.A.R. I shall again take charge of the P.D. section of the course.

Commencing on 5th August a Moral Leadership Course for 35 selected personnel (Army and Navy) will be held at S.R.D., Randwick, N.S.W. I will take charge of this course and have the assistance of Navy and Army chaplains and clergymen of our own and other denominations.

Repatriation Hospitals (Heidelberg and Concord)

Our Church is fortunate in having as its representatives at Heidelberg and Concord the Revs. A. Irving Davidson and John Marshall. Both are exercising a gracious and efficient ministry among men and women who need the care and attention of ministers of wide experience and depth of understanding.

Chapels

The Commonwealth Government has made a grant of £80,000 for the purpose of erecting chapels at the ten main Army establishments. Some chapels have been built already and others are in process of being built, while plans are in hand for the erection of the remainder.

I wish to thank Senior Chaplain J. Finlay, who acted as Chaplain-General for the year preceding my appointment, and to express my appreciation of the help given by Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell when taking up my duties as Presbyterian Chaplain-General.

H. CUNNINGHAM.

Report of Principal Air Chaplain R. C. Russell, O.B.E., to the General Assembly of Australia, 1957

This report of the Chaplains' Branch of the Royal Australian Air Force covers the period from 28th February, 1954, to 30th June, 1957.

Full-Time Chaplains

(a) Principal Air Chaplain R. C. Russell has been on continuous service with the R.A.A.F. since 11th November, 1940, and has held the position of Principal Air Chaplain since 30th April, 1946.

(b) Chaplain S. C. Calder, who enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in March 1947, after previous service with the Army, is still on full-time duty.

Part-Time Chaplains

(a) Those at present serving are Chaplains D. McK. Baird, H. M. Bell, R. H. C. Crowe, J. F. Forrest, K. A. Fox, K. K. Luck, W. McPheat and T. H. Prisk.

(b) Since the date of the last report, Chaplains J. W. S. Lang, N. W. Paul and W. Pordage were released from active duty on being called to new parishes.

Presbyterian Establishments as at 30th June, 1957

Full-Time

Department of Air, Melbourne ..	}	Principal Air Chaplain R. C. Russell, O.B.E.
R.A.A.F., Laverton.....		
R.A.A.F. Radio Apprentices School, Froggnall, Melbourne.....		
R.A.A.F. Air Trials Unit, Woomera, S.A.....	}	Chaplain S. C. Calder
R.A.A.F., Edinburgh, S.A.		

Part-Time

New South Wales

R.A.A.F., Wagga.....	Chaplain D. McK. Baird
R.A.A.F. Stores Depot, Regents Park	Chaplain K. A. Fox
R.A.A.F., Canberra.....	Chaplain B. K. Burton
R.A.A.F., Rathmines.....	Chaplain H. M. Bell
R.A.A.F., Richmond.....	Chaplain T. H. Prisk

Victoria

R.A.A.F., Ballarat	Chaplain K. K. Luck
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Queensland

R.A.A.F., Townsville.....	Chaplain W. McPheat
R.A.A.F. Stores Depot, Toowoomba	Chaplain J. F. Forrest, E.D.
R.A.A.F. Port Detachment, Brisbane	Chaplain R. H. C. Crowe

Death of Chaplain-General A. H. Stewart

On behalf of the Board of Chaplains of the R.A.A.F. and myself, personally, I desire to place on record our profound sense of loss at the passing of Chaplain-General A. H. Stewart. The closest co-operation existed between us, and we met frequently to discuss all matters of mutual interest affecting the Army and the R.A.A.F. We welcome his successor, Chaplain-General Hugh Cunningham, and trust that the same mutual co-operation will continue.

Promotion of Chaplains

On the recommendation of the Principal Chaplain, and in recognition of his efficient and faithful service, Chaplain D. McK. Baird, part-time Chaplain at R.A.A.F., Wagga, N.S.W., has been promoted to Chaplain 3rd Class.

School for Chaplains

The first post-war School for Chaplains was held at Ballarat from 17th-19th April, 1956. The full-time and part-time chaplains serving at R.A.A.F. units in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia attended the school. The school was organized and staffed by all the Principal Air Chaplains of the R.A.A.F., who co-opted senior officers of the Administrative, Medical and Provost branches to deliver appropriate lectures.

The school was so successful that the Department of Air has approved a second school being held during 1957, and it will be located at R.A.A.F., Rathmines, New South Wales, from 27th to 29th August. Those attending will be the full-time and part-time chaplains of all denominations serving in New South Wales, Queensland and the Northern Territory. At this school the opening address will be given by the newly appointed Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshall F. R. W. Scherger, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., A.F.C.

Chapels

Since my last report the work of converting standard size huts on R.A.A.F. units into chapels has progressed most satisfactorily. Chapels have been completed, beautifully furnished and dedicated at the following units:

R.A.A.F., Laverton, Victoria.	R.A.A.F., Point Cook, Victoria.
R.A.A.F., Froggnall, Victoria.	R.A.A.F., Regents Park, N.S.W.
R.A.A.F., Bankstown, N.S.W.	R.A.A.F., Rathmines, N.S.W.
R.A.A.F., Canberra, A.C.T.	R.A.A.F., Pearce, W.A.

Members of the Board of Chaplains hope to proceed to R.A.A.F., Darwin, in the near future to dedicate the new chapel nearing completion on that unit.

United Protestant Church, Woomera, S.A.

In my report to the General Assembly of Australia in 1954 I intimated that the foundation stone of the United Protestant Church at Woomera, South Australia, had been set on 14th July, 1954.

The truly beautiful church, which Chaplain S. C. Calder was instrumental in having erected, was opened by His Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Air Vice Marshal Sir Robert A. George, K.C.V.O., K.B.E., C.B., M.C., on 14th October, 1956. Principal Air Chaplain R. C. Russell, O.B.E., presided and dedicated the building, assisted by Chaplain-General A. Brooke, and representatives of the Methodist, Congregational and Baptist Churches of South Australia, and the Salvation Army. Large congregations completely filled the new church at the three services on the opening day, and the church was opened free of debt.

The credit for the erection of this outstanding edifice goes to Chaplain S. C. Calder, our Presbyterian R.A.A.F. Chaplain at Woomera. Chaplain Calder has worked conscientiously at Woomera for nine years, and this new church will always stand as a monument to his sacrificial labours. I strongly recommend that he be presented to the General Assembly of Australia and thanked by the Moderator-General in the name of the highest Court of the Church.

Honours and Awards

In the Birthday Honours List of 1957 Her Majesty conferred upon Chaplain S. C. Calder the award of Members of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, the M.B.E. This well-deserved honour is a recognition of Chaplain Calder's zealous and faithful service as a chaplain of the Royal Australia Air Force and as minister of the United Protestant Church at Woomera.

Moral Leadership Courses

The Moral Leadership Courses of the R.A.A.F. continue to be a feature of the spiritual life of the Service. In commending these courses to all ranks of the R.A.A.F., the Air Member for Personnel wrote:

"An efficient fighting service draws its strength from more than material sources alone. It must be welded together in a union of common fellowship and constantly motivated by a code of ethics which not only breeds mutual trust and respect among its members but inspires the confidence of the Australian people whom we serve.

"The Christian ethic with its ideal of service to others, high individual integrity and recognition of moral values is the code upon which our conduct is based.

“But moral values are declining in the world and we need to take more positive action to show our creed a living and dynamic force for good. We have to show that it offers a way of life more satisfying and more in accord with the needs of human beings than the atheistic and totalitarian doctrines temptingly offered to us as cures for all our troubles.

“I commend to all ranks in the R.A.A.F. the course in Moral Leadership as a means of giving practical expression to the Christian way of life.”

With this support from the Air Board the courses have gone from success to success, and the practical results in the lives of serving personnel have been, and are being, evidenced throughout the Service.

Since the last report, the following Presbyterian, Methodist and O.P.D. courses have been held:

- 1955.—At R.A.A.F., Bankstown, for 40 members of the Women's Royal Australian Air Force and the R.A.A.F. Nursing Service.
- 1955. —At R.A.A.F., Ballarat, Victoria, for 40 members of the R.A.A.F. serving in Victoria.
- 1956. —At R.A.A.F., Rathmines, N.S.W., for 40 members of the R.A.A.F. serving in New South Wales.
- 1957. —At R.A.A.F., Ballarat, Victoria, for 40 members of the R.A.A.F. serving in Victoria and South Australia.

National Service Trainees

Reports received at Headquarters Training Command clearly reveal evidence of the excellent work being done by the chaplains at all units where National Service Training is being undertaken. The church parades are exceptionally well attended, whilst the compulsory attendance of National Service Trainees at the lectures given by the chaplains on Christian principles and leadership, and on moral ethics, has produced many heartening results. At R.A.A.F., Laverton, the Principal Air Chaplain had the privilege of preparing and admitting to communicant membership of the Presbyterian Church, on public profession of faith, 17 members of the latest intake of National Service Trainees.

General

In the name of the Church I desire to convey a word of thanks to all full-time and part-time chaplains, both past and present, for their loyal and efficient service.

Close contact is maintained with the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committees of the States, and I would like to add my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation received from the Convener and members of the Federal Executive.

R. C. RUSSELL, Presbyterian Principal
Air Chaplain, R.A.A.F.

26th June, 1957.

Report of the Rev. W. F. Gilmour, Presbyterian Member of the Protestant Chaplains' Nominating Committee (Naval)

Royal Australian Navy

Establishment R.A.N.—Two vacancies.

R.A.N.R. Port Chaplains.—

Victoria: Port Melbourne, M. S. Padman; Williamstown, vacant.
New South Wales: Sydney, F. L. A. Schloeffel; Newcastle, C. Keir.
Queensland: Brisbane, R. R. E. Maitland.
Western Australia: Fremantle, W. R. Hopkins.
South Australia: Port Adelaide, W. R. Matters.
Tasmania: Hobart, H. L. Dunn.

During the past years Chaplains T. Luckett and W. M. Constable resigned their positions as permanent chaplains. We were very sorry to lose them as they had served a sufficient time to become acquainted with Service life and become effective in their work. However, steps are being taken to fill both vacancies, and within the next few months we hope that the two suitable ministers who have applied will be appointed.

Addendum to report of Chaplain General H. Cunningham, General Assembly.

Melbourne, September, 1957.

Chaplains under Appointment.

Chaplain General H. Cunningham. (P/T) A.H.Q. (Melbourne).

Southern Command:

Rev. J. A. Finlay, Senior Chaplain. (P/T) H.Q. Southern Command.
Rev. A. J. W. McAllister. (F/T) Area Command, Mornington.
Rev. A. I. Absalom. (P/T) 4/19 P.W.L.H.
Rev. W. F. Gilmour. (P/T) 5th Bn. Vic. Scottish.
Rev. P. M. Roberts. (P/T) Field Ambulance. 3rd Div.
Rev. W. E. Haddrick. (P/T) R.A.A.S.C. Tps.
Rev. W. A. Fraser. (P/T) 21st Bn. Scotch College.
Rev. K. C. Wood. (P/T) 23rd Bn.
Rev. N. Macleod. (P/T) Southern Command Pool.

Eastern Command:

Rev. J. Mallyon. Senior Chaplain. (P/T) H.Q. Eastern Command.
Rev. W. H. D. Wallace, (F/T) 13th N.S. Bn. Ingleburn.
Rev. B. Gentle, (P/T) 7th Cadet Bn.
Rev. J. Mathers, (P/T) 13th Cadet Bn.
Rev. A. Soos, (P/T) 5th Inf. Brigade.
Rev. R. Walder, (P/T) 56th Bn.
Rev. H. W. Stott. (P/T) Eastern Command Pool.
Vacant. 16th Cadet Bn. Appointment pending.
Vacant. 1st L.A.A. Regt. Appointment pending.

Northern Command:

Rev. R. Park. Senior Chaplain. (P/T) H.Q. Northern Command.
Rev. R. A. Busch. (P/T) 5th Cadet Bn.
Rev. A. W. Campbell. (P/T) 3rd Cadet Bn.
Rev. A. H. Renton. (P/T) 31st Bn.

Western Command:

Rev. A. Macliver. Senior Chaplain. (P/T) H.Q. Western Command.
Rev. T. J. Diggins. (F/T) H.Q. and N.S.T.
Rev. R. B. Sparks. (P/T) 16th Bn.
Rev. E. H. Thorpe. (P/T) Cadet Bn.

Central Command:

Rev. A. S. Jones. Senior Chaplain. (P/T) H.Q. Central Command.
Rev. C. A. Gibson. (P/T) Central Command Pool.

Tasmania Command:

Rev. H. L. Dunn. Senior Chaplain. (P/T) H.Q.

R.A.N.

Two vacancies.

R.A.N.R. Port Chaplains.—

Victoria: Port Melbourne, Rev. M. S. Padman; Williamstown,
vacant.

New South Wales: Sydney, Rev. F. L. A. Schoeffel; Newcastle,
Rev. C. Keir.

Queensland: Brisbane, vacant.

Western Australia: Fremantle, Rev. W. R. Hopkins.

South Australia: Port Adelaide, Rev. W. R. Matters.

Tasmania: Hobart, Rev. H. L. Dunn.

Repatriation General Hospitals:

Heidelberg (Vic.): Rev. A. Irving Davidson. (P/T).

Concord (N.S.W.): Rev. John Marshall, (F/T).

ECUMENICAL (Min. 229).

International

Since the establishment of the World Council of Churches in 1948, the work and influence of the Council has grown in complexity and extent. The Second Assembly at Evanston 1954 was an occasion for a careful stocktaking, together with a sober estimate of the future possible tasks of this entirely new type of Christian organization. The Third, Assembly is due to meet in 1960. Its place of meeting is likely to be Ceylon. Between the Assemblies, the work is supervised by the Central Committee, composed of 90 members, who are as representative of denominations and countries as possible. The Central Committee meets in different parts of the world annually. Its most recent meeting, in 1956 in Hungary, had special significance because of the bringing together of Church representatives from both sides of our divided world. There is also an Executive of the Central Committee which meets three times a year, and gives direction to the General Secretariat at Geneva.

The Council is now organized around three main "Divisions" as follows:

The Division of Studies (including Faith and Order, Church and Society, Evangelism, Missionary).

The Division of Ecumenical Action (including Co-operation of Men and Women, Youth, Laity, Ecumenical Institute, Race and Ethnic Tension).

The Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees.

National

The office of the Australian Council for the W.C.C. remains in Sydney. Shortly before the Second Assembly of the W.C.C. in 1954, the Rev. Dr. Malcolm Mackay was appointed General Secretary, and held office until he accepted a call from Scots Church, Sydney, in 1956. His successor is the Rev. H. Perkins, a minister of the Methodist Church. The first Secretary, the Rev. John Garrett, is now an Associate General Secretary at Geneva.

The annual meeting of the Australian Council has continued to be held at "Gilbulla", N.S.W. The 1957 annual meeting made certain alterations to our Australian organization, dividing the work among several "Divisions" as follows:

Division of Studies (with Commissions on the Church's Faith and Order, the Common Christian Responsibility towards areas of Rapid Social Change, and the Lordship of Christ over Church and World). Chairman, Dr. Calvert Barber; Secretary, Mr. J. Webb.

Division of Ecumenical Promotion (to deal with the formation of local branches, publicity, literature, and the enlistment of subscribers to the W.C.C. Fellowship). Chairman, Rev. Denis Ryan.

Division of Life and Work (to include the Youth Department, Education Laity, and Co-operation of Men and Women in Church and Society). Chairman, Mr. V. K. Brown.

Division of Inter-Church Aid, Resettlement and Immigration. Chairman, Archdeacon R. H. Williams; Secretary, Rev. J. P. Chalinor.

Of Special Interest (within Australia)

1. Post-Evanston

Our Presbyterian delegates to the Second Assembly have given much time and energy to speaking, writing and broadcasting about the reports and resolutions of the Evanston Assembly, especially in Queensland, South Australia and Victoria, where they reside. Books and pamphlets have also been widely read and studied, particularly by young people, at camps and conferences.

2. Youth

One of the most encouraging features is the recent establishment of the Australian Christian Youth Council which includes most of the Christian youth organizations within the Commonwealth, and which has already held highly successful conferences. Inter-church groups in local areas are also now being formed in considerable numbers.

3. Overseas Visitors

In 1955 Dr. Robert Nelson, Secretary of the Department of Faith and Order, spent a few days in Australia on his way to New Zealand. In 1956 exceptional interest was aroused by the visit of the Central Committee

Executive of the W.C.C., consisting of 20 members. They held their regular meeting at "Gilbulla", and the Australian Council took advantage of their presence in this country to arrange meetings in the main centre in all States. Great public meetings and church services were organized, which were attended by tens of thousands of people, who were inspired both by the Christian unity displayed by leaders of different Churches, and by the messages they heard.

4. Resettlement Department

Australia has become one of the chief "receiving" countries for refugees and displaced persons. The Director of the Resettlement Department is Mr. J. J. Dedman, a former Federal Minister and an Elder of the Church. Since the inception of the scheme, more than 12,000 persons have been settled in this country through the work of the W.C.C.

5. Inter-Church Aid

The purpose of this Department is primarily to give direct assistance to churches in areas of distress or urgent need. For example, the £7,000 given at the time of the uprising in Hungary in October 1956 was sent, via Geneva, direct to the authorities of the Protestant Churches in that country. Similar help has been sent to Protestant Churches in Spain and Italy.

6. World Council of Churches Fellowship

At an early stage in the development of the Australian Council for the W.C.C., it was realized that assessments from the member-churches would not cover the cost of maintaining even a skeleton organization in Australia. It was therefore decided to establish the W.C.C.F., which has provided a large proportion of the funds. In the 1957 Budget, for example, income from "assessments" is given as £1,115, while income from W.C.C.F. is £5,655. The latter figure represents an aspiration rather than a statement of fact. To reach it will require a very great increase in members.

7. Faith and Order Conference, 1959

Several important Faith and Order Conferences have been held in New Zealand, and a most carefully prepared national conference is to meet in the U.S.A. in August 1957. It is now proposed that a similar conference be held in Australia in 1959. It is intended that it should consist of up to 500 persons, some 450 being appointed by the Churches, and that the theme should be "Obedience to Christ as the Lord of the Church and the World".

New Ecumenical Developments and Projects

Unity and Mission.—In the 1954 Report of this Committee the suggestion was made that the two great Christian concerns of Mission and Unity were aspects of the same concern, and that, in time, there would probably be a merging of the work of the organizations which give outward expression to these interests. Striking developments have already taken place.

1. Merging of the International Missionary Council and W.C.C.—Since 1910 the missionary concerns of co-operating Churches have been served by the I.M.C. The next meeting of this Council is to be in Ghana at the end of 1957, when it is anticipated that further steps will be taken for the amalgamation of the I.M.C. and W.C.C. If this merger takes place, there will be constant pressure on all our Churches to bring the common cause of Unity and Mission before their people with great urgency. Already its possible effects have been discussed by the respective Councils in Australia.

2. Prapat.—In April 1957 there was held at Prapat, Sumatra, Indonesia, a conference of the Asian Churches, with observers invited from Australia and New Zealand. It was there decided to set up an East Asian regional permanent Conference, with Dr. D. T. Niles as General Secretary. This decision is of the greatest moment. It indicates that "Asia" is now concerned with the total life of the Church in Asia, not separating unity and mission. It demonstrates also that Australia and New Zealand are likely to be regarded as part of Asia, at least for Christian purposes. Of special significance in this connection is the appointment as Associate Secretary of the Rev. Alan Brash of New Zealand.

These decisions are bound to have an effect on the structure of our missionary-ecumenical work. It is to be hoped that our committees will keep abreast of events, and be in a position to give a lead to our people when changes in methods, appeals and organization are required.

Presbyterian Membership of the W.C.C.

Because of the growth in inter-church relations, the Ecumenical Committee came into existence. It has endeavoured to keep the Church informed, and also to see that the Assembly was worthily represented at meetings of the Australian Council, and where possible, at meetings overseas. It is now apparent that more frequent consultations are needed. We are therefore proposing that an Executive be appointed.

The annual contribution of our Church has been £396 to the Australian office, and £405 to Geneva. On several occasions the Convener has received requests from the Treasurer, W.C.C., Mr. Frank Northam, asking us to increase the amount which we send to the Geneva office. When indeed we compare our contribution with some made by other Churches we must confess it is a very modest one. Mr. Northam writes:

“It is our hope that the visit by the Executive Committee to Australia last February might increase interest in the W.C.C. and improve the prospects for support for the ecumenical movement in all senses. I hope that there may have been some progress in the realization of that expectation.”

In view of the growing importance and needs of the W.C.C. your Committee is proposing an increase of £100 a year.

ALAN C. WATSON, Convener.

FINANCE (Min. 101)

With a deep sense of sorrow and loss the Finance Committee reports to the Assembly the tragic death by accident in March 1956 of Mr. Bryan C. Fuller, Q.C., Procurator.

The late Mr. Fuller served the General Assembly as Procurator for over 20 years. During the long period he held the office with distinction, ability and a keen sense of devotion. All members of the Assembly mourn the loss of an able servant of the Church and a sincere friend of members of the House.

Close attention will require to be given to the financial position facing the present Assembly and future Assemblies, for the situation is not secure. The finances are strained by the increasing costs of administering an organized Church with Commonwealth-wide activities.

The audited accounts for the three-year period ended 30th June, 1957, disclose a deficit on the revenue account of £77. The opening balance at 1st July, 1954, of £1,364 has been reduced to a closing balance of £1,287. The Assembly has no reserve fund and the amount in hand is far short of what is required to meet even the initial expenses of the 1957 Assembly. It will be necessary, therefore, for the Treasurers to be authorized to advance £6,500 to meet outstanding debts incurred in calling the Assembly together. Travelling expenses of delegates will alone require from £3,000 to £4,000.

The main items of expenditure for the three-year period were as shown hereunder. The figures for the preceding three years are indicated in brackets.

Travelling Expenses of Delegates—		
Assembly.....	£2,432	(£2,426)
Committees.....	£978	(£776)
White and Blue Books.....	£1,116	(£856)
Moderatorial.....	£900	(£900)
World Council of Church.....	£594	(£817)
World Council of Churches, Geneva	£1,620	(£810)
Loss on Year Book.....	£267	(£214)

Travelling expenses payable to delegates attending the 1957 Assembly were determined by the 1954 Assembly, vide B.B. 1954, Minute 233 (3). The effect of this decision is that all delegates meet the first £2/10/- of their expenses and the balance is paid from Assembly funds. The expenses of delegates to this Assembly will be in excess of those incurred by the 1954 Assembly due to, inter alia, increased fares operating in all States. The increase may be in the vicinity of at least 25 per cent.

The Finance Committee recommends that the travelling expenses of delegates to the next Assembly, say, 1960, be met in full from Assembly funds on the existing basis, except that delegates be relieved of the payment of the first £2/10/-, as at present.

Contributions to the Australian Council of the World Council of Churches and to the Geneva Central Office were paid as approved, viz., £396 and £4.05 per annum, respectively, from which sums were deducted the proportions of Presbyterian annual contributions to the Fellowship. An annual contribution of £E25 was paid to the World Presbyterian Alliance as instructed by the Assembly. The Committee recommends that similar contributions be paid during the succeeding three years, 1958/60.

Annual assessments on State Assemblies approved by last Assembly were on the following basis. The assessments were paid in full.

Victoria.....	£1,150
New South Wales.....	£1,080
Queensland.....	£360
South Australia.....	£70
Western Australia.....	£50
Tasmania.....	£50
	<u>£2,760</u>

During the three-year period an amount of £225' was paid to the Federal Inter-Church Migration Committee. It is recommended that a similar amount be made available for the period 1958/60 on receipt of annual assessments from State Assemblies, viz., Victoria, £25; New South Wales, £25; Queensland, £10; South Australia, £5; Western Australia, £5; Tasmania, £5.

To meet expenditure over the ensuing three-year period the Annual Assessments on State Assemblies will require to be substantially increased. The Committee recommends that the increase be 50 per centum distributed as follows (the 1954/7 Annual Assessments are indicated in brackets):

Victoria.....	£1,725	(£1,150)
New South Wales ..	£1,620	(£1,080)
Queensland.....	£540	(£360)
South Australia ..	£105	(£70)
Western Australia ..	£75	(£50)
Tasmania.....	£75	(£50)
Annual Total ..	<u>£4,140</u>	

The Committee recommends increases to Assembly Office Officers; viz.:

Clerk.....	£50	an increase of £20	
Junior Clerk.....	£25	"	£5
Business Convener.....	£25	"	£5
Moderator-General .. p.a.	£400	"	£100

G.A. of A. Sunday Appeal.—As authorized by the 1954 Assembly, Min. 233 (11/12), the Appeal was launched in 1955 and continued in 1956 and 1957. The credit balance in the Appeal fund at 11th July, 1957, was £681. The only payments from the fund were to the College Committee for aid in Western Australia, £200 in 1956 and £200 in 1957. It is not clear to the Finance Committee whether the direction of the Assembly was to provide for an annual payment to the College Committee of £200 or whether that sum was to be paid for one year only. A specific direction from the Assembly will be necessary.

Procurator.—The office became vacant in March 1956, on the death by accident of Mr. Bryan C. Fuller, Q.C. The Finance Committee at a meeting in Melbourne in September 1956, decided not to proceed with an acting appointment, but to await a permanent appointment by the 1957 Assembly. The Federal Advisory Committee, then meeting in Melbourne, was consulted and it was agreed that nominations for the office be invited by the Finance Committee with a view to reporting to the Assembly in due course. The Clerks of all State Assemblies were advised accordingly and invited to submit nominations. One nomination only has been received by the Committee to time of going to press and this will be notified to the Assembly at the appropriate time. The regulations governing the appointment of Procurator are quoted in the Presbyterian Church of Australia's "Procedure and Practice", Chapter VI, pages 68-9.

Year Book.—The deficit on the Year Book over three years has averaged £89 per annum. To avert the recurring loss two suggestions were made to the Year Book Committee. First, that the Book be issued triennially instead of annually and that the year of publication coincide with the year of meeting of the Assembly. Second, if the Book is to be issued annually, the price be increased to 10/- per copy commencing with the 1958 edition. These matters are under consideration by the Publishing Committee.

Hospitality for Delegates.—The provision of hospitality for representatives attending meetings of the General Assembly is a matter to which attention should be given. For years it has been the practice for the host State Assembly, Victoria or New South Wales, to provide hospitality to all interstate representatives and this has involved the State concerned in substantial expense. The cost of hospitality for the 1954 Assembly in Sydney was approximately £1,500. The cost to the Victoria Church for this Assembly will be a considerable advance on that figure. In New South Wales it has been customary to write off the amount between Sydney Assemblies, i.e. over the succeeding six-year period. In passing, it should be noted that in the event of the Assembly meeting more frequently, say at two-year intervals, the strain of meeting hospitality costs will be accentuated assuming that the existing representation is maintained.

The Finance Committee raises the issue for Assembly consideration and suggests that attention be given to the advisability of the cost of hospitality being borne by all States pro rata which would involve an increased general assessment, but the major burden would still fall on the two larger States. It is estimated that the cost for hospitality for this Assembly will be not less than £2,500. This amount distributed among the States on the basis of the existing assessment would be:

Victoria.....	£1,035
New South Wales.....	£975
Queensland.....	£335
South Australia.....	£65
Western Australia.....	£45
Tasmania.....	£45
	£2,500

This may or may not be considered a reasonable and fair apportionment of the hospitality costs. The further question of full hospitality has been raised, i.e. full board and residence for the Assembly period and not only bed and breakfast as at present provided for delegates. The attitude of the Assembly to this important matter will be influenced to some extent by the frequency of meetings of Assembly and the States' representation.

The Finance Committee has compiled the budget on the assumption that the Assembly will continue to meet triennially in Melbourne and Sydney alternately, and with the existing representation. Any departure from this practice will of necessity affect the financial position and will also have an important bearing on costs for hospitality of delegates.

J. A. MORRISON, Convener.

FIRE INSURANCE (Min. 251)

Tabulated in this statement are the reports of the various State Churches handling fire insurance. It will be seen that New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland hold some of the risk and farm out to approved fire insurance companies the bulk of their business. South Australia has a satisfactory arrangement with a leading city company. Western Australia has no Church committee handling insurance. Tasmania, no report.

In view of the present investigation into the constitutional powers of the G.A. of A. in relation to certain committees, it is clear that any attempt at a Federal system which by spreading the risk would increase the surplus, must be deferred pending the report of the Committee on Constitution and Powers of the G.A. of A. and any subsequent action taken by the Assembly itself.

VICTOR CLARK-DUFF, Convener.

New South Wales Indemnity Fund

The following Statement of Accounts for the three-year period to 31st December, 1956, reveals the progress made by the N.S.W. Indemnity Fund:

General Account

	1956 To nearest £	1953 To nearest £
To Gross Losses and Expenses and Provisions therefor	18,656	15,869
Less Amounts Recovered from or Paid Direct by Insurance Companies	10,011	8,848
	£8,645	£7,021
Balance transferred to Appropriation Account	3,893	2,345
	£12,538	£9,366
By Net Contributions	9,998	8,071
„ Commission earned	2,540	1,295
	£12,538	£9,366

Appropriation Account

To Donations—Assembly Hall Building Fund	750	700
„ Office Furniture and Equipment (written off)	155	—
„ Unexpired Risks Reserve	750	—
„ Liability and Contingency Reserve	2,500	—
„ General Reserve (for use in the Fund)	3,765	4,425
	£7,920	£4,945
By Balance from General Account	3,893	2,345
„ Interest on Investments	4,000	2,600
„ Sundry Income	27	—
	£7,920	£4,945

Total Reserve Funds as at 31st December, 1956 and 1953

Reserve for Unexpired Risks	2,000	1,250
„ Liabilities and Contingencies	18,850	16,000
General Reserve—for use in the Fund	9,000	5,235
	£29,850	£22,485

Committee Personnel

It is with regret that the Committee reports the passing of Mr. H. G. Jeffreson, who served as a Committee member for 13 years and as Convener for five years. He will be sadly missed.

Mr. L. I. Skelton has been appointed to fill the vacancy occurring in the Committee.

Personal Accident Insurance—Male Voluntary Workers

During the three years under review the Committee has inaugurated a scheme for personal accident insurance on all male voluntary workers of the Church in New South Wales between the ages of 18 and 65 years whilst performing work of a voluntary nature in, on or about Presbyterian Church properties. The premium is paid by the General Assembly of New South Wales.

Personal Accident and All Illnesses Insurance —Ministers and Home Missionaries

Efforts have also been made to induce all Committees of Management to effect, through the Indemnity Committee, Personal Accident and All Illnesses Insurance on ministers and home missionaries between the ages of 18 and 60.

The results to 31st December, 1956, have been disappointing, for only 28 Committees responded, but the Indemnity Committee is proceeding in its efforts and hopes that all Committees of Management will eventually appreciate the advantages of the scheme and seek protection for their ministers and home missionaries thereunder.

H. LEE, Convener.

Queensland Insurance Fund

Report for 3 Years Ending 31st December, 1956

The operation of the Fund during the past three years has resulted as follows:

1954— Profit.....	£633
1955— Profit.....	£613
1956— Loss	£285

The above figures include income from investments.

As a result, the capital of the Fund has risen from £5,877 in 1953 to £6,865 in 1956. During the same period total cover provided against loss or damage arising from fire, storm and/or tempest, and aircraft accident, has risen from £1,141,837 to £1,663,286. Of this latter amount £1,259,291 is carried by an outside insurance company.

In view of the growing disparity between accumulated funds and risks covered, serious consideration is being given to the continuance of the Fund.

In the three years under review 30 claims have been received of which 26 are for storm damage and four for fire. These claims totalled £5,056, of which sum £1,166 had to be met by the Fund and £3,890 by the reinsurers.

In 1956 a variation in the distribution of cover was made and the Fund now carries two-fifths in cases of churches and halls and one-third of manses, with a maximum of £2,000 in any one case. The reinsurers still carry the whole of all claims up to the amount of cover held by them.

Congregations have been encouraged to take out public risk policies, but only 12 policies have been issued.

J. S. R. WYLLIE, Convener.

Victorian Indemnity Fund

The Fund has been in operation since 1938 and the number of congregations connected with it is now 433.

It is not compulsory for congregations to indemnify their property through the Fund, but steady progress is being maintained and Boards of Management are continually being encouraged to give their support.

At the end of the last three-year period for which complete figures are available (1954 to 1956) the Accumulated Fund amounted to £28,315, and it is growing at the rate of approximately £4,000 per annum. During these three years there were 40 claims amounting to £4522. Of this sum the insuring company repaid £3,273.

The type of cover offered to congregations, schools and institutions includes fire, storm and tempest damage, explosion and damage from planes. In addition the Committee acts purely as agents for the insuring company for any other type of insurance a congregation, school or other establishment wishes to effect. The most common are burglary, cash in transit and workers' compensation. Many congregations take out an all-risk cover on items such as film projectors which are transported from place to place. Church cars are insured through our insuring company, and also ministers' own cars.

Particularly advantageous terms have been arranged regarding workers' compensation for congregations, schools and other organizations. The size of the policy enables the Committee to qualify for a "Claims Experience" discount. In addition congregations can cover a part-time worker for a nominal amount, whereas this type of cover would normally require a separate policy with a minimum premium.

Negotiations are in progress with our insuring company for a special accident cover for "working bees", and possibly honorary workers. The proposals are, our Committee understands, being discussed on an all-State level by the Underwriters' Association.

g. d. Mc Kinnon,
Secretary, Victorian Indemnity Fund Committee.

IMMIGRATION (Min. 173)

The Prime Minister, in his statement on Economic Policy on 14th March, 1956, defined the Government's intention in regard to immigration as one of "establishing some stability of intake at a manageable and adequate level". When the immigration target for 1956-57 was set at 115,000 persons, it was announced that the Government had also decided that, for general planning purposes, a figure of net immigration equivalent to one per cent of population per year should be the aim.

The main objective of immigration, as stated by the Hon. A. Townley, is "to strengthen this nation's economic and defence capacity through population building"; and, as the Governor-General says, "No other nation has ever had so compelling a necessity to populate for the sake of sheer existence."

The Value of Immigration.—Some people suggest that immigration is placing too great a strain on our economic resources, stating that each immigrant costs Australia £2,000 in capital expenditure, conveniently overlooking the gains from immigration.

For example, it is estimated that it cost about £5,000 to rear a migrant to a productive age. On that basis alone, Australia acquires each year about £500,000,000 worth of rearing and training under its immigration programme by encouraging migrants who brought with them their skills and knowledge. In addition, it has been calculated that a male migrant who comes to Australia at the age of 21 years will thereafter add the equivalent of £10,000 to the nation's stock of capital during his working life. "Immigration, therefore, in addition to being good sense, is good business for the nation."

Furthermore, it cannot be denied that migrants have made an invaluable contribution to the development of Australia. But for them our post-war shortages would still persist, the present expansion of industry and the development of our great projects would not have been possible, and the housing shortage would be much worse than it is.

Migrants are also making a great contribution to aspects of national development that have nothing to do with economics, because their presence among us tends to broaden our outlook, and add to our culture and way of life. Sir Ian Clunies Ross believes that "we are a better people, a more tolerant people, a wiser people, a more courageous people" as a result of our immigration programme. One has only to recall our attitude to our British kith and kin after World War I, to realize what a transformation in our outlook has taken place.

Statistics.—Since 1945 to June 30, 1957, 1,300,000 persons have come to Australia, and the population had reached 9,500,000.

According to the Department of Immigration, and the Bureau of Census and Statistics, the permanent new arrivals from October 1945 to September 1956 totalled 1,130,299, made up as follows:

British assisted, 281,217; Full fare, 256,742.

Non-British assisted, 311,108; Full fare, 281,232.

The percentages for the same period are: British, 47.6; non-British, 52.4.

The figures relating to British migrants have been the subject of controversy, because they include Maltese, returning Australians, and British subjects from various parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations. It is claimed that, after deducting these people, migrants from the United Kingdom represent only one third of the total intake, and but for the Commonwealth Nomination Scheme the proportion would be less. During 1956 the British percentage fell to 43.8. In 1951, the General Assembly expressed anxiety at this trend and urged the Government to endeavour to secure at least 50 per cent of migrants from the United Kingdom in order to maintain the British character of the Australian community. In the name of our Church, your Committee gladly welcomes suitable migrants from any friendly country; but we do feel the need to maintain a balanced intake between British and non-British migrants. This can be achieved by reducing the alien intake to the level of the British, or by raising the British intake to the level of the alien intake. It is for the Commonwealth Government to make the decision.

The "Bring Out a Briton" Campaign.—There are many thousands of potential migrants in Britain who cannot find a personal nominator in Australia and who do not possess the occupational qualifications normally sought under the Commonwealth Nomination Scheme. It is said that between forty and fifty thousand British people who want to come to Australia have lodged applications at Australia House, London—some applications have been there for years! Many of these people do possess the required occupational qualifications, and we are told that they are held up by the shipping bottleneck, availability of employment, lack of accommodation and personal nomination.

To help these people, the Minister for Immigration has initiated a "Bring Out a Briton" campaign, and the ostensible purpose is to increase the flow of British migrants to this country. We cordially welcome this project and expect it to receive strong support from our people. The West Hawthorn Church in Victoria has already taken steps to purchase a house

in which to house a British family, and others are taking steps to sponsor families by guaranteeing employment and accommodation. If every congregation throughout the Commonwealth undertook to sponsor one family each year a great service would be rendered to our country, our Church, and to Presbyterians overseas who appeal to us.

While the Hon. A. Townley is promoting the campaign to bring out British families, it is noteworthy that the Secretary of the Department of Immigration has gone to Spain, ostensibly to assess the possibilities of migration from that country; and that the former Minister for Immigration has gone to Austria, presumably for a similar purpose. We, therefore, ask the question, Why not first bring out the British people who are waiting to come to Australia?

It will be recalled that in 1949 we had eleven British ships wholly engaged in bringing migrants from the United Kingdom; to-day, there are only four or five all-migrant ships, and even these are not always available. In this regard, we would point out that the Inter-Government Committee for European Migration, also the Netherlands and Italian Governments, are able to secure shipping for their migrants to Australia. The shipping bottleneck applies only to the United Kingdom. What is to be done about it?

Non-British Migrants.—While we desire to increase the intake of migrants from the United Kingdom, we express our appreciation of the great contribution already made to our development by migrants from Europe. We owe a great debt to them for all they have done in the way of making possible many of the great development projects, and much of our post-war progress. They make good citizens and bring qualities that are essential to the progress of our nation—youth, vigour, industry and skill; and, as the Hon. A. Townley has said, “They, too, have traditions of freedom and culture which have helped to make the free world great.” We need such people, and we shall continue to need them; and it is no reflection upon them that leads us to urge our Government to bring out a similar number of British migrants. When this report was written, the latest available figures indicated that the total permanent arrivals for the year ending 30/6/57 would number 122,326, of whom 50,995 would be British and 71,331 non-British.

Refugees from Hungary.—The whole civilized world of free people was deeply stirred by the gallant and heroic bid for freedom by the people of Hungary; and by the unmatched barbaric ferocity with which Russian Communism butchered a defenceless people and destroyed the magnificent city of Budapest. Due to the reign of terror established by Russian soldiery and secret police, Hungarian patriots fled across the border to Austria at the rate of 1,500 a day, hoping to find freedom and peace in other lands; there were about 180,000 in all. Australia was one of the first countries to offer prompt, practical and efficient aid to some of these bewildered and homeless people. £130,000 in cash was given to provide immediate succour in the way of food and clothing, and progressive offers were made to give a permanent sanctuary to 15,000 refugees. All decent Australians applaud this humanitarian service rendered by the Commonwealth Government; and we invite the people of our Church to help provide homes for those refugees of the Reformed Faith, who at present are accommodated at migrant centres in Australia.

Dutch Migration.—During 1956, the number of Dutch migrants to arrive in Australia was 11,883. These represent some of the best types of settlers among the new arrivals, particularly those who belong to the Dutch Reformed Church.

In our last report, we gave the outline of a Presbyterian Sponsorship Scheme for Dutch Presbyterians, which had the approval of the Commonwealth Department of Immigration. It is a matter for regret that this scheme did not receive the endorsement of the Immigration Committee of the Dutch Reformed Church, and is, therefore, inoperative.

Housing.—Migrants themselves are making a great contribution to the solution of the housing problem by making possible the construction of 80,000 houses per annum in Australia. They build more houses than they occupy. We would, however, again emphasize the fact that the housing shortage remains the chief obstacle to the nominating of migrant families.

The Federal Inter-Church Migration Committee, as the Commission on Immigration for the Australian Council of the World Council of Churches, continues to provide an acceptable organization through which the constituent Churches co-operate in matters relating to the welfare of migrants. This body is also responsible for the nomination of chaplains for overseas duty and from Fremantle.

Owing to the reduced number of all-migrant vessels from the United Kingdom, and to the smaller numbers of Government-assisted migrants carried on ordinary passenger ships, fewer chaplains than formerly have been required. In consequence, the expenses are not so heavy and it has been decided to reduce the amount contributed by each Church. The Presbyterian Church is now asked to contribute £42 per annum instead of £75, and your Committee suggests a pro rata reduction in the case of State Assemblies as set out in the Deliverance.

State Committees.—The following are the Conveners of State Committees: Rev. R. R. Martin, New South Wales; Rev. James Jones, Victoria; Rev. R. H. Vickers, Queensland; Rev. W. R. Matters, South Australia; Rev. E. H. Thorpe, Western Australia; Rev. F. Sadler, Tasmania.

These, and their predecessors, have given unstinted service in sponsoring, welcoming and assisting migrants.

Unbalance of Sexes.—Among certain alien migrants, there is a striking lack of balance between the sexes. For example, among registered Italians there were 245 males to every 100 females; in March 1955 there was an excess of males of some 34,000. To right this situation, the Government is now giving a high priority to wives and fiancés.

Crime Among Migrants.—Much publicity has been given to the incidence of crime among migrants, and on three occasions this matter has been investigated by an independent committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Dovey, of New South Wales. On each occasion this special committee has found the crime rate among migrants to be lower than that of the Australian population.

Naturalization.—Since 1945 to December 1956, some 91,000 aliens have become British subjects through naturalization. Of this total, over 50,000 have been naturalized during the past two years. These represent 36 different nationalities apart from stateless persons.

In conclusion, we express our thanks to the officers of the Commonwealth and State Immigration Departments for their courteous co-operation at all times.

JOHN P. CHALINOR, Convener.

BOARD OF MISSIONS (Min. 115)

Gladly the Board of Missions again testifies to the unfailing goodness of God and His gracious leading and provision throughout a particularly heavy three-year period. In the face of many severe difficulties real progress has been made on many fronts and to Him is the Glory given.

1. Combined Enterprise

To the Board of Missions is entrusted the task of exercising the Australian Church's ministry to other peoples—overseas and within our homeland. The Board has been loyally and consistently aided and supported by the State Foreign Mission Committees and their conveners, secretaries and office staffs. All have combined in a single endeavour in the bond of complete unity and zeal for a common purpose. For the continuance of this most happy state of affairs the Board is deeply grateful.

2. Where He is Still a Stranger

This ministry to other peoples is a two-way privilege. It is our Australian Church reaching out in mission—which is the Divine commission upon which her very existence depends. It is also our Australian Church being itself spiritually nourished—the inescapable Divine paradox that “he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it”. The Board and State Committees therefore constantly study the Home Church and seek to minister to her this glad opportunity to walk with Christ in places where He is still a Stranger. They also seek earnestly to identify themselves in knowledge and understanding with other peoples that thereby they might more truly fulfil our Church's essential aspiration to share the Good News.

3. Focus on Mission

Nobly sharing in this grand undertaking, and often bearing much of the load, are the women's, youth and children's organizations, ever studying missions and working and giving for them. The Church will be grievously the poorer should this specialized emphasis ever be lost or weakened. At every point she is richer and stronger because of it. Outstanding world

Christian leaders have repeatedly warned in recent days that whatever re-organization of life and outlook may take place within any denomination, the traditional place and focus of "mission" must be preserved in the very forefront.

For the efforts of Budget Enterprises and Stewardship Committees the Board records its gratitude. In the providence of God, the wherewithal to meet new demands under Christian mission obligation, is being provided in a new way. In such movements Foreign Missions Departments have co-operated to the utmost of their resources and will continue to provide the impact of missionary deputation, printed illustrated matter, films, recordings, etc., of constantly improving quality.

4. International Consultations

In a modern world, contacts with and work amongst people of other races cannot prosper or even exist without the Board establishing itself within the confidence of the Governments concerned. In all cases relationships are cordial and negotiations frequent. In certain circumstances consultations become necessary on the highest levels, necessitating personal attendance by the Board's General Secretary or other Board representatives.

Modern transport and communications, combined with the vast political and cultural revolution taking place in Asia and the Pacific, demand more frequent international conferences in Government, Church and Mission Board spheres. Because our present and future work is vitally affected, Board representation there also has been required.

5. The Influence of Asia

Tremendous concepts of Christian unity and pooled missionary endeavour are very familiar subjects in the thinking of the Churches in Asia. These are inexorably leading to action and Australia is directly involved. Whether we will it or not, the pattern of our Australian Church life and thinking will be profoundly influenced.

6. East Asia Christian Conference

In response to demands arising from preliminary consultations among Asian church leaders, the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council called a conference in March 1957. It was organized by Asians through the East Asia Secretariat of the two world bodies, and took place at Prapat on the shores of the beautiful Lake Toba in Northern Sumatra. The Batak Protestant Christian Church (having 650,000 members) was the gracious and thoughtful host. Asian church representatives and Asian National Christian Council nominees to a previously determined number, came from fourteen countries stretching from Pakistan to Korea. Leaders from the W.C.C. and I.M.C. were present as consultants. Earnestly desiring that the Conference should not be purely an Asian bloc, the Asian organizers invited Australia and New Zealand to send observers. At the first session, by unanimous decision, they were promoted to the status of consultants with invitation to speak but not to vote.

Proceedings were entirely in English and all discussion was initiated by Asians. Chairman and office-bearers were all Asians. During addresses and in discussion some very significant and penetrating pronouncements were made, demonstrating the statesmanlike approach of many of Asia's top-line Christian leaders. The main theme was "The Common Task of Evangelism in Asia".

It was unanimously resolved to recommend to the Churches that an East Asia Christian Conference be formed to function as an ongoing regional body within the framework of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council. It will formally come into existence in 1960; but in the meantime an Interim Committee and a Secretariat have been set up to function immediately as if the Conference already existed.

It is significant of Asian thinking and sentiment that by unanimous vote, Australia and New Zealand were invited to accept permanent Fraternal Membership of the Conference, to appoint three and two representatives respectively, and to share fully in all its decisions and activities. The Australian delegates were Bishop C. Kerle (Honorary Secretary of the National Missionary Council of Australia), the Rev. Harvey Perkins (General Secretary of the Australian Council for the World Council of Churches) and the Rev. Victor W. Coombes (General Secretary of the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions). They were appointed by joint action of the two Australian Ecumenical Councils. For the present the Rev. V. W. Coombes represents Australia on the Interim Committee of the E.A.C.C.

Reasons given for the inclusion of Australia and New Zealand included the fact that these two countries are geographically within the

Asian sphere; their destiny must be related closely to developing Asia; they have no past record of imperialism or colonialism in Asia; and their Churches and Governments have already shown understanding of Asian aspirations.

While these events are interesting in themselves, they particularly confront our Home Churches with a new stature of responsibility which for many reasons it is our Christian obligation to achieve. We are gathered in with the Asian Churches as they in faith and courage apply themselves to the gigantic task of evangelizing the 99 per cent non-Christian population of their total region.

7. Abandonment to the Service of God

If the Board of Missions and State Foreign Missions Committees are the Church's Department of Inter-racial Affairs, Missionaries are her ambassadors. It takes training, vision, devotion and courage to offer for missionary service to-day—and above all a sense of total committal and abandonment to the will of God. Nothing less will suffice. The constant stream of volunteers is therefore a joyous cause for thanksgiving to God. At the time of writing 106 missionaries are in service and a number of others will complete training in 1957, ready for assignment. Still others are in training with a view to service during the next two or three years, and yet others are applying for training. While this spirit prevails our Church will truly grow. For all the devoted missionary service of the past three years the Board records its thanks.

8. Aborigines and Assimilation

Up and down Australia the aborigines have now become news. The white conscience is awakening and many are uncomfortable in mind. Newspaper, radio and platform statements are numerous. New enthusiasms issue in demands for this and that action. This changed attitude and aroused sentiment are good. Unfortunately so many pronouncements—even by some who claim to know the aborigines' problem—are not based on real understanding. For the sorrow of the aboriginal is sore, his wounds deep and his need complex and profound. Superficial hand-outs, provision of social service benefits, housing, etc., will not of themselves truly and fully fit his case. He is too far behind in the race to catch up with the white man simply with the shallow aid of gifts bestowed, however good these may be.

His need is for the white man to understand, befriend and love him at his own level, to identify himself with the loneliness and hopelessness of the brown man, so that together they might tread the hard upward road to readiness for assimilation—assimilation with welcome, respect and affection gladly extended by white Australians.

For more than seventy years our Church has done precisely this. The Board of Missions has made mistakes. So has every other body interested in aborigines; for there is no more complex racial problem in the world than theirs. But experience has brought deeper understanding and to-day the Board's policy and programme are winning universal approval. Recently a State Government Department of Native Welfare has adopted the Board's published statement as a standard for issue to all Government and mission workers among aborigines within its jurisdiction. The Board's judgment on aborigines' questions is more and more sought. Herein is a trust vested in our Australian Church and it will require our very best to discharge it honourably. May we grow to the spiritual stature needed.

9. Changes in Aboriginal Attitudes

The face of the Australian continent is changing as development and occupation thrust further into the hitherto remote areas. Our aborigines' missions have not escaped the consequences. Changes in physical circumstances promote changes in aboriginal attitudes and hopes. Both must be met adequately by the Board of Missions. The programme for each station is therefore kept constantly under review and tempo is stepped up to the growing capacity of the people themselves.

Because there are almost no secluded areas left for native exclusive occupation, few aborigines still cling to a purely nomadic tribal life. The tendency is to adopt a mission station as a new community home and refuge and make it the tribal base. Education, medical care, supplementary diet, training in Western skills, wages for exchange at the mission store, friendship and trust towards the missionaries and—more often than is sometimes imagined—real interest in Christian teaching, gradually build up a desire for progress towards Western living and achievement.

10. Big Business Arises

Immediately nomadic people begin to settle in one place, problems of water, sanitation, fuel, foodstuffs, hygiene and employment for self-support, inevitably arise. Then the mission is called upon to provide most if not all the amenities associated with normal township dwelling. It must also establish local industries that will offer remunerative work. Big business arises calling for careful principles of management. Thus in addition to handicrafts, industrial work, fishing and agriculture, the mission runs thousands of cattle over large areas at Mowanjum, Mapoon, Weipa, Aurukun and Mornington Island, and maintains a sheep flock of 5,000 at Ernabella.

Income is applied towards community support and payment in money and kind is made to the extent that the community earning, plus Government subsidies, will permit. Acknowledgment is gratefully made of the strong and sympathetic financial and other support given by the Governments of all three States concerned.

11. Transfer from Wotjulum to Mowanjum

In June 1956 it became apparent that the people at our Wotjulum Mission in the West Australian Kimberleys were outgrowing the facilities of their location. A property of 128,570 acres—some freehold, some pastoral lease—at that time became available near Derby. The nearest boundary to the township is six miles distant over a tarred all-weather road. The homestead is near the Derby aerodrome. With the approval of the aborigines, the Board purchased this cattle-run and agricultural land at a special price of £6,500, including some plant and buildings, water improvements and about 600 head of cattle and some horses. The West Australian Government yielded to the Board's plea and approved a grant in aid of £18,000 payable over four years. Splendid organization and work by missionaries and native people dismantled the Wotjulum Station, transferred all materials in one shipment on the State coastal ship "Daylesford", moved all the people and had them temporarily housed at their new home before the "Wet" set in early in November. The official comment of the Commissioner of Native Affairs was "Congratulations. We are amazed."

Thirty-two new prefabricated cottages for native families are being erected at the Station, also a people's dining room-kitchen, hospital-dispensary, general store and other utility buildings. Piped water is pumped and reticulated and a large reservoir has been erected. The cattle are being mustered and rebranded, new boring and fencing undertaken, and agriculture established. Pigs, poultry, a small dairy and a firewood enterprise have been taken up.

The children attend the Derby Public School with the white children. Our aboriginal teacher, Allan Mungulu, was temporarily appointed an assistant teacher by the West Australian Education Department, and now conducts the kindergarten school at the Station. Our people enjoy local hospital facilities and other town amenities, under discreet control.

With the approval of the Commonwealth Director-General of Social Services an Aboriginal Old People's Home is being erected as part of the scheme. There, exempted old folk will dwell and receive age pensions administered for the present by the Board of Missions.

A marquee is in use until the people can erect their own Church. It remains at the heart of the community. Two other missionary carpenters have been appointed and work on erection of missionaries' permanent residences and other structures is well advanced.

The mission lugger "Watt Leggatt II", being no longer required at the new station (now called "Mowanjum"), has been transferred to our Gulf missions in north Queensland.

12. Ernabella, the Rocket Range and the Western Reserve

Three or four hundred miles west and north of Ernabella the Great Central Reserve spreads over South Australian, West Australian and Northern Territory country. At the border corner, three separate Government administrations meet. The western section of the Pitjantjatpara tribes (who are the people of Ernabella) roam over the region, knowing nothing of political boundaries. From forgotten past ages it has been aboriginal country and they have ever traversed it unmolested.

To-day large areas of the Reserve have been gazetted mining leases and prospecting and development are operating. Weapons testing activities bring further traffic and the Giles Weather Station has now been established. Roads have been graded through the area and in other ways Stone-Age changelessness has suddenly been invaded.

The Pitjantjatjara people range over the west region between the un-denominational Warburton Mission in Western Australia on the west, the Rawlinsons, Petermanns and Areyonga on the north, Ernabella on the east and the Weapons Research Range on the south. The Board has gathered data concerning them from all available sources. In June 1957 three Board members traversed the region over its east-west axis. There are perhaps 1,200 or more Pitjantjatjara. Of these about 450 can be permanently cared for through Ernabella and 200 through Warburton. The remaining 550 (including perhaps 100 to 150 nomadic primitives still without regular contact) need adequate welfare provision.

The Board has proposed that it open a new station in the Tomkinson Range, embracing an area of about 2,300 square miles extending into Western Australia, South Australia and Northern Territory. Preliminary approaches have been made to the two State Governments and the Federal Government with a view to obtaining joint sponsorship and support.

13. Ernabella Cattle Extension Project

Stretching out to the west from Ernabella lies the Musgrave Range. For two years we have had a detailed plan before the authorities, by which Ernabella would establish a cattle and sheep extension project and so provide more sustenance and employment for our people. The next move will largely depend on the result of hydrological surveys at present in progress at selected locations. Already three successful bores yielding water have come into being.

14. Aborigines Accept Responsibility

All departments at Ernabella itself progress. Handcrafts and industries are being better established; children and adults are advancing in education; selected native people are accepting increased responsibility and proving worthy of it; construction of the modern people's dining hall-kitchen has been completed; a fifth missionary residence has been built; more literature in language is being produced; plans are in hand to extend the sheep industry; and communicant membership in the Church is steadily growing.

Periodical conferences with other missions among aborigines in Central Australia are producing worth-while results.

15. Disruption and Reconstruction in North Queensland

The current wave of exploitation of Australia's natural resources has now flowed into the reserves on which our north Queensland aborigines' stations have been built up. Fortunately it has been delayed long enough to permit the Church to go far through the years towards preparing the people for its impact.

The whole shoreline of our reserves is subject to a prospecting licence for rutile and other minerals. Tremendous deposits of bauxite (aluminium-yielding ore) have been discovered over a wide area of the Mapoon, Weipa and North Aurukun areas. Mining leases will be granted and a vast enterprise producing processed alumina for home consumption and export will soon be established.

This is a necessary national development and will include a large white township and deep-sea port, possibly near the site of the present Weipa Station. The Board of Missions and the Queensland State Aborigines and Foreign Missions Committee have had conferences with the Government and mining interests. Detailed schemes to safeguard and promote the full interests of the aborigines under mission nurture and guidance are being worked out for acceptance before the enabling legislation is dealt with by the Queensland Parliament.

Instead of an ordered incline towards readiness for assimilation over another generation or two, our aboriginal people are faced with a sudden ascent. They must make the grade or go under. The whole structure of their living and working will be affected—is already being affected. It offers one of the greatest challenges that has ever come to our Church, and the eyes of Australia will be on our work.

The task is not beyond us and we are quietly confident that under God we shall find the way. Very large costs are inevitable. The mining enterprise is ready to bear a reasonable contribution as part of the price of their development work. They share our concern that the native people shall not suffer loss on their own reserves. Our planning is therefore extensive and far-reaching and involves big undertakings.

Over and above the economic, social welfare and cultural interests of the aborigines, the Mission is faced with new areas of spiritual responsibility. Aborigines must be ministered to in their home stations; while employed at the works; when out on the cattle-runs; and as and when some, under exemption certificates, take up residence in the new town. There is also the

Presbyterian ministry to white employees. The work of our Church in the whole enterprise within the borders of these mission reserves must be a single unity. Our Church organization must therefore be planned from the outset to avoid any form of departmental overlapping or variant activity.

Meanwhile the work on all four Gulf stations has proceeded, producing the sure growth in stature of the people entrusted to our care.

16. National Aborigines' Day Observance

Assimilation of aborigines is the accepted policy of Governments and missions. It is what most aboriginal thinkers seek. It is fraught with difficulty and danger. Not the least problem is the mental and social attitudes of white Australians. However they may agree in theory, a welcome acceptance of brown folk into the full social circle of the white community has so far been found by many to be nearly impossible in practice. This problem must be met now or our national conscience will be forever tortured.

It is clearly emerging that assimilation requires information, help and action for both brown and white Australians. The Board has therefore taken a leading part in the promotion of National Aborigines' Day and Aborigines' Sunday, as annual events, its General Secretary being the Chairman of the National Aborigines' Day Observance Committee, comprised of representatives of a number of interested organizations.

The Commonwealth Government has co-operated and among other things has financed and produced 80,000 copies of a 32-page booklet entitled "Our Aborigines", for free distribution by the Committee throughout Australia. This booklet was written in consultation with the Chairman and Secretary so as to ensure presentation in sympathy with the aims of the movement. Newspaper and magazine articles, broadcasts, TV programmes, public meetings, lessons in public and private schools and Church pronouncements are some of the channels of coverage being employed. For the present the main objective is to establish recognition of the fact that successful assimilation of aborigines depends on more informed attitudes and action by the white community.

17. In the Arch of the Indian Ocean

Through all the stresses and strains of the rebirth of Asia, India remains as a keystone in the arch of the Indian Ocean, linking East and West. This is true, politically, geographically and in the realm of the mind and the spirit. India has the largest Protestant community in Asia. Through long years of British influence, she has the deepest acquaintance with Western thought and the English language and literature. Her Church union movements have, therefore, a special significance. Of these the Church of South India is the pioneer and the outstanding example. It is closely followed by the Church of North India, which may soon come into being as a result of the recent unanimous acceptance of a Basis of Union by the representatives of the seven negotiating Churches.

18. Within the Church of South India

It is within the Church of South India that the Board continues to work. Gradually our mission service and resources are being integrated in the indigenous Church. Most of the work hitherto initiated and carried on by missions now continues under the control of the Church, though still buttressed by mission funds and a reducing number of missionary personnel.

In its effort toward self-support of its parish life and wide institutional activities, the Church has readily accepted a progressive cut of 10 per cent per annum in mission field grants. Church and mission are co-operating in a programme to employ this saving in carefully planned evangelistic outreach to new villages.

Throughout South India, laymen's retreats and study courses are attended by villagers in preparation for the exercise of a more effective lay ministry among the scattered congregations. Women are included and make their own very valuable and effective contribution.

19. Indian Christians Number 10,000,000

Missionaries are kept very busily engaged in activities largely allocated to them by the Diocese and local Church Courts. Negotiations with the Bishop of Madras and Diocesan Council have resulted in the request that we maintain the same missionary strength for the present, replacing personnel as retirement becomes necessary.

Church and Mission are alike aware of deep changes in the national climate of India. Christians numbering 10,000,000 are still a small minority.

But because they are Christians they mediate to India a concept of life that must increasingly affect the well-being of the nation.

20. A New Korea is Emerging

Life in Korea staggers on towards the partial post-war reconstruction which is the most that can be expected while the country remains artificially carved in two at the truce line. There remains much internal unrest with accompanying hardship and suffering. When stability is achieved it will be as a remade people. Many of the patterns of the past have gone and cannot be recovered, however much many may so desire. As elsewhere in Asia, a new Korea is emerging and there is both good and not so good in its texture.

Displaced persons, refugees and orphans are still a major problem—to their unfortunate selves and to the total community. Much has been done to effect improvement. As is usual in such circumstances there is a certain hard core of the apparently irredeemable.

21. Korean Scarcities and Inflation

The economic structure of the country is precarious. Large occupying forces and externally sponsored reconstruction projects, pumped a temporary flow of financial sustenance into the community. The distribution could not be other than grievously uneven. Disrupted production and withered overseas trade, combined with severance of the South from the industrial potential of the North, caused scarcities and inflation. To bolster the Government position, exchange of U.S. dollars and sterling into Korean hwan has been fixed at an official rate that is 50 to 100 per cent less than the free market rate. The net effect is that overseas currency can now purchase very much less than before within Korea.

This circumstance has had a grievous impact on our Mission finance. A modest missionary's home now costs at least £8,000 Australian. Import duties are crushing. All local costs are inflated. To enable our missionaries to live, the Board, at the February 1957 annual meeting, was obliged to add 50 per cent to all salaries and allowances. Unless we can obtain concessional exchange facilities—hitherto officially denied—other mission field costs will likewise have to be increased. These new burdens have come upon the Board with short notice and were therefore not included in the 1957 Budget estimates. Yet they must be met somehow by our Australian Church.

Towards meeting this emergency, it has reluctantly been decided to defer a final decision on the two appointments of new missionaries planned for the end of 1957 in fulfilment of a seven-year-old promise to the Korean Church. Urgently-needed missionaries' housing must also be deferred. It is a saddening experience for our missionaries and for the Board in the face of the great opportunity in South Korea to-day, so strategically placed in the Far East. Who knows when these doors will close? Korean Christians continually stress the need for trained Australian workers to help mould the spiritual life of this great Christian community.

22. New Churches Spring Up in Korea

It is a sad fact that since the end of the war with Japan, tensions and conflicts have been evident in Korea, not only on the political scene but even in the Christian Church; and, alas, most of all in the Presbyterian Church. However much we are in touch with our Korean Christian friends we can have only partial understanding of the wounds caused by the Shrine issue and by the participation by some in the war efforts of the Japanese overlords. Other elements entered in to break the wonderful fellowship of a great Church. These differences on personal grounds, doctrinal questions and politics have resulted in the splitting of the Presbyterian Church into three. And yet there is surely nothing here which, ultimately, Christian love and true prayer cannot heal.

In spite of all this the Presbyterian Church of Korea continues to grow rapidly. Its influence in the ordinary life of the community is immeasurable. New churches continue to spring up all over the land. All seem to find congregations immediately. The evangelistic outreach is aggressive and missionaries and their Korean Church colleagues are ever assured of a welcome. There remains great need for even more and better training courses for the ministry and lay workers to enable them to answer this tremendous challenge. The Korean Church is aware that it needs to develop a Christian "mind" as well as a Christian "spirit", and looks for missionaries to help in this imperative obligation.

Recently the General Assembly and the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church of Korea, within which our Mission works, have sought even closer

integration of Mission and Church. As this is part of our long-standing policy and we are already far along that road, the Board plans the fullest co-operation. Later in the year there will be Mission Board and Korean Church conferences to plan for the immediate future. Can our Home Church help us financially to undergird Korea's efforts towards self-help? We have personnel trained and waiting.

Our younger missionaries continue their difficult language study, making commendable progress and gradually accepting heavier responsibilities as their growing knowledge permits. Their activities cover a very wide range and includes much itinerating in close home and Church contacts within the congregations.

23. Training Korean Women for Christian Service to Community

The Il Sin Women's Hospital at Pusan has had a record year and is justifying our venture in launching into this large new building project. Trainee students come from many parts of South Korea. An independent Australian doctor on leave from Relief Service in Korea recently stated in Sydney that our hospital work is outstanding in the whole country. The Board has temporarily appointed an Australian doctor to relieve the Medical Superintendent during her forthcoming furlough. Already the hospital has a record of 154 graduates in obstetrical and gynaecological nursing.

If opportunity and urgent invitation are guides, then our Mission is deeply committed in Korea for as long as conditions will permit. The Home Church will face this obligation, even though it call for hardship as its price.

24. Workers Together with the Synod of West Timor, Indonesia

About the end of 1956, the Rev. N. C. Crowe and Sister E. M. D. Boulter finally reached Kupang in West Timor, via Djakarta. They were supplied with a Land Rover station waggon, finance for a house, hospital supplies and equipment for home, office and teaching work. To comply with the realities of the situation and to avoid unnecessary waste of funds on customs duty, etc., all were documented as donations to the Synod of Timor.

The anti-colonialism that is so strong a sentiment in Asia, caused the Timorese Church leaders to act cautiously when again receiving Westerners to share in their Church work. Our team and their Australian Methodist colleague have clearly demonstrated the sincerity of their approach as "fraternal workers" and are rapidly winning a most useful place in the confidence and affection of the people.

25. Major Timor Assignment for Our Young Pioneers

Both will be stationed at So'e, a central Timor highland town strategically placed on the country's main arterial road. Miss Boulter will reside in and superintend the Church's new maternity hospital and clinic. Her work will extend to neighbouring villages. For this the Land Rover closed waggon is the ideal vehicle and is quite the most suitable in Timor. Mr. Crowe will teach in the So'e Bible School for training pastors of the higher middle grade. His new home is under construction. His task will also include country itineration and a great variety of projects within a large Church sorely lacking leadership.

The Church of Timor has a constituency of approximately 300,000. The inflow of 10,000 inquiries per annum from the rest of the 680,000 population heavily taxes the Church's teaching resources. It also has the care of 200 elementary schools. Training of Church workers and the demonstration of advanced methods are therefore a very major assignment for our young pioneers.

26. Autonomous Entity in the New Hebrides

Perhaps more than any other body our Church has been shaping the destiny of the New Hebridean natives for more than a century. The Board and the Mission constitute a repository of experience and knowledge which is often called upon for initiative towards planning the future. Its somewhat unique position in this regard is not unrecognized by the administrations. It will have a still greater part to play within the next decade, and action is being constantly taken towards safeguarding and promoting all the legitimate interests of the islanders. The new Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides, within which the Board now works, is a growing force. Over and above its spiritual nurture of the people, it is training native leadership in democratic practice and responsibility and is in fact the only autonomous entity capable of public proclamation of native viewpoints in the administration and development of the territory.

27. New Hebrides Condominium

The Protocol under which the New Hebrides is administered, is being reviewed by the metropolitan governments of Britain and France. The Board has made representations in an effort to secure more genuine constitutional recognition of citizenship rights for the native peoples. This course is still being pursued.

During 1956 the Jubilee of the Condominium was celebrated in the Group. Certain promises of new facilities and services for the people were made. When these have all been realized, the territory will still be the most backward in the Pacific.

28. Island School and Hospital Undertakings

In June 1956 the General Secretary met at Vila with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides, the Mission Council and with the British Resident Commissioner. Government aid to the Mission and Church in its school and hospital undertakings was sought on a detailed written basis. Some action has since been taken and there is now prospect of at least partial granting of our request. The Board is actively engaged in these negotiations, knowing that an educated and healthy Church will be a stronger power in the total community.

Meanwhile the Mission's educational programme, outlined in 1945 and worked out in more detail in 1953, has made good progress towards the creating of a more informed Church membership, more able Church leadership, and a people better qualified for citizenship in their own rights. The Board's appointment of additional missionary teachers is already yielding fine dividends. Courses for teacher and pastor training at the Tangoa Teacher Training Institute are being stepped up. Already several outstanding New Hebridean teachers and better qualified young pastors are in service for the Church, and more will soon follow. Yet there is much more required to provide the initial impetus and at least two additional missionary teachers for district schools are being urgently sought, as well as specialists to strengthen the Christian teacher training work at Tangoa. At the 1957 Mission Council two missionary teachers were given the task of preparing an eight-year syllabus for the new school programme being instituted in co-operation with the British Administration.

29. New Hebrides Missionary Doctors Have Many Duties

All medical work is expensive and in Australia many hospitals are in financial difficulties. Our mission hospitals are faced with heavy demands by a medically needy native population. Yet our circumstances decree that they must work strictly within a very limited budget, knowing that any excess expenditure on their part must be met at the expense of other urgent missionary work within the group. As a consequence, missionary doctors have many duties beyond the purely medical, and must be very finance-conscious. They must also daily decide just how far they may go to meet the need around them. Their difficulty is increased by the fact that the all-over backwardness of native development in the group, largely because of defects in a Condominium administration system, tends to keep the local people from qualifying for acceptance of higher responsibility.

Nevertheless, it is recognized that in the New-Hebrides, as everywhere else, the future of Christian service depends on the early ability of the natives to carry such responsibility, and missionaries know the need to concentrate on this development.

30. The New Hebridean Church Goes Forward

The three-year period has seen considerable progress on all stations, except Ambrym, which has suffered a long missionary vacancy. The people have built many new churches and schools, and classes have increased. There have been many baptisms. In some centres there is a buoyancy in Church life and a sense among the people that with the Church they are really moving onward and upward. There are also many disappointments and there is still a long way to go.

Recent new missionary appointments have filled most vacancies, including Ambrym, and the staffing position will be better than for some years. At least two more teachers, two nurses, one ordained minister and a woman secretary are still needed.

The New Hebrides remains a very needy field with its own peculiar problems and stubborn difficulties. Under God we shall win through, if we faint not.

31. Chinese Church Affairs

The Chinese congregation in Sydney has long since outgrown the Campbell Street church accommodation. Negotiations between the Sydney Presbytery, Board of Missions, Chinese congregation and Fullerton Memorial congregation have now resulted in an arrangement under which the large church property in Crown Street will become available for the use of the Chinese Church. Thus there is opened a vista of new activity and evangelistic endeavour. The Chinese people have subscribed liberally towards the cost of complete renovation of this beautiful memorial church and halls in the inner city area of Surry Hills.

On Sunday, 3rd March, 1957, the Session of Fullerton Memorial invited the Chinese congregation to worship with them in a Service of Communion. A representative of the Sydney Presbytery and of the Board of Missions officiated in association with the Sessions of the two churches. Over 150 communicants were present. The previous Fullerton Memorial congregation has now gone out of existence as such. The property will be shared for limited use by the Social Service Department of the New South Wales Church.

The present period of service of the Rev. P. S. Mo under appointment by the Board of Missions will terminate in August 1957. An extension for at least one more year has been arranged.

In the opinion of many the time has arrived when the Sydney Chinese Church is again strong enough to seek a settled minister and so fulfil its existing status as a sanctioned charge. The Assembly will be asked to authorize the Board of Missions, in association with the Presbytery of Sydney, to take the necessary steps towards this end as soon as a suitable opportunity arises.

In Melbourne, Presbyterian and Methodist Chinese congregations have united and are making a drive to strengthen their Church life. The Chinese population in the area is much smaller than in Sydney.

32. National Missionary Council of Australia

An active association with and sharing in the activities of this body has been maintained. The Council will be represented at the plenary meeting of the International Missionary Council to be held in Ghana in December 1957. The changing pattern of missionary work—particularly in Asia and Africa—will be reflected in a complete review of the place and function of the I.M.C. and of its constituent national councils. In particular the nature of its closer relationship with the World Council of Churches will be considered. The same subject is receiving close attention in Australia, where suggestions for a more definite organizational relationship between the N.M.C. and the A.C. for the W.C.C. have been seriously advanced.

33. Publications

A number of hymn-books, catechisms and scripture portions in several New Hebridean languages have been revised or newly prepared by missionary-native leaders teams and published by the Board in Sydney. Such work is yearly increasing in cost and is possible only through the sacrificial offerings of the people of the native churches. Our New Hebridean mission area embraces perhaps forty languages. The Presbyterian Mission has publications in more than thirty of them. None had ever been reduced to writing before the missionaries undertook the task.

Further study booklets, annual illustrated reports and leaflets have been produced and distributed throughout the Australian Church.

Steps are being taken to improve information and study literature supplies as the work itself enlarges and as the demand grows.

34. "Encounter"

The Board's quarterly magazine "Encounter" first appeared in March 1956. It is issued for the nominal subscription of five shillings per annum. At present there are 1,550 subscribers. This number should be greatly increased and any effort made by Church members toward that end will be a real service to missions.

35. Films and Publicity Material

Several new colour sound films have been released and are much in demand. Sets of good colour slide transparencies have been built up and these are available with lecture notes from State Foreign Missions Offices. It is planned to improve this service and Board and State Secretaries are working co-operatively to provide an all-Australian pool of readily available audio-visual demonstration aids.

36. Deputation Work

Missionaries on furlough have contributed greatly to missionary knowledge and vision through their deputations to the Churches. Itineraries, visitations and rallies by Secretaries have maintained a sustained impact. There is room for still greater effort and ministers and sessions are invited to create the desire and provide the opportunity for such spiritually nourishing work.

37. Relationship of Missionaries on Furlough to G.A. of A.

Discussion on this subject has taken place in the 1956 Victorian Assembly and subsequent Commission of Assembly, also in meetings of the Board of Missions. Its purpose has been to seek a place in meetings of the G.A. of A. for eligible missionaries on furlough at the time. Toward this end an Overture has been submitted. The Board of Missions has appointed the Rev. J. M. Stuckey and the Rev. V. W. Coombes to speak in support of the Overture.

38. Board Secretariat

The extension of the Church's missionary work, the increase in the number and "turn round" of missionary staff, the numerous political developments overseas, the rapid tempo of the changes among other races, sudden variation in missionary method to meet altered circumstances, air travel and air communication, inflation and exchange problems in ten or more currencies, station reconstruction and extension projects on all fields, necessity for increased equipment aids, ecumenical activities involving the Board's interests, new publications and the demands for radio, newspaper and television contributions—these and many other circumstances peculiar to the times have greatly multiplied and accelerated the many-sided tasks and duties of the Board Secretariat. To help meet the situation the Rev. H. F. McDonald was appointed Assistant General Secretary—at first part-time and now for full-time duty. Experience has shown that still further office staffing adjustment is necessary so that the General Secretary might be more free to concentrate on the higher levels of our Church's missionary undertakings and relationships. Additional office space and some further office equipment is also urgently needed.

39. Missionary College

Missionary work among other races is a specialized task. They who go forth to undertake it in whatever capacity, should first acquire some understanding of what is involved and what should be sought or avoided. Many Mission Boards have for years provided this specialized knowledge through a qualifying course, usually of about six months, in their own residential Missionary College. Study and training include linguistics, anthropology, history and principles of missions, background of particular mission stations, the current missionary policy and practice of their own Board, and human relationships both inter-racial and with fellow missionaries and others.

The Board of Missions is convinced that ideally and of necessity no missionary should be placed in the complex and unfamiliar circumstances of a modern mission station without first receiving the essential conditioning which such a course alone can provide.

Accordingly it is proposed to commence a Presbyterian Missionary College, probably in Sydney, as soon as necessary funds for purchase of the property and recurring expenses can be secured. Some of the lectures and training will then be carried out in co-operation with the Missionary Colleges of sister Churches and with departments of the University of Sydney.

40. Finance

The Board gratefully reports that all financial commitments undertaken have been covered by resources made available by State Quota Grants, income from investments and revenue from Government subsidies and service enterprises. It must, however, be admitted that this result was secured only by a policy of careful expenditure within the financial provision known to be available. Solvency was maintained only because some recognized vacancies were unfilled. There are constant calls for further expenditure on objects that would certainly promote the cause of the Kingdom through our Church's Missions. The Board is seeking additional financial support from the Church and will undertake these progressive measures as such new resources are forthcoming.

The measure of the financial transactions is set out in the appended Three-Year Revenue Account and Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1956. A brief summary is submitted hereunder:

Financial Summary for Three Years Ended 31st December, 1956

Income	
Quota Grants—	
Queensland	£7,352
New South Wales	52,356
Victoria	93,648
South Australia	4,042
Western Australia	2,488
Tasmania	4,812
John G. Paton Fund	17,576
	£182,274
Donations, Interest, Publications and Sundries	25,220
Ernabella Station Income, including Government Grants	52,074
Mowanjum-Wotjulum Station Income, including Government Grants	41,637
Transfers from Special Funds	56,418
	£357,623
North Queensland Station Income, including Govt. Grants (approx.)	113,500
Income Raised Overseas (approx.)—	
Korea	35,000
India	20,400
New Hebrides	51,000
	£577,523
Expenditure	
Home Base Salaries, Administrative Costs and Grants to	
Co-operative Work, Transfers, etc.	£17,747
Interest Allowed and Reserved	7,925
Field Administration (including depreciation)—	
North Queensland	120,900
Ernabella	53,181
Mowanjum-Wotjulum	69,396
New Hebrides	97,522
India	28,344
Korea	68,807
Chinese in Australia	195
Indonesia	6,986
Overseas Income Expended Locally (approx.)—	
Korea	35,000
India	20,400
New Hebrides	51,000
Surplus for Three Years	120
	£577,523

It will be noted that the totals for three years shown in the above summary were £577,523. Against this the estimate for the current year 1957 is £259,098. Annual State Quota Grants for the above three-year period averaged £60,758. For 1957 the figure is £86,168. The increase has been necessitated by development of the work, depreciation in the value of Australian currency and inflation on some of the mission fields. Because State Assemblies have increased stipends and because the devaluation of currency trend continues, estimates for 1958 must increase sharply over 1957. The Board believes that this fact should be noted by the General Assembly and by the Church at large. Asia, the Pacific, and our aborigines are looking to our Church for an enlarged missionary ministry. The same challenge is being readily accepted as inescapable by our Australian sister Churches. The Board confidently believes that it is the will of the Presbyterian Church of Australia that we should do no less in the face of to-day's remarkable opportunity and consequent Christian obligation.

41. Appreciation

The Board places on record its grateful appreciation of the fine service rendered by missionaries on service and during furlough deputations. At times they have suffered frustration because of somewhat inadequate re-

sources. Their difficulties have often been accentuated by lack of sufficient missionary colleagues. Any vacancy on an established Mission Station is a grievous loss to the cause. When such vacancies are prolonged the damage sometimes done is a heartbreak to neighbouring missionaries who are hopelessly overburdened. For their courage, faithfulness, patient and enduring helpfulness the Board tenders its thanks. The gratitude of the Church is also extended to missionaries, who, having served long and well, have now withdrawn from the work.

42. Missionaries

The following is a list of missionaries in service at the time of writing this report:

Aborigines

Mapoon, Queensland.—Mr. T. S. Bartlett, Mrs. T. S. Bartlett, Mr. L. C. Heading, Mrs. L. C. Heading.

Weipa, Queensland.—Mr. J. S. Winn, Mrs. J. S. Winn, Miss M. Elms, A.Mus.A., A.T.C.L.

Aurukun, Queensland.—Rev. W. F. MacKenzie, B.A., Mrs. W. F. MacKenzie, B. A., Dip.Ed., Mr. J. Henderson, Mrs. J. Henderson, Sister A. A. Cameron.

Mornington Island, Queensland.—Rev. D. L. Belcher, Mrs. D. L. Belcher, Mr. W. D. Page, Mrs. W. D. Page, Mr. L. J. McMillan, Mrs. L. J. McMillan, Miss M. S. McBain, B.Sc.

Thursday Island, Queensland.—Mr. A. Leslie.

Mowanjurn, W.A. (Wotjulum).—Rev. J. B. Hartshorn, Mrs. J. B. Hartshorn, Mr. I. Macdonald, Mrs. I. Macdonald, Mr. J. A. Naarding, Mr. A. A. Smith (temporary), Mrs. A. A. Smith (temporary).

Ernabella, Central Australia.—Rev. B. J. Edenborough, Mrs. B. J. Edenborough, Mr. J. H. Bennett, Mrs. J. H. Bennett, Mr. W. C. Elliott, Mrs. W. C. Elliott, Mr. N. Gardam, Mrs. N. Gardam, Miss W. Hilliard, Miss N. L. Nicholson, Sister D. Leplaw.

Skipper of "Reliance", Queensland.—Mr. J. H. Bess.

New Hebrides

Ambrym.—Rev. A. Dyall, B.C.E., B.D., Mrs. A. Dyall.

South and West Santo.—Rev. W. G. Camden, B.Sc., Mrs. W. G. Camden, B.Sc., Dip.Ed.

Tangoa.—Rev. A. Blake, Mrs. A. Blake, B.Sc., Dip.Ed., Miss M. A. Williams, B. A., B.Ed., Miss M. K. Williamson, B.A.

Aulua.—Miss M. A. Cranstoun, Miss J. L. Trudinger.

Malo-Segond.—Vacant.

Technical Missionaries.—Mr. J. W. Wyllie, Mrs. J. W. Wyllie, Mr. D. Herron.

Vila.—Dr. N. M. Cruikshank, M.B., B.S., Rev. J. E. Owen, M.A., B.D., Mrs.

J. E. Owen, Sister E. T. Edgar, Sister M. Brister, Sister L. M. Connerton, Miss S. I. McRae, Miss C. J. Robinson.

Leviamb (North Malekula).—Dr. T. J. K. Jamieson, M.B., B.S., Mrs. T. J. K. Jamieson.

Board of Missions and John G. Paton Fund in Association

Hog Harbour.—Rev. H. A. Prenter, B.A., Mrs. H. A. Prenter, Miss J. Innes.

South-West Bay.—Rev. I. N. Whyte, B.A. (furlough), Mrs. (Dr.) I. N. Whyte, M.B., B.S. (furlough), Rev. I. Taylor, Mrs I. Taylor.

White Sands.—Rev. S. J. Cooper, B.A., Mrs. S. J. Cooper.

Paama.—Rev. J. Poon, B.A., B.D., Mrs. J. Poon, Miss B. E. Gray.

Lenakel.—Dr. I. S. Reid, M.B., B.S., Mrs. (Dr.) I. S. Reid, M.B., B.S., Sister R. F. Vickers, Sister N. Eveille, Miss N. O. Robb.

India

Sholinghur.—Rev. K. V. Coombes, B.A., Dip.R.E., Mrs. K. V. Coombes, Miss C. R. McCredie.

Ramakrishnapet.—Miss A. Hope Goldie.

Pallipat.—Rev. C. K. Kay, B.A., B.D., Mrs. C. K. Kay, M.A.

Korea

Tongnae.—Rev. C. R. Kenyon, Mrs. C. R. Kenyon, B.A.

Masan.—Miss E. W. Dunn, Rev. F. T. Turvey, Rev. A. Stuart, B.A., B.D., Dip.C.Eng., Mrs. A. Stuart, B.A., B.D., Dip.Ed.

Pusan.—Dr. Helen P. Mackenzie, M.B., B.S., Sister C. Mackenzie, Miss A. A. McNabb, B.A., Dip.Ed., Mr. A. B. Colvin, Rev. J. Hazeldine, B.A., Dip.El.Eng., Mrs. J. Hazeldine, Sister E. Galt (Associated).

Indonesia (West Timor)

So'e.—Rev. N. C. Crowe, B.A., Sister E. M. D. Boulter.

Chinese in Australia

Sydney.—Rev. P. S. Mo, L.Th.

43. State Committee Three-Yearly Reports

Reports from the State Committees submitted through the Board of Missions are appended.

G. ANDERSON, Convener.

VICTOR W. COOMBES,

General Secretary and Treasurer.

A. Aboriginal and Foreign Missions Committee, Queensland

The many changes, transitional and dramatic, that have characterized the post-war world has not been the exclusive lot of Foreign Missions. All Aboriginal Missions have been drawn into the vortex of change, not least being the Queensland missions in the Gulf of Carpentaria. For them the year 1956 was a fateful one. The year 1606 commenced the era of exploration and conflict between the white and brown man. The year 1891 saw the beginning of the era of missions, when Mapoon was founded, then Weipa in 1898, Aurukun in 1904, and Mornington Island in 1914. All these missions have been set in large tracts of land, undesired and rarely frequented by white men until 1956. Here as nowhere else in Queensland, the aboriginal could camp alongside his tribal billabong and let the main stream of civilization flow by, whilst the mission unobtrusively sought to prepare him for the time when he would move out to possess his heritage. Now all is changed; all the Peninsula is being examined for mineral potential. Iron, limestone, coal, zircon, rutile, bauxite and oil are all being sought. Now time, urgent and strident, is against us.

Weipa Mining Development.—During 1956, Enterprise Exploration Pty. Ltd. carried out extensive prospecting for bauxite on the Weipa Mission Reserve. Now the parent company, convinced of rich extensive bauxite deposits, is seeking a mining tenure of 100 years for a large area of the Mapoon and Weipa Mission Reserves.

The flood of mining industry in north Queensland will now flow into the billabong of all our missions, converting it into a rich broad tributary of industrial Australia. Negotiations are proceeding with the Queensland Government and the mining company. The Queensland Committee is making a claim for compensation, and is seeking a guarantee of State safeguards in new legislation granting the mining leases, and the provision of adequate maintenance costs. Our submissions arise from the following basic principles:

1. The area for which the mining company has asked for a century mining tenure brings within its orbit the Missions Stations of Weipa and Mapoon. It is submitted that Aurukun and Kendall River will feel the impact also. All these areas are aboriginal reserves as well as being their own native habitat. It is their native tribal country. Mission policy has been set to a progressive tempo of spiritual and temporal progress aimed at assimilation within two or three generations. The comparative isolation enabled the missions to follow this policy without outside pressures.
2. The mining development envisaged on such a large scale means the sudden penetration of quiet reserves with white community life. The spiritual attitudes, the social life and the economic structure of the community villages will be suddenly and completely disrupted. Instead of following a gentle transition in progress these other standards are going to be imposed on their own reserves from without by a company eager to tap the the potential wealth of the extensive bauxite field. Instead of an easily graded climb through the years to come, the native people must make a sudden ascent. Government,

Church and mining officials recognizing the very real danger, must address themselves to the task of eliminating as many dangers as possible.

3. In thinking of all parties concerned, there must be a sincere attempt to resolve the differences between continuing mission and government policy for the aborigines and between mining objectives.
 - (a) Hitherto, the important factor in ministering to the aborigines on the reserve has been without qualification the progressive welfare of the aboriginal. Mining development need not conflict with this policy provided safeguards are promised and implemented.
 - (b) The establishing of a great mining venture is of national importance, bringing profits to the company and wealth to the nation.

To avoid any conflict on these two important theses there must be a just and equitable synthesis. From the point of view of the missions this will mean a special grant to cover the immediate cost of adjustments necessitated by high policy and the ongoing obligations of the mission authorities as a provision for an accelerated programme. This special grant is essentially and legitimately an initial development cost and a recurring maintenance cost to the mining company. This compensation claim must be regarded as the positive practical integration of the interests of mission and mining objectives.

4. The magnitude of the industry envisaged will allow for a large township with a high standard of living as yet unknown to our native people. To attract the required reservoir of technical staff and a team of contented labourers, provision for ideal tropical houses, communal amenities, etc., will be generous. Finance will be available for whites to enjoy these good living conditions with wages commensurate with isolated service in tropical conditions. Finance for better conditions for the aborigines on all the reserves must be available also. The inherent dangers of a dual standard for white and black in one area can only be avoided as
 - (a) the mission provides mission stations that will prove a bridge between the social and economic standards now inadequate and and between the standards of the modern and model township;
 - (b) finance is made available to lift the standard of living on all mission stations in the reserves at the highest possible speed of climb to which aborigines can accommodate themselves. The mission can play its heavy responsible role only as it has adequate finance and a full complement of specialist missionaries at its disposal. The vocational, cultural and spiritual conditioning of the aborigines can only take place by the provision of an adequate capital grant and the guarantee of recurring maintenance costs.
5. Safeguards.—The mission is appreciative of the mining company's concern to disrupt the lives of the aborigines as little as possible, and of the sincere assurances given that every effort will be made to assist the mission in a practical way in the implementation of a policy for the welfare of the aborigines following any disruption. It should be agreed that no legislation be enacted to give mining concessions sought until concessions sought by the mission have been granted.

These are:

- (a) Compensation claim.
- (b) Recurring maintenance costs.
- (c) Provision of pastoral leases on areas of reserve ceded to company under the mining tenure.
- (d) Grant of lease at Weipa Mission Station for mission compound to preserve historic setting of mission and enable chaplaincy and welfare work to be carried on for white and coloured population.
- (e) Provision of houses in the township for carefully selected aboriginal families, on same favourable terms as white families.
- (f) Guarantee of port and airfield facilities at Weipa and Mapoon.
- (g) Preservation of hunting and fishing rights on continuing reserves and their water borders.

- (h) Preservation of Aurukun, Mapoon, Weipa compound and cattle outstations situated on mining tenure as native reserve subject to present provisions of the Act for the protection of the aborigines.
- (i) Guarantee of labour preference for aboriginals of reserves on an agreed basis.
- (j) Annual consideration by the company of certain scholarships for higher education for suitable scholars.

Up to the present, unanimity in negotiations has been reached on the following points:

(a) Neither Departments of Health and Home Affairs nor the Queensland Committee on Aboriginal and Foreign Missions would raise objection to mining lease being granted subject to certain stated safeguards.

(b) All were agreed that it would be in the best interests of the aborigines at Weipa for the present site to be ceded to company. Present thinking of company was that Jessica Point area was logical site for port, township and airport.

(c) Under questioning, Mr. Mawby unhesitatingly assured the conference that the company felt obliged to assist the mission to lift the standards of living of all mission stations in consonance with new standards to be introduced into the reserve by the erection of a model township. Any assistance possible would be given in the erection of a new village, provision of water and electricity, and in assistance to other missions such as Aurukun.

(d) It was agreed that no difficulty would be raised in relation to exclusive pastoral rights for the native people. The Government could grant the 100-year mining tenure applied for; the company could designate each decade the area required for mining, thus freeing the rest of the area under mining lease to the mission for pastoral pursuits.

(e) The white inhabitants of the township would require some area of land in the environs for freedom of movement for hunting, etc.

(f) The company would be prepared to make houses of same standard as that enjoyed by white inhabitants available within the township to aboriginals recommended by Government and mission in conformity with their policy.

In the thinking of the Committee and the Department of Native Affairs, the majority of the Weipa natives should be transferred from the present Weipa site. Aurukun must also be built into a first-class mission calculated to condition the people spiritually to the new factors penetrating the reserves, to raise living and educational standards so that skills of the aborigines in homecraft, hygiene and white men's trades might bring them closer to absorption within the new social conditions that will exist in a decade's time.

Mapoon.—Since 1954, it has been the policy of the Government and the Church to merge Mapoon with Weipa, and to this end some preliminary building at Weipa had been done. Now the time has come to restate our policy in the light of changed circumstances. Only the future will disclose where the best interests of our Mapoon folk lie—either with the Weipa township or with the development that may take place at Port Musgrave. We are taking the Mapoon folk into our confidence regarding their future welfare.

Finance.—At the time of last Assembly the Gulf missions were in the grip of a financial crises. Fortunately this has now passed following a careful assessment of costs by the Committee, with the able advice of the Board of Missions General Secretary. Strong representations were made to the Queensland Government for an adequate subsidy, which was granted. The Queensland Assembly has instructed the Committee to make application to the Queensland Government each year for:

- (a) An annual subsidy for maintenance and running costs.
- (b) An annual grant from loan funds for capital development.

A continuance of the annual subsidy will enable the Committee to follow a steady forward policy with cohesive planning, whilst an annual grant for development enables the Committee to move forward to new works, though limited, each year.

New Book-keeping System.—The new book-keeping system recommended by the Board of Missions General Secretary has been adopted but has not yet brought the desired results due largely to the inadequacy of staff on each station. Busy superintendents find it hard to understand the system

and make it work owing to other pressures. Slowly the assured results are being obtained with the inevitable compensation of both Committee and superintendent knowing each month what is the financial position of each station with respect to its budget.

Financial Integration with the Board of Missions.—The Queensland Committee acknowledges with appreciation the privilege of becoming a senior partner with the other States in the work of Aboriginal and Foreign Missions. It is hoped that the Queensland Church will share more and more in the financial responsibilities of the Board, whilst still maintaining our first love for the Gulf missions. This is our policy and all our State budgeting and publicity is to this end.

Mornington Island.—After many years of uncertainty, a clear certain policy for Mornington Island is now making shape before us. The Government has admitted that whilst its policy of eliminating island missions owing to high costs still stands, the need for financial economies would prevent even the contemplation of a transfer, let alone its implementation. Accordingly the Committee can now proceed with plans based on a policy of remaining at Mornington Island provided adequate water supply is assured.

The Committee reports that our expectation for an adequate water supply from Slim's Creek Dam has not been realized; the dam failed to hold water last year; a clay seal a yard thick deposited at the head of the dam should prevent leakage this year. Nevertheless in view of other important considerations the Committee has formulated new plans following recommendations by the Superintendent, Rev. D. L. Belcher, Dr. Neil Duncan and the Secretary after his visit last November. These plans are bound up with the two major problems of water supply and hook-worm infection. We propose to transfer to a new site for the following reasons:

1. **Health.**—Our consultant advisory doctor urges a transfer to a proposed new site, about a mile from the present mission, in order to eradicate hook-worm. Strong arguments for this are:

- (a) Infection will continue to take place in the sandy soil of the present village site; the new higher hard ground of the new site would help reduce infection.
- (b) A system of salt-water septic units must be installed at the new site prior to the transfer of any native homes, thus preventing infestation of the new area. The new site has the required 30-foot fall to the sea.

In providing the salt-water septic system, the mission will derive two benefits:

- (a) The salt water destroys ova and larvae without stopping bacteriological activity in the septic tanks.
 - (b) All fresh water will be available for drinking, cooking, washing and gardening.
2. **Water.**—The transfer will make all water from the porous substratum under the laterite surface available for a safe water supply. The present well at the mission had a capacity of over 1,000 gallons per day at the end of the dry season last November. This is a greater quantity than Slim's Creek Dam could supply in November after evaporation for seven months. Linking Denham Island well and the village well an expectant daily total of 8,000 gallons could be maintained throughout the year. This underground supply could be supplemented by a dam of 360,000 gallons capacity right in the centre of the proposed mission site. Capacity from underground supply could be increased by digging new wells.
3. **Gardening.**—The new site consists of soil selected by Mr. Stephens, Department of Agriculture, Cairns, as being most suitable for intensive market gardening close to the mission.

Following clarification of this policy, permission has been sought from the Director of Native Affairs for the expenditure of the capital grant of £3,000 made available for Mornington Island from loan funds for mission and village housing.

Increased financial assistance from Government and Church must be forthcoming if Mornington Island is to be a mission comparable in standards envisaged now for Aurukun.

Mission Agency, Thursday Island.—The agency acting as a shipping liaison between Brisbane and the mission stations has continued to play an important role. However, with the development envisaged at Weipa that will receive ships direct from eastern ports, it is expected that the agency will prove unnecessary. If this be so, then Thursday Island would be manned by an experienced home missionary or an ordained minister.

New Flying Doctor Service.—Grateful acknowledgment is made of the splendid monthly clinic to the mainland stations provided by the new Flying Doctor Service from Charters Towers, inaugurated early in 1955.

Boats.—The M.V. "Reliance" and the "Janet Thomson" have continued to do excellent service by the transport of supplies and passengers from Thursday Island to the mainland stations. In 1955, a 26-foot launch powered with a 10-h.p. diesel engine was procured for Aurukun to enable Rev. W. F. MacKenzie to evangelize the nomadic folk in the areas of the Kendall and Holroyd Rivers regularly. It is now called the "Water-lily", the Aurukun native emblem and a good one of the Trinity too. In 1957, the "Watt Leggatt II" was bought from the Board of Missions and is being made available for Mornington Island.

Dual Office.—For some considerable time the Committee has been exercised over the need to discharge faithfully its trust to the G.A. of A. as set out in Minute 144 (12) B.B., 1948. It has been fully realized that this cannot be done effectively until a full-time secretary was appointed by the Queensland Assembly. Conferring early this year with the Home Mission Committee, it was found that the members of that Committee shared the same view on the need for a full-time director. Accordingly, the Queensland Assembly has agreed to vary the terms of the appointment of Rev. J. R. Sweet with a view to his appointment as Secretary for Aboriginal and Foreign Missions as from 1st September, 1957, until 31st October, 1958.

Staff.—At no time has the Committee enjoyed the position of all stations manned with adequate minimum staffing. In 1954 the staff problem was both acute and dangerous. It was improved by a record number of 19 volunteers in 1955—12 of whom went to appointments, some to the Gulf, some to foreign missions. The ordination and induction of Rev. N. Colville Crowe, B.A., and Rev. Ian Taylor for foreign service has been of historic significance for the Queensland Church and aroused much interest and enthusiasm. With their appointments, the Queensland Church has 25 missionaries serving on aboriginal and foreign mission fields.

Spiritual.—The spiritual programme on all missions has been given the priority possible with staff shortages. Daily chapel services are held with a full church service on the Lord's Day. The majority of our adults are communicants. The sacraments are observed regularly. Two natives, Stephen Mark and Johnnie Savo were ordained as elders at Mapoon. A Bible class is held regularly at Mapoon, Thursday Island and Mornington Island; a village prayer meeting is conducted by the natives themselves at Aurukun; a choir with an average of 22 meets weekly at Mapoon. Early in 1955, out of four admissions on profession of faith, three were Bentinck Island men, the first fruits of the Gospel since the absorption of these people into our mission at Mornington Island in 1947-8.

Building Projects.—Only maintenance work has been done at Mapoon and Mornington Island owing to policy. At Weipa the second missionary residence was renovated, a third built; the girls' dormitory converted into a visitor's cottage, whilst a new school and saw-mill were commenced. At Aurukun, a bark school to seat 120 children was finished; a girls' dormitory completed, also a third missionary residence; the native stockman's home and the hospital dispensary should be completed by the date of General Assembly. A mission and village reticulation scheme is to be erected during the current year and an irrigation scheme is planned for 1958.

Financial Statement.—The following is a summary of financial transactions for the three-year period:

Mission Account—

	Income	Expenditure	Grant to Board	Surplus	Deficit
1954	£5,045	£4,970	—	£75	—
1955	£9,231	£9,596	£3,452	—	£365
1956	£10,163	£9,808	£3,900-	£355	—

Aborigines Stations Account—

				Surplus for Capital Development
1954	£98,895	£86,384	—	£12,511
1955	£98,088	£90,022	—	£8,066
1956	£97,638	£97,412	—	226

H. MUNRO, Convener.
J. R. SWEET, Secretary.

B. New South Wales Foreign Missions Committee

The Committee has continued to work in closest co-operation with the Board of Missions and has endeavoured to meet its share of the increasing programme of the Board. It will be seen later in this report that an increased number of missionaries has been provided by this State as well as an increased financial allocation each year to help meet cost of the work.

The death of the Rev. C. E. Turnbull in August 1956 removed from the Committee a member whose experience as a missionary in India and as State Foreign Missions Secretary, and whose personal devotion to the cause of Foreign Missions were greatly valued in the service of the Committee.

The Rev. T. McDougall has been Convener throughout the period under review and Rev. H. F. McDonald was State Secretary on a full-time basis until September 1955, when he was appointed Assistant General Secretary of the Board of Missions. Under an arrangement with the Board, Mr. McDonald continued with the Committee as part-time Secretary until February 1957. The 1957 N.S.W. General Assembly has since appointed another full-time Secretary, the Rev. H. M. Bell.

The number of missionary personnel from N.S.W. has risen in the three-year period from 14 to 24, and this State is now represented in the Indian, Korean, New Hebrides and aborigines' fields; a number of accepted candidates are in training.

The financial position of the Committee is summarized as follows:

	Income Expenditure		Grant to Board	Surplus	Deficit
1954	£18,358	£19,339	£15,588	—	£981
1955	£20,917	£20,151	£17,136	£765	—
1956	£21,537	£21,676	£19,380	—	£139

Publicity.—Films on India and Korea and Kodachrome slides on Korea and Indonesia were procured and put into use at deputations and other meetings. Literature produced by the Board was widely circulated. Missionaries on furlough, the Foreign Missions Secretary and speakers provided by the P.W.M.U. carried out deputations and gave a wide coverage of the State.

Special Appeals.—An appeal was made for Korea Relief for clothing and money in 1954 and 1955, and in 1956 an appeal was made for money only. From 1957 an allocation for Korean Relief will be included in the N.S.W. Church Budget. Considerable quantities of goods were sent as mission boxes to New Hebrides and the aborigines. In place of goods, money was collected and remitted for purchases to be made in India, owing to high customs duty and long-drawn-out delays in obtaining delivery.

Missionary Home.—In 1956 a move was initiated to provide a furlough home for missionaries as the problem of finding accommodation for an increasing number of missionaries increases. Negotiations are in hand.

Missionary Organizations.—The P.W.M.U. (formerly W.M.A.), Girls* Auxiliary, Young People's Mission Band, P.F.U. Missions Committee, Sunday Schools (through the Sunday Schools' Own Missionary Fund) maintained interest and support. Noteworthy was the decision of the P.F.U. to provide support for a second overseas missionary.

We are grateful to God for the privilege of assisting in the extension of His Kingdom through the Foreign Missions programme of the Church and we pray for further effective service, being aware of the great need for evangelism yet remaining.

T. McDOUGALL, Convener.

C. Victoria Foreign Missions Committee

The period under review has been one of steady progress. The Committee have worked in complete harmony with the Board. Two matters of administration only need to be reported.

Christian Approach to the Jews.—In 1953 the Victorian Assembly committed to this Committee the Christian approach to the Jews. No budgetary provision has been made for this added responsibility and it is quite obvious on inquiry that the only feasible approach is through the actual life of local congregations. Information was sought as to any successful work of this sort being done, but a complete lack of reply seems to indicate that nothing is being done. By leave of Assembly in 1955 the matter was referred to congregations and presbyteries for action, at which point the matter now lies.

Chinese in Melbourne.—The Chinese congregation though small, has continued its work through the period. It shifted its meeting place from the C.M.S. building when that was sold to the Church of the Epiphany. Mr. David Poon was, however, helping with Cantonese services at the Methodist Church, further down Little Bourke Street, due to the illness and impending resignation of Mr. Leong Gie the Methodist pastor. Negotiations for closer co-operation, including combined service, with the Methodist congregation were commenced, and when agreed to, services began at the Methodist Church on 7th August, 1956. The building has been put into first class repair and redecorated. With the return of Rev. John Poon, on furlough, it seemed that a good opportunity had arrived for a campaign of lay evangelism. The Board agreed to release him from deputation work for a month to conduct the campaign and the month from mid-March to mid-April 1957, was chosen. An attempt was made at the same time to gain the interest of the many Asian students at Melbourne Technical College.

Finance.—With the phenomenal success of every member and sacrificial giving campaigns it has been possible for the Victorian Committee to accept a considerably increased quota from the Board for 1957 but over the period under review (1954-56) it has been possible for the Committee to meet their commitments only because of the increasing support of the "voluntary agencies" principally the P.W.M.U. and P.F.A. A brief summary of receipts and expenditure for the period is set out below, but it should be remembered that the congregational budget includes sums donated by the Sunday Schools for the support of their Sunday School missionaries who at present are the Rev. D. Belcher and Mrs. Belcher; the Rev. Alan Stuart and Mrs. Stuart (nee Miss Rita Munra) and Miss M. Cranstoun.

RECEIPTS

	1954	1955	1956
	£	£	£
Balance Brought Forward.....	—	46	1,571
Congregational Budget.....	17,277	18,342	18,705
Donations.....	511	408	957
P.W.M.U.....	8,300	9,500	10,000
P.F.A. (including P.G. and P.B.A.) . . .	1,745	1,695	2,301
Mission Bands.....	374	415	488
Estates.....	504	1,853	2,783
Revenue from Legacies.....	3,241	2,434	2,645
Other Sources.....	429	*2,733	72
	<u>32,381</u>	<u>37,426</u>	<u>39,522</u>

* Town Hall Rally, £1,558 (outside budget formula).

PAYMENTS

	1954	1955	1956
	£	£	£
Balance Brought Forward.....	305	—	—
A.P.B.M. Quota.....	27,784	31,392	32,472
Retiring Allowances.....	286	218	265
Salaries and Residence.....	1,789	1,656	2,180
Travelling.....	201	358	206
Publicity.....	106	393	175
Office and Church Expenses.....	644	587	830
Share Budget Expenses.....	808	724	1,223
Missionary Homes.....	371	361	391
Balance Carried Forward.....	46	1,571	1,545
	<u>32,331</u>	<u>37,260</u>	<u>39,287</u>

Publicity.—The outstanding development in the past three years has been the organization of metropolitan and country rallies. There is a very short period in the year when the majority of the missionaries on furlough are available and when local church activities have not become all absorbing. It is then possible to organize big rallies. The first Melbourne Town Hall rally was held in February 1955, and was repeated in 1956 and 1957. These have become the official welcome and farewell to missionaries by the Church. After careful consideration it was concluded that there was a place for regional rallies of similar kind and in 1956 these were held in Geelong, Ballarat

and Hamilton, and in order to help the South Australian Committee a similar rally was held in Adelaide. In 1957 rallies were held with the full team in Wangaratta, Shepparton and Bendigo, and a smaller team visited Horsham, Adelaide, Mt. Gambier and Warrnambool. Local organization has been good and the interest raised is considerable. These rallies are in no way a substitute for individual deputations to local congregations, but do provide a place where the Church is visibly present to welcome and farewell the missionaries, and much enthusiasm is generated by being together in large numbers in one place.

Use of tape recordings and Kodachrome slides is developing and being more flexible and less costly than movie films it is possible to give an up-to-the minute detailed picture of the fields. Sets of slides on all the fields have been prepared and are in use.

Recruitment.—The number of volunteers for missionary service has increased, unfortunately in the case of ordained missionaries without a corresponding increase in the number of volunteers for the ministry as a whole. Conferences have taken place with other committees, Home Missions, Theological Education and Stewardship and Promotion, to ascertain the best means of finding and encouraging candidates for the ministry.

Missionary Homes.—The Victorian Committee has for some years had two missionary homes, one at "Fernside" in Surrey Hills, the gift of the late Mrs. Macmillan and at "Cooinda" in Hawthorn. The difficulty of properly supervising two places and the cost of maintaining two aging buildings led to the sale of "Cooinda" in 1956. Two extra flats are being built at "Fernside" and should be ready for occupation towards the end of 1957. With the Linguistics School and I.V.F. Medical Courses in or near Melbourne four flats will barely meet the need and other accommodation may have to be added later. Ample room, however, exists on the Surrey Hills site. During the slack season missionaries of other societies and married theological students are glad to occupy the flats.

Relief and Mission Boxes.—During 1954 and 1955 mission boxes were packed and dispatched from South Melbourne, the bulk of the work falling on the Rev. A. M. and Mrs. Chiles. In these two years relief clothing was packed in bales by the Williamstown Evening P.W.M.U. with the assistance of the Board of Management for dispatch to Korea.

For various reasons South Melbourne was unable to carry on the mission box packing in 1956 and as the need for relief clothing had slackened off and no appeal was to be made, the Williamstown P.W.M.U. agreed to take over the mission box packing and have already offered their services for 1957. The gratitude of the Committee is expressed to P.W.M.U. and P.F.A. branches who made up boxes and for those who have done the formidable task of sorting packing and marking. Mayne Nickless Pty. Ltd. and the Gerrard Wire Tying Co. gave freely of their services in carrying the boxes and strapping them.

In 1956 in lieu of relief clothing some £700 was forwarded to the Board from rally offerings to assist relief projects in Korea.

The Committee are glad to have had this part in helping forward the work of our missionaries on the field and will continue to work in every way possible to provide them with the sinews of war.

JAMES BEATTY, Convener.
JAMES M. STUCKEY, Secretary.

D. Tasmania Foreign Missions Committee

From our midst has passed away Mrs. T. A. (Bessie) Tanner, whose long and faithful service in the Tasmanian P.W.M.U. leaves inspiration and challenge that will bless many for many years.

Also in the forefront of this review we record the translation to Woodend, Victoria, of the Rev. Dr. Wilfred and Mrs. Paton, our beloved missionaries and friends, who completed their semi-jubilee of work under and with the Tasmanian Church. We rejoice that the Ambrym Catechism and Hymnal to which we were privileged to give special financial support has been successfully printed, and that our friend's indefatigable labours on his major book about Ambrym have earned for him the richly deserved reward of a Doctorate of Letters.

Here too mention must be made of the translation of the Rev. C. Y. and Mrs. Reid to Melbourne after ten years' very active ministry in Tasmania

during all of which Mr. Reid was a member of the Tasmanian F.M.C. and for four of them Convener.

It is a great joy to us that once again we have our very own missionaries on Ambrym. The Rev. Alan Dyall was ordained to this on 3rd December, 1956, in Launceston, his wife, Beth, being with him. Also very much our own we feel to be the Rev. J. S. and Mrs. Hazeldine of Korea, Mr. Hazeldine having served at Bothwell and Oatlands, and Mrs. Hazeldine (formerly Miss Beth Bradley of Hobart) having been for a time a member of the Tasmanian F.M.C.

In the three years under review visits have been made to Tasmania by the then Rt. Rev. George and Mrs. Anderson and by the Rev. V. W. Coombes. In addition to the Convener and General Secretary of the A.P.B.M. we were privileged to have Matron Edgar and Miss Shirley Macrae of the New Hebrides, and Miss Watkins of Korea; and the furlough of our own Sister Mary Brister of Hobart, home from the Paton Memorial Hospital, Vila, was a triumphal grand-tour of her home State. All these visits stimulated greatly our missionary knowledge and concern.

Similarly of great value has been the film, "Seeing the Harvest", made by our Tasmanian Assembly's law agent, Mr. E. R. Henry, of Hobart, when he represented the A.P.B.M. at the reopening of the Paton Memorial Hospital, Vila, New Hebrides; and his even finer achievement, of both A.I.M. and A.P.B.M. interest, his other film, excellent both in colour and sound-track, centring round the opening of the John Flynn Memorial Church at Alice Springs.

This growing knowledge of the aboriginal and overseas fields has gone hand in hand with steadily increased support—Tasmania's quota to the A.P.B.M. (always achieved) was in 1949 £800, and now in 1957 is £1,900. In addition, £315 was raised for the 1956 Korean Relief Appeal; £300 for the printing of the Rev. Dr. W. F. Paton's Ambrym Catechism and Hymnal; and for the Second Mile Fund (F.M. Reserve Fund) has a credit balance of some £130. F.M. income in 1956, £2,258 is Tasmania's highest yet.

May God's blessing continue on the generosity of our people to overseas missions as to all the Church's Life and Work; their giving reflecting their labours and their prayers; and in the communion of saints may we be kept steadfast with our fellow labourers, beside us, separated or gone on; not weary in well doing! upheld with our fellow missionaries in the fields, together in the Lord, until "the Earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea".

A. CHRISTIE-JOHNSTON, Convener.

E. Western Australia Missionary Council

Interest in the various activities of the missionary department of our Church has been well maintained and council meetings well attended. At one meeting we had the privilege of hearing some first-hand news from our mission at Derby when we were visited by Mrs. Hartshorn.

The support of the work has been well maintained, but has not shown sufficient increase to offset the increased quota accepted by this Council. Although we have paid this quota in full, we are concerned to have to report that expenditure exceeds receipts. This gives your Council the greater concern as it has been necessary to accept even higher assessment for next year.

The Missionary Council has sustained a heavy loss by the home call of Mrs. Green and wishes to place on record its appreciation of the service she rendered to our cause.

It is reported that a contingent of our team for Timor reached Kupang towards the end of 1956, and despite initial difficulties, are rapidly winning the confidence of the people. Missionary Council met, heard and wished God-speed to Dr. and Mrs. Graham as they left to take up their government appointment in Timor. The hope was expressed that they might be of great assistance to our cause even as unofficial missionaries.

Definite progress has been reported from all the fields of operation and, of course, all progress brings increased responsibility which we must be prepared to accept.

We had the privilege of a short visit from Rev. H. McDonald who came to prosecute the negotiations for what must be to us in the West, the highlight of our missionary year. This is the transfer of our Wotjulium work to Mowanjum near Derby.

In 1957 we were privileged to have an intensive deputation drive by Sister Mackenzie from Korea who visited us from 16th April till Assembly time, when Assembly as a whole was able to hear her direct report of mis-

sionary activity. This was planned as but one of a series of deputational visits and is part of a long term plan to increase personal interest in our work at home and overseas.

Literature of vital missionary interest has been made available to the congregations and more is planned along this line in the near future.

We wish to thank all who have helped us so nobly during this year and to invite the interest and co-operation of the whole Church.

All of which is respectfully reported on behalf of the Council.

W. R. HOPKINS, Chairman.

Addendum

The Board's Officers

The writing of this valuable Report has been the work of the General Secretary. It behoves me as Convener to add one important section.

The Board has already realized the value of the contribution which the Rev. H. F. McDonald is making as Assistant General Secretary, and cordially asks the Assembly to confirm his appointment. In considering the matter of stipend and allowances the Board agreed that these should be related to, and not less than, the payments made by the N.S.W. Assembly to its Foreign Mission Secretary.

The Board is deeply appreciative of the faithful and cheerful service given by the secretarial office team, and is also very grateful for all the help so willingly given by conveners, secretaries and officers in the State offices.

The Report would be incomplete without a word to the Assembly about the service to the Board and to the whole missionary enterprise of the Christian Church rendered by the General Secretary. In the Board, in State Committees, in the National and International Missionary Councils, on our Mission Stations and in the hearts of missionaries, Mr. Coombes has an honoured place. In his many dealings with Government authorities and business enterprises his judgment and integrity are trusted. At times we have been concerned lest the burdens he so willingly carried might prove too heavy. Some months ago Mr. Coombes felt that he would not be able to carry these responsibilities much longer and intimated to the Board that he did not seek reappointment after the end of 1957. The Board has given very careful and prayerful thought to this urgent matter; so also has Mr. Coombes. We believe that with some rearrangement of duties and with a little extra help in the secretariat it is possible to ease the burden and still allow the General Secretary to make a maximum contribution to the missions' cause. The Board therefore asks the Assembly to reappoint the Rev. V. W. Coombes for a further period of three years.

G. ANDERSON, Convener.

MODERATOR-GENERAL (Min. 18)

Presbyterianism in Australia because of Australian conditions, which are very different to those of Scotland, may need some variation in organization from the Scottish model. It certainly requires a greater amount of supervising, especially in the interests of young ministers and those in lonely places. A reversion to something like the original Presbyterian superintendents is necessary. In large States like Queensland there are charges so remote from each other, though in the same presbytery, that the attendance of many members is often impossible because of the time and the expense involved, or because of the state of the roads. Such men need an occasional visit of fellowship and encouragement. Even a quarterly personal letter from an older minister would be valuable. We have already this superintendentship in the A.I.M.; and to some extent in the fine work of Home Mission Secretaries, of Commissions and of State Moderators; but this does not seem enough.

Encouragement to congregations is especially needed in the case of long vacancies where a settled minister is acting as Moderator in more than one vacant charge. I came across one minister who was Moderator of four vacant charges as well as having an exacting parish of his own.

The most serious wound to our Church is the shortage of ministers, deaconesses and home missionaries. Some State churches are providing bursaries for students in training but such bursaries are necessary for all theological colleges. Much thought is being given to putting before our young people the call to special service for the Church. The appeal should be made as strongly to Christian parents who in many cases have the chief influence in deciding a boy's or a girl's career.

There seem only five alternatives:

1. A large increase in students for full-time church service.
2. The "zoning" by agreement between denominations of certain areas.
3. The ordination of women.
4. The ordaining, without a full theological course of training, of retired lay Christian workers who because of spiritual experience and special gifts could be acceptable pastors and preachers.
5. The union of separate branches of the Church.

It is obvious that these alternatives are not mutually exclusive.

If we are to proclaim the Gospel of Christ throughout this gigantic land and feed both the sheep and the lambs, some organization at least as comprehensive as the United Church of South India would seem the goal at which we must aim.

It took years of prayer and practical fellowship before the Union in India was possible. Are the Churches in Australia cultivating friendship with each other resolutely enough, or making our Lord's prayer for unity with sincerity?

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During the three last years there are a few outstanding events within the Church which may be briefly mentioned. One is the new sense of stewardship that has developed. Another is the extension of the idea of Christian education beyond the age limit of Sunday School and the Bible Class. A third is the venture of setting apart full-time chaplains in Government schools whose work will be giving religious teaching and personal counsel. It is our Church's duty along with sister Churches to impress upon State Governments the right of Christian teachers on the staffs of Government schools to give religious teaching in their own classes when they are anxious so to do, and have the necessary qualifications. For Theological professors who come from lands where the school-teachers include religious education in their training course, and in the schools provide most of the religious education, find it hard to realize that a knowledge of the first principles of the art of teaching is an essential for a minister in Australia.

I pay a tribute to the State Churches in which Presbyterians are few for their courage and many-sided development.

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It is for the Assembly and not for me to express an opinion on great international questions.

The chief events in the three years in world history are probably the Hungarian Revolution, the Suez Canal conflict, and the Bandung Conference. Though free from tragedies, this Conference, meeting for the first time, and representing more than half the world's population, will be regarded historically, I think, as the most important of the three events. It represented many nations of Asia and Africa that had only recently become self-governing, and revealed the strong emotional power of nationalism. This power has already greatly affected our Foreign Mission work. It influences Christian converts as well as people of other religions or none. Our missionaries never needed more of our interest and prayer and support.

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Coming to moderatorial work I do not need to say much. One of the outstanding events was the opening of the John Flynn Memorial Church at Alice Springs. It was a unique occasion but it has been already well recorded. A strange coincidence a few months ago was the dedication of two new churches in one week: one in Victoria at Tallangatta, the other in N.S.W. at Adaminaby—a coincidence because both beautiful churches were to replace those in drowned valleys surrendered to huge dams. The Adaminaby Dam holds eight times the volume of water in the whole of Sydney Harbour.

It has fallen to my lot to lay foundation stones and dedicate many buildings. What has surprised me is that so many of these duties concerned church schools, seeing that the cost of building is now fabulous. Of school assembly halls dedicated the most spacious was at Knox Grammar School in Sydney, the most delightfully original at Warwick, Queensland. A unique dedication was that of a lovely chapel at a girl's school built to commemorate scholars who had served in the two great wars. Some of them had given their lives. That was at Pymble, the well-known Sydney school. It was my privilege also to dedicate the new building for the Presbyterian University College in Brisbane, a worthy building on a splendid site. Of churches dedicated, that of Sale, Gippsland, is amongst the most beautiful in Victoria.

Two classes of people impressed me much. One was the secretaries of our State churches. They serve with love's extravagance; our debt to them is deep. The other class, also small, is that of the Queen's representatives in Australia. They do far more than their formal duties. They stand behind the churches, and every worthy cause. I thank God for the influence of their faith and example.

One learns by travelling the vast amount of voluntary work done by men and women for their Master and His Church. Laymen are showing ever deeper interest in the greatest of all causes; and very impressive is the spirit of Presbyterian womanhood—its never-failing generosity of time and money, its constant grace of hospitality. Men and women engaged in Christian youth work, whether they be parents or teachers, are the people called by the Holy Spirit to be responsible for the continuance of the Church from one generation to another.

I cannot conclude without some words of gratitude. I have to thank my old battalion mates and my former assistant masters for providing most of the moderatorial outfit; and some Old Collegians and friends known and unknown who made it possible by their kindness for my wife to accompany me to very remote places in the larger States. A doctor wrote to me recently, not, I think, with conscious humour, "You could not have completed your itineraries unless your wife had husbanded your strength." Also she had her own personal contribution to make and addressed or met the women of most of the congregations visited and thus did something to link them with the Australia-wide P.W.A.

I congratulate and thank most sincerely the State chaplains and also the very many ministers who together arranged itineraries with such precision that not one delay held us up. The nearest approach to error was when at one point an A.I.M. truck arrived with us at exactly the same moment as the minister's truck we were expecting. For fear of bogging, one far-back minister arranged for a second car to follow us for about 400 miles round his vague parish. The kindness and hospitality of hosts and hostesses more than I can number, and the generosity of hotels that put us up as their contribution to the Church, are precious treasures that memory will cherish.

I thank those who remembered us in their prayers; and I thank Him to whom they pray, for His patience and forgiveness.

F. W. ROLLAND, Moderator-General.

NATURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MINISTRY (Min. 80)

Thought about the nature and function of the ministry in the Church will to-day be inevitably controlled by two considerations; first, the present state of theological studies, calling as they do for a reassessment of traditional statements; and secondly, the demands of all sorts which are being made upon ministers so that their conception of their calling is being altered, sometimes subtly, sometimes radically, and frequently without the minister himself or the Church at large being aware of the fact. This last makes it urgent that the Church should encourage minister and people alike to become aware of the nature and function of the ministry in the Church, lest we find ourselves shifted from the true ground of our being in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The difficulties of exciting throughout the Church the right kind of discussion are, however, immense; and the Committee must acknowledge its failure to initiate amongst its own members such a discussion since the Assembly of 1954. The best that it can now do is to lay down certain principles which should control discussion on this subject in the immediate future.

1. Our conception of the ministry's nature and function is firmly based only when it is rooted in a clear understanding of the nature of the gospel and the place of the Church within that gospel. To put the matter a little differently, the doctrine of the ministry is dependent upon the doctrine of the person and work of Jesus Christ and upon the doctrine of the Church, of which indeed it is a part.

2. This involves constant recollection that Jesus Christ is the essential minister in His Church. Besides Him all other ministries are secondary and derivative.

3. The ministries which derive from Jesus Christ are of two kinds:

(i) The ministry of the whole Church, which may express itself through a variety of organs, corporate (e.g. the congregation) or

individually (e.g. a medical missionary). These ministries derive from the Church and express its function.

- (ii) The ministry in the Church; the organ through which, by means of the preaching of the Word, the administration of the sacraments, and the exercise of pastoral care, Christ continues His prophetic, priestly and pastoral work in and for the Church. Strictly speaking this ministry is not held by individuals but corporately by the ordained ministry. Thus, in our Presbyterian way of expressing it, the ministry of the Word (which includes administration of the sacraments and pastoral care) is carried out by a minister in a parish acting for and on behalf of the presbytery.

It will be observed then that the minister stands among his people as a minister of Jesus Christ in His threefold office of prophet, priest, and shepherd king; but he does not stand alone, rather he stands with those to whom Christ has committed His Word, the gospel sacraments, and the gathering of the scattered children of God into one fellowship in the gospel. "Unto this catholic visible Church," says the Westminster Confession, "Christ hath given the ministry, oracles and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints in this life, to the end of the world; and doth by His own present and Spirit, according to His promise, make them effectual thereunto." (XXV.)

It is to the nature and function of the ministry in this latter sense that we are to address ourselves in the work of this Committee.

On such an approach there is, it may be assumed, a large amount of agreement. When, however, we try to support these guiding principles and work out their consequences we find ourselves in some confusion. Misunderstandings and confusions arise among us, not only as between denomination and denomination, but also within Presbyterianism. These differences are reflected throughout the family of Reformed Churches, and indeed are found in other traditions also. We cannot escape the discussion of these matters, or evade the attempt to find a common mind; for the proper ordering of the Church's life is of central importance. And we should not despair of making the attempt; we have God's Word and His Spirit, and our Lord's promise to lead His Church into the truth. We recommend that the Assembly should continue to encourage throughout the Church a search for a fuller understanding of the nature and function of the ministry.

We therefore suggest that the Assembly should instruct its Committee to prepare for discussion at the next meeting of the Assembly two inter-related statements:

- (i) The authority of the New Testament for our present understanding of the ministry.
- (ii) The authority of the Reformation principle and practice for our present understanding of the ministry.

Until we look again at the Biblical witness and at the determining points in our history we are unlikely to have anything of value to say about the nature and function of the ministry in our own day. (For this reason it is necessary to defer consideration, until a more comprehensive report can be made available, the reference of the last General Assembly (Min. 250), raised by the Presbytery of Bathurst, concerning the difficult question of the ordination of ministers entering the Presbyterian Church from other denominations.)

Meanwhile, however, perhaps sufficient has been said, in recollection, to encourage the Assembly to issue to its presbyteries and ministers a solemn warning lest we drift away from our central conception of the ministry. In a day when there is a strong tendency to make a minister into a parish and Assembly administrator, part-time school-teacher and part-time social worker, it is well to recall the essential mark of the minister as minister of the Word, that is minister of Jesus Christ.

R. SWANTON, Convener.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS (Min. III)

It is part of the complexity of our times that, even among the Churches, there is a multiplicity of voices claiming to speak with authority in the name of the Church on public issues. In Australia there are the various ecumenical councils as well as the several State authorities, and increasingly, the Federal entity of the Churches. The vast size of our nation means that it is physically impossible to have a thoroughly representative Committee to consider urgent public questions, and yet the distinctive witness of our

denomination is frequently required. The last General Assembly appointed the N.S.W. Life and Work Committee and its executive as the Public Questions Committee of this General Assembly, and it is proposed that this arrangement be continued—while at the same time urging a greater degree of consultation between the State authorities.

The General Assembly of 1954 gave three instructions to the Committee which it has endeavoured to obey (B.B. 1954, Min. 236, clauses 5, 9, 11). Action has been taken as follows:

1. State Aid to Church Schools

The opposition of the Assembly to this principle was conveyed in letters to State and Federal Governments, as well as to Councils of Churches. Since the rising of the 1954 Assembly, however, the Federal Government has embarked on a plan to subsidize the erection of such schools within the Australian Capital Territory. Despite much protest from the Churches, with the exception of the Roman Catholic Church and the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn of the Anglican Church, this plan has been implemented. Your Committee took direct action in a statement addressed to all Federal Members of Parliament. This statement was later endorsed by the N.S.W. State Assembly. It is requested that this Assembly endorse the protest submitted in Addendum 2.

2. Sunday Observance

The Committee has studied anew its statement on the fitting observance of the Lord's Day in the light of the overture from the Hartwell Session. It is felt that the overture does not cover the full truth of the situation with regard to the Lord's Day, both in its light dismissal of the obligations of the Sabbath and in its disregard of the continuing action of the Holy Spirit in leading the Church into fuller truth. It is felt that Christian freedom is so little understood by our people to-day that there is a danger of mere licence replacing responsibility, and that it is incumbent upon the Church to give some real challenge to the consciences of her people. A statement prepared by the Convener of the Committee is appended as Addendum 1 to this Report.

3. Doctrine of the Church

The Committee is of the opinion that the doctrine of the Church is receiving much more attention in pulpits and in study groups among our people. With regard to the use of the word "Catholic" it is gratifying to note the way in which the A.B.C. and Press generally prefix the word "Roman" before Catholic when referring to that denomination. This has been especially noticeable since recent developments within the Labour Party. Nevertheless, it is important that we realize that at the last census 1,299,884 people described themselves as "Catholic" simpliciter, while only 762,102 claimed to be Roman Catholic.

Activities of the State Committees

Victoria.—Attention has been given to the successful Liquor Hours Referendum, when extension of drinking hours was rejected by the people. Other matters dealt with concerned the legalizing of lotteries and raffles; incidents infringing freedom of conscience and opinion contrary to Articles 18 and 20 of the Declaration of Human Rights; the after-care of discharged prisoners; aborigines; degrading publications; State aid to denominational schools and the Olympic Games. The existence of a Social Secretariat of the Churches is noted with interest.

N.S.W.—On the State level an invitation has been issued to Rev. Tom Allan, M.A., of Glasgow, to visit the Church in 1959; and a proposal to appoint a chaplain to the University of Sydney is under consideration. Unsuccessful protests were voiced to the State Government regarding the legalizing of poker machines in clubs, and the temperance issue was further supported. The Committee directed its influence toward the restoration of the traditional Anzac Day service. Other issues investigated included juvenile delinquency and the more equitable treatment of old-age pensioners. The Committee has a liaison officer for civics and politics who performs valued service in this neglected field.

Queensland.—Activities included protests at the increase of gambling, especially the legalizing of off-the-course betting shops; a statement on nuclear warfare; Sunday desecration; objection to Federal and State aid to Church schools; discriminatory actions of the Film Censorship Board, especially the banning of the films "Menacing Shadows" and "Mixed Marriages".

Western. Australia.—Reports indicate that a Committee has been appointed to provide succour for fifty Hungarian child refugees. Reports from other States were not available.

Current Affairs

Several outstanding issues of national and international significance have occurred since last Assembly. These include in particular the Suez Canal crisis, Russian suppression of the Hungarian bid for freedom, and the testing of nuclear weapons. In each of these fields there has been a clamour of world opinion, some of it spontaneous and much of it fomented by various powers for their own purposes. While the Church cannot remain silent at such times, there was never a greater need for restraint and a willingness to consider all aspects of the questions raised. The over-powering conclusion from the whole period under review is that the only hope of humanity rests in a return to moral and spiritual values as a basis of personal, national and international behaviour.

The most disturbing aspect of the international upheavals has been, in many ways, the weakness apparent in the actions of the United Nations, especially with regard to those Powers which openly reject its findings. It is with gratitude that we recall the eventual willingness of Britain and France to submit to world opinion in withdrawing from the Suez Canal, while we record our continuing sense of concern over the events which led to such action. We cannot but feel that a great deal remains to be disclosed in this matter. On the other hand we express our profound abhorrence of the callous and brutal suppression of the Hungarian bid for freedom, and urge that, in the interests of peace, the United Nations give full and dispassionate study to the careful report prepared for them on this matter.

The testing of nuclear weapons has occupied much attention in the past months, and it is noted that recent British and American tests have indicated the possibility of such explosions without the aftermath of radioactive fallout. While this is only a small degree of comfort in the face of the enormous threat these weapons present, it is felt that due proportion must be retained when considering this issue. Scientific opinion is itself divided, but the most pessimistic reports indicate that a continuation of testing on the present scale would incur only a fraction of the deaths inflicted through the purges and mass exterminations in Communist countries. In the light of the power of nuclear weapons to deter aggression, and so prevent the enslavement of millions of minds by a Godless ideology, it would seem that the full knowledge and possession of this terrible power is justified. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the nations will speedily agree on some practical formula whereby all such testing can be discontinued, while safeguarding their freedom and integrity.

In terms of general principles, it is felt that the following aspects emerge for the guidance of the Church's thinking:

1. Force and fraud are outmoded as means of maintaining political power and both are finally unable to destroy the demand for justice and freedom in the human soul.
2. Appeasement is, in itself, only a refuge for knaves and fools. While martyrdom may be a supreme privilege of a Christian as a part of a deliberate divine strategy, it is not to be equated with mere submission to evil, or an unwillingness to identify oneself with the heart-breaking decisions of history.
3. The cause of the weak and the defenceless is a vocation of God to the strong and the privileged.
4. The intellectual progress of man must be matched and exceeded by his moral and spiritual development if he is to survive as a free being.

It is recalled that this Church is still committed to the sections of its Subordinate Standard (West. Conf. of Faith, Chap. 23 and 25) dealing with the Civil Magistrate and the Church and State. It is felt that some new study of this matter is required in the light of current events, especially with regard to the increasing divergence between Church and State over many issues. Both in South Africa and in countries behind the Iron Curtain this matter has assumed ultimate proportions, and in both instances there is evidence of a neo-erastianism in some quarters and a virile and healthy sense of responsible protest in others.

It is the opinion of this Committee that events within Australia have reached such proportions that the Church must speak clearly to her people

on matters such as gambling, alcohol and divorce. It is futile to suggest that the Scriptures alone are sufficient guide to our people in these matters, for not only are our people unskilled in exegesis, but many are unable to discern any relevant teaching at all. Surely this is an instance of the Church being called upon to exercise the authority given to her by her Lord, in "binding and loosing", and so enable Christian people to make a considered contribution to the living of the nations.

Other matters requiring continued consideration are the growing tides of degrading literature within the country, leading directly to perversion and violence; the need to combat the increasing incidence of homosexuality in many sections of the community; encouragement to the Government to proceed towards the final abolition of the means test; the need to increase the rate of assimilation of our aboriginal people, and the breaking down of intolerance between religions and denominations. This Committee expresses its strong disapproval of all attempts to make political capital out of religious differences, whether this be from the right or the left. The answer to bigotry and intolerance is not greater bigotry. At the risk of being misunderstood, we believe it is the duty of true Christians to work for unity and understanding, and recall our Lord's words that it is the part of the Evil One to scatter and divide.

H. MacNEIL SAUNDERS, Convener.

Addendum 1

The General Assembly (B.B. 1954, Min. 236, clause 9) referred back to the Committee the statement on Sunday observance in the light of the overture of Hartwell Session (B.B. 1951) annexing thereto a statement of the N.S.W. Committee, and Calvin's distinction between the Jewish Sabbath and the Christian Sunday. The consideration of this question has deeply exercised the Committee. The primary difficulty lies in the apparent agreements and differences of terminology of the Hartwell overture and the Committee's statement. Clause 2 of the overture and of the statement agree that the Lord's Day—Sunday—is essentially the day of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. But the statement claims a vital connection between the Sabbath of the Old Testament and the Lord's Day, while the overture asserts a clear distinction between the Jewish Sabbath and the Christian Sunday. Clearly the terms of each statement are not identical, and as the statements proceed the subtle difference leads to a cleavage of inference. "The Sabbath of the Old Testament" is not the "Jewish Sabbath", nor is the Lord's Day necessarily the Christian Sunday. The two statements therefore argue from diverse premises. It is not from the Sabbath of the Old Testament, but from the "Jewish Sabbath" that Sabbatarianism—whatever the term may mean—issues. It is clear from numerous instances in the Old Testament that the concern of the Hebrew prophets was to rescue the Divine Sabbath from the "Jewish Sabbath", and the greatest Prophet of all aligned Himself with their view. While we agree that the Christian Sunday is not the Jewish Sabbath it is inaccurate to assert that the Lord's Day was the Sunday of pagan Rome and that "Christianity inherits from Judaism the tradition of one day of rest in seven". As the Hartwell overture itself asserts, the Sunday of the early Christian Church was a working day. The fact is that the faith of the early Church turned Sunday into the Lord's Day, in precisely the same way as Hebrew faith came to recognize the seventh day as the observance of the Sabbath of God. In both great faiths the day grew upon the conscience as a spiritual magnitude. And in both cases the decay of faith leads directly into formality.

From the premises stated the two statements proceed to two opposed and dubious conclusions. The Hartwell overture appears to hold that the Sunday is partitioned into two aspects, primarily to participate in corporate worship and then to use the remainder of the day according to the dictates of the private conscience. The condition of bearing in mind that Christ is Lord of all Life and all Time (why the capitals ?) appears to have little or no practical significance. Not even the Christian man is the measure of all things.

The Committee's statement, while claiming to respect the dictates of the individual conscience, proceeds to require State and municipal authorities and all charitable, commercial, sporting and entertainment organizations to preserve the atmosphere necessary for the true purpose of the Lord's Day—which for them is a prohibition inconsistent with personal liberty. Secular bodies cannot be expected to act as if they were the Christian Church. Such bodies can at least understand the force of law, but how, in the words of the Hartwell overture, can they, unless Christian, accept the day as a holy,

joyful and life-giving discipline? If Sunday sport is to be permitted for the Christian who has attended worship, why not Sunday trade?

It would be naive to shut one's eyes to the practical problems involved alike for the corporate life of the Church, for the Christian family and for the individual. Christian parents seek help from the Church in their struggle to preserve their children from the Epicureanism of our day. Christian ministers need help in their task of evangelism. How shall they preach to a "congregation" scattered by the modern "week-end"? Yet it must be admitted that the extremes of the Puritan Sunday on the one hand and the Continental Sunday on the other hand do not render the desired assistance.

The antinomy serves one valuable purpose—it drives our thought back upon the basic premise. Here we are indebted to John Calvin for the theology we need. His exposition of the Fourth Commandment (Institutes, Book 2, Chap. 8) bears such relevance to our time that it should be summarized and in part quoted for the Assembly's consideration, especially as the clause under discussion draws attention to it.

Calvin begins with the admission that the "commandment stands in peculiar circumstances apart from the others". He proceeds: "Early Christian writers are wont to call it typical as containing the external observance of a day which was abolished with the other types on the advent of Christ. This is indeed true; **but it leaves the other half of the matter untouched.** Wherefore we must look deeper for our exposition." His first inquiry is the Old Testament teaching on the Sabbath—which is threefold—to furnish the people of Israel with a type of spiritual rest and allow God to work in them; to provide a stated day on which to hear the law and be trained in piety; to indulge servants with a day of rest. Any mystical meaning in the number seven is scouted in favour of the principal thing delineated, viz. "the mystery of perpetual resting from our works". "To the contemplation of this the Jews were every now and then called by the prophets, lest they should think a carnal cessation from labour sufficient." Calvin's distinction between the Sabbath of God and the Jewish Sabbath is clear enough, but seldom recognized. There is no doubt, he states, that the ceremonial part of the commandment was abolished. "He (Christ) is the truth, at whose presence all the emblems vanish; the body, at the sight of which the shadows disappear; He, I say, is the true completion of the Sabbath." Following on this conclusion, and with New Testament references, Calvin asserts that the Christian should have nothing to do with the superstitious observance of days. The observance of other holy days does not escape his notice. He is not opposed to the practice "provided they guard against superstition". "It being expedient to overthrow superstition the Jewish holy day was abolished, and as a thing necessary to retain decency, order and peace in the Church another day was appointed for that purpose." The great truth in the selection of the first day of the week was the Resurrection. Some of Calvin's contemporaries evidently went so far in their desire to avoid distinction of days as to advocate daily meetings of the Church. His reply to this demand deserves special mention. Noting that religious meetings are enjoined by the Word of God, and demonstrated by experience as necessary, he remarks of daily meetings, "Would that we were privileged to do so!" But as this is not practicable the sensible thing is to adopt the rule which the will of God has obviously imposed upon us.

He continues: "I am obliged to dwell a little longer on this because some restless spirits are now (1536) making an outcry about the observance of the Lord's Day. They complain that Christian people are trained in Judaism, because some observance of days is retained. My reply is that those days are observed by us without Judaism because in this matter we differ widely from the Jews. We do not celebrate it with most minute formality as a ceremony by which we imagine a spiritual mystery is typified, but we adopt it as a necessary remedy for preserving order in the Church."

He has previously pointed out that the dissolution of regular meetings on stated days "would instantly lead to the disturbance and ruin of the Church". He says: "If the reason for which the Lord appointed a Sabbath to the Jews is equally applicable to us, no man can assert that it is a matter with which we have nothing to do." "Those restless men," he says, "had no regard to that politic and ecclesiastical arrangement (*finem istum politicum et ecclesiasticum ordinem*) which he has asserted."

Calvin's distinctions between the Divine and the Jewish Sabbath, and the Lord's Day and Judaism have been pointed out. There is a third, which must not elude attention, viz. the need for the rest of others. Statutory holidays were unknown in Calvin's time. The only holidays available to workers were holy-days. The third reason for the observance of the Lord's Day was that servants should have rest. To-day industrial law provides a plethora of holidays for employees. The situation in civil society, therefore, bears no

resemblance to Europe at the end of the medieval era and arguments from this source have little relevance. But the "Christian obligation" (Hartwell overture) is not slackened. And what is this? A conscience towards others. The liberation of the Christian conscience from a false Sabbatism is one thing. The use of that liberty is another. A candid examination of the practices of an increasing number of professed Christians on the Lord's Day leads one to the conclusion that they are actuated by selfishness. Their demand to spend Sunday as they wish has the effect of forcing others, whether Christian or not, into work to further their own pleasures, viz. the provision of food and transport, etc. The Christian Church, if spiritually united at this point, could wield an enormous public witness. The Christian community, which claims Sunday for its own minimum purposes, does no better than a sporting body on the same day. If Christians everywhere were for conscience' sake to abstain from their own pleasures on the Lord's Day the effect on the general public would be incalculable.

Addendum 2

The Public Questions Committee of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church of Australia, draws attention to the Federal Government's offer of financial aid for building purposes to the church schools within the Australian Capital Territory. The General Assembly, the Supreme Court of the Presbyterian Church, has expressed its opposition to any form of State aid, in the following minutes:

B.B. 1951, Minute 206, clause 5: "Reiterate its opposition to the principle of Government subsidies to denominational schools or denomination universities, and express grave concern at the action of the A.C.T. Advisory Council in recommending the granting of financial aid to private schools in Canberra and convey this resolution to the Minister for the Interior."

B.B. 1954, Minute 236, clause 5: "Reiterate the opposition of the Assembly to any suggestion of what is termed 'State Aid to Denominational Schools'."

Education is not included in the constitutional powers of the Commonwealth Parliament. The State or public school system, based on the "free secular and compulsory" principle, enunciates the public policy that it is the Government's responsibility to provide both an education commensurate with democratic citizenship, and adequate means to this end. The Public Questions Committee holds the view that this duty devolves upon the Federal Government in respect of the territories under its sole jurisdiction. It seems clear that the Commonwealth Parliament holds sovereign powers over such territories. In all State or public schools, provisions is made for religious instruction by ministers of the children whose parents adhere to their faith. Since 1880 the N.S.W. Act provides one hour per day for this purpose.

The Public Questions Committee is aware that the proposal under question is limited ostensibly to loans for the purpose of erecting school buildings by Churches in the Australian Capital Territory. A dispassionate judgment must hold that the granting of such aid is (a) inconsistent with the Government's responsibility to provide full education for the children under its care, and (b) by reason of being at Commonwealth level it will become a precedent for further aid, and at the time undermine the State systems. Under uniform taxation the State Governments cannot resist the right to claim assistance for its own schools, nor ignore the claims made upon them by interested bodies within their borders, nor will these interested bodies be expected to be slow in advancing their claims.

An alarming feature of the proposal is the competitive policy which must issue from assistance to ecclesiastical institutions. Both the aims and standards of education will be confused to unpredictable proportions in future years. Moreover the Government is duty bound to continue to provide secular schools for the citizens who conscientiously object to the education of their children in denominational schools.

The Public Questions Committee is of the opinion that the proposal has not gathered unanimous support in any political party, and evidence is not lacking that it has been strongly opposed by the majority of Churches. It seems strange that the administrative solution of the problem reached after protracted controversy by the N.S.W. Parliament in 1880, which has proved itself beyond debate in experience and followed with equally fruitful results in Victoria and Queensland should be set aside, and rejected evils revived where they have never existed.

The modus operandi of the proposal is clouded in official obscurity. Direct legislation, which may lie open to a constitutional challenge before the High

Court, has not been introduced, and eminent authorities have questioned the competence of loans or subsidies from public revenue by executive action.

In these circumstances the Public Questions Committee enters its considered view that the proposal should be withdrawn in the interests of public unity and sound constitutional procedure.

H. MacNEIL SAUNDERS, Convener.

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS (Min. 131)

The Executive of the Committee met six times in Sydney to grant Certificates of Status and to consider fresh Petitions.

Certificates of Status were granted on completion of the requirements laid down by last Assembly, to the following: Revs. George Woolcock, C. S. Burt, D. C. Harper, R. C. McLean, B.A., B.D., Dip.Ed., W. R. Hopkins, F. A. Hoad, B.A., C. J. Paton, L.Th., A. I. Trotman, L.Th., and Mr. J. H. Love, B.A.

Certificates of Status under Rule 195 were also given to the following: Revs. J. C. G. Fischer, B.A., B.D., L. G. Geering, M.A., B.D., and T. Robertson.

Rev. R. L. Thaden, B.A., B.D. Mr. Thaden (B.B. 1954, Minute 209), hopes to arrive in Australia before the Assembly meets.

Rev. D. C. Gray. Mr. Gray (B.B. 1954, Minute 211), is at present fulfilling Home Mission and Faculty requirements. A report will be made to the Assembly.

Rev. J. W. G. Jackson: The application of Mr. Jackson will be reported on to the Assembly.

Rev. A. J. B. de P. Hetherington. The Executive resolved to present this Petition simpliciter, the Convener to report thereon.

Rev. Wallace Kirkby, M.A., B.Sc. Mr. Kirkby, a Minister of the Church of Scotland, has been appointed as Vice-President of Emmanuel College, Brisbane, and as Assistant Minister of St. Andrew's, Brisbane. As these are not ministerial appointments within the regulations that govern this Committee, he has submitted a Petition craving Status as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. This will be presented by the Committee.

Reception of Ministers from overseas. Several cases were noted where a Commissioner or Presbytery notified this Committee of men who had accepted Calls and had been inducted without previous reference to the Committee. The attention of those concerned has been drawn to the regulations.

The following Petitions have been received:

1. Rev. Roy Hamilton Bootle, Th.L. Age 64. Church of England.
 2. Rev. Donald Matheson Campbell, B.A. Age 43. Congregational Union.
 3. Rev. W. Peck. Age 51. Methodist Church.
 4. Rev. Warwick Walter Harkin, Dip. Div. Age 23. Baptist Church.
 5. Rev. Leonard Townsend Newell. Age 44. Baptist Church.
 6. Rev. Charles Crawford Keefer. Age 48. Baptist Church.
1. Rev. Roy Hamilton Bootle, Th.L. Age 64. Son in Anglican ministry Ordained in Church of England. No claim on Beneficiary Fund. (Recommend; that this Petition be referred to the full Committee.)
 2. Rev. Donald Matheson Campbell, B.A. Age 43. Congregational Union. Son of Rev. A. P. Campbell. (Recommend; that the prayer of the Petition be granted under Rule 197, with reading course to the satisfaction of a Faculty, meanwhile fulfilling Home Mission requirements until 31st *Ms* ch 1958)
 3. Rev. W. Peck. Age 51. Methodist Church. Two children. Health uncertain in past years. (Recommend; that the Petition be referred to the full Committee.)
 4. Rev. Warwick Walter Harkin, Dip. Div. Age 23. Baptist Church. Resigned after very short ministry. (Ordained February, 1957.) (Recommend; that the prayer of the Petition be granted under Rule 197, with two years in a Theological Hall to the satisfaction of a Faculty, meanwhile fulfilling Home Mission requirements.)
 5. Rev. Leonard Townsend Newell. Age 44. Ordained Baptist Church, 1943. Resigned through ill-health 1951. In secular employment. (Recom-

mend; that this Petition be referred to the full Committee, and that further medical evidence be sought.)

6. Rev. Charles Crawford Keefer. Age 48. Three children. Ordained Baptist Church 1939. Member of Presbyterian Church of Canada since 1945. (Recommend; that the prayer of the Petition be granted under Rule 197, with two years in a Theological Hall to the satisfaction of a Faculty, meanwhile fulfilling Home Mission requirements.)

Change in Regulations: As Exit Examinations are no longer prescribed, it is suggested that Rule 197, clause (e) be altered to read in part "and pass such written or oral examination in such subjects . . ."

W. CUMMING THOM, Convener.

(Supplementary 1)

Further petitions have been received from the following since the date of printing of the White Book:

7. Rev. John Roberts-Thomson, L.Th., Baptist Union of Tasmania. Age 50, married, three children. (Recommendation; that the Executive be empowered to deal with this Petition when it has been completed.)

8. Rev. David Edward Pickering, Methodist Church. Age 50, married, three children. (Recommendation; that the prayer of the Petition be not granted, but that he be encouraged to apply to the next G.A.A. after service with the Home Mission Department.)

9. Rev. Pui-Sam Mo., B.A., L.Th., Church of Christ in China. At present in Sydney. Age 45. (Recommendation; that the prayer of the Petition be not granted.)

10. Rev. John V. Holt, Congregational Union. Age 52, married, four children. (Recommendation; that the prayer of the Petition be granted under Rule 197e, with two years in a Theological Hall to the satisfaction of a Faculty; meanwhile fulfilling the requirements of the Home Mission Committee.)

11. Rev. Wallace Kirkby, M.A., B.Sc. Age 45. Appointed Vice-Principal of Emmanuel College, Brisbane, and Assistant Minister at St. Andrew's Church, Brisbane. Petition for Status as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. (Recommendation; that the prayer of the Petition be granted.)

W. CUMMING THOM, Convener.

(Supplementary 2)

Additions and Amendments to Recommendations on Petition received by the Committee on Reception of Ministers.

Rev. D. C. Gray: To serve for a further period of twelve months, ending 30th September, 1958, after receiving the approval of the Faculty; the Executive then to make a final decision.

Rev. J. W. G. Jackson: That the Prayer of the Petition be not granted.

Rev. A. J. B. de P. Hetherington: That the Prayer of the Petition be not granted.

Rev. R. H. Bootle: That the Prayer of Petition be granted on the completion of a reading course in Church Ministry and Sacraments, to the satisfaction of a Faculty.

Rev. K. Peck: That the Prayer of Petition be granted, subject to receipt of a satisfactory medical certificate, under Rule 197(e).

Rev. U. T. Newell: That the Prayer of Petition be granted, subject to receipt of a satisfactory medical certificate, under Rule 197(e), with two years in a Theological Hall to the satisfaction of a Faculty, meanwhile fulfilling the Home Mission requirements.

Rev. C. C. Keefer: That the Prayer of Petition be granted under Rule 197(e).

RELATIONS WITH OTHER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES (Min. 236)

Since the last Assembly the Convener of this Committee suffered such deterioration in health, due to overwork, that he sought relief from the work of the Conventership. The Executive agreed, and appointed as acting Convener one of its members, the Rev. G. T. Renfrey.

Lest the opportunity be overlooked it is desired to at once place on record appreciation of Mr. Archer's services. Because of his great interest in the whole Reformed Church, fostered by his travel abroad and close contact with leading personalities in Britain and U.S.A., and Europe, Mr.

Archer was eminently equipped to lead this Committee in its work. By a painstakingly careful attention to correspondence, Mr. Archer fostered the proposal to form a southern sub-section of the Alliance of Reformed Churches.

The Committee acknowledges with gratitude Mr. Archer's faithful work as Convener. In it he revealed his profound love for the Church, his deep knowledge of its history and law, and his willingness to spend himself in the Church's service without stint. The Committee hopes that his health may yet be sufficiently restored to enable him to resume this work which is so dear to his heart.

The main matter for report is the visit of the Rev. Dr. Pradervand to our shores in October, 1955. He carried out a strenuous itinerary in a short period of time which took him to every State of the Commonwealth except W.A. Twice in the city of Melbourne Dr. Pradervand addressed the Victorian General Assembly when the seating capacity of the Assembly Hall was fully taxed. He preached in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, and spoke to meetings further north in Queensland and as far south as Hobart in Tasmania. Dr. Pradervand endeared himself to all his audiences, as well as to the many whom he met individually, because of his kindly friendly nature, and because he knew English so thoroughly that it was not difficult for anyone to converse fully with him. Dr. Pradervand's visit to Australia immediately followed an itinerary of New Zealand, and was in turn followed by a tour of parts of Indonesia where the Reformed Church has not long been established.

A matter to which Dr. Pradervand gave great prominence in his addresses was that of the restoration of the Calvin Auditorium in Geneva. By means of Dr. Pradervand's public references to this work of the Alliance some offerings and gifts were received while he was in our country. The Rev. Dr. Alan Watson is Convener of a sub-committee, with members in all States, which has prosecuted the appeal to help which a film strip was made showing pictures brought to Australia by Dr. Pradervand. A copy of this film strip was made available to each State. The cost of restoration of the Auditorium is £44,000 (English). Dr. Watson has so far been able to remit £54 to this fund.

The next General Council meeting of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches is to be held in Brazil in the year 1959. It is noteworthy that this will coincide with the centenary of the establishment of Protestant Missions in Brazil.

Two other important forthcoming anniversaries are the (1) Quatercentenary of the Church of Scotland in 1960, (2) the five hundredth anniversary of the Unity of Czech Brethren (that is, the Reformed Church of Czechoslovakia) in 1957.

The Alliance of Reformed Churches brings our Church into fellowship with the Reformed Church in Hungary. Dr. Watson has told of the warmth of his reception in several Churches of that country only two months before the uprising in October, 1956. We sympathize with the people of this senior member of our fellowship in its present difficult situation.

No further contacts have been made with other branches of the Reformed Church now established in the Commonwealth.

GEO. RENFREY, Acting Convener.

BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Min. 103)

In presenting this Report the Board expresses its deep gratitude to Almighty God for guidance given over the past three years.

1. Personnel

The members of the Board appreciate the leadership given by the Convener, the Rev. A. D. Marchant. His wisdom and foresight has contributed to the progress of the work of the Board. In presiding over the meetings both of the Executive and the Board he has created a favourable atmosphere in which to consider the problems that face the Board from time to time.

The Board meetings have been held annually, the one in 1955 being held at Katoomba, N.S.W., and those of 1956 and 1957 in Melbourne, whilst next April the Board is due to meet in Adelaide.

There has been one change in the membership since last Assembly. The Rev. Wm. Young, when minister of St. Kilda, had been nominated by the Victorian Assembly for membership of the Board; on his removal to

Brisbane he tendered his resignation as he was no longer living within the State which had nominated him. His attendances at the meetings of the Executive had been most regular and his helpful suggestions had been appreciated by the members of the Board. His place was taken by the Rev. L. Farquhar Gunn, M.A., B.D., minister of Gardiner congregation, and formerly the Convener of the Youth of the Church Committee in New Zealand.

Since last Assembly there passed away three men to whom the cause of Religious Education in our Church owes much, and whose passing the Board deeply regrets whilst being thankful to God for the contributions they were able to make both to the work of the Presbyterian Board and to the Joint Board of Graded Lessons.

The Rev. W. H. Waters, who was the Board's Convener for some 18 years, had a genial nature coupled with a strong will that carried the Board through many difficulties.

The Rev. Dr. John Mackenzie was one whose statesman-like mind planned both the development of the Board and the Joint Board, and who, when not acting as a Convener of the Boards, was standing right behind the Conveners.

The Rev. J. C. Jamieson was one to whom the whole Australian Church is deeply indebted, especially for his gift of writing study books needed for the camps and conferences and Bible Study groups. These have meant much to the spiritual advancement of many of our young people. His last study book, written when 80 years of age, shows no sign of any mental lag.

Leave of absence was granted to the Rev. G. A. Beatty who went to study in U.S.A., where he gained the M.R.E. degree, but he also spent some time observing the Youth Work of the Churches in Britain. On behalf of the Board he attended a Curriculum Conference at Cincinnati, U.S.A., in February, 1955.

2. Trends in Christian Education

The Board asked the Rev. G. A. Beatty, B.A., M.R.E., Director of the Department of Christian Education of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, to contribute to this report a statement of a few of the major trends in Christian Education today:

One of the most striking characteristics of Christian Education in our time is the way in which it has shared in the theological revival of the last 30 years or so. From a position of extreme liberalism, it has returned to a firm recognition that Christian Education is rooted in the Church's historic faith, and that its essential task is to lead growing persons into living encounter with God in Christ, and into the total personal commitment that should follow such encounter.

It is recognized, however, that simply the transmission of a Biblical or theological tradition will not serve this great purpose. There must be a constant search for the real points of relevance of the gospel to the life experience of the growing person. Some of the most advanced experiments in curriculum-making overseas are based on painstaking research and experiment to find those aspects of the gospel which are most intensely relevant and meaningful to every age-level of children, youth, and adults. Underlying this research is the sound educational principle that truth will only "take hold" on any person's life at the point of his real need and real experience.

There has been, also, a new recognition of the overwhelming importance for Christian Education of the relationships of persons within the community of the family and the Church. Persons being always prior to materials, it is felt more and more that the finest lesson materials will be of little avail in the hands of uncommitted and unconcerned adults, and that every programme of Christian Education waits on prepared and committed persons to change it from an inert instrument into a living and revelant force in human lives.

This has led to a greatly strengthened emphasis on home and family education. It is once again being said, with new conviction, that the home is the primary place of Christian nurture, and the further step is being taken of organizing regular parents' fellowship-study groups which will enable parents to perform their God-given tasks more adequately. These parents' groups are designed first to meet the religious needs of parents on their own adult level, to enable them to become "growing persons" themselves, steadily deepening in faith and commitment and, because of this process, becoming more adequate in every way to meet the genuine religious needs of their children. This family emphasis is further strengthened by the new attempts to achieve corporate family worship in the Church

on Sunday. The thought here concerns not only "blood" families, but the whole "parish family" in Church and home—parents, children, and other adults, all gathered in the community act of self-offering which worship involves, and one of the greatest educative forces possible within the Church's life. Strong considerations are leading many congregations to see that such corporate family worship and parents' fellowship-groups should be a regular weekly occurrence and not an occasional and spasmodic effort.

A further important trend is the emphasis being laid on general adult learning and fellowship groups. Just as parents determine the quality of religious life within the home, with all the imponderable consequences of that in the lives of growing children, so adult members determine the quality of life within the congregation, with its powerful pervasive influence on all the lives growing within it. The way forward is thus the way of deepened and more intelligent commitment and greater understanding of the Faith and its implications on the part of Christian adults generally. Since God speaks to us primarily through the community of faith, the urgent need is for the creation of an adult group life within the Church in which community or fellowship becomes a living reality, in which the divine word is studied, heard, and heeded, and which complements by its more intimate approach, the other great essential of corporate worship.

3. The Name of the Board

In accordance with the new insight into the meaning of Christian Education the State Youth Committees and Departments are asking their State Assemblies to declare them Committees or Departments of Christian Education. In view of these pending changes it is felt wise to bring the name of the Board into line, and instead of the name "The Board of Religious Education" it is suggested that it be known as "The Board of Christian Education".

4. The Director

During the Annual Meeting of the Board held in Melbourne in April, 1956, the Presbytery of Melbourne East, having associated all the members of the Board, proceeded to induct the Rev. E. C. Day into the office of Director of the Board of Religious Education. Mr. Day's appointment of three years as Director of the Presbyterian Board and his six years' appointment as Executive Manager of the Joint Board of Graded Lessons terminate on 31st December, 1957.

At the Induction of the Director the Board considered the question of salary. It considered that it would be the mind of the General Assembly that their Director should receive the same amount as that being paid by the Victorian Church to its Directors and Secretaries; the amount at that time being about £1,200. Under the new financial agreements with the Joint Board, that Board now provides a very substantial sum towards the salary of the Director and towards office expenses.

The Board recommends that the Rev. Ernest C. Day should be re-appointed Director of the Board of Religious Education for a period of three years, commencing 1st January, 1958; that the salary should be £1,250 per annum with house or house allowance; and with the same variations that apply from time to time to the basic stipend in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

5. Finance

The amounts distributed amongst the Youth Departments of the Australian States and New Zealand during 1954, 1955 and 1956 were £6,898; £6,422; £6,551, respectively, as shown by the accompanying Financial Statements.

The Board rents a house for its Director. As the Board may be called upon to purchase a house it has been building up a fund for that purpose. The amount stands at £4,000; the interest of which can be looked upon meantime as a reduction of the amount needing to be paid for rent.

6. Overseas Study Fund

The Overseas Study Fund has had paid into it sums amounting to £480. From that has been withdrawn the sum of £50 to enable the Rev. G. A. Beatty to attend on behalf of the Board the Curriculum Conference mentioned in paragraph 1. A grant of £200 was made to the Rev. Gilbert Cameron, of Western Australia, to enable him to undertake a course in Religious Education at Boston, U.S.A. £100 of this has been paid and £100 is due when he complies with the conditions under which he received the grant. The fund now stands at £230.

The Regulations relating to the Fund were approved by the General Assembly in 1951. The Board, in the light of its experience in applying the Regulations, found certain small adjustments were necessary. The Board taking these into consideration has revised the Regulations and now submits them to the General Assembly.

1. A special Overseas Study Fund Account shall be opened at a Bank.
2. That so far as circumstances permit, at least £100' per annum shall be paid into this Fund by the Board.
3. Unless the Board shall decide otherwise, applications for assistance from the Fund shall be granted not more frequently than at five-year intervals.
4. Each application for assistance from the Fund shall be accompanied by a report concerning the suitability of the applicant from the Youth Committee in his or her State.
5. No applicant shall be granted assistance from the Fund unless the course of study in Christian Education subjects which he or she proposed to follow overseas has been approved by the Director and/or Convener.
6. Of the amount voted to a successful applicant by the Board one half shall be made available before the applicant leaves Australia for his or her destination. The other half shall be retained by the Board and made available when the Board is satisfied that progress towards completion of the Christian Education subjects has been made.
7. The Board may, at its discretion, require a refund of the amount received from the Fund by any persons who (1) has not satisfactorily completed his or her overseas studies in Christian Education within three years, or (2) has satisfactorily completed his or her studies in Christian Education and has not (a) returned to Australia within two years of completing the course, and (b) engaged in full time continuous service of the Presbyterian Church of Australia for at least twelve months as approved by the Board of Religious Education.

7. Publications

Reprints have been found necessary of "The Ruling Elder in the Reformed Church", by Dr. John Mackenzie; "Basic Facts of our Faith", and "Revive Us Again", both by the Rev. J. C. Jamieson, and in the Practical Pamphlet Series, "What is the Presbyterian Church" and "The Church and Your Child". New publications have been "God so Loved . . ." by the Rev. C. M. Dyster, "The Unique Fellowship", by the Rev. J. C. Jamieson, "Lively Oracles" by Rev. Ian Pitt-Watson (with the consent of the Youth Department of the Church of Scotland), and the Easter Study books, 1955, "The Victories of Christ" by Rev. E. C. Day, 1956, "The Living Hope", and 1957 "Christ and our Prayers", both by Professor J. D. McCaughey.

Religious Drama

On two separate occasions the Board has made arrangements for the writing of a small book on Religious Drama, but in each case, after some time had elapsed, the men were unable to find the time needed. The Board is endeavouring to obtain literature on the subject through the British Drama League in Britain.

Anniversaries

The proposed book on anniversaries has suffered a like fate. Meantime the Board has sent copies of the special type of anniversaries that are in its possession to each of the State Youth Departments. Those interested can see the material that is available and they can also have copies should they wish.

"The Record"

The sales of this children's missionary magazine, after declining for some years, increased during 1956. This was due to the Board distributing sample copies to the schools not subscribing to the magazine, and also to the circular sent out by the State Mission Committees. The sales in April, 1957, were: Queensland, 911; New South Wales, 703; Victoria, 4,676; South Australia, 240, and Western Australia, 430=6,960' in all. The Board is grateful to the Board of Missions for sharing in the deficit of about £300 per annum.

The Book of Common Order

The Board on behalf of the Aids to Devotion Committee and at the request of the G.A.A. has acted as agent for the publication of the Book of Common Order. Half of the 1,500 copies printed were sold by the end of 1956.

The Code Book

The sales are very small and the deficit stands at about £370.

The Year Book

The Editor, the Rev. W. M. Rolland, has taken a good deal of trouble to see that each edition contains the latest information and is correct in detail. It takes hundred of letters to get the information. The deficit continues but the book is invaluable for the committee work of the Church.

Up From Childhood

This book is published on behalf of the Australian Council for Christian Education. It continues to sell not only in Australia and New Zealand, but also in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

8. The Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia

The triennial Conference was held in Adelaide from December 27th to 31st, 1956. About 500 attended including some 50 members of the New Zealand Presbyterian Bible Class Union. The Commonwealth Executive which had been located in South Australia for three years, the S.A. Youth Committee, and indeed the whole Church in South Australia, worked hard and efficiently so that the Conference was a success.

Between the triennial conferences a State is asked to make its Summer Conference available for members in other States and there have been a large number of members from the various States attending. These meetings have resulted in a widening of the interest in Commonwealth matters. The members of the P.F.A. in all States are taking a deep interest in ecumenical affairs.

The meeting of the Commonwealth Council which was held during the triennial Conference at Adelaide decided that the arrangement by which the Executive remains in the one State for three years promises to be successful. The present Executive is located in Western Australia and holds office for the years 1957-8-9. The next triennial Conference is planned for Perth at the end of 1959. At the present time parts of the Constitution are suspended to enable certain experiments to be carried out but at the 1959 triennial Conference it is hoped that the Constitution as revised will be drawn up in readiness for the meeting of the General Assembly the following year.

The membership is approximately 14,400 and divided amongst the States as follows: Queensland 2,500, New South Wales 5,250, Victoria 5,350, South Australia 550, Western Australia 500, and Tasmania 250.

9. The Australain Council for Christian Education

The Board has been represented at meetings of this Council by the Rev. J. R. Barrie, who represented it in 1956 at "Clevedon" Conference, Victoria, and the Rev. G. A. Beatty, who attended at the "Gilbulla" Conference in New South Wales in August, 1957.

10. The Australian Christian Youth Council

The representatives of the Board on this Council are Mr. Ian Hamilton and Deaconess Audrey Garth. The Council functions as the Youth Department of the Australian Council of World Council of Churches. It deals with matters delegated to it by that body. It consists not only of members from the denominations but also has representatives from the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, the Student Christian Movement, and the Australian Council for Christian Education. It is available for consultation on youth problems and needs. It arranges ecumenical work camps. One of these was the building of the forecourt of the John Flynn Memorial Church at Alice Springs.

II. Statistics

The following statistics have been given to the Board by the Conveners and Directors in the various States:

Australian Presbyterian Sunday Schools

State	Schools	Teachers			Children under 14		
		Men	Women	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Queensland	311			2,468			22,431
N.S.W.	494			4,430			37,191
Victoria	640			5,200			46,571
South Australia	66			549			4,309
W.A.	49			320			2,622
Tasmania	37			190			1,900

Correspondence Sunday Schools

State	Teachers			Children under 14			Y.P. over 14		
	Men	Women	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Queensland			65			1,415			
N.S.W.						1,364			
Victoria						620			
S.A.	1	2	3	25	14	39			1—1
W.A.		3	3			148			
Tasmania									

12. The Joint Board of Graded Lessons of Australia and New Zealand

The Joint Board consists of 12 members. The General Assembly of Australia appoints six: in 1954 the appointments were—Revs. G. A. Beatty, E. C. Day, V. F. Hadley, D. McK. Jones, A. D. Marchant. The Methodist General Conference of Australasia appoints six: in 1954 these were—Professor W. H. Frederick, Rev. R. C. Mathias, E. H. O. Nye, J. S. Waite, Dr. C. J. Wright, Mr. J. H. Jenkin. Since that date the Rev. Wm. Young resigned on his removal to Queensland from Victoria and the Rev. L. Farquhar Gunn was appointed in his place. This gives the New Zealand Presbyterian Church a representation on the Board it always had up to quite recent years, when the late Rev. H. Clark had to resign on account of ill-health. On the Methodist side, the Rev. J. S. Waite is a New Zealand trained man. The Board suffered a severe loss when Mr. J. H. Jenkin, a Methodist appointee, passed away. He was a prominent Melbourne accountant and gave wise guidance to the Board on many occasions. His place has been taken by another accountant, Mr. W. T. Holdsworth.

The Board appointed the Rev. E. H. O. Nye, Chairman; the Rev. E. C. Day as Executive Manager, and the Rev. Rex Mathias Co-Manager, but later his title was altered to Editor-in-Chief. Both, men are equally responsible to the Board for all the editorial and managerial work.

13. The Constitution

The Constitution as approved by the Assembly in 1951 provided for a change-over in the Executive managership from one partner to the other at the end of each six-year period. The first transfer was due to take place at the end of 1957. Early in 1956 the managers began to plan for the transfer from the Presbyterian to the Methodist partner. Both men found that the Joint Board was being asked to pay a big price to keep a theoretical balance between two partners. It meant two officers spending the greater part of two years becoming familiar with work to which the other was accustomed. It meant alterations to the duties of the staffs of the Presbyterian Board and the Methodist Department and transfers of books and files. The members of the Joint Board and the members of the Presbyterian Board and the Methodist Youth Publications Department were consulted and were unanimous that to attempt the transfer would be unrealistic, if not foolish.

The two managers were equally responsible for managerial and editorial work but as one had more managerial than editorial work he was called "Executive Manager", and the other with more editorial than managerial was called "Co-Manager". It was agreed that a better title could be found and so in the new Constitution the title "Editor-in-Chief" is used.

Constitution as Amended July, 1956

1. Name

The title of this partnership between the Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Church shall be "The Joint Board of Graded Lessons of Australia and New Zealand", hereinafter called "the Joint Board".

2. Objects

The objects of the Joint Board shall be:

- (a) To provide Scripture lesson literature and other teaching aids for the children, youth, and adults of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of Australia and New Zealand,
- (b) To provide helps for teachers of all grades of the Sunday Schools and Bible Classes and for parents in the home,
- (c) To issue such other publications in the field of Christian Education as may advance the interests of the Kingdom of God.

All such literature and publications shall be in harmony with the doctrines of the Churches concerned, and shall be available for general sale.

3. Members of Board—Appointment and Tenure

The publication and sale of the literature specified above shall be managed by a Board of Directors,

- (a) Six of the members of the Joint Board shall be appointed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and six by the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Australasia.
- (b) The members of the Joint Board shall hold office for three years from the date of appointment, and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

4. Chairman

The Joint Board shall elect from its members a Chairman who shall hold office for six years. He shall have a deliberative, as well as a casting vote. He shall be eligible for re-election. In the case of a vacancy the Joint Board shall elect a new Chairman for the unexpired period of the existing term of office.

5. Co-Managers and Co-Editors

The business and editorial arrangements pertaining to all publications of the Joint Board shall be supervised by two co-managers, who shall also be co-editors, one of whom shall be appointed by the Presbyterian Board of Religious Education (hereinafter called "the Board") and the other by the Youth Publications Department of the Methodist Church of Australasia (hereinafter called "the Department").

6. Executive Manager and Editor-in-Chief

The Joint Board shall appoint one of the managers as Executive Manager and the other as Editor-in-Chief. These officers shall arrange for effective representation of the Joint Board, as opportunity permits, in personal contacts throughout the territories served by the Joint Board's literature. They shall also be ex officio members of the Finance Committee, the Editorial Panel, and any other Committees appointed by the Joint Board. They shall hold office for six years and shall be eligible for re-appointment.

Duties

- (a) The duties of the Executive Manager shall be, in consultation with the Editor-in-Chief, to co-operate in such editorial work as may be determined, to exercise a general oversight of all the policy of the Joint Board, to prepare contracts, to secure tenders, ensure prompt publication, distribution, and dispatch of the literature, call Joint Board meetings, keep the Minutes, conduct correspondence concerning the policy, and business arrangements of the Joint Board, arrange for the payment of salaries, attend to all other matters pertaining to the policy and business management of the Joint Board and to act as Convener of the Finance Committee (see Para. 7 of this Constitution).
- (b) The duties of the Editor-in-Chief shall be, in consultation with the Executive Manager, to co-operate in the work of management in such ways as may be determined, to exercise a general oversight of all the literature published by the Joint Board, to survey continually the publishing activities of the Joint Board, both present and potential, with a view to the introduction of desirable new developments as these become practicable, to conduct correspondence concerning the contents of Joint Board publications, to act as Convener of the Editorial Panel (see Para. 8 of this Constitution).

7. Finance Committee

The Joint Board shall appoint a Finance Committee which shall advise the Joint Board on all matters of Joint Board finance and shall deal with such other matters as may be referred to it by the Joint Board.

The Executive Manager shall be Convener and Secretary of the Finance Committee.

8. Editorial Panel

The Joint Board shall appoint an Editorial Panel which shall consist of five persons, namely, the Chairman of the Joint Board, the Executive Manager, the Editor-in-Chief, the Director of the Youth Department of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and the Director of the Young People's Department of the Victoria and Tasmania Methodist Conference, provided that such two last named are members of the Joint Board. If either or both should not be members, the Joint Board shall appoint a member or members to complete the required personnel of the Panel.

The Editor-in-Chief shall be Convener and Secretary of the Editorial Panel.

9. Other Committees

The Joint Board shall have power to appoint such other committees as shall be deemed necessary from time to time.

10. Departmental Editors and Contributors

The Joint Board shall on the nomination of the Editorial Panel appoint editors, when necessary, for the editing of departmental literature.

The departmental editors shall be appointed triennially, but their appointments shall be subject to review each year, and they may be removed from office at any time on the recommendation of the Editorial Panel.

The departmental editors and the contributors to the Joint Board literature shall, so far as practicable, be appointed in equal numbers from the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches.

11. Officers

The Joint Board shall have power to appoint an Accountant and/or other officers on the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

12. Curricula Conference

For the purpose of efficiency in drawing up its curricula for all grades, the Joint Board shall have power to call into Conference representatives of the Youth Departments of the partner Churches from all the States of Australia and from the Dominion of New Zealand, each Church to have, as far as practicable, equal representation at such conferences.

13. Financial Agreement

All matters dealing with the financial relationship between the partners shall be subject to an Agreement drawn up from time to time as circumstances may require, and approved by the Joint Board, the Board, and the Department, as shall be evidenced by the signatures of the Chairman of the Joint Board and a duly accredited representative of the Board and of the Department.

14. Accounts

The Joint Board shall cause true accounts to be kept of all moneys received and expended by the Joint Board and as at 30th November in every year shall have prepared a revenue account and a statement of Assets and Liabilities for submission to and adoption by the Joint Board.

15. Bankers

The Bankers of the Joint Board shall be the Commercial Bank of Australia Limited at Melbourne, and/or other such bank as may from time to time be appointed.

16. Cheques

All cheques, drafts, and bills of exchange received by or drawn upon the Bank Account of the Joint Board shall be made, signed, drawn, accepted, and endorsed or otherwise extended as the case may be on behalf of the Joint Board in such a manner as shall from time to time be determined of the Joint Board.

17. Auditor

An Auditor shall be appointed by the Joint Board from time to time, to audit the accounts of the Joint Board.

18. Trustees

The funds and other assets of the Joint Board shall be vested in Trustees to be appointed by the Joint Board, and the Trustees may operate thereon as determined by the Joint Board.

19. Termination of Partnership

In the case of a Church desiring to terminate that partnership, notice of such intended termination shall be given to the Joint Board not less than three years before the date on which the intention to terminate is to be carried into effect by the withdrawing partner.

20. Alterations to Constitution

Any alteration in the clauses of this Constitution shall require a notice of motion at one meeting and the calling of a special meeting of the Joint Board, to consider the proposed alteration, not less than thirty days later.

Such alteration to become effective, must be carried by a two-thirds majority at this special meeting, and must be approved then by the Board and the Department.

14. The New Curriculum

From time to time the Board reviews its publications with a view to improvement. The Editorial Panel, some of whose members had recently been studying and observing in Britain, the U.S.A., and Canada, was asked to consider the syllabus and the format of the literature in the light of modern trends in Christian Education. (See 2 in the first part of this report.) A Curriculum Conference was held and the result presented to the Board which gave its general approval. The main object of the proposals is to make a closer relationship between the Home, the School and the Church. From January, 1959, the "theme pattern" will be adopted. Each theme will occupy four months. The opening theme for 1959, 1960¹, 1961, will be Jesus Christ, which of necessity runs into April and covers the Easter period, hence four-monthly themes.

The themes for 1959 will be Jesus Christ, The Church, The Kingdom of God; for 1960: Jesus Christ, The Bible, God and His World; for 1961: Jesus Christ, The Holy Spirit, The Christian Life. From beginners (as far as is suitable) on to primary and up to junior Bible Class, all lessons and studies while naturally differing according to the grade will come under the common theme. Each four months there will be issued a Home or Parents' Magazine which will accord with the themes and will be published with the threefold object of encouraging the parents to take an interest in the work the child is doing in the school, to provide aid for the parents' devotional life; and to be suitable for use for "parents and friends" groups.

From January, 1958, the Junior monthly scholar "Classmates" and the Intermediate monthly "Pathfinder" will be printed on better paper and will have a certain amount of colour.

15. The Circulation

By adding the quantities of the monthly, half-yearly, and yearly publications sold by the Board—some 17 in all, the circulation which in 1951 was 3,310,849, had by 1956¹ reached 4,545,133—an increase of 37.3%. The Presbyterian percentage of sales in 1956 was 46.6 and the Methodist 53.4.

SALES OF GRADED LITERATURE

Monthly Publications	1953	1956	Percentage Increase
Beginners' Papers	348,618	431,882	23.9
Primary Papers.....	289,696	352,537	21.7
Classmates.....	584,280	687,832	17.7
Pathfinder.....	286,834	325,865	13.6
Signpost (1955)	—	11,820	
Torchbearers	25,818	20,992	
Primary Home Mag.	23,094	20,154	
	<hr/> 1,558,340	<hr/> 1,851,082	<hr/> 18.78

Half-Yearly Handbooks

Beginners.....	8,404	10,277	22-3
Primary.....	8,206	9,976	21-6
Junior.....	13,517	15,324	13-4
Intermediate.....	7,188	7,855	9-3
	<u>37,315</u>	<u>43,432</u>	<u>16-4</u>

Yearly Handbooks

Leaders	1,095	1,155	5-5
Roadbook	393	451	14-8

Yearly Bible Class

Unto the Hills.....	12,870	13,471	4-7
Highway.....	4,734	5,002	5-7

Half-Yearly Workbooks

Primary Picture.....	43,112	57,633	33-7
Junior.....	58,096	84,390	45-3
Intermediate.....	23,164	35,245	52-2
	<u>124,372</u>	<u>177,268</u>	<u>42-5</u>

The percentages of Presbyterian sales for 1956 is divided into—

New Zealand.....	..	31-39	Australia Only
Queensland.....	..	12-02	17-68
New South Wales . . .	..	21-33	31-37
Victoria-Tasmania . . .	..	30-53	44-90
South Australia . . .	..	1-76	2-59
Western Australia . . .	..	2-35	3-46
South Africa.....	..	•62	
		<u>100-00</u>	<u>100-00</u>

16. Publications for Adults

Commencing with 1957, the Board instead of publishing the Senior Bible Class book "The Highway" and the Leaders' book "The Roadbook", decided to publish "The Highway Series" which would not only be the Senior book for one year, but also available for future sales, so that within a few years the Senior classes could make a choice of study books. The first of "The Highway Series" is "PETER REMEMBERS", covering the Gospel of St. Mark; for 1958 "A FAITH TO LIVE BY"; for 1959, "THE KINGDOM OF GOD". The series will be carried on with one theme being dealt with in each book. These books will also be found suitable for the adult groups that are rapidly being formed in congregations. In addition it is proposed to publish books specially suitable for adult groups. Dr. C. J. Wright's book, "Adults Can Still Grow", is most helpful for those planning for Senior and Adult groups.

17. General

The work of Christian Education is progressing in all the States. The various Departments are expanding and endeavouring to keep pace with the ever-growing numbers in the Sunday Schools and Bible Classes. To meet the needs of the schools the States are emphasizing Teacher and Leader Training. The pressure on accommodation for classes is intense and the cost of building immense.

Since the last Report to the G.A.A., the Rev. A. L. Hewitt has been appointed Youth Director in New South Wales. The Rev. Colin Thomson is now Associate Director in the Department of Christian Education in Victoria. In Queensland, in addition to the regional work being carried on in the northern part of that large State by Mr. Tom Elsworthy, the work in the southern portion is now under the guidance of Deaconess Nance Smith. In Western Australia the Youth Council, aided by a contribution of £200 per annum from the Board of Religious Education, was able to appoint Deaconess Phyllis Dixon as a full-time youth worker. Deaconess M. Blowes, who has done excellent work in South Australia,

leaves to be married at the end of this year and the South Australian Church is seeking ways and means to obtain the services of a Director of Christian Education, while retaining the valuable service of a Youth Deaconess to continue the detailed guidance in that area of work.

The Joint Board, as from September, 1957, will have appointed Miss Margaret Flentje to edit the scholars' literature for the Junior and the Intermediate Departments. She has been engaged in Mr. Mathias's office for some years, and has gained much valuable experience assisting him in editorial work. The other members of the editorial staff, in addition to the two managers and editors, are Miss Millicent Harry, B.A., Beginners' and Primary Department; Miss Hazel Belcher, L.Th., Dip.R.E., who writes the literature used in the Junior and Intermediate Grades of the Home Sunday School. Her appointment is part-time. Both the Presbyterian and the Joint Boards record their appreciation of the zeal and efficiency of the accountant, Mr. H. D. Morton, A.A.S.A.

A. D. MARCHANT, Convener.

RETURNS TO REMITS (Min. 168)

In the Code Committee Deliverance of the last Assembly (min. 133(5)), State Assemblies and Presbyteries who had not furnished returns to Remit IV (Changes in Articles of Agreement), Remit V (A.I.M. and Home Missions), Remit VII (Marriage and Divorce) and Remit VIII (Commission of Assembly) were directed to furnish these returns by 30th June, 1956.

Notices of this were sent out to all defaulting State Assemblies and Presbyteries, and in compliance with the Assembly direction 21 additional Presbyteries approved Remit IV; 23 additional Presbyteries approved and 1 disapproved Remit V; 9 additional Presbyteries approved and 9 disapproved Remit VII; 12 additional Presbyteries approved and 5 disapproved Remit VIII.

The total Presbytery returns therefore were as follows:

Remit IV — approve 38; disapprove 17	(including 13 no returns)
Remit V — approve 43; disapprove 12	(including 10 no returns)
Remit VII — approve 32; disapprove 23	(including 14 no returns)
Remit VIII — approve 24; disapprove 31	(including 17 no returns)

The total State Assembly returns were as follows:

Remit IV — approve 6
Remit V — approve 6
Remit VII — approve 2; no return 4
Remit VIII — approve 2; disapprove 2; no return 2.

The returns to Remits sent down in 1954 were as follows:

Remit A (Changes in the course of training Theological Students) Min. 113.
State Assemblies — approve 3; no return 3
Presbyteries — approve 25; no return 30
Remit B (Overture I anent Commission of Assembly) Min. 286.
State Assemblies — approve 2; no return 4
Presbyteries — approve 20; disapprove 6; no return 29.
Remit C (Overture VI anent Administration of Sacraments by Home Missionaries) Min. 114.
State Assemblies — approve 3; no return 3
Presbyteries — approve 21; disapprove 3; no return 31.

W. D. MARSHALL, Clerk.

THE SACRAMENTS AND SEASONAL OBSERVANCES (Min. 250)

A. (a) The 1954 G.A.A. (Minute 249) set up the Committee on the Sacraments and Seasonal Observances with the following instructions:

1. to take the premises of Overture VII into consideration and to prepare by 1st March, 1955, a proposed statement for the guidance of the Church in these matters;
2. to send the proposed statement to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for consideration and comment to the Committee by 1st March, 1956;

3. in the light of the replies received to present a final proposed statement to the G.A.A. in 1957.

(b) The 1954 G.A.A. (Minute 253) also referred to the Committee a possible addition to the order of service for infant baptism suggested by the Rev. S. J. Hill.

B. The Committee regrets that it has been unable to fulfil the letter of the instructions because of other important and prior claims upon its members which not only prevented the Committee from meeting until late in 1955 have hampered its work all through. Within these limits however, the Committee has sought to follow the spirit of the instructions regarding the important matters referred to it, and submits this progress report.

Arising from its first meeting in November, 1955, the Committee began preparation of a proposed statement but was persuaded that before proceeding further, it should seek detailed information of the practice of the Church throughout Australia. In May, 1956, a questionnaire was sent to all Presbyteries asking for replies by 1st September, 1956. Replies were received from 47 Presbyteries out of a total of 55.

State	No. of Replies	Total No. of Presbyteries
New South Wales	15	19
Queensland	8	8
South Australia	4	4
Tasmania	1	1
Victoria	16	20
West Australia	3	a

In the replies it is evident that most Presbyteries gave careful consideration to the important matters raised. Some Presbyteries particularly made a serious study of the questions, and prepared answers of special value. The Committee has not yet been able to give adequate attention to all the valuable information gained and has been unable to complete a full report and a proposed statement for this Assembly. It therefore suggests that the Assembly continue the Committee with instructions to report to the next Assembly.

F. P. STRICKLAND, Convener.

SELECTION COMMITTEE (Min. 78)

In accordance with Article 184(C) Nominations have been posted in the Foyer of the Assembly Hall.

Forms for further nominations have been prepared, and a box for their receipt is on the dais.

It is necessary that all additional nominations should be signed by the nominator and his nominee.

It is proposed that further nominations should close at 5 p.m. on Monday, and, if necessary, a ballot be a F.O.D. for Tuesday at 12.40 p.m.

JOHN PRIESTLEY, Convener.

1st SUPPLEMENTARY

In accordance with minute 79 the Selection Committee appointed the Ad Hoc Committee to deal with the communication from the Queensland Assembly as follows:

Rev. J. F. Forrest (Convener)
„ R. M. Park
„ H. S. Whitney
„ Dr. M. Mackay
„ Kerry
„ F. Strickland
„ J. M. Stuckey
„ A. C. Eadie
„ John Priestley

JOHN PRIESTLEY, Convener.

2nd SUPPLEMENTARY (Min. 90)

The present nominations for the Commission of Assembly provide for an equal number of Elders and Ministers. It may be desirable that the Assembly resolve prior to the ballot, whether this equality should be retained in the final election.

To facilitate administration it would be wise that nominations should close at 1 p.m. on Monday.

JOHN PRIESTLEY, Convener.

3rd SUPPLEMENTARY (Min. 217)

1. The nominations for the Committee on the Mission and Message of the Church are submitted.

2. Clause 2 of the Deliverance of the College Committee instructs the Selection Committee to appoint a Provisional Committee on candidates for the ministry. The Selection Committee ceases to function with the close of Assembly and therefore cannot carry out the instruction.

JOHN PRIESTLEY, Convener.

STATISTICS (Min. 28)

A survey of statistics over the past three years would indicate as far as figures can do, a considerable deepening of the Church's spiritual life and a corresponding strengthening of her financial resources. Whether the marked spiritual vitality has borne fruit in increased financial support, or whether the emphasis of stewardship campaigns has quickened the real soul of the Church is not yet clear.

Beyond doubt there are better congregations, more personal service and increased financial resources which are heartening and favourable signs.

Before the next Assembly the two Standing Committees—Statistics and Year Book—should consider the wisdom of combining activities under the name of Statistics and Year Book Committee.

VICTOR CLARK-DUFF, Convener.

COMPARATIVE AND AGGREGATE SUMMARY

	Year	N.S.W.	Qld.	S.A.	T.	V.	W.A.	Totals
Parishes	'54	216	87	24	14	246	16	603
	'57	220	87	27	14	249	22	619
Home Mission Stations	'54	66	49	8	7	59	2	191
	'57	77	45	2	7	54	9	194
Ministers Settled	'54	178	69	19	13	220	16	515
	'57	177	71	24	13	210	20	515
Ministers w'out Charge	'54	18	8	1	0	25	0	52
	'57	17	10	0	0	30	0	57
Ministers Emeriti	'54	54	7	3	1	60	2	127
	'57	55	8	3	1	73	1	141
Ministers Special Apts	'54	21	15	1	2	31	4	74
	'57	20	16	1	2	26	3	68
Communicants	'54	32729	15800	3301	2263	45781	2289	102163
	'57	35481	17147	3711	2263	48241	2770	109613
Elders	'54	2146	934	248	123	2497	136	6084
	'57	2399	1038	263	123	2747	173	6743
Managers	'54	3058	1383	331	206	5216	176	10370
	'57	3285	1590	365	206	5406	243	11095
Ordinary Income	'54	270411	98031	39250	10772	319806	21996	760266
	'57	368521	117558	65854	10772	419100	54208	1036013
Value of Property	'54	2229400	1390486	321000	78460	3307569	130895	7957810
	'57	2835503	1326334	321000	78460	7800000	193937	12555234
Sunday Schools	'54	480	265	58	37	542	33	1415
	'57	494	311	66	37	640	48	1596
S.S. Teachers	'54	2899	2033	479	190	4708	260	10569
	'57	4430	2468	549	190	5200	320	13157
Scholars	'54	25179	18343	3495	1900	38156	2017	89090
	'57	37191	22431	4309	1900	45000	2400	113231
Home S.S. Scholars	'54	1328	1103	75	90	460	20	3076
	'57	1364	1093	40	90	620	148	3355
Fellowship Members	'54	4980	3000	551	250	8000	348	17129
	'57	5930	3500	697	250	9000	411	19788

Figures for South Australia are based on 1954 Returns.

TRAINING WOMEN WORKERS (Min. 161)

Reports have been received of the important matter of training women for work in the Church. More young women are seeking to serve Christ in full-time work in His Church, not only in City missions, but also in Social Service Institutions, in new areas of population, as Home Missionaries in selected Stations, and as Assistants to Ministers with large youth work and other responsibilities on their hands.

To those trainees who have completed the approved course of training, and who are recommended by the State leaders in the training, an Exit Certificate is given, which will be a proof of their qualifications to any Presbytery which desires to commission them as Deaconesses. Also a Certificate of Status is issued to any Deaconess, which will be useful to her in making application for Church work, whether in the Commonwealth of Australia, or overseas.

We set out the reports from New South Wales and Victoria, which speak for themselves. We are advised from Victoria that the Rolland House Committee is prepared to make arrangements for training Deaconesses on behalf of any State of the Commonwealth, and send the trained Exit Student to her home State for appointment.

New South Wales, through the Rev. Douglas Cole reports as follows:

The training of women workers in N.S.W. has been somewhat hampered by the lack of a suitable residential training centre. Partly because of this lack, and also for other reasons, the trainees who have offered in the service of the Church have not completed the course. Since last General Assembly some 10 to 12 have offered and completed part of the course of training, but before coming to the final year have resigned.

At the present time there is one Deaconess in final year training who will qualify for exit at the end of the year; there is one in second year, and two in first year.

We are about to establish a temporary Deaconess House, and there are a number of applicants to commence in first term, 1958. The State Committee hopes that with this provision and the constant benefits of the trainees being in residence there will be less wastage.

Victoria reports from the Principal of Rolland House for 1954-1957 as follows:

During the period under review thirteen (13) students have completed the course of study as required by the Federal Committee on Training of women workers. These have been appointed as follows—

Country Parishes.....	5
Suburban Parishes.....	3
Inner Suburban Parishes.....	2
Queensland Country Parish.....	1
Further Studies for Foreign Missions:	
Education.....	1
Nursing.....	1

In 1956 Sister Darrell Boulter, while under appointment by the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions as Missionary to Indonesia, was in residence at Rolland House for several months, during which time she attended first year lectures, and also studied Indonesian language at the University of Melbourne.

Our College life has been much enriched by the presence of, and fellowship with students from Asia. Early in 1955 Miss C. Pangemanan, having completed twelve months of the Rolland House course, returned to her homeland of Indonesia, where she is now serving as a youth secretary. In 1956, Miss Kim and Miss Hyun, two qualified Korean nurses, lived in college while doing English study as a pre-requisite before entering upon a post-graduate nursing training course. This year, 1957, we have with us Miss E. Vazir Chand, of Pakistan, who is studying for the Second Year of the Bachelor of Education Degree at the University of Melbourne, on a scholarship made available by the World Council of Churches.

In 1956, Miss E. A. Kerr, B.A., B.D., was appointed as lecturer in Theology and New Testament studies.

We record with appreciation the privilege that has been extended to us by the Senatus of the Theological Hall, Ormond College, in accepting our

students for classes in Old Testament and New Testament studies and Church history.

This year we have in residence eighteen (18) students doing the Deaconess Training Course, and one post-graduate student, who is doing Education in preparation for an appointment under the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions.

The Committee extends its thanks to all lecturers and examiners who have assisted the training of women workers.

E. H. McLEAN SHUGG, Convener.

WHOLESOME DISCIPLINE (Min. 164)

The General Assembly of Australia, meeting in Sydney in September, 1954, received from the Presbytery of Melbourne North an Overture dealing with "The preservation of wholesome discipline within the Church". (B.B. of G.A. Minute 247, p. 180).

The Assembly sustained the Overture which brought to the notice of the Assembly the need for "wholesome discipline" in the matter of the re-marriage of divorced persons and appointed a committee to advise on:

- (a) Courses of action to be taken by ministers of the Church when dealing with applications from divorced people for remarriage; and
- (b) any other means for preserving wholesome discipline within the Presbyterian Church in these difficult matters of martial infidelity.

The suggestions which appear in the proposed Deliverance to this report would, if carefully followed, do much to avoid the type of difficulty to which reference is made in the overture of the Presbytery of Melbourne North.

It is necessary to secure the production to the minister of a formal court certificate that the decree has been made absolute, and advisable also to see a copy of the decree nisi. It is only by such action that the minister can be sure of the fact and grounds of the divorce. The minister should inquire as to whether the divorcee has approached the parish minister. If it transpires that the divorcee has approached him, then some consultation with such minister is indicated. Such consultation may reveal that one or both of the parties is under discipline as a result of martial infidelity and in such cases no minister should re-marry the party, or parties, until the matter has been determined by the relevant Church court. The Committee makes no specific suggestions regarding Clause (b) of the reference.

D. MACKNIGHT JONES, Convener.

YEAR BOOK (Min. 166)

The publication of the Year Book has continued at a loss shown below:

Year	Sales	Deficit
1954	1142	.. £94
1955	1212	.. £83
1956	1181	.. £88

This continued loss is to be regretted but it seems inevitable. The Committee feels that the worth of the publication to the Church outweighs its financial loss.

W. A. ALSTON, Convener.

YEAR BOOK (Supplementary)

The Committee has received with regret the resignation of the Rev. W. M. Rolland as Editor. It is desired to place on record the meticulous care that Mr. Rolland has given to this work.

The Rev. R. T. White is willing to accept this responsibility and the Committee nominates him for appointment.

W. A. ALSTON, Convener.

appeals

Private and Confidential (held in Retentis)

I By four members of the New South Wales General Assembly (re calling of a Pro Re Nata meeting) (Min. 66).

II By the Presbytery of Sydney against the General Assembly of New South Wales (Min. 154).

Communications

Communication 1. From General Assembly of Queensland. (Min. 79)

(re Tell Australia Movement)

EXTRACT MINUTE

At Brisbane, and within Ann Street Church, the 15th day of May, 1957, which day the General Assembly being duly constituted.
Inter Alia:

"37. The Assembly resumed the debate on the report of the Committee on Spiritual Life and Work. (Min. 35.)"

"It was moved and seconded:

That the Assembly—

"4. Approve in principle the idea of the 'Tell Australia' movement as outlined in the book by Rev. H. J. Whitney and request the General Assembly of Australia to consider the implementation of this plan on a national and interdenominational scale. Instruct the Committee on Spiritual Life and Work to acquaint the appropriate Committee of the G.A.A. of the details of the Tell Australia movement.

"Rev. R. Ramsay moved as an amendment that after the word 'scale' the words 'in this case using the title "Calling Australia"' be inserted. The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

"On a show of hands the motion was approved.

"It was moved, seconded and agreed:

That the Assembly—

"5. Make available to the G.A.A. the services of the Director of Evangelism if and when required to develop the Tell Australia movement asking the G.A.A. to provide only for the travel costs of the Director of Evangelism."

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly by me.

ROBERT H. C. CROWE, Clerk.

The Assembly Evangelist. In accordance with the decision of the Assembly last year (B.B., 1956, Min. 34), the Assembly Evangelist was absent on leave without salary from the beginning of June till the end of November. Before Mr. Whitney left for overseas he conducted a highly successful "Week of Witness" at the Adelaide University under the auspices of the Evangelical Union.

Mr. Whitney gained valuable experience by conducting missions in many places throughout the U.S.A., and he paid a brief visit to England and Scotland. He was able to meet with Dr. Billy Graham in America and to judge the value of Dr. Graham's missions in England and Scotland where representative ministers of our Church paid high tributes to the ministry of Dr. Graham and heartily commended him to the Christian community of Australia.

Tell Australia Movement. As a result of this experience, Mr. Whitney has conceived a plan for a "Tell Australia" movement along the lines of the "Tell Scotland" movement. This would be on a national and interdenominational basis and follow broadly three stages each for approximately one year:

1. Preparation in which the present power of the Christian community would be marshalled for the campaign.
2. Participation with a missionary call to the nation with Dr. Billy Graham as the central figure in the campaign.
3. Penetration by lay-evangelists—the original members of the Church together with the new converts all specially trained for visitation evangelism to confront the people in their homes with the challenge of Christ.

Mr. Whitney has written a detailed exposition of this plan in a book which he is publishing in an endeavour to acquaint the leaders and members of the Church, with the complete plan.

The Committee is of the opinion that this plan has great possibilities and recommends that this Assembly request the General Assembly of Australia to take up the matter on a national basis. As evidence of this Committee enthusiasm for the plan and in a genuine attempt to put it into practice the Committee is asking the Assembly to make Rev. H. J. Whitney available to the G.A.A. for the purpose of developing the plan.

Communication 2. From Clerk of the Assembly (Resignation). Min. 20

10th July, 1957.

To The Venerable The General Assembly of the
Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Fathers and Brethren,—Owing to the increasing burden of the years and also to diminishing eyesight I feel it incumbent upon me to tender my resignation from the Office of the Clerkship of the General Assembly.

I have felt it a great honour and responsibility to have been asked by you to serve in this high and onerous office in succession to such a notable clerk as the late Very Rev. Dr. Wilson Macaulay. I have been deeply conscious of my deficiencies and shortcomings in your service, but can humbly say that I have always tried to do my best and have greatly appreciated the advice and help given me at all times by my colleague, Rev. James Stuckey.

But now I feel that the time has come for me to be released from this office and in laying down the burden I desire to thank the Fathers and Brethren for their constant kindness and forbearance towards me.

W. D. MARSHALL, Clerk.

Communication 3. From New South Wales General Assembly. (Min. 238)

(Re Interim Presbytery of Northern Australia.)

I have to report that this General Assembly, at its Session in May, 1956, received a Petition from The Constitutional Convention set up by the G.A. of A. craving the establishment of a Presbytery of Northern Australia.

The action taken thereon is set forth in the attached copy of the Minutes of that Session, No. 184 and 185, and 186.

At the Session of the Assembly in 1957, the Commission set up as in Minute 186 reported that it had established the Interim Presbytery, and sought further advice and assistance.

Thereafter the Assembly resolved—

- (a) To set up a Special Committee to confer with the Interim Presbytery as to the organization of the Church in the Northern Territory, and to report to the next Assembly with recommendations;
- (b) To appoint the Special Committee as follows: The Revd. Dr. Cumming Thom, J. Gray Robertson, R. T. C. Williamson, J. F. Mackay (Convener), and Mr. E. A. Hunt;
- (c) Confirm that the Ministers who are members of the Interim Presbytery have seats in this Assembly, together with the same number of Elders.

The development of this unusual and difficult matter is set out more fully in the Report of the Committee on the Constitution and Functions of the General Assembly of Australia.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. GRIEVE, Clerk of Assembly.

June 25th, 1957.

General Assembly, N.S.W., May 23rd, 1956

184. Consideration of the Communication from the G.A. of A. Constitutional Convention was resumed (Min. 68).

The Report of the Law officers was read and received.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

That the Petition from the G.A. of A. Constitutional Convention anent Northern Australia be received.

The Petitioners were called to the Bar and supported the Petition. Questions were asked.

The Petitioners were removed from the Bar.
It was moved that the prayer of the Petition be granted.
The motion was seconded and approved.

185. On motion duly moved and seconded, it was resolved that:

WHEREAS this Assembly is appreciative of the matters raised on Petition by the Chairman and Secretary of the Constitutional Convention authorized by the General Assembly of Australia.

AND WHEREAS it is cognisant of the activities of the Australian Inland Mission during recent years and that a Presbyterian Church in memory of the Very Reverend John Flynn has been opened at Alice Springs and that the Australian Inland Mission has ordained Ministers serving in the Northern Portion of Australia where no Presbytery exists.

AND WHEREAS it recognizes the desirability of regularizing the position of the said Ministers and providing for the orderly government in this area in accordance with the established principles of the Presbyterian Church.

AND WHEREAS this Assembly also recognizes the special problems inherent in the unusual conditions and the vast area comprised in the said bounds and whilst recognizing the desirability of encouraging the growth of United Church congregations also appreciates the necessity of arranging some orderly form of Church Government within the said area:

AND WHEREAS the said Assembly appreciates that such new and unusual conditions necessitate a new and unusual approach.

NOW THIS ASSEMBLY DECLARES

- (a) That an "Interim Presbytery" be and is hereby established in Northern Australia to be known as the "Interim Presbytery of Northern Australia."
- (b) That the bounds of the same shall comprise the Northern Territory together with such or any other area or areas to the west and/or east thereof as may now or hereafter be added to it.
- (c) That the said "Interim Presbytery of Northern Australia" shall be attached to and come under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales.
- (d) That the laws of the Church as are contained in "Procedure and Practice" shall apply to the said "Interim Presbytery of Northern Australia" as far as practicable in the light of its interim development including the power and authority to meet and to establish Kirk sessions and other usual forms of Church management and government on an interim basis.
- (e) That the said "Interim-Presbytery of Northern Australia" shall elect representatives to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the State of New South Wales in the same manner and with the same rights as a Presbytery of the Church.
- (f) That the said "Interim-Presbytery of Northern Australia" shall not be subject to ordinary financial obligations until such time as it is raised to full Presbytery status.
- (g) That a Petition to the above effect be submitted to the General Assembly of Australia the form of which is to be settled by the Law Officers after reference to the Law Officers of the General Assembly of Australia.

186. On motion duly moved and seconded it was resolved

That the General Assembly hereby appoints a Commission consisting of The Revd. Archibald Wesley Grant (Chairman) and The Revd. William John Bates, with instruction and authority to set up and establish the Interim Presbytery of Northern Australia, in accordance with the decision of the Assembly at this present Session, and with instruction to report to the Clerk of this Assembly, the action taken by the Commission.

Communication 4. N.S.W. General Assembly. (Min. 23)

(Re 156th Anniversary of Ebenezer Church.)

Dear Mr. Marshall,—The General Assembly, N.S.W., has approved the observance of the 150th Anniversary of Ebenezer Church on Assembly Sunday, May 16th, 1959.

This church is the oldest building of any denomination still being used for public worship in Australia.

The Assembly has resolved to request the General Assembly of Australia to declare the observance of the 150th Anniversary of Ebenezer Church on Saturday, May 15th, 1959, an official Assembly Function, with the Moderator-General presiding; and further to request the Assembly to invite the representative of the Queen in Australia, and the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, to be present at this celebration.

Will you kindly bring these requests before the General Assembly.

Yours faithfully,

A. C. GRIEVE, Clerk of Assembly.

June 25th, 1957.

Communication 5. Victorian General Assembly (re Presbytery Boundaries). (Min. 26)

Following a communication from the General Assembly of South Australia and overtures from the Presbyteries of Hamilton and Penola, the General Assembly of Victoria approved at its recent meetings the change of boundaries between these two Presbyteries in the following terms:

“Declare the boundary between the Presbytery of Penola and the Presbytery of Hamilton to be a line running from a point on the coast five miles east of the mouth of the Glenelg River, thence north-west to a point on the Princes Highway two miles east of the South Australian border.”

The affect of this decision is to transfer the Parish of Nelson to the Presbytery of Penola, and as this decision also affects State boundaries I was directed to report the alteration to the General Assembly of Australia.

Sincerely yours,

G. ROSS WILLIAMS, Clerk.

Melbourne, 29/10/56

Communication 6. From Victorian General Assembly. (Min. 27)

(Continuance of Union with S.A.)

At the recent meetings of the General Assembly of Victoria the following resolution was approved:

“That the Assembly—

- “1. Approve the continuance of the Union with South Australia on the basis of the revised Deed of Union as set forth in the Victorian Assembly B.B. May, 1945, Minute 311, for a further period of ten years.
- “2. Approve the continuance of the Union with the Presbyterian Church of Tasmania under present conditions for a further period of ten years.”

I was directed to inform the General Assembly of Australia of the action of the Victorian Assembly in relation to both South Australia and Tasmania, and I herewith fulfil that direction.

Sincerely yours,

G. ROSS WILLIAMS, Clerk.

June 23rd, 1955.

Communication 7. From W.A. General Assembly (Appreciation). (Min. 25)

At the recent meetings of the General Assembly of W.A., the following resolution was carried when the Report of the Home Missions Council was before the House:

“Express the appreciation of the Assembly to the General Assembly for the interest shown in the problems facing this Assembly in meeting the requirements of the Home Mission field at the present juncture.”

The W.A. Assembly is very grateful for the appointment by the A.I.M. Board of a Commissioner to direct Home Mission development, as arranged by the G.A.A. 1954, and for the practical help this has been to us already, and will be increasingly so in the days ahead.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

ALEX. MACLIVER, Clerk of Assembly.

January 23rd, 1957.

Communication 8. From Congregational Union. (Proposals for Union.)
(Min. 47)

Dear Sir,—When the subject of negotiations towards Church Union between the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches was under discussion at our last Biennial Assembly, the following resolutions were passed:

1. That this Assembly request the Church Union Committee to express to the Church Union Committee of the Presbyterian and Methodist denominations the strong desire of the Assembly that upon the vote being taken, and in the event of the necessary majority being attained, the matter of Union be implemented.
2. That this Assembly requests the Federal and State Assemblies and Conferences of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches in Australia to agree to immediate co-operation between the three negotiating denominations in the Home Mission field, as a token of goodwill.

I assume that the Convener of our Church Union Committee (The Rev. Principal J. D. Northey) has communicated the first resolution to members of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches who have conferred, from time to time, regarding the proposed basis of union.

With regard to the second resolution, I would appreciate advice from you as to whether I ought to communicate directly with the various State Assemblies or whether the resolution should be transmitted to them by you, if thought desirable. If you think that I ought to communicate with the states, would you please be good enough to let me have the names and addresses of the Assembly Clerks in the various Australian states.

Yours faithfully,

J. F. DICKINSON, Hon. Secretary.

Communication 9 (from West Australian Assembly (Persecution of Reformed Church of Spain.) (Min. 237)

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Western Australia desires to bring to your notice the following information:

1. On the 23rd January, 1956, the Spanish police arrived at the **Union Theological Seminary** in Madrid, sealing shut all the lecture rooms and library. The Theological students, as well as other university students and the young children resident in the Seminary boarding home, have been ordered to vacate the premises. The police acted under a written order of the Ministry of the Interior dated 28th November, 1955. No reason was given for the timing of this surprise police action. Spanish Protestant leaders immediately addressed a petition to the Ministry of the Interior. They pointed out that the article of the Spanish Charter which recognizes their private worship services as lawful, necessarily implies recognition of the existence of Spanish Protestant Ministers and, consequently, of an Institution for their training. The police record states that the Minister ordered the Institution, in all its departments, to be closed because it was operating "without authorization". The police issued a warning that grave responsibilities would be incurred by the Seminary administration if the school continued to function in other buildings without authorization.

In their petition to the Minister for the Interior the Spanish Protestant leaders replied that the Seminary had been operating in its present form "from 1947 until this day with manifest, tacit, official consent". The Seminary was originally founded in the South of Spain in 1883 by the Irish Presbyterian Church and had never before been closed by Government action in its 73 years of existence. The casual reference in the police records describing the sudden closing of the Seminary rooms was the first indication to the Seminary that it needed "authorization" for its work. Since 1883 it has been well known to successive Spanish Governments, and when it was reopened with ecumenical support after the war, it was investigated by the police. At that time, 1947, it was provided by the Government rationing office with ration cards, without which it could not have existed. Neither then, nor at any time during the succeeding years, was the question of Government authorization raised, although in those nine years there were frequent police visits. The Spanish Protestant Churches have indicated that they regard the closing of the Seminary as an abrupt and unwarranted act, which menaces their meagre rights under the present Spanish Charter. In their petition to the Minister of the Interior, they argued, *inter alia*, "The tolerance accorded or conceded us by Article 6 of the Spanish Charter implies necessarily the

existence of Spanish Protestant pastors, and, therefore, of an Institution which prepares for such a ministry. Even that private worship which is explicitly and positively authorized under the Charter would be impossible without the existence of these pastors. The legal fact of open churches and chapels—in considerable number—requires a theological trained pastoral ministry to guide the congregations of the churches and chapels.

2. Forty-six Protestant chapel and churches were destroyed by fire or dynamite in Colombia between 1948 and 1955. Deliberate persecution, often at the incitement of bishops and priests, has resulted in the death of at least 53 Protestants, and the destruction of the homes of many Protestant Christians who are loyal Colombian citizens. At the present time three-quarters of the country is closed to Protestant Christian work, and even in the restricted area open to them, Protestants are often refused the right of Assembly and the right openly to proclaim their faith.

3. Remembering with deep repentance occasions of intolerance and bigotry of which we have ourselves been guilty in the sight of God, and confessing that it is inevitable that, since we are yet sinners, offences shall arise between Christians, we, nevertheless, draw the attention of the Churches to these acts of persecution and discrimination which are at the present time being practised upon minority Christians—in Colombia, by wanton acts of destruction, bodily harm and murder, and in Spain by the closing of the Union Theological Seminary in Madrid.

We believe that when one member of the body suffers, all the others suffer with it. We therefore plead with the Roman Catholic Bishops of these areas, with whom the primary responsibility rests, to do all in their power to remedy or alleviate these situations, and call upon Roman Catholics everywhere to express their concern over these occurrences of persecution. We urge the World Council of Churches to continue its efforts in these matters and we ask all member Churches of the World Council for their prayers and whatever practical action may be possible on behalf of the persecuted. Especially we urge upon those who are the victims of persecution, the exercise of patience and forbearance, love for their enemies, and steadfast faith in Jesus Christ the only King and Head of the Church.

Yours sincerely,

ALEX. MACLIVER, Clerk of Assembly.

Communication 10 (Synod Netherland Reformed Church, re Visit of Rev. W. A. Zeydner). (Min. 24)

On behalf of the general synod of the Netherlands Reformed Church, we have the pleasure to inform you that the Rev. W. A. Zeydner, Rotterdam, has been appointed as an official delegate of the Netherlands Reformed Church to make a tour through Australia, visiting the different ministers originally from the Netherlands, now working in the frame of the Presbyterian Churches of Australia, with special interest for the spiritual care of the Dutch migrants.

The general synod would appreciate very much if you will be so kind to invite him in order to attend the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Regarding the close connections we have with you, especially with regard to the many migrants from Holland who were members of our Church, the general synod would like to express its warmest gratitude for what you have done during the last year. We would be very thankful to you if the opportunity would be given to the Rev. Zeydner to express personally in your Assembly our cordial feelings in the common responsibility for the Church of Christ in this time. I add herewith the curriculum vitae of this delegate.

Rev. Zeydner will travel by boat, leaving Rotterdam on 12th August, arriving 11th September, 1957, in Melbourne. He hopes to stay in Australia two months. The address of Rev. Zeydner in Australia will be c/o Rev. M. W. J. Geursen, 241 Rathdowne Street, Carlton, Melbourne, who will take care of his programme.

Thanking you in advance for your help.

On behalf of the general synod of the Netherlands Reformed Church.

A. A. KOOLHAAS, President.

E. EMMEN, Secretary.

Communication II (from the Commission for Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees). (Min. 239)

The Commission sends its greetings to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. It is deeply indebted to the General Assembly in that the Moderator-General, the Rt. Rev. F. W. Rolland, has been its chairman for the past two and a half years. His commendation in press articles and sermons together with his wide experience and wise counsel has been deeply appreciated.

The financial year for the Commission ends on the 30th September. It is of interest that whereas on 1st September, 1956, £25,000 has been remitted abroad, by 1st September this year the amount has been £43,000 with approximately £3,000 in hand. An amount of £35,000 had been budgeted for and has been sent to some 26 countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. The £8,000 was the extra and unbudgeted response for Hungary. Since 1949 a total of £186,000 has been sent abroad.

The Presbyterian Church of Queensland remitted us £1,925 for the Reformed Church of Hungary. A news release has been sent to all religious press featuring the thanks of Bishop E. Gyory.

The bowl has been "emptied", but moving appeals by cable from Geneva reveal desperate new situations following tidal waves in Hong Kong, earthquakes in Turkey, tornado destruction of a vital mission station in Basutoland, constantly recorded new victims of the A-bombing in Japan in 1946. It is urgent that the Commission receive a continuous flow of income throughout the year.

The resettlement department has brought 2,458 refugees to this country by the end of June, making a total of 13,806 since 1952 and involving the Revolving Travel Loan Fund in an amount exceeding one and a third million pounds. Advance payments and repayments by these migrants now exceed £800,000. Some 514 have now been placed under the sponsorship agency, but sponsorship by congregations has been disappointingly slow. Arrivals this year have been slowed down mainly by political disturbances and the closing of the Suez Canal. Employment has been increasingly difficult to secure, especially for unskilled labour.

The Deputy Director, Miss Margaret Holmes, at the request of the Geneva office, attended the Annual Consultation in Eastbourne and has since been visiting the refugee camps in Europe.

The Commission acknowledges gratefully the arrival, as fraternal workers to the Synod of Timor, of Rev. N. C. Crowl, B.A., and Sister E. M. D. Boulter. The Presbyterian Mission Board bore the entire expense of their preparation and now their maintenance.

The Commission desires to very gratefully acknowledge its indebtedness to Rolland House for again accepting an Ecumenical Scholarship holder, Miss Vazier Chand, B.A., of Cathedral College, Lahore, Pakistan, who is reading in Education.

The Presbyterian Church was represented in June at the Annual Consultation of this Division of the World Council of Churches at Eastbourne, England, by Deaconess Frances Hand of Victoria who has gone to do short-time service on the Continent in refugee areas.

J. J. DEDMAN, Director of Settlement.

FRANK F. BYATT, Secretary of Commission
Inter-Church Aid/Service to Refugees.

Communication 12 (from A.S.C.M., re Co-operation) (Min. 235).

We greet you in the name of our common Lord.

We desire to bring to your notice action by the Australian Student Christian Movement. The Movement, acutely conscious of the size and complexity of the tasks of witness and evangelism in the student world of Australia, has recently adopted a Plan of Development.

Amongst other things this plan—

Seeks closer co-operation with the Churches;

Desires to make better known the Church-relatedness of Movement policy which has developed steadily during the last twenty years and which is now seeking fresh expression in this Plan;

Hopes that your Church will look upon the Movement as one which works on behalf of the Church and the Churches in the student world;

Desires the assistance of the Churches in promoting more full-time leadership by establishing resident S.C.M. staff in each major University centre and University Chaplains appointed by World Council of Churches

Committees wherever possible. To that end it requests the blessing of your Church and the commendation of these matters to the State Assemblies of your Church.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK G. ENGEL, General Secretary.

30th August, 1957.

COMMUNICATIONS

Private and Confidential (held in Retentis).

13. (from the Presbytery of Sydney, re Rev. R. M. Herriman.) (Min. 154)
14. (from the Rev. R. M. Herriman re Appeal.) (Min. 154)
17. (from Miss May Turvey, re Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions and Ernabella.) (Min. 120)

Communication 15 (from the Presbyterian Church of Jamaica (re Aid).

(Min. 240)

You will have heard through World Alliance Channels of the disastrous earthquake which shook Jamaica on 1st March, and did extensive damage to our Church properties, happily without loss of life.

This small Church of 12,500 members suffers periodically from hurricane and earthquake: hurricanes in 1944 did extensive damage. The damage by earthquake this year was £70,000, about one-third being covered by insurance. After each disaster it is increasingly more difficult to build back our work. Some Church halls destroyed in 1944 are only now being rebuilt.

We will greatly value whatever aid your Church may be able to offer us. We do need the support of the wider Presbyterian family at this time.

With fraternal greetings,

(Signed) MUNGO CARRICK, Field Secretary.

Communication 16 (from the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides. (Min. 116)

I have been commissioned to convey to the General Assembly of Australia the greetings of the Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides, and I would be grateful if you could arrange a place for this greeting in the business of the House.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) NEILSON WHYTE, Moderator P.C.N.H.

Overtures

I.—From New South Wales General Assembly (re Shortened Course).

(Min. 73)

EXTRACT MINUTE

(Min. 186)

At Sydney, and within the Assembly Hall, on Wednesday, 22nd May, 1957, the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading of scripture, and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

Intel- alia—

186. An Overture from the Home Mission Committee anent a Shortened Course of Training for the Ministry was laid on the Table.

The Overture was introduced by The Rev. H. J. Hillman.

It was moved, seconded, and agreed:

“That the Assembly—

“1. Sustain the Overture:

“2. Transmit it to the G.A. of A. with Approval of recommendation 1, 2, 3, and 5, and Disapproval of recommendation 4.”

The Revs. H. J. Hillman and R. A. Caldwell were appointed to support the Overture in the G.A. of A.

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales this 25th day of June, 1957, by me,

A. C. GRIEVE, Clerk of Assembly.

Overture

From the Home Mission Committee: Anent a Shortened Course of Training for the Ministry.

WHEREAS the number of vacant charges in New South Wales now exceeds forty, and great difficulty is being experienced in staffing many charges, and some are able to secure intermittent supply only.

WHEREAS the development of the State is opening up new suburbs in country and city, and demanding additional Missionaries for the Home Mission Staff.

WHEREAS the Presbyterian Church in New Zealand has adopted a scheme of recruitment of laymen from various professional and commercial spheres, who have reached the age of thirty-five years, and has provided a shortened course of training of two years before ordination.

WHEREAS the Churches in Scotland and England, facing similar situations have proceeded on similar lines.

WHEREAS experience has revealed that a number of men of mature years are conscious of a Call to the Ministry, but because of family and financial commitments are unable to face a course of six years training.

WHEREAS a number of Home Missionaries have served the Church for a number of years and revealed gifts and qualities which indicate that their acceptance would enable them to exercise a more effective ministry and assist the Church to meet the demands of the field.

It is therefore humbly overtured by the Home Mission Committee unto the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia in the State of New South Wales to take these premises into account and to transmit with recommendation to the General Assembly of Australia to enact.

1. That a shortened course of two years training be prescribed by the College Committee for suitable laymen of the Church, who have attained 40 years of age, and for Home Missionaries who have reached 40 years of age, and whose service in the Home Mission Department exceeds seven years and has proved acceptable.

2. That applicants must be approved as regards gifts and qualifications by the Home Mission Committee in consultation with the Theological Hall Committee of the State.

3. That on completion of the course of training to the satisfaction of the College Committee, the necessary Exit Certificate be issued.

4. That such ordinands shall serve under the direction of the Home Mission Committee of the State for a period of five years.

5. That the scheme operate during the present crisis in the field and be reviewed at the next meeting of the General Assembly three hence.

Or to deal otherwise with the Overture as the Assembly in its wisdom deems fit.

The Rev. M. A. McAlpine and H. J. Hillman were appointed to present the Overture to the Assembly.

M. A. McALPINE, Convener.
H. J. HILLMAN, Superintendent.

II—From New South Wales General Assembly. (Min. 75)

(Elimination of Entrance Examinations.)

EXTRACT MINUTE

At Sydney, and within the Assembly Hall, on Wednesday, 22nd May, 1957, the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment, and was constituted with praise, reading of scripture, and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

Inter alia—

185. An Overture from the Presbytery of Sydney South anent the elimination of the Home Mission or Extra-mural Course Entrance Examination was laid on the Table.

The Overture was introduced by The Rev. M. A. McAlpine and R. T. C. Williamson.

It was moved and seconded:

“That the Assembly—

“Transmit the Overture to the G.A. of A. with approval”

It was moved and seconded as an amendment:

“That the Assembly—

“Transmit the Overture simpliciter.”

The amendment was approved.

The motion as amended was put and carried.

The Rev. H. Stott and H. J. Hillman were appointed to introduce the Overture before the General Assembly of Australia.

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales this 25th day of June, 1957, by me,

A. C. GRIEVE, Clerk of Assembly.

Overture

From the Presbytery of Sydney South; re Elimination of Home Mission or Extra Mural Course Entrance Examination.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales from the Presbytery of Sydney South.

WHEREAS the present shortage of ministers and the large number of vacant charges make it urgent that men desiring to be trained for the Ministry complete their training with the minimum of delay;

AND WHEREAS the present entrance examination requirements to the Home Mission or Extra Mural course of study for the Ministry cause a delay of from one to three years;

AND WHEREAS the present entrance examination requirements to the Home Mission and Extra Mural course of study for the Ministry have little relevance to the training of Home Mission or Extra Mural students;

It is therefore humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Sydney South to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales to take these premises into consideration and to forward this Overture to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to meet in Melbourne in September, 1957, with the request that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia enact (1) that the entrance requirements to the Home Mission or Extra Mural course of study for the Ministry be discontinued; (2) the successful completion of the first year of the Home Mission or Extra Mural course shall be regarded as qualifying the student to continue his study towards the full ministry, and (3) to amend all relative laws or regulations to permit the elimination of the entrance examination requirements to the Home Mission or Extra Mural course of study for the Ministry; or to do otherwise with the Overture as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

Rev. M. A. McAlpine and the Rev. R. T. C. Williamson were appointed to support the Overture in the General Assembly.

R. MAIDMENT (Clerk), Presbytery of Sydney South.

III—From the Presbytery of North Sydney. (Women for Eldership and Ministry). (Min. 81)

At Sydney, and within the Assembly Hall, on Wednesday, 22nd May, 1957, the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with praise, reading of scripture, and prayer, the Moderator presiding.

Inter alia—

184. An Overture from the Presbytery of North Sydney anent women for the Ministry and the Eldership was laid on the Table.

It was moved and seconded—

1. That the Overture be sustained;
2. That it be transmitted to the General Assembly of Australia simpliciter.

It was moved:

That the word “simpliciter” be omitted and the words “with a favourable recommendation” be substituted therefore.

The amendment was seconded.

The mover of the amendment demanded a division.

The division was taken.

The result of the division was reported by the tellers to the Moderator and announced by him as follows: Ayes, 38; Noes, 51.

The Moderator declared the amendment lost.

The motion was put and carried.

The Rev. S. Russell Scott and E. H. Vines were appointed to introduce the Overture before the General Assembly of Australia.

Closed with prayer.

Extracted from the Records of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales this 25th day of June, 1957, by me,

A. C. GRIEVE, Clerk of Assembly.

Overture

From the Presbytery of North Sydney for transmission to the General Assembly of Australia: anent Women for the Ministry and Eldership.

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

This Overture humbly showeth that—

WHEREAS there is no provision in the declared policy or the law of the Presbyterian Church of Australia as to the admission of women to the Eldership or Ministry of the said Church

AND WHEREAS such admission of women would be permitted by the doctrine and teaching of the said Church

AND WHEREAS women have been admitted to the Ministry within Protestant Churches in other parts of the world including the Presbyterian Church of England, the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, the Methodist Church of the United States of America, and the Congregational Church in England and have also been admitted to the Eldership.

AND WHEREAS it is desirable for the better attainment of the objects of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and for the furtherance of its teaching and the extension of its work that women should be admitted to the Eldership and to the Ministry thereof.

It is humbly overtured by the Presbytery of North Sydney in the State of New South Wales to the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and to

- (1) Declare that' it is within the policy and for the general benefit of the Presbyterian Church of Australia that women should be admitted to the Eldership and to the Ministry of the said Church, and
- (2) Enact as a law of the said Church that notwithstanding any other law, provision, regulation or resolution, it shall be lawful for a woman to be admitted to the Eldership and to the

Ministry of the said Church, and thereafter to do all such acts and occupy all such positions as elder or minister as could be done or occupied by a male person.

OR to deal otherwise with the Overture as the Assembly in its wisdom may see fit.

Rev. L. D. M. Wedderburn, S. Russell Scott, and E. H. Vines were appointed by the Presbytery to prepare the Overture and forward it to the Assembly of New South Wales for transmission to the General Assembly of Australia. The Rev. S. R. Scott and E. H. Vines were appointed by the Presbytery to support the Overture before the General Assembly of Australia.

IV—From South Australia General Assembly (Shortened Course).

(Min. 74)

At Adelaide, and within the Mitchell Memorial Church, Goodwood, on Friday, 10th day of May, 1957, the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.

Inter alia—

It was moved by the Rev. John Priestley that the General Assembly sustain the following Overture and transmit the same to the General Assembly of Australia. The motion was seconded and approved and the Rev. John Priestley and Mr. G. S. Davidson were appointed to support the Overture in the General Assembly of Australia.

Overture

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

This Overture of the General Assembly of South Australian humbly sheweth that—

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Australia is standing at the beginning of a period of great expansion, and

WHEREAS technological advances, the development of new methods in farming marginal lands and the tide of immigration have contributed to this advance, and

WHEREAS the Church is required to provide religious ordinances to the many emerging new settlements, and

WHEREAS religious ordinances are best supplied through a regularly ordained ministry, and

WHEREAS there is now existing a shortage of ordained ministers to staff even the present sanctioned charges, and

WHEREAS the traditional pre-requisites for ordination in the Presbyterian Church are a call from God to a person, the recommendation of that person by a Presbytery, the training of that person in universities and the theological Halls of the Church, and after examination, licensing by the Presbytery, and

WHEREAS the aim the traditional pre-requisites is to so furnish candidates for ordination that they can fulfil an effectual ministry, and

WHEREAS effective ministries have been exercised by many who have come into the ministry through the alternative already provided to meet Australian conditions in the Home Mission Course, and

WHEREAS it is possible that there is a group of men of maturer age who have served the Church in Boards and Sessions, and who could pursue an effective ministry without further scholastic study, provided that arrangements were made for adequate theological training,

NOW THEREFORE the Venerable the General Assembly of South Australia humbly overtures the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration and resolve to provide for an initial period of ten years, a shortened course of training for a specially selected group of maturer men, by amending the Regulations of the College Committee by inserting a new section 6 Z.

6Z (a) The General Assembly in 1957 adopted a shortened course, and these regulations numbered 6 Z shall apply only until 1967, unless further renewed by the General Assembly.

(b) All candidates applying to be admitted to the shortened course shall be communicants of the Presbyterian Church, and shall be over the age of 35 years at the time of application to be ad-

mitted as a candidate. Preferably each candidate shall have served on the Board of Management and been ordained as an Elder. Applications shall be forwarded as provided in Regulations 1 to 5 but Presbyteries shall be more than ordinarily careful in recommending candidates for the Shortened Course.

- (c) No educational qualifications shall be required as pre-requisites for the shortened course, but the College Committee may at its discretion require a certificate of mental ability.
- (d) The College Committee shall prepare a curriculum, without languages, extending over three or more terms per year for a maximum of two years, suited to the needs of the candidates.
- (e) An exit certificate shall be issued when the candidate has completed the whole course of study to the satisfaction of the Faculty concerned, and a certificate to that effect has been received by the Secretary of the College Committee.
- (f) The Faculty concerned shall be authorized to inform candidates whom the Faculty considers unsuitable, that their candidature is terminated.

Or to do otherwise as the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia may deem fit.

Extracted from the records of the General Assembly of South Australia by me on the 20th day of June, 1957.

A. SUTHERLAND JONES, Clerk of Assembly.

V—From the Presbytery of Canberra (anent the Powers and Functions of the Canberra Executive within the Australian Capital Territory). (Min. 92)

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

WHEREAS, in 1926, the work and witness of the Presbyterian Church within the Australian Capital Territory was in the early developmental stage, and

WHEREAS, an Executive Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was elected to guide and direct that development, and

WHEREAS, now, in this year, 1957, there are two sanctioned charges in full standing within the Australian Capital Territory,

IT IS THEREFORE humbly overtured to the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and—

1. Rescind all resolutions of previous Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church of Australia regarding the powers and functions of the Canberra Executive; and

2. Instruct the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales to exercise full State Assembly powers over all sanctioned charges within the Australian Capital Territory, such powers to include the responsibility of directing, through its Home Mission Committee, the work of Church Extension in that Territory; and

3. Instruct the Presbytery of Canberra to exercise full Presbyterian powers over all sanctioned charges and Home Mission stations within the Australian Capital Territory; and

4. Resolve that the powers and functions of the Canberra Executive should be as follows:

- (a) To keep before the Presbyterians of Australia the proposal to complete the Church of St. Andrew and to direct an appeal for funds when the time is considered opportune; and
- (b) To keep before the Presbyterians of Australia the need for a vigorous policy of Church Extension and Development within the Australian Capital Territory, and to direct an appeal throughout the Commonwealth when necessary; and
- (c) To act as an Advisory Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia upon requests from the Presbytery of Canberra and the Sessions of the sanctioned charges and Home Mission stations within the Australian Capital Territory.

The Revs. Hector Harrison and R. L. McInness were appointed to support the Overture before the Assembly.

Extracted from the minutes of the Presbytery of Canberra by me on the 21st June, 1957.

HECTOR HARRISON, Clerk, Presbytery of Canberra.

VI—By the Constitutional Convention. Anent Standing Order 106 and Appointment of Commission of Assembly. (Min. 30)

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly:

WHEREAS the Constitutional Convention of the G.A. of A. deems it advisable that a Commission of Assembly should be appointed forthwith and that such Commission of Assembly should be invested with all necessary powers in order to deal with all matters submitted to such Commission by the Assembly and such other urgent matters which may arise from time to time, and whereas owing to delay in the appointment of a Commission of Assembly because of the failure of lower courts to send in returns to remits sent down by the Assembly anent the appointment of the said Commission of Assembly.

Now therefore, the Constitutional Convention humbly overtures the General Assembly to consider these premises and—

1. To amend Standing Order No. 106 by
 - (a) Deleting therefrom the word “special” in line one thereof.
 - (b) Deleting therefrom the words “or without” in lines two and three thereof.
 - (c) Deleting the words “any particular matter” therefrom in lines three and four.
2. To insert in lieu thereof in lines two and three the words “all matters submitted to the Commission by the appointing court and any other urgent matters which may arise from time to time” and to add other words thereto so that the said Standing Order No. 106 shall then read:

106. “A Court may appoint a Commission of one or more persons with full powers to deal with all matters submitted to the Commission by the appointing Court and any other urgent matters which may arise from time to time. When a Commission consists of two or more members, the Court appoints the Chairman”. And further—

3. To appoint a Commission of the General Assembly, which the General Assembly hereby does appoint, consisting of twenty-seven members made up as follows—

The Moderator (Chairman), Clerks, Procurator, and Law Agent of the General Assembly, together with representatives from the State in the following proportions, viz: Six from New South Wales, six from Victoria, four from Queensland, and two each from South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. (Any vacancy occurring to be filled by the G.A. of the State affected.) Sixteen of whom, representing at least four of the States, shall form a quorum, whereof eight shall be ministers, and such Commission of Assembly—

- (a) Shall be empowered to enter into and determine as they shall see cause every matter referred to them by or in virtue of any decision or order of the General Assembly, and to do everything contained in the instructions given to the Commission of General Assembly.
- (b) Is charged to advert to the interests of the Church on every occasion, that the Church do not suffer or sustain any prejudice which it can prevent, as it will be answerable, and to this end the General Assembly empower the Commission to consider and determine such emergent matters as are deemed urgent and in need of executive or judicial action.
- (c) Is strictly enjoined in all its actings to proceed according to the Rules and Constitution of the Church and to do nothing contrary thereto or to the prejudice of the same, declaring that in and for all its actings it shall be accountable to and censurable by the next Assembly as they shall see cause.
- (d) Is further restrained from enacting, amending or repealing any Rules or Regulations of the General Assembly or from entering into the consideration of any overture or motion proposing legislation or from meddling with any matter which has not been referred to the Commission by the General Assembly or which is not of the nature set out in Clause b of this appointment.
- (e) Is directed to submit its minutes duly confirmed, and relevant papers, to the next General Assembly through the Clerk.
- (f) Is instructed to meet at least once between the meetings of the General Assembly, in the first instance on the second Wednes-

day of September, 1958, at the Assembly Hall, Melbourne, and if found necessary to adjourn from time to time.

The Overture to be presented to the G.A. of A. by the Rev. T. Gibson and Mr. P. J. Barblett.

J. GRAY ROBERTSON (Convener).

VII—By the Constitutional Convention, Anent Articles of Agreement. (Min. 36)

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

WHEREAS (1) the General Assembly of Australia of September, 1954, gave authority for a Convention on the Constitution and Functions of the General Assembly of Australia to be convened to examine the Deed of Union and the Standing Orders and to recommend needed changes (B.B. 1954 Min. 263);

2. The said Convention met in Melbourne on 20th, 21st, 22nd March, 1956, and again on 11th and 12th September, 1956; and 3rd and 4th July 1957;

3. The said Convention (inter alia) expressed itself as of the opinion that the time has arrived for the creation of a Presbyterian Church of Australia which will be truly national in character having the paramount right, power and obligation to legislate in all matters concerning its doctrine, worship, discipline and government, and to unite with any other Church without loss of its identity, upon such terms as it may find to be consistent with the principles, doctrines and religious standards set forth in the Basis of Union. G.A. of A. Law Officers to draft the necessary amendments and to submit their proposals to the Convener of the Convention;

4. It has become urgently necessary in the light of the vote recently taken on the desirability or otherwise of entering into negotiations with the Congregational and Methodist Churches with a view to corporate Union that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia should have conferred upon it the constitutional right and power (subject to proper safeguards of the exercise thereof) to bring about Union with such other Churches;

5. The Law Agent at the request of the Convention (owing to the death of the Procurator) submitted draft amendments of Rule 128 (Article iv) and Rule 159 (Article xii) as here set out each of which was approved by the said Convention.

NOW THEREFORE the said Constitutional Convention respectfully overtures the General Assembly to consider order and give effect to the said proposals which are hereunder specified or to do otherwise in the matter as the General Assembly may deem best.

1. That for the existing Rule 128 Article (iv) be substituted the following—

“128 Article (iv):

(a) The General Assembly shall have functions legislative administrative and judicial supreme with regard to the doctrine worship discipline and government of the Church, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, shall without further direction from the General Assembly retain its existing functions with regard to the Missions to the heathen, the Training of Students, the admission of candidates to the Ministry, the reception of Ministers from other Churches, Welfare of Youth Work, and Home Missions, in so far as hereinafter provided.

(b) The General Assembly by virtue of its supreme right and power to legislate in respect of the matters mentioned in the last preceding sub-article has the right, but, not without the consent of the majority of the Presbyteries of the whole Church and a majority of the State Assemblies, to bring about the union of the Church with any other Church without loss of its identity upon such terms as the General Assembly may find to be consistent with the principles doctrines and religious standards set forth in the Basis of Union or any amendment thereof made in accordance with the provisions therein contained.”

2. That for the existing Rule 159 Article xii be submitted the following—

“159 Article xii:

The State General Assemblies shall until otherwise directed by the General Assembly continue to carry out their legislative administrative and judicial functions with regard to the government of the Church within their respective bounds.”

The Revs. J. Gray Robertson and Dr. Watson were appointed to state the Overture when it comes before the Assembly.

J. GRAY ROBERTSON, Convener.

VIII— By the Constitutional Convention. Anent Meetings and Constitution of Assembly. (Min. 104)

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

WHEREAS (1) by Rule 126, (Article ii) it is provided that the General Assembly should meet once in two years;

2. Owing to financial considerations due to the depression in the early thirties the General Assembly has, since 1930, met only once in each period of three years;

3. The Convention on the Constitution appointed by the G.A. of A. 1954 (BB 1954 Min. 263) is of opinion that in order to carry out its functions effectively the General Assembly should meet at least once every second year;

4. Expenses of travel and accommodation have increased of recent years and the Convention considers that to achieve biennial Assemblies it will be necessary, while maintaining adequate representation of State Assemblies and Presbyteries, to reduce the numbers of such representatives by approximately one-third;

5. In order to give legislative effect to the change it would be necessary to alter Rule 127 Article (iii) in accordance with the provisions of Rule 162 (Article xv).

NOW THEREFORE the said Constitutional Convention respectfully overtures the General Assembly to consider order and give effect to the said proposal which is hereunder specified or to do otherwise in the matter as the General Assembly may deem best.

THAT Rule 127 Article (iii) be altered by substituting for the word “sixteen” the word “twenty four” and by the substituting for the word “five” the word “eight”.

The Revs. J. Gray Robertson and Dr. Watson were appointed to state the Overture when it comes before the Assembly.

J. GRAY ROBERTSON, Convener.

IX— From the Board of Missions (anent Recognition of Missionaries on furlough and present at meetings of the General Assembly of Australia).

(Min. 21)

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

WHEREAS Missionary Ministers and Elders under appointment by the Board of Missions serve for periods of years overseas or in remote areas of Australia and return to their home Presbyteries only for furloughs of comparatively short duration, and

WHEREAS such absences and the uncertainties of travel limit the likelihood of their being appointed by State Assembly or Presbytery as representatives to the General Assembly of Australia, even though the Board of Missions of a State Foreign Mission Committee may give to the Presbytery concerned all possible advance intimation of availability of the Missionary for such appointment, and

WHEREAS notwithstanding the foregoing, there are occasions when such Missionaries on furlough are able to attend meetings of the Assembly,

NOW THEREFORE it is humbly overtured to the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and declare that:

Missionaries while under engagement by the Board of Missions who are on furlough and who are ordained Elders or Ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Australia shall have the privileges of being associated

with the General Assembly of Australia if they are not already representatives of State Assembly or Presbytery,

OR decide otherwise as the General Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

V. W. COOMBES, General Secretary.
GEO. ANDERSON, Convener.

X— By Board of Missions (re Membership). (Min. 117)

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly:

WHEREAS the work of the Board of Missions has over the years become increasingly a concern of all of the States, including the women's organizations,

AND WHEREAS at present Rule 187 has provision for only six women, including two each from Victoria and New South Wales.

AND WHEREAS it would increase the efficiency of the Board if women's organizations in each State were to be permanently represented on the Board,

NOW THEREFORE the Board of Missions humbly overtures the Venerable the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and to amend—Rule 187 of the Code by the omission of the word "six" and the insertion of the word "eight" and the insertion of the words "West Australia, Tasmania" after the word "Queensland" in line 6.

Give the change of rule interim authority and remit to Assemblies and Presbyteries for report through the Code Committee to the next General Assembly of Australia.

OR do otherwise as the Assembly may deem fit.

The Revs. V. W. Coombes and J. M. Stuckey were appointed to state the overture when it came before the house.

V. W. COOMBES, General Secretary.

XI— From the Presbytery of Sydney West (Min. 241).

Anent Representation of G.A. of A. Office-bearers and Conveners in the G.A. of A.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia:

WHEREAS it creates difficulties for conveners of G.A. of A. committees, and those holding office by appointment of the G.A. of A. in presenting or speaking to the Reports of their committees, when they are not members of the General Assembly;

WHEREAS such persons cannot be members unless the Assembly or the Presbytery of which they are members has the foresight to nominate them;

WHEREAS it may not be possible for a Presbytery to nominate all the members within its bounds who hold a G.A. of A. office without depriving itself of the right to nominate freely any member it desires—

It is humbly overtured by the Presbytery of Sydney West to the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration and take the necessary steps to enact:

Add to Article (iii) of the Articles of Agreement—

Conveners of General Assembly committees in presenting their reports, and Office-bearers holding General Assembly of Australia appointments, such as the General Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Missions, the Superintendent of the A.I.M., and the Chaplain-General, shall have all the rights of Members of Assembly while the Assembly is discussing the Reports of their respective Committees, when they have not been elected Members of the General Assembly of Australia.

OR deal otherwise with the Overture as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

The Rev. M. O. Fox was appointed to present the Overture.

MAXWELL O. FOX, Clerk of Presbytery.

petitions

Subjoined to Report of College Committee.

1.—From the Rev. Wm. Purves, (re Shortened Course.) (Min. 205)

To the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia through the Presbytery of Ballarat:

The Petition of the Rev. William Purves, at present a Home Missionary stationed at Carngham, Victoria, humbly sheweth—

He was born at Bathgate, Scotland, in 1910, and is married, with two children. He was educated at Bathgate Public (Council) School and Bathgate Academy. For nine years he worked as a clerk in colliery offices, and for some years, in the evenings, during that time he studied and completed a commercial course and gained Royal Society of Arts certificates.

As a boy he was a pupil of the Church of Scotland Sunday School, a Bible Class member and later became a Communicant member, Sunday School teacher and lay preacher. Week-ends and free evenings were spent in other Christian activities including Boys' Brigade, Temperance and Missionary meetings, and he was local secretary of the Southern Morocco Mission, and secretary and treasurer of the Bathgate Christian Union.

Hearing the call of God to preach the Gospel overseas he entered the Bible College of Wales, Swansea, in 1934, to equip himself for that task. Here he followed a three years Theological Course of studies, but being fortunate enough to complete it in two years to the satisfaction of the College Faculty, he received an Exit Certificate.

The Bible College of Wales is interdenominational, and included in its curriculum Theological studies with Missionary training. Some of the subjects were Logic, Hebrew, New Testament Greek, Old and New Testament Literature, Church History, English, Theology, History, Philosophy and Psychology. Other subjects such as Accountancy, French, Anatomy and Physiology, Nursing, Midwifery and Tropical Hygiene had a more direct preparation for the mission field.

Your petitioner applied as a missionary candidate to the Worldwide Evangelization Crusade, and after a period of probation he was accepted as a missionary-designate for French West Africa. He continued to work with this Society until he sailed for Australia in 1954, having served in all 18 years as a missionary.

For most of the year 1938 he studied French at the Institut Biblique, Paris, and became fluent in that language.

He sailed for the Ivory Coast, French West Africa, in 1939, and for the ensuing seven years he had, as a pioneer missionary, the wonderful privilege of making known the Gospel to thousands of Africans who had not heard it before. God abundantly blessed the ministry of His servant; many from pagan and Moslem tribes were converted to Christ, and churches were established.

His first furlough was in 1946, most of which was spent on itinerary work in the U.K., and teaching Missionary Methods and French in a Bible College.

During this furlough he was accredited and given recognition as a Minister of Religion by the Recognition of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.

When in the Ivory Coast, he had helped to build three mission stations, and to open up their respective areas to the Gospel; had studied two African tribal languages, one of which had not been reduced to writing, and for over a year was Field Superintendent for 25 missionaries, six mission stations, a leprosarium and an orphanage of 16 babies.

Your petitioner returned to the Ivory Coast in 1948 for a second term of service, and worked there till 1953. He returned to the homeland for furlough in that year, and until he sailed for South Australia in 1954, he preached, lectured and addressed missionary meetings and conferences.

For the health and education of his two children, and seeking a warmer climate than that of Scotland, he migrated to South Australia. From his first Sunday in his new country he occupied Presbyterian Church pulpits. In January, 1955, he was appointed as Continuous Pulpit Supply to the vacant joint charge of Clare-Hart and Koolunga, of the Presbytery of Belalie, South Australia, and ministered there for 16 months.

On the coming of a settled minister, he was appointed to the vacant charge of Prospect-Clearview (Presbytery of Adelaide), as Continuous Pulpit Supply where he remained for eight months until it was time to

proceed to Victoria. Application had been made in 1955 for admission to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Ministry.

Therefore, as a 4th year student, he attended the Theological Hall, Melbourne, pre-sessional course in Hebrew and Greek, in February, 1957, and in March began studies at the Theological Hall.

Taking into consideration his previous theological training, age, experience and status, your petitioner now prays the General Assembly of Australia to consider his position and enable him to proceed to ordination by a shortened course, or do with this petition as it may in its wisdom see fit.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

W. PURVES.

15/4/57

Petition supported by the Presbytery of Ballarat. Testimonies supplied from the Revs. M. J. Both and R. S. C. Blance.

Transmitted by the College Committee with the recommendation that the prayer of the petition be not granted.

2.—From Mr. N. S. McCaw. (re Shortened Course.) (Min. 207)

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

I, Noel Stanley McCaw, an Elder and a Home Missionary, pursuing a course of study as a private student, with the ultimate hope of Ordination as a Minister of the said Church, hereby respectfully pray that consideration be given in the direction of shortening the course of study required for Ordination in my case.

The special circumstances which prompts me to submit this plea is a condition of near blindness, which imposes a major difficulty in the matter of a very extensive term of study. It is my humble belief that I could serve God and the Church more effectively as an Ordained Minister.

I am 41 years of age, and have to date successfully completed two years of the extra-mural course, and anticipate sitting for the third year examination in October, 1957. The extra-mural course has enabled me to create suitable conditions of study, and the results I have secured to date have been fairly satisfactory. In the second year examination I secured first place in English and Psychology (79% and 74% respectively) and third place in History (75%). The future course within the Theological Hall will undoubtedly present greater difficulty. The actual study would not, perhaps, be beyond my capacity, but it would be impossible to create the same favourable conditions.

I was born in New South Wales on 6th April, 1915, and received my secondary education at North Sydney Boys' High School. Eventually, I worked in the Shell Company of Australia until August, 1939, after which for several years, I managed my own hardware business at Drummoyne. The economic situation and the entry of Japan into the war made it necessary for me to close this business. During the remainder of the war years I sold life assurance for the Mutual Life & Citizens' Assurance Company. I re-entered the hardware field in 1946, when I managed King's Hardware at Castlecrag, in conjunction with my own wholesale hardware business. I was a member of the Committee of Management of our Willoughby Church, later acting as secretary of that body, and was Ordained and Inducted as an elder of that Church in 1948. In August, 1952, I entered the service of the Home Mission Department of our Church in N.S.W.

For several years prior to that date I had been actively interested in politics and was president of both the local branch and the Willoughby State Conference of the Liberal Party of Australia, resigning these offices when I entered the full-time work of the Church.

My first appointment as a Home Missionary was to Abermain-Weston on the northern coalfields of N.S.W., where I spent 2 years. During my term there the congregations grew and a stabilized system of finance enabled the station to become self-supporting. From Abermain-Weston I was transferred in December, 1954, to North Balgowlah, a new suburb of Sydney. The situation in this area when I entered it was extremely difficult, but eventually harmony was restored and considerable progress was made. Congregations almost doubled and the amount of aid received from the Home Mission Department was greatly reduced, and as a result of a recent Stewardship Campaign, North Balgowlah should soon be self-supporting. In December, 1956, feeling that my task in North Balgowlah was completed, at my request I was transferred to Stockton, a suburb of Newcastle.

I have not read by sight since 1939, but nevertheless, have kept in touch with literature by means of a talking book machine and have become reasonably proficient with Braille. Having no children, my wife (a granddaughter of the late Rev. Dr. Dill Macky) has been able to assist me tremendously in all aspects of study and work. I own my own car, having purchased it with the idea that it would greatly facilitate my work in a parish.

During my service in the Home Mission Department, by Interim-Moderators have been sufficiently confident of my work to allow me the full responsibility of the normal duties in connection with a Home Mission Station. Apart from the regular conduct of services, I have been permitted to administer the Sacrament of Baptism, after completing the necessary examination, have celebrated marriages and conducted funeral services.

I am possessed of a small private income, which has proved of great assistance in mitigating the difficulties under which I work. It is not my intention to seek to join the Beneficiary Fund.

It is my belief that my faith has been deepened by the experience of God and His saving Grace in difficult circumstances, and I hope that a maturity of mind has resulted from the varied experiences through which I have passed.

I respectfully pray that the General Assembly of Australia may consider the unusual nature of my case and, in its wisdom, see fit to reduce the period of study necessary for Ordination as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

NOEL S. McCAW.

Petition supported by Presbyteries of North Sydney and the Hunter and Theological Hall Committee, N.S.W. Transmitted by the College Committee with the recommendation that the prayer of the petition be granted and that the petitioner be accepted into the Course of Training and upon his completion of the third year of the extra-mural course he be required to do two years in the Theological Hall, without languages.

3.—By Mr. A. W. Rodgers. (Shortened Course.) (Min. 208)

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, through the Presbytery of Wagga Wagga:

The Petition of Alfred William Rodgers, Home Missionary, now serving at St. Aidan's Presbyterian Church, South Wagga Wagga, respectfully sheweth—

That he was born on 25th April, 1913, and is therefore in his forty-fifth year, is married, and has four children.

At Manilla and during the ministry of Rev. S. M. Mitchell, your petitioner was influenced to the Christian way of life and service. Under the same influence he responded to a call to set his life apart to the service of the Master. Having been compelled to leave school while in third year and just before the Intermediate Examinations, he was unable to gain entrance, to the course of study for the ministry. On advice he placed himself in the Missionary and Bible College in Croydon to further his knowledge and experience. During the college course he also attended lectures at the School of Divinity held in St. Andrews, also a series of lectures at the School of Tropical Medicine.

Upon graduating from the college he joined the staff of the Sydney City Mission as an evangelist, having served as a voluntary worker during his Bible College training.

In 1939, owing to war conditions the Australian Inland Mission was short of men and your petitioner answered an appeal to patrol the Kimberley area, with Broome as the centre. This work was brought to a close with the air-raids, in which your petitioner was injured and suffered further injury to his health in the overland journey to Perth that followed. Returning to N.S.W. he served the Church at Tamworth during the Minister's Moderatorial year, then followed ministries at Nimbin, Belmont, Wollomombi, Molong, and South Wagga Wagga. During the Nimbin ministry your petitioner was forced to seek a short leave of absence as a result of the effects on his health from experiences in the west.

On resuming service he endeavoured to pass the Intermediate Examinations, and thus gain entrance to the course, a pass was obtained in English and Geography but he failed in History. As he was unable to satisfy the College Committee and his health was still poor, the parish of Wollomombi on the northern tablelands, offered a suitable climate and a sphere of service. During a 7 years ministry a restoration of health took place enabling him

to give himself fully to the next charge, Molong, which was raised to full status and a settlement within the year. The present charge seems destined to follow to like status.

Although disappointed at his failure to pursue the course of study to the ministry, your petitioner has tried to serve the Church to the best of his ability, within the service of the Home Mission Department, at the same time doing all he could to improve his mind and status. He is an Elder of the Church, has sat for and passed the examination on the Doctrine of the Sacraments, has pursued a course of reading of which some indication is given in the attached list. Presbyteries have been kind enough to supply him with references when leaving their bounds and copies of these are also attached.

Your petitioner feels he has gained much by the study done, the experience gained, and if your venerable court would grant him a shortened course of study, he has yet a number of useful years that could be given to the ministry.

Your petitioner accordingly prays your venerable court to take these premises into consideration and grant him a shortened course of study or deal with the petition as the court in its wisdom may deem fit, and your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

A. W. RODGERS.

Petition supported by the Presbytery of Wagga Wagga, The Revs. W. H. Stott and H. G. Pieffer being appointed to support it before the General Assembly. Testimonials supplied from Presbyteries of Orange, New England and Richmond.

Transmitted by the College Committee with the recommendation that the prayer of the petition be granted and that the petitioner be required to pass the entrance requirements to the course and that thereafter he satisfactorily complete a three years' course in the Theological Hall, without languages, and that he fulfil the requirements of the College Committee.

4.—By Mr. J. M. Blacklock. (Licence.) (Min. 212)

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia through the Venerable the State Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of Queensland:

The Petition of the undersigned, respectfully showeth—

1. John Martin Blacklock, a Home Missionary, stationed at the present time at Esk, Queensland, was born in Scotland, on 14th November, 1898. He is a married man with one grown-up son. He served in France in the King's Own Scottish Borderers from 1916 to 1918. He trained at the Glasgow Bible Institute from 1924 to 1926 when he accepted an invitation by Mr. Andrew Stewart, of Edinburgh, to come to Queensland as a Home Missionary.
2. Since arriving in Queensland he has served with great acceptance in the following Home Mission Charges: 1926-27, Kingaroy; 1927-29, Mareeba-Herberton; 1929-35, Nanango; 1935-37, Cooroy.
3. Since 1937 Mr. Blacklock has been made available by the Home Mission Committee to maintain the Church's witness in three vacant Sanctioned Charges, viz.: Charleville, 1937-50; Rockhampton (John Knox-St. Peter's), 1956-53; Mount Isa (A.I.M. appointment), 1953-56.
4. In these last three appointments covering a ministry of 19 years, solid progress has been made. All three charges now have ordained ministers serving there. These three ministries have demonstrated that Mr. Blacklock possesses qualities demanded of a successful minister.
5. The door to the ministry by the normal course of study was closed to Mr. Blacklock, by a breakdown in health in 1934, when, acting on medical advice, all thought of further intensive study was abandoned, even though he had entered the second year of Home Mission studies.
6. The Presbytery certifies to the integrity of character, to the maturity of experience in Christian service and to the rich equipment of varied gifts that make him worthy of ordination.

Your Petitioners therefore pray the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and grant the Presbytery of Mowbray the necessary authority to take the said John Martin Blacklock on Trials of Licence to preach the Gospel with a view to the office of the Holy Ministry or to do otherwise as the Venerable the

General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia may in its wisdom see fit.

And your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.
For and on behalf of the Presbytery of Mowbray,

EDWIN F. FARQUHARSON, Presbytery Clerk.

Petition, with the acquiescence of Mr. J. M. Blacklock, supported by the General Assembly of Queensland and transmitted by the College Committee with the recommendation that the prayer of the petition be not granted.

5.—By Mr. C. J. Sharpe. (Licence.) (Min. 213)

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

The Petition of Cyril James Sharpe at present stationed at Kingsford, N.S.W., humbly sheweth—

Your Petitioner was born at Ballina, N.S.W., in 1907, and is now married, with three children.

He lived in Ballina for 16 years, and was connected with the Presbyterian Church in Ballina during the ministry of Reverend H. E. Hulme.

He left Ballina to take up farming with his parents in 1923. There being no Presbyterian Church near-by, he became associated with the Methodist Church. He was a Sunday School teacher for a number of years. The opportunity came for him to join up with a lay preacher's class of instruction, and in 1925 started out as a lay preacher.

Feeling the urge for greater service in the Church, he joined the Central Methodist Mission in Sydney in 1927, and while there was engaged in slum area work around Erskineville and Camperdown.

Giving up this work, he went back to the North Coast, and took up farming again for a short while, before joining the Department of Agriculture as a milk tester. As this was only a single man's position, he remained with the Department for three years, then married and went back on the farm.

Still feeling the call for the wider work of the Church, he applied to the Home Mission Committee for appointment as a Home Missionary in 1947. He was accepted, and was appointed to Tamworth, N.S.W., under Reverend C. F. McAlpine, for the probationary period, but after nine weeks he was transferred to Walgett, a Sanctioned Charge, and was there for three years, during a difficult time of floods.

His next move was to Belmont-Swansea-Redhead, N.S.W. This Charge was a very difficult one. Your Petitioner had the task of restoring the congregation of one of the Churches in this Charge, back to strength, again, after being almost closed, and after 12 months, he had started a Fellowship Association in each of the three Churches.

His next appointment was to Cardiff-Charlestown-Boolaroo, and finally to Kingsford. He is now in his fourth year of service in this Home Mission Charge, and has completed 32½ years of preaching.

While in Walgett, he was accepted as a candidate for the ministry, but because of age, and the number of years he had been away from study, he found the examination work difficult, however, he succeeded in passing first and second year Home Mission examinations and portion of third year examination, and was then brought to Sydney to enter the Theological Hall. Here again, he found study difficult, and although he was able to absorb the lectures given, was not able to satisfy the examiners, because of nervous tension.

After completing two years in the first year Hall, he was then asked to terminate his studies as he would be unable to complete the course. He then approached the Faculty of Theology for permission to attend the Theological Hall for the two years prior to the meeting of the General Assembly of Australia, as a private student, as he proposed to petition the Assembly to be taken on trials for Licence, so that those two years would not be wasted, should your Venerable Court consider his petition. Permission was granted. He attended second year lectures last year, and is now attending third year lectures this year, making in all four years at the Theological Hall.

Your Petitioner feels that, having completed these years of study in preparation for the work of the ministry, he is prevented from proceeding further only by his inability to pass examinations, such disability being due partly to his age and partly to emotional stress.

Your Petitioner therefore prays your Venerable Court to take these premises into consideration, together with the years of satisfactory service rendered to the Church by your Petitioner, and to excuse him from further examinations, and instruct the College Committee to issue the necessary certificate to enable him to be taken on trials for Licence, or to do otherwise, as the General Assembly of Australia in its wisdom may deem fit.

And your Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

C. J. SHARPE.

Petition supported by the Presbytery of Sydney with testimonials from the Revs. C. M. Moulton, J. Perkins, S. Piper, J. R. Bovard and G. A. Reid.

Transmitted by the College Committee with the recommendation that the prayer of the petition be not granted.

6.—From Mr. S. J. Shearn. (re Shortened Course.) (Min. 214)

To the Venerable the General Assembly of Australia through the Presbytery of Perth:

The Petition of Sidney Joseph Shearn, Home Missionary, at present stationed at Kellerberrin, Western Australia, humbly sheweth:

He was born in London, England, in 1902, and is now married with one grown-up daughter. Up to the age of fourteen he was educated at St. Paul's Preparatory School, Collet Court, Hammersmith, London. At that time his parents left London and he went as a boarder to Dauntsev Agricultural School in Wiltshire, later transferring to Usk Agricultural-Horticultural Institute in South Wales. Whilst at Usk he sat for an examination in agriculture open to all Great Britain and came fifth in the first class. After the two-years' course at Usk, he completed his studies in horticulture at the Royal Horticultural Society's Training School at Wisley, Surrey, gaining the Society's Diploma. He came to Australia in 1922.

After working at Emerald and Melbourne he established his own flower and bulb farm at Croydon in 1926. Whilst at Croydon he joined the Presbyterian Church there, later becoming leader of the senior Bible class and member of the Board of Management (during the ministries of Rev. John Riddle and Frank Cunningham). He also represented the Croydon district on the Lilydale Shire Council.

In 1943 he joined the forces as Y.M.C.A. Welfare Officer and served in Western Australia, Queensland and Borneo. During this service he came in contact with Padres Neil MacLeod, A. W. Grant, A. MacIver and P. J. Thomas. Many opportunities of conducting services were accepted during this period. In 1945, while serving in Borneo, he offered for Home Mission service in Western Australia and was accepted.

He was appointed to Yealering, a home mission station which, owing to wartime conditions, had been reduced to three preaching places served occasionally from Perth. During his first year there he passed the College Committee's examination for the celebration of the sacraments. By the end of five years the three preaching places had grown to thirteen. It was in this term of service that the petitioner felt that his work would be more effective in the ordained ministry, so he applied for admission to the Home Mission course of training. He passed the first year of the course and some subjects of the second year. At this stage he was transferred to Boulder, on loan to the A.I.M. for a year, but this was extended to three years. By the time he left Yealering, a tiled roof, weatherboard and asbestos hall had been purchased and paid for, and a new Holden car obtained and more than half paid for, by the Home Mission station.

At Boulder extension work was opened up at Lakewood, and quarterly patrols undertaken through Widgiemooltha, Norseman, Salmon Gums, Gibson's Soak, Esperance and Dalyup. He was also on the panel of broadcasters in the A.B.C. session, "Lift Up Your Hearts", and the Director of the Kalgoorlie station advised that these broadcasts had been favourably commented upon by the head office in Perth. The attention given to pastoral work left little time for study, and the distance from Perth made coaching assistance difficult, for which reasons study was discontinued.

After three years at Boulder, petitioner was transferred to Kellerberrin where he is now stationed. A Wells-directed canvass undertaken this year has resulted in a State record of over £7,000 from 80 pledging families. A concrete church at Mt. Stirling, the building of which had been commenced and abandoned some years previously, was completed and furnished.

Petitioner has never lost the sense of the greater effectiveness of work as an ordained minister, but realizes that the difficulty of concentrated

study at this age will make this almost unattainable. He has also been exercised on a number of occasions by the ill-health of his wife.

He therefore prays the General Assembly to consider his position and prescribe a shortened course of study to enable him to be taken on trials for licence, or deal otherwise with this petition as the General Assembly may, in its wisdom, deem fit.

And your petitioner as in duty bound will ever pray.

S. J. SHEARN.

Kellerberrin, W.A.

Petition supported by the Presbytery of Perth. Transmitted by College Committee with recommendation that the prayer of the Petition be granted and that the petitioner be required to complete one year in the Extramural (Faculty) Course and two years in the Theological Hall, without Hebrew, and that he fulfil the requirements of the College Committee in submitting one thesis and pass the examination in Polity.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRE SBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
AGGREGATE BALANCE SHEET AT 30th JUNE, 1957

Q

LIABILITIES

Sundry Creditors:			
Due by Board of Religious Education ..	£1,993	7	8
„ „ Board of Missions.....	1,249	13	9
			£3,243 1 5
Presbyterian Church of New South Wales:			
On Account of Church of St. Andrew, Canberra			526 0 8
Sundry Current Accounts:			
Board of Missions.....			321 3 5
Reserve Funds:			
A.I.M.....	42,655	2	2
Board of Missions			
Emergency Fund.....	1,591	11	0
Board of Religious Education:			
Overseas Study Fund.....	330	0	0
House Reserve.....	3,000	0	0
			47,576 13 2
Funds for Specific Purposes:			
A.I.M.....	45,712	10	10
Board of Missions.....	119,921	2	6
			165,633 13 4
Trust Funds:			
A.I.M.....	17,098	9	3
C. D. Lloyd Bequest:			
Capital Account.....	22,274	5	0
Income Account.....	725	10	9
A. E. McCracken Bequest:			
Capital Account.....	4,000	0	0
Income Account.....	410	4	8
John Fraser Foreign Mission Endowment:			
Capital Account.....	1,000	0	0
Income Account.....	519	4	7
Church of St. Andrew, Canberra:			
Parish Endowment	3,077	2	8
J. I. Dent Bequest:			
For Building	£589	12	11
For Stipend	540	10	9
			1,130 3 8

1957

ASSETS

Properties:			
A.I.M. Hostels and Nursing Homes, etc. £104,360	9	3	
Church of St. Andrew, Canberra	59,113	4	6
			£163,473 13 9
Office Furniture, etc.:			
A.I.M.....	902	0	3
General Assembly of Australia.....	6	3	2
Board of Religious Education.....	438	2	0
			1,346 5 5
Projectors, etc.:			
A.I.M.			2,821 3 8
Motor Vehicles:			
A.I.M.			8,967 16 4
Office Machines:			
Board of Religious Education			99 0 0
Wireless Sets:			
AIM			1,365 10 4
Stock on Hand:			
Board of Religious Education			1,589 8 5
Shares and Debentures in Companies:			
A.I.M.....	10,084	0	0
Board of Missions.....	2,847	12	0
			12,931 12 0
Commonwealth Loans:			
A.I.M.....	62,804	7	6
Board of Religious Education.....	1,250	0	0
Board of Missions.....	4,320	0	0
A. E. McCracken Estate.....	820	0	0
			69,194 7 6
Cash at Bank:			
On Account of—			
A.I.M.:			
Bank of N.S.W., Sydney.....	453	15	8
Bank of N.S.W., Melbourne	879	2	9
Bank of N.S.W., Perth.....	560	8	9
State Bank of South Australia,			
Radium Hill.....	305	12	8

Presbyterian Church in Victoria:			
On Account of—			
A.I.M.....	4,873	12 10	
Board of Missions.....		900	
Charles D. Lloyd Bequest.....	22,999	15 9	
			27,882 8 7
Presbyterian Church in Queensland:			
On Account of—			
A.I.M.....			3,003 8 11
Presbyterian Church in South Australia:			
On Account of—			
A.I.M.....			3,306 4 6
Presbyterian Church in Western Australia:			
On Account of—			
A.I.M.....			50 0 0
Sundry Debtors:			
Due to:			
A.I.M.....	1,124	15 9	
Board of Missions.....	8,253	10 8	
Board of Religious Education ..		701 14 11	
			10,080 1 4
Western Australian Dept, of Native Welfare:			
Grant:			
Board of Missions.....			13,500 0 0
Presbyterian Church of Victoria:			
John Flynn Memorial Church Advance Account:			
A.I.M.....			5,000 0 0
Church of St. Andrew, Canberra:			
Share of Liability due by States.....			4,733 7 0
Payments in Advance:			
Board of Religious Education.....			170 14 8
			£473,135 17 5
	£473,135 17 5		

I report that I have compared the above Balance Sheet with the books of account of the General Assembly of Australia, and the audited statements furnished by the Presbyterian Church in other States, and find same to be in accordance therewith.

Sydney, 16th July, 1957.

A. W. CHAPMAN, F.C.A. (Aust.)
 Official Auditor to the Presbyterian Church of Australia
 in the State of New South Wales.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
EXPENSES ACCOUNT FROM 1st JULY, 1954, to 30th JUNE, 1957

	EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
To	College Committee:		By Balance brought forward, 1st July, 1954	£1,364 7 6
	Secretary's Honarium: Rev. R. Swanton	£120 0 0	„ Assessment of Expenses for 1954:	
	Examination Fees.....	59 17 0	Queensland Church.....	£360 0 0
		£179 17 0		360 0 0
#	Loss on Year Book—		„ Assessment of Expenses for 1955:	
	1954	94 14 11	Victorian Church.....	1,150 0 0
	1955	83 17 8	New South Wales Church.....	1,080 0 0
	1956	88 14 10	Queensland Church.....	360 0 0
		267 7 5	South Australian Church.....	70 0 0
			Western Australian Church	50 0 0
#	Honorariums:		Tasmanian Church.....	50 0 0
	Clerk of Assembly.....	30 0 0		2,760 0 0
	Junior Clerk of Assembly.....	20 0 0	„ Assessment of Expenses for 1956:	
	Convener of Business Committee.....	20 0 0	Victorian Church.....	1,150 0 0
		70 0 0	New South Wales Church.....	1,080 0 0
#	World Council of Churches—Assessments	594 0 0	Queensland Church.....	360 0 0
#	World Council of Churches Assessments—		South Australian Church.....	70 0 0
	Geneva	1,620 0 0	Western Australian Church.....	50 0 0
		2,214 0 0	Tasmanian Church.....	50 0 0
#	World Presbyterian Alliance.....	156 17 6		2,760 0 0
#	Audit Fee—3 years to 30/6/54	26 5 0	„ Assessment of Expenses for 1957:	
#	Federal Inter-Church Migration Committee	225 0 0	Victorian Church.....	1,150 0 0
#	Moderatorial Expenses:		New South Wales Church.....	1,080 0 0
	Rt. Rev. F. W. Rolland.....	900 0 0	Queensland Church.....	360 0 0
#	Travelling Expenses of Delegates:		South Australian Church.....	70 0 0
	Meetings in Sydney—September, 1954 ..	2,431 10 0	Western Australian Church.....	50 0 0
	Meetings of Advisory and Other		Tasmanian Church.....	50 0 0
	Committees, 1954/57	978 2 0		2,760 0 0
		3,409 12 0	„ Assessment for Federal Inter-Church	
#	Sundry Expenses at Assembly.....	46 13 1	Migration Committee for 1954:	
#	Printing and Stationery.....	166 10 8	Queensland Church.....	10 0 0
#	Postages, Telegrams, Exchange, gtc.....	21 12 6		10 0 0
#	White and Blue Books.....	1,115 19 7		

„ Depreciation—Office Furniture.....	2	95
„ Interest on Current Account.....	54	184
„ 4 per cent, on Revenue.....	363	1510
„ Balance carried forward, 30th June, 1957	1,287	23

For 1955:		
Victorian Church.....	25	0 0
New South Wales Church.....	25	0 0
Queensland Church.....	10	0 0
South Australian Church.....	5	0 0
Western Australian Church . .	5	0 0
Tasmanian Church.....	5	0 0
		75 0 0
For 1956:		
Victorian Church.....	25	0 0
New South Wales Church.....	25	0 0
Queensland Church.....	10	0 0
South Australian Church.....	5	0 0
Western Australian Church . .	5	0 0
Tasmanian Church . . .	5	0 0
		75 0 0
For 1957:		
Victorian Church.....	25	0 0
New South Wales Church.....	25	0 0
Queensland Church.....	10	0 0
South Australian Church.....	5	0 0
Western Australian Church . .	5	0 0
Tasmanian Church.....	5	0 0
		75 0 0
„ Church Hymnary Royalties (3 years to 30th June, 1957)		268 13 1
		£10,508 0 7

Sydney, 8th July, 1957.

Examined and found correct,
A. W. CHAPMAN, F.C.A. (Aust.)
Official Auditor to the Presbyterian Church of Australia
in the State of New South Wales

AUSTRALIAN INLAND MISSION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1957

LIABILITIES				ASSETS	
Trust Funds.....	£17,098	9	3	Current Funds:	
Funds for Specific Purposes.....	45,712	10	10	Cash at Bankers.....	£2,812 18 0
Reserve Funds.....	42,655	2	2	Cash on Hand.....	30 0 0
Presbyterian Church in Victoria.....	5,000	0	0	£2,842 18 0	
Accumulated Funds:				Board and Council Cash Balance:	
General Funds—				N.S.W. (Board).....	89 7 7
Balance at 31/3/54.....	£73,014	6	6	Queensland.....	1,480 9 1
Add Additions During 3 years ended				South Australia.....	286 3 9
31/3/57	65,909	14	2	Victoria.....	359 3 3
	138,924	0	8	Western Australia ..	50 0 0
Less Excess Expenditure over				2,265 3 8	
Revenue for 3 years ended 31/3/57	9,243	16	5	Total Current Funds.....	£5,108 1 8
	129,680	4	3	Reserve Funds:	
				(Available in case of emergency for	
				General Purposes.)	
				In Cash held by:	
				Presbyterian Church, N.S.W.....	17,763 19 1
				Presbyterian Church, Queensland ..	250 2 6
				Presbyterian Church, South Australia 2,052	0 7
				20,066 2 2	
				Commonwealth Government Inscribed Stock 17,505	0 0
				Broken Hill Pty. Coy. Ltd. Shares.....	5,084 0 0
				Total Reserve Funds.....	42,655 2 2
				Funds for Specific Purposes:	
				In Cash held by—	
				Presbyterian Church, N.S.W.....	5,772 5 10
				Presbyterian Church, Queensland ..	1,227 4 10
				Presbyterian Church, South Australia ..	868 0 2
				7,867 10 10	
				Commonwealth Government Inscribed Stock 37,845	0 0
				Total Funds for Specific Purposes ...	45,712 10 10

Trust Funds:				
In Cash held by:				
Presbyterian Church,				
N.S.W.	3,983	19	8	
Presbyterian Church,				
Queensland	45	12	6	
Presbyterian Church,				
South Australia.....	100	0	0	
Presbyterian Church,				
Victoria	4,514	9	7	
				8,644 1 9
Debentures in				
S. E. A.				
Queensland	1,000	0	0	
Commonwealth Government				
Inscribed Stock	7,454	7	6	
				8,454 7 6
Total Trust Funds.....				17,098 9 3
Investments.....				4,000 0 0
Properties.....				104,360 9 3
Wireless Sets.....				1,365 10 4
Motor Vehicles.....				8,967 16 4
Office Furniture, etc.....				902 0 3
Projectors, Camera, Screens and Equipment, Film				
Programmes, etc.....				2,821 3 8
Sundry Debtors (including advances to Padres, Nursing				
Homes).....				1,124 15 9
Presbyterian Church in Victoria:				
John Flynn Church Building Advance Account.....				5,000 0 0
Local Committee Funds.....				1,030 7 0
				<u>£240,146 6 6</u>

I report that I have compared the above Balance Sheet of the Australian Inland Mission with the vouchers and books of account of the Mission which have been produced to me and find same to be in accordance therewith. In my opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Mission's affairs according to the best of my information and the explanations given me and as shown by the books of account of the Mission.

Sydney, 3rd July, 1957.

A. W. CHAPMAN, F.C.A. (Aust.),
Chartered Accountant (Aust.).

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF MISSIONS
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956

LIABILITIES

Home Base:				
General Capital:				
Balance at 1st January, 1954	£1,613	1	4	
Add Surplus for 3 Years.....	120	3	9	
				£1,733 5 1
Provident Fund Trust.....	1,996	15	4	
Training Scholarship Fund.....	1,143	0	11	
Bequest Funds.....	6,960	10	7	
Emergency Fund.....	1,591	11	0	
Special Construction Fund.....	10,290	10	0	
New Field Fund.....	4,699	15	9	
Literature Fund.....	105	10	8	
				26,787 14 3
Ernabella:				
Child Endowment Fund Trust.....	2,679	14	7	
Truck and Utility Replacement Fund ..	2,777	13	11	
Scripture Fund.....	18	15	1	
Development Fund.....	3,429	6	3	
Drought Fund.....	7,456	16	5	
Bequest Funds.....	10,580	14	2	
				26,943 0 5
Mowanjum (Wotjulul) :				
Boat Replacement Fund.....	1,459	9	0	
Development Fund.....	5,091	15	9	
Station Current Account.....	2,194	11	5	
Bequest Funds.....	50	0	0	
Mowanjum Transfer Fund.....	9,185	8	7	
				17,981 4 9
New Hebrides:				
Launches Replacement and Insurance Funds.....	9,859	11	0	
Buildings and Insurance Funds.....	2,723	15	9	
Literature and Language Publications Trusts.....	812	3	10	
Bequest Funds.....	76	8	7	
Santo Medical Fund Trust.....	374	4	9	
New Hebrides Emergency Fund.....	1,577	8	7	
Tangoa-South Santo Church Trust ...	411	16	8	

ASSETS

The Forestry Pulp and Paper Co. of Australia Ltd.—Stock	£70	0	0
Sydney Treasurers Investments:			
On Account of:			
C. Kirkland Bequest.....	£3,921	19	7
A. McCaul Bequest.....	4,357	10	0
M. Symonds Bequest.....	740	2	0
New Hebrides M.M.S. Board.....	2,000	0	0
Sundry Debtors.....		11,019	11 7
W.A. Department of Native Welfare.....		8,253	10 8
Sundry Current Accounts:			
Korea Working Advance.....	1,100	0	0
Tasmania Foreign Missions Committee ..	423	0	0
Queensland Foreign Missions Committee ..	121	8	2
Wotjulul Working Advance.....	1,500	0	0
Ernabella Working Advance.....	1,320	0	0
Adelaide Agency Advance.....	50	0	0
India Working Advance.....	600	0	0
New Zealand Foreign Missions Committee	176	4	9
New Hebrides M.M.S. Board—Petty Cash Advance.....	15	0	0
Sydney Treasurers.....	82,002	17	0
Melbourne Treasurers.....	9	0	0
Petty Cash.....		82,011	17 0
Bank of New South Wales:		4	0 0
Sydney	632	0	8
Melbourne.....	3,625	14	0
Adelaide.....	1,066	12	4
Perth.....	13	14	6
		5,338	1 6

Hurricane Appeal Fund.....	909	9 11	
New Hebrides Mission Maritime Service Fund.....	2,219	3 5	
North Malekula Medical Fund.....	283	1 2	
Deposit Trusts.....	154	310	
			19,401 7 6
New Hebrides "John G. Paton Fund:"			
Sundry Station Funds.....	1,164	7 10	
Native Teachers' Fund.....	1,663	9 6	
Language Publication Funds Trust	1,189	12 10	
Meaun Tribe Lands Defence Trust	119	14 0	
Launch Replacement and Insurance Funds	1,637	12 5	
Hog Harbour Native Launch Trust	2,442	17 6	
			8,217 14 1
India:			
Car Replacement Fund.....	2,127	0 11	
Building and Equipment Fund.....	2,245	11 0	
India Emergency Fund.....	1,714	2 3	
India Administration Fund.....	600	0 0	
India Evangelistic Extension Fund	413	0 0	
			7,099 14 2
Korea:			
Reconstruction Fund.....	9,228	3 0	
Relief Appeal Fund.....	603	13 11	
Cars Replacement Fund.....	3,230	1 1	
Bequest Funds.....	2,455	18 3	
			15,517 16 3
Indonesia:			
Truck Replacement Fund.....	..	250 0 0	
Sundry Current Accounts and Creditors.....	..	1,570 17 2	
			£125,502 13 8
			£125,502 13 8

I report that I have compared the above Balance Sheet of the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions with the vouchers and books of account of the Board which have been produced to me, and find same to be in accordance therewith. In my opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the Board's affairs according to the best of my information and the explanation given to me and as shown by the Board's books of account.

Sydney, 4th June, 1957.

A. W. CHAPMAN, F.C.A. (Aust.).

V. W. COOMBES, F.A.S.A.,
General Secretary and Treasurer.

AUSTRALIAN INLAND MISSION
REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEARS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1955, 1956 AND 1957

	EXPENDITURE											REVENUE													
	12 Months to 31/3/55			12 Months to 31/3/56			12 Months to 31/3/57			Total		12 Months to 31/3/55			12 Months to 31/3/56			12 Months to 31/3/57			Total				
To Advertising & Publicity	£2,528	1	11	£1,012	6	4	£1,732	8	1	£5,272	16	4	By Donations, Special Efforts etc.....	£16,219	9	10	£19,919	10	7	£22,201	7	6	£58,340	7	11
" Beneficiary Bank Charges .	129	0	3	186	7	2	202	14	10	518	2	3	" Dividends	1,031	2	5	758	9	11	1,603	7	6	3,392	19	10
" Freight and Cartage .	67	12	2	105	9	8	90	19	4	264	1	2	" Fees and Rents . .	5,679	11	1	6,277	16	9	6,916	14	2	18,874	2	0
" Fuel, Light and Water	279	1	0	297	3	11	335	2	4	911	7	3	" Interest ..	2,667	16	3	2,804	11	1	2,766	0	5	8,238	7	9
" General Expenses	771	10	0	547	8	5	861	8	2	2,180	6	7	" Subsidies & Grants ..	5,720	3	6	3,124	4	4	4,233	11	0	13,077	18	10
" Grants . .	811	8	9	572	0	2	1,108	18	9	2,492	7	8	£31,318	3	1	£32,884	12	8	£37,721	0	7	£101,923	16	4	
" Hospital Supplies .	260	0		290	0	0	350	0	0	900	0	0	" Transfer from Legacies in Reserve .	5,355	16	8	15,550	0	0	10,000	0	0	30,905	16	8
" Household Expenses	980	1	3	1,619	0	5	1,993	16	7	4,592	18	3	£36,673	19	9	£48,434	12	8	£47,721	0	7	£132,829	13	0	
" Insurance .	4,296	6	7	4,371	19	8	4,425	6	6	13,093	12	9	" Transfer to Accumulated Funds— Excess Expenditure over Revenue	4,902	19	4				8,173	7	9	13,076	7	1
" Printing & Stationery	670	16	10	755	5	11	854	12	3	2,280	15	0													
" Rent, Rates & Church Office Charges .	516	3	2	345	3	5	659	2	8	1,520	9	3													
" Repairs & Maintenance	1,929	14	0	2,038	16	2	2,535	17	1	6,504	7	3													
" Salaries & Allowances	732	10	11	973	10	6	1,561	5	0	3,267	6	5													
" Stamps, Telegrams and Phones .	16,047	12	5	19,285	8	1	23,902	0	6	59,235	1	0													
" Travelling Expenses	1,049	11	7	1,273	18	0	1,205	13	1	3,529	2	8													
	4,541	4	7	5,711	4	1	7,918	6	8	18,170	15	4													
	£35,610	15	5	£39,385	1	11	£49,737	11	10	£124,733	9	2													

„ Depreciation Buildings, etc., Motor Cars, Wire- less Sets & Projectors	5,966 3	8	5,217 0 1	6,156 16 6	17,340 0 3
	£41,576 19	1	£44,602 2 0	£55,894 8 4	£142,073 9 5
„ Transfers to Accumulated Funds— Excess Re- venue over Expendi- ture ...			3,832 10 8	3,832 10 8	
	£41,576 19	1	£48,434 12 8	£55,894 8 4	£145,906 0 1

£41,576 19	1	£48,434 12 8	£55,894 8 4	£145,906 0	1
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AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF MISSIONS
COMBINED REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE THREE YEARS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956

		INCOME				
		Year Ended 31/12/54	Year Ended 31/12/55	Year Ended 31/12/56	Totals	3 Years to 31/12/56
Home Base:						
Quota Grants from:						
New South Wales.....		£15,588 0 0	£17,136 0 0	£19,632 0 0	£52,356 0 0	
Victoria.....		29,784 0 0	31,392 0 0	32,472 0 0	93,648 0 0	
South Australia.....		1,226 0 0	1,290 5 5	1,525 19 2	4,042 4 7	
Western Australia.....		700 0 0	923 13 4	864 0 0	2,487 13 4	
Tasmania.....		1,560 0 0	1,560 0 0	1,692 0 0	4,812 0 0	
Queensland.....			3,452 0 0	3,900 0 0	7,352 0 0	
John G. Paton Fund.....						
Quota Grant.....			6,925 12 4	6,900 0 0	13,825 12 4	
Lenakel Buildings.....			3,750 0 0		3,750 0 0	
Donations, General.....		100 0 8	122 0 7	52 14 0	274 15 3	£182,273 10 3
Donations, Allocated.....		12 0 0			12 0 0	
Publications Income.....			549 4 1		549 4 1	
Supply Fees.....		10 0	3 3 0	6 6 0	10 9 0	
C. Kirkland Estate—Income.....		138 9 8	127 12 10	130 19 1	397 1 7	846 8 4
M. Symonds Estate—Income.....		31 17 8	116 11 10	71 6 2	219 15 8	
Legacies Fund General—Income.....		11 8 0	11 14 7	12 1 10	35 4 5	
Interest Received.....		2,828 7 0	3,135 1 9	3,025 15 11	8,989 4 8	652 1 8
Administration—Ernabella.....		300 0 0	300 0 0	300 0 0	900 0 0	8,989 4 8
Administration—J. G. Paton Fund.....		300 0 0	300 0 0	300 0 0	900 0 0	
Administration—New Zealand Committee.....		30 0 0			30 0 0	
Transfer from:						1,830 0 0
Woman Candidate's Bursary Fund.....				69 0 0	69 0 0	
Aborigines—General:						69 0 0
Legacies for Aborigines—Income.....		34 10 8	35 11 0	36 12 7	106 14 3	
						106 14 3

Ernabella Mission Account:

Donations, General.....	95 3 0	53 14 8	40 12 0	189 9 8
Donations, Allocated.....	4 10 0	100 0 0		104 10 0
Legacies Fund—Income.....	53 5 0	54 16 10	57 7 2	165 9 0
Smith of Dunesk Estate, Income.....	181 0 9	187 1 3	187 1 3	555 3 3
B. S. Cowen Estate, Income.....	69 18 0	72 0 0	72 0 0	213 18 0
A. M. McCaul Estate, Income.....	324 17 9	238 5 6	246 3 11	809 7 2
Legacy: Estate J. Paterson.....		29 8 9		29 8 9

-----2,067 5 10

Ernabella Station Account:

Sales of Wool, Skins, Sheep.....	13,021 6 11	9,770 12 2	10,519 4 1	33,311 3 2
Child Endowment Receipts.....	1,783 10 0	2,219 0 0	1,988 10 0	5,991 0 0
S.A. Government Grants towards Buildings.....	400 0 0		3,600 0 0	4,000 0 0
Government Teaching Grant.....	608 7 4	759 0 10	1,094 0 0	2,461 8 2
Transfer from Child Endowment Fund.....	1,750 0 0	1,650 0 0	1,760 0 0	5,160 0 0

Transfer from:

Truck Renewal Fund.....		1,150 0 0		1,150 0 0
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52,073 11 4

to
81

Wotjulum—Mowanjum:

Legacy—Estate A. Woodcroft.....			50 0 0	50 0 0
Donations, General.....	11 0 0	4.7 0 0	10 0 0	68 0 0
Donations, Allocated.....	5 0 0			5 0 0
Donations, "Watt Leggatt".....	8 16 0	5 1 0	1 10 0	15 7 0
Child Endowment.....	986 7 3	1,088 18 7	1,142 4 9	3,217 10 7
Investment Income.....	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	24 0 0
W.A. Government Grants—Buildings and Equipment.....	3,800 0 0		908 0 0	4,708 0 0
W.A. Government Grants—Indigent Subsidy.....	1,673 7 8	1,285 10 10	2,216 9 11	5,175 8 5
W.A. Government Grants—Child Subsidy.....	2,429 11 11	4,026 18 5	4,055 9 2	10,511 19 6
W.A. Government Grant—Mowanjum Transfer.....			18,000 0 0	18,000 0 0

Transfer from:

Boat Renewal Fund.....	3,206 11 1			3,206 11 1
New Hospital Fund.....			74 9 11	74 9 11
Truck Renewal Fund.....			1,113 4 9	1,113 4 9
Mowanjum Transfer Fund.....			8,814 11 5	8,814 11 5
Station Current Account.....			671 3 8	671 3 8

55,655 6 4

New Hebrides:

Centenary Appeal Contributions.....	1,340	6	2					1,340	6	2														
Centenary Appeal British Grant.....	6,250	0	0					6,250	0	0														
Donations, General.....				5	0	0	446	15	10	451	15	10												
Donations, Allocated.....	75	10	0	33	16	3	8	10	0	117	16	3												
Legacy: Estate D. Adamson.....							47	13	9	47	13	9												
Sundry Income.....	128	9	6							128	9	6												
Donation, Literature Fund.....				165	8	6				165	8	6												
Transfer from:																								
West Santo Launch Fund.....				19	2					19	2													
Launch Replacement Fund.....	811	9	10					811	9	10														
Centenary Appeal Fund.....	5,293	16	6	4,981	5	4	1,521	6	4	11,796	8	2												
Launch Engine Fund.....	18	7	1					18	7	1														
Buildings and Equipment Fund.....				310	1	11		310	1	11														
Lenakel Station Account.....				712	0	0	3,146	2	10	3,858	2	10												
Lenakel Rebuilding Fund.....				3,295	7	10		3,295	7	10														
Hurricane Appeal Fund.....							710	8	2	710	8	2												
												29,302	15	0										
India:																								
Donations, General.....	248	5	9	76	14	3	219	0	0	544	0	0												
													544	0	0									
Korea:																								
Donations, General.....	48	2	0	102	7	2	2	0	0	152	9	2												
Legacy: D. Adamson.....							47	13	10	47	13	10												
Land Sales.....							2,845	14	11	2,845	14	11												
Donation for Relief.....							3,872	5	8	3,872	5	8												
Sale of Truck.....							563	12	8	563	12	8												
Transfer from Reconstruction Fund.....				8,000	0	0	4,816	12	1	12,816	12	1												
													20,298	8	4									
Indonesia:																								
Donations.....	225	9	9							225	9	9												
Transfer from:																								
Indonesia Fund.....							2,689	7	7	2,689	7	7												
													2,914	17	4									
Total ..													£97,507	2	1	£111,558	0	10	£148,558	0	5	£357,623	3	4

Ernabella Mission Account:

Mission Grant.....	300 0 0	300 0 0	300 0 0	900 0 0
Missionaries' Salaries.....	648 0 0	688 0 0	772 0 0	2,108 0 0
Beneficiary Fund Contributions.....	28 18 5	34 18 7	33 14 6	97 11 6
Fares, Freights, Outfits.....	107 0 0	113 0 0	121 0 0	341 0 0
Printing and Postages.....	23 6 0		16 10 6	39 16 6

Transfer to:

Legacies Fund.....	53 5 0	84 5 7		137 10 7
Cowen Bequest Fund.....	69 18 0			69 18 0
A. M. McCaul Bequest Fund.....	324 17 9			324 17 9

----- 4,018 14 4

Ernabella Station Account:

Mission Grant, Wages, Rations, etc.....	2,120 0 0	3,020 0 0	3,332 3 5	8,472 3 5
Buildings and Equipment.....	3,403 15 6	4,148 18 8	4,976 16 5	12,529 10 7
Special Truck Repairs.....			267 18 10	267 18 10
Missionaries' Salaries.....	2,917 10 6	3,204 11 1	3,549 1 3	9,671 2 10
Provident Fund Contributions.....	82 10 0	56 5 0	29 9 6	168 4 6
Fares, Freights, Outfits.....	192 19 8	223 19 6	247 0 6	663 19 8
Shearing Wages, Stores, etc.....	607 18 2	662 3 0	647 11 4	1,917 12 6
Sheep Purchases.....			514 3 5	514 3 5
Land Rental.....	27 10 0	27 10 0	30 7 6	85 7 6
Sundry Expenses, Insurances.....	144 17 0	459 2 3	516 9 11	1,120 9 2
Children's Diet and Amenities.....	1,009 3 6	1,014 6 0	856 10 0	2,879 19 6
Head Office Administration.....	300 0 0	300 0 0	300 0 0	900 0 0
Handcrafts and Industrial School Subsidies.....		330 0 0	150 0 0	480 0 0

Transfer to:

Child Endowment Fund.....	1,783 10 0	2,219 0 0	1,988 10 0	5,991 0 0
Truck Renewal Fund.....	800 0 0	200 0 0	500 0 0	1,500 0 0
Aborigines' New Work Fund.....	2,000 0 0			2,000 0 0

----- 49,161 11 11

Wotjulm-Mowanjam:

Mission Grant.....	202 4 7	720 0 0	766 0 0	1,688 4 7
Missionaries' Salaries.....	2,091 19 3	2,360 15 6	2,388 9 0	6,841 3 9
Beneficiary and Provident Fund Contributions.....	42 11 10	44 15 6	52 6 3	139 13 7
Fares, Freights, Outfits.....	339 2 2	507 18 9	928 11 2	1,775 12 1
Reconstruction Expenses.....			2,181 13 5	2,181 13 5
Sundry Expenses.....	13 10 1	77 18 9	27 6 5	118 15 3

Missionaries Children's Allowances.....	200	0	0	255	10	0	455	10	0
Beneficiary and Superannuation Contributions.....	86	19	7	109	12	3	196	11	10
Passages, Freights, Outfits.....	1,498	10	5	2,291	15	3	3,790	5	8
Station Expenses.....	107	9	4	335	0	2	442	9	6
Sundry Expenses.....				8	11	4	8	11	4
Launches Maintenance.....	422	0	10	633	17	11	1,055	18	9
Administration Costs.....	300	0	0	300	0	0	600	0	0
Grants to Tangoa Institute.....	35	0	0	35	0	0	70	0	0
Grant to Tangoa Institute—Freight.....	120	0	0	150	0	0	270	0	0
Transfer to:									
Launch Replacement Funds.....	450	0	0	500	0	0	950	0	0
Lenakel Rebuilding Fund.....	3,750	0	0				3,750	0	0
							28,897	14	0

India:

Grant to Field Council.....	5,813	3	8	5,733	17	0	5,759	1	6	17,306	2	2
Buildings and Equipment.....	272	1	10				272	1	10			
Missionaries' Salaries.....	2,489	6	3	2,702	0	0	2,890	16	5	8,082	2	8
Missionaries Children's Allowances.....	15	0	0	12	0	0	11	0	0	38	0	0
Beneficiary Fund Contributions.....	40	0	0	40	0	0	40	0	0	120	0	0
Passages, Freight, Outfits.....	543	13	8	320	13	2	411	1	2	1,275	8	0
Vellore Medical College Contribution.....							100	0	0	100	0	0
Transfer to:												
Car Replacement Fund.....	300	0	0	300	0	0	300	0	0	900	0	0
Emergency Fund.....	250	0	0							250	0	0
							28,343	14	8			

Korea:

Grant to Field Council.....	6,826	5	0	7,575	0	0	8,580	0	0	22,981	5	0
Buildings and Equipment.....	2,257	12	3	9,180	17	1	4,816	12	1	16,255	1	5
Missionaries' Salaries.....	5,499	7	11	5,864	4	2	5,761	11	9	17,125	3	10
Missionaries Children's Allowances.....	19	0	0	12	0	0	36	0	0	67	0	0
Beneficiary and Superannuation Contributions.....	77	10	0	107	10	0	107	10	0	292	10	0
Passages, Freights, Outfits.....	1,402	7	4	530	2	4	873	16	8	2,806	6	4
Station Expenses.....	7	3	11	66	17	7	276	5	0	350	6	6
Special Grants for Relief.....							3,872	5	8	3,872	5	8

Transfer to:														
Legacies Fund.....				47	13	10	47	13	10					
Reconstruction Fund.....				3,409	7	7	3,409	7	7					
Car Replacement Fund.....	600	0	0	600	0	0	400	0	0					
							<u>1,600</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>					
									68,807	0	2			
Chinese Churches in Australia:														
Sydney Subsidy.....	65	0	0	65	0	0	65	0	0	195	0	0		
							<u>195</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>					
Indonesia:														
Missionaries' Salaries and Allowances.....					976	0	0	976	0	0				
Passages, Freights, Outfits, etc.....					866	4	4	866	4	4				
Buildings and Equipment.....					3,147	6	4	3,147	6	4				
Sundry Expenses.....					1	1	8	1	1	8				
Transfer to:														
Truck Replacement Fund.....					250	0	0	250	0	0				
Indonesia Fund.....	225	9	9	1,520	0	0	1,745	9	9	6,986	2	1		
Surplus transferred to Working Capital Account:.....	52	4	4	45	6	7	22	12	10	<u>120</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>		
												120	3	9
Total ..	£97,507	2	1	£111,558	0	10	£148,558	0	5	£357,623	3	4		

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1956

Current Liabilities:

Sundry Creditors.....	£93 0 0	
Youth Department.....	1,900 7 8	
		£1,993 7 8

Reserves:

House Reserve.....	3,000 0 0	
Overseas Study Fund Reserve.....	330 0 0	
Joint Board of Graded Lessons Reserve.....	£6,000 0 0	
Less Invested in Jt. Bd. ..	6,000 0 0	
		3,330 0 0

Accumulated Fund:

Balance 1st January, 1954	4,980 5 5	
Add Net Profit for period (3 years) ended 31/12/56	<u>22,768 19 9</u>	
	27,749 5 2	
Less Distributed to Youth Department for period (3 years)	19,875 5 9	
Less Transfer House Res.	3,000 0 0	
Less Transfer Overseas Study Fund.....	<u>230 0 0</u>	
	23,105 5 9	

Balance at 31st December, 1956	4,643 19 5	
		£9,967 7 1

Current Assets:

Commercial Bank of Australia Limited	£2,654 13	9
Commercial Bank of Australia Limited		
Fixed Deposit.....	1,000 0 0	
		3,654 13 9
Commonwealth Treasury Bonds	1,250 0 0	
Sundry Debtors—General	701 14 11	
Joint Board	1,331 11 1	
Stock on Hand.....	1,589 8 5	
Year Book Committee—		
1956	£88 14 10	
1957	5 18 2	
		94 13 0
Advance re Book of Common Order ..	179 19 7	
Advance A.C.C.E.....	100 0 0	
Advance Code Book Committee	357 9 8	
		£9,259 10 5

Fixed Assets:

Furniture and Fittings—		
at cost less Depreciation.....	438	2 0
Office Machines—		
at cost less Depreciation.....	99	0 0
		537 2 0
Prepayments:.....	170	14 8

£9,967 7 1

212

We certify that we have audited the books and accounts of the Board of Religious Education for the three years ended 31st December, 1956, and that the balance Sheet and Trading and Profit and Loss Account are correct and in accordance therewith.

Melbourne, 8th February, 1957.

MORTON, WATSON & YOUNG,
Chartered Accountants (Aust.).

BOARD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE THREE YEARS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1956

	Year ended 31/12/54	Year ended 31/12/55	Year ended 31/12/56	Total		Year ended 31/12/54	Year ended 31/12/55	Year ended 31/12/56	Total
To Stock.....	£1,583 2 0	£1,268 17 0	£2,294 2 3	£1,583 2 0	By Sales.....	£2,898 4 2	£3,043 6 6	£2,979 0 5	£8,920 11 1
99 Purchases . .	1,684 8 5	3,145 15 7	1,509 16 2	6,340 0 2	„ Stock	1,268 17 0	2,294 2 3	1,589 8 5	1,589 8 5
99 Writers and Artists . . .	26 5 6	47 6 0	34 19 6	108 11 0					
99 Gross Profit .	873 5 3	875 10 2	729 10 11	2,478 6 4					
	£4,167 1 2	£5,337 8 9	£4,568 8 10	£10,509 19 6		£4,167 1 2	£5,337 8 9	£4,568 8 10	£10,509 19 6
To Salaries ...	£1,303 11 4	£1,328 8 9	£1,619 12 0	£4,251 12 1	By Gross Profit	£873 5 3	875 10 2	729 10 11	2,478 6 4
„ Outside					„ Refund				
„ Editing ...	296 0 0	265 0 0	285 0 0	84.6 0 0	„ Postage and Stationery .	18 0 0			18 0 0
„ House Rent .	208 0 0	253 10 0	250 0 0	711 10 0	„ Insurance ..	1 2 0			1 2 0
„ Office Rent ..	222 17 0	286 4 2	353 14 11	862 16 1	„ Interest				
„ Telephone ..	74 4 3	76 19 2	78 10 1	229 13 6	„ Received ..	26 0 5	66 17 0	77 18 0	170 15 5
„ Postages ...	59 17 5	60 5 5	79 15 2	199 18 0	„ Record Sub- sidy A.B.M.	125 0 0	125 0 0	150 0 0	400 0 0
„ Stationery, etc.....	17 5 3	3 2 6	22 15 2	43 2 11	„ Profit — Sale of Assets ..	32 4 0	27 18 0		60 2 0
„ Periodicals, etc.....	13 14 11	10 11 5	12 16 4	37 2 8	„ Joint Board— Graded A1- location ...	8,391 7 0	8,259 1 9	7,926 19 3	24,577 8 0
99 Advertising .	8 14 5	9 3 2	9 3 2	27 0 9	„ Editing and Management	1,234 0 0	1,234 0 0	2,165 0 0	4,633 0 0
„ Travelling ..	39 13 0	6 4 0	2 10 0	48 7 0	„ Non-Graded Allocation .	392 8 2	386 17 0	417 2 11	1,196 8 1
„ Insurance ..	1 2 6	1 18 10	4 17 2	7 18 6					
„ Audit Fee ..	14 14 0	14 14 0	14 14 0	44 2 0					
99 Depreciation	64 16 0	63 1 0	61 2 0	188 19 0					
„ General									
„ Expenses ..	18 7 2	62 19 0	27 7 0	108 13 2					
99 Princeton Conference .	20 0 0			20 0 0					
„ Board Meeting ...	229 12 10	168 3 6	371 18 8	769 15 0					
99 Overseas Study Re- serve	200 0 0			200 0 0					

CHARLES D. LLOYD (AUSTRALIA) REVENUE ACCOUNT
REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THREE YEARS ENDED 30th JUNE, 1957

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Balance Brought Forward, 1st July, 1954	£42 16 6	Grants:	
Net Interest on Trust Funds.....	2,966 14 7	Presbyterian Church of Tasmania.....	£295 0 0
		Presbyterian Church of Queensland .. .	100 0 0
		Presbyterian Church of Western Australia	1,420 0 0
		Presbyterian Church of South Australia ..	465 0 0
			£2,280 0 0
		Printing and Postages, etc.....	4 0 4
		Balance Carried Forward 30th June, 1957	725 10 9
	£3,009 11 1		£3,009 11 1

JOHN FRAZER FOREIGN MISSION ENDOWMENT ACCOUNT
FROM 1st JULY, 1954, TO 30th JUNE, 1957

Dr.		Cr.	
To Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions:		By Balance Brought Forward 1st July, 1954	£1,000 0 0
„ Interest to 30th June, 1957	£105 0 0	„ Interest to 30th June, 1957	105 0 0
„ Balance Carried Forward 30th June, 1957	1,000 0 0		
	£1,105 0 0		£1,105 0 0

Sydney, 8th July, 1957.

Examined and found correct,
A. W. CHAPMAN, F.C.A. (Aust.)
Official Auditor to the Presbyterian Church of Australia
in the State of New South Wales.

ALEXANDER EARLE McCRACKEN BEQUEST ACCOUNT
FROM 1st JULY, 1954, TO 30th JUNE, 1957

Dr.	Income	Capital	Cr.	Income	Capital
Payments to Home Mission Committee:			Balance Brought Forward 1st July, 1954	£207 8 10	£4,000 0 0
Presbyterian Church of Tasmania	£34 11 6		Interest Received from:		
Presbyterian Church of South Australia .. .	86 8 8		Current and Capital Accounts.....	346 16 2	
Presbyterian Church of Western Australia	86 8 8		Commonwealth Loans.....	79 19 0	
	<u>207 8 10</u>				
4% on Revenue.....	16 10 6				
Balance Carried Forward 30th June, 1957 ..	410 4 8	£4,000 0 0			
	<u>£634 4 0</u>	<u>£4,000 0 0</u>		<u>£634 4 0</u>	<u>£4,000 0 0</u>

Sydney, 8th July, 1957.

Examined and found correct,
A. W. CHAPMAN, F.C.A. (Aust.)
Official Auditor to the Presbyterian Church of Australia
in the State of New South Wales.

CLARA KIRKLAND BEQUEST ACCOUNT
ABORIGINES MISSION IN NORTHERN QUEENSLAND AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA
FROM 1st JULY, 1954, TO 30th JUNE, 1957

Dr.	Income	Capital	Cr.	Income	Capital
To Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions	£476 10 10		By Balance Brought Forward 1st July, 1954	£82 19 10	£3,755 6 3
„ 4 % on Revenue.....	15 15 11		„ Income from Estate.....	12 12 3	
„ Balance Carried Forward 30th June, 1957		£4,142 9 4	„ Interest Received.....	396 14 8	
			„ Final Distribution from Estate—		
			Commonwealth Inscribed Stock.....		333 6 8
			Cash.....		53 16 5
	<u>£492 6 9</u>	<u>£4,142 9 4</u>		<u>£492 6 9</u>	<u>£4,142 9 4</u>

Sydney, 8th July, 1957.

Examined and found correct,
A. W. CHAPMAN, F.C.A. (Aust.)
Official Auditor to the Presbyterian Church of Australia
in the State of New South Wales.

INDEX

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

	Min.	Page
College.....	203 (2) (9), 217 (3), 248	
Ecumenical.....	229 (5) (6)	
Finance.....	60 (7), 110 (4) (7), (13d) (14), 117 (2), 216 (2), 229 (4), 236 (1), 249	
Fire Insurance.....	251 (1) (2)	
Mission and Message of the Church	192 (8) (9) (10)	
Nature and Functions of the Ministry	80 (2) (4), 81 (2)	
Public Questions	219 (6, 7, 10, 14, 18, 19), 242 245	
Relations with Other Presbyterian Churches.....	236 (2) (3)	
Ministers—All.....	164 (1)	
Moderator.....	110 (2)	
Presbyterian Representatives on Joint Commission on on Church Union.....	230 (2), 231	
Presbyteries—		
All.....	80 (3), 172 (4) (6), 240	
Canberra.....	234 (5e)	
State Assemblies—		
All .. .	110 (13d), 172 (4) (6), 234 (6), 235 (2)	
New South Wales.....	23 (3)	
State Committees—		
Home Missions, N.S.W.....	234 (5b)	
Public Questions—All.....	219 (17)	
Treasurers (G.A.A.).....	110 (3), 173 (9)	
Legal Opinion.....	67, 151	
Lord's Supper.....	15	
Loyal Address.....	8	

Memorial Minute—

(Mr. Bryan O. Fuller, Q.C.)

Minutes/ Confirmed.....	42, 96, 126, 185, 223
Moderator Elected.....	6, 7
Moderator's Ruling Challenged.....	49, 137
Notices of Motion.....	13, 16, 39, 61, 98, 125, 181, 220

Overtures—

I.	General Assembly, N.S.W. (re Shortened Course).....	73	177
II.	General Assembly, N.S.W. (re Elimination Entrance).....	75, 195	178
III.	Presbytery of North Sydney (re Women for Eldership and Ministry).....	81	179
IV.	General Assembly, S.A. (re Shortened Course)	74	180
V.	Presbytery of Canberra (re Canberra Executive).....	92, 225	181
VI.	Constitutional Convention (anent Standing Order 106 and Appointment of Commission of Assembly).....	30	182
VII.	Constitutional Convention (anent Articles of Agreement).....	36, 38	183
VIII.	Constitutional Convention (anent Meetings and Constitution of Assembly).....	104	184
IX.	Board of Missions (anent Missionaries on Fur- lough)	21	184
X.	Board of Missions(anent Membership).....	117	185
XI.	Presbytery of Sydney West (anent G.A.A. Representation).....	241	185
	Orders Varied.....	64	

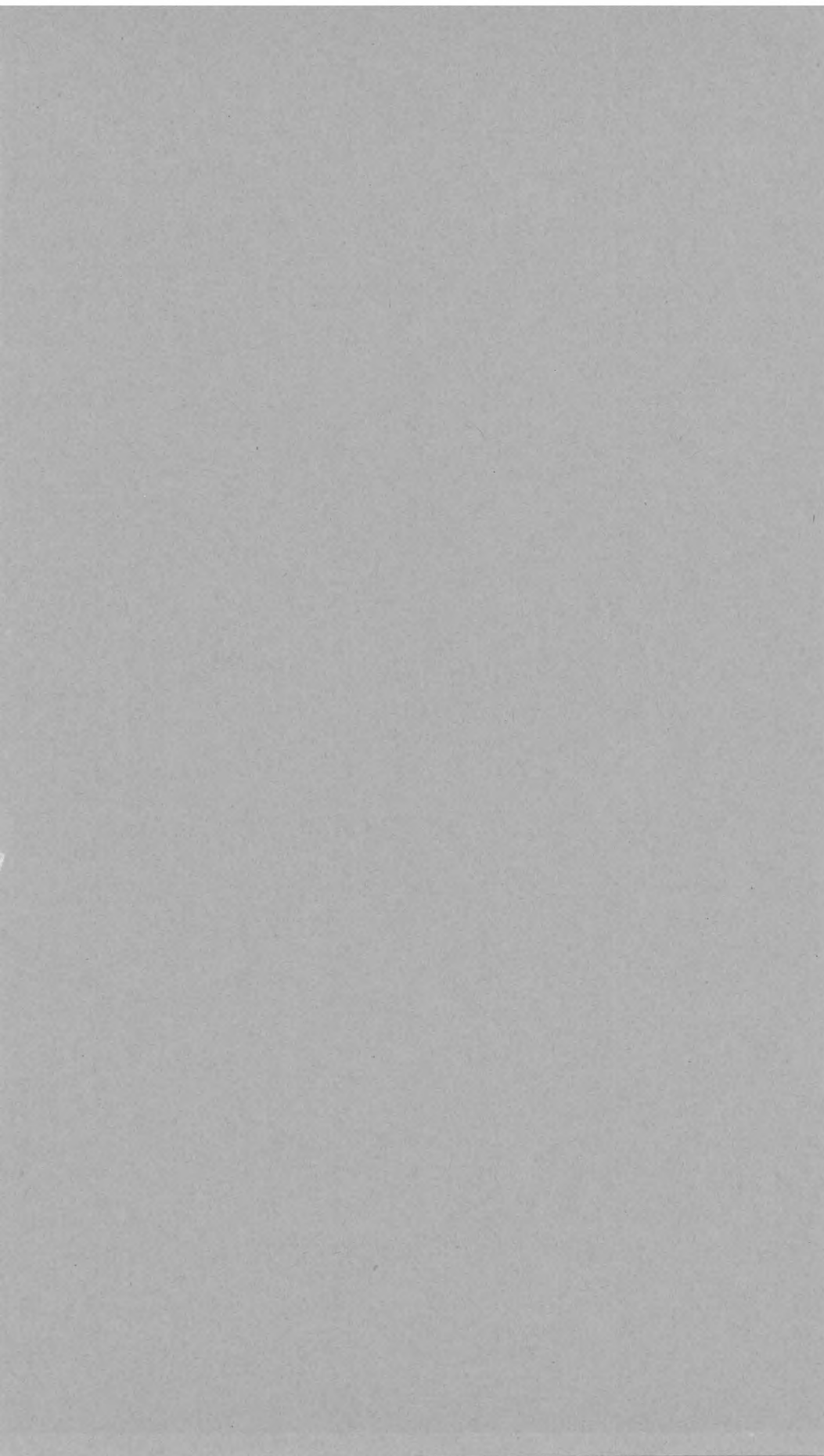
Personalia—

Chaplain S. Calder.....	95
Rev. V. W. Coombes.....	115 (21)
Senior Chaplain H. Cunningham.....	158
Rev. C. C. Day.....	103 (4)
Mr. D. Macfarlan Little, Q.C.....	44
Rev. J. F. McKay.....	86 (14), 89

	Min.	Page
Rev. J. E. Owen.....	22	
Principal Chaplain R. C. Russell.....	94	
Rev. H. Whitney.....	187	
Rev. I. N. Whyte.....	22	
Rt. Rev. W. A. Zeydner.....	24	
Petitions—		
1. Rev. William Purves.....	105	106
2. Mr. N. S. McCaw.....	207	187
3. Mr. A. W. Rodgers.....	208	188
4. Mr. J. M. Blacklock.....	212	189
5. Mr. C. J. Sharpe.....	213	190
6. Mr. S. J. Shearn.....	214	191
Petitions (through Reception of Ministers Committee)—		
1. Rev. W. Kirkby.....	132	152
2. Rev. D. C. Gray.....	133	152
3. Rev. J. W. G. Jackson.....	134	152
4. Rev. A. J. B. deP. Hetherington.....	135	152
5. Rev. R. H. Bottle.....	140	152
6. Rev. D. M. Campbell.....	141	152
7. Rev. W. Peck.....	142	152
8. Rev. W. W. Harkin.....	143	152
9. Rev. L. N. Newell.....	144	152
10. Rev. C. C. Keefer.....	145	153
11. Rev. J. Roberts-Thomson.....	146	153
12. Rev. D. E. Pickering.....	147	153
13. Rev. Pui-Sam Moe.....	148	153
14. Rev. J. C. Holt.....	149	153
Regulations (Change of, and enacted)—		
A.I.M. Constitution.....	86 (19)	
College Constitution.....	203 (3) (4) (6) - (7)	
Missions—Board of.....	117 (2)	
Reception of Ministers.....	131 (2)	
Religious Education—Board of.....	103 (2) (5) (6)	
Remits.....	38 (2), 172 (4) (6), 203 (5)	241
Remits (Returns to).....		164
Reports—		
Ad Hoc Committee.....	188	64
Aids to Devotion.....	165	68
A.I.M.....	84	68
Audio-Visual Education.....	175	88
Ballot.....	176	
Beneficiary.....	82	89
Board of Missions.....	115	121
Business.....	9, 45, 97, 124, 184	
Canberra Executive.....	91, 227, 232	89
Christian Unity.....	48, 51-60	92
Code.....	216	101
College.....	70, 101, 199	101
Constitution and Functions.....	29	104
Defence Forces Chaplaincy.....	157	106
Ecumenical.....	229	112
Finance.....	101, 105-110	114
Fire Insurance.....	251	116
Immigration.....	173	118
Moderator-General's.....	18	143
Nature and Functions of the Ministry.....	80 ¹	145
Public Questions.....	111-114, 218	146
Reception of Ministers.....	131	152
Relations with other Presbyterian Churches.....	236	153
Religious Education (Board of).....	103	154
Sacraments and Seasonal Observances.....	250	164
Selection.....	78, 90, 217	165
Statistics.....	28	166

	Min.	Page
Training of Women Workers ..	161	167
Wholesome Discipline.....	164	168
Year Book.....	166	168
Rolls.....	2, 43	
Standing Orders (amended).....	21	
Standing Orders (suspended).....	196	
Standing Orders (resumed).....	198(a)	
Sympathy.....	110 (2), 129	
Thanks—		
General.....	152	
Rev. S. A. Eastman.....	244	
Rev. W. B. Hastie.....	253	
Rev. A. S. Houston.....	174	
Rev. J. G. Robertson.....	88	
Retiring Moderator-General.....	19	
Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister.....	83	
Rt. Rev. W. A. Zeydner.....	24	
Welcome—		
The Rt. Hon. The Prime Minister, and Dame Patti Menzies.....	83	
Chaplain R. C. Russell.....	94	
Rt. Rev. W. A. Zeydner.....	24	





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2441