# **MINUTES**

OF

**PROCEEDINGS** 

OF THE

# THIRTY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

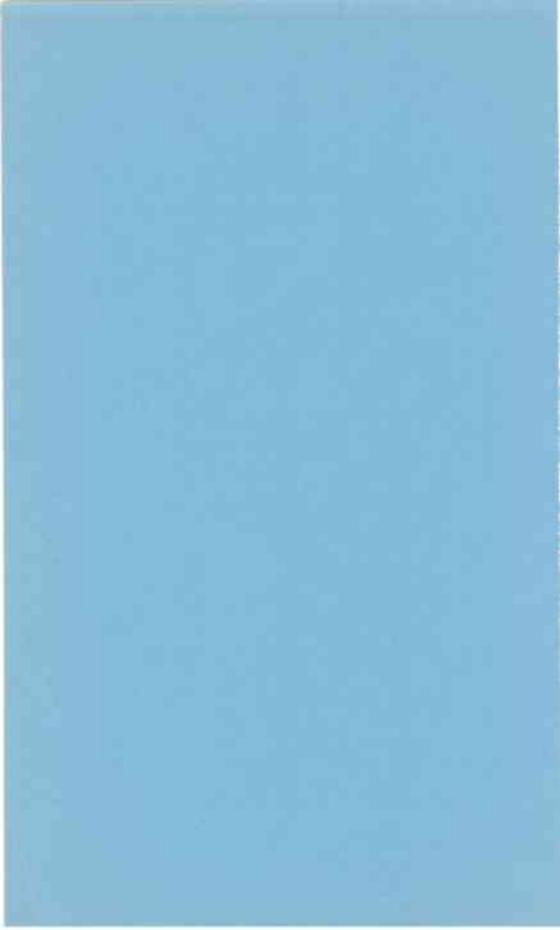
Presbyterian Church of Australia



HELD IN SYDNEY, DECEMBER, 1971

Melbourne:

BROWN PRIOR ANDERSON PTY LTD, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRINTERS
5 EVANS STREET, BURWOOD 3125



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### REMITTED TO STATE ASSEMBLIES AND PRESBYTERIES

Proposed Basis of Union 1971 28 (1)

## **MODERATORS**

#### OF THE

# General Assembly of Australia

Rev.	John Meiklejohn, D.D.*						1901
Rev.	Alexander Hay, D.D.*						1902
Rev.	David Bruce, D.D.*						1903
Rev.	P. J. Murdock, M.A.*						1905
Rev.	T. E. Clouston, D.D.*						1906
Rev.	Peter Robertson*						1907
Rev.	John Ferguson*						1909
Rev.	W. S. Rolland*						1910
Rev.	J. Laurence Rentoul, M.A., D	D.D.*					1912
Rev.	George Davidson, M.A., D.D.*						1914
Rev.	Ronald G. Macintyre, C.B.E.,	C.M	.G.,	M.A.	, D.I	D. <b>*</b>	1916
Rev.	John Walker, D.D.*						1918
Rev.	James Gibson, M.A.*						1920
Rev.	John Mathew, M.A., D.D.*						1922
Rev.	James Crookston*						1924
Rev.	R. Scott-West, D.D.*					• •	1926
Rev.	Alexander Crow*			• •			1928
Rev.	Donald A. Cameron, M.A.*						1930
Rev.	G. R. S. Reid, M.A., D.D.*						1933
Rev.	John Mackenzie, M.A., D.D.*						1936
Rev.	John Flynn, O.B.E., D.D.*						1939
Rev.	R. Wilson Macauley, B.A., D.	.D.*					1942
Rev.	Alexander C. Grieve, B.A.*					• •	1945
Rev.	Julian R. Blanchard, C.B.E., I	3.A.,	D.D.			• •	1948
Rev.	Richard Bardon, B.A.*						1951
Rev.	Sir Francis W. Rolland, O.B.E	., M.	C., I	I.A.*			1954
Rev.	David J. Flockhart, M.A.*						1957
Rev.	Alan C. Watson, M.A., D.D.						1959
Rev.	Hector Harrison, O.B.E., M.A	L., B.	D.				1962
Rev.	William Young, B.A						1964
Rev.	Norman Faichney, B.A						1967
Rev.	James Frederick McKay, C.M.	G., O	.B.E	., M.	А., В		{1970 {1971
* Dece	hazen						, , _



## OFFICERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

#### Right Reverend the Moderator:

Rev. JAMES FREDERICK McKAY, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.A., B.D., Superintendent of the Australian Inland Mission

#### Clerk of Assembly:

Rev. L. FARQUHAR GUNN, M.B.E., E.D., M.A., B.D. Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

#### Deputy Clerk:

Rev. A. M. McMASTER, B.A., B.D.

#### Business Convener:

Rev. COLIN M. DYSTER, M.A., B.D., S.T.M. G.P.O. Box 100, Sydney 2001

#### Procurator:

F. MAXWELL BRADSHAW, Esq., M.A., LL.M. 472 Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000

#### Law Agent:

JOHN P. ADAM, Esq., M.A., LL.B., Dip.Ed. 61 Princess Street, Kew 3101

#### Treasurers:

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (N.S.W.) PROPERTY TRUST Chairman: SIR KEITH YORSTON, C.B.E., B.Comm., F.C.A. G.P.O. Box 100, Sydney 2001.



#### STANDING COMMITTEES

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Mr. C. Gilmore (Qld.)

Convener: Rev. R. J. Sweet

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Tasmania

Rev. G. A. Wood

Western Australia

Rev. J. K. Hutchinson

" A. Macliver

**Assembly Representatives** 

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Dr. T. J. K. Jamieson (Vic.) Miss C. I. Ritchie (N.S.W.) Mr. S. G. Edenborough (N.S.W.)

F. B. Heriot (Vic.)

Convener: Rev. G. A. Wood

#### RECEPTION OF MINISTERS

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Rev. C. M. Dyster
,, W. H. Ives
,, N. Monsen

Victoria

Rev. R. A. Blackwood

" L. F. Gunn
" W. B. Hastie
" Dr. J. D. McCaughey

Queensland

Rev. Prof. R. A. Busch " A. W. Laurie

" A. W. I South Australia

Rev. J. B. Edwards

Tasmania

Rev. G. A. Wood Western Australia

Dr. Alan A. Barr

#### Assembly Representatives

Rev. Principal

R. A. Anderson (Vic.)
Dr W. S. McPheat (Qld.)
J. A. Richardson (N.S.W.)
R. C. Russell (Vic.)

Rev. Ian Smith (Vic.)

" J.M. Young (Vic.) Very Rev. Wm. Young (W.A.)

Convener: Rev. R. A. Blackwood

#### SPECIAL COMMITTEES (Minute Reference 1970 B.B.)

Australian Inland Mission (Min. 58(26))

New South Wales: Rev. Louis Blanchard (Convener), Fred McKay (ex officio), N. Monsen (ex officio), H. J. Hillman, J. A. Richardson, C. C. McKeith and R. B. Sparks, Dr. J. McF. Rossell, Mr. C. W. Wannan, Mr. D. D. Neilson, Dr. B. W. Scott, Mr. D. E. Macdonald.

Victoria: Director Home Missions (ex officio), Rev. C. T. F. Goy, P. J. Thomas and M. J. L. Griffiths (Vice-Convener), Mr. L. G. Weatherly.

Queensland: Rev. J. C. Allan (ex officio), and R. M. Park. South Australia: Rev. I. B. Tanner, Senator G. S. Davidson. Western Australia: Rev. H. D. McAndrew, Mr. F. H. Dorney.

Tasmania: Mr. E. A. Gaby. Northern Territory: Rev. J. G. Bucknall.

"Australian Presbyterian Life" (Min. 84(6))
Rev. A. Macliver (W.A.), R. S. Miller (Tas.), K. W. Burton (N.S.W.),
R. A. MacArthur (N.S.W.), G. Fairservice (Vic.), Rhys Miller (Vic.), Messrs.
R. W. Ellis (Vic.), R. S. Byrnes (Qld.), Rev. A. T. Cottrell (S.A.); Convener, Rev. R. A. MacArthur; Deputy Convener, Rev. Rhys Miller.

Beneficiary Fund (Min. 105(3))

Messrs. W. B. Armstrong, K. C. Auld, S. C. Gillmore with four other New South Wales representatives, two members each from Victoria and Queensland and one each from Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia appointed by and from the membership of the Beneficiary Fund Committees of the States concerned, with Mr. Bruce Armstrong, Convener.

**Business** 

The Business Committee of the State within which the General Assembly is appointed to meet, the Clerks, the Business Convener of the General Assembly of Australia (Convener).

Executive during meetings of the Assembly: The members of the State Committee who are members of the Assembly with the Clerks, Business Convener and the Law Officers of the General Assembly of Australia.

Christian Unity (Min. 61(8), 1970; Min. 28(11), 1971)

Convener: Rev. Prof. Ian Gillman. Conveners of State Christian Unity Committees ex officio with the proviso that should any such member cease to hold the convenership of a State Committee his place upon the Federal Committee shall be taken automatically by his successor.

Two members each from N.S.W. and Victoria and one from Queensland appointed by and from the membership of the Christian Unity Committees

of the State concerned.

Messrs. J. P. Adam, D. R. Brierley, R. H. Gough, and R. M. Northrop.

Church and Nation (Min. 120(18))

The Rev. J. T. Bishop, J. Hamilton, A. North (Convener), H. Perkins, W. Pollak, Dr. E. Roberts-Thomson, Miss Freda Whitlam, Messrs. L. C. Higgins, A. F. Pedersen, S. P. Sjoquist, Dr. A. R. McK. Langley, Messrs. P. Graham, J. Pender, together with the Rev. R. G. Birch, A. L. Burns, Professor R. A. Busch, J. B. Edwards, A. van der Linden-Dhont, I. B. Tanner, A. C. Eadie, and Clerks of the General Assembly, South Australia and Tasmania, as corresponding members of the Committee.

Defence Forces Chaplaincy (Min. 93(8))

The State Chaplaincy Committees with the Victorian Defence Forces'
Chaplaincy Committee as the Federal Executive, and with the Rev. R. C. Russell as Convener.

Doctrine (Min. 62(3))

The Rev. A. S. Crawford, J. B. Edwards, M. W. J. Geursen, Dr. J. D. McCaughey, Prof. H. R. Wardlaw, Prof. N. Watson, Prof. G. S. S. Yule (Convener).

Corresponding members: the Rev. Prof. Crawford Miller, Prof. Ian Gillman, Prof. H. Spykerboer, Principal M. Owen, C. J. P. Mackay.

Ecumenical (Min. 81(8))

The Moderator-General, Mrs. M. Box, Very Rev. N. Faichney, Rev. Prof. I. Gillman, A. W. Grant, A. M. McMaster, Deaconess B. Nichol, Rev. J. M. Stuckey, G. A. McC. Wood, Mrs. J. Yule, Principals R. A. Anderson, R. A. Busch, Rev. M. Fox, H. Christie-Johnston, Dr. J. D. McCaughey, Mrs. J. Mitchell, Rev. J. F. Peter, Deaconess C. I. Ritchie, Messrs. M. Stuart, R. Wilson, the Very Rev. N. Faichney to be Convener and the Victorian members to be the Executive.

Immigration (Min. 28(5))

The conveners and executive officers of the State committees, together with Rev. J. D. Drysdale, A. M. Hilliard, W. J. Perry and Messrs. E. Y. Richards and A. C. Top; the Victorian members to be the Executive and Rev. A. Crichton Barr, Convener.

Maintenance of Ministry (Min. 106(5))

Rev. A. L. Finlay, R. W. Kirkby and L. J. Schmidt, Messrs. D. R. Brierley, R. S. Mackenzie and A. W. Smart as the executive with two members each from Victoria and Queensland and one each from Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia appointed by and from the membership of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committees of the States concerned with Mr. Derrick Brierley Convener.

Marriage and Divorce (Min. 98(3))
Messrs. A. J. Barblett and D. F. Birch, Rev. G. D. Jacobs, H. D. McAndrew and J. M. Owen, Mr. R. D. Wilson, Very Rev. W. Young and, as corresponding member, Rev. D. G. Cole; Convener: Rev. J. M. Owen.

Ministry of the Laity (Min. 102(14))

The Rev. A. F. Smart (Convener), S. F. Eldred, M. O. Fox, Professor Crawford Miller, J. D. Moody, R. M. Robinson, J. Thompson, Dr. A. R. M. Langley, Messrs. R. F. Smart, C. R. Brierley, J. C. Mackillop, A. G. Spalding, J. E. Stiepewich, Misses J. Humphreys, F. Whitlam, Mesdames J. F. McKay, J. R. Thornburn, M. Yee. J. R. Thornburn, M. Yee.

Public Worship and Aids to Devotion (Min. 90(4))

The Rev. A. Hope (Convener), W. A. Alston, P. Aumann, D. G. Cole, Principal A. A. Dougan, W. A. Fraser, Prof. I. Gillman, P. L. Gordon, J. H. Gowdie, N. E. Key, Dr. J. D. McCaughey, Rt. Rev. J. F. McKay, Rev. Dr. D. R. Merritt, Prof. Crawford Miller, K. D. Pearson (Secretary), W. J. Perry, J. F. Peter, N. Pfeiffer, A. A. Richardson, R. M. Robinson, Dr. J. Roodenburg, I. B. Tanner, Prof. II. R. Wardlaw, G. A. Wood, S. E. Yarnold, Prof. G. Yule, Senator G. Davidson, Mr. S. B. Smith.

Relations with other Presbyterian Churches (Min. 114(5))

Victoria: Rev. P. W. Gillies, J. Beatty, M. Geursen, D. Hodges, W. J. Perry, B. van der Linden-Dhont, Professor G. S. Yule and I. Higgins.

New South Wales: Rev. A. F. Smart, D. R. Parker, N. Pfeiffer, J. Boyall,

C. M. Dyster, Deaconess C. Ritchie and Mr. H. E. H. Atkinson.

Queensland: Rev. Professor H. C. Spykerboer, P. L. Gordon and R. T. Joughin.

South Australia: Rev. R. Seipolt. Tasmania: Rev. R. S. Miller. Western Australia: Rev. J. M. Owen. Board of Missions: Rev. A. Stuart.

Executive: The Victorian members. Convener: Rev. P. W. Gillies.

Stewardship and Promotion (Min. 47(8))

Convener: Mr. A. J. Kilgour.

Representatives appointed by State Committees: (a) Three each from New South Wales and Victoria.(b) Two from Queensland.

(c) One each from Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. Two representatives appointed by the Board of Christian Education.

Training of Women Workers (Min. 99(2))
Principal R. A. Anderson, Rev. J. C. Foyster, Professor G. Griffin, R. L. Jones, W. Morgan, Deaconess D. Young, Deaconess F. McKechnie, Mrs. L. J. Mitchell, Dr. D. S. Watson, Rev. J. Calder Allan, Dr. E. Roberts Thomson and Deaconess C. I. Ritchie with the Victorian Members as Executive and Rev. W. Morgan as Convener.

#### REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

Australian Council of Churches (Min. 81(8))

Moderator-General, Mrs. M. Box, Very Rev. N. Faichney, Prof. I. Gillman, Rev. A. W. Grant, A. M. McMaster, Deaconess B. Nichol, Rev. J. M. Stuckey, G. A. McC. Wood, Mrs. J. Yule. Alternates: Principals R. A. Anderson, R. Busch, Rev. M. Fox, H. Christie-Johnston, Dr. J. D. McCaughey, Mrs. J. Mitchell, Rev. J. F. Peter, Deaconess C. I. Ritchie, Messrs. M. Stuart, P. Wilson.

Joint Board of Christian Education (Min. 113(8))

Rev. R. A. Blackwood, J. F. Jamieson, R. A. Lawton, A. M. McMaster, K. D. Pearson and Dr. D. R. Merritt.

Joint Commission on Church Union (Min. 28(9), 1971 B.B.)
Rev. Prof. I. Gillman, D. M. Hodges, Dr. J. D. McCaughey, A. F. Smart,
J. M. Owen, Messrs. H. E. H. Atkinson and A. J. Kilgour.

Alternates: Rev. Professor Crawford Miller, J. F. Peter.

Joint Constitution Commission (Min. 28(10), 1971 B.B.)

The Rev. D. Conomos, C. M. Dyster, J. B. Edwards, L. F. Gunn, Messrs. J. P. Adam, I. S. Hunt and D. A. Yeldham with alternates: Mr. R. A. Northrop and Rev. J. C. Allan.

#### AD HOC COMMITTEES

On Ecumenical Institutes (Min. 89(1))

The Rev. M. D. Macleod (Convener), the Rev. J. Baillie, D. G. Cole, R. Denham, S. Eldred, W. B. Gentle, J. Mathers, Prof. Crawford Miller, N. Monsen, Dr. E. Roberts-Thomson; with corresponding members, Rev. J. Calder Allan (Queensland), J. B. Edwards (S.A.) and R. B. Paterson (Victoria).

Review of Theological Education (Min. 39(26))

Rev. M. McMaster (Convener), Professor R. A. Anderson, Professor A. L. Burns, J. G. Bucknall, Mr. N. Blaikie, Rev. M. W. J. Geursen and D. Macrae, Dr. D. R. Merritt, Dr. H. Mol, Rev. H. R. Stevens and J. M. Young.

Corresponding members appointed by State Theological Education

Committees.

Revision of Ordination Vows (Min. 100(2))

Rev. A. S. Crawford (Convener), D. W. Erickson, L. F. Gunn, W. S. McPheat, A. R. Peerman.

Committee on Sesqui-Centenary of First Presbyterian Communion in Aus-

tralia (Min. 89(2)) Rev. C. M. Dyster (Convener), J. J. T. Campbell, R. A. MacArthur and G. A. Wood, and Messrs. R. M. Arndell and H. E. H. Atkinson.

On Conversations with the Synod of the Reformed Churches of Australia (Min. 114(3e))

Two representatives nominated by the Committee on Relations with Other Presbyterian Churches, two representatives nominated by the Committee on Doctrine, Rev. P. W. Gillies, Convener.

Presbyterian Representatives for Discussions with the Roman Catholic Church (Min. 25)

Rev. Principal R. A. Anderson, L. F. Gunn, A. M. McMaster, Dr. J. D. McCaughey, Very Rev. N. Faichney and Mr. J. G. R. McArthur.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

## **ROLL**

of

## MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY to meet in

The Scots Church, Margaret and York Streets, Sydney

on

Wednesday, December 1st, 1971, at 10 a.m.

The Right Reverend the Moderator, the Rev. James Frederick McKay, C.M.G., O.B.E., M.A., B.D.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

(Elected by the State Assembly)

(1210	coca	N.S	ALC DIG	ic Hascinbij,
Ministers:				Elders:
Rev. H. V. Barratt				Mr. H. E. H. Atkinson
" J. T. Bishop " L. G. K. Blanchard				"K. C. Auld
" L. G. K. Blanchard				" D. R. Brierley
P. E. Boase				" R. L. Burgess
J. F. Boyall				"S. G. Edenborough "T. Ferrier
K. W. Burton				" T. Ferrier
" R. A. Caldwell				" S. C. Gillmore
" A. A. Dougan		4 -		" P Graham
Rt. Rev. C. M. Dyster Rev. D. W. Erickson				" G. M. Hungerford
Rev. D. W. Erickson				" I. S. Hunt
" A. L. Hewitt				" S. L. Kerry
" W. H. Ives				Dr. A. R. M. Langley
" R. L. McInnes		4.4		Miss C. I. Ritchie
Rt. Rev. J. F. McKay				Mr. H. E. Scotford
nev. N. monsen				,, A. G. Spalding
" J. M. Stuckey				Sir Keith Yorston
		ъ	A MITTIT	COM
		B	ATHUF	
Rev. D. F. Murray R. J. Willson				Mr. J. P. Gold
" R. J. Willson				" J. T. Prior
		0.1	ANBER	T) A
		U.F	ANDER	
Rev. W. C. Palmer				Mr. R. P. Christie
" R. R. Mulveney				" J. Haldane
" I. P. MacPherson				" C. R. Martin
			DILDD	0
			DUBB	
Rev. A. R. Ewin				Mr. R. L. Dive
" E. J. Jakes				" H. E. Francisco
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Rev. R. J. Allan				Mr. John Churton
" D. H. Robinson				,, Milton Partridge
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Rev. F. J. Burke				Mr. K. L. Gorton
J. J. T. Campbell				" C. McFarlane
" W. B. Gentle				Dr. R. V. Rickard
", W. B. Gentle T. C. Watson				Mr. D. Smith
**		****		e e e
		LHE	: HUN	
Rev. H. G. Durbin				Mr. R. Clarke
" C. Haxton				" O. B. Godfrey
" H. G. Peffer				" D. Spaull
" J. Mallyon				, R. C. White
,,				
		ILI	LAWAI	KKA
Rev. T. J. Jennings				Mr. K. Barnes
" D. K. Kidd			• •	,, P. Hamilton
"K. B. Walker				R. J. C. Morison
,, <u>1</u>	. •			
			15	

### KU-RING-GAI

Th. C. T. 2011 1	G-GAI
Rev. S. F. Eldred	Mr. R. J. Atkinson
" A. L. Finlay	" C. R. Brierley
"R. A. MacArthur	" J. McE. King
" C. C. McKeith	TIV T C461
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Rev. James Bruce	Mr. N. Ferguson
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Rev.	A. B. Bailey	Mr. R. P. Gresham			
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1)	Dr. W. S. McPheat	, R. W. Ralph , R. H. Tait			
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37	H. C. Spykerboer	" J. Rogers			
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		MACKAY			
Rev.	A. W. Campbell	Mr. B. Hayward			
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		MOWBRAY			
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"	A. W. Laurie				
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Rev.	J. C. Campbell	44			
		WARWICK			
Rev.	I. G. Davis	Mr A A Thompson			
"	R. J. C. Cunningham	" W. E. Washbourne			
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		ted by the State Assembly)			
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	I. B. Tanner	" A. Trickett			
		BELALIE			
Rev.	K. O. T. Bingham				
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Rev.	J. D. Bentley	Mr. C. H. Low			
71	A. Trafford Walker	" B. Mitchell			
TASMANIA					
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	A. C. Stubs	Mr. A. J. Kilner A. C. Thompson			
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		(Elected	l by	the St	ate A	sse	mbly)
Rev	. C. W. Auldist	,			Mr.		P. Adam
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Very	y Rev. N. Faich	ney		• •	33	J.	F. Callahan
	M. J. L. Griffith L. F. Gunn	S			"		B. Cornish Homer Fraser
**	W. B. Hastie				37	A.	R. Gillespie
17	W. A. Loftus Dr. J. D. McCa			**	93		B. Heriot
**	R. A. Miller	ugney		0.00	33		J. Kilgour G. R. McArthur
	Rev. W. Morgan				19	A.	A. McCleery
	A. R. Peerman				**	J.	W. McPhec
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27	Prof. G. S. Yu				"	W.	. S. Noble
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Rev.	F. Harmon					W	. T. Lakey
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**	S. J. Paddle			• •	23	L.	G. Weatherly
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" H. L. Hallett " B. W. Morrison " A. R. C. Jamieson J. McG. Stuart
", A. R. C. Jamieson ", J. McG. Stuart ", C. B. Marshall ", B. C. Todd
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"D. G. McKechnie "J. Vial
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MELBOURNE NORTH
Rev. W. A. Alston Mr. N. K. Bartel , D. Drennan , D. Swan
"D. Brennan "D. Swan "N. Placc "John Wardlaw
"C. W. Thomson " A. K. Wightman
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", R. E. Potter ", C. Cunningham ", J. H. Roberts Miss G. Richard
"J. H. Roberts Miss G. Richard "F. Sadler Mr. W. Smith
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MORTLAKE   Mr. A. Crothers   Mr. A. Prenter   Mr. A. Prenter   D. L. Fleming   Morth East   North East
MORTLAKE   Mr. A. Crothers   Mr. A. Prenter   Mr. A. Prenter   D. L. Fleming   Morth East   Mo
MORTLAKE   Mr. A. Crothers   Mr. A. Prenter   Mr. A. Prenter   D. L. Fleming   Morth East   North East



#### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

## The Thirty-Third General Assembly

#### First Sederunt

At Sydney and within the Scots Church, Margaret Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, the first day of December, 1971, at 10 a.m.

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened. Public Worship was conducted by the Right Reverend the Moderator-Constitution General, the Rev. J. F. McKay, O.B.E., M.A., B.D.
 The Clerk laid on the table the Roll of Assembly, intimated changes

since the printing of the White Book and moved that the amended Roll be Roll

declared the Roll of this Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

3. The Clerk intimated that apologies for non-attendance had been received from the Rev. J. D. Bentley, K. Bingham, Reford Corr, M. Cormack, Apologies A. S. Crawford, A. P. Dyall, R. K. Heriot, J. S. Macfarlane, R. A. Miller, A. C. Stubs and Messrs. D. R. Brierley, E. D. Eastham, H. C. Evans, J. W. Ferris, B. Hayward, D. F. Jeeves, A. J. Kilner, W. T. Lakey, C. R. Martin, B. Mitchell, G. U. Nathan, J. T. Prior, E. A. Reid, L. A. Stawhorn and moved they be sustained.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. The report of the Commission to fix the Date of Assembly was laid Commission to on the table and received.

Appoint Date The Clerk laid on the table communications addressed to the As- Assembly sembly and acknowledgments to letters forwarded in the name of the Communica-Assembly.

6. The Business Convener laid on the table Assembly Paper 1 and

Notice of Motion 1-3. Assembly 7. The Clerk intimated that the Board of Nominators had unanimously Papers agreed to nominate to the House the Reverend James Frederick McKay, Election O.B.E., M.A., B.D., as Moderator of this Assembly.

and Induction The Clerk moved that the Assembly accept the nomination and elect the Moderator Rev. James Frederick McKay, O.B.E., M.A., B.D., as Moderator of this

Assembly.

The motion was seconded by the Right Rev. C. M. Dyster and approved with acclamation.

The Rev. James Frederick McKay was inducted with prayer by the Very Rev. Norman Faichney.

Induction 8. The Report of the Business Committee was laid on the table and received. Business

The Right Rev. C. M. Dyster moved the Deliverance.

That the Assembly-1. Appoint the Rev. S. J. Paddle Acting Deputy Clerk of the Assembly. 2. Approve the Order of Business for this Sederunt as follows:

Associates Communications Election of Moderator

Code Committee Communication from Editor of "Australian Presbyterian Life"

"Australian Presbyterian Life" Committee Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions

Ecumenical Affairs Finance Committee

Christian Unity Committee Adjourn.

The motion was seconded and approved.

9. The Rev. S. J. Paddle made the Declaration de fideli. 10. The Clerk laid on the table the Presbyterian Church of Australia Declaration Act 1971 of the State of New South Wales, the Presbyterian Church of Presbyterian Australia Act 1971 of the State of Victoria, the Presbyterian Church of Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of Queensland, the Presbyterian Trusts Act Australia 1971 of the State of South Australia, the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of Tasmania and the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1970 of the State of Western Australia.

11. The Report and Supplementary Report of the Code Committee were

laid on the table and received.

The Rev. L. F. Gunn moved the Deliverance.

The motion was seconded.

It was decided to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved and seconded. Mr. J. W. McPhee moved in amendment the omission of all words after "Assembly" in clause 1 with a view to inserting other words, viz.:

(a) Instruct the Code Committee to make every endeavour to expedite the Enabling Legislation in South Australia to complete the new Constitution in its entirety.

(b) Defer the vote on Church Union until such time as the new Consti-

tution can be fully implemented.

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 1 was approved. Clauses 2-7 were approved.

12. The Deliverance, as a whole, was approved as follows:

Deliverance as That the Assembly

Code

Code

1. Implement and give effect to the provisions of Part III of the Basis of Union, without prejudice to the subsequent exercise of the power to adopt the whole new Constitution.

2. Request the Moderator and the Moderators of each State Assembly to sign the deed to the effect that the churches have agreed to implement and give effect to the provisions of Part III of the Basis of Union.

3. Request the Law Agent of each State forthwith to have notices gazetted under the respective Acts to the effect that the Assembly have agreed to implement and give effect to the provisions of Part III of the Basis of Union, such notices to be signed by the Moderator of the State Assembly.

4. (a) Request the Committee to nominate to next Assembly the Commission required under Clause 18(a) of Part III for appointment by the Assembly should such a Commission be needed and approve such a Commission consisting of three members representing those approving of Union and three members representing those disapproving of Union together with three independent persons acceptable to both groups one of whom shall be appointed Chairman by the Assembly.

(b) Request the Finance Committee to make provision in its budget for next Assembly to meet the cost of such a Commission if such

a Commission be needed.

(c) Request each state assembly to appoint three negotiators from those approving union and three negotiators from those disapproving union to carry out negotiations for submission to the Commission should such a Commission be needed.

5. Approve the agreement reached for voting in charges co-operating with

the Methodist and Congregational Churches as follows-

"In those parishes where co-operation requires the keeping of separate communion rolls, each communicant shall vote in accordance with the roll on which his name appears. In all other cases where membership, whether full or in association, has been granted in the co-operating denomination voters shall vote as members of that denomination."

6. Continue until next Assembly, the membership of all Standing and other

committees appointed last Assembly.

7. Appoint the next Assembly to meet within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, 2nd May, 1973, at 7.30 p.m., and appoint a Commission consisting of the Moderator as Chairman, the Clerks, Business Convener, Procurator and Law Agent of whom three members shall form a quorum to approve another date should it be impracticable for the Assembly to discharge its functions on the date appointed.

13. The Rev. F. J. Burke and Mr. J. W. McPhee recorded their dissent.
14. The Moderator together with the Moderators of the State Assemblies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia signed the Moderatorial Deed implementing and giving effect to the provisions of Part III of the basis of union set forth in the Schedule to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of New South Wales, in the Schedule to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of Victoria, in the Schedule to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of Queensland, in the Third Schedule of the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1971 of the State of South

Dissent

Moderatorial Deed Signed

Australia, in the Schedule to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of Tasmania and in the Schedule to the Flessysterian Communication 1

Australia Act 1970 of the State of Western Australia which signatures were witnessed by the Law Agent, Mr. J. P. Adam.

15. Communication 1 from the Editor of "Australian Presbyterian Resignation Mr. W. S.

W. S.

The Business Convener moved:

That the Assembly-

Accept with regret the resignation of Mr. W. S. Noble, Editor "Australian Presbyterian Life", as from 7th July, 1972.

The motion was seconded and approved.

16. The Report of the "Australian Presbyterian Life" Committee was Life"

17. Committee was Life"

laid on the table and received.

The Rev. R. A. MacArthur moved the Deliverance.

That the Assembly-

Acknowledge with gratitude the valued service rendered to the Church by the foundation editor of the national journal "Australian Presbyterian Life", Mr. W. S. Noble, and express to him its good wishes and prayers for the future. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator conveyed to Mr. W. S. Noble the thanks and appreciation

of the Assembly.

Mr. W. S. Noble addressed the House.

17. The Report of the Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions was

laid on the table and received.

The Rev. G. A. Wood moved the Deliverance.

That the Assembly-

1. Defer the repeal of Articles of Agreement 137 (vii)-143 (viii) and the enactment of the new Articles of Agreement 157 (vii) and 138 (viii) as set out in Minute 30: 9 and 10 G.A. of A. 1970.

2. Defer the repeal of Regulations 186-189 (GAA Code) and the enactment of the new Regulations 186-189 as set out in Min. 74: 25 (i) and (ii) and consequent relations with the Ecumenical Committee (Min. 74:

25 (iii)).

3. Appoint a commission consisting of the Moderator as Chairman, the past Moderator-General, the Clerks, the Business Convener, the Procurator and the Law Agent of the General Assembly and the Moderator of each State Assembly-seven to form a quorum-with power to arrange a suitable date on the recommendation of the Board of Missions for the new Articles of Agreement and Regulations to become operative and to make the necessary appointments.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Finance

Ecumenical

Noble

A.P.B.M.

18. The Report of the Committee on Ecumenical Affairs was laid on the table and received.

The Very Rev. N. Faichney moved the Deliverance.

That the Assembly-

Approve the visit in 1972 of the Clerk, the Rev. L. F. Gunn, to attend the inauguration of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and to visit such other Churches overseas as may be arranged. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator conveyed the decision to the Rev. L. F. Gunn and offered

him the good wishes of the Assembly.

The Rev. L. F. Gunn briefly addressed the House.

19. The Report of the Finance Committee was laid on the table and

received.

Mr. K. C. Auld moved the Deliverance.

That the Assembly-

1. Approve the provision for an amount of up to \$2,500, for expenses connected with the taking of the vote on Church Union, and the costs of pro re nata meetings of State Assemblies in New South Wales and Queensland in the latter half of 1972, in connection with the vote on Church Union, estimated to cost approximately \$5,000.

2. Approve an additional assessment on all States to meet the costs

enumerated in Clause 1, to be levied as follows-

	401
Victoria	3,009
New South Wales	2,635
Queensland	1,053
South Australia	375
Western Australia	278
Tasmania	150
	\$7,500

**\$7,500** 

3. Approve payment of costs of any adjourned meeting of the General Assembly on 1st December, 1971.

4. Approve payment of up to \$1,500 for a triennium, to meet the cost of pulpit supply for the Moderator-General when engaged in Moderatorial duties.

- 5. Ratify the action of the Finance Committee in approving the expenditure of not more than \$2,000 for the proposed visit of the Clerk of the Assembly overseas.
- 6. Approve the sharing with the Congregational Union of the travel costs within Australia in 1972 of Rev. Fred Kaan, Secretary for Co-operation and Witness at W.A.R.C. Headquarters.

The motion was seconded and approved.

20. The Report of the Christian Unity Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. Professor Ian Gillman moved the Deliverance.

The motion was seconded.

It was decided to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-2 were approved.

An additional clause numbered 3, with consequent re-numbering of subsequent clauses, of which notice had been given by the Convener, was

approved as follows:

"Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 2, appoint a Commission consisting of the Moderator, Clerk, Business Convener and the Procurator with the Moderator as Chairman and a quorum of two members to direct the voting in accordance with Clause 2 in the congregations in the Australian Capital Territory and to make such variations in the requirements of that clause as may be necessary because of the date of the making of the amendment to the Presbyterian Church Trust Property Ordinance 1971."

Re-numbered Clauses 4-8 were approved.

The Rev. Neil Brown moved an additional clause to be numbered 9,

viz.:

(a) seek the views of the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Congregational Union of Australia on the desirability of the Joint Commission on Church Union being asked to elicit and receive from these Churches through their Christian Unity Committees any proposed amendments to the Appendices to the Basis of Union and to prepare a revision of the Appendices for presentation to the first Assembly of the Uniting Church:

(b) request the Joint Commission on Church Union to take the desired

action:

(c) request the Christian Unity Committee to seek proposed amendments to the Appendices from State Assemblies and Presbytcries, these to be forwarded to the Christian Unity Committee by 30th October, 1972, the Christian Unity Committee to forward them forthwith to the Joint Commission on Church Union.

The motion was seconded and disapproved. Re-numbered Clauses 9-11 were approved.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 27). 21.

22. The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly-

House

Adjourn to meet on Wednesday, 15th December, 1971, at 11 a.m. within the Assembly Building, Margaret Street, Sydney.

The motion was seconded and approved.

23. Upon the Moderator making intimation the Assembly adjourned to meet on Wednesday, 15th December, 1971, at 11 a.m. within the Assembly Building, Margaret Street, Sydney.

L. F. GUNN, S. J. PADDLE, Clerks.

24

Christian Unity

Adjournment

Debate

Adjourned

Adjourned

#### Second Sederunt

- At Sydney and within the Assembly Building, Margaret Street, Sydney, on Wednesday, the fifteenth day of December, 1971, at 11 a.m.
- 24. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted Constitution with prayer.

25. The Clerk intimated corrections to the Minutes of the First Minutes Sederunt and moved that the corrected Minutes be confirmed.

The motion was seconded and approved. 26. The Clerk intimated that State Government Gazette Notices to the Gazette effect that the General Assembly had agreed to implement and give effect Notices to the provisions of Part III of the Basis of Union set forth in the Schedule to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of New South Wales, in the Schedule to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of Victoria, in the Schedule to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of Queensland, in the Third Schedule of the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1971 of the State of South Australia, in the Schedule to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of Tasmania and in the Schedule to the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1970 of the State of Western Australia had appeared in the Government Gazettes of the aforementioned States as follows:

New South Wales Gazette dated 3,12,71, page 4717 Victoria Gazette dated 8,12,71, page 3833 Gazette dated 11.12.71, page 1713 Queensland Tasmania

Gazette dated 9.12.71, page 2492

Gazette dated 8.12.71, page 2474

Western Australia Gazette dated 3.12.71, page 5009

The Clerk laid on the table the above Gazette Notices. South Australia

27. The adjourned debate on the Christian Unity Committee Deliver- Adjourned

ance was resumed (Min. 21). 28. The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows:

Christian Unity Debate Resumed

That the Assembly-

- 1. (a) Receive the proposed Basis of Union 1971 from the Joint Commission on Church Union.
  - (b) Remit to State General Assemblies and presbyteries under Barrier Act procedures the Proposed Basis of Union 1971 returns to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly not later than 30th October, 1972.

#### Basis of Union

- 1. The Congregational Union of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in fellowship with the whole Church Catholic, and seeking to bear witness to that unity which is both Christ's gift and his will for the Church, hereby enter into union under the name of the Uniting Church in Australia. They pray that this act may be to the glory of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They praise God for his gifts of grace to each of them in years past; they acknowledge that none of them has responded to God's love with a full obedience; they look for a continuing renewal in which God will use their common worship, witness and service to set forth the word of salvation for all mankind. To this end they declare their readiness to go forward together in sole loyalty to Christ the living Head of the Church; they remain open to constant reform under his Word; and they seek a wider unity in the power of the Holy Spirit. In this union these Churches commit their members to acknowledge one another in love and joy as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, to hear anew the commission of the Risen Lord to make disciples of all nations, and daily to seek to obey his will. In entering into this union the Churches concerned are mindful that the Church of God is committed to serve the world for which Christ died, and that she awaits with hope the day of the Lord Jesus Christ on which it will be clear that the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever.
- 2. The Uniting Church lives and works within the faith and unity of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. She recognizes that she is related to other Churches in ways which give expression, however partially, to that unity in faith and mission. Recalling the Ecumenical Councils of the early centuries, she looks forward to a time when the faith will be further elucidated, and the Church's unity

expressed, in similar Councils. She thankfully acknowledges that the uniting Churches were members of the World Council of Churches and other ecumencial bodies, and she will seek to maintain such membership. She remembers the special relationship which obtained between the several uniting Churches and other Churches of similar traditions, and will continue to learn from their witness and be strengthened by their fellowship. She is encouraged by the existence of United Churches in which these and other traditions have been incorporated, and wishes to learn from their experience. She believes that Christians in Australia are called to bear witness to a unity of faith and life in Christ which transcends cultural and economic, national and racial boundaries, and to this end she commits herself to seek special relationships with Churches in Asia and the Pacific. She declares her desire to enter more deeply into the faith and mission of the Church in Australia, by working together and seeking union with other Churches.

3. The Uniting Church acknowledges that the faith and unity of the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church are built upon the one Lord Jesus Christ. The Church preaches Christ the risen crucified One and confesses him as Lord to the glory of God the Father. In Jesus Christ God was reconciling the world to himself. In love for the world, God gave his Son to take away the world's sin.

Jesus of Nazareth announced the sovereign grace of God whereby the poor in spirit could receive the Father's love. He himself, in his life and death, made the response of humility, obedience and trust which God had long sought in vain. In raising him to live and reign, God confirmed and completed the witness which Jesus bore to him on earth, he reasserted his claim over the whole of his creation, he pardoned sinners, and made in Jesus a representative beginning of a new order of rightcousness and love. To God in Christ men are called to respond in faith. To this end God has sent forth his Spirit that men may trust him as their Father, and acknowledge Jesus as Lord. The whole work of man's salvation is effected by the sovereign grace of God alone.

The Church as the fellowship of the Holy Spirit confesses Jesus as Lord over her own life, she also confesses that he is Head over all things, the beginning of a new creation, of a new mankind. God in Christ has given to men in the Church the Holy Spirit as a pledge and foretaste of that coming reconciliation and renewal which is the end in view for the whole creation. The Church's call is to serve that end: to be a fellowship of reconciliation, a body within which the diverse gifts of its members are used for the building up of the whole, an instrument through which Christ may work and bear witness to himself. The Church lives between the time of Christ's death and resurrection and the final consummation of all things which he will bring; she is a pilgrim people, always on the way towards a promised goal; here she does not have a continuing city but seeks one to come. On the way Christ feeds her with Word and Sacraments, and she has the gift of the Spirit in order that she may not lose the way.

- 4. The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church is able to live and endure through the changes of history only because her Lord comes, addresses, and deals with men in and through the news of his completed work. Christ who is present when he is preached among men is the Word of the God who acquits the guilty, who gives life to the dead and who brings into being what otherwise could not exist. Through human witness in word and action, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ reaches out to command men's attention and awaken their faith; he calls them into the fellowship of his sufferings, to be the disciples of a crucified Lord; in his own strange way he constitutes, rules and renews them as his Church.
- The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony, in which she hears the Word of God and by which her faith and obedience are nourished and regulated. When the Church preaches Jesus Christ, her message is controlled by the Biblical witnesses. The Word of God on whom man's salvation depends is to be heard and known from Scripture appropriated in the worshipping and witnessing life of the Church. The Uniting Church lays upon her members the serious duty of reading the Scriptures, commits

her ministers to preach from these and to administer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as effective signs of the Gospel as set forth in the Scriptures.

- 6. The Uniting Church acknowledges that Christ has commanded his Church to proclaim the Gospel both in words and in the two visible acts of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. He himself acts in and through everything that the Church does in obedience to his commandment: it is he who by the gift of the Spirit confers upon men the forgiveness, the fellowship, the new life and the freedom which the proclamation and actions promise; and it is he who awakens, purifies and advances in men the faith and hope in which alone such benefits can be accepted.
- 7. The Uniting Church acknowledges that Christ incorporates men into his body by Baptism. In this way he enables them to participate in his own baptism, which was accomplished once on behalf of all in his death and burial, and which was made available to all when, risen and ascended, he poured out the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Baptism into Christ's body initiates men into his life and mission in the world, so that they are united in one fellowship of love, service, suffering and joy, in one family of the Father of all in heaven and earth, and in the power of the one Spirit. The Uniting Church will baptize those who confess the Christian faith, and children who are presented for baptism and for whose instruction and nourishment in the faith the Church takes responsibility.
- 8. The Uniting Church acknowledges that Christ signifies and seals his continuing presence with his people in the Lord's Supper or the Holy Communion, constantly repeated in the life of the Church. In this sacrament of his broken body and outpoured blood the risen Lord feeds his baptized people on their way to the final inheritance of the Kingdom. Thus the people of God, through faith and the gift and power of the Holy Spirit, have communion with their Saviour, make their sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, proclaim the Lord's death, grow together into Christ, are strengthened for their participation in the mission of Christ in the world, and rejoice in the foretaste of the Kingdom which he will bring to consummation.
- 9. The Uniting Church enters into unity with the Church throughout the ages by her use of the confessions known as the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. She receives these as authoritative statements of the Catholic Faith, framed in the language of their day and used by Christians in many days, to declare and to guard the right understanding of that faith. She commits her ministers and instructors to careful study of these creeds and to the discipline of interpreting their teaching in a later age. She commends to ministers and congregations their use for instruction in the faith, and their use in worship as acts of allegiance to the Holy Trinity.
- 10. The Uniting Church continues to learn of the teaching of the Holy Scriptures in the obedience and freedom of faith, and in the power of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, from the witness of reformation fathers as expressed in various ways in the Scots Confession of Faith (1560), the Heidelberg Catechism (1563), the Westminster Confession of Faith (1647), and the Savoy Declaration (1658). In like manner she will listen to the preaching of John Wesley in his Forty-Four Sermons (1793). She will commit her ministers and instructors to study these statements, so that the congregation of Christ's people may again and again be reminded of the grace which justifies them through faith, of the centrality of the person and work of Christ the justifier, and of the need for a constant appeal to Holy Scripture.
- 11. The Uniting Church acknowledges that God has never left his Church without faithful and scholarly interpreters of Scripture, or without those who have reflected deeply upon, and acted trustingly in obedience to, his living Word. In particular she enters into the inheritance of literary, historical and scientific enquiry which has characterized recent centuries, and thanks God for the knowledge of his ways with men which are open to an informed faith. She lives within a world-wide fellowship of Churches in which she will learn to sharpen her understanding of the will and purpose of God by contact with contemporary thought. Within that fellowship she also stands in relation to contemporary societies in ways which will help

her to understand her own nature and mission. She thanks God for the continuing witness and service of evangelist, of scholar, of prophet and of martyr. She prays that she may be ready when occasion demands to confess her Lord in fresh words and deeds.

- 12. The Uniting Church recognizes and accepts as her members all who are recognized as members of the uniting Churches at the time of union. Thereafter membership is open to all who are baptized into the Holy Catholic Church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Uniting Church will seek ways in which the baptized may have confirmed to them the promises of God, and be led to deeper commitment to the faith and service into which they have been baptized. To this end she commits herself to undertake, with other Christians, to explore and develop the relation of baptism to confirmation and to participation in the Holy Communion.
- 13. The Uniting Church affirms that every member of the Church is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant. She acknowledges with thanksgiving that the one Spirit has endowed the members of his Church with a diversity of gifts, and that there is no gift without its corresponding service: all ministries have a part in the ministry of Christ. The Uniting Church, at the time of union, will recognize and accept the ministries of those who have been called to any task or responsibility in the uniting Churches. The Uniting Church will thereafter provide for the exercise by men and women of the gifts God bestows upon them, and will order her life in response to his call to enter more fully into her mission.
- 14. The Uniting Church, from inception, will seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to recognize among her members men and women called of God to preach the Gospel, to lead the people in worship, to care for the flock, to share in government and to serve those in need in the world.

To this end:

(a) The Uniting Church recognizes and accepts as ministers of the Word all who have held such office in any of the uniting Churches, and who, being in good standing in one of those Churches at the time of union, adhere to the Basis of Union. This adherence and acceptance may take place at the time of union or at a later date. Since the Church lives by the power of the Word, she is assured that God, who has never left himself without witness to that Word, will, through Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, call and set apart members of the Church to be ministers of the Word. These will preach the Gospel, administer the sacraments and exercise pastoral care so that all may be equipped for their particular ministries, thus maintaining the apostolic witness to Christ in the Church. Such members will be called Ministers and their setting apart will be known as Ordination.

The Presbytery will ordain by prayer and the laying on of hands in the presence of a worshipping congregation. In this act of ordination the Church praises the ascended Christ for conferring gifts upon men. She recognizes his call of the individual to he his minister; she prays for the enabling power of the Holy Spirit to equip him for that service. By the participation in the act of ordination of those already ordained, the Church bears witness to God's faithfulness and declares the hope by which she lives. In company with other Christians the Uniting Church will seek for a renewed understanding of the way in which the congregation participates in ordination and of the significance of ordination in the life of the Church.

(b) The Uniting Church recognizes and accepts as elders or leaders those who at the time of union hold the office of elder, deacon or leader appointed to exercise spiritual oversight, and who, being in good standing in any of the uniting Churches at the time of union, adhere to the Basis of Union. She will seek to recognize in the congregation those endowed by the Spirit with gifts fitting them for rule and oversight. Such members will be called Elders or Leaders.

(c) The Uniting Church recognizes and accepts as deaconesses

those who at the time of union are deaconesses in good standing in any of the uniting Churches and who adhere to the Basis of Union. She believes that the Holy Spirit will continue to call women to share in this way in the varied services and witness of the Church, and she will make provision for this. Such

members will be called Deaconesses.

The Uniting Church recognizes that at the time of union many seek a renewal of the diaconate in which men and women offer their time and talents, representatively and on behalf of God's people, in the service of mankind in the face of changing needs. She will so order her life that she remains open to the possibility that God may call men and women into such a renewed diaconate: in these circumstances she may decided to call them Deacons and Deaconesses whether the service is within or beyond the life of the congregation.

(d) The Uniting Church recognizes and accepts as lay preachers those who at the time of union are accredited lay preachers (local preachers) in any of the uniting Churches and who adhere to the Basis of Union. She will seek to recognize those endowed with the gift of the Spirit for this task, will provide for their training, and will gladly wait upon that fuller understanding of the obedience of the Christian man which should flow from their Ministry. Such members will be called Lay Preachers.

In the above sub-paragraphs the phrase "adhere to the Basis of Union" is understood as willingness to live and work within the faith and unity of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church as that way is described in this Basis. Such adherence allows for difference of opinion in matters which do not enter into the substance of the

faith.

The Uniting Church recognizes that the type and duration of ministries to which men and women are called vary from time to time and place to place, and that in particular she comes into being in a period of reconsideration of traditional forms of the ministry, and of renewed participation of all the people of God in the preaching of the Word, the administration of the sacraments, the building up of the fellowship in mutual love, in commitment to Christ's mission, and in service of the world for which he died.

15. The Uniting Church recognizes that responsibility for government in the Church belongs to the people of God by virtue of the gifts and tasks which God has laid upon them. The Uniting Church therefore so organizes her life that locally, regionally and nationally government will be entrusted to representatives, men and women, bearing the gifts and graces with which God has endowed them for the building up of his Church. The Uniting Church is governed by a series of inter-related councils, each of which has its tasks and responsibilities in relation both to the Church and the world.

The Uniting Church acknowledges that Christ alone is supreme in his Church, and that he may speak to her through any of her councils. It is the task of every council to wait upon God's Word, and to obey his will in the matters allocated to its oversight. Each council will recognize the limits of its own authority and give heed to other councils of the Church, so that the whole body of believers may be united by mutual submission in the service of the Gospel.

To this end the Uniting Church makes provision in her constitution

for the following:

- (a) The Congregation is the embodiment in one place of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, worshipping, witnessing and serving as a fellowship of the Spirit in Christ. Its members meet regularly to hear God's Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share in the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to serve the world. The congregation will recognize the need for a diversity of agencies for the better ordering of her life in such matters as education, administration and finance.
- (b) The Elders' or Leaders' Meeting (the council within a congregation or group of congregations) consists of the minister and those who are called to share with him in oversight. It is

responsible for building up the congregation in faith and love, sustaining its members in hope, and leading them into a fuller

participation in Christ's mission in the world.

(c) The Presbytery (the district council) consists of such ministers, elders/leaders and other Church members as are appointed thereto, the majority of elders/leaders and Church members being appointed by Elders'/Leaders' Meetings and/or congregations, on a basis determined by the Synod. Its function is to perform all the acts of oversight necessary to the life and mission of the Church in the area for which it is responsible, except over those agencies which are directly responsible to the Synod or Assembly. It will in particular exercise oversight over the congregations within its bounds, encouraging them to strengthen one another's faith, to bear one another's burdens, and exhorting them to fulfil their high calling in Christ Jesus. It will promote those wider aspects of the work of the Church committed to it by the Synod or Assembly.

committed to it by the Synod or Assembly.

(d) The Synod (the regional council) consists of such ministers, elders/leaders and other Church members as are appointed thereto, the majority being appointed by Presbyteries, Elders'/ Leaders' Meetings or congregations, on a basis determined by the Assembly. It has responsibility for the general oversight, direction and administration of the Church's worship, witness and service in the region allotted to it, with such powers and authorities as may from time to time be determined by the

Assembly.

(e) The Assembly (the national council) consists of such ministers, elders/leaders and other Church members as are appointed thereto, the majority being appointed by the Presbyteries and Synods. It has determining responsibility for matters of doctrine, worship, government and discipline, including the promotion of the Church's mission, the establishment of standards of theological training and reception of ministers from other communions, and the taking of further measures towards the wider union of the Church. It makes the guiding decisions on the tasks and authority to be exercised by other councils. It is obligatory for it to seek the concurrence of other councils, and on occasion of the congregations of the Church, on matters of vital importance to the life of the Church.

The first Assembly, however, will consist of members of the uniting Churches, appointed in equal numbers by them in such manner as they may determine, and is vested with such powers as may be necessary to establish the Uniting Church according

to the provisions of the Basic of Union.

Until such time as councils other than the Assembly can be established, the Uniting Church recognizes and accepts the various agencies for the discharge of responsibility which are in existence in the uniting Churches. She invites any such continuing bodies immediately to enter into a period of self-examination in which members are asked to consider afresh their common commitment to the Church's mission and their demonstration of her unity. She prays that God will enable them to order their lives for these purposes.

16. The Uniting Church recognizes the responsibility and freedom which belong to councils to acknowledge gifts among members for the fulfilment of particular functions. She sees in pastoral care exercised personally on behalf of the Church an expression of the fact that God always deals with men personally: he would have his fatherly care known among men; he would have individual members take upon themselves the form of a servant.

17. The Uniting Church acknowledges that the demand of the Gospel, the response of the Church to the Gospel, and the discipline which it requires are partly expressed in the formulation by the Church of her law. The aim of such law is to confess God's will for the life of his Church; but since law is received by man and framed by him, it is always subject to revision in order that it may better serve the Gospel. The Uniting Church will keep her law under constant review so that her life may increasingly be directed to the service of God and man, and her worship to a true and faithful setting forth of, and response to, the Gospel of Christ. The law of the Church

will speak of the free obedience of the children of God, and will look to the final reconciliation of mankind under God's sovercign grace.

18. The Uniting Church affirms that she belongs to the people of God on the way to the promised end. She prays God that, through the gift of the Spirit, he will constantly correct that which is erroneous in her life, will bring her into deeper unity with other Churches, and will use her worship, witness and service to his eternal glory through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

2. (a) Require all sessions to purge their communion rolls in respect

of each congregation under their jurisdiction and by 29th February, 1972, submit to the presbytery of the bounds a voting register in duplicate consisting of communicants aged sixteen years and over whose names are on the roll as purged at that date in respect of each congregation duly certified by the Moderator and Clerk of Session, as being the voting register of such congregation.

(b) Direct presbyteries at the earliest opportunity following the submission to them of such voting registers to attest each copy and return one copy to the session from which it was received

and retain the other copy.

(c) Request all presbyteries to prepare a list of all congregations within their bounds to ensure that for the purpose of voting the separate identity of all separately constituted congregations is preserved and that no preaching places not constituted as a congregation votes separately from the congregation of which it forms a part.

(d) Direct that all eligible communicants of the Presbyterian Church of Australia aged sixteen years and over whose names are on an attested voting register of a congregation shall be given an opportunity to answer the following questions for communicants as set out in section 16 of the Part III of the Basis of Union, viz.:

(i) Do you desire this congregation to become a congregation of the church which may result from the proposed union?(ii) Should the required majority vote for union be obtained in

presbyteries, state general assemblies and the general assembly of Australia do you desire to remain in membership of any Presbyterian Church of Australia continuing to function on the present basis?

(e) Direct the Code Committee to have voting papers prepared in accordance with the respective Acts of Parliament in each State and supply sufficient papers to each session.

(f) Direct sessions to prescribe a date for the close of voting and request that this date be not later than 30th June, 1972.

(g) Direct sessions to make available voting papers in accordance with the relevant Acts of Parliament at least fourteen days before the date prescribed by the session for the close of voting.

- (h) Authorize the Code Committee to issue necessary information regarding statutory requirements as to voting on the ballot paper.

  (i) Direct sessions, following the close of voting, to count at a duly constituted meeting, the votes and transmit the number of "yes" votes and the number of "no" votes with respect to each question to the clerk of presbytery of the bounds and request them to do so not letter them 10th July 1072 so not later than 10th July, 1972.
- 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Clause 2, appoint a Commission consisting of the Moderator, Clerk, Business Convener and the Procurator with the Moderator as Chairman and a quorum of two members to direct the voting in accordance with Clause 2 in the congregations in the Australian Capital Territory and to make such variations in the requirements of that clause as may be necessary because of the date of the making of the amendment to the Presbyterian Church Trust Property Ordinance 1971.
- 4. Direct the clerks of presbyteries to transmit the number of "yes" votes and the number of "no" votes with respect to each question to the clerk of the Assembly through the clerk of the State Assembly, and request them to do so not later than 30th July, 1972.
- 5. Request sessions to hold all voting papers in retentis until otherwise instructed, and in the case of a congregation where at least one third of those who participate in the vote record a "yes" vote to the second question direct that an attested list of the members who so voted be

prepared in duplicate and that one copy be forwarded to the presbytery of the bounds and kept in retentis by the presbytery.

6. Authorize the Code Committee to give advice on procedures and any

other matters in respect where such is sought.

7. (a) Urge all members before voting to study carefully the Basis of Union (1971 Edition) together with the statement explaining the basic principles of Constitutional Structure and Practice contained in the Basis of Union, received from the Joint Constitution Commission last Assembly.

(b) Request the Finance Committee to provide for the printing and

distribution of the statement, referred to in 6(a) above.

- 8. Request presbyteries and kirk sessions to give urgent attention to the task of obtaining an informed decision on the question of union, and request state assemblies to assist in this way by the provision of appropriate financial resources.
- Appoint as members of the Joint Commission on Church Union: The Reverend Professor I. Gillman, D. M. Hodges, Dr. J. D. McCaughey, J. M. Owen, A. F. Smart, Messrs. H. E. H. Atkinson and A. J. Kilgour, with alternates: Reverend Professor Crawford Miller, J. F. Peter.
- 10. Appoint as members of the Joint Constitution Commission: The Reverend D. Conomos, C. M. Dyster, J. B. Edwards, L. F. Gunn, Messrs. J. P. Adam, I. S. Hunt and D. A. Yeldham with alternates; Mr. R. M. Northrop and Reverend J. C. Allan.
- 11. Appoint the Christian Unity Committee:

(a) Convener: Reverend Professor Ian Gillman.
(b) Conveners of state Christian Unity Committees ex officio, with the proviso that should any such members cease to hold the convenership of a state committee his place upon the federal committee shall be taken automatically by his successor.

(c) Two members each from New South Walcs and Victoria and one

from Queensland appointed by and from the membership of the Christian Unity Committees of the states concerned.

(d) Messrs. J. P. Adam, D. R. Brierley, R. H. Gough and R. M. Northrop.

29. The Clerk moved:

to Confirm That the Assembly-Minutes

Appoint the Moderator and Clerks a Commission to correct and confirm the Minutes of the Second Sederunt. The motion was seconded and approved.

30. The Clerk moved:

Commission That the Assembly--of Assembly

Commission

Appointment

1. Appoint a Commission of the General Assembly which it hereby does appoint, consisting of the Moderator (Chairman), Past Moderators-General, Clerks, Business Convener, 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 Tosamonia (say vegesney coursing to be filled. Western Australia and Tasmania (any vacancy occurring to be filled by the General Assembly 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 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 interest of the Church on every occasion, that the Church does not suffer or sustain any prejudice which it can prevent, as it will be answerable, and to this end the General Assembly empowers 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.

Authorize the Moderator when he considers it necessary to convene the Commission to meet in the first instance at the Assembly Hall, Melbourne, and if necessary to adjourn from time to time.

3. Request State Assemblies to elect members as set out in Clause 1.

The motion was seconded and approved.

31. The Clerk moved: That the Assembly—

Appointment of Next Assembly

Resolve to convene in the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Wednesday, the second day of May, 1973, at the hour of 7.30 p.m. in terms of minute 12(7).

The motion was seconded and approved.

32. The business of the Assembly having been completed the Moderator, Dissolution

after briefly addressing the House, intimated that the Assembly would next convene in terms of Minute 31 and dissolved the Assembly with praise, prayer, and the pronouncing of the Benediction.

L. F. GUNN,

Clerk.

#### CERTIFICATE

The Minutes of the Second Sederunt having been carefully corrected are confirmed as authorized in Minute 29 thereof.

> J. F. McKAY, Moderator.

## REPORTS

#### BUSINESS

The Business Committee met in the office of the Clerk of New South Wales General Assembly on Thursday, 21st October, and approved the deliverance it is proposed to submit to the Assembly.

COLIN M. DYSTER, Covener.

## "AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN LIFE"

The foundation editor of the national journal, "Australian Presbyterian Life", Mr. William S. Noble, retires early next year. This marks the end of a vital era in Presbyterian journalism in our country. In the year 1956 Mr. Noble was appointed editor of the new Victorian "Presbyterian Life" and made it one of the success stories of church journalism in Australia. His splendid gifts were recognized by the General Assembly of Australia when he was appointed the first editor of its official organ, the newly established "Australian Presbyterian Life" in 1967.

Mr. Noble's great contribution to the Church has been to see this new journal through its establishment phases both editorially and managerially

journal through its establishment phases, both editorially and managerially. His duties have been exercised by one who knows the Church thoroughly as an elder active in its courts and as a man "rich in saving common sense". He came to his duties with a background in journalism enriched by service as a war correspondent and New York representative of the Melbourne "Herald". All these gifts and graces have united to enable him to carry this new journal through a period of most difficult acceptance by many of our people to whom the state Presbyterian journals had been desirable models. The measure of his achievements is seen in the fact that "Australian Presbyterian Life" now has Commonwealth-wide acceptance and, in the opinion of many, in its part in developing within our Church a national outlook. In addition, Mr. Noble's management of the journal has enabled it to continue to date without subsidy from the Assembly, a remarkable achievement in comparison with other denominational papers.

His relationships with his Committee, Staff and Convener have been such as to make all a team of colleagues working happily in a common

cause. In his wider professional associations he has been active in promoting for all churches a greater understanding of the place and role of church journals, and in his service in relation to Commonwealth departments, especially that of Posts and Telegraphs, he has been a valued

counsellor.

The Committee wishes him well in his retirement and many years of

active service as a churchman in its courts.

At the present time the Committee is dealing with the appointment of a successor to the editor in accordance with BB 1970 Minute 84: 5.

R. A. MACARTHUR, Convener.

### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN UNITY

## Revisions to Basis of Union

The requests of the 1970 General Assembly of Australia as outlined in its Minute 61: 2, 3, and 4, were taken up by the Joint Commission on Church Union at its meeting on November 27 and 28, 1970. No requests for revision were received from either the Methodist or Congregational Churches, so the Joint Commission on Church Union was able to concentrate upon the Presbyterian requests and to take up only one other issue which required clarification. The details of the revisions made are spelled out in the new Preface to the 1971 Edition of the Basis of Union which appeared in print in April, 1971. It was the conviction of the Joint Commission on Church Union that the requests of the General Assembly of Australia had been met by the revisions made and this 1971 Revision of the Basis of Union comes before this General Assembly of Australia for decisions re voting.

## Publication of 1971 Revision of Basis of Union

Aldersgate Press, the publishers of the Basis of Union, not unnaturally requested some guarantee of sales of the 1971 Revision seeing that many

copies of the 1970 Edition remained unsold. Agreement was reached that the three negotiating churches should supply at cost some 2,500 copies of the 1971 Revision for inclusion in the Church Union kits produced by the Joint Board of Christian Education. The Presbyterian contribution to this cost totalled \$400.

## Voting on the Basis of Union

The General Assembly of Australia Code Committee has prepared details of voting procedure in connection with the Basis of Union and this Committee is pleased to bring such directions for voting before this General Assembly. Detailed instructions to effect such directions will be forwarded to each Session.

#### Education on Basis of Union

The Christian Unity Committee is aware that it bears responsibility for co-ordinating education on the Basis of Union throughout the Com-monwealth. Some action in this regard has been taken by a number of bulletins circulated among committee members. These have shared news of what is occurring in each state and further steps were taken in this matter at the only meeting of the committee to be held, in September, 1971. In addition the convener was able to discuss these matters while on a visit to Western Australia in May-June last.

Finally, close contact has been maintained with the corresponding committees of the Methodist and Congregational Churches, and details of the contents of the Joint Board kit were decided at a meeting of the three

federal conveners in March, 1971.

It remains a fact that whatever is done at the federal or state levels the major responsibility for education rests with kirk sessions which must decide how to use the resources supplied.

#### Joint Constitution Commission

The various sub-committees dealing with different aspects of the proposed "Interim-Constitution" have mostly completed their tasks and the Legal Sub-Committee is now at work on the legal implications of the "Interim-Constitution".

The Commission expects to meet before the end of the year to prepare a preliminary draft of an "Interim-Constitution".

#### Conversations with Church of England

Another meeting has been held between representatives of the negotiating churches' committees on Christian Unity and of the Ecumenical Affairs Committee of the General Synod of the Church of England in Australia. It was decided to pursue investigation of such issues as—What are the norms of worship for a United Church? What are the norms of faith? What are the theological pre-suppositions about the ways into union? These investigations are to be made at state levels and plans are in

hand in two states at least, viz. Victoria and Queensland.

In addition the Bishop of Wangaratta, the Right Reverend Keith Rayner, has prepared and circulated to the General Synod's committee a Response to the Basis of Union. The convener of this General Assembly of Australia Committee prepared some Comments on this Response, and

these too have been circulated to interested Anglicans.

## Re-appointment of Commissions and Committee

Although the Joint Commission on Church Union has presented its revised Basis it is considered desirable to continue to appoint representatives to the Commission, while it is necessary to re-appoint both this committee and the representatives to the Joint Constitution Commission and the Joint Constitution Council.

IAN GILLMAN, Convener.

## CODE

The Committee's first task has been to see through in each state the enabling legislation requested by last Assembly. Western Australia, with its Presbyterian Church of Australia Act, 1970, was the first to comply, followed by Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. New South Wales expects its Act to be passed in time for the Assembly.

South Australia, as was explained to last Assembly, has been in a difficult situation owing to the necessity of securing the passage of an Act relating to property held in trust for Presbyterian purposes in South Australia, before it could seek to have enacted the enabling legislation for the new constitution. So as not to hold up any vote the Assembly might decide upon relating to church union, the substance of Part III of the new conwas included in this Bill which has just been passed as the Presbyterian Trusts Act, 1971. The General Assembly of South Australia has authorized their Code Committee to proceed with the preparation of a Bill to enable the implementation of the new constitution; but as the Trusts Act has only just been passed by Parliament, it has not been possible to take any further steps with this Bill. This of course means that only Part III of the new constitution may be adopted by the General Assembly of Australia when it meets.

Apart, however, from the situation in South Australia, other reasons make it impracticable to implement the new constitution as a whole at on church union agreed upon by the three negotiating churches. The position is this. If all the enabling legislation had been enacted in the form necessary to implement the whole new constitution, and the Assembly were to take the necessary action to implement that constitution in toto, it would necessarily follow that any decision to take a vote on church union would have to be made pursuant to the new constitution, because that then would be the constitution of the Church—its only constitution—and of course all decisions would have to made under it. The body which, under that constitution, is empowered to direct a vote on church union, as well as to remit a basis of union to inferior courts, is the General Assembly. But that means the General Assembly convened in accordance with the new constitution. The General Assembly to meet early December, 1971, could not be the General Assembly within the meaning of the constitution, and would therefore be powerless to direct a vote on church union having legal effect. Should that Assembly implement the whole new constitution, it follows that it would be necessary for presbyteries after they had ceased to be presbyteries of their respective state churches, and had become presbyteries of the new Australian Church, to appoint new commissioners to a further General Assembly. All this would make it impossible to con-

form to the abovementioned time table.

When in the first instance the General Assembly of Australia directed the preparation of a new constitution, and provided that such constitution should contain certain provisions enabling the Church to unite with other churches, subject to due and proper safeguards for any dissenting minority, it was not envisaged that it would be desired to direct a vote on church union at the very point of time that the Church was first in a position to implement the new constitution. Once it became apparent, however, that it could well be that the General Assembly would be desirous of directing a vote on church union at the earliest opportunity, steps were take to avoid the time lag mentioned above by making provision for the Assembly to implement Part III only of the new constitution, without prejudice to the subsequent implementation of the whole. This matter was fully expained to the last General Assembly, which then requested all state assemblies to obtain the necessary enabling legislation in accordance with a precedent submitted by the committee which was in a form to enable this to be done (Min. 30(2) B.B. 1970). In all states, enabling legislation

this to be done (Min. 30(2) B.B. 1970). In all states, enabling legislation has, by direction of the relevant state assembly, been obtained in a form that would enable the General Assembly to implement Part III alone.

For the reasons given, the Code Committee recommends that the General Assembly exercise its powers under the enabling legislation to implement part III of the new constitution, without prejudice to its right to implement the whole on a subsequent occasion. Once this is done it will be necessary for a deed to be executed by the Moderator and the Moderators of the state assemblies, and for notices to be published in the Covernment Generators of the several states. This will take about a the Government Gazettes of the several states. This will take about a fortnight. If it is desired to take a vote on church union the final decision will have to be made after a fortnight's adjournment. As the matter could be dealt with at a first meeting in December up to the point of the vote on the deliverance as a whole, there is no reason why the adjourned

meeting should not be of a quite formal character.

The committee desires very definitely to point out that as far as taking a vote of communicants and inferior courts is concerned, and as regards subsequent entry into union if the constitutional requirements are satisfied,

the powers of the Assembly are exactly the same as if the whole new

constitution were implemented.

The full Code Committee held a meeting at the end of June and spent

The full Code Committee held a meeting at the end of June and spent III considerable time looking at the processes necessary to invoke Part III of the new Constitution and the steps needed to be taken in session and presbytery concerning the vote on union by communicants. The committee prepared a Memorandum of Advice to the Christian Unity Committee concerning these matters, drew up forms for voting registers, voting papers, returns from sessions to presbyteries and from presbyteries to assemblies. The Executive has also prepared detailed instructions to sessions on the preparation of the voting register, making voting papers available, the return of voting papers, the counting of the votes, and the question of formal and informal votes. These instructions will be sent to sessions as

well as detailed instructions to presbyteries.

The committee believes it desirable that the Assembly should authorize the committee to bring to the 1972 Assembly nominations for the Commission required under Clause 18(a) of Part III should such be required. In order to assist this Commission in its task the Committee suggests that the Assembly should authorize each State Assembly to approve three negotiators from those approving union and three negotiators from those disapproving union to prepare submissions for the Commission. It must be understood that such negotiators would be doing preparatory work for

the Commission which would make the determination.

Beneficiary Fund Committees have been asked to give consideration to the matter of their funds, both in relation to possible entry into union and a possible continuing Presbyterian Church. The Executive of the Code Committee has obtained quotations for printing necessary for the taking of the vote, and has had these approved by the Assembly Finance Committee as has also an estimated expenditure in connection with assistance in the matter of the distribution of materials and the subsequent recording of the voting.

## Voting in Parishes Working in Co-operation with the Methdist and Congregational Churches

The Executive has consulted with representatives from the Congregational and Methodist Churches on the question of voting in parishes working in co-operation with these churches. Agreement was unanimously reached that the following voting procedures should apply—

"In those parishes where co-operation requires the keeping of separate communion rolls, each communicant shall vote in accordance with the roll on which his name appears. In all other cases where membership, whether full or in association, has been granted in the co-operating denomination voters shall vote as members of that denomination.'

This means that where separate rolls are required, even if to date these have not been kept separately but merely marked with "P" or "M" or "C", separate rolls must be made out and from the Presbyterian roll there must be made up a Presbyterian Voting Register which requires to

be certified by the Session and attested by the presbytery.

Presbyteries are urged to check on this with the parishes concerned and see that the requirements of the Act are carried out.

### New South Wales Act.

The Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971 of the State of New South Wales received the Royal Assent on the 29th November, 1971.

## A.C.T. Ordinance

An Amendment to the Australian Capital Territory Ordinance relating to the property of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the Australian Capital Territory is at present being made to give effect to the provisions of Part III of the Basis of Union in the Australian Capital Territory. It is hoped that this Amendment will be made by the 15th December, 1971; but if it is not then it will be necessary to have an additional clause in the Christian Unity Committee Deliverance to cover the situation in Canberra. It is suggested that the Commission appointed to vary the date of the next General Assembly be given power to deal with the situation in Canberra by authorizing the vote there at a later date and making other necessary alterations as far as dates are concerned for returns.

#### Date of Next Assembly

A conference between the three negotiating churches has agreed that the Methodist General Conference, the Assembly of the Congregational

Union and our own General Assembly should meet simultaneously in Melbourne so that they can also simultaneously take the vote on Union. The date suggested for these bodies to commence their meeting is Wednesday, 2nd May, 1973.

L. F. GUNN, Convener.

## COMMISSION TO FIX DATE OF ASSEMBLY

By authority of the Chairman, the Commission appointed by Minute 10: (5) 1970 B.B. to determine the date of the Assembly, should Wednesday the 10th of November, 1971, be impracticable, met in Melbourne on Thursday the 14th October, 1971, and resolved that because it was now impracticable for the Assembly to discharge its function on the 10th of November, 1971, the date appointed for the Assembly be Wednesday the 1st December, 1971, at 10 a.m. in the Scots Church, Margaret Street, Sydney.

J. F. McKAY, Chairman.

## ECUMENICAL AFFAIRS

The Presbyterian Church of Australia received from the Church of South India advice of the Silver Jubilee of that Church, together with an invitation for a representative of our Church to be present at the Silver Jubilee celebrations. The Finance Committee of the General Assembly informed this committee that a fare and expenses up to \$2,000 could be available to allow the Clerk of the General Assembly, the Rev. L. Farquhar Gunn, to visit the Church of South India on this occasion.

The purpose of such a visit was to enable the Clerk to see a United Church in action on the graph of provided the Clerk to see a United Church in action on the graph of particles.

Church in action on the eve of possible Church Union here in Australia, under the proposals contained in the Basis of Union.

However, the preparations for the Vote on Church Union make it rather

difficult for the Clerk to be absent from the country in January.

The Clerk is in receipt of an invitation to attend the Act of Union of the Presbyterian Church of England and the Congregational Church of Great Britain, anticipated late October, 1972.

The proposal therefore to the General Assembly is to vary the time for the Clerk's absence from January to late October. Mr. Gunn would visit the Church of South India whilst he is abroad, together with the United Church of Canada, the Presbyterian Church in Canada and such other Churches as can be arranged.

N. FAICHNEY, Convener.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

#### Voting on Church Union

A communication from the Code Committee indicated that the cost of printing voting papers, electoral registers, session and presbytery returns, etc., was estimated at \$961.50, plus sales tax, and distribution costs to the various States. The Code Committee also resolved that it would be imperative to provide assistance to the Clerk in connection with the preparation for voting and dealing with returns. The Finance Committee was asked to make provision for an amount up to \$2,500 for expenses connected with the taking of the vote.

#### State Assemblies

In view of the approximate time-table drawn up by the Code Committee it seems apparent that both New South Wales and Queensland will be required to hold pro re nata meetings of their Assemblies in the latter half of 1972. Queensland has estimated that this would involve travel costs of approximately \$2,700 and New South Wales estimated travelling expenses of not less than \$2,300. The Code Committee considers it would be fair to make any extra State expense a charge on the whole Australian Church and that the expense of taking the vote would therefore mean an additional assessment on all States.

#### General Assembly

Provision for the costs of the 1971 Assembly have been made in the accounts, but should there be an adjournment thereof and any substantial expenses arise therefrom, the Committee seeks authority to include such further expenses in assessments on the States.

#### Assistance to Moderators-General

The Committee has given serious consideration to the matter of assistance to Moderators-General during their term of office and recommends Assembly authority to meet the cost of pulpit supply for the Moderator-General, when involved in Moderatoral duties, up to an amount of \$1,500 for a triennium.

### Proposed Overseas Visit by Clerk

The Convener of the Committee on Ecumenical Affairs informed the Committee that the Church of South India had extended an invitation for a representative of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to attend the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of the Church between 10th and 15th January, 1972, at Bangalore. He proposed that the Clerk of the General Assembly accept this invitation and include a visit to Canada to observe the working of the United Church there, and confer with the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Travel costs are estimated at \$1,800. The Committee resolved to approve expenditure of not more than \$2,000 for the proposed visit and will ask the Assembly to approve its action.

## Committee on Relations with Other Presbyterian Churches

The Finance Committee has been asked to consider sharing with the Congregational Union the travel cost within Australia of the Rev. Fred Kaan, Secretary for Co-operation and Witness at W.A.R.C. Headquarters, during his proposed visit to Australia next year. While it is not anticipated that such share of costs would be very great, the opportunity is taken to ask Assembly authority for sharing such costs.

K. C. AULD, Convener.

## MISSIONS

Structures: Minutes GAA 1970 30: 9 and 10 and 74: 25 iii gave instructions for the Repeal of previous Articles of Agreement and attached regulations and enactment of New Articles of Agreement and a new form of structure expressed in regulations.

The date at which the New Articles and Regulations were to become

effective was set at 31st December, 1971.

For a variety of reasons, with which it is not necessary to burden the Assembly, the Board has not been able to maintain the planned Schedule and now finds it will not be ready to implement the new structures by 1st January, 1972.

The Board therefore asks for a delay in implementation and that a special commission be appointed to determine, on the advice of the Board, the date at which the New Articles and Regulations will become operative and to make the necessary appointments to the New Board.

> G. A. WOOD, Convener. J. M. STUCKEY, General Secretary.

## Communication

Communication 1-From Mr. W. S. Noble, Editor "Australian Presbyterian Life" re Resignation

Dear Mr. Gunn,

May I, through you, present to the General Assembly of Australia my resignation from the position of Editor of "Australian Presbyterian Life", effective from July 7, 1972. I do this for two reasons.

After well over 40 years of journalism, including 26 in daily metropolitan newspapers, I am beginning to feel the strain of responsibility for the production of a new paper each fortnight. The second reason is that I feel the Church is entitled to the benefit of a new mind in the direction of its paper. New tides are running in the Church, and I am conscious that my mind was moulded by different influences. I think now is the time to change. In any case, a term of 16½ years in control of the Church's papers is long enough to give anyone.

May I take the opportunity to express to the General Assembly my deep appreciation of the trust it reposed in me in allowing me to establish the first national paper in Australia and to carry it on over the succeeding years. I have always been conscious of the obligations this imposed on me, and at the same time have been made very much aware of the support I have had from the Assembly and from the Church as a whole. Without this it would have been impossible to meet the pressures and demands of the position.

I leave the editorship with a sense of deep gratitude that through it I have been able to discharge an obligation which I had known over many years was laid upon me.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. NOBLE.



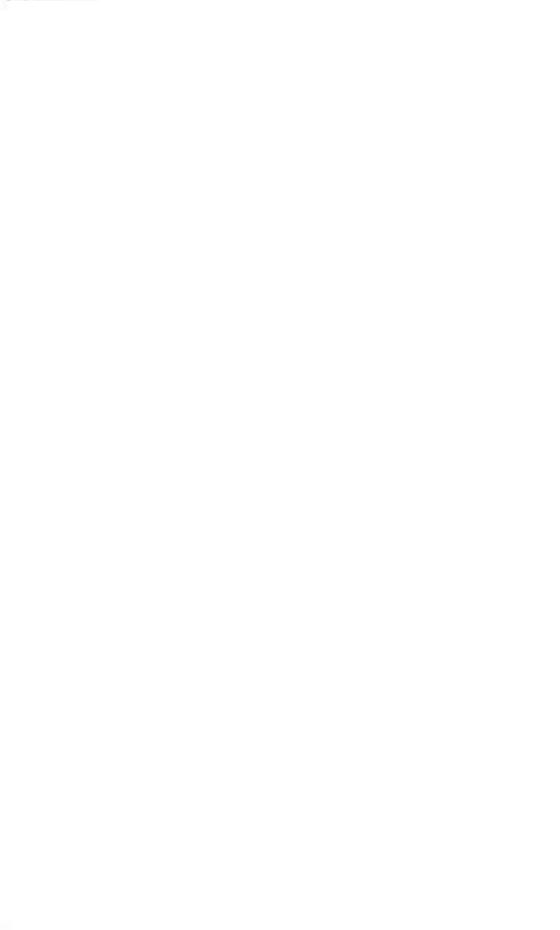
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