

MINUTES
OF
PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
THIRTY-EIGHTH
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
Presbyterian Church of Australia

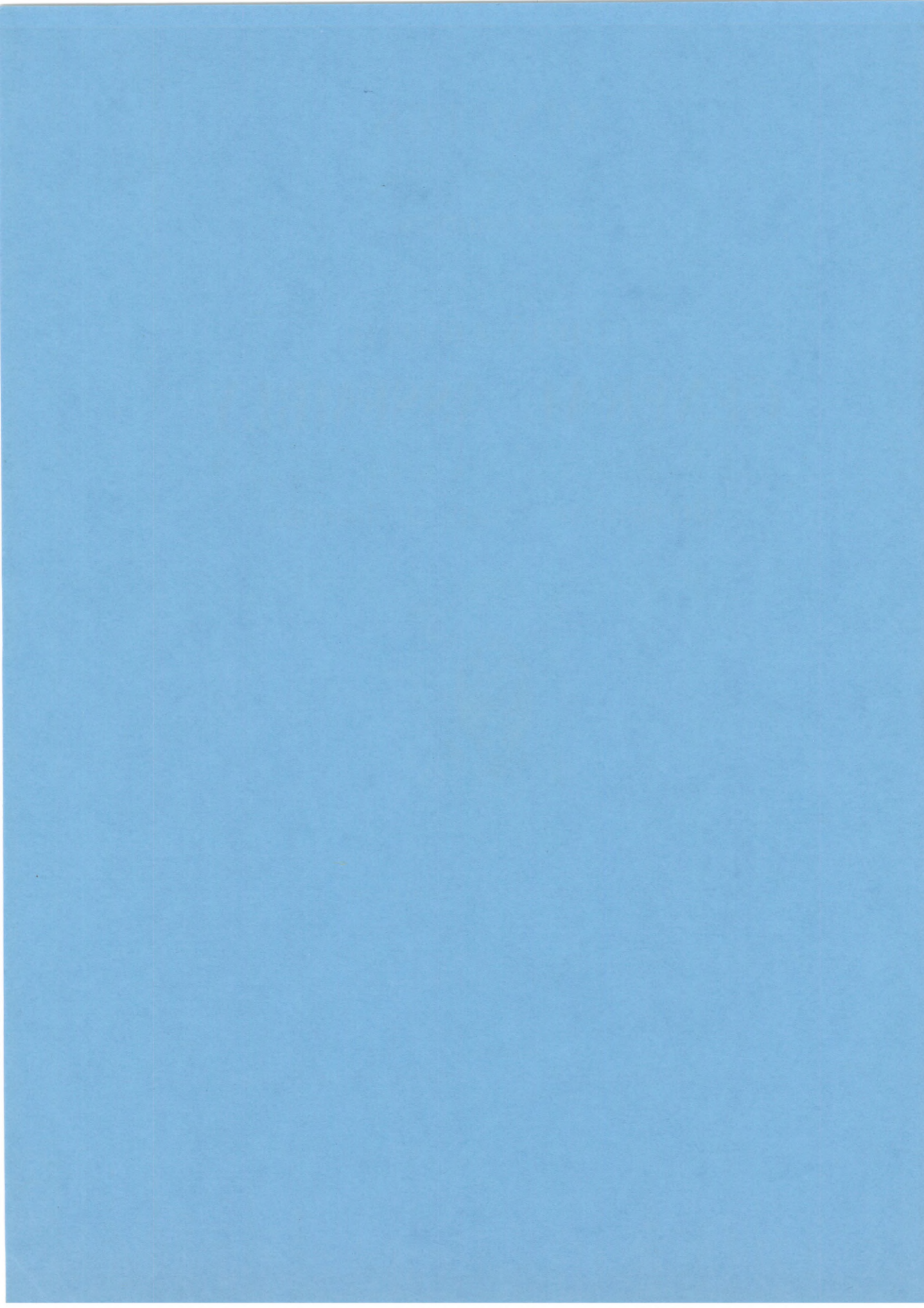


HELD IN SYDNEY, SEPTEMBER, 1982



/Melbourne:

Brown Prior Anderson Pty Ltd, Presbyterian Church Printers
5 Evans Street, Burwood 3125



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MODERATORS
of the
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA

Rev. Join Meiklejohn, D.D.*	1901
Rev. Aleeander Hay, D .D .d	1902
Rev. David Ebuc , D.D.*	1903
Rev. P.D. Mestech, M.A.*	1905
Rev. T.D. Cleoston, D .D .d	1906
Rev. Peete RoOeetton*	1907
Rev. JoOn FFetuson*	1909
Rev . W. D. RRieevcP	1910
Rev . J. LLVStnce RoiCoul, M. D. , D . D .*	1912
Rev. GGeite DDv^3!^c^on, M.D., D.D.*	1914
Rev. RRnalç; G. Mevintyre, C.M.G., I.B.E., M.A., D.D.* ..	1916
Rev. Join WiH r, D.D.d	1918
Rev. Jovee GGkson, M.D.d	1920
Rev. Join Mev nw, M.^., O.D.*	1922
Rev. Jovee C tnl Oon*	1924
Rev. R. SS iO-·West, D.I).*	1926
Rev. Aleiavdei Clow*	1928
Rev. Doncl d. A. C vmeon, M... ..	1930
Rev. G.D.S. RRe^, M.A., D.D.*	1933
Rev. Join Mevh ncie, M.A., D.D.*	1936
Rev. Join Flynn, O.D.E., D.D.*	1939
Rev. Rr ?;ii.eoi Mev iv l ay, B .D.. , D.D.*	1942
Rev. AleiavCei C. CGte-ÿv, B .^..	1945
Rev. JoSéev R. BBevchnrd, C.D.D., B.A., D.D.*	1948
Rev. BRhmt BBvOon, O.D.D., B.A.*.....	1951
Rev. Sir Fitvcie W. RRidand, O.D.D., M.C., M.A.*	1954
Rev. Do^ád Jo Fleihlart, M.D.*	1957
Rev. A^v C. Wavton, M.^., D.D.*	1959
Rev. Haehor Havoteon, O.D.E., M.A., B.D.*	1962
Rev. W.idddev FYisc, B .D^ ..	1964
Rev. Nennav Fivehney, B.D.....	1967
Rev. ovmeo FtiOetdil :^7, I.M.G., O.B.E., M.A., B.D...)	1970)
	1971)
Rev. Gieiev AHeet Mc^i^ ^n ^(^ l W d, B.D.....	1973
Rev. Nee^d. Mci v hLO d, A.M., M.A., D.D.....	1974

Rev. Kenneth Joseph Gardner, O.B.E..... 1977
Rev. James Mullan, B.A., Dip.R.E..... 1979
Rev. Norman Monsen 1982

* Deceased

** ** ** **

OFFICERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Right Reverend the Moderator

REVEREND NORMAN MONSEN
G.P.O. Box 100, Sydney 2001

Clerk of Assembly

REVEREND EDWARD R. PEARSONS
156 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

Deputy Clerk

RAYMOND P.W. JELL, Esq., A.R.E.I., A.I.C.M., J.P.
P.O. Box 291, Brisbane North Quay 4000

Business Convener

REVEREND HAROLD G. DURBIN E.D., B.A.
P.O. Box 682, North Sydney 2060

Procur ator

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472 Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000

Law Agent

LINDSAY J. MOORE, Esq., LL.B.
P.O. Box 122, West Wyalong 2671

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Rev . H.G. Durbin	Mr . J . C Mackillop
Rev . W.G. Camden	Mr . J . G Men z ies
Rev . C.R. Thomas	Mr . K . C Auld
Rev . C . E.J. Egan	Mr . J . E Sticpewich
Rev . A.G. Ingr am	Mr . C . R Brier ley
Rt. Rev. J. Mullan	Mr . K . J Swan
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TORRENS

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TASMANIA

Rev . C.J. Letcher Mr . A.J. Kiline r

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(Elected . by the General Ass embly)

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 Rev . R.W. Traill Mr . S . Hayden

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 Rev . J. Wilson Mr . J . B . S tewart

BENDIGO

Rev . R.W.D. WiIson Mr . E.K. S tone

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R e v R . Mathews

DDr . D . Hare
Mr . H. Boer

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Rev. J.F. Boyall	Mr . F . M . Bradshaw

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Two members nominated by Queensland Theological Education Committee

Committee

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Committee s

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Rev . G .F. Lyman	Rev . Prof. A.M. Harman
Rev . P . L Gordon	Rev . R . J. McCracken
Rev . J . Reid	Rev . A.C. Stubs

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Rt. Rev. N. Monsen	Mr . J . G Menzies
Rev. F. Aven t	Mr . D . A Conway
Mr. K.C. Auld	Mr . J . A Godfrey

Mr. J.E. Sticpewich

Two members nominated from Victoria
Two members nominated from Queensland
One member nominated from South Australia

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N.S.W. Social Service Committee

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Rev. H.G. Durbin	Mr. B. Henderson
Rev. D.E. Hawkins	Mr. J.C. Mackillop

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from Queensland and Victoria

One representative each from South Australia and Tasmania

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Re v . P . E . Bo as e	Mr. D.R. Brierley
	Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane

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Rev. M.J.K. Ramage	Rev. M.S. Grieve

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Rev . R.A. Caldwell	Rev .. E . R Pearsons
Mr. F.M. Bradshaw	

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Rev . J.M. Wilson	Mr . F.M. Bradshaw
Rev . J.J.T. Campbell	Mr . H .I .M. MacFarlane
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Rev. G.F. McDonald	

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(N.S.W.)	Rt. Rev. C.A. Harrison (VIC)
Very Rev. K.J. Gardner (QLD)	Rev .. M.J.K. Ramage (TAS)

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
THE THIRTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

First Sederunt

At Sydney and within the Scots Church, Margaret Street,
on Tuesday, 14th September, 1982 at 10.00 a.m.

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Constitution | 1. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened. Public Worship was conducted by the Right Reverend the Moderator-General, the Rev. James Mullan, B.A., Dip. R.E., assisted by his Chaplain, the Rev. D.L. Ferrington, B.A. Thereafter the Assembly was constituted with prayer. |
| Roll of
As sembly | 2. The Clerk laid on the Table the Roll of Assembly, intimated changes since the printing of the White Book and moved that it be given interim authority and presented for final confirmation at the third sederunt. The motion was seconded and approved. |
| Apologies | 3. The Clerk submitted apologies for non-attendance from Elders C.E. Baker, G.J. Bell and D.F. Wallace, and moved that they be sustained. The motion was seconded and approved. |
| Moderator
Elected | 4 . The Clerk intimated that the Board of Nominators had unanimously agreed to nominate to the House the Reverend Norman Monsen, as Moderator of this Assembly.

5. The Clerk moved that the Assembly accept the nomination and elect the Reverend Norman Monsen, Convener of the Presbyterian Inland Mission, as Moderator of this Assembly. The motion was seconded by the Deputy Clerk and approved with acclamation. |
| Induction of
Moderator | 6. The Reverend Norman Monsen was conducted to the chair, welcomed and inducted with prayer by the retiring Moderator. Thereafter he delivered a suitable address on the subject "God's Commitment in Christ". |
| Loyal Address | 7. The Clerk moved that the Assembly request the Right Reverend the Moderator to transmit through the Governor-General of Australia the following address to Her Majesty |

Queen Elizabeth :

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty,

May it please your Majesty,

We, your faithful subjects, Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened in General Assembly at Sydney in the State of New South Wales on the Fourteenth day of September, 1982, take leave to assure your Majesty of our loyalty and devotion to your Person and to the Throne.

We pray that God, Who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, may in His Grace continue to grant to Your Majesty, to His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip and to all members of Your Family, His providential care, protection and provision and to Your Majesty personally, all gifts needful for the discharge of the exacting duties of Your Royal Office.

May we express to Your Majesty our delight in the recent birth of His Royal Highness, the Prince William Arthur of Wales. It is a joy to us that in an age when so many of the traditional values are under threat or being swept away that Your Majesty maintains such loyalty to the institution of family life and unswerving devotion to the things of God.

We have the honour to be Your Majesty's faithful servants, Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Signed in our name and in our presence and at our appointing.

..... Moderator

The motion was seconded and approved.
The General Assembly sang the National Anthem.

Dr. G. Reid
Prof. D.
Macleod

8. The Very Rev. Dr. George Reid and Professor Donald Macleod from the Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland respectively being present in the House were welcomed by the Moderator. Thereafter Dr. Reid and Professor Macleod briefly addressed the House.

Business

9. The Report of the Business Committee was laid on the Table and received.
The Clerk moved the Deliverance.
The motion was seconded.

It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.
 Clause 1 was moved and seconded.
 Rt. Rev. S.J. Clements moved :-

That the Assembly :
 Amend Clause 1 of the Deliverance by the omission of
 the words "Rev. P.G. Logan" and the substitution of
 the words "Rev. H.G. Durbin".

The motion was seconded.
 On a point of order the Clerk moved that a Ballot be
 taken.
 The motion was seconded by the Procurator.
 The Moderator stated that Leave of the House was required.
 Leave was not granted.
 The amendment to Clause 1 was approved on a show of hands.
 Clause 1 as amended was approved as follows :-

That the Assembly :
 Appoint Rev. H.G. Durbin as the Business Convener of the
 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Clauses 2 to 11 were approved.
 Clause 12 as amended by leave was approved.
 Clause 13 was moved and seconded.
 Mr. R.P.W. Jell moved the omission of all words in
 Clause 13 with a view to inserting the following words :-

- "(a) Appoint an ad hoc Committee on Travel and Hospitality Arrangements for subsequent meetings of the General Assembly consisting of :
 Business Convener (Convener), Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Convener Finance Committee.
- (b) Direct the ad hoc Committee on Travel and Hospitality to make the necessary arrangements at least three (3) months in advance, by the most economical means possible, arranging hospitality wherever possible by means of billeting commissioners."

The motion was seconded and approved and the new words inserted.
 Clause 13 as amended, was approved.

Business
 Deliverance

10. The Deliverance as a whole as amended was approved as follows :-

- That the Assembly :
- (1) Appoint the Rev. H.G. Durbin as the Business Convener of the General Assembly of Australia.
 - (2) Determine the hours of meeting to be -
 Morning Sederunt - 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. with
 lunch interval from 12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.
 Evening Sederunt - 7.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m.

- (3) Declare speeches to be limited as follows :
- | | |
|---|------------|
| Convener moving all clauses of the deliverance together | 15 minutes |
| Seconder | 10 minutes |
- Alternatively -
- | | |
|--|------------|
| Convener speaking to each clause | 5 minutes |
| All other speakers | 5 minutes |
| Overturists, Petitioners, Complainants and Respondents | 10 minutes |
- Speeches extendable on the motion duly moved, seconded and agreed.
- (4) Appoint the Business Committee as follows :-
The Business Committee of the State in which the General Assembly is appointed to meet, the Clerks of the G.A.A., the Business Convener of the G.A.A. (as the Convener of the Committee). The Executive to act during the Assembly to be the Business Convener (Chairman), the Clerks, members of the Committee who are members of the Assembly.
- (5) (a) Appoint the Rt. Rev. C.A. Harrison to assist the Clerks.
(b) Appoint Mr. P.J. Graham as Assembly Officer.
- (6) Direct that Notices of Motion be in duplicate.
- (7) Declare the appointment of members be a clause in each Committee's deliverance for the approval of the Assembly.
- () Approve the Order of Business as follows for Tuesday, 14th September, 1982, after the Opening :
- FIRST SEDERUNT - as from 2.00 p.m.:
- Report of immediate past Moderator
 - Moderator's Committee
 - Code
 - Remits
 - Finance
 - The Trustees (N.S.W. - Federal)
 - Notice of Motion
- SECOND SEDERUNT- as from 7.00 p.m.
- P.W.A. (Federal)
 - Church and Nation
 - National Journal
 - Notices of Motion
- (9) Approve generally the Order of Business as follows :
- THIRD SEDERUNT - Wednesday, 15th September, 1982, as from 10.00 a.m. :
- Holy Communion
 - Christian Education - 11.30 a.m.
 - Stewardship and Promotion
 - Public Worship and Aids to Devotion
 - Notices of Motion
- FOURTH SEDERUNT- Wednesday, 15th September, 1982 as from 7.00 p.m.:
- Order of the Day for 7.15 p.m. - Australian Bi-Centennial Authority

Deputations
Overseas Missions
Defence Forces
Notices of Motion

FIFTH SEDERUNT - Thursday, 16th September, 1982,
as from 10.00 a.m. :
Reception of Ministers (in private)
Overtures and Petitions
College Committee
Complaints
Ballot - Order of the Day - 12 noon
(if necessary)
Relations with other Churches -
(Order of the Day 2.00 p.m.)
Benefic i ary
Notices of Motion

SIXTH SEDERUNT - Thursday 16th September, 1982, as
from 7.00 p.m. :
Presbyterian Inland Mission
Immigration
Maintenance of the Ministry
Ad Hoc Committee re Declaratory
Statement
Remane t s
Commission of Assembly Appointment
CLOSE

- (10) Appoint the Committee to Scrutinise the Minutes as follows : Rev. H.G. Durbin (Convener), A.G. Ingram and Mr. W.H. Miller.
- (11) Appoint the Selection Committee as follows :
- N.S.W. - Rev. R.A. Caldwell (Convener)
 - QLd. - Very Rev. K.J. Gardner
 - S.A. - Mr. R.W. Arstall
 - VIC. - Rt. Rev. C.A. Harrison
 - TAS. - Rev. M.J.K. Ramage.
- (12) Appoint the Ballot Committee as follows :
Dr. P.E. Lush (Convener), Rev. R.C. Clark and Mr. J.C. Mackillop.
- (13) (a) Appoint an ad hoc Committee on Travel and Hospitality Arrangements for subsequent meetings of the General Assembly consisting of :
Business Convener (Convener) , Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Convener Finance Committee .
- (b) Direct the ad hoc Committee on Travel and Hospitality to make the necessary arrangements at least three (3) months in advance, by the most economical means possible, arranging hospitality wherever possible by means of billetting commissioners.

Moderator's
Statement

11. The Very Rev. James Mullan presented the statement of the immediate Past Moderator.

The Clerk moved that the Assembly :-

- (a) Record their appreciation of the three years of devoted service to the Church by the immediate past Moderator, the Very Rev. James Mullan, B.A., Dip. R.E.
- (b) Express our thanks to Mrs. Mullan for the loyal support to her husband during his term as Moderator.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously with acclamation.

Moderator's
Committee

12. The Report of the Moderator's Committee was laid on the Table and received.

The Very Rev. James Mullan moved the deliverance, as follows :-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Appoint the Moderator's Committee as follows :
Rev. P.E. Boase, D.F. Murray, Messrs. D.R. Brierley, H.I.M. MacFarlane and the Moderator as Convener.
- (2) Appoint an Australian Bi-centennial Committee with authority to confer with appropriate authorities of State Assemblies and to report to the next Assembly with recommendations for celebrations by our church.
- (3) Appoint the Rev. P.E. Boase, (Convener), Rev. S.J. Clements, P.G. Logan, I.G. Stewart, Mesdames P. Hearfield, T. Hobbs, Mr. K. Swan the Australian Bi-centennial Committee and request all other states to appoint a corresponding member.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev. Roland
S . Ward

13. The Rev. Roland S. Ward, Moderator of the Australian Synod of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia being present in the House was welcomed by the Moderator and briefly addressed the Assembly.

Code

14. The Report of the Code Committee was laid on the Table and received.

The Rev. E.R. Pearsons moved the Deliverance :

That the Assembly :

- (1) Enact the following regulations anent Christian Education :
 - (a) The Board shall consist of sixteen members, Ministers and Elders, ten of whom shall be appointed on the nomination of the State Assemblies, four by New South Wales, two by Victoria, two by Queensland, one by Tasmania, one by South Australia, together with the Convener of the Christian Education Committee or its equivalent of each State Assembly or his deputy and the Convener of the Christian Education Committee of the Presbytery of

Western Australia or his deputy. Should a State Assembly fail to nominate the General Assembly shall appoint in its stead.

- (b) The members from New South Wales shall constitute the executive.
 - (c) The Convener shall be appointed by the General Assembly from among the members of the executive and, in the absence of an executive officer, shall be responsible for giving effect to the decisions of the Board.
 - (d) The Christian Education Committee or its equivalent of each State Assembly shall stimulate interest in and supervise Christian Education activity within the State and shall forward copies of the minutes of their meetings to the Board, together with information of new developments and items of interest in the work of Christian Education.
 - (e) The Board shall take into consideration the views of the State Committees and shall co-operate with them in every possible way in seeking to further the work of Christian Education throughout the Commonwealth.
 - (f) The Board shall particularly be responsible for issuing materials and publications, but without prejudice to State Assemblies, Presbyteries and Sessions issuing publications within their jurisdictions.
 - (g) The Finance Committee of the General Assembly is authorised to make funds available to the Board for administrative purposes.
 - (h) The Board shall report to each General Assembly.
- (2) Approve the method adopted by the last Assembly for the nomination of a Moderator and direct that effect be given to this procedure in nominating the Moderator of the next Assembly. The regulation to be :-

The General Assembly shall appoint a Committee to be called the Moderator's Nomination Committee and shall comprise the Moderator, the Clerk and two members from each of N.S.W., Victoria, Queensland, and one each from South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania; the Clerk to be Convener, to be appointed by their respective Assemblies.

The Convener shall circularise members no later than 31st October preceeding the Assembly asking for nominations to the office of Moderator; such nominations to be in the hands of the Convener no later than 31st December. All nominations must have the written consent of the person nominated and forwarded to the Convener with the nomination. The Convener then circularises the nomination to members

no later than 31st January for members to vote thereupon; such votes to be returned to the Convener no later than 28th February. The nomination receiving the majority of votes shall be declared Moderator Nominate. Should no nomination receive a majority of votes the Convener shall submit the two names having the highest number of votes to members no later than 31st March; such votes to be returned no later than 30th April. Should this procedure fail to provide a single nomination the Convener, the Moderator and Committee members from N.S.W., Victoria and Queensland shall meet to resolve the matter no later than 31st May. The Assembly Finance Committee shall make provision to meet the costs of travel and, where necessary, accommodation of members.

The Convener shall inform the person concerned of his nomination to the office of Moderator Nominate immediately following a decision being made by the Committee where appropriate to the procedures above.

(3) Appoint the Code Committee as follows :

Very Rev. James Mullan (N.S.W.), Mr. L.J. Moore (N.S.W.), Mr. R.P.W. Jell (Q'land), Mr. F.M. Bradshaw (Vic.), Mr. B.D. Bayston (Vic.), Rt. Rev. C.A. Harrison (Vic.), Rev. E.R. Pearsons (Vic.), Convener. The Victorian members to form the executive.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Finance

15 . The Report of the Finance Committee was laid on the Table and received.

Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane moved the Deliverance.

The motion was seconded and it was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 as amended by leave was approved.

Clauses 2 to 5 were approved.

Clause 6 was moved and seconded.

It was agreed to take clause 6 sub-clause by sub-clause :

Clause 6(a)(i) was approved.

Clause 6(a)(ii) as amended by leave was moved and seconded.

Rev. R.C. Clark moved that :

In Clause 6(a)(ii) the figure \$3,000 be deleted and the figure \$2,000 be substituted therefor.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 6(a)(ii) was approved.

Clause 6(a)(iii) as amended by leave was approved.

Clause 6(a)(iv) was moved and seconded.

Rev. R.C. Clark moved that :

In Clause 6(a)(iv) the figure \$6,000 be deleted and the figure \$2,000 be substituted therefor.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 6(a)(iv) was approved.

Clauses 6(b)(i) and (ii) were moved and seconded.

The debate on clause 6(b) was adjourned. (Min. 88).

Clause 6(c) was approved.

Clause 6(d) was approved.

Mr. G.S. Rutherford moved :

That the Assembly :

- (e) Instruct the Finance Committee to prepare a budget for the triennium to 1985 to include an estimate of expenditure in respect of Assembly Committees, honoraria, and travel and hospitality arrangements for commissioners to the next meeting of the General Assembly, for submission to State Finance or equivalent committees, by the 31st December, 1982;
- (f) Instruct the Finance Committee to prepare for submission to the next meeting of the General Assembly and each meeting thereafter, a budget to include an estimate of expenditure in respect of Assembly Committees, honoraria, and travel and hospitality arrangements for commissioners to the next meeting of the General Assembly, for adoption after prior submissions to State Finance or equivalent committees.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 7(a) was moved and seconded.

Rev. G.K. Kettniss moved :

That the Assembly :

Declare that all commissioners to the General Assembly having to travel more than 750 kilometres by rail shall be paid return economy air fare effective as from the rising of the House.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 7(b) was fallen from.

Clause (8) was approved.

The debate was adjourned (Min. 88).

- | | |
|--|---|
| Trustees | 16. The Report of the Trustees (N.S.W. Federal) was laid on the Table and received. |
| S t a n d i n g
Orders
Suspended | 17. Standing Orders were suspended to permit consideration of Overture 1. |
| Overture
No . 1 | 18. Overture No. 1 from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia anent the use of the Badge of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was laid on the Table and received.
Rev. G. McDonald and M.S. Grieve stated the Overture.
Rev. M.S. Grieve moved :

That the Assembly :
(1) Sustain the Overture.
(2) Enact that all State churches which by the Basis of Union and the Articles of Agreement of the 24th |

day of July, 1901 are constituent parts of the Presbyterian Church of Australia may, if they so desire, use the badge of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Law Agent moved that the Assembly :

Suspend Standing Orders for the purpose of recommitting the question anent Overture No. 1. The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Standing
Orders resumed

19. Standing Orders were resumed.

Standing
Orders
Suspended

20. Standing Orders were suspended to submit consideration of the Report of the Committee on Overseas Missions.

Overseas
Missions

21. The Report of the Overseas Missions Committee was laid on the Table and received.

The Very Rev. K.J. Gardner moved the Deliverance, which was seconded and approved as follows :-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Reaffirm our support, of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu as our main Category 1 involvement.
- (2) Thank Mr. and Mrs. Leon Thorpe for their valuable assistance and contribution during Mr. Thorpe's term as financial adviser to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.
- (3) Express appreciation of the fine work carried out by Rev. and Mrs. Peter Barnes at Tangoa Bible College and Mr. and Mrs. Ian Baird at Onesua High School.
- (4) Note with rejoicing the publishing of the New Testament in Bislama in 1980 and the work on the Old Testament which is continuing with meticulous devotion by Rev. W.G. Camden and his team.
- (5) Commend Mrs. Sue Camden to the prayers of the Church that her recovery may be complete.
- (6) Commend to the prayers and financial support of the Church, Presbyterian Missionaries working in dual membership.
- (7) Express our appreciation to the State committees and other interested people for their untiring work and financial support.
- (8) Appoint the Executive Committee as follows :
Very Rev. K.J. Gardner (Convener), the Rev. R.T. Missenden, F.W. White, R.P.F. Benn, M.M.Y Kim, Dr. E.J. Norton, Deaconess N.C. Smith, Mrs. K.J. Gardner, Messrs. D.J. Burnett, B.N. Layt and State Representatives.

Standing
Orders Resumed

22. Standing Orders were resumed.

- Standing Orders Suspended 23. Standing Orders were suspended to permit consideration of the Reports from the Committees on Immigration, Stewardship and Petition No. 1.
- Immigration 24. The Report of the Immigration Committee was laid on the Table and received.
Rev. R.O. Walder moved the Deliverance which was seconded and approved as follows :
- That the Assembly :-
- (1) Appoint the N.S.W. Social Service Committee as the G.A.A. Immigration Committee with the Rev. R.O. Walder, Convener.
- Stewardship 25. The Report of the Stewardship Committee was laid on the Table and received.
Rev. D.F. Murray moved the Deliverance which was seconded and approved as follows :-
- That the Assembly :
- (1) Encourage each State Assembly Committee on Stewardship to continue the task of stewardship education and practice, always ensuring that the Biblical emphasis on total commitment is made.
 - (2) Remind Sessions of the resolutions of the 1979 Assembly regarding Growth and Commitment, and request them to continue the task of evangelism and mission within and outside the local congregation .
 - (3) Instruct the Committee to confer with all State Stewardship Committees on trends, practice and implementation of Stewardship principles, and report to the next Assembly.
 - (4) Appoint the Committee : Rev. D.F. Murray (Convener)
Rev. N. Monsen, Rev. D.L. Ferrington, Messrs. J.E. Sticpewich, J.C. Mackillop, J.G. Menzies, with
Corresponding members : Rev. B.E.G. Napper,
Messrs. G. Newby, R.J. Kent, A.G. Matheson.
- Standing Orders Resumed 26. Standing Orders were resumed.
27. The Business Convener read Notices of Motion.
- Adjournment 28. The House adjourned to meet at 7.00 p.m. which having been duly intimated by the Moderator, the Sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

E.R. PEARSONS
R.P.W. JELL

Clerks

SECOND SEDERUNT

At Sydney and within the Scots Church, Margaret Street, on Tuesday, 14th September, 1982 at 7.00 p.m.

- Constitution 29. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.
- Communication 30. The Business Convener laid on the Table Communication No. 1 which was received.
- Delegations 31. The immediate Past President, Mrs. R. Fraser, immediate Past Acting Secretary, Mrs. P. Stirling and immediate Past Treasurer, Mrs. P. Allan of the Federal Executive of the Presbyterian Women's Association were presented to the Moderator who welcomed them and expressed the appreciation of the whole Church for the work and witness of the Association of the past three years .
Mrs. Fraser addressed the House.
Thereafter the President, Mrs. J. Mullan, Senior Vice President, Mrs. J. Sticpewich, Secretary, Mrs. H. Charlton and Treasurer, Mrs. D. Fell of the Federal Executive of the Presbyterian Women's Association were presented to the Moderator who welcomed them and expressed the hopes and prayers of the Assembly for the continued work and witness of the Association for the next three years.
Mrs. Mullan addressed the House.
- P.W.A.
- Church and Nation 32. The Report of Church and Nation Committee was laid on the Table and received.
Rev. C.E.J. Egan moved the Deliverance.
The motion was seconded.
It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause. Clause 1 was moved and seconded.
It was agreed to take Clause 1 sub-clause by sub-clause. Clause 1(a) was moved and seconded.
Rev. G.K. Kettmiss moved :-
That the Assembly :
Amend Clause 1 to read as follows :
(a) Urge the Australian Government -
 (i) To pursue.....promote world peace .
 (ii) To ensure that our defence forces and equipment are such as to adequately withstand the attack of hostile powers.
The motion was seconded.

Arising out of debate Rev. J.J.T. Campbell moved :-

That the Assembly :

Delete the word "withstand" and insert in lieu thereof the words "play their part in withstanding".

The Moderator ruled that leave of the House was required.

Leave' was not granted.

The motion was approved.

Clause 1(a)(i) and (ii) as amended was approved.

Clause 1(b) was moved and seconded.

Rev. G.K. Kettniss moved :-

That the Assembly :

Add after the word "people" the words "while pursuing policies that will ensure the livelihood and well-being of the Australian people."

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 1(b) as amended was approved.

Rev. G.K. Kettniss moved :-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Add a new clause (c) Express concern with the rising unemployment rate and the number of Australians below the poverty lines.
- (2) Add a new clause (d) Urge the Church and its congregations to actively and compassionately help those who have needs because of the current economic situation.
- (3) Renumber Clause 1(e) as Clause 1(e) .

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 1(e) as renumbered was approved.

Clauses 2 to 4 were approved.

The Deliverance as a whole, as amended, was approved as follows :-

That the Assembly :

- (1) (a) Urge the Australian Government -
 - (i) to pursue policies that encourage genuine disarmament negotiations with all countries, both with respect to the present stockpile of arms, and the further production of both conventional and nuclear weapons, in order to reduce the arms race and to promote world peace;
 - (ii) to ensure that our defence forces and equipment are such as to adequately withstand the attack of hostile powers.
- (b) Encourage the Australian Government to promote policies that enable full exchange of goods and people between all nations, and so generate increased understanding and goodwill between people while pursuing policies that will ensure the livelihood and well-being of the Australian people .

- (c) Express concern with the rising unemployment rate and the number of Australians being below the poverty lines.
 - (d) Urge the Church and its congregations to actively and compassionately help those who have needs because of the current economic situation.
 - (e) Advise the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition of resolutions 1(a) - (c).
- (2) Send the report down to Presbyteries and Sessions for study and comment and report to the Church and Nation Committee by December 1984.
 - (3) Request the G.A.A.'s Christian Education Committee to examine the opportunities offered by the proposed domestic satellite for the propagation of the Gospel.
 - (4) Appoint the N.S.W. Church and Nation Committee as the G.A.A.'s Church and Nation Committee, with the following to act as corresponding members :
Rev. J.J.T. Campbell (Q'land), Rev. N.M. Pritchard (Vic.), Rev. M.J.K. Ramage (Tas.), Rev. G.L. Chippis (W.A.), and Mr. A.G. Matheson (S.A.) with Rev. Campbell Egan (Convener).

National
Journal

33. The Report of the National Journal Committee was laid on the Table and received.

Rev. E.N. Paxton moved the Deliverance.

The motion was seconded.

Clauses 1 to 4 were approved.

Rev. J.J.T. Campbell moved :

That the Assembly :

Commend to ministers and congregations for use in intercessory prayer at public worship, prayer meetings and other church gatherings, the specific points listed for the relevant dates in the "Presbyterian Prayer Partnership" section of the Journal, and in the "Book of Family Worship".

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clauses 5 and 6 were amended by leave of the House and approved.

Clause 7 as amended by leave of the House was approved.

The Deliverance as a whole, as amended, was approved as follows : -

That the Assembly :

- (1) Notes with appreciation the generosity of the Victorian Trusts Corporation in writing off the debt incurred by "Australian Presbyterian Life".
- (2) Expresses appreciation to Rev. B.K. Burton for his work as Editor of "Australian Presbyterian Life", and to Rev. K.W. Burton for his work as Convener of the Committee and Business Manager, in a period of critical importance in the history of the Journal.

- (3) Confirms that the Journal appear in its present format and that the policy and content reflect the concept of a family magazine committed to the development of a national outlook, the reporting of Church activities on a State and National level, and the upholding of the standards of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- (4) Urges all courts of the Church to commend "Australian Presbyterian Life" to all members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and to recommend to Committees of Management the bulk supply concept of distribution.
- (5) Commends to ministers and congregations for use in intercessory prayer at public worship, prayer meetings and other church gatherings the specific points listed for the relevant dates in the "Presbyterian Prayer Partnership" section of the Journal and in the "Book of Family Worship".
- (6) Confirm the appointment of the Rev. C.R. Thomas as Editor of "A.P.L." until 31st December, 1985, on terms and conditions approved by the Committee.
- (7) Confirm the appointment of the Rev. D.H. Robinson as Business Manager until 31st December, 1985, on terms and conditions approved by the Committee.
- (8) Appoint the National Journal Committee as follows :
 N.S.W. : Rev. E.N. Paxton (Convener), C.R. Thomas,
 D.H. Robinson, Mrs. J. Sticpewich.
 Vic. : Rev. R. Humphreys, P. Hastie.
 Q'ld. : Mr. R.P.W. Jell, Mr. S.G. Craig.
 Tas. : Rev. M.J.K. Ramage.
 S.A. : Mr. A.G. Matheson.
 W.A. : Mr. R. Kent.

Standing Orders
Suspended

34. Standing Orders were suspended for the purpose of consideration of Overture No. 9. Overturists Dr. P.E. Lush and Rev. A.G. Ingram stated the Overture anent the Crest of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. The Debate was adjourned (Min. 89).

Standing Orders
Resumed

35. Standing Orders were resumed.

Notices of Motion were read by the Business Convener.

Adjournment

36. The House adjourned to meet on Wednesday, 15th September, 1982, at 10.00 a.m. in the Scots Church for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper which having been duly intimated the Sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

E.R. PEARSONS
R.P.W. JELL

Clerks

THIRD SEDERUNT

At Sydney and within the Scots Church for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Wednesday, 15th September, 1982, at 10.00 a.m.

- Constitution 37. Thereafter the Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer at 11.30 a.m.
- Welcome
Dr. W.T. Davis 38. The Rev. Dr. W.T. Davis, a minister of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America being present in the House was welcomed by the Moderator and briefly addressed the Assembly.
- Roll of
Assembly 39. The Clerk moved that the roll as amended be declared the roll of this General Assembly.
- Christian
Education 40. The Report of the Christian Education Committee was laid on the Table and received.
Rev. C.R. Thomas moved the Deliverance which was seconded and approved as follows :-
- That the Assembly :
- (1) Note with satisfaction the Christian Education Committee's expanding publication programme, commending the same for use throughout the Church.
 - (2) Note the Committee's willingness to share its experience of publishing with other committees, organisations and individuals, and encourage such sharing to take place.
 - (3) Note with pleasure that the work of Christian Education is now well established in every state, and commend each state instrumentality for its distinctive contribution to the work of Christian Education.
 - (4) Appoint the Christian Education Committee as follows :

N.S.W.:	Rev. C.R. Thomas (Convener), Rev. D.A. Cook, Messrs. J. Jones and N. Sandon.
Vic. :	Rev. R. Humphreys and Mr. R. Sievers.
Q'land:	Rev. R. Clark and Mr. J.R. Mansfield.
Tas. :	Rev. C.J. Letcher.
S.A. :	Rev. T. Fishwick.
W.A. :	Rev. G.L. Chipps.

 Together with the Convener of the Christian Education Committee, or its equivalent, in each State Assembly or his deputy.

- (5) Authorise State Christian Education Committees to appoint alternative members if necessary.
- (6) Authorise the executive to appoint a substitute convener if necessary.

Notices of Motion

41. Notices of Motion were read by the Business Convener.

Public Worship and Aids to Devotion

42. The Report of the Public Worship and Aids to Devotion Committee was laid on the Table and received. Rev. D.F. Murray moved the Deliverance. The motion was seconded. It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause. Clause 1 was approved. Clause 2 was approved. Clause 3 was moved and seconded. Rev. G.K. Kettmiss moved :-

That the Assembly :

Send down (i) the First Part of the proposed Book of Common Order; and
(ii) the Reformed Book of Common Order as published by the National Church Association of the Church of Scotland to Presbyteries and Assemblies for consideration and report, replies to be in the hands of the Committee by 31st December, 1983.

The motion was seconded.

The H.I.M. MacFarlane asked a question of Procedure. The Moderator ruled that by implication the Reformed Book of Common Order would be received by the Assembly if the motion were approved.

Rev. M.J.K. Ramage sought leave of the House to move :

That the Assembly :

Insert the words "commend for consideration" before figure (ii) in the Notice of Motion.

Leave was not granted.

Arising out of debate Mr. R.P.W. Jell moved :

That the Assembly :

Insert the words "at the expense of Presbyteries and Assemblies" in clause (ii) after the words "Church of Scotland".

The Moderator ruled that leave of the House was required as the proposed amendment altered the substance of the motion.

Leave was not granted.

The debate was adjourned on Clause 3 (Min 87).

Clause 4 was moved and seconded.

Mr. R.P.W. Jell moved :-

That the Assembly :

- (a) Commend the Revised Church Hymnary and Scottish Psalter to congregations of the Church for use in public worship; and
- (b) Request Oxford University Press to reprint the following editions of the Revised Church Hymnary and Scottish Psalter :
- Standard Staff Edition
 - Non-pareil Edition
 - Melody Edition
 - Large Print Edition
 - Presentation Editions - black and white moroccoette.

The motion was seconded and approved on a show of hands. Clause 4 as amended was approved.

Rev. R.A. Humphreys moved :-

That the Assembly :

Request the Committee in liaison with the G.A.A. Christian Education Committee to produce an Australian Presbyterian Psalter-Hymnal with a view to a draft of such book being available at the next General Assembly of Australia.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 5 was approved.

The debate was adjourned (Min 87).

Beneficiary
Fund

43. The Report of the Beneficiary Fund Committee was laid on the Table and received.

Mr. F. Young moved the Deliverance.

That the Assembly :

Appoint the Committee - Mr. F. Young (Convener), the Conveners of the Beneficiary/Superannuation Funds of Queensland, Victoria, N.S.W., Rev. F. Avent, Mr. R. Kretchmer.

The motion was seconded.

Rev. R.C. Clark moved :-

That the Assembly :

Approve the establishment of a Beneficiary Fund for the Presbyterian Church of Australia, based on the fund already established by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, for Ministers, Home Missionaries and permanent staff members.

The motion was seconded.

Rev. J. Reid moved, arising out of debate:

That the Assembly :

Delete all words after the word "Australia".

The Moderator ruled that leave of the House was required for the motion.

Leave was not granted.

The Clerk questioned the competency of Clause 1 of the Notice of Motion of Rev. R.C. Clark.

The Moderator ruled the motion to be incompetent.

Rev. R.C. Clark moved :

That the Assembly :
 Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.
 The motion was seconded and disapproved and the
 Moderator's ruling upheld.
 Rev. R.C. Clark moved :-

That the Assembly :
 Appoint the Beneficiary Fund Committee of the General
 Assembly of Australia as follows :
 Mr. R.W. Pilkington (Convener), Rev. G.C. Lake, Rev.
 R.C. Clark, Mr. G.A. Wallace (Secretary), Mr. L.J.
 Luscombe, Mr. W.W. Meadows, Mr. G. Rodgers as the
 National Committee Executive, with corresponding
 members from other States.
 The motion was seconded and approved.
 The Deliverance as amended was approved as follows :

That the Assembly :
 Appoint the Beneficiary Fund Committee of the General
 Assembly of Australia as follows :
 Mr. R.W. Pilkington (Convener), Rev. G.C. Lake, Rev.
 R.C. Clark, Mr. G.A. Wallace (Secretary), Mr. L.J.
 Luscombe, Mr. W.W. Meadows, Mr. G. Rodgers as the
 National Committee Executive, with corresponding
 members from other States.

Overture 7

44. The Overture No. 7 from the Presbytery of Ku-ring-ga:
 anent a National Superannuation Fund was laid on the
 Table and received.
 Rev. P.G. Logan and J. Reid stated the Overture.
 Rev. P.G. Logan moved :-

That the Assembly :
 (a) Sustain the Overture.
 (b) Request the Beneficiary Fund Committee to
 institute a National Superannuation Scheme for
 the Presbyterian Church of Australia as soon as
 practicable.
 The motion was seconded and approved.

Maintenance
 of the
 Ministry

45. The Report of the Maintenance of the Ministry
 Committee was laid on the Table and received.
 Mr. D.R. Brierley moved the Deliverance which was
 seconded and approved as follows :

That the Assembly :
 Reappoint the Committee comprising two representatives
 each of the Executive of the Ministry and Mission
 Committee from Queensland and Victoria, one each from
 South Australia and Tasmania and six from New South
 Wales, who shall comprise the Executive - Mr. D.R.
 Brierley (Convener), Messrs. B. Henderson and J.C.
 Mackillop and Rev. H.G. Durbin, D.E. Hawkins and
 D.L. Ferrington.

- Communication No . 2 46. Communication No. 2 was laid on the Table and received .
- Communication No . 3 47. Communication No. 3 was laid on the Table and received.
- Overture No . 4 48. The Overture No. 4 from the Presbytery of Brisbane anent Women in the Ministry was laid on the Table and received on a show of hands.
The Overturists were called to state the Overture.
The Debate anent Overture No. 4 was adjourned (Min 83).
- Overture No . 3 49. The Overture No. 3 from the Presbytery of Brisbane anent Admission of Women to the office of the Eldership was laid on the Table and received on a show of hands .
The Very Rev. K.J. Gardner and Rev. P.J. Barson stated the Overture .
The Debate was adjourned (Min 58) .
- Minutes 50. The Minutes of the first and second sederunts were laid on the Table and confirmed.
- Notices of Motion 51. Notices of Motion were read.
- Ad j o urnment 52. The House adjourned to meet at 7.00 p.m., which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

E.R. PEARSONS
R.P.W. JELL

Clerks

FOURTH SEDERUNT

At Sydney and within the Scots Church, Margaret Street,
Sydney, on Wednesday, 15th September, 1982, at 7.00 p.m.

- Constitution 53. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.
- Deputation:
Australian
Bi-centennial
Author i ty 54. Mr. John Reid, Chairman of the Australian Bi-centennial Authority being present in the House was welcomed by the Moderator and briefly addressed the As s embly.
- Overture No. 6 55. The Overture No. 6 anent the revision of Regulations of the Committee on Missions was laid on the Table and received.
The Very Rev. K.J. Gardner and Rev. R.T. Missenden stated the Overture.
Questions were asked.
The Very Rev. K.J. Gardner moved :-
That the Assembly :
(1) Sustain the Overture.
(2) Remit the Overture to State Assemblies and Presbyteries under the Barrier Act Procedure for approval or disapproval.
(3) Instruct all returns to this remit to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by the 31st December, 1983.
The motion was seconded and approved.
- Overture No . 2 56. The Overture No. 2 anent distribution of minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia from the Presbytery of Ku-ring-gai was laid on the Table and received. Rev. C.D. Balzer and J. Reid stated the Overture.
Questions were asked.
Rev. J. Reid moved :-
That the Assembly :
(1) Sustain the Overture.
(2) Provide copies of the Minutes of this and every subsequent Assembly to every ordained Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
The motion was seconded.
Mr. D.R. Brierley moved :
That the Assembly :
Substitute the following clause for Clause 2 in the Notice of Motion :
"Provide copies of the Minutes of every subsequent Assembly to every ordained Minister in the Presbyterian Church of Australia, every Kirk Session and Presbytery of the said Church."
The motion was seconded.

The Previous Question was moved by the Deputy Clerk, seconded and disapproved.

The amendment was disapproved.

The motion was disapproved.

The Clerk moved that the Assembly:-

Dismiss the Overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Defence Forces
Chaplaincy

57. The Report of the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee and addendum were laid on the Table.

Rev. K.J. Gibson moved the Deliverance.

The motion was seconded.

It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded.

It was agreed to take Clause 3 sub-clause by sub-clause.

Clause 3(a) was approved.

Clause 3(b) was approved.

Clause 3(c) was moved and seconded.

By leave of the House Clause 3(c) was amended and approved.

Clause 3(d) was approved.

Clauses 4 to 6 were approved.

Clause 7 as amended was approved.

Clause 8 was approved.

Clause 9 was approved.

Clause 10 was moved and seconded.

Rev. P.A. Davidson moved :-

That the Assembly :

Amend Clause 10 to read "..... Rev. J. Reid (Convener)...."

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 10 was approved.

The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows :-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Ratify the decisions and actions -of the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee.
- (2) Record with appreciation the many years of faithful service of Principal Chaplain W. Bates, R.A.N. on his retirement.
- (3) (a) Note the changes that have taken place in the structure of the Defence Forces in regard to the administration of its Chaplains.
 - (b) Repeal the Interim Regulations B.B. 1948 Min. 126 Sections I, II, III.
 - (c) Enact the following regulations, until the next meeting of the General Assembly.
 1. Each Assembly shall appoint a committee of 8 members to be the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee which, subject to the direction of the General Assembly, shall act for the General Assembly of Australia in matters

concerned with the Department of Defence and Chaplaincy services associated with the Australian Defence Forces.

2. The Presbyterian member of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services shall be the Convener of the Committee.
3. Where the Principal Chaplain of the Navy, Army or Air Force is a Minister of the Presbyterian Church he shall be a member of the Committee.
4. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the membership of the Committee it may appoint a member of the State in which the vacancy occurs till the next Assembly.
5. The Committee shall have an executive to attend to such matters as may be referred to it.
6. The nomination of a Minister of the Word and Sacraments for appointment as "The Presbyterian Member of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services" shall be made by the Moderator-General for the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Assembly's Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee.
7. The Presbyterian Member of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services shall be answerable to the General Assembly and its Committee at all times. The Presbyterian Member of the R.A.C.S. shall not have the authority to commit the Presbyterian Church to any change of policy or practice within the Defence Forces without the approval of the General Assembly of Australia or its Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee.
8. As the authorised representative of the Presbyterian Church to the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services, the Presbyterian Member shall -
 - (1) offer advice to the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services on matters of denominational policy as it relates to the religious and spiritual well-being of all members of the Defence Forces;
 - (2) offer advice on the appointment of Principal Chaplains within the three services, and on the appointment of Senior Chaplains Army;
 - (3) maintain an interest in and exercise pastoral care and oversight of Chaplain service personnel and their families.

- (4) initiate the recruitment and nomination of Chaplains for duty within the Services; and
 - (5) monitor the return of Chaplains to civilian appointments in accordance with Service and denominational requirements .
9. Each State Assembly shall as far as may be practicable or desirable, appoint a Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee to assist the work of Service Chaplains within each State, and in particular to ensure that Chaplains posted within the bounds are associated with an appropriate Presbytery.
10. The State Assembly Committees shall refer to the General Assembly of Australia's Committee all nominations and all matters that require communication with the services and Department of Defence.
- (d) Request the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee to draft new Regulations in the light of changing structures within the Defence Forces .
 - (4) Support the Ministries of all serving Chaplains in the Defence Forces and uphold them in prayer.
 - (5) Request all State Assemblies, and Theological Halls, to ever keep in mind the need for new candidates for selection as Defence Forces Chaplains Naval, Army and Air Force.
 - (6) Note that administration of Army Chaplains is now under the technical control and direction of Principal Chaplain, Brigadier David Griffith of the Baptist Church; Air Force Chaplains are administered by Principal Chaplain Air Commodore J. Reid, Presbyterian, and Navy Chaplains by Principal Chaplain Commodore W. Rosier U.C.A.
 - (7) Record with deep regret the deaths of the Rev. Raymond C. Russell, O.B.E. who held the office of Convener for twenty-two years and Rev. C.T.F. Goy, O.B.E.
 - (8) Record with regret the death of Rev. E. New M.B.E., who served as a Chaplain at Home and in Korea with particular distinction.
 - (9) Record the Retirement of Rev. E.J. Hale, R.A.N.R., Chaplain in July, 1982.
 - (10) Appoint the committee Rev. K.J. Gibson (Convener), G.F. Lyman, P.L. Gordon, P. Hastie, Prof. A.M. Harman, R.J. McCracken, J. Reid and A.C. Stubs.

Debate
Resumed
Overture 3

58. The Debate anent Overture 3 was resumed (Min 49) .
The Very- Rev. K.J. Gardner and Rev. P.J. Barson were called to continue to state the Overture.
Questions were asked.
The Debate was adjourned (Min 73) .

Notices of
Motion

59. Notices of Motion were read.

Ad j ournment

60. The House adjourned to meet at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 16th September, 1982, which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

E.R. PEARSONS

R.P.W. JELL

Clerks

FIFTH SEDERUNT

At Sydney and within the Scots Church, Margaret Street,
on Thursday, 16th September, 1982, at 10.00 a.m.

- Constitution 61. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.
- Business 62. The Business Convener submitted the Report of the Business Committee which was received and approved.
- In Private 63. The House sat in Private.
- Reception of Ministers 64. The Report and Addendum of the Committee on Reception of Ministers was laid on the Table and received.
The Rt. Rev. Norman Monsen moved the Deliverance.
The motion was seconded.
It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.
Clause 1 was approved.
Clause 2 was approved.
Clause 3 was moved and seconded.
Rev. R.A. Caldwell moved :-
- That the Assembly :
Amend Clause 3 of the Deliverance by deleting the name "H.G. Weir".
The motion was seconded and approved.
Clause 3 as amended was approved.
Clause 4(a) and (b) was disapproved.
Clause 5 was moved and seconded.
The Deputy Clerk moved :-
- That the Assembly :
Appoint the Rt. Rev. Norman Monsen as Convener.
The motion was seconded and approved.
Clause 5 as amended was approved.
Clause 6(a) was approved.
Clause 6(b) was moved and seconded
Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker moved :
- That the Assembly :
Add the words "and two exit these" after the word in line 3 "study".
The motion was seconded and disapproved.
Clause 6 (b) was approved.
Clause 7 (a) was approved.
Clause 7 (b) was approved.
Clause 8 (a) was approved.
Clause 8 (b) was approved.
Clause 9 (a) was approved.
Clause 9 (b) was approved.
Clause 10 (a) was approved on a show of hands.
Dissent Mr. R.P .W. Jell recorded dissent.
Clause 10 (b) was approved.

Clause 11(a) was approved.
 Clause 11(b) as amended was approved.
 By leave Rev. H.J. Gallagher moved :

That the Assembly :
 Request the Committee in future to include in confidential papers a summary of the petitioners personal reasons for petition.
 The motion was seconded and approved.
 The Deliverance as a whole as amended was approved as follows : -

That the Assembly :

1. Request Presbytery Clerks to observe the Regulations when dealing with Calls and Petitions of Ministers of other Churches and confer thereanent with the Committee.
2. Approve a reprint of the Regulations of the Reception of Ministers Committee and authorise the Finance Committee to meet the cost thereof.
3. Withdraw the Petitions of Rev. J.C. Paterson ' and Mr. J.D. Ottway.
4. Appoint the Committee as follows : Rt. Rev. N. Monsen (Convener), Rev. H.G. Durbin, R.A. Caldwell, G.R. Fullerton and Messrs. D.R. Brierley, J.C. Mackillop (N.S.W.), Rev. E.R. Pearsons, Mr. F.M. Bradshaw (Vic.), and the Very Rev. K.J. Gardner (Queensland).
5. (a) Grant the Prayer of the Petition of Rev. I.F. Ransom.
 (b) Receive Rev. I.F. Ransom as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to the completion of 1 year's full-time study (or 2 years' part-time study) to the satisfaction of the New South Wales Faculty and the College Committee.
6. (a) Grant the Prayer of the Petition of Rev. D. Secomb.
 (b) Receive Rev. D. Secomb as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to the completion of 1 year's full-time study (or 2 years' part-time study) to the satisfaction of the Queensland Faculty and the College Committee.
7. (a) Grant the Prayer of the Petition of Rev. C.R.D. Pietersz.
 (b) Receive Rev. C.R.D. Pietersz as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Geelong.
8. (a) Grant the Prayer of the Petition of Rev. J.C. McDiarmid.
 (b) Receive Rev. J.C. McDiarmid as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia under the

- jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Tasmania.
- 9 . (a) Grant the Prayer of the Petition of Rev. J.C. Allan.
- (b) Receive Rev. J.C. Allan as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Brisbane.
- 10 . (a) Grant the Prayer of the Petition of Rev. David Silas .
- (b) Receive Rev. David Silas as a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to the completion of the equivalent of 2 (two) years' full time study to the satisfaction of the N.S.W. Faculty and College Committee.
- 11 . Request the Committee in future to include in confidential papers a summary of the Petitioner's personal reasons for petition.

Petition
No . 1

65. The Petition No. 1 was laid on the Table and received. The Petitioners were called to the Bar. Petitioners Rev. M.S. Grieve and J.D. Gillman stated the Petition.
The Clerk moved:-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Grant the prayer of the Petition.
- (2) Receive the Reverend Harold Gibson Weir as a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to his completion of work in Presbyterian Doctrine, Polity and History by external studies and two exit theses to the satisfaction of the Victorian Senatus, the College Committee and under the guidance of the Theological and Christian Education Committee of the South Australian Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the Petitioners of the decision of the House.

The Petitioners were removed from the Bar.

Open Court

66. The House resumed in public.

Relations with
other Presby-
terian Churches

67. The Report of the Committee on Relations with other Presbyterian Churches was laid on the Table and received. The Very Rev. K.J. Gardner moved the Deliverance.
Clause 1 was approved.
Clause 2 was approved.
Clause 3 was approved on a show of hands.

Dissent

The Rev. G.F. McDonald, P.G. Logan, the Very Rev. J. Mullan J.F. Kirkpatrick recorded dissent.

Clause 4 was approved on a show of hands.

Clause 5 was approved.

Rev. J.J.T. Campbell moved :-

That the Assembly :

Authorise the Committee when thought advisable to open conversations with Presbyterian Churches within Australia other than those listed in Clause 5.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 6 as amended was approved.

The Deliverance as a whole as amended was approved as follows :-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Confirm our membership in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches.
- (2) Note with pleasure that Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane represented the Presbyterian Church of Australia at the General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches held in Ottawa, Canada, in August, 1982.
- (3) Apply for membership in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod.
- (4) . Approve the appointment of an observer at the Australian Council of Churches Executive meetings.
- (5) Authorise the Committee to continue consultation with representatives of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, the Reformed Church of Australia and the Westminster Presbyterian Church, with a view to fostering greater fellowship and fraternal relations.
- (6) Authorise the Committee when thought advisable, to open conversations with Presbyterian Churches within Australia other than those listed in Clause 5
- (7) Appoint the Committee as follows : Very Rev. K.J. Gardner (Convener), Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker, Rev. J.M. Wilson, J.J.T. Campbell and Messrs. R.P.W. Jll, G.S. Rutherford, F.M. Bradshaw, and H.I.M. MacFarlane; and the Rev. M. Ramage, B. Fraser and G.F. McDonald as corresponding members only.

Dissent and
Complaint
Rev . P.G. Logan

68. The Moderator called for the Dissent and Complaint of Rev. P.G. Logan, B.A., against the decision of the 117th Session of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales to appoint a Theological Education Committee. The Moderator called the parties to the Bar - the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales and Rev. P.G. Logan, B.A. The Clerk moved that the Complaint be received - the motion was seconded and approved. Papers in relation to the Complaint were laid on the Table, taken as read and received. The Complainant Rev. P.G. Logan was heard. The Respondent, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales, represented by the Rt. Rev. S.J. Clements and Rev. W.G. Camden, was heard.

The Appellant was heard in reply.

Questions were asked.

The Clerk moved :-

That the- Assembly :

Request the Procurator to make a statement in law.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator called upon the Procurator to make a statement in law in relation to the Complaint of Rev. P.G. Logan.

The Procurator addressed the Assembly.

The parties were removed from the Bar but permitted to be present to hear the debate.

The Clerk moved :-

That the Assembly:

Dismiss the Complaint.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The parties were recalled to the Bar and advised by the Moderator of the decision of the Assembly.

The parties were dismissed from the Bar.

Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane raised a point of privilege.

The Moderator ruled that the privileges of members of the Assembly had not been infringed.

Dissent and
Complaint
Mr. A . Duff

69. The Moderator called for the Dissent and Complaint of Mr. A. Duff against the decision of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales given on the thirteenth day of May, 1982, anent the "Overture to the said General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in New South Wales from several members of the Assembly anent the re-organisation of the Theological Hall".

The Moderator called the parties to the Bar - the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales and Mr. Alex Duff.

The Clerk moved that the Complaint be received - the motion was seconded and approved.

Papers in relation to the Complaint were laid on the Table, taken as read and received.

The Complainant, Mr. Alex Duff, was heard.

The Respondents, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales, represented by the Rt. Rev. S.J. Clements and Rev.

W.G. Camden were heard.

The Complainant was heard in reply.

The parties were removed from the Bar but permitted to hear the debate.

Questions were asked.

The Clerk moved :

That the Assembly :

Request the Procurator to make a statement in law.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator called upon the Procurator to make a statement in law in relation to the Complaint of Mr. Alex Duff.

The Procurator addressed the Assembly.
The Clerk moved :

That the Assembly :
Dismiss the Complaint.

The motion was seconded and approved.
The parties were recalled to the Bar and advised by the Moderator of the decision of the Assembly.

The parties were dismissed from the Bar.
The Very Rev. J. Mullan recorded dissent with reasons as follows :

Dissent

In the matter of the Complaint of the Rev. P.G. Logan against the decision of the N.S.W. General Assembly I dissent on the following grounds that while the Procurator properly advised the House on the matter of principles to be followed in reaching a decision his express advice to the House to dismiss the Complaint was improper.

It was moved :

That the Assembly :
Appoint Mr. F.M. Bradshaw to prepare an answer to the reasons for dissent of the Very Rev. J. Mullan.
The motion was seconded and approved.

Order of
Business
varied

70. The Order of Business was varied to permit consideration of Overtures 3 and 4 at 7 p.m. tonight.

Adjournment

71. The House adjourned to meet at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, 16th September, 1982 which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

E.R. PEARSONS
R.P.W. JELL

Clerks

SIXTH SEDERUNT

At Sydney and within the Scots Church, Margaret Street, on Thursday, 16th September, 1982, at 7.00p.m.

Constitution

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

Overture

73. The Overture No. 3 was resumed (Min 58).

No. 3

Questions were asked.

Resumed

The Rev. P.E. Boase raised a matter of privilege.

Rev. H.J. Gallagher moved the previous question.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Rev. P.J. Barson moved :-

That the Assembly :

Sustain the Overture.

Rev. J. Baillie questioned the competency of the Overture.

The Moderator ruled that the Overture was competent.

Rev. J. Baillie moved :-

That the Assembly :

Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker seconded the motion.

A Division with names recorded was called for in accordance with Standing Orders.

The Moderator intimated the result of the Division as follows :-

For : Ministers :

Rev. C. Abel, F. Avent, N.T. Barker, P.J. Barson,
R.P.F. Benn, J. Boyall, G.M. Bradbeer, J.J.T. Campbell,
B. Christian, D.A. Cook, R.T. Eyre, G. Fintelman,
J. Flavell, H. Gallagher, J. Gillman, M.S. Grieve,
K.G. Hamill, H.A. Humphreys, K.N.R. Innes, G. Kettmiss,
J.F. Kirkpatrick, J. Langbridge, R.J. Lee, C.J. Letcher,
G.F. Lyman, K.T. Martin, R.R. Mathews, J.T. Mercer,
R.T. Missenden, J.C. Morrow, B. Napper, D. Newman,
R.A. Osborn, M.J.K. Ramage, C.B. Riding, A.C. Stubs,
R. Swanton, P.W. Swinn, C.R. Thomas, H.G.D. Todd,
R.W. Traill, R. Williams, J.P. Wilson, R.W.D. Wilson.

For : Elders : F.W. Bennett, F.M. Bradshaw, G.W. Braid,

R.F. Burns, P.A. Burke, S. Craig, R.H. Crowther,
D. Fleming, A.J. Golder, L.W. Greenwood, E.J. Guy,
D.A. Hocking, A.J. Kilner, B.N. Layt, L.M. McKinnon,
W.H. Miller, G. Rutherford, B.T. Scott, K.J. Shepherdson,
D.F.L. Skerman, D.J. Topping, R.M. Walton

Total For 66

Against : Ministers : Rev. K.D. Allen, J. Baillie, J. S. Bain, P.E. Boase, Bruce Bowtell, J.F. Broadhead, F.J. Burke, P.A. Davidson, A.E. Dempster, H.G. Durbin, R.A.C. Caldwell, W.G. Camden, G.L. Chips, R. Clark, S.J. Clements, C. Egan, D.L. Ferrington, G.A. Fullerton, K.J. Gibson, P.L. Gordon, J.C. Harris, C.A. Harrison, D.E. Hawkins, F.A. Hoad, A.G. Ingram, E.M. Johnston, P.G. Logan, G.F. McDonald, G.A. Morrow, J. Mullan, D.F. Murray, G. Newall, G.M. Nichols, E.L. Noble, E.R. Pearsons, I.G. Stewart, K.B. Walker, R.O. Walder, W. Zurrer.

Against : Elders : R.G. Antill, T. Bartholomew, R. Beasley, H. Boer, C.R. Brierley, D.R. Brierley, H.R. Cameron, E.J. Campbell, W.H. Chawner, D. Conway, J.B. Craig, A.K. Dunlop, H. Falconer, H.K. Fraser, Mrs. J.E. Gill, D.L. Hare, J.D. Henderson, H.R. How, R.J. Jackson, R.P.W. Jell, A.D. Kings ton, P.E. Lush, R.G. McCarron, H.I.M. MacFarlane, J.C. Mackillop, J.G. Menzies, L.J. Moore, G.R.E. Nelson, F. Newall, C.H. Peake, E.A. Penfold, J. Ridley, S. Sayers, K.M. Smith, J.B. Stewart, J.E. Sticpewich, K.J. Swan, C.H. Thornton, H.J.L. Wearne, W.M. Webb, J. Willis

Total Against 80

and declared Overture 3 was not sustained.

It was moved, seconded and approved

That the Assembly :

Dismiss the Overture.

Rev. R.C. Clark moved :

That the Assembly :

- (1) Appoint a committee to -
 - (a) Study the whole question of the ministry of women within the Presbyterian Church of Australia;
 - (b) Invite state assemblies, presbyteries and sessions to make submissions to the committee to assist it in its task outlined in (a);
 - (c) Bring to the next and if necessary subsequent Assemblies :
 - (i) a report on its findings, and
 - (ii) proposed changes to rules if necessary and proposed new rules, if necessary, to ensure that the church is functioning in accordance with its supreme standard.
- (2) Appoint the Committee : Rev. P. Barson (Convener), Rev. Prof. F.N. Lee, Rev. Prof. N. Barker, Rev. R.T. Missenden, Deaconess M.A. Moodie with 2 corresponding members to be appointed to the committee by each state assembly except that of Queensland.

The Deputy Clerk asked the Moderator to rule on the competency of the motion.

The Moderator ruled the motion to be competent.

The Deputy Clerk moved :-

That the Assembly :

Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded, and disapproved and the

Moderator's ruling was upheld.

The Previous Question was moved, seconded and

disapproved.

The Clerk moved the adjournment of the debate to be

taken up following Overture No. 4.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane questioned the competency of

Clause 1(e) of the motion.

Rev. P.E. Boase raised a question of privilege.

The Moverator ruled the motion was competent.

Mr. L.J. Moore moved :-

That the Assembly :

Disagree with the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded and approved on a show of hands, and the Moderator's ruling disagreed with and

the motion declared incompetent.

Notices of
Motion

74. Notices of Motion were read.

Business

75. The Report of the Business Committee was received .

Adjournment

76. The House adjourned to meet on Friday, 17th September, 1982, at 10.00 a.m. which having been duly intimated the sederunt was closed with the Benediction.

R. PEARSONS

R.P.W. JELL

Clerks

SEVENTH SEDERUNT

At Sydney and within the Scots Church, Margaret Street, on Friday, 17th September, 1982, at 10.00 a.m.

- Constitution 77. The Assembly met pursuant to adjournment and was constituted with prayer.
- Answers to
Reasons for
Dissent 78. The Business Convener read the Report of the Procurator - Answers to Reasons for Dissent as follows :
1. When the Procurator is asked by resolution of the Assembly to advise it on a question of law calling for Assembly action, and not one of fact or discretion, such advice is incomplete if it fails to cover what action the Assembly should take .
 2. Failure to indicate appropriate Assembly action in such a case may either mean that members of the Assembly who accept the advice do not understand what is the appropriate action thereon, or the Procurator may be accused of surreptitiously influencing the result.
 3. The grounds for dissent concede that the Procurator correctly advised the Assembly on the principles of law applicable. These could lead to only one conclusion, and that was stated to the Assembly.
- Business 79. The Order of Business as amended was approved.
- Presbyterian
Inland
Mission 80. The Report of the Presbyterian Inland Mission Committee was laid on the Table and received. The Rt. Rev. N. Monsen moved the Deliverance. The motion was seconded. It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause. Clause 1 was approved. Rt. Rev. N. Monsen moved :-
- That the Assembly :
- (a) Amend the Constitution : By the deletion of Clause 202(b) and substitute a new Clause 202(b) as follows :
 - (i) The object of the Committee is to advance religion in the remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia (generally known as The Inland) by the establishment of patrol ministries and Christian mission to remote communities. The Committee may create, maintain and improve religious, educational and philanthropic charitable agencies and institutions conducive to the advancement of religion.
 - (ii) The work of the Committee shall be carried out with the concurrence of relevant State Assembly

authorities....such work being conducted under the sole administration of the Committee or jointly with the relevant State Assembly authorities or simply to subsidise such work already undertaken by the State Assembly authorities.

- (b) Amend the Constitution in Clause 202(c) with the insertion of the word "Tasmania" following "Western Australia".
- (c) Amend the Deliverance in Clause 3 with the inclusion of the following..... Tasmania - Mr. J.A.B. Findlay.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clause 2 and 3 were approved.

The Deliverance as a whole as amended was approved¹ as follows :-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Request the Ministers and Elders of the Assembly to publicise the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission in their local and Presbytery areas as far as possible with emphasis upon the need for members of the Church to continue their prayerful interest and practical support.
- (2) (a) Amend the Constitution : By the deletion of Clause 202(b) and substitute a new Clause 202(b) as follows :
 - (i) The object of the Committee is to advance religion in the remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia (generally known as The Inland) by the establishment of patrol ministries and Christian mission to remote communities. The Committee may create, maintain and improve religious, educational and philanthropic charitable agencies and institutions conducive to the advancement of religion.
 - (ii) The work of the Committee shall be carried out with the concurrence of relevant State Assembly authorities. . . .such work being conducted under the sole administration of the Committee or jointly with the relevant State Assembly authorities or simply to subsidise such work already undertaken by the State Assembly authorities .
- (b) Amend the Constitution in Clause 202(c) with the insertion of the word "Tasmania" following "Western Australia".
- (3) Thank the Convener (Rev. Norman Monsen) for his work on behalf of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.
- (4) Appoint the Committee as follows :

New South Wales : Rt. Rev. Norman Monsen,
 B. Bray, R. Williams,
 J.J. Knapp, Mr. D. Macdonald,
 Mr. C.L. McGuirk.
 Queensland : Rev. R.C. Clark, G.C. Lake
 Victoria : Mr. G. Newby
 Western Aust. : Rev. D. B. Fraser
 South Aust. : Rev. J.C. Harris
 Tasmania : Mr. J.A.B. Finlay
 Convener : Rt. Rev. Norman Monsen.

College

81. The Report of the College Committee was laid on the Table and received.
 The Rev. Prof. R. Swanton moved the Deliverance.
 The motion was seconded.
 It was agreed to take the Deliverance clause by clause.
 Clause 1 was moved and seconded.
 It was agreed to take Clause 1 sub-clause by sub-clause.
 Clause 1(i) was moved and seconded.
 Rev. J.F. Broadhead moved :-

That the Assembly :
 Amend Admission to the Course of Training Regulations
 Clause 2(a) by deleting the words "six months" and substituting therefor "three years".
 The motion was seconded and disapproved.
 Clause 1(i) was approved.
 Clause 1(ii) was disapproved on a show of hands.
 Clause 1(iii) was approved.
 Clause 1(iv) was disapproved.
 Clause 1(v) was disapproved.
 Clause 1(vi) was approved.
 Clause 1(vii) was disapproved.
 Clause 2 was approved.
 Clause 3 was approved.
 The Deliverance as a whole was approved as follows :-

That the Assembly :
 (1) (i) delete all words in clause 2(c) and insert:
 "produce evidence that the candidate is qualified to commence degree studies".
 (ii) delete all words in clause (6) and insert:
 "The normal entrance to the Theological Course shall be a University Degree, but entrance to the Theological Course may be granted to candidates who have
 (a) completed two years degree level at a University, College of Advanced Education or the equivalent and
 (b) satisfied the requirements of the State Faculty/Senatus in English Bible and Catechism.
 Exemption shall be granted when evidence is

provided that qualifications of an equivalent nature and standard are possessed by the candidate.

- (iii) insert in clause (12) after the word "cases" the words "including a reduction of the requirements of the course".
- (2) Appoint the Executive as follows : Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker, J.F. Boyall (Secretary), S.J. Clements, Prof. A.M. Harman, G.K. Kettniss, E.R. Pearsons, Prof. R. Swanton (Convener), Mr. F.M. Bradshaw.
- (3) Appoint the Committee as follows : the Executive, two further members from each of N.S.W. and Queensland, such members to be nominated by the appropriate Theological Education Committee; the Convener of the Theological Education Committee of each of the states of South Australia and Tasmania.

Ministry of
women in the
church

82. Rev. R.C. Clark moved :-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Appoint a committee to -
 - (a) study the whole question of the ministry of women within the Presbyterian Church of Australia;
 - (b) invite state assemblies, presbyteries and sessions to make submissions to the committee to assist it in its task outlined in (a);
 - (c) bring to the next Assembly -
 - (i) a report on its findings, and
 - (ii) proposed changes to rules, if necessary, and proposed new rules, if necessary, to ensure that the church is functioning in accordance with its supreme standard.
- (2) Appoint the Committee : Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker, Rev. Prof. F.N. Lee, Rev. B. Christian (Convener), and Deaconess M. Moodie and two members appointed by the N.S.W. Assembly, one of whom must be an elder, two members appointed by the Victorian Assembly, one of whom must be an elder, and one corresponding member from Tasmania, and one corresponding member from South Australia.

Privilege

Mr. K. Swan raised a question of privilege.

The Moderator ruled that the privileges of members of the Assembly had not been breached.

Mr. L.J. Moore asked the Moderator to rule on the competency of the Notice of Motion of Rev. R.C. Clark. The Moderator ruled that the Notice of Motion was competent.

Mr. L.J. Moore moved :-

That the Assembly :

Disagree with the ruling of the Moderator.

The motion was seconded.

A Division was called for in accordance with Standing Orders.

The Moderator declared the motion of dissent approved by Division and the Notice of Motion of Rev. R.C. Clark incompetent.

Dissent

Dissent was recorded for the following reason :
Rev. J.J.T. Campbell dissents from the motion to dissent from the Moderator's ruling for the reason that Notice of Motion 52 in no way would contravene the proper procedures for altering the rule of the Church by overture.

Dissent was recorded by :

Rev. J.J.T. Campbell, R.C. Clark, J. Langbridge, C.R. Thomas, J.D. Gillman, J. Kirkpatrick, G.J. Abbas, H. Gallagher, A.C. Stubs, C.B. Riding, F. Avent, M.J.K. Ramage, J.T. Mercer, C.J. Letcher, P.W. Swinn, B. Christian, D.J. Newman, R. Swanton and G. Kettmiss; Messrs. J.D. Henderson, G. Baird, R.J. Crowther, B. Layt, D.J. Topping, D.F.L. Sherman, G.R.E. Nelson, A.J. Kilner, F. Bennett, G.S. Rutherford.

Mr. L.J. Moore was appointed to prepare answers to reasons for dissent of Rev. J.J.T. Campbell.

Debate resumed

Overture No . 4

83. The debate resumed anent Overture No. 4 (Min 48) .
By leave the Overturists fell from Overture No. 4.

Overture No . 8

84. The Overture No. 8 from the Presbytery of Ku-ring-gai anent revision of Chapter 24 of the Westminster Confession of Faith was laid on the Table and received.
Rev. C.D. Balzer and P.G. Logan stated the Overture. Questions were asked.
Rev. P.G. Logan moved :-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Sustain the Overture.
- (2) Send the Overture down to State Assemblies and Presbyteries for consideration and report, replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31st December, 1984.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Motion anent Overture No . 1

85. The Business Convener on behalf of Mr. F.M. Bradshaw moved : -

That the Assembly :

Recommit the Deliverance anent Overture 1, so as to enable dissents to be recorded.

Rev. G.F. McDonald asked the Moderator to rule on the competency of the motion.

The Moderator ruled that Standing Orders may be suspended for the purpose of recommitment of Overture No. 1.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Mr. L.J. Moore moved :-

That the Assembly :
Suspend so much of Standing Orders as would permit
the recommittal of Overture No. 1.
The motion was seconded and disapproved.

Over ture No. 5 86. The Overture No. 5 from the College Committee
re "Revision of the Articles of Agreement" was laid
on the Table and received.
The Rev. Prof. R. Swanton and Rev. J. Boyall stated
the Overture.
Questions were asked.
By leave of the House Rev. Prof. R. Swanton moved
that Min. 51(2) B.B. 1974 be inserted after clause (e)
of the Overture.
Leave was not granted.
The Previous Question was approved.

Public Worship and Aids to Devotion 87. The debate on the Deliverance on Public Worship
and Aids to Devotion was resumed (Min 42).
Rev. G.K. Kettniss moved :-

That the Assembly :
(3) (i) Send..... by the 31st December, 1983.
(ii) Commend for consideration to all Presbyteries,
Assemblies and Sessions, the Reformed Book
of Common Order as published by the National
Church Association of the Church of Scotland.
The motion was seconded.

Rev. P.G. Logan moved that the
Assembly :
Amend N/M 45 by adding after the word "Scotland"
in (ii) the following words :
"the Church of Scotland Book of Common Order (1979)
and other books of worship that the Public Worship
and Aids to Devotion Committee may recommend from
time to time".
The amendment was seconded and disapproved-!
The motion of Rev. G.K. Kettniss was disapproved.
Clause 3 was approved.
Clause 6 was approved.
The Deliverance as a whole as amended was approved
as follows :-

That the Assembly :
(1) Request Presbyteries to inform all congregations
that care should be taken in the use of materials
where copyright would apply.
(2) Note that some orders of service for special
occasions are available from the Committee and
encourage Ministers and Sessions to forward to
the Committee any such services for consideration,
information and distribution as requested.
(3) (a) Send down the First Part of the Proposed Book

- of Common Order to Presbyteries and Assemblies for consideration and report, replies to be in the hands of the Committee by 31st December, 1983.
- (b) Request the Committee to continue its work on the other services to be included in the Book of Common Order in due course.
- (4) (a) Commend the Revised Church Hymnary and Scottish Psalter to congregations of the Church for use in public worship; and
- (b) Request Oxford University Press to reprint the following editions of the Revised Church Hymnary and Scottish Psalter :
- Standard Staff Edition
 - Non-pareil Edition
 - Melody Edition
 - Large Print Edition
 - Presentation Editions - black and white moroccoette
- (5) Request the Committee to liaison with the G.A.A. Christian Education Committee to produce an Australian Presbyterian Psalter-Hymnal with a view to a draft of such book being available at the next General Assembly of Australia.
- (6) Confirm the appointment of the Rev. D.F. Murray to membership of the Australian Hymn Book Editorial Committee as a representative of the Presbyterian Church.
- (7) Appoint the Committee : Rev. D.F. Murray (Convener)
C.R. Thomas, M. Hume, Very Rev. J. Mullan, Messrs. C.R. Brierley, A. Ramsay, R. Smart with corresponding members as follows : Very Rev. K. Gardner, M. Ramage, A. Stubs, M. Grieve.

Finance
Resumed

88. Debate anent the report of the Finance Committee was resumed (Minute 15) .
Clause 6(b)(i) was approved.
Clause 6(b)(ii) was approved.
The Deliverance as a whole as amended was approved as follows :

That the Assembly :

- (1) Until such time as the General Assembly determines otherwise approve payment of honoraria as follows:
- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Moderator : | \$ 6 0 0 p . a . |
| Clerk of Assembly : | 460 for each General Assembly |
| Deputy Clerk : | 230 for each General Assembly |
| Assistants to Clerks : | 230 for each General Assembly |
| Business Convener : | 230 for each General Assembly |
| Business Convener -
Acting (Rev. P.G. Logan) | 230 for this General Assembly |

- (2) Approve the following provisions for the Moderator assuming office in September 1982, and for succeeding Moderators until such time as the General Assembly determines otherwise :
- (a) (i) An allowance up to \$3,000 per annum to cover travel, accommodation, telephone, postage, stationery, secretarial expenses for the period of office. . .such amount not expendable for each year of office but available for the total period of office;
- (ii) An allowance sufficient to cover the cost of moderatorial dress (court), if and when required ;
- (iii) Costs of pulpit supply for his absence on moderatorial duty.
- (iv) An honorarium of \$600 per annum as approved in 1 above.
- (3) Declare that when the Moderator is invited to special congregational and institutional functions the parties concerned should as a general rule meet all relevant moderatorial expenses.
- (4) Authorise the Finance Committee to approve any necessary additional expenditure in respect of the Moderator.
- (5) Receive and note the Balance Sheets as at 30th June, 1982 and associated statements.
- (6) (a) Approve the following amounts as maximum allocations to the committees listed for the period from 1st January, 1983 to 31st December, 1985.
- | | |
|---|-----------|
| (i) Beneficiary Fund | \$ 500.00 |
| Bicentennial 1988 | 100.00 |
| Business | 1,500.00 |
| Christian Education | 3,000.00 |
| Code | 3,000.00 |
| Defence Forces | 1,500.00 |
| Finance | 1,500.00 |
| Public Worship & Aids
to Devotion | 600.00 |
| Reception of Ministers | 900.00 |
| Relations with other
Presbyterian Churches | 300.00 |
| (ii) Church and Nation | 3,000.00 |
| (iii) College | 7,700.00 |
| (iv) National Journal | 6,000.00 |
- (b) (i) Approve a contribution of \$3,500 to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches for the period 1st January, 1983 to 31st December, 1985.
- (ii) Authorise the Finance Committee to approve a contribution to the Reformed Ecumenical Synod.

- (c) Authorise the Finance Committee to approve expenditure that may arise after consultation with any committee involved reporting details to State Finance or equivalent committees.
 - (d) Request the Trustees to finance expenditure authorised by the Finance committee pending re-imburement by State Finance or equivalent committees.
- (7) (a) As from the 1982 General Assembly approve the following variation to travelling allowances :
For commissioners from South Australia and Tasmania when the General Assembly meets in Sydney, the cost of economy return air fares.
- (b) Declare that all commissioners to the General Assembly having to travel more than 750 kilometers by rail shall be paid return economy air fares effective as from the rising of the House.
- () Appoint the Finance Committee as follows :
The Right Reverend Norman Monsen, the Reverend Frank Avent, Messrs. D.R. Brierley and J.G. Menzies (nominated from New South Wales), D.A. Conway (nominated from Western Australia)
2 to be nominated from Victoria
2 to be nominated from Queensland
1 to be nominated from Tasmania and Messrs. K.C. Auld, J.A. Godfrey, H.I.M. MacFarlane and J.E. Sticpewich with Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane as Convener.

Overture No. 9 89. Debate resumed anent Overture No. 9 (Min 34).

Dr. P.E. Lush moved:-

That the Assembly :

- (1) Sustain the Overture.
- (2) Appoint an ad hoc Committee to report to the Assembly in 1985 upon -
 - (a) the present representations of the Crest and the legislation whereby it was adopted by the Church;
 - (b) a definitive description of the Crest supported by a coloured drawing;
 - (c) the desirability of having the official representation of the Crest registered with the College of Heraldry, or some such body.
- (3) Appoint the Committee : Mrs. H. Clements (Convener), Rev. J.J.T. Campbell, E.R. Pearsons, Dr. P.E. Lush.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Assembly
Publications

90. Rev. G.K. Kettmiss moved:-

That the Assembly :

Instruct the Clerk of Assembly to notify all ministers and elders, through each State's Church Bulletin, of any major or important Assembly publication, and any costs if applicable, giving ministers and elders the

opportunity to order the same.
The motion was seconded and approved.

Reply to
reasons for
dissent

91. Mr. L.J. Moore submitted the following reply to reasons for Dissent of Rev. J.J.T. Campbell. The motion (Min. 82) envisaged the possibility of the initiation of legislative action, including the possibility of having to amend the Articles of Agreement. It also sought the exercise of executive action of a general kind by the Supreme Court of this Church. It is the correct practice for such a Court to take such actions upon mature consideration and only pursuant to an Overture duly sustained. Overture No. 3 was not sustained. It was dismissed (Min. 73). All cognate questions raised by the Overture were thereby removed from further consideration during this Session of the General Assembly.

The reply was received.

Minutes

92. The Minutes of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Sederunts were laid on the Table and confirmed.

Judicial
Comm i s s i o n

93. The Clerk moved :

That the Assembly :
Appoint the membership of the Judicial Commission as follows :

South Australia :	Re v .M.S. Grieve,	Mr . A . G. Matheson.
Qu een sl and :	Very Rev. K.J. Gardner	, Rt. Rev .
	K . MR. Innes, Rev . A . W Laur i e,	
	Mr . R.P.W. Jell.	
N . S . W . :	Rev . D.F. Murray,	Mr . H.I.M. MacFarlane
	Mr . J.G. Menzies,	Rev . D.L. Ferrington,
	Rev . D. Mitchell,	Rev . G. Fullerton,
	Rev . C.R. Thomas,	Rev . P . Cooper.
Victoria :	Rev . H.L. Dunn, Rt. Rev. C.A. Harrison,	
	Rev . D.V. Morey,	Rev . E.R. Pearsons,
	Mr . B . D. Bayston, Mr . F . M . Bradshaw,	
	Rev . D. Carruthers, Rev. Prin. A.M.	
	Harman.	
Tasmania :	Mr . A.J. Kilner,	Rev . P.W. Plays ted.

Assembly Representatives :

Rev. Prof. N.T. Barker (Q), Rev. G.C. Lake (Q),
Rev. J.J.T. Campbell (Q), Mr. F. Newall (Vic.) Mr.
I. Nixon (Vic.), Rev. C.J. Letcher (Tas.), Very Rev.
J. Mullan (N.S.W.), Rev. P. Boase (N.S.W.), Rev. P.G.
Logan (N.S.W.), Rev. H.G. Durbin (N.S.W.), Rev. J.S.
Bain (Vic.), Rt. Rev. N. Monsen (N.S.W.).

The motion was seconded and approved.

Committees
Dis charged

94. The Deputy Clerk moved :

That the Assembly :

Thank and discharge the Committee to Scrutinise
minutes
the Ballot Committee
the Selection Committee.
The motion was seconded and approved.

Thanks

95. The Clerk moved that the Assembly :

Thank -

- (a) The Session of the Scots Church, Sydney, for the use of the Church for the meetings of the General Assembly and for their co-operation in the conduct of the Assembly Communion Service;
- (b) Miss Ruth Paisley and the staff of the General Office for their assistance;
- (c) Mrs. J. Goudie and her helpers for the provision of morning and afternoon teas to the members of the Assembly;
- (d) The Right Rev. Colin A. Harrison for his invaluable assistance to the Clerks;
- (e) Mr. Peter Graham, the Assembly Officer, for his conscientious attention to the welfare of the Assembly;
- (f) Rev. D. Murray and P.G. Logan for their assistance with praise of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Commission
to confirm
Minutes

96. The Clerk moved that the Assembly :

Appoint the Moderator and Clerks a Commission to correct and confirm the minutes of the 7th sederunt.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Commission
of Assembly

97. The Clerk moved,

That the Assembly :

Appoint a Commission of the General Assembly which it hereby does appoint, consisting of the Moderator (Chairman), Past Moderators, 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 (if applicable) and Tasmania (any vacancy occurring to be filled by the General Assembly of the State affected), sixteen of whom representing at least two 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 the 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 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.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Appointment
of next
Ass embly

98. The Clerk moved :

That the Assembly :

Resolve to convene in the Assembly Hall, Collins Street, Melbourne on Tuesday, the tenth day of September, 1985 at 10.00 o'clock in the forenoon and appoint a commission consisting of the Moderator, Clerks, Business Convener, Procurator and Law Agent, with the Moderator as Chairman, of whom three members shall be a quorum, to appoint another time, place or date of meeting should it become impracticable for the Assembly to discharge its functions at the time or place or on the date appointed .

The motion was seconded and approved.

Dissolution

99. The Business of the Assembly having been completed the Moderator, after briefly addressing the House, intimated that the Assembly would next convene in terms of Minute 98 and dissolved the Assembly with praise, prayer and the pronouncing of the Benediction.

E.R. PEARSONS

R.P.W. JELL

Clerks

CERTIFICATE

The Minutes of the Seventh Sederunt having been carefully corrected are confirmed as authorised in terms of Minute 96 thereof.

NORMAN MONSEN - Moderator

APPEALSAppeal 1 (Min 68)DISSENT AND COMPLAINT OF REV. P.G. LOGAN B.A.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia;

I, Paul Gibson Logan, a member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales, hereby complain to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia against a decision of the 117th session of the New South Wales General Assembly against which I dissented and sought leave to complain.

The decision of that Assembly against which I complain is that wherein the Assembly refused to sustain Overture (v) (a copy of which is attached) from Seven Members of the Assembly re the Re-organisation of the Theological Hall. This Overture was subsequently dismissed by the Assembly.

I complain to the General Assembly of Australia against this decision on the following grounds:

1. That the Assembly thereby contradicted the Articles of Agreement concerning the Equipment of Halls, viz.,

All Candidates for Licence shall be students who have been regularly trained at some Theological Hall recognised by the General Assembly. (Article (viii) a.)

It shall be the aim of the Church to have all its Halls equipped with not fewer than three Professors, such Professors to be separate from any pastoral Charge; but, meanwhile, the Halls in Australia recognised by the General Assembly shall be the Theological Hall in Ormond College, Melbourne, and the Theological Hall in St. Andrew's College, Sydney. To these have been added : Brisbane (1910, Minutes 51,99) , and Perth (1914, Minute 106 and page 93) .
Article (viii) b.)

2. That the decision not to sustain the Overture and subsequently to dismiss it was a denial of natural justice in that no opportunity was given to the whole Church (through its presbyteries) to discuss the proposal as a contrast to the proposal by the Theological Education Committee for a Christian Tertiary Institute.

3. An injustice was done to the Church in that at a later sederunt of the N.S.W. General Assembly the Theological Education Committee of that Assembly proposed, and had elected, unqualified people to

lecture in theological training thereby opposing the appointment of full-time qualified lecturers as soon as possible as proposed in the Overture.

4. The proposal put forward by the Theological Education Committee of the N.S.W. General Assembly for a Christian Tertiary Institute seeks to broaden the parameters of education beyond the charter of that Committee from the N.S.W. General Assembly, viz.,

1. To Presbyteries belongs the supervision of Candidates for the Ministry under their jurisdiction, subject only to the supervision of the Course of Training by the State Assembly Theological Education Committee and Faculty.

2. The State Assembly shall appoint a Theological Education Committee to exercise general management (including financial management of theological training).

3. The Theological Education Committee, which is appointed by the Assembly, shall be the administrative link between the College Committee, Faculty and Presbyteries on matters relevant to candidates for the Ministry.

(The Code III : 5) .

Now, therefore, I humbly pray that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia will take these premises into consideration and direct the N.S.W. General Assembly to reconsider the Overture and forward it to the presbyteries of that Assembly for consideration and report, or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

(Rev.) P.G. Logan

20th May, 1982.

(The Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales has advised that the Rt. Rev. S.J. Clements and Rev. W.G. Camden will act as respondents on behalf of the said Assembly) .

Appeal 2 (Min 69)

DISSENT AND COMPLAINT OF MR. A. DUFF

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

1. ALEXANDER DUFF dissent and complaint to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia against the decision of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the

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State of New South Wales given on the Thirteenth day of May, 1982, anent the "Overture to the said General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in New South Wales from several members of the Assembly anent the re-organisation of the Theological Hall" whereby a motion to sustain the Overture (a copy of the said Overture is annexed hereto and marked with the letter "A") was disapproved by the said General Assembly by majority, on the following grounds :-

1. The failure of the said General Assembly to receive the said Overture was tantamount to a resolution by such Assembly to be no longer bound by the Deed of Union made between the several Presbyterian Churches in the States of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia respectively, signed in Sydney on the 24th July, 1901 and amended by subsequent Assemblies and in particular the provisions of that Deed as set out in the Articles of Agreement (viii)a, (viii)b, (viii)c, (viii)d, (viii)j and (viii)k thereof.

2. To so dismiss the Overture was to breach or ignore the provisions of Standing Order No. 72 of the said General Assembly.

3. That to so refuse to sustain the said Overture the sustaining of which was supported by a very substantial number of the members of the said General Assembly and was a denial of natural justice insofar as it denied the right of members of the said Assembly to adequately debate the said Overture which was clearly competent to be brought and incumbent on the said General Assembly to hear and properly consider .

4. It was further a denial of natural justice to the several Courts of the Church within the State of New South Wales in that by the said dismissal the said General Assembly denied the right to Presbyteries and Sessions within the State to properly consider inter alia, proper alternatives to the proposals contained in the Report and Deliverance of the Theological Education Committee to the said General Assembly and otherwise.

DATED : The Twenty Fourth Day of May, 1982.

Alex Duff

(The Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales has advised that the Rt. Rev. S.J. Clements and Rev. W.G. Camden will act as respondents on behalf of the said Ass embly) .

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATION 1 (Min 31)

Rev. E.R. Pearsons,
Clerk of Assembly,
156 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE 3000

Dear Mr. Pearsons,

On behalf of Federal Executive of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia, I am submitting a motion passed at our last Conference in September, 1979.

The Motion is as follows :- That our Constitution, under Governing Body 5 be amended to read, "The Governing Body shall be the Federal Conference, which is a meeting representative of all the women of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia. Voting Delegates of the Federal Conference shall be appointed by the State Units as follows : New South Wales 5, Queensland 4, South Australia 2, Tasmania 2, Western Australia 2 "

This has been necessitated by Victoria declining to affiliate with the Presbyterian Women's Association.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

(Mrs.) Jean Kent,
Secretary P.W.A. of A.

COMMUNICATION 2

From the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia in the State of N.S.W. (Min 46).

The Clerk of Assembly,
Presbyterian Church of Australia,
156 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE VIC. 3000

Dear Sir,

At the August meeting of the State Council of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia in the State of New South Wales a discussion took place regarding the Overtures from Queensland requesting the General Assembly of Australia meeting in Sydney in

September, 1982, to rescind the clauses in the 1967 minutes of the Assembly admitting women to the office of the Eldership and the Minutes of the 1974 Assembly admitting women to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments.

In New South Wales there are 320 branches of the Presbyterian Women's Association with a total membership of 5,320.

It was unanimously resolved that the Council should make its views on these matters known to the General Assembly of Australia as follows :-

It is a source of great disquiet to know that, after all these years, some people are endeavouring to prevent women from exercising the freedom that exists for them to serve in all aspects of the Church's work. We are surprised that such an unrealistic and backward step should be contemplated, with no due regard or provision for those concerned in the matter. The Overtures show a lamentable lack of pastoral concern for the people involved.

We view with great concern the statement that -

"the current trends towards the opening up of a variety of occupations and social positions to women is not of itself sufficient argument to sanction the admission of women to the office of the Eldership."

There is no evidence presented that this was the motivation of those making the decision and indeed records of the General Assembly of Australia indicate that it was not the case. (See B.B. 1967 and 1970).

This statement in the Overtures implies that the women who answered the questions put at Ordination did so frivolously and in fact concealed the real reasons for taking the office they did. It also implies the courts of the Church which agreed to their admission did so with the same lack of integrity. It would be easy to have evidence submitted to the contrary.

There are many serious and biblically minded people in our Church who believe there are examples in the Bible of women exercising authority and judgment in spiritual matters in both the Old and New Testaments.

There are women to-day who, through love of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church, respond to the call to serve to their greatest capacity. These women are serving in the Church both at home and overseas. Since 1977 the women in this Church have responded to the challenge to upbuild it in many and difficult circumstances.

We humbly pray that the Assembly will not take any action which will cast doubt on the aspirations or integrity of such a large body of its members.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Lenore Brierley
Mrs. D.R. Brierley
State President

(Sgd.) Mavis McCaw
Mrs. M. McCaw
State Secretary

COMMUNICATION 3

From the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia
(Min 47)

The Clerk of Assembly,
Presbyterian Church of Australia,
156 Collins Street,
MELBOURNE VIC. 3000

Dear Sir,

At the federal conference of the Presbyterian Women's Association on 13th September, unanimous concern was expressed about Overture 3 and 4 which are to come before the General Assembly of Australia at its meetings this week.

We are dismayed at the following statements in the recitals in the two Overtures :-

- (a) in overture 3, "oversight and authority in spiritual matters belong to men alone;"
- (b) in Overture 4, "that positions of preaching, oversights and authority in spiritual matters belong to men alone."

Assent to these statements would take the church not to a pre 1967 position but to a new position altogether; one which precludes women from acting in any area where they would be called upon to exercise any spiritual authority whatsoever. This new position has not been argued by the overturists and it is certainly not the only position held by biblically conservative Christians.

When this matter is considered by the General Assembly we earnestly appeal from this conference (with delegates from most parts of Australia) that you take into account the position of those Presbyterian women who:-

1. preach and teach and are in serving positions which require them to act responsibly and with discernment in spiritual matters;
2. minister in local parishes by taking pastoral responsibility;
3. act in positions of spiritual authority in local and state level women's organisations,
4. teach in Sunday Schools, state schools (primary and high) and lead youth clubs;
5. serve in World Mission in evangelising, in pastoring work with indigenous churches, and in translating the scriptures. Many of these women work in isolated areas where church structures are minimal and/or where women must be taught by other women. The whole system of category 3 mission support is seriously undermined by this proposal.

We are now at a crucial time of redevelopment and we pray that the General Assembly will remember how much vital work is done by women in our church - not because we are concerned with questions of status but so this service will continue, congregations be built up and the gospel freely proclaimed.

Yours sincerely,

Mr s. R. Fraser
Retiring Federal President

LOYAL ADDRESS (Min 7)

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty,

May it please your Majesty,

We, your faithful subjects, Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia convened in General Assembly at Sydney in the State of New South Wales on the Fourteenth day of September, 1982, take leave to assure your Majesty of our loyalty and devotion to your Person and to the Throne.

We pray that God, Who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, may in His Grace continue to grant to Your Majesty, to His Royal Highness, the Prince Philip and to all the members of Your Family, His providential care, protection and provision and to Your Majesty personally, all gifts needful for the discharge of the exacting duties of Your Royal Office.

May we express to Your Majesty our delight in the recent birth of His Royal Highness, the Prince William Arthur of Wales. It is a joy to us that in an age when so many of the traditional values are under threat or being swept away that Your Majesty maintains such loyalty to the institution of family life and unswerving devotion to the things of God.

We have the honour to be Your Majesty's faithful servants, Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Signed in our name and in our presence and at our appointing.

.....
MODERATOR

OVERTURESOVERTURE 1 (Min 18)USE OF THE BADGE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

"To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Whereas the badge of the Presbyterian Church of Australia is a distinctive and easily recognised symbol, and

Whereas at present only the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and its committees along with the General Assemblies of New South Wales and Queensland are entitled to that badge, and

Whereas many small groups have come into being using the name Presbyterian in their title, and

Whereas they are not immediately identifiable as being without the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and

Whereas churches not displaying the badge of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia are not immediately identifiable as being within the Presbyterian Church of Australia, now

Therefore the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia humbly overtures the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into account and to enact and ordain that :

'All State churches which by the Basis of Union and the Articles of Agreement of the 24th day of July 1901 are constituent parts of the Presbyterian Church of Australia may, if they so desire, use the badge of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia'."

OVERTURE 2 (Min 56)DISTRIBUTION OF MINUTES OF THE ASSEMBLY FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF
KU-RING-GAI

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Whereas the Articles of Agreement (iv) of the Presbyterian Church of Australia state :

"The General Assembly shall have functions legislative, administrative, and judicial, supreme with regard to the Doctrine, Worship

and Discipline of the Church, the Missions to the heathen, the training of Students, the Admission of Candidates to the Ministry, the Reception of Ministers from other churches, Welfare of Youth work and Home Missions..... and

Whereas all these matters are of vital concern to each and every ordained Minister in the Presbyterian Church of Australia, both in his role as a parish minister and as a Presbyter in the courts of the Church; and

Whereas it seems that an administrative decision has been made to circulate the Minutes of each General Assembly only to those people who were members of the said Assembly; and

Whereas Ministers who were not members of any particular Assembly then do not have access to the decisions of the Assembly which affect them vitally,

Now therefore the Presbytery of Ku-ring-gai humbly overtures the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and to provide, in future, copies of the Minutes of every subsequent Assembly to every ordained Minister in the Presbyterian Church of Australia,

or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

OVERTURE 3 (Min 49)

THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN TO THE OFFICE OF THE ELDERSHIP
FROM PRESBYTERY OF BRISBANE (SUPPORTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND).

To the Venerable, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia:

Whereas the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia 1967 (Min 131(2)) declared that "the Eldership was a service within the Church which can be performed appropriately by men and women"; and

Whereas this decision, taken by the undivided Church prior to June, 1977, reflects an opinion which is not generally held by the Church as presently constituted; and

Whereas in the light of sound Biblical scholarship and interpretation, both Old and New Testaments consistently support the view that oversight and authority in spiritual matters belong to men alone ; and

Whereas the current trends towards the opening up of a variety of occupations and social positions to women, is not of itself sufficient argument to sanction the admission of women to the

to the office of the Eldership;

Now therefore, the Presbytery of Brisbane within The Presbyterian Church of Queensland humbly overtures the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into account and rescind the declaration of doctrine contained in Clause 2 of Min. 131 of the 1967 Assembly, namely :

"Declare that on the basis of the foregoing doctrine, the Eldership is a service within the Church which can be performed appropriately by men and women".

Or do otherwise as in its wisdom it may deem fit.

The Very Rev. K.J. Gardner and the Rev. G.C. Lake were appointed to state the Overture.

OVERTURE 4 (Min 48)

THE ADMISSION OF WOMEN TO THE MINISTRY OF WORD AND SACRAMENTS
FROM PRESBYTERY OF BRISBANE (SUPPORTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND).

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Whereas the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in 1974 (B.B. Min. 51(12)), amended Article of Agreement 145 (viii) to permit the admission of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments; and

Whereas this decision, taken by the undivided Church prior to June 1977, reflects the opinion which is not generally held by the Church as presently constituted; and

Whereas in the light of sound Biblical interpretation and scholarship, both Old and New Testaments consistently support the view that positions of preaching, oversight and authority in spiritual matters belong to men alone, thereby making untenable the ordination of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments; and

Whereas the current trend of the opening up of a variety of occupations and social positions to women, is not sufficient argument of itself to sanction the admission of women to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments;

Now therefore, the Presbytery of Brisbane within The Presbyterian Church of Queensland humbly overtures the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration and amend Article 145 (viii) of the Article of Agreement by deleting the words :

"Women shall be eligible for admission to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church of Australia on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to men and all rules and regulations of the Assembly and service of Ordination and Induction shall be construed that reference therein to Ministers of the Word and Sacraments shall include women."

Or do otherwise as in its wisdom it may deem fit.

The Very Rev. K.J. Gardner and the Rev. G.C. Lake were appointed to state the Overture.

OVERTURE 5 (Min 86)

From the College Committee re "Revision of the Articles of Agreement" .

To the Venerable, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Whereas uncertainty has arisen as to the precise powers of the Assembly as to Training of Candidates for the Ministry; and

Whereas uncertainty has arisen as to the nature and standard of the Preparatory course; and

Whereas it is important that there should be a clear statement as to the nature and standard of the Course of Training for the whole of Australia; and

Whereas it is important that there be adequate safeguards as to the implementation of the requirements of the Assembly relating to the Course of Training; and

Whereas it is important that there be flexibility in the implementation of these requirements with respect to the varying conditions applying to individual States and to individual Candidates for the Ministry;

Now therefore, the College Committee humbly overtures the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration and to amend the Articles of Agreement by deleting the present Article VIII and inserting thereto a new Article VIII as follows :

Article VIII. There shall be a system of training for the Ministry, of which the course of study, with its academic standards and supervision shall be determined as hereinafter in this article provided.

- (a) The course of study shall be at degree standard and shall cover the following, credit being given to prior studies of an equivalent nature and standard :
- (1) A Theological Course of three years full-time, or its equivalent, which shall include the subjects of Old Testament, with exegesis from the Hebrew, New Testament, with exegesis from the Greek, Systematic Theology, Apologetics, Church History, and Pastoral Theology, and such other subjects as may from time to time be prescribed.
 - (2) The normal standard of admission to a Theological course shall be a recognised degree, accepted by a State Faculty/Senatus, but Candidates who have successfully completed two years of a degree may be admitted to the Theological course.
 - (3) The Assembly may by regulation allow an integrated Preparatory and Theological course.
 - (4) Prior to commencing theological subjects Candidates shall satisfy the Faculty/Senatus as to their understanding of the English Bible and the Shorter Catechism.
- (b) The Assembly shall appoint a Committee to be known as the College Committee, to admit candidates for the Ministry to the course of studies; grade students throughout the course, approve syllabi, conduct examinations as necessary and issue certificates of completion of the course of study.
- (c) The Theological Halls of the state Churches in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria are recognised for the purpose of this article, together with any other Theological Halls which may be established and which the General Assembly may by resolution recognise.
- (d) The appointment of professors and lecturers, together with a Faculty/Senatus which shall administer the academic requirements of this article, and a Theological Education Committee which shall administer the general management and finances of theological education, is within the province of each State Assembly.
- (e) No candidate for the Ministry shall be licensed until he has been issued by the College Committee with a certificate for the completion of his studies.
- (f) The Assembly has power to make regulations to implement this Article.

Or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

The Rev. Prof. R. Swanton and the Rev. J. Boyall were appointed to state the Overture to the General Assembly.

R. Swanton	J. Boyall
Convener	Secretary

OVERTURE 6 (Min 55)

Unto the Venerable the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia assembled in Sydney.

Whereas the Rules and Regulations of the standing committee of the General Assembly of Australia have served the Church of God efficiently in other times and in other places, the circumstances of this present time would dictate that there should be changes made thereto.

Your Overturists accordingly pray that the present Paragraphs Nos. 137 and 138 be replaced in the following way :

137 (vii) There shall be a Committee on Missions of the General Assembly entitled the Committee for Australian Presbyterian World Mission, formerly known as the Board of Missions and Ecumenical Relations (see par 186 & 187) .

138(vii) It shall be the responsibility of the Committee :

- (a) To enunciate and carry through the Assembly's policy in regard to the missionary service and outreach of the church to peoples of other cultures and other countries;
- (b) To enter on behalf of the Assembly, into formal relationships and agreements with other churches and mission bodies;
- (c) To establish and maintain partnership relationships with approved overseas churches;
- (d) To establish relationships with overseas churches worldwide and, where useful and possible, to work through them on behalf of the Assembly;
- (e) To encourage at all levels of the church's life, especially at the level of the congregation, an enlightened and wholehearted personal commitment to the missionary task of the church;
- (f) To negotiate on behalf of the Assembly with approved mission bodies and members of the Presbyterian Church working with them, to establish dual-

membership agreements and to encourage support for our members so involved.

And further, that the present section involving Paragraphs Nos. 186 to 188, to be replaced in the following way :

NAME : COMMITTEE FOR AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION
(formerly known as the Board of Missions & Ecumenical Relations)

186 Function

- (a) The function of the Committee will be to carry out the functions as listed in 138(vii) and to otherwise implement the decisions of the General Assembly of Australia with respect to Presbyterian Missions ;
- (b) Responsibilities
 - (i) Distribution of all moneys received for missions so that a minimum is used for administration.
 - (ii) Control of Missionaries in the field and responsibility for their welfare in accordance with partner-church relationships and dual membership agreements.

187 Composition

The Committee shall consist of :

- (a) Convener appointed by the General Assembly of Australia.
- (b) An executive consisting of the Convener plus nine (9) members from the State in which the Convener resides;
- (c) A maximum of one representative from each of the other States as may be appointed by the General Assembly of Australia;
- (d) Corresponding members appointed by the General Assembly of Australia.

188 Duties and Conditions of Appointments

- (a) The Convener shall be :
 - (i) the chief executive office of the Committee;
 - (ii) responsible for convening meetings as regularly laid down and special meetings as required.
- (b) State representatives will be responsible for :
 - (i) reporting back to State committees;
 - (ii) acting as liaison between the General Assembly committee and their State administration;
- (c) Committee as a whole will be responsible for :
 - (i) the interviewing, recommendation of, and appointment of the missionaries for the Church who are the direct responsibility of the Church;
 - (ii) the control of all mission work connected with the Presbyterian Church of Australia and regular

and systematic review to determine that all missions work is consistent with our Church's standards;

- (iii) seeking to keep the Church aware of new mission work to which the Lord may be calling her;
- (iv) the full Committee shall meet at least once a year.

189 State Committees

Each State Assembly shall be requested to appoint a Standing Committee under its own regulations.

Such Committee should include representatives from organisations within the church which have a special interest in and which support the church's task in World Mission.

The functions of the State Committee shall include :

- (i) The promotion of the work of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission.
- (ii) Financial responsibility for supporting projects and personnel as determined by the policies of the Committee for Australian Presbyterian World Mission.
- (iii) The recruitment of missionary personnel under the general lines of policy laid down by the Committee for Australian Presbyterian World Mission and the recommendation of such personnel to that Committee for appointment.
- (iv) The making of travel and furlough arrangements for such missionaries while within their State.

Or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

The Very Rev. K.J. Gardner and Rev. R.T. Missenden were appointed to state the Overture

R.T . Mis send en
Vice-Convener and Secretary

OVERTURE 7 (Min 44)

From the Presbytery of Ku-ring-gai re a National Superannuation Scheme for the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia :

Whereas the present state Beneficiary Funds are working independently; and

Whereas the provisions made under some of these funds are quite inadequate to meet the needs of retired ministers and even less adequate to meet the needs of widows and families;

Now therefore, the Presbytery of Ku-ring-gai humbly overtures the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and establish a realistic national superannuation scheme for the Presbyterian Church of Australia as soon as practicable,

Or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

The Rev. J. Reid and P.G. Logan were appointed to state the
Over t u r e.

OVERTURE 8 (Min 84)

From the Presbytery of Ku-ring-gai to the General Assembly of Australia re revision of Chapter XXIV of the Westminster Confession of Faith.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Whereas the Assembly of 1967 (Min. 107) suspended Regulations 215, 216 and 217 of Division L of "Constitution and Procedure and Practice" and approved certain principles as a guide to Ministers Pending action by the Assembly regarding a possible revision of Ch. XXIV of the Westminster Confession of Faith, and

Whereas the Assembly of 1970 (Min. 96) sent an Overture containing a proposed revision of Ch. XXIV of the Confession down to Presbyteries and State Assemblies for consideration and comment; and

Whereas the Assembly of 1973 (Min. 113) remitted to State Assemblies and Presbyteries a revision of Ch. XXIV of the Confession, and

Whereas the report of the Assembly's Committee on Marriage and Divorce to the 1977 General Assembly stated that : "Due to the limited nature of the 1974 General Assembly, the returns to this remit have never been reported and the remit must be seen as having lapsed", and

Whereas there is a need for a revision of Ch. XXIV of the Confession of Faith because of the considerable turmoil in the Australian community regarding the question of marriage and divorce and also within the Presbyterian Church of Australia, particularly over the issue of whether ministers of Word and Sacrament who have been divorced should continue in the pastoral ministry, and because there is a need to take into account the grounds for divorce in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 24: 1-4) as well as those mentioned in the New Testament :

Now therefore the Presbytery of Ku-ring-gai humbly overtures the Venerable the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and to adopt the following revision of Ch. XXIV of the subordinate Standard :

"OF MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE"

- (i) Marriage is a covenant into which, under the creative will of God, a man and a woman enter for full, lifelong and exclusive fellowship. The purpose of God is that in their

earthly lives men and women should enjoy mutual responsibility, dependence, help and love, in which may be reflected the character of his own covenant with Man in Jesus Christ. It is part of the gift and responsibility of marriage that children may be born and grow within the stable relationships of a family and experience the love of the Father witnessed to and served by human parents.

- (ii) Because God has created Man as male and female, relations between members of the opposite sexes are a basic, and should be an enriching feature of every dimension of human life. For this reason, responsibility rests upon every married person to offer and accept in all relations with the spouse the kind and degree of fellowship which best respects the needs, the obligations, the freedom and the personality of that spouse. Relationships between members of the opposite sex who are not married to each other should be loving and considerate, but Christians should bear in mind the fact that temptations to extra-marital sexual relations are great, and therefore be on guard against sinning in this area. The only proper place for full physical intimacy is within the mutual commitment and resultant freedom of marriage.
- (iii) The physical fellowship of a married couple serves to express the fullness of their love and ordinarily it extends the scope of that love in the conception of children. Should a husband and wife decide in the freedom of their responsibility to God that they should at any stage not have children, they may seek to prevent conception, while retaining sexual intercourse as an integral part of their relationship, due prayerful concern being exercised that the desire to avoid conception does not arise simply from selfishness or greed for material goods.
- (iv) It is essential to the relationship between husband and wife that both parties enter upon marriage freely and willingly. Men and women may marry when and whom they will, provided that they are sufficiently mature to undertake the commitment and are not already married nor so closely related by blood or connected by marriage as would inhibit their ability to enter fully into the new relationship of marriage. It falls within the responsibility of the civil authorities to order the procedures for the solemnization of marriage and to place limitations upon the marriage of minors and of persons within certain degrees of consanguinity and affinity.
- (v) Before entering upon marriage, a couple should discuss its nature and implications carefully with each other and with those best able to advise them. In marriage, life and its decisions are shared to such a degree that Christians should desirably seek as partners only those with whom they can be united in Christian faith. A Christian should not marry another Christian from a differing tradition until they have found themselves able to respect each other's convictions and to

agree upon the course they will take without violence to the conscience of either.

- (vi) God's Word indicates that husband and wife have different roles in the family. While both are equal in God's sight, God has entrusted the responsibility of leadership in the family to the husband. This leadership is to be exercised with the same love that Christ has for the Church.
- (vii) The relation which God gives in marriage may, contrary to his will, be strained or broken. The Church hears and proclaims the Gospel as a call to repentance and reconciliation and a promise of renewal for strained or broken marriages.
- (viii) If strained marriage leads to a husband and wife's living apart, they may nevertheless in separation continue to recognise and witness to the life-long relationship of marriage. During the separation, each should consider how he or she has contributed to the disruption of the relationship, and, both seeking and offering forgiveness, should try to open the way for a reconciliation.
- (ix) Divorce is a sign of Man's failure to accept God's gift and live in accordance with his commandment. Nevertheless, if a person prayerfully decides that the relationship in the marriage has been finally destroyed and that no possibility exists of renewing it, he or she may seek to have the marriage dissolved. A decision of this kind should be made in a spirit of repentance and the seeking of God's forgiveness. It is the responsibility of civil authorities to provide an ordered procedure for the dissolution in law of a broken marriage and to ensure that such a dissolution will be effected only after all possibility of reconciliation has been exhausted and after satisfactory arrangements have been made for the welfare of any children in the family.
- (x) Those who have experienced the breakdown and dissolution of a marriage are free to marry again, but before deciding to do so they should give careful and prayerful thought as to their fitness to enter upon and sustain another marriage and as to their intention that this marriage should last for life. The Church has a special responsibility to speak the Gospel to them with the full force of its judgment, pardon, direction and promise.

Or do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

Rev. C.D. Balzer and S.H. Crean were appointed to state the Overture.

OVERTURE 9 (Min 34)

From the Presbytery of New England re the Church Crest.

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Whereas the description of the Crest as it appears, for instance, in paragraph 5 of the Introduction to The Code (N.S.W.) is not sufficiently explicit ; and

Whereas there have been considerable variations in representations of the Crest since 1901; and

Whereas there does not appear to be a definitive representation of the Crest that has been approved by this Assembly; and

Whereas the representation of the Crest in the possession of the Clerk of the New South Wales General Assembly does not appear to conform with the description of the Crest in paragraph 5 of the Introduction to The Code (N.S.W.), nor does it, in certain respects, appear to conform with common sense;

Now therefore, the Presbytery of New England humbly overtures the General Assembly of Australia to take these premises into consideration and appoint a committee to report to the next Assembly upon:

- (a) the present representations of the Crest and the legislation whereby it was adopted by the Church;
- (b) a definitive description of the Crest, supported by a coloured drawing;
- (c) the desirability of having the official representation registered with the College of Heralds, or some such body:

Or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

D.B . Stone
Clerk of Presbytery

Dr. P.E. Lush and Rev. A.G. Ingram were appointed to state the Overture.

PETITIONPETITION 1 (Min 65)RE: REVEREND H.G. WEIR FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

To the Venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
of Australia.

The petition humbly sheweth :

That whereas the Reverend H.G. Weir has been "Received as a
minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to
attendance at a theological hall for one year with studies in
Presbyterian doctrine, polity and history and two exit theses
to the satisfaction of the faculty and the College Committee".
(G.A.A. 1979 minute 72 9(b)).

That whereas the Rev. H.G. Weir still desires to enter the
ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

That whereas the Rev. H.G. Weir and Mrs. Weir are now resident
in their own home in Adelaide. ("Glenrose", 1 Woodlea Drive,
Aberfoyle Park 5159, South Australia).

That whereas there is no Presbyterian Theological College nor
provision for the training of students for the ministry in
South Australia.

That whereas because of business commitments, and the fact that
he is resident in Adelaide and is unable to comply with the
General Assembly's terms of "attendance at a Theological Hall... "

Now therefore we the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
of South Australia, pray the Venerable the General Assembly of
the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into
consideration to vary the requirements as stipulated in G.A. of A.
minute 72 9(b) so that the Assembly -

"Receive the Reverend Harold Gibson WEIR as a minister of the
Presbyterian Church of Australia subject to his completion of
work in Presbyterian Doctrine, Polity and History by external
studies and two exit theses to the satisfaction of the Victorian
Senatus, The College Committee and under the guidance of the
Theological and Christian Education Committee of the South
Australian Assembly or do otherwise as they may deem fit.

And your petitioners will ever pray.

Dated this twenty-second day of May in the year of Our Lord, One
thousand nine hundred and eighty-two.

The Rev. M.S. Grieve and the Rev. J.D. Gillman have been appointed
to present and state the petition.

REPORTS

BUSINESS (Min 9)

The Committee met on three occasions to arrange the business for this Assembly. At the first meeting on 1st April, 1982, the Rev. Norman Monsen tendered his resignation as Business Convener following the decision of the Board of Nominators to nominate him to the 1982 General Assembly of Australia as Moderator. The Rev. P.G. Logan of N.S.W. was elected Acting Business Convener in his place and confirmation of this appointment by the Assembly is sought.

At the request of the Finance Committee consideration was given by the Committee to making arrangements for travel and accommodation for subsequent General Assemblies. An appropriate clause is included in the Deliverance.

The following is the Order of Business for the opening of the General Assembly.

Tuesday, 14th September, 1982 :-

- 10.00 a.m. Opening of Assembly
 Public worship conducted by the Rt. Rev. J. Mullan
 Assembly constituted with prayer
 Roll of Assembly
 Apologies
 Communications and acknowledgements
 Election of Moderator
 Induction of Moderator
 Moderator's Address
 Loyal Address
 Associates and Commissions
 Report of the Business Committee
 Notices of Motion
- 12.30 p.m. Adjournment for lunch
- 2.00 p.m. Resume for business

P.G. Logan
Acting Convener

MODERATOR'S NOMINATION (Min 4)

In terms of B.B. 1979 Min 17(3) the following were appointed to form the Committee :-

Very Rev. K.J. Gardner, Rt. Rev. A.B.L. Bailey (Qld), Rev. H.G. Durbin, Rev. S.L. Clements (N.S.W.), Rev. D. Carruthers, Mr. F.M. Bradshaw (Vic.), Rt. Rev. M.J.K. Ramage (Tas), Rev. G.F. McDonald (S.Aust.), the Moderator of the General Assembly and the Clerk of Assembly as Convener.

The Committee will seek to nominate the Rev. Norman Monsen from New South Wales as Moderator of this General Assembly.

E.R. Pearsons,
Convener

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (Min 40)

The Christian Education Committee gives thanks and praise to Almighty God for His sustaining grace and guidance in the work of this committee over the last triennium.

Patterns of work which were established early after June '77 have continued to be the mainstay of the committee's work.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE SEVERAL STATES

Each state has an active, effective and distinctive work in Christian Education. Despite the fact that prior to June '77 the whole thrust of Christian Education both nationally and in every state was to take everything into the Uniting Church, the Lord saw fit to ensure that the Presbyterian Church would be blessed with men who would restore Christian Education work on Biblical foundations, developing it with great and beneficial effect throughout the whole Church. Without interfering in any way with work in the individual states, the G.A.A. Christian Education Committee has been able to provide encouragement to the states and to enable leaders in Christian Education to share both their difficulties and their successes.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee has met on three occasions since the last Assembly - in Melbourne (1980), Adelaide (1981), and Sydney (1982, just prior to this Assembly). These meetings have provided valuable fellowship and enrichment to us all, the more so since on the whole we cannot turn to other denominations, because their philosophy of Christian Education differs remarkably from our theology of Christian Education and we must therefore look to one another across state borders.

Associated with each meeting and its lengthy agenda has been a time of practical Christian Education activity for Sunday School teachers and others interested. These have proved to be most stimulating for the people concerned.

PUBLICATIONS

The publication programme of the committee has continued at a steady pace since the last Assembly, with the following being brought to print: "Live" volume 2, a History of Church Planting in the New Hebrides, by the Rev. Dr. J. Graham Miller; "The God of All Grace", an introduction to the Five Points of Calvinism, by the Very Rev. K.J. Gardner; Personal Daily Bible Study Pads,

and Personal Daily Bible Study Books on Mark's Gospel;
 "Evangelism and the Reformed Faith" by the Very Rev. K.J. Gardner
 et al; "Look to the Rock" by the Rev. Professor W. Stanford Reid;
 "Learning the Christian Faith" by the Rev. R.S. Wark; "That You
 May Teach", a handbook for Teaching Special Religious Education;
 "The Fruit of the Spirit", a study booklet on Galatians 5:22 by
 the Rev. Peter Boase.

The publication programmed is self-sustaining, although this has
 become difficult with steadily increasing printing and distribut-
 ion costs on the one hand and the committee's policy of making the
 publications available as cheaply as possible on the other. We
 have been grateful that in some instances, publications have been
 subsidised, and that generally there has been a ready market for
 our publications. The committee is always pleased to receive
 suggestions, manuscripts, and donations, and is also willing to
 assist other committees, organisations and individuals in the
 Church in sharing our expertise gained through the publication
 programme.

SHARE IN JOINT BOARD ASSETS

A sum of \$11,000 became available to the Committee in 1981 as the
 Presbyterian Church's share in the assets of the pre-union Joint
 Board of Christian Education.

The committee has resolved to invest this money through the Trustees
 and to make the proceeds of this fund available annually for a
 specific project in Christian Education.

The first project was to enable a young man from Adelaide, Mr.
 Peter Hill, to travel to Queensland and N.S.W. to work with the
 Rev. Ron Clark and Andrew Campbell for training in youth ministry
 in South Australia. As a result of his visit Peter felt confirmed
 in his call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and has commenced
 studies at the Theological Hall, Melbourne, becoming the first
 South Australian student for the ministry since 1977.

The committee will be pleased to receive suggestions for each year's
 project.

The Christian Education Committee looks forward to the Assembly's
 adoption of its constitution so that it can proceed with and
 develop its work according to regular practice and procedure and
 continues to look to the Lord for guidance according to His Word
 in all that is done in His Name and for the extension of His
 Kingdom. (Jude 20-25).

C.R. Thomas
 Conven er

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS MISSIONS (Min 21)

Since the last General Assembly of Australia the committee has met on five occasions. The executive has averaged ten meetings per year.

POLICY-FIRST CATEGORY AND VANUATU

Our Church's present policy in its missionary obligation appears to be working very well in spite of some early misunderstandings and difficulties. For purposes of support and administration the activities of the World Mission Committee were divided into three categories. Our financial support for the church in Vanuatu and the missionaries who are serving the church in that situation are in the First Category. This financial support for the church in Vanuatu is considerable and while there is no thought of any reduction it does give us no small amount of concern to know that a large proportion of this church's income is from overseas. Among other things it does mean that any economic downturn on the world scene, and this is not improbable, could spell severe hardship for the church in Vanuatu.

We have been magnificently served by our representatives there in the persons of Mr. & Mrs. Leon Thorpe, Mr. & Mrs. Ian Baird, Rev. Peter & Mrs. Barnes and Rev. Bill & Mrs. Sue Camden. Mr. & Mrs. Thorpe have recently returned from Vanuatu and the committee would place on record its appreciation of the wise, efficient and dedicated Christian service which these people rendered in our name to the church in Vanuatu. Both the church there and the committee here in Australia will miss them greatly in the situation where they served.

The whole church both in Australia and in Vanuatu were shocked and saddened at the accident that took the life of Marion Camden and which seriously injured her mother, Mrs. Sue Camden. The family have had our prayers and we thank God for the recovery thus far of Mrs. Sue Camden and pray that her recovery may be complete. The Bible translation work which is Pastor Camden's primary missionary concern continues. The New Testament in Bislama was published in November 1980 and work on the Old Testament goes on with meticulous devotion. Mr. & Mrs. Ian Baird continue to serve very effectively on the teaching staff in the Onesua High School. The church in Vanuatu is in the process of reorganisation in some areas and one of these is that of theological training and the Bible College. This may mean that they will make additional use of the many abilities of the Rev. Peter Barnes in the near future.

SECOND AND THIRD CATEGORIES

Members of our church working in Vanuatu are only a small percentage of the total church membership actively involved in World Mission. At the time of the writing of this report that total number was 104. Numbered among the remainder are ministers of our church and their wives such as the Rev. Peter Richardson

and his wife Dr. Jenny Richardson and the Rev. John Ting and his wife Frances. The Richardsons are involved in theological training and medical service in Bangladesh while Rev. John Ting has an important position also involving theological training but in his case, in Singapore.

Other member-missionaries, all well qualified and some very highly qualified, are to be found in many countries. Some countries are in the continents of Africa and South America, while others include Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, Singapore, India, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Thailand. Then there is the Muslim population of North Africa being evangelised by radio from France and work with our own Australian Aborigines; some of our member-missionaries are involved in these areas also. Support for these members has in no way diminished the support that is being given to our traditional field in Vanuatu nor has it diminished the outreach in the home churches in Australia. In fact, there are those who would make a very strong case for suggesting that the level of missionary interest, evangelical enthusiasm, and material dedication has increased dramatically, in every area of our church's life. The issuing of a Missionary Directory has fuelled this understanding and interest although it is only a limited production and in its fourth edition.

FRATERNAL LINKS WITH OTHER CHURCHES

The committee continues to investigate the potentiality of fraternal links with other churches overseas. As we do this, we recognise the increasing sense of independence that is being displayed by indigenous and growing churches in other countries. Using one of our missionary members in Kenya as a representative contact was made with the East African Presbyterian Church and this contact is being developed. Also correspondence has been exchanged with a 'Presbyterian' church in Indonesia and there is a possibility that we may resume fraternal links with The Presbyterian Church of Korea.

THE SERVANT ROLE OF OUR MISSIONARIES

It is still not clearly understood by some ministers and members that our church can have no say today, in the theology and practice of churches and mission areas with which we have fraternal links through our missionary members. All we can do is investigate the situation and if we believe that it is compatible with our doctrinal stance and our overall church policy then we co-operate but if the results of the investigation are negative all we can do is cease to co-operate. We do not try to correct. For this reason, and of course for many other good reasons, it is important to maintain strong pastoral links with all our missionary members, then they will be increasingly aware of our direction as a church and through them, and possibly only through them, will we be able to influence the church in other lands and cultures.

FINANCE

Our giving to the church in Vanuatu and to other projects in 1981 is outlined hereunder. We are aware that this represents but a small fraction of the missionary giving our church at this present moment. We have no way of calculating the total amount with accuracy except to say that from time to time we hear of substantial support being given in cash or kind to missionary members by their home or neighbouring congregations. Any attempts to tabulate this 'Third Priority Giving' thus far has been a failure.

Our income over the last years has been very consistent. The increase would not be in keeping with inflation rates but has been sufficient at this stage, for us to honour all our promises to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

A comparison of the last three years is as follows :

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Category I	30,379.60	43,009.83	51,329.27
Category II	20,710.18	12,223.01	11,548.00
Category III	3,882.00	2,728.35	2,634.00
Unallocated	10,534.77	10,309.09	5,861.52
Bank Interest	710.49	389.09	223.50
Extra Mile	500.00	—	—
	<u>66,717.04</u>	<u>68,659.37</u>	<u>71,596.29</u>

Now that Queensland has its own State Committee, it is anticipated that Category III support will be very minimal as now all State Committees forward such money directly.

STATE COMMITTEES

The increasing and efficient oversight of the State Committees is noted with sincere appreciation by this Committee. Special thanks are offered to the N.S.W. Committee for administrative help and suggestions from time to time. Also, the valuable fellowship and support of the various States' P.W.M.U. is gratefully noted and, while all do excellent work, the Victorian Branch deserves a special commendation.

Administration costs are kept to a minimum by every committee. The N.S.W.'s committee employs one person on a part-time basis but the Assembly should note that all other work in N.S.W. and right through the Commonwealth is voluntary. This means that almost all of every Presbyterian World Mission dollar gets to the mission field.

CONCLUSION

In concluding the Committee would assure the Assembly that there is an impressive and rising tide of prayer support and involvement in the work of World Mission by our church at this time. We believe this will not only strengthen the church but also hasten the day when the kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever.

K.J. Gardner
Convener

G.A.A. BENEFICIARY FUND (Min 43)

The Committee met several times early in its existence and it was evident that the formation of a national Beneficiary Fund would be difficult. The State funds are different in nature and there were differing views among the State representatives on the way a national Fund should be constituted. N.S.W. had special difficulties because the Beneficiary Fund had to "take its turn" in the work of the division of assets with the Uniting Church. It is still to receive from the actuary the valuation of its Fund. It would be worthwhile for the Assembly to re-appoint a Committee to work towards the possible creation of a national Fund.

Fred Young
Convener

CHURCH AND NATION (Min 32)

Moral and social issues are usually very complex. There are few such issues upon which there is a unanimous Christian opinion.

In coming to an assessment of moral and social issues, Christian people should be guided by principles derived from a study of the Scriptures; they should then examine the various interpretations and applications of these principles to social and moral issues in particular cultural settings; and finally, they should be thoroughly familiar with the technical aspects of the issues.

Usually there is no simple and conclusive answer to the great moral dilemmas of life to be derived from either the Scriptures or the traditions of a particular denomination. That is the reason for Christian people of intellectual integrity and compassion often coming to conflicting views on moral issues.

We need then to assess moral issues seeking the guidance of the Scriptures and listening to the counsel of other people.

The latter part of the twentieth century is experiencing the full flowering of the bud of scientific/technological achievements. The community of men and women is witnessing an immense and radical revolution that, within the last century, has transformed communications, transport and productive processes. These enormous advances have profound influences on the ordinary course of living. They raise acute moral problems concerning the ultimate purpose of human endeavour. Dr. Alex Robertson, principal lecturer in Physics at the Riverina College of Advanced Education and elder of the Church, articulates some of the problems and dilemmas facing all people in western societies, and in particular those involved in productive processes, in the light of new technology. He suggests ways in which people of Christian conviction may respond to these issues.

THE PEACE MOVEMENT

One of the great movements within the Western world in the 1980's is concerned with nuclear power in general, and with nuclear weapons in particular. Thousands of people of goodwill have marched through the streets of the cities of the western world demanding that the arms race be stopped and that the production of lethal nuclear weapons cease. Many people of Christian conviction and compassion are involved in this movement. The Peace Movement raises at least three significant themes.

FIRST : There is a great desire in the hearts and minds of ordinary men and women across the world to live in peace. This desire transcends all social and economic, all racial and national differences. People want to live at peace, pursuing their own interest free from the threat of war and destruction.

SECOND : There is a horror in the minds of many of the destructive power of a thermo-nuclear holocaust. A war involving the super powers using nuclear weapons could well see the total eradication of the human species from the face of the earth. The Peace Movement draws attention to the lethality of nuclear weapons.

THIRD : The Peace Movement desires that the natural and human resources being directed to the refinement of better nuclear and conventional arms, be redirected to the elimination of human hunger, the reduction of disease and the improvement of basic living conditions for a vast number of human beings living in the third and fourth worlds.

On the other hand, however, it should be remembered that there are many people who are sympathetic to the aspirations expressed above but who are wary of involvement in such peace movements. Such people make the following points :

- (a) Nuclear power is here to stay. The clock cannot be turned back and nuclear power will continue to be used within the human community at an every increased pace. Inevitably such power has been used to develop weapons of destruction. Such weapons are here to stay.

- (b) Moreover, there is some credibility in the nuclear deterrent argument. One fact of contemporary life which many ignore is the threat of communist totalitarianism. The stated aim of Marxism is world domination. Many suggest that the nuclear power of anti-communist forces has prevented the spread of communism especially in western Europe.
- (c) Many opponents of the anti-nuclear peace movement point to the failure of the appeasement policies in relation to the Nazi threat in the 1930's. Many people of Christian conviction and compassion were involved in that movement which ultimately proved so costly in terms of destruction of property and loss of life.
- (d) It is far too simplistic to seek to avoid the challenge of the Peace Movement by applying dismissive political labels, such as "communist inspired". In the free world the movement has attracted adherents from every political persuasion and none. The absence of any comparable movement in the communist countries is due to political factors such as the prohibition of freedom of expression. Nevertheless, the energies of the anti-nuclear movement need to be directed towards a global nuclear strategy if any lasting impression is to be made.

NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS

Dr. A.G. Robertson

REVIEW

Since atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 the world has lived with the possibility of full-scale nuclear war. No nuclear weapon has since been used, but the potential for nuclear destruction has vastly increased. Indeed, both the U.S.A, and the U.S.S.R. may possess the capacity to eliminate the whole human species.

Briefly after 1945 only the U.S.A, could produce atomic or fission weapons, but it was soon joined in the "Nuclear Club" by the U.S.S.R. The ideological gulf between them was the trigger, and tense international relations have been the result. Since 1945 we have endured the Cold War of the late 1940's, the Korean struggle of the 1950's, the Vietnam War of the 1960's and 1970's and the 'running sore' of the Middle East; and this list is by no means exhaustive!

Had the nuclear Club contained only two members the danger would have been high, but they have now been joined by Britain, France, India, China and perhaps Israel. Moreover, during the present conflict in the South Atlantic we have heard the disturbing possibility of Argentina gaining a nuclear capacity and the very real temptation for Britain, operating along extended lines of communication, to use its nuclear submarines.

Three major technological developments have increased the danger. The first was the development of fusion weapons or hydrogen bombs. Using different nuclear processes, these bombs are far more destructive than fission or atomic bombs, releasing energy several thousands of times that of the bombs dropped in Japan in 1945. The justification for building and testing such frightful weapons was, and is, that no nation would use them in fear of possible retaliation.

The second technological development has been in the capacity to deliver such weapons. We are all familiar with the long list : Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles; Cruise Missiles; Anti-Missile Missiles; Submarine launching; and rocket-guided war-heads. Any doubts we might have had about the sophistication and precision of delivery and detection systems have been removed by the present conflict between Britain and Argentina in the South Atlantic.

The third major technological development is the 'neutron' or enhanced radiation' bomb, a weapon producing tremendous levels of very penetrative and lethal neutron radiation without causing the blast or heat damage of previous atom and hydrogen bombs. The presumed value of atomic and hydrogen bombs lay in the maintenance of a 'balance of terror' in which each nation feared that retaliation against its own nuclear attack would be utterly destructive. This 'balance of terror' may have helped prevent the outbreak of a global war and the use of nuclear weapons since 1945. Now, however, neutron bombs with tremendous capacity for destruction might be used in limited as well as global conflicts. The U.S.A, made the first decision to develop neutron bombs; it is possible France already has developed them or will do so; and it is difficult to believe the U.S.S.R. will not follow suit.

To sum up: many countries now have nuclear weapons; the increase may mean that countries of doubtful political stability and reliability will develop a nuclear capacity; the total nuclear arsenal with its tremendous destructive capacity represents an 'over-kill', the development of the tactical neutron bomb may make nuclear weapons conventional and presumably respectable for limited wars; such use would reduce the presumed deterrent value of the earlier strategic fission and fusion weapons; and the possible results are too horrible to contemplate.

CHARACTERISTICS

Why should we be particularly concerned about nuclear weapons? Ever since one man used a stick or stone to strike another, weapons and war seem to have been present. Some people would assert that nuclear weapons are merely the latest development after the stone, the spear, the bow and arrow, gunpowder, TNT and the rest of them. There are, however, significant new aspects.

Strategic nuclear weapons - fission and fusion bombs - are enormously and non-selectively destructive. A single bomb can totally obliterate a substantial city, levelling all structures and eliminating all life. The words 'civilian' and 'infant' then

become meaningless. This is frightening.

But there is a more subtle and longer-term threat. Although people distant from the centre would survive the initial explosion, many would be exposed to radiation from nuclear particles or gamma rays with dire results. For some of these, the disruption of body cells will occur within days or weeks : for others it may take years or even decades. In the longer term, there is a possibility of genetic change. Genetic mutation levels may increase, with potential damage and even death for a generation not even born at the time of a nuclear explosion.

The increase in local levels of background radiation is a further possible threat. This may be short-term, as when fall-out is dropped in remote areas, or long-term, as when isotopes of long half-life are produced. Assessment of the effects of this low-level radiation is difficult, but here is another result of the change in the character of weapons.

To sum up again : we justifiably fear nuclear warfare for its potential to produce immediate mass destruction and to produce sinister medium - and long-term effects.

A CHRISTIAN POSITION

We do not suggest there is a single approach to the problems raised by nuclear armaments with which all Christians would agree. Some see the threat of U.S.S.R. aggression to be so serious as to justify every step to oppose it. Others see the threat of the weapons themselves to be so serious as to justify ending all production of them. Still others - and theirs may be a dangerous delusion - see the world of Jesus of Nazareth as remote from the threat of nuclear warfare, which they consign to the world of James Bond and Dr. Who.

We do assert, however, that all affairs of men and nations are conducted within the providence, and under the rule, of God, Who has given us an awful freedom, the fruits of which we inevitably reap. He does not and will not, of course, intervene at our convenience to prevent our reaping the bitter fruits of any seed that we sow. At the heart of the Gospel, indeed, is that tension between God's sovereignty and man's freedom which the whole nuclear question exposes in stark enormity. Individuals, leaders and nations may choose to ignore or to neglect their responsibility and accountability to God, but that choice neither removes nor diminishes God's claims .

Clearly, God expects nations and their leaders to acknowledge His rule, to worship Him wholeheartedly and to validate that worship by acting with justice, equity, compassion, honesty and trustworthiness. No nation which fails in these expectations can expect the enduring approval of a just and loving God.

The Biblical record and subsequent historical events show the

affairs of nations to have been marred by the sin of man. Greed, lust for power, oppression, injustice and treachery have marred the relationships between nations and individuals in the past as in our own time. Such expressions of sin and rebellion against God's rule have generated strife and warfare throughout History.

But the Biblical record contains, above all, the priceless teaching of Jesus Christ. In Him we have the Redeemer both of individuals and of nations. Individuals and nations who acknowledge the Lordship of Christ both in word and in deed will enjoy the full measure of the acceptance and love of God the Father. We see the role of Christians in our society, as individuals and as members of the Church universal and of separate Christian denominations, to influence community and national life towards Godliness.

Summing up once more, we assert that establishing just and lasting peace depends upon the renewal or redemption of mankind. This must be part of the missionary goal of the Church. For survival alone, we must at least strive for a condition of non-war. These are urgent and formidable tasks.

CONCLUSION

We urge the leaders of all nations, especially our own, to strive to remove the causes of war. Among these, we distinguish the following :

1. Exploitation within and between nations;
2. Oppression by military, commercial and other means;
3. The aggressive imposition of ideologies; and
4. Materialistic ambition.

Implicit in these four cases enumerated is the possibility that unfair distribution of the world's wealth may provoke aggression; indeed, it may even provoke a poor nation with a nuclear capability into precipitate nuclear action. In this respect, we commend the Australian Government for its very real attempts to promote international dialogue aimed at producing a more equitable distribution of the world's resources. We pray that this dialogue will continue and that positive steps will emerge to redress the clear inequalities between rich and poor. As an example, we believe that the figure of 1% of GNP set by the UNO as appropriate as aid for underdeveloped countries should be adopted by developed countries. We therefore encourage the Australian Government to share our undeniable wealth with people sorely in need at least to that extent.

Because of the awful threat of nuclear war and the tremendous cost of maintaining and increasing the nuclear arsenal, we encourage the Australian Government and other national bodies and their leaders to strive incessantly for world disarmament and for a redirection of resources in such ways as will enhance the prospects of peace and the welfare of mankind. We affirm that the ways of peace,

justice and reconciliation are God's ways and will receive His approval.

AUSTRALIA'S PROPOSED DOMESTIC SATELLITE, THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY
K.J. Swan

We can expect Australia's domestic satellite to be placed in orbit some time during 1984-85. Should the Church adopt the attitude that this revolutionary and exciting new aspect of communications technology will be beyond its legitimate purview because of its sophistication and its cost? Or could we adopt the stance that such technological development might provide many opportunities for assisting the outreach of the Church?

The Dean of the School of Education at Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education, Mr. Ken Imison, told the recent annual conference of the Isolated Childrens Parents Association that 'this communications revolution will make rapid changes to rural society by offering a means to revolutionise distance education'. In illustrating this point, he described how his Institute in Toowoomba conducted tutorials linking students throughout Queensland by telephone and others on South Pacific Islands by satellite.

Mr. Imison went on to stress that the best means of benefiting from the new technology was by 'long-term planning based on a vision of possibilities, ' and added that 'correct planning will help bring to children of the outback an education no longer limited by distance and isolation.'

A glance at the Year Book of our Church shows that we still have many congregations in the isolated areas of inland Australia. Moreover, beyond the towns and villages are the homes of many of our parishioners. Some of these are served by the Southwest and Northwest Patrols in New South Wales and by the Presbyterian Inland Mission in South Australia and Queensland. Not only do the children of these families need educational facilities, but the entire families need the Gospel.

During the first third of the twentieth century, S.A. Eastman of our Church was instrumental in gaining the licence for radio station 2CH in Sydney, and John Flynn was God's instrument who erected the 'mantle of safety' over the people of the outback with the pedal radio and the aeroplane.

This Committee believes that we, the successors of Eastman and Flynn, must at the very least examine the 'vision of possibilities' that this exciting new technological development might offer for propagating the Gospel across this vast island continent.

FURTHER READING: 'Developing Education,' Vol. 9 No. 1 Article by M.F. Forster, Principal of the Katherine School of the Air.

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Alex Robertson

BACKGROUND

Major technological changes have frequently brought with them economic, social political and even religious upheavals. Not infrequently once-prized skills have become redundant and new ones have emerged; whole strata in society have been inverted in status; political parties, sometimes nations have emerged or disappeared and more than once the Church as been called upon to rethink and restate the Gospel.

In the developed world the pace of technological change in the late twentieth century has been very great and increases apparently without respite. It would be impossible to consider all the changes in technology which might be upon us in the last twenty years of the century, but we can consider two major and related technological advances which are already here and which challenge our society. These are the microprocessor and the mechanical robot.

For more than thirty years the computer has steadily developed to the point where very sophisticated devices can be purchased for modest amounts and a constant flow of changes and improvements pours over a dazed community. At first computers were used as very fast and accurate calculators, then as huge stores of information. Now we are seeing a vast array of applications of the tiny silicon chips ranging from TV games to control of inter-planetary flights. For a whole host of purposes the microprocessor seems to be more reliable, faster and certainly cheaper than human beings.

Particularly in Japan we have seen- the microprocessor coupled to machines to produce that creature of the science fiction writers, the mechanical robot. These machines can perform complex tasks. Perhaps most remarkably some are able to reproduce themselves. In a very short time it is expected that Japan will be exporting robots built to perform all kinds of tasks. Many skilled workers will be replaced by these machines.

IMPACT

Already some aspects of the impact of these technologies are evident and little imagination is required to anticipate further effects. In order to meet the challenges created it is important that leaders in all aspects of national life be informed and prepared. To this time there has been surprisingly little public discussion of the issues.

We should consider the important questions of the impact on work and the distribution of wealth.

Already the microprocessor has begun to affect employment in several areas. We are all familiar with letters, bills and advertising generated by computers. In banks, insurance companies, publishing houses and even small offices clerical workers are being replaced by computers and word processors. In libraries

around the world the mountains of written information are being reduced to tiny signals on magnetic, tapes and disks which can be searched and sorted at great speed for those seeking information. In laboratories and hospitals tests are being carried out, analysed and reported upon automatically. The development of robots has not matched that of microprocessors yet, but the possibilities, indeed probabilities, are very great.

The need for human labour in a whole range of 'doing' tasks is on the point of being removed. This will have an enormous impact which is increasingly being recognised. What is not as well appreciated is the imminent effect on many 'thinking' tasks. People who see themselves as decision makers will soon find that they are being challenged by a super-fast, tireless collection of hardware and software which can analyse, project and decide. The machines can already be taught to learn from their mistakes and have diagnosed illnesses and flown space craft unaided.

Simply in terms of work the process worker, the skilled tradesman, the stenographers, but also the store manager, the teacher, the lawyer, even the physician and the pathologist will certainly be affected.

Despite this threat to employment, the wealth of the community in material terms may well increase. A great social challenge, perhaps the greatest, is to devise a means of sharing equitably that wealth. It is certainly clear that the present means will not do. In summary then, we have a picture of much less work of the kinds we are used to increased wealth overall and some enormous social challenges.

WORK

Perhaps the greatest challenge for the theologians of the Church will be to reassess the Christian view of work. Traditionally work has been seen as essential to the full development of the human personality. The 'work ethic' has particularly been identified with the protestant church. We might well question whether some of the work which our forbears had to do was very edifying. The disappearance of some tedious or dangerous tasks can hardly be a cause for regret. However, the prospect of the removal of whole areas of work, perhaps leading to a huge group of people who are not needed for work and are permanently unemployed, or a working week of 20 to 25 hours needs to be thought of as a theological challenge. Nor can we neglect evidence that our culture, philosophy, art and theology have generally developed in 'non-work'time. The time may be at hand to develop a theology of non-work.

WEALTH

With most new technologies a new group of wealthy individuals has emerged, and often other groups of poor and poorer. It may be socially and politically unacceptable to allow a repeat of past processes to distribute wealth. Indeed, we could face absurdities

of wealth, taxation and poverty if 'work' contracts sufficiently. Rather urgently means must be found which will permit the whole society to benefit from the new developments. Christians have always held that wealth itself is a hazard to the individual. In the next 20 years the management of wealth produced by machines rather than people will be a serious hazard to whole societies. It seems clearly unacceptable to distribute wealth on the basis of work and then deny work to an even larger part of the community.

NEW WORK

If much traditional work in primary, secondary and tertiary industry disappears, there will not be any shortage of service which Christians can do. All the evidence points to an increasing number of elderly, isolated, perhaps deprived and confused within our communities. There will be plenty of caring 'work' for the Christian community to do.

Additionally, most projections suggest that the new technologies will do little to close the gap between the developed and the underdeveloped world, except in a limited number of countries which have been able to establish industries based on new technologies. There will be many opportunities for service outside our own community and country, assuming of course that Australia adopts new technologies.

There may also exist a great challenge to persuade our leaders to spread benefits which flow beyond our own shores.

TO WHAT ENDS?

It is rarely argued that new technology is introduced for the benefit of those most directly associated with it; certainly it is in the cases of some automated processes where dangerous or tedious tasks have been eliminated. More frequently, however, machines have removed or will remove the need for human labour altogether or replace skilled workers with unskilled machine watchers who will in due course themselves be unnecessary.

The benefits are clearly seen as coming from cheaper, better, more profitable goods and services. The short term results may be fine in these terms, but without resolution of the allied problems, particularly distribution of wealth, the corporate benefits may be shortlived.

If there are benefits to be gained from the new technologies, and if they are well used there should be, then Christians would want to see the benefits well shared.

POVERTY IN AUSTRALIA

'Poverty' is a relative term. Those described as 'poor' within Australia are 'fairly well off' compared with those described as 'poor' in the fourth world.

Jesus asserted that there would always be poor people (Mark 14:7) . Constantly throughout the Bible special regard is directed towards the poor. The Jewish people had various social mechanisms whereby the plight of the poor was relieved. In the New Testament special regard is directed towards 'the least of these' - the hungry, the thirsty, the naked and so on. The Church through its long history has often endeavoured to help the poor in the name of Christ.

There are many 'low income earners' in Australia today, and many who are supported by the system of social security. The Committee affirms that it is both right and compassionate for Governments to help such people. This is achieved by the social security welfare system, welfare housing and other concessions.

Sometimes this state of 'poverty' is self induced. For example, it is undeniable that many people listed as unemployed are not genuinely seeking work. Should the community be expected to support such people who elect to be unemployed?

The whole system of social welfare is becoming an immense burden on the tax payers of the nation. A balance must be achieved by means of which those with an abundance of resources should support the poorer people through the taxation system. But the system also needs to prevent abuses whereby those who have ample resources receive Government help; the system needs also to discourage people from 'living off the State' .

Campbell Egan
Convener

CODE (Min 14)

The Assembly in 1979 referred the following for action and/or comment.

1. Revision and Reprinting of the 'Constitution and Procedure and Practice of the Presbyterian Church of Australia'

The Procurator and the Clerk have met several times to plan this project and a start has been made on research into the basic documents. With the upheaval of litigation involving several of the principal Officers of the Assembly and the tremendous loss of time incurred this task has unfortunately proceeded slowly. It is our earnest desire to press on. To assist with the revision it would be helpful to have a further member of the Committee from Victoria to permit an executive to meet regularly in Melbourne and thus control the costs.

2. Committee Structure (B.B. 1979 17.2)

We were requested to examine the present set up of committees, the regulations relating thereto, with the object of saving expense and increasing efficiency. The reason behind the

present method of appointment was to centre certain committees in various states with the bulk of the membership coming from the State in which the Committee was placed. For the reason of cost and the availability of personnel the majority of committees were centred in N.S.W. It is difficult to imagine how this could be altered if Assembly committees are to meet on any regular basis without placing the whole financial structure of the Assembly at risk.

3 . Nomination Committee - Moderator (1979 Min. 17 (3))

The Committee was asked 'to consider in respect to the proposed revision of the Code' the regulations passed in 1979 re the procedure to bring a nomination for Moderator before the Assembly. As the revision of the Code has not advanced very far it would be difficult to make any comment on the regulations. It can be said that the nomination committee worked most efficiently and the proposal of the Rev. Norman Monsen as Moderator-Designate has met with acceptance throughout the Church.

4. Church & Nation Committee (B.B. 1979 Min. 97 (4))

The Clerk was directed to consult with the Code Committee as to the 'legal standing within the structures of the General Assembly of the Church and Nation Committee'. There is no doubt that the General Assembly of Australia has the authority to appoint committees to perform stated tasks and to provide funding for same. It is not suggested that we engage in drafting Articles of Agreement for a Church and Nation Committee and going through all the necessary Barrier Act procedure to have them implemented.

5. REMIT (see B.B. 1979 Min. 39(3) anent Christian Education)

- (a) The Board shall consist of sixteen members, Ministers and Elders, ten of whom shall be appointed on the nomination of the State Assemblies, four by New South Wales, two by Victoria, two by Queensland, one by Tasmania, one by South Australia, together with the Convener of the Christian Education Committee or its equivalent of each State Assembly or his deputy and the Convener of the Christian Education Committee of the Presbytery of Western Australia or his deputy. Should a State Assembly fail to nominate, the General Assembly shall appoint in its stead.
- (b) The members from New South Wales shall constitute the executive.
- (c) The Convener shall be appointed by the General Assembly from among the members of the executive and, in the absence of an executive officer, shall be responsible for giving effect to the decisions of the Board.
- (d) The Christian Education Committee or its equivalent of each State Assembly shall stimulate interest in and supervise Christian Education activity within

the state and shall forward copies of the minutes of their meetings to the Board, together with information of new developments and items of interest in the work of Christian Education.

- (e) The Board shall take into consideration the views of the State Committees and shall co-operate with them in every possible way in seeking to further the work of Christian Education throughout the Commonwealth.
- (f) The Board shall particularly be responsible for issuing materials and publications, but without prejudice to State Assemblies, Presbyteries and Sessions issuing publication within their jurisdictions.
- (g) The Finance Committee of the General Assembly is authorised to make funds available to the Board for administration purposes.
- (h) The Board shall report to each General Assembly.

Replies have been received as follows :

PRESBYTERIES (FOR)

Ball ar at	Hunter	Murrumbidgee	Onkapar inga
Bendigo	Illawar r a	Latrobe Valley	
Br i sb ane	Ku-r ing-g ai	New England	Sydney South
Canberra	Kilnoorat	North Queensland	Sydney West
Darling Downs	Melbourne East	North Sydney	Torrens
D ubbo	Melbourne West	Northern Rivers	Wagga Wagga
Hawke sbury	Mowbray	Penola	Young

AGAINST

Bathurst*	Geelong*	Orange * *	Tasmania
Benalla*	Has ti ngs *	Rockhampton*	Western
Fli nd e r s *	More e * *	Sydney*	Australia *

ASSEMBLY - (FOR) Victoria, N.S .W., South Australia and Queensland.

AGAINST - Tasmania

*No Return

* * C omment s

E.R. Pearsons

Convener

COLLEGE (Min 81)1. General

Much hard work has gone into re-establishing the theological halls in the various states and the results have been most encouraging particularly when one considers the limitations of resources whether finance, staff or students.

Pressures arising from filling vacancies have eased in some states, while all states are now well on the way to re-aligning themselves, after Union, in accord with the Church's historic perspective.

The challenge now is to press on and further develop standards so that, as the Church moves towards the twenty-first century it will provide a training of the highest calibre, both for the foundational training of its new ministers and the further training of all.

1 . 1 New South Wales

This state has a large number of candidates, but limited funds and few established teachers. It has risen to the occasion by adopting a flexible approach and utilising outside resources.

Due to the large number of older men, especially Home Missionaries, it was decided to concentrate on developing the Special Course. It was possible to do this since both Sydney University (through the B.D.) and Moore Theological College (through the B.Th . and B.D. (London)) provide training at degree level with high academic standards. The cooperation and help of both these bodies have been noteworthy.

It has also developed a significant course that gives training in the practical skills while supplementing from a specifically Presbyterian perspective the total theological training. All students, degree and non-degree, are required to take this course.

The state is fortunate in having a growing team of younger men, many involved in post-graduate studies, who are able to share the teaching.

Further plans are being made to extend the training programme to cover elders and members. At the centre of this will be a faculty developing a research programme in applying Reformed teaching to all aspects of contemporary life.

Rev. Crawford Miller has assisted in the transition stage by serving an extra three years as Professor of Theology. He retires at the end of the year.

1.2 Queens land

This state has shown steady development both as to student numbers and staffing problems.

Building on the foundation laid by the first Principal Dr. Harold Whitney the church has appointed Rev. Norman Barker, Professor of Biblical Studies, as Principal, and Rev. Dr. Nigel Lee, well qualified in theology and philosophy and with wide overseas experience, to the Chair of Theology. The work of these two men is supplemented by a team of part-time lecturers. Considering the smallness of the church after Union and the very limited financial resources the results have been quite remarkable, indicating an enthusiasm and commitment throughout the state.

Its emphasis - 'Biblical - Reformed - Evangelical - Contemporary' - augers well for the future.

1 . 3 Victoria

Victoria has a proud heritage in theological training. Always in the vanguard in Australia, a leader in the Southern Hemisphere and a bastion of the reformed faith, its post-war declension led the church decisively to Union.

It was the one church that had assets that could be allocated to the post union Presbyterian Church but, nonetheless, the task of re-establishing a Theological College in accord with the dreams of its founding fathers, was a daunting one.

Within a few years, by much hard work by Senatus and Committee a whole new institution was established within the precincts of the Assembly Hall. Under the leadership of the founding Principal, Professor Robert Swanton, it was granted accreditation by the Australian College of Theology for providing the Bachelor of Theology programme. Its staff act as external examiners for various bodies .

Rev. Dr. Allan Harman, Professor of Old Testament, has recently been appointed Principal to relieve Mr. Swanton of the administration burden, who continues as Professor of Theology. Rev. Douglas Milne continues as Professor of New Testament. After the sad passing of Rev. Robert Miller, Professor of Church History he has been replaced on a temporary part-time basis by Professor Emeritus Stanford Reid from Canada.

The number of students has in the past been small but this is starting to develop in an encouraging way and with this is a positive re-establishing of traditional links with South Australia and Tasmania.

1.4 The College Committee

The Executive of the College Committee has met regularly, usually twice a year. Considerable time has been given to applying the regulations to achieve parity among students of diverse backgrounds and attainments. This has not been made easy by the difficulties inherent in the Regulations and Articles of Agreement. This in turn has stimulated further basic research in the aims of theological education and the consequent standards that should apply to the church of the future.

The matter of practical training has been referred to the committee and is dealt with later in the report.

The death of the Rev. William Loftus has been a real loss to the Executive as to so many other areas of the Church's life. In his place, Professor Harman has been invited to share in the deliberations and his contribution has been most helpful.

A point has been made of keeping informed and inviting comments from all non-executive members. This has been extended to cover a representative of every state.

2. The Regulations (to apply the present Articles).

2.1 The Preparatory Course

(a) The norm of an undirected degree

Article viii(e) asserts the norm of admission to a Theological Hall to be a degree of a recognised University. This has been traditionally understood as an Arts degree but with the broadening of the Arts faculty and the introduction of new faculties in the present century, this has been widely expanded to include graduation in other faculties, e.g. in the British Isles, North America, Australia (MCD). The adoption of this position ensures that students of theology have acquired beforehand an intellectual maturity through an academic discipline not normally acquired and unassessable elsewhere. Specialised knowledge is not unrelated to general education.

A large proportion of candidates come from an older age group than previously, many having already completed an undirected tertiary course of study. This would require supplementation ensuing a basic knowledge of the English Bible and the Shorter Catechism.

(b) The Alternative Course

From 1901 special exemptions, strictly limited, were permissible one year Arts including classical Greek, presupposing of matriculation, the completion of entrance examinations not covered in the Arts, and accepted only on the resolution of a State Assembly. This was departed from in 1928 when three fifths of a degree was required. The Home Missions course was apparently not designed as the equivalent of the exceptional one year in Arts, but as an alternative to the regular Arts course, extending for a considerable period to four years. The subjects finally included were, apart from Scripture Knowledge and Catechism, Greek, Hebrew or Old Testament alternative, History of Philosophy, Logic, Ethics, Psychology, English, and British History. The Home Mission Course was part-time but the University full-time for three years. If specific subjects, such as Greek, in preparation for the Theological course, were not included in the

University course, a pass was required in a special Entrance examination. In 1928, when significant modifications were made in the regulations it was stated : 'The traditional standard of the Presbyterian Church for admission to its Theological Halls is University graduation, and this is the standard aimed at and kept steadfastly in view in Australia'. In line with this, appropriate amendment is proposed to the regulations in the deliverance.

2.2 The Theological Course ; Hebrew

The present regulations provide exemption for candidates from the study of Hebrew and, periodically, pleas are made for the waiving of Hebrew (or Greek) under extenuating circumstances

The difficulty lies in knowing what are extenuating circumstances. There may be a physical defect with eyesight, not being able to follow all the 'jots and tittles.' Evidence has been given that any student given the right start, can get on top of Hebrew and that those that generally do best are older non-university Home Missionaries who appreciate the importance of the subject.

For Presbyterians, who value the Old Testament as equally inspired as the New Testament, and for whom the ultimate authority is the original tongue in both, it is difficult to find cogent reasons for dropping out either language from the basic tools of trade for the professional Ministry.

In any case the Articles in this matter are quite specific requiring the study of both Hebrew and Greek including exegesis. However, latitude can be given as to the extent of exegesis that is required of an individual candidate.

3. Altering the Articles of Agreement ; Planning for the future (A copy of the present Article is provided separately for the information of members of the Assembly).

The Assembly instructed the Committee to report on this to the Assembly (Min 117.3).

An Overture is submitted in the appropriate place but the following comments should help to explain the proposed -changes.

The importance of this matter for the future of our church would be self-evident irrespective of the relative merits of the particular proposals.

It is another question as to the extent the Church is ready to proceed in the proposed direction.

It is up to the Church whether to move to adopt the scheme in three years' time by sending it straight down to Assemblies and presbyteries under the Barrier Act, or to take six years over it and in the meantime get feed-back from the courts as to the proposals.

3.1 Academic standards

The first paragraph limits the field of the Federal Assembly's responsibilities and they are to set and maintain the academic standards throughout Australia.

State Assemblies have the responsibility of actually training students for the Ministry. They provide the institutions for producing an all-round ministry which implements not only academic standards but the personal, spiritual and practical standards set by each State Assembly together with the Presbyteries of that State.

This Assembly has to make clear what the academic standards are so that uniformity can be maintained within widely differing circumstances within each state and in the backgrounds of particular candidates.

3.2 Degree standard, and its relation to professional and practical training

Within tertiary studies in Australia there are recognised three levels of academic training - degree, diploma and associate diploma. They vary according to the breadth, depth and length of the area of knowledge and the relative emphasis on this theoretical content and practical skill.

The popular distinction, often claimed, for example, between Universities and Colleges of Advanced Education, is that between 'academic' and 'professional' or 'vocational'. But this is misleading. All training for the Ministry is 'Professional'. Hebrew is as 'vocational' as counselling. All professional training has an academic component. This component can be on different levels and it is this level that the church must determine.

As the Church moves towards the twenty-first century, having in recent times already passed through massive changes within itself and the community, it requires men who are trained not only in understanding its own Reformed world-view but also opposing world-views both without the wider Church and within. They must also be trained in being able clearly to expound, teach and train its people to handle the challenging and rapidly changing world.

The academic standard is to be at degree level because it is training of that breadth and depth that can cope with the unexpected.

That is why the church must resist the strong pressures in our community to emphasise practical training at the expense of academic. The more general the training and the more focused it is on basic principles the better is the ability to adapt to changing circumstances.

The other reason is that in theological education the church is laying foundations on which later skills develop. So much acquiring of skills can be obtained only when actually in the job itself.

Skills must of course be taught during the Theological Course and every degree programme for professional training either incorporates such practical components within the degree or concludes with a special course devoted to these practical skills.

As well as class room training there are Field Education schemes and 'internships'. How this is done is a matter between each State Assembly and its Presbyteries.

3.3. The Theological Course

There are slight alterations to the subjects. The exegesis references make clear that exegesis is to be from the originals.

3.4 The Preparatory Course

The Church holds to a parity of order in the Ministry whilst recognising a wide diversity of attainment. In line with this there is required a common standard in the Theological course while admitting some diversity at the Preparatory level.

A three year degree course is retained as the norm for the Preparatory course while allowing as alternatives the following :

- (a) the completing in special cases, of this Preparatory course in two years instead of three;
- (b) the direction by the Faculty/Senatus of the subjects covered in this Preparatory course;
- (c) the integrating of this Preparatory course with the Theological course.

3.5 Applying the standards

A general re-structuring of the Article is proposed in an attempt to make clear the different areas of responsibility in the area of supervision. As stated earlier, the Federal Assembly sets and supervises the academic standards while the state Assemblies implement these standards.

The present Article refers to approved Theological Halls and sets the standard as the aim of having at least three full-time professors. The problem with the latter is that to aim is not to be there and has no necessary relevance to the present nor, indeed, to the long distant future. Further, the number of three professors is not sufficient to carry out a full theological programme. Further still, no matter how large the staff, standards will not necessarily be maintained unless they are specified by this Assembly.

It is thus proposed that this Assembly make clear what the standards are and leave each State Assembly free to implement as each sees fit provided that such State Assembly :

- (a) satisfies this Assembly that it is equipped to implement the Article and hence be designated a Theological Hall, and
- (b) satisfies the College Committee that is in fact implementing the Article.

R. Swanton
Convener

J. Boyall
Secretary

DEFENCE FORCES CHAPLAINCY (Min 57)

Since the last report the Committee has been concerned with the unenviable task of attempting to recruit selected candidates, as Chaplains to the Defence Forces, in both the spheres of permanent services, and reserve forces, however, not with a great deal of success. Two ministers who accepted the candidature were both found by the forces to have medical causes which precluded acceptance of their services as chaplains.

We thank the men concerned, for their willingness to accept the call to serve the Church, in this special area of its Mission.

The need for suitable candidates for selection as Chaplains to the Defence Forces, is a matter of deep concern to the Committee. The need is urgent as only one Chaplain is allotted for every eight hundred persons in the Army, one for every thousand in the R.A.N., the Air Force ration is comparable with those two.

The posting of Chaplains is normally one Anglican, one Roman Catholic, one Protestant denominations. Every vacancy therefore throws that extra work load on the other two chaplains whatever maybe their denomination. Long term vacancies can not be allowed to exist. In the protestant section the church which cannot fill its vacancy, must then surrender it to one of the other protestant denominations, either the Uniting Church of Australia, or the United Churches Board .

The Committee is very reluctant to surrender any of our Presbyterian vacancies in any of the services, but we have lost one R.A.A.F., one R.A.N., permanent posting since the last G.A.A. through lack of suitable ministerial candidates as Chaplains.

The other most important work of the Committee has been to safeguard Presbyterian interests, in the re-organisation of the Defence Force structures. In the past, there have been many re-organisations of individual services, which did not affect the churches' Chaplains. In the current re-organisation of all three services, the Chaplains Departments, were included in the restructuring. On 19th February, 1975, the first working party consisting of Navy, Army and Air Force personnel was set up by the Chiefs of Staff Defence Forces, with the Staff Chaplain at Canberra as adviser.

The first working drafts were sent to the churches on 24th October, 1978, for consideration, amendment or approval.

The G.A.A. Committee 'approved in principle' but with amendment the working parties paper, to set up a Civilian body of 'Religious Advisors at Defence Level'. The Chaplains Generals Conference has worked well since its inception in 1913. However, many changes had taken place since that period of time, and the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force, had developed their own special requirements in Chaplaincy to suit their particular service needs,

which were quite separate from the Army. The new concept of Religious Advisory Committee to Defence Forces (R.A.C.S.), was designed to take this into account and to give equal church representation to all three services. To accomplish this the Conference of Chaplains Generals was to be phased out, and each of the six churches were to nominate its representative member to the civilian body - the R.A.C.S.

The final draft 'Memorandum of arrangements between the Chief of Defence Force Staff Secretary, Department of Defence and The Heads of Churches Representatives', agreed that the draft was now in a form acceptable to be sent down to the respective churches for final approval. The document was sent down to the respective churches on 2nd January, 1981. The G.A.A. Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee met at Melbourne on 18th February, 1981 and gave approval.

The Convener was instructed by the Committee to sign the document on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. The final signing of the document took place at Russell Offices Canberra on 31st March, 1981, to take effect as from 1st July, 1981.

The signing of the document was accepted as taking in the resignation of all members of the 'Conference of Chaplains General', of the Royal Australian Army Chaplains Department with effect from 31st July, 1981.

On 18th February, 1981, the Committee met and nominated to the Moderator General, Rt. Rev. J. Mullan, the name of Rev. K.J. Gibson to be the 'Presbyterian member of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Defence Forces'. (R.A.C.S.).

The inaugural meeting of the R.A.C.S. took place on 23rd September, 1981, at Russell Offices Canberra. All members of the R.A.C.S. had previously represented their respective churches as Chaplains General even so, the implementing of the changes has not been without its problems which it is sincerely hoped may decrease as the new concept and methods of operations are applied.

The new Defence Department Instruction D1

(G)

Pres. 26 - 1
Navy 62 - 1
Army 170 - 1
Air Force 29 - 5

'States the nature of the Religious Advisory Committee to the services (R.A.C.S.) 'par. 3'. The link between the governing bodies of these churches and denominational groups, which have chaplains in the services, and the Defence Force is provided by a Religious Advisory Committee to the services. (R.A.C.S.) is comprised of non-uniformed representatives, of two-star statue, at Bishop or equivalent level.

The R.A.C.S. replaces the Conference of Chaplains General - Army, the Naval Heads of Churches Committee, and the Designated Heads of Churches, dealing with Air Force matters.

There is also a Principal Chaplains Committee (P.C.C.) in each service, to provide for the administration and technical control of chaplains within that service. It comprises Principal Chaplains, of not more than Brigadier or equivalent status, service on full-time or part-time duty.

These arrangements become effective on 1st July, 1981.

Compos ition

'The R.A.C.S. is to comprise the representatives, as Bishop or equivalent level of those churches and denominational groups which have Chaplains in the services. The representatives, who are responsible to their respective church authority or governing body, are : -

- (a) The Anglican Bishop to the Forces.
- (b) The Roman Catholic Bishop to the Forces.
- (c) The Convener of the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee of the Uniting Churches of Australia
- (d) The Convener of the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- (e) The Chairman of the Federal United Churches Chaplaincy Board.
- (f) The Rabbinical representative of the executive Council of Australian Jewry.'

Appointment

Members of the R.A.C.S. will be nominated 'by the head of governing body in Australia of the appropriate church or denominational group and will be appointed by the Minister for Defence.'

Retirement - W. Bates, First Principal Chaplain P.D.R.A.N.

The G.A.A. Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee records its appreciation for the many years of service and most valued co-operation of Principal Chaplain W. (Bill) Bates - Royal Australian Navy.

K. J . Gibson
Convener

Royal Australian Navy

Full-Time

Principal Chaplain Rosier R.A.N. Command Chaplain Office Garden Island Sydney.

Part-Time

H.M.A.S., Ciarns - Chaplain J. Abbas R.A.N.R.
Port of Sydney - Civilian clergyman W. Llewellyn
Port of Melbourne - Chaplain E.J. Hale R.A.N.R.
Unallocated list - Chaplain L. Bailey R.A.N.R.

Report by Principal Chaplain (PD) R.A.N.

1st July, 1981, saw the beginning of a new system of Chaplaincy within the Royal Australian Navy.

Though the new system was based on the Navy system established in 1974, great internal changes are slowly developing.

These are being carefully monitored by the Principal Chaplain's Committee (Navy) (PCC-N) .

A. Navy regulations have had to be adjusted, but a conservative approach has been the policy of both the Navy and the PCC-N, this ensures that the elements of the reformed tradition are preserved.

1st July, 1981, was also the date for my retirement from the Royal Australian Navy (having reached age for my retirement). Due to the delay in obtaining a replacement Chaplain and to give continuity in the transition period, I willingly complied to a request to apply for an extension of Service.

My efforts to ensure that a Presbyterian minister formed part of the Navy Chaplaincy Team were frustrated. However, the Reserve Team has gained a Presbyterian Reserve at Cairns which is a significant Patrol Boat Base.

My PD Chaplains have been instructed to contact local Presbyterian Clergy when sailors who are Presbyterian request Baptism for themselves or their children, or desire to be married. But where in-Service counselling is desired all Chaplains readily assist.

B. I strongly recommend to the Convener, that a Presbyterian minister be appointed to the Royal Australian Navy at the first available opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

W . J . Bates
PCHA (PD) RAN

ARMY

Es tabli shme nts :

Army Headquarters - Russell Offices, Canberra

Chaplain General K.J. Gibson

Australian Army - Full-time postings

Chaplain A.D. Lang - 2 Task Force Holdsworth 2MD

Chaplain A.P. Mortimore - Land Warfare Centre

Cannara IMD

Chaplain E. Brooker - Army Apprentices School Balcombe

Australian Army Reserve - Part-time postings

- 1st Military District (Queensland)
Senior Chaplain - P. Gordon H.Q. IMD
H.W. 1 MD - Vacant
- 2nd Military District (New South Wales)
Senior Chaplain - C. Egan H.Q. 2 MD
H.Q. 2 MD HQ - Chaplain R.S. Keith
- 3rd Military District - (Victoria)
Senior Chaplain - G.F. Lyman H.Q. 1 MD
3 MD H.Q. - Vacant
3 Cadet Brigade - Chaplain D. Winter
- 4th Military District - (South Australia)
Senior Chaplain - Vacant
4 MDHQ - Vacant
- 5th Military District (Western Australia)
Senior Chaplain - Vacant
One Reserve posting temporary loan to U.C. Board
- 6th Military District (Tasmania)
Senior Chaplain M.J.K. Ramage
6. MD H.Q. - Vacant

Department of Veterans Affairs: Repatriation Hospitals

Concord N.S.W. - Full-time Rev. G. McIntyre
Heidelberg Vic. - Part-time Rev. G. F. Lyman

Departments of Defence (s)

Woomera - At present this posting is filled by the United Churches Board. Woomera is now a civilian posting. Rev. Harris of Port Augusta visits to take Presbyterian sacraments as required.

CHAPLAINS GENERAL'S REPORT - to 1st July, 1981

New Chaplain - At the time of drafting the report Rev. E. Brooker of New South Wales is in the process of entering the full-time chaplaincy with the Australian Regular Army .

Visits

- Since the last report, visits have been made to each state in which we have Chaplains serving. Also Butterworth Malaysia to Army personnel, in service there.

School Cadets- School Cadet Chaplaincy cover for annual camps has been left to the schools, who may apply to the appropriate Military District to obtain the services of an Army Chaplain for that period of time at Army expense .

'Chaplain General Presbyterian is retired with effect 31st July, 1981, and is placed on Retired List and granted the 'Military Title of Chaplain General with permission to wear prescribed uniform' 69/G/173.

The title of Chaplain General shall be used only with the designation retired list (R.L.).

Retirement of Chaplain General Presbyterian

The notification of the official date of retirement of the Chaplain General Presbyterian, brings to a close sixty-eight years of loyal and devout service of many ministers of the Presbyterian Church. The names of men who held this office are listed below. 'In War and Peace they sought to bring the highest Christian principles to the people of the Armed Services'.

Chaplains General Presbyterian 1913 - 1981

1913-1926	Chap . Gen . J . L Rentoul O.B.E.
1926-1942	Chap . Gen . W . F. Shannon O.B.E., E.D.
1942-1943	Chap . Gen . A . E Davidson E.D.
1943-1946	Chap . Gen. A . M. Stevenson M.C., E.D.
1946-1956	Chap . Gen . A . H Stewart E.D.
1957-1968	Chap . Gen . H . Cunningham E.D.
1968-1978	Chap . Gen. R . A Busch O.B.E., E.D.
1979-1981	Chap . Gen . K . J Gibson

K.J. Gibson
Chaplain General (R.L.)

REPORT FROM PRINCIPAL CHAPLAIN P.D. - Chaplain Brigadier D. Griffith

I assumed office 1st July, 1981, and this report covers the period from that date until this time of writing.

1. Chaplain A.D. Lang was at DSU North Sydney when I took office. It was my intention to post him to 3 Task Force Townsville but the health/education needs of one of his children caused me, in conference with yourself, to change that intention. As of January 1982 he was posted to 1 Task Force, Holdsworthy. This action was taken on compassionate grounds to keep the family together and in Sydney for the years 1982 and 1983.
2. Chaplain A.P. Mortimore was at LWC, Canungra, Queensland, when I took office and continues in that posting. You will be aware that he suffered a set back in his health late last year. He is now able to continue his duties and as I write is on leave.
3. Chaplain Ted Brooker was recruited by yourself to fill a vacancy that occurred in ARA chaplaincy. He had been an A Res Chaplain and prior to that had had military experience. His entry procedures are now complete and he will assume duties at AAS, Balcombe mid-April of this year.

4. Chaplain R.S. Keith was recruited into A Res Chaplaincy and posted to HQ 2 Trg. Gp as from 4th January, 1982.

I am not in a position to make accurate comments upon the work and worth of other Presbyterian Chaplains serving in A Res as I have not yet completed my initial round of visits. No adverse comment has come to hand. I can only commend in the highest terms the ministry being exercised by Chaplains Lang and Mortimore whose work I am in a position to appreciate.

AIR FORCE

The year has not been without its problems mainly due to the financial climate with inevitable restrictions on movements by Civil Air.

The work of the Chaplaincy service in the R.A.A.F. goes on with vigour and enthusiasm but it seems to be increasingly difficult to enlist men for full-time and part-time service. Due to this fact some of our bases have been under staffed placing an increased load of work upon our present chaplains. We are fortunate to have a team of men deeply committed to their task of serving the men and women of the R.A.A.F. Their work is vitally important to the spiritual life of the young people and is acknowledged by all Senior Officers to be most relevant to the whole morale of the services.

Our two full-time men are Peter Davidson of Wagga where he is doing an excellent job in character guidance training among the cadets and young trainees and Jack Pilgrim whose form of approach through sport and cultural activities enables him to relate well to many of the younger people.

Our reserve team (part-time) are Jack Knapp at Richmond, Richard McCracken at Glenbrook, Stephen do Plater at Regents Park, David Durham at Amberley, Hugh Gallagher at Townsville, Allan Harman at Laverton. At East Sale we suffered a severe loss by the death of Bill Bramley and the death of Timothy Hanson just prior to his taking up duties at Sale. Having reached the age limit Bob Spring retired from Richmond.

If the manpower was available we could put a Chaplain (reserve) into Pearce, W.A., Point Cook, Victoria and probably one in N.S.W. and one in Queensland.

As in so many areas of life today movement and change seem to be the order of the day. Earlier in the year The Religious Advisory Committee to the Defence Forces was established and we are in the process of working out its relationship to the Board of Chaplains which has now been renamed as Principal Chaplains Committee.

Within the Principal Chaplains Committee cut backs have affected us and so when the P.A.C. Uniting Church retired in July no replacement was given. The Chief of Air Force Personnel simply placed the 19 Chaplains involved under my care and supervision. I am now Principal Air Chaplain UCA/PRES. Hopefully you will understand what that means.

J. Reid
P.A.C. R.A.A.F.

Defence Forces Chaplaincy - Addendum

Since the printing of the White Book, the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services (R.A.C.S.) met in Canberra (on 2.9.82) and discussed with the Assistant Chief of Personnel of the R.A.A.F. proposed arrangements regarding Principal Chaplains Committee (Air).

It was agreed :

- (1) That the Air Force would retain 5 Principal Chaplains postings.
- (2) That only 3 would be filled with full-time Chaplains.
- (3) That Principal Chaplain J. Reid (Pres.) will serve until retirement.
- (4) That Principal Chaplain Crossman (U.C.) will be Principal Chaplain (Prot.) until retirement.

The Chief of Personnel (Air) has not yet signed the document, but has given verbal approval.

This now clears the way for the Defence Forces Chaplaincy Committee to approach the Assembly to repeal Interim Regulations (B.B. Min. 126 parts I,II,III) with the intention of adopting new Interim Regulations with interim authority until such time as a new set of Regulations is drafted.

1948

K . J. Gibson
Convener

FINANCE (Min 15)

MEMBERSHIP

Those members named in the Deliverance are recommended for election as members of the Finance Committee, those resident in New South Wales to form the Executive with Mr. Hector MacFarlane as Convener.

EXECUTIVE

In terms of the authority granted by the General Assembly the Executive - those members resident in New South Wales - have conducted relevant business. Interstate members have been kept fully informed by circulation of minutes.

POWER AND FUNCTIONS

Powers and Functions of the Finance Committee were approved by the 1979 General Assembly of Australia (Minute 95.1) . Unfortunately, there were minor typographical errors and it should please be noted that the following corrections should be made :-

On page 44 of the 1979 Blue Book
In the first line of paragraph 2 -
the word 'on' should read 'or'

- 'The General Assembly or the Finance Committee.....
 In paragraph 4 the last 3 lines should read :-
 '..... Convener of the Finance Committee one month
 prior to the date dead-line for the material for the
 White Book, an estimate, with detailed statement, of
 expenses and commitments per annum for the ensuing
 three years.'

HONORARIA TO OFFICERS OF G.A.A.

MODERATOR'S EXPENSES

The payments recommended in the Deliverance have been submitted after due consideration and are recommended for approval.

BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Balance Sheet as at 30th June, 1982, and relevant statements will be made available to commissioners and will be printed in the Blue Book for record purposes.

EXPENDITURE BY COMMITTEES OF G.A.A.

In 1979 the General Assembly of Australia approved amounts as maximum allocations to committees for the calendar years 1980, 1981 and 1982 as set out in G.A.A. BB 1979: Minute 95.7(a) .

In terms of a direction from the General Assembly of Australia those committees whose work requires meetings which involve State representatives in travelling expenses for which no other financial arrangements are made and those responsible for the General Assembly's involvement in work and interest beyond the Assembly's jurisdiction are required to submit to the Finance Committee details of commitments for the three year period following the G.A.A. meetings.

Requests for financial assistance have been received from the committees set out hereunder :-

<u>Committee</u>	Approved for 1980:1981:1982	Requested for 1983:1984:1985
Beneficiary Fund	\$ 600.00	\$ 500.00
Business	300.00	1,500.00
Christian Education	3,000.00	3,000.00
Church and Nation	4,000.00	7,050.00
Cod e	1,500.00	3,000.00
College	6 ,650.00	9,350.00
Defence Forces	1,500.00	1,500.00
Finance	1,500.00	1,500.00
National Journal	NIL	6,000.00
Public Worship & Aids to Devotion	300.00	600.00
Reception of Ministers	600.00	900.00
Relations with O/Presbyterian Churches	300.00	300.00
	<u>\$20,250.00</u>	<u>\$35,200.00</u>

Other Expenditure:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Approved</u> <u>1980 - 1982</u>	<u>Required</u> <u>1983 : 1984 : 1985</u>
Code - Reprinting (subsidy)	\$ 2,000.00	-
Reception of Ministers (reprint regulations)	500.00	-
Year Book (subsidy)	3,000.00	-
World Alliance Ref. Ch. (subscription)	3,000.00	3,500.00
Australian Bicentennial 1988		5 0 0.00 (up to)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$ 8,500.00	\$4,000.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>

As requests from the Church and Nation, College and National Journal Committees, represent relatively large increases they will be submitted by means of individual clauses to enable members of the respective committees to state the needs and the General Assembly to deal with each separately.

FUTURE EXPENDITURE BY COMMITTEES

Difficulty has always been experienced in preparing budgets three years in advance. Over a long period there has been a clear indication that committees of the General Assembly in conducting their business have kept the cost factor well in mind. It is submitted, therefore, that the Finance Committee be authorised to approve any reasonable expenditure that may arise on the understanding that there would be full discussion with committees involved and that full information would be made available to State Finance or equivalent committees.

Through understanding assistance rendered by the Trustees it has been practicable to finance expenditure pending re-imburement by State Finance Committees thus rendering accounting easier and avoiding the necessity of collecting estimated amounts in advance and adjusting those contributions at a later stage. The General Assembly is being requested to approve the continuance of such an agreement.

YEAR BOOK AND CHURCH DIRECTORY

Appreciation is extended to the National Journal Committee for the regular production of a Year Book and Church Directory. The financial situation has been reached at which funds generated from sales provide for the expenditure involved in production and distribution. Voluntary assistance has helped to avoid the granting of a subsidy. Whereas it is hoped that this financial situation will continue, the production of a Year Book and Church Directory is so important that, should the need arise again, the re-introduction of a subsidy may have to be faced.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA - COST

The expense associated directly with a meeting of the General Assembly of Australia continues to increase substantially. The cost of the 37th General Assembly, held in Melbourne in September, 1979, amounts to \$23,758 made up as follows :-

Travelling expenses of commissioners	\$ 12,004.00
Accommodation expenses	6,528.00
White and Blue Books	4,226.00
Honoraria to Assembly Officers	1,000.00
	\$ 23,758.00

Although, at time of preparing this report, it is not practicable to estimate the cost of the 1982 General Assembly, it is anticipated that there will be a substantial increase as compared with costs in 1979. As soon as all relevant liabilities have been met the final figure will be advised to State Finance and similar committees.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The question of means of travel by commissioners to the General Assembly, which was referred to the Finance Committee by the last General Assembly of Australia (Minute 95.13) , was considered and helpful advice was given by the Reverend W.M. Constable, of Australian Church Travel Service. After consideration, it was decided that no change should be made apart from recommending that, as from the 1982 General Assembly, the cost of economy return air fares be reimbursed to commissioners from Tasmania and South Australia when the General Assembly meets in Sydney.

For ready reference the existing approvals have been set out in this report. They were authorised by the General Assembly in 1970 (Minute 31.1) and in 1974 (Minute 56.4) .

- (a) When not more than one night in train, second-class concession return fare.
- (b) When more than one night in train, first-class concession return fare plus cost of sleeping berth.
- (b) Where concession rail fares are not available ordinary rail fares as in (a) and (b).
- (d) For Western Australian commissioners - the cost of economy air fares.
- (e) For Tasmanian commissioners - the cost of return economy air fares to Melbourne and concession rail fares to Sydney where necessary.
- (f) For commissioners from the Presbyteries of Carpentaria and Townsville, the cost of return economy air fares to Brisbane and concession rail fares to Sydney or when the Assembly meets in Melbourne, total cost of economy air fares.
(The former Presbyteries of Carpentaria and Townsville are now named North Queensland).

- (g) For commissioners resident within the Presbyteries of Rockhampton and Mackay - cost of return economy air fares to Brisbane and concession rail fares to Sydney if the Assembly meets in Sydney or, when the Assembly meets in Melbourne, total cost of economy class return air fares. (The former Presbytery of Mackay has since been absorbed).
- (h) If the General Assembly convenes for one day only - members attending shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses to the extent of fares only, on the usual basis as determined by the Assembly.

Hector MacFarlane
Conve ner

IMMIGRATION (Min 24)

The Assembly appointed the N.S.W. Social Service Committee as its Immigration Committee, and that Committee instructed its Chaplaincy sub -Committee to add immigration to its other concerns. From time to time various matters have been referred to it.

In the preparation of this report, the convener contacted the officers of each state assembly to ascertain what work if any in the name of the Church was being done in the field of immigration. Most have replied that at the present time this work is minimal. This appears to be much the same with other denominations, once heavily involved when the Government's Immigration programme was in full force. Those previously engaged in migrant welfare, whilst attending to occasional requests for assistance are more specifically involved in refugee work. For most of the main-stream Protestant Churches this is a direct Missionary out-reach, as the greater number of refugees are either from the non-Christian religions or are of Catholic or Pentecostal persuasion.

But there is always the likelihood of the occasional unexpected problem arising and the committee offers its services, and the convener's experience in these matters over many years, to any who might be seeking guidance and assistance. For this reason, and realising that a change in Government policy may once again increase the flow of migrants to this country, and pointing out that the Committee makes no call on the finances of the Assembly, it respectfully requests that it be permitted to continue.

The work of the Church in such a field as Immigration is not restricted to what is done by any of its committees or in any official way. At the grass-roots level - in parishes and by ministers and groups and individuals from congregations, the work of witness and service to migrants and refugees in their local environment and with all their needs, is carried out in the Name of Christ at all times - even if not officially reported.

This is the work that matters most. And the Church can be confident that its image is upheld in this way throughout the country, so that in the spirit of Christ's great parable of what we do for even the least of our brethren, we are not failing.

R . O. Walder
Convener

INLAND MISSION (Min 80)

COMMITTEE

The Committee acknowledges its dependency upon God's goodness for making adequate provision for the continuance of the Church's patrol ministry to the Inland areas of our land whereby the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ can be proclaimed through the Word and the Sacraments.

The Committee has diligently considered its task as set by the General Assembly and administered the affairs of the Mission accordingly with the Convener undertaking work normally not required of a Convener in that he has attended to the day to day business of the Mission on the basis of the authority vested in him by the Executive... 'to act as though he were a Superintendent.' The Committee acknowledges that the work of the Mission could not be maintained nor progress made except on such basis. It is perhaps time the Committee considered the necessity to make an appointment of a paid executive officer. The Convener initially attended to the administration from his own home study, but the work developed beyond that capacity and therefore the Committee approved the setting up of an Inland Mission Office in the Assembly Building, 44 Margaret Street, Sydney, N.S.W. This has proved to be very much an asset in administration and of great publicity value to the Mission in view of its close proximity to the general administration activity of the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales.

The Executive met as when required; such meetings numbered 10 since the last Assembly. The Committee received with regret the resignation of Mr. A.G. Spalding from its membership; no replacement to date has been made. The Committee received enthusiastically the news of the Convener's nomination to the office of Moderator General and recorded its congratulations and support therein.

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

The Committee is pleased to report that following upon the last Assembly the 'Heads of Agreement' document as agreed to by the Assembly had later been approved by the Uniting Church in Australia and a signed copy thereof is filed in the records of the Mission. Attendant thereon the Committee is also pleased to report that the litigation initiated by the Uniting Church in respect to the use of the name 'Australian Inland Mission' had been withdrawn on 29th February, 1980, and the legal costs incurred by the Presbyterian

Church of Australia had been met by the Uniting Church.

The Committee experienced some difficulty with the Uniting Church with its continuing use of the name 'Australian Inland Mission' up to recent times, but assurance has been given that this use will be eliminated from publications wherever appearing.

The Implementation Committee appointed jointly by the said Churches agreed that the new names for their respective Missions would commence on 1st March, 1980...our being 'Presbyterian Inland Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.' Each agreed to the use of the following term where applicable...'Successor to the Australian Inland Mission'...the said use to be by either Church.

FIELD

South Australia

The patrol ministry in the north of South Australia based upon Port Augusta-Whyalla continues with due appreciation by all concerned for providing and establishing a ministry in this area. Rev. J.C. Harris completed his initial 3 year period and was re-appointed to continue his work there. The following is an extract from his report to the Committee....'At the close of 1980 there were arrangements in progress to allow for quarterly patrols to Woomera. This was duly conducted throughout 1981, allowing both assistance to the United Protestant Parish of Woomera and the opportunity for me to visit a number of Presbyterian families living in the township of Woomera. Patrol work outside the Woomera visitation has not been possible in the latter year or so, mainly because of the difficulties with South Australia at both the local and State level. The shortage of manpower continues to be a vexing problem. It can be said that the entire State of South Australia is a mission field due to the lack of ordained ministry!'

The financial arrangement between the Mission and Port Augusta-Whyalla continues satisfactorily with the Mission absorbing the yearly increase in costs e.g. salary and travel allowance. Mr. Harris not only provides a ministry in the north of South Australia, but accepts whatever responsibility is imposed upon him by Presbytery and Assembly.

The Convener has visited South Australia a number of times since the last Assembly so the Committee has benefited from his knowledge of the area and general situation.

It is with much pleasure the Committee records its thanks to the P.W.A. Council (N.S.W.) for the contribution made to the Mission's funds for the work in the north of South Australia from the proceeds of the 1980 Market to the sum of \$29,000.

Queens 1 and

Following upon negotiation with the Presbytery of Rockhampton and the Queensland Committee on Mission, the Committee is pleased to

report that a new patrol ministry is to be established in the central region of Queensland based upon Blackall as soon as a Minister suitable for appointment as Padre can be made. The Convener accompanied Rev. David Newman of Rockhampton to the area and consulted thereon with local people. The Committee is prepared to meet the costs of the first year of operation, if necessary, but the expectancy is that the work of the Patrol will be financed between all parties. The Committee is to receive the proceeds of the N.S.W. 1983 Market for the Blackall Patrol...this information was received by the Committee with much gratification.

Consideration has been given to other areas in Queensland e.g. Charleville-Quilpie and Mount Isa with possibilities of future involvement in these areas.

Other States

The Committee has expressed a token interest in the South West Patrol in New South Wales (Ministry and Mission Department) by providing \$1,000 grant in 1982 for this work. The Convener anticipates that an opportunity will offer itself for him to visit Western Australia to consult with the Presbytery there in respect to the possible formation of Patrol work.

PUBLICITY

The Committee has engaged itself in matters of publicity of various kinds and this has been most effective in promoting interest in the Mission throughout the Church. The Convener has not spared himself in the matter of travel both local and inter-state and visitation involving innumerable meetings and Church services and invariably Mrs. Monsen has accompanied him and of times she has addressed P.W.A. Branch meetings, particularly in New South Wales on the work of the Mission and reports regularly thereon to the P.W.A. Council (N.S.W.). The Committee records its thanks to Mrs. Monsen.

A notable feature on publishing the work was the Moderator General's (Right Rev. James Mullan) pastoral letter to the Church on the occasion of the Centenary of the birth of the (late) Very Rev. Dr. John Flynn on Sunday, 23rd November, 1980, and the appropriate leaflet (40,000) distributed throughout the Church. A number of Ministers and Congregations held special Church services to mark the occasion.

The provision of an audio-visual on the Patrol Ministry in the north of South Australia has created much interest in this work and sets have been utilised in every State; these will be up-dated to include the proposed work in the Blackall Patrol.

Christmas cards begun in 1980 have proved a great success in the matter of publicity and these have been commended for their quality and reasonableness of price. The Committee records its thanks to all who so willingly assisted in the packaging and sale of the cards. Special mention should be made of the Ashfield (N.S.W.) Evening P.W.A., Church Departments in Queensland, N.S.W. and Victoria and card depots situated in N.S.W. and Tasmania.

Every opportunity was taken to publicise the Mission's activity through the printed word with articles in the Australian Presbyterian Life particularly. The Committee is grateful to the A.P.L. for its assistance in publicity.

There has been considerable expenditure in advertising in an Australia-wide Law Journal and in the A.P.L. encouraging consideration towards the matter of donations, bequests, legacies, etc.

In the early part of 1982, 35,000 Book Marks publicising the work of the Mission were distributed throughout the Church with a letter of exhortation to Ministers to remember the Mission in the prayers of their Congregations.

FINANCE

It will be recalled that back in June, 1977, (Church Union), the Assembly resolved to continue its traditional task of providing Patrol Ministries to the Inland, but at that time the Committee literally did not possess a cent to utilise! The only hint of finance available was the information that the Property Commission had awarded to the Presbyterian Church \$106,337 for such work! It should be noted the Committee did not have access to this sum until July, 1980. Notwithstanding, the Committee generated sufficient funds within the Church to carry on financially successfully the work it undertook.

The Committee accounts for its stewardship of its funds as per the Financial Statement submitted to the Assembly. It believes it has exhibited care in respect thereto with purposeful resolve to provide the Mission with a strong financial base from which it can proceed in the years ahead to implement the charter the Assembly gave it. The Committee records its thanks to all donors be they individuals or groups. Every gift or donation received was acknowledged personally by the Convener and thanks expressed for the prayerful interest and practical support shown.

It is not possible at this juncture to ascertain what amount from legacies received belong to the Mission for a number of these have been referred to the Legal Reference Committee (representing the Uniting Church and the Presbyterian Church) for determination, so that the amount in the financial statement may be actually greater or smaller! Again, the Committee is grateful for the contributions made in this way.

The Committee pledges itself to continue with diligence the task committed to it by the Assembly being ever grateful to the Assembly for the opportunity to serve the Church of our Lord in this field of endeavour and most thankful to the people of the Church for their support and encouragement.

Norman Monsen
Convener

INLAND MISSION

ADDENDUM

The Committee now believes the time is opportune to widen its horizons in respect to its future activity with the provision of an amendment to its Constitution which, if implemented, will allow the Committee to consider in the future the need to involve itself in institutional work...somewhat as hitherto in which the Australian Inland Mission was involved. The Committee believes the Constitution as presently stated may confine the Mission activities to the establishment of the traditional patrol ministries...whereas a future need may demand more of us. Thus the Committee recommends a change to its Constitution to allow such possibilities to materialise.

The Committee is disappointed at the lack of response by ministers throughout the Church to the challenge presented by the opportunity to serve as a Padre in the Blackall (Queensland) Patrol. The Committee received only one application from the ordained ministry but did not proceed thereon. Presbyteries particularly were requested to commend the matter to their Ministers and Sessions for their prayerful concern. The Committee is confident that God will provide a minister suitable for appointment and will quietly wait thereupon although the need is a pressing one.

The Committee has appreciated the interest and practical support of our Church in Tasmania to the growth of the Mission and believes that Tasmania should be represented on the Committee and will seek an amendment to its Constitution to allow such representation.

The Committee filled the N.S.W. vacancy by appointing Mr. C.L. McGuirk, an Elder of the Castle Hill (N.S.W.) congregation.

The Committee is pleased to report to the General Assembly in terms of the financial statement...the first audited statement since church union. The statement covers the whole period since 1977. The Committee expects to have audited accounts each year for the period ending 30th June.

Norman Monsen
Convener

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY (Min 45)

Since the last General Assembly in Melbourne, the Committee has not met as no business has eventuated that required the attention of the Committee .

As Church Union took place some five years ago, the Executive believes it is now time for the Committee to become more active in endeavouring to assist State Committees to create more uniform stipend levels to ensure that reciprocity is maintained in matters pertaining to Long Service Leave and that Committees of the General Assembly making ministerial appointments, consult with the Committee on terms and conditions. One of the tasks of the Committee is to see that missionaries employed by the Church are paid stipends and allowances approved by this Committee and the Assembly.

Whilst not written into the charter, the Assembly in 1967 did suggest the Committee should also endeavour to ensure ministerial appointments to outside bodies, should be protected as best they could through these appointments (relating to terms and conditions) being examined by the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee.

The Committee is fully aware that the Church, greatly reduced in numbers in some States, should now seek to co-ordinate these matters.

Derrick Brierley
Convener

MODERATOR'S (Min 12)

The Moderator's Committee has advised the Moderator on three occasions .

The Moderator was requested to appoint a senior representative of our church to the National Advisory Group on religious activities in connection with the Australian Bicentennial Authority. The Rev. P.E. Boase was appointed. It is recommended that the Assembly should agree to participate in preparations for the Bicentennial year and appoint a Committee to confer with appropriate authorities of State Assemblies and report to the next Assembly with recommendations for celebrations by our church.

After consultation with the Moderator-nominate it is proposed that the present Moderator's Committee be re-appointed.

The Moderator has reported as follows :

It has been my honour and privilege to represent our church as Moderator on many civic occasions and to enjoy the esteem in which our church's contribution to our national life is held by our civic authorities. In Government and Parliament Houses and at Local Government Receptions our church's contribution to society has been

graciously recognised. Mrs. Mullan and I attended many dinners and other occasions for celebration at universities, service organisations and ecumenical gatherings where our church has been recognised.

I have been privileged to meet leaders of churches in Australia and overseas and I have sought to assure them that the Presbyterian Church is ready to maintain friendly and cordial relationships with all Christian churches.

The Government of the new nation of Vanuatu graciously accorded our church the privilege of sharing in the celebration of nationhood when President and Chief Minister requested me to assure our church of the value of its contribution to the life of their nation.

All States except Western Australia have been visited and I addressed the N.S.W. and Victorian Assemblies and the South Australian Commission of Assembly. I have refused invitations from congregations only when I have been previously engaged and my greatest joy has been to share in the worship of congregations throughout Australia. In three years I have been able to preach at more than 70 services outside my own parish including 15 celebrations of centenaries or older and a number of jubilees and other special occasions. I have been also able to share on a number of occasions at the opening and dedication of new church buildings and other church institutions.

Wherever possible I have accepted invitations to represent the Assembly at funeral services, inductions, Kirk Weeks, rallies, valedictories and receptions. I have sought to be receptive to the press, radio and television and these agencies have consistently provided sound coverage in regional areas.

I offer my sincere and grateful thanks to those people without whom this work would have been impossible - my wife, my secretary, my chaplain and my Beecroft Session and congregation, all of whom have been more than patient with me as I have sought to fulfill the office with which the Assembly entrusted me.

James Mullan
Co nvenor

NATIONAL JOURNAL (Min 33)

Since the last General Assembly of Australia, the National Journal Committee has worked hard to maintain the production, viability, and standards of 'Australian Presbyterian Life' in accordance with its stated aims of articulating a national outlook amongst Presbyterians and keeping them informed of the life and work of their Church on both State and National levels. It cannot be denied that there have been difficulties but under the grace of God, 'Australian Presbyterian Life' has continued and is gaining a reputable place

in the Church and amongst the religious press of this country. At its annual convention in June 1982, the Australian Religious Press Association awarded 'Australian Presbyterian Life' First Prize for the Most Improved Magazine.

Financial Position

The 1979 G.A.A. (Min. 64:3) instructed the Committee to arrange finance to permit the journal to be published pending review of the financial position by this Assembly. We are happy to report that finances are well in hand, the journal self-supporting, and that a surplus has accumulated.

The Committee had been concerned for some time about its liability of some \$12,253 to the Victorian Church. Upon the division of assets consequent to union, 'Australian Presbyterian Life' had received \$11,337; but from June, 1977, to December, 1979, when the journal was being produced in Melbourne, expenditure amounted to \$23,590, thus resulting in an overdraft of \$12,253 to the Victorian Church. However, following an approach to the Victorian Trust Corporation by myself and the Editor, the Corporation kindly agreed to write off the indebtedness. We record our gratitude for this generous action. This now enables the Committee to proceed with its planning for the future unencumbered by a large financial liability.

Editor

At its December, 1980, meeting the Committee faced a crisis with the resignation of the Editor, Rev. Brian Burton, occasioned by his translation to the parish of Shoalhaven. At the same time, the then Convener and Business Manager, Rev. Keith Burton, resigned because of advancing age. Rev. E.N. Paxton was appointed as Convener until the next G.A.A., and the Rev. C.R. Thomas, after interview, was appointed as Editor with Rev. D.H. Robinson as Business Manager. We are grateful to Rev. B. Burton and Rev. K. Burton for stepping into the work ensuring that the journal continued during a most difficult period.

Mr. Thomas has brought enthusiasm, originality, and much dedication to the Editor's desk and has worked to the Committee's satisfaction and with much acceptance. Although his is a part-time appointment, he has been responsible for the journal appearing on time, for its attractiveness and general relevance to the needs of Presbyterians at this point of time. His acceptance as Editor is reflected by the growing circulation figures, the letters of appreciation, and the expressions of support from State Assemblies. The Committee asks that the Assembly confirm Mr. Thomas' appointment until 31st December, 1984.

The matter of a full-time Editor has been raised in the Executive and whilst it is acknowledged that this is an ideal to be sought, it is felt that it is not opportune at present for such an appointment.

Meetings of Committee

The Committee has always taken its work seriously, but members of Assembly will appreciate the high cost involved in bringing together the full National Journal Committee. Thus, with an eye to finances, the full Committee has met only once a year. However, the Executive which is stationed in Sydney, meets once a month to discuss matters raised by the Editor in compiling each monthly edition, and to endeavour generally, to keep the journal on a sound footing. Members of the full Committee are kept informed and their views on important matters solicited by mail. This arrangement appears to be working well.

Circulation

Circulation has been dropping prior to union but plunged dramatically afterwards, as could be expected. However, 1981 has seen a healthy rise in subscriptions to 6,539, as at 1.7.82, a net increase in the year of over 13.5%. It is interesting to note that proportionately, circulation is now identical to what it was prior to union: 13% of the Church's communicant membership. The Committee is steadily working towards a target of 10,000 subscriptions in order to make the journal completely viable. Subscription costs will remain at \$10 per annum for 1982 and for as long as possible thereafter.

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Policy, Format and Content

The last G.A.A. instructed the Committee to review the editorial policy, format and content of the journal. These matters were fully considered and it was agreed that the journal should continue in its present format which appears to be acceptable to the Church generally. Policy and content were more sharply defined early in 1981, and the concept of a family magazine reporting the vitality of the Church on both State and National levels, as well as upholding the standards of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, has been adopted and given expression. The many letters of appreciation received from all over Australia indicate this is what the Church requires at present, and the Committee intends to follow this general approach.

The format is unique among denominational journals in Australia, but similar to those of Presbyterian Churches overseas.

Promotion and Advertising

We have promoted the journal in several ways including an approach to all Committees of Management asking them to consider the possibility of bulk supplies for distribution to congregations. We have also provided posters for Church notice boards, and the Editor has participated in a 'Think Tank' in Melbourne organised by the late Mr. C. Homer Fraser.

The Committee records its gratitude for the work of Mr. C. Homer Fraser, for his untiring and devoted efforts in promoting the National Journal since its inception in 1966.

The Editor has visited many Presbyteries in N.S.W. and has attended State Assemblies at his own expense, in promoting 'Australian Presbyterian Life'. The question of promotion is ever before the Committee.

Largely due to the efforts of the Business Manager, advertising has increased to the extent where advertising revenue now meets approximately half the costs of printing.

Year Book

We have continued the production of an annual Year Book in accordance with the Assembly's instructions, and have found there is a widespread desire for such a publication. We are happy to report that in spite of the Assembly's instruction to the Finance Committee to meet any deficit incurred in the production of the Year Book, the National Journal Committee has realised a small profit. It has been decided this year to include the addresses of all Presbyterian preaching places throughout Australia.

E.N. Paxton
Convener

PUBLIC WORSHIP AND AIDS TO DEVOTION (Min 42)

This Committee met on a number of occasions, with the Executive, stationed in Sydney, being present. Papers and comments from members from inter-state were received. These assisted in formulating decisions.

It is with much gratitude to God that progress can be indicated in the formulation of the first part of a new Book of Common Order for the Presbyterian Church in Australia.

Much of the work carried out was at the hands of the late Rev. Alan Dougan, whose interest and love for the liturgy of the Church has been well known for many years. There is no doubt that his devotion and loyalty for the Church has left an indelible mark on us all, no less on the production of the forms of service included in the material now available to this Assembly. The Committee offers this booklet which includes various forms of service to the church for discussion, debate and prayer.

The Committee seeks for further direction regarding other forms of services which would later be included in the Book of Common Order. This work should be continued and finalised as soon as possible.

1. Copyright: Care should be taken regarding use of materials, either by means of duplicating, copying, recording, or over-head projectors. The Law is such that parishes could be liable for heavy fines, if the law is breached in this matter. Congregations should be informed as to the situation re copyright.

2. Materials for special services : Over the last three years several

ministers have sent in copies of special services in which they have taken part, and which could be made available on a wider basis e.g. civic services. The Committee would undertake to provide copies on request, and also enjoin any who become involved in any special service to forward a copy to the Committee as this could be useful to others.

3. Hymn Book: The 1979 G.A.A. instructed the Committee to bring a recommendation to a forthcoming Assembly regarding the use of a hymn book throughout the whole Church in Australia.

The late convener, Rev. A. Dougan, continued as a Presbyterian representative on the Australian Hymn Book Committee and had made a suggestion that a Psalter might be included in that hymn book. Nothing has eventuated there. (The Presbyterian Church holds a few shares in the Australian Hymn Book) . In addition the Committee has been grateful for the very good response to the request for comments and suggestions re a Hymn Book for this Church. Some individuals and sessions, together with Presbyteries, carried out much work on this subject. Preference seemed to be to continue as long as is possible with the Revised Church Hymnary, but its availability is uncertain. After much discussion and study the Committee recommends to this Assembly that when a Session is considering a new Hymn Book that the Church Hymnary 3 (with psalter) is best suitable to this Church.

4. Convener : The Church has been served by many faithful conveners in the work of this Committee, no less than the late Rev. Alan A. Dougan whose interest, love and concern for the Church's liturgy was obvious and significant. His death in May, 1982, has been a real loss to this Church, and in particular in the special interest he had for the liturgy of the Church. The Committee acknowledges with gratitude to God the long and valued service Alan Dougan gave his Lord. In particular, we express our thanksgiving for his energetic and faithful work carried out in the preparation of the material for the Book of Common Order now before the Assembly.

The Secretary of the Committee is nominated as the convener.

5. The Australian Hymn Book Editorial Committee : The Rev. D.F. Murray was appointed as the representative of this Church and the Committee seeks the confirmation of this appointment.

6. Other matters : The Committee has in mind the preparation of a small booklet on Presbytery procedures and etiquette. Some request was made by individual ministers regarding the proper procedures for special occasions. The Committee would like to pursue this matter and report to a subsequent Assembly.

7. Thanks : The Committee is most grateful to Mrs. N. Todd of Roseville, Sydney, for her work as typist and preparer of material and in particular the documents which now form the first part of a proposed Book of Common Order for this Church.

D.F. Murray
Acting Convener

RECEPTION OF MINISTERS (Min 64)The Committee :

The Committee is pleased to report that its Executive had a reasonably busy time since the last meeting of the Assembly in 1979. The meetings held numbered 8 and all these were well attended. It is regretful that the Committee lost the service of Rev. Professor R.S. Miller through death.

Certificate of Status :

The following were received under Regulation 196(a) -

Rev . D.J. Inne s	Church of Scotland
Rev, . N.M. Pritchard	Church of Scotland
Rev . G.M. Bradbeer	Presbyterian Church of Eastern Aus tralia
Rev , I.H. Barker	United Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
Rev . I.H. Murray	Free Church of Scotland
Rev . J.D. Sutherland	Church of Scotland
Rev , A. Beaton	Presbyterian Church of Eastern Aus tralia
Rev . G.A.I. Newell	Presbyterian Church of South Africa
Rev . A.M. Harman	Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia
Rev . D.J .W . Milne	Free Church of Scotland
Mr . J. Nixon	Presbyterian Church of Ireland

The following were received under Regulation 198 -

Rev . P. Chandranugito	Reformed Church of Indonesia
Rev . F.N. Lee	Presbyterian Church in America

The following completed G.A.A. requirements -

Rev. R.T. Missenden, R. Coxhead, P.W. Swinn, V. Sylva,
P.W. Playsted, G.L. Chipps and A.R. Harvey.

The following have not fulfilled G.A.A. requirements -

Rev. H.G. Weir, J.C. Paterson and Mr. J.D. Ottway.

It appears that Rev. H.G. Weir does not intend to fulfill the G.A.A. requirements and as Mr. J.D. Ottway withdrew from his candidature for the ministry, the Committee recommends that the Assembly withdraw its recognition of Rev. H.G. Weir and Mr. J.D. Ottway as Petitioners. The Committee reports that Rev. J.C. Paterson fulfilled the academic requirements of the G.A.A., but did not fulfil entirely all requirements in respect to the Regulations in that before accepting a Ministry and Mission (N.S.W.) appointment, he withdrew from the Presbyterian Church to set up his own congregation from members of the Tamworth Presbyterian Congregation (N.S.W.). The Committee recommends that the Assembly withdrew its recognition of Rev. J.C. Paterson as a Petitioner.

Petitions :

The Petitions will be dealt with in private session. The Committee recommends their acceptance. The following are petitioning the Assembly -

Rev . R.C. King	Anglican Church (Australia)
Rev . I .F . Ransom	Anglican Church (Australia)
Rev . D. Secomb	Uniting Church in Australia
Rev . C.R.D. Pieterz	Presbyterian Church of Ceylon
Rev . J.C. McDiarmid	Uniting Church, in Australia
Rev . J.C. Allan	Uniting Church in Australia

Enquiries :

The Convener dealt with many enquiries by Ministers from denominations from many countries e.g. America, Northern Ireland, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia, Iraq, South Africa and Wales.

Amendments :

The Committee considered the matter of amendments to the Regulations, but as no difficulties of any consequence have arisen in administration related to the present Regulations, the Committee will not bring forward recommendations thereon, but will recommend a reprint of the present Regulations for distribution throughout the Church where relevant.

Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia :

The Committee is pleased to report that consideration was given to the wisdom of having conversation with the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia with a view to a union. A recommendation to that end is formulated and will be presented to the Assembly.

Administration :

The Committee reports with pleasure that attention to the procedures involved in respect to Petitions is better understood by Presbytery Clerks than hitherto. The Committee records its thanks to the people responsible on Presbytery level for their co-operation.

Norman Monsen
Convener

RECEPTION OF MINISTERSADDENDUM

Since the completion of the Committee's Report as printed the Petition from Rev. David Silas (Indonesia) was received and dealt with and is now referred to the Assembly with a favourable recommendation to be included in the Confidential Paper together with other Petitions .

Norman Monsen
Convener

RELATIONS WITH OTHER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES (Min 67)

The Committee met on a regular basis - 15 meetings - and dealt with the various matters referred to it by the Assembly, and also other matters referred to it by congregations, Presbyteries, committees and individuals for advice. In the absence of a Committee on Doctrine, our Committee dealt with matters which should, rightly, have been outside the scope of the Committee.

The General Assembly decision to withdraw membership in the Australian Council of Churches has received good general support from most congregations. We believe our position has not changed and the withdrawal from the World Council of Churches by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Salvation Army supports our decision to remain out of membership of the Council. Whilst we have withdrawn our membership from the Australian Council of Churches, we have not completely isolated ourselves from the Council as one of our members, Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane, represents us in an observer status at the regular meeting of the Council Executive in Sydney.

As instructed by the General Assembly of 1979 - B.B. Min 93:2 - Presbyteries were consulted on our continued membership in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and the desirability or otherwise of our seeking membership in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod. We are grateful to the Presbyteries who took the time, despite the short notice, to deal with our references. From the answers received - 25 Presbyteries - we can make the following assessments :

1. We should continue our membership in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. The majority - 19 Presbyteries - agreed that it was necessary to keep in touch with those of a reformed persuasion even though there may be differences in our theological interpretation of what is the reformed position.
2. The desirability of our seeking membership in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod is not so clear cut. Answers from Presbyteries - 11 for and 12 against - revealed that the Presbyteries are evenly divided on the issue. We believe that the General Assembly should be given the opportunity to debate the issue. We are, therefore, recommending that the Presbyterian Church of Australia seek membership in the Reformed Ecumenical Synod. (The Constitution and other information will be included here) .

The General Council of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches met in Ottawa, Canada, from the 17 - 27th August, 1982, and our Church was represented by Mr. H.I.M. MacFarlane. A report on the Council will be prepared by Mr. MacFarlane for the information of members of the Assembly.

An observer represented the Presbyterian Church of Australia at the Reformed Churches of Australia Synod held in Adelaide in May, 1982.

The Committee has met with representatives of the Reformed Church of Australia, the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, and the Westminster Presbyterian Church. These meetings were quite productive. Reports coming to hand indicate that there is a good relationship with these sister Churches and much co-operative work is taking place in the areas of theological education, church planting and evangelistic outreach.

An invitation has been extended to Professor R.O. Zorn and Rev. A. DeGraaf of the Reformed Ecumenical Synod, Australia, to attend our General Assembly.

On a reference from the Executive of the Queensland Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia, the Committee investigated the status of the Australian Council of Church Women. Initially, it appeared that the Australian Council of Church Women was an autonomous body with no inter Church affiliations. However, the position has been clarified that the Australian Council of Church Women is affiliated with the Australian Council of Churches as it requires that body to approve of any changes in their Constitution.

Our Committee has operated on the principle of the Executive meeting regularly and referring matters to interested members and corresponding members for their consideration. This has worked well and we are recommending that that practice be continued for the time being as it involved the Church in little expenditure.

K . J . Gardner
Convener

STEWARDSHIP (Min 25)

It is with gratitude to God that we present the report of this Committee which, although having met only on a few occasions, did make contact with all States to discover what trends in Stewardship practice and outreach have occurred.

The decisions of the last Assembly were put into operation with contacts made with State Assemblies, Presbyteries, organisations, committees and congregations. The Moderator sent out the Pastoral Letter calling the whole Church to a 'deeper commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ and to prayer'. In addition a letter was sent to all Sessions from this Committee conveying the resolution of the Assembly which said :

'This Assembly pledges itself to the task of doubling the communicant membership of the church within the next five (5) years' .

Some feed-back has been received. This has indicated that :

1. Extension and expansion of the Church has occurred. New congregations have been formed; smaller ones have grown; land and property

have been procured, Sessions have taken seriously the task of nurturing their people; Bible studies and prayer groups have been formed in some areas;

2. Stewardship Programmes based on total commitment - with a proper Biblical basis have been conducted. Indications from the States have shown some change of emphasis from a 'purely money making concern' as sometimes occurred in the past to a full and proper commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour involving time, talent, treasure, money, service, dedication and offering of one's whole life to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. However, some suspicion still exists in the church regarding the word 'stewardship' and what people think it implies.

The Moderator, Rt. Rev. J. Mullan, the Superintendent of Ministry and Mission Committee (N.S.W.), Rev. L. Ferrington and the Convener of this Committee shared in a church growth/stewardship seminar in Adelaide at the request of that State.

3. An endeavour has been made to look at the figures as available through the Year Books. The Committee expressed the view that the role of the Committee is not to provide materials etc., (this being the task of the relevant Committee of State Assemblies) but to alert the church to trends etc.

4. A continual reaching out by the Church in new areas and the nourishing and nurturing of all congregations demands our constant attention, prayer and energy.

D.F. Murray
Co nve ne r

TRUSTEES (Min 16)

In 1979 the General Assembly having heard a report from the New South Wales Presbyterian Property Trust, appointed the Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust as Trustee for the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Following the proclamation of vesting days throughout Australia the work of division of assets and liabilities between the Presbyterian and Uniting Church Property Trusts is now drawing to a close except in South Australia where, at the time of compiling this report, further legal steps require to be taken.

Following the completion of formalities with the Uniting Church in connection with the old Australian Inland Mission a committee known as the Legal Reference Committee was formed to determine the proper interpretation of wills and other instruments in accordance with the

Heads of Agreement recorded in 1979 G.A.A. Blue Book pages 70 and 71. The Uniting Church appointed Messrs. H.W. Tebbutt and Peter Butt to that committee and, in consultation with the Presbyterian Inland Mission Committee, Messrs. J.G. Menzies (Chairman of Trustees) and Lindsay J. Moore (Law Agent - G.A.A. and N.S.W.) were appointed to represent the Presbyterian Church. At the date of this report a considerable number of Wills need to be considered.

J.G. Menzies
Chairman of Trustees

FINANCIAL STATEMENTSPRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIABALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 1982

(Excluding Australian Presbyterian World Mission, Christian Education, National Journal Committee and Presbyterian Inland Mission)

<u>30 June 1979</u>	<u>TRUST FUNDS</u>	<u>30 June 1982</u>
	\$ \$	
	17,864 W.B. Tonkin Estate - Capital 17,864	
	<u>9,690</u> - - Income <u>20,351</u>	
27,554		38,215
	5,710 A.E. White Estate - Capital 5,710	
	<u>10,865</u> - - Income <u>15,941</u>	
<u>16,575</u>		<u>21,651</u>
<u>44,129</u>		<u>59,866</u>
	<u>SPECIFIC FUNDS</u>	
	Stewardship & Promotion Committee	
	- Expenses fund Balance B/F 2,385	
	Interest for period <u>721</u>	
2,385		3,106
	Committee on relations with other	
	Presbyterian Churches -	
	- Balance B/F , 364	
	Interest for period <u>82</u>	
364		<u>446</u>
<u>2,749</u>		<u>3,552</u>
	<u>GENERAL FUNDS</u>	
	36,891 Capital Fund	39,253
	2,362 Expense account - Surplus	<u>p -</u>
39,253		39,253
128,870	Presbyterian Church in N.S.W.	20,594
-	Sundry Creditors	<u>2,000</u>
<u>168,123</u>		<u>61,847</u>
\$215,001	TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED	<u>\$125,265</u>
	Represented by :	
	<u>INVESTMENT OF TRUST FUNDS</u>	
	2,030 Shares and Debentures in Companies	2,173
	8,000 Australian Resources Development Bank 8,000	
	<u>34,099</u> Presbyterian Church in N.S.W.	<u>49,693</u>
<u>44,129</u>		<u>59,866</u>
	<u>INVESTMENT OF SPECIFIC FUNDS</u>	
<u>2,749</u>	Presbyterian Church in N.S.W.	<u>3,552</u>

<u>30 June 1979</u>		<u>30 June 1982</u>
\$		\$
	<u>INVESTMENT OF GENERAL FUNDS</u>	
42,157	Contributions Receivable from states	2-9,032
16,473	Expenditure G.A.A. General Purpose Committee	942
15,578	Expenditure G.A.A. Planning Commission	(33,017)
-	Joint Constitution Council & Commis s ion	23,993
93,915	Property Commission (Handley)- to be recouped from assets of Pres, and Uniting Churches	37,138
-	Loan to Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee	<u>3,759</u>
<u>168,123</u>		<u>61,847</u>
<u>\$215,001</u>	<u>TOTAL"EMPLOYMENT OF FUNDS</u>	<u>\$125,265</u>

Note Determinations of G.A.A. Property Commission have yet to be applied .

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIAGENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIAINCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM 1 JULY 1979 TO 30 JUNE 1982

(Excluding Australian Presbyterian World Mission; Christian Education; National Journal and Presbyterian Inland Mission Committees).

<u>INCOME</u>			\$
Royalties - Church Hymnary			229
Interest received			112
Contributions received or to be received from States :			69,156
	%	g	
New South Wales	49.0	35,356	
Queensland	19.0	13,710	
South Australia	5.0	3,608	
Tasmania	2 . 5	1,804	
Victoria	2 3.0	16,596	
Western Australia	1.5	1,082	
		72,156	
Deduct approved allocation to Christian Education		3,000	
			<u>\$69,497</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			\$
1979 General Assembly :			23,801
Travelling and accommodation		18,575	
Printing and postage White & Blue Books		4,226	
Honoraria to Assembly Officers		1,000	
Moderatorial :			11,913
Honorarium		1,500	
Allowance - travel etc - Previous term		2,428	
Present term		5,567	
Moderatorial dress		650	
Pulpit supply		1,210	
Visit to Vanuatu for independence		558	
Committees :			11,350
Beneficiary Fund		NIL	
Business		170	
Church and Nation		2,616	
Code		NIL	
Co liege		6,709	
Defence Forces		1,119	
Finance		NIL	
Immigration		NIL	
Maintenance of the Ministry		NIL	
Public Worship & Aids to Dev.		158	
Reception of Ministers		2 72	
Relations with O/Pres. Churches		66	
Stewardship & Promotion		240	

		\$
Year Book subsidy-		532
contribution to World	Alliance of Reformed Churches	3,000
Advertis ing		80
Audit fee		1,000
General expenses		281
Legal costs		3,000
Printing & Stationery		522
Office services		3,000
Interes t paid		11,018
		<hr/>
		\$69,497
		<hr/> <hr/>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION
STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS AT 31 DECEMBER 1981

GENERAL CAPITAL

At Commencement	16,620	
<u>Surplus for period</u>		
28 Feb. 78 to 31 Dec. 81	<u>4,134</u>	<u>\$20,754</u>
<u>Represented by :</u>		
Cash at bank		16,519
<u>Reserve funds</u>		
Interest Bearing Deposits		<u>4,235</u>
		<u>\$20,754</u>

Note : Freehold property being residence at 11 Hillview Road, Eastwood, N.S.W., is held for the Australian Presbyterian World Mission Committee. In October 1980 the market value was estimated at \$100,000.

A debt of \$2,759 remained as at 31 August 1982 in respect of extensive renovations to the property.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT TO 31 DECEMBER 1981

<u>INCOME</u>	1978	1979	1980	1981
	\$	\$	\$	\$ \$
Category 1	14,093	30,380	43,010	51,329
Category 2	4,102	20,710	12,223	11,548
Category 3	-	-	2,728	2,634
Unallocated	45,093	10,535	10,309	5,862
Bank interest	239	-	-	223
Extra Mile	3,639	3,882	-	-
Deposit not receipted	-	-	-	166
Sundry	-	500	-	-
I . B . D . ' s	-	711	389	4,235
	<u>67,166</u>	<u>66,718</u>	<u>68,659</u>	<u>75,997</u>

278,540

Brought forward 278,540

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	1978	1979	1980	1981	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Category 1	47,421	46,552	63,380	49,834	
Category 2	5,834	6 , 296	5,915	3,047	
Category 3	-	-	11,516	2,950	
Adminis tration	2,435	2 , 104	1,481	2,787	
Publi ci ty	-	699	35 3	864	
Extra Mile	1,139	6,034	-	-	
Sundry	-	500	-	-	
I . B . D . ' s	5,965	2,300	-	5,000	
	<u>62,794</u>	<u>64,485</u>	<u>82,645</u>	<u>64,482</u>	274,406
Surplus/Deficit	4,372	2,233	(13,986)	11,515	
() -----					
Surplus for period ended 31 December 1981					<u><u>\$4,134</u></u>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA
PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION
BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 1982

<u>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</u>		<u>1982</u>
		\$
<u>SPECIFIC</u> (see Specific Investments)		
Presbyterian Market 1980: Gross proceeds received 29,000		
Less : transferred to Whyalla Patrol	<u>19,000</u>	10,000
<u>GENERAL</u>		
Allocation on division of the A.I.M.	106,337	
Bequests during the period	45,330	
Surplus for the period	<u>111,289</u>	<u>2 6 2 ,956</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL AND RESERVE		<u>\$272,956</u>
<u>SPECIFIC INVESTMENTS</u>		
Funds with Trustees		10,000
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		
Office furniture and equipment	260	
Less provision for depreciation	<u>-</u>	260
<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		
Mortgage advances	40,000	
Loans	<u>616</u>	40,616
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Funds with Trustees		<u>222,080</u>
		<u>\$272,956</u>
<u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FROM INCEPTION TO 30 JUNE 1982</u>		
<u>INCOME</u>		
Donations		56,996
Interest received : Funds held by Trustees 53,286		
	Mortgages 26,533	
	Transfer from 1980 Presbyterian Market 19,000	
	Net proceeds from Christmas cards (Note 1) 1,869	
		<u>\$157,684</u>

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION (CONT)EXPENDITURE

Electricity					74
General			expenses		526
Insurance					388
Office			services		800
Port	Augusta	-	Whyalla	Patrol	31,785
Pos		tage		5	06
Printing		and		stationery	504
Publicity					5,263
Rent					12
Telephones					105
Travel	and	accommodation	-	Convener	4,321
Travel and accommodation - general		1,711			
					<u>46,395</u>
Surplus for the period (transferred to general capital)					111 , 289
					<u>\$157,684</u>

NOTE 1 - CHRISTMAS CARDS TRADING ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD 30 JUNE 1982

Sales				13,157
Less - Advertising			35	
- General expenses			95	
- Postage			1,061	
- Printing & Stationery			<u>10,097</u>	<u>11,288</u>
Profit transferred to income and expenditure account				<u>\$ 1,869</u>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
BALANCE SHEET AT 30 JUNE 1982

<u>INVESTMENT OF GENERAL FUNDS</u>	\$	\$
Capital		
Balance B/F	4,035	
Equity in Assets of Joint Board of Christian Education - (G.A.A. Property Commission determination 368)	10,662	
	14,697	
Deficit for period	(2,458)	
Balance C/Fwd		12,239
<u>TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED</u>		<u>\$12,239</u>
 <u>INVESTMENT OF GENERAL FUNDS</u>		
Funds with Trustees		12,239
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT OF FUNDS		<u>\$12,239</u>
 <u>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR 3 YEARS TO 30 JUNE 1982</u>		
<u>INCOME</u>		
Approved allocation from G.A.A.	3,000	
Donation	356	
Publication Income	20,360	
Interest from Trustees	1,616	25,332
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Freight	378	
General Expenses	64	
Postage & Telephone	585	
Printing & Stationery	23,648	
Travelling expenses	3,115	27,790
Deficit transferred to Accumulation Fund		\$ (2,458)

Note : Value of stock on hand covers the amount of the deficit

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the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are aged 65 and over has increased from 10.5 million to 13.5 million (19.5% of the population).

There is a growing awareness of the need to address the needs of older people, and the Government has set out a strategy for the 21st century in the White Paper on *Ageing Better: The Government's Strategy for Older People* (Department of Health 1999). This strategy is based on the following principles:

- Older people should be able to live independently and actively in their own homes.
- Older people should be able to live in their own communities.
- Older people should be able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key objectives for the Government, including:

- To ensure that older people are able to live independently and actively in their own homes.
- To ensure that older people are able to live in their own communities.
- To ensure that older people are able to live in their own homes and communities for as long as possible.

The White Paper also sets out a number of key actions for the Government, including:

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